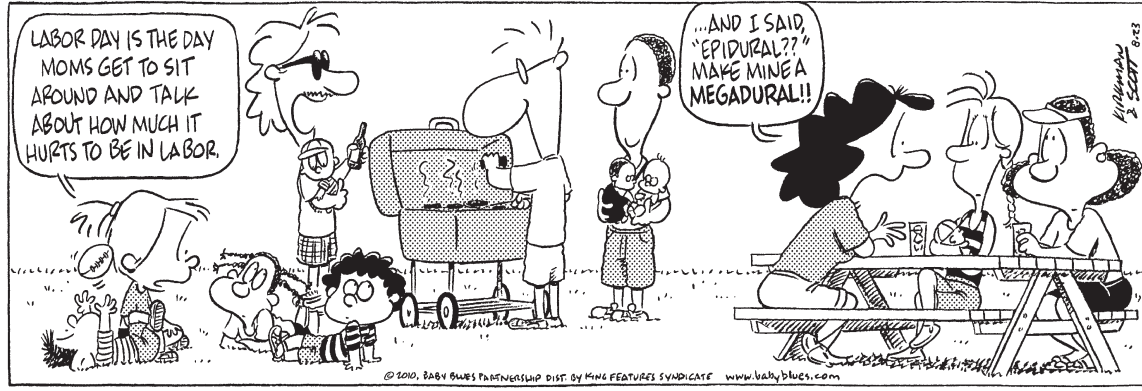


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



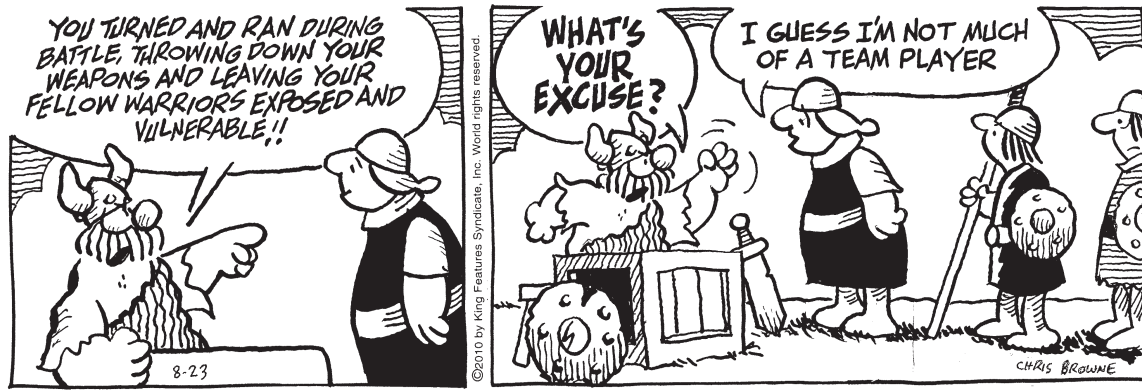
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



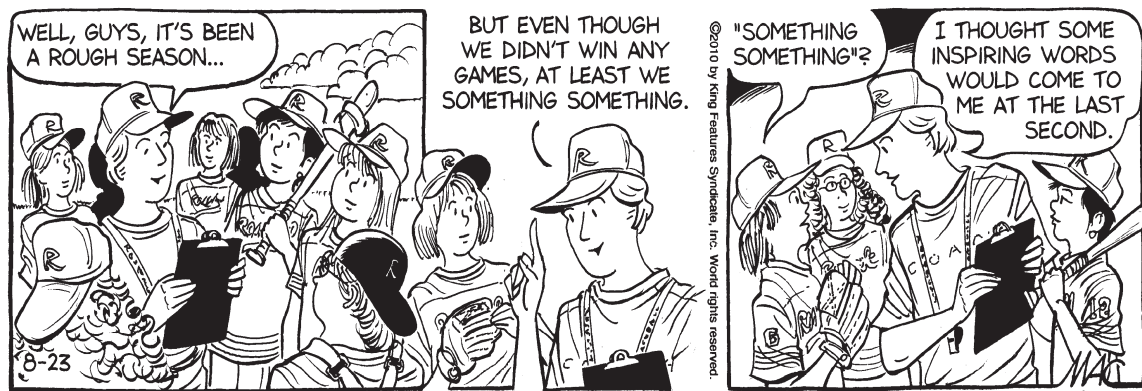
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



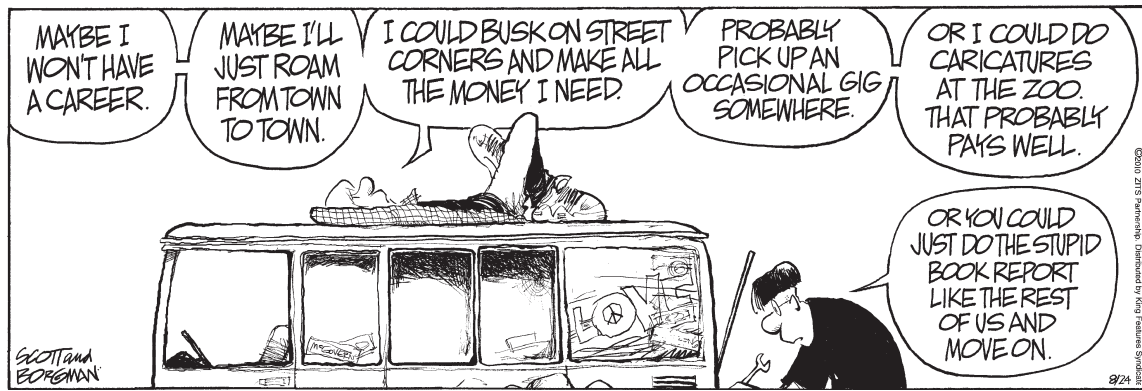
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

He's hooked on reality shows

Dear Dr. Brothers: I got laid off from my job six months ago, and started watching TV shows. I've never done, except for following "Survivor" for years, but now there is more! In a nutshell, I am addicted to reality TV. If I am not home, I record them and view them after my wife is asleep. She is getting disgusted. Is this bad? - C.H.

Dear C.H.: "Bad" is a loaded term. It is unfortunate, especially if this addiction is coming between you and your wife. Surely you are not a good companion if you are glued to the boob tube, and it would be a good idea if you spent some of that time working on your marriage. Then there is the issue of working on working! Do you have job prospects, or are you just hoping for something to fall into your lap? Although your addiction doesn't appear to be costing anything, it may be keeping you from earning a living. That is a hefty price tag for your escapist activity.

When I say "escapist," I mean you are finding these shows a welcome escape from problems. I imagine their approximation of real life is part of what attracts you - look at the problems these people have! Much more satisfying than an old Western or sitcom, isn't it? It's good this is bothering you, because it helps motivate change. So start skipping shows and cut out ones you can live without. Cut down gradually - it's doable.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a 25-year-old daughter who has been adventurous ever since she could walk. She is a fearless type, always looking for the next natural high. Luckily, she has never gotten hurt, but this time she is in the Australian Outback, and I have a bad feeling about it. Would it be wrong to meet up with her there to see how she is doing? She will be there for three months. I am going crazy with worry. - J.B.

Dear J.B.: It is great you have raised a fearless, adventurous daughter. Just think of the people whose fears dominate their lives, who can't get on a plane or speak in public. So, even though you feel you had little to do with it, you have done a good job. However your daughter's risk-taking has bothered you through the years, you have given her enough latitude to follow up on her inclination for adventure, and not tried to rein her in too much and break her spirit. It must have been hard, so that shows that you have come a long way - so don't give in to panic now!

While your daughter is away, you have several choices: You can sit and worry about her; you can make a vacation trip to the Outback for a few days; or you can set up some kind of communication with her so she can let you know how she is doing. There are ways to talk and see her on the Internet, if she can make her way to an Internet cafe; or you can text-message by phone, etc. You should talk about these with your daughter and see what she is comfortable with. Then do something to get through this!

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5
♥ Q 10 6 4 2
♦ J 6
♣ J 10 8 6

WEST
♠ 7 4 2
♥ A 1 9 5
♦ K 8 7 5 3
♣ 4

EAST
♠ J 8
♥ K 8 7 3
♦ 2
♣ K Q 9 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 6 3
♥ -
♦ A Q 10 9 4
♣ A 5

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 2NT Pass
3♦ Pass 3NT Pass
4♣

Opening lead - four of clubs.

Famous Hand

This hand was played many years ago in a board-a-match team event at the San Francisco Regional. All over the room, declarer was making four spades with an overtrick, losing a diamond and a club. There was no way the two losers could be avoided. At the few tables where six spades was reached, the slam invariably went down one.

But at one table a strange thing happened. South arrived at four spades on the bidding shown - and went down one! What's more, we think quite a few other declarers would have gone down at four spades if they had encountered the same defense.

West led his singleton club, as did most of the other Wests, and dummy played the ten. But at this table, Lee Vernoff, unlike other Easts, did not cover the ten with the queen. Instead, she played the deuce!

Declarer, happy to have picked up an extra club trick, and finding himself in dummy, seized the opportunity to lead the jack of diamonds and take a finesse.

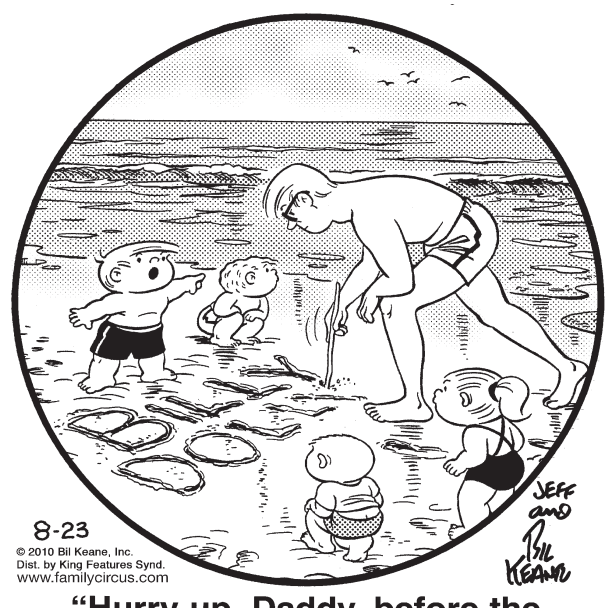
West won with the king and, naturally enough, returned a diamond, which Vernoff trumped. Back came a low club, West ruffing South's ace. It was trick number three for the defense.

Another diamond was returned. Declarer, who by now realized that the club trick he had gained at trick one was but a snare and a delusion, trumped with dummy's nine of spades. But it availed him naught as East overruffed with the jack to score the defenders' fourth trick. Thanks to East's Greek gift, South's 11 tricks, which at one point had grown to 12, shrunk to nine.

In truth, South actually fell victim to his own greed. Having gained a trick when the ten of clubs held, he should have been content to draw trumps, concede a diamond and call it a day. But if he had, Vernoff's imaginative play would have gone unrewarded, and this delicious story could not have been told.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

	3	4	8		1			
	5			3		9	8	4
	7		5					3
4				5		6		8
	8						7	
6		5		8				2
1					8		5	
7	2	3		6			9	
			9		2	4	3	

Difficulty Level ★

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

5	3	4	9	7	6	8	1	2
7	2	8	1	3	4	5	6	9
6	1	9	8	5	2	4	3	7
1	9	7	2	8	3	6	5	4
3	4	2	7	6	5	9	8	1
8	6	5	4	9	1	2	7	3
2	8	6	3	1	9	7	4	5
9	7	1	5	4	8	3	2	6
4	5	3	6	2	7	1	9	8

Cryptoquip

CTLMZQT JEMJ OPCWTPSMO

WDHTQ JP XVDJT WPJQ PI

STSPQ, IPWHQ QEPZWU

LMWW ETV OPJTV UMST.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NUMBER ONE POP SONG WHICH IS ABOUT A GREAT PAINTER'S LASTING LEGACY: "MY ART WILL GO ON."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Potato | 11 Howls at the moon |
| 5 "Golly!" | 12 Lamb's dam |
| 8 Unkempt one | 13 Silver salmon |
| 12 Gaelic language | 14 Homeric epic |
| 13 E. Coast ocean | 15 Play-thing |
| 14 Spanish hors d'oeuvre | 16 "Hail!" |
| 15 Cry | 17 Illinois city |
| 16 Subtract | 18 B.P.O.E. |
| 18 Evergreen type | 19 About 1/3 ounce |
| 20 Marble cake patterns | 20 Mimic |
| 21 Light-weight helmet | 21 Cushion |
| 23 Before | 22 Former Attorney General Janet |
| 24 Grasp | 23 Tools for duels |
| 28 Break suddenly | 24 Occur |
| 31 Eggs | 25 (Sp.) |
| 32 Wicker-work willow | 26 Slightly |
| 34 Book-keeper (Abbr.) | 27 Sitarist Shankar |
| 35 Longings | 28 Eager |
| 37 Pay attention | 29 Present |
| | 30 A Great Lake |
| | 31 Tear in two |
| | 32 Historic time |

Solution time: 27 mins.

V	A	L	L	O	A	M	X	R	A	Y	
E	M	U	U	L	N	A	E	U	R	O	
D	O	C	U	M	E	N	T	E	E	N	
A	K	I	M	B	O	A	C	E			
	P	A	S	D	O	C	I	L	E		
E	N	T	E	R	F	O	X	M	A	Y	
G	O	A	D	K	I	R	J	A	D	E	
A	L	L	D	A	B	F	U	M	E	S	
D	O	C	E	N	T	P	O	D			
	J	A	Y	E	L	A	P	S	E		
A	L	O	E	D	O	C	K	H	A	N	D
S	Y	N	G	T	R	A	S	L	O	G	
P	E	S	T	D	E	N	Y	E	W	E	

Saturday's answer 8-23