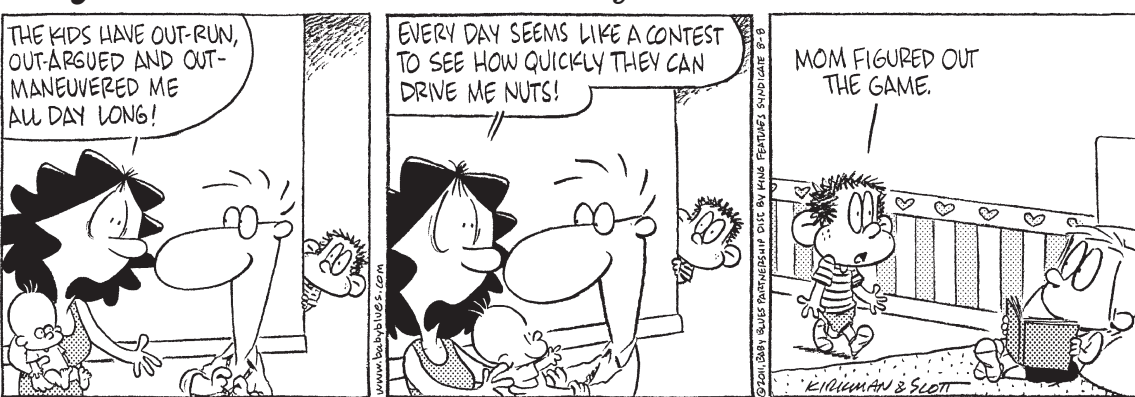


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



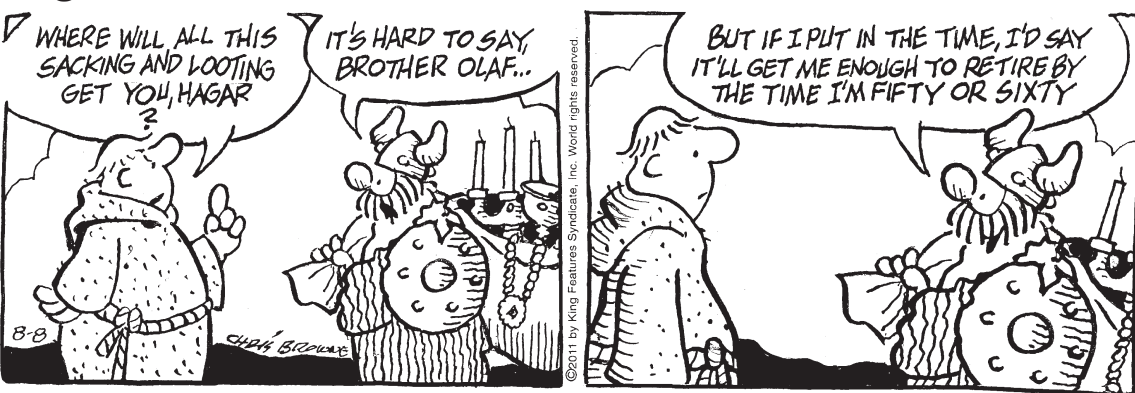
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



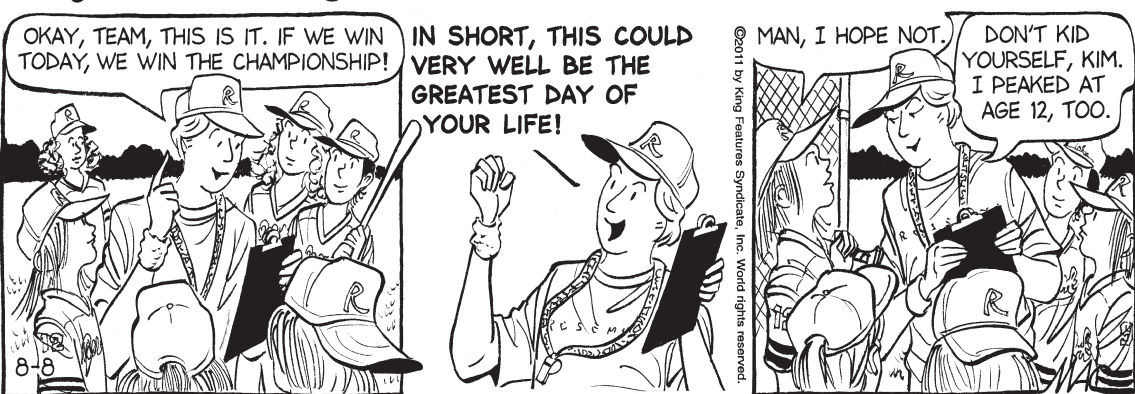
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



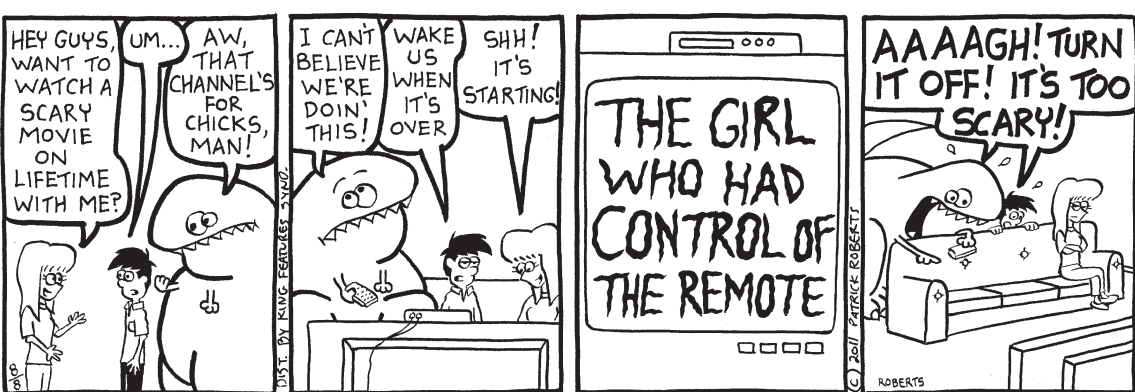
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers

**She thinks therapy's slow**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My cousin and I have always been close and found ourselves dealing with toxic work situations. We both were upset enough to go to therapists. But after a year and a half, we have had different results. She is still talking about feelings and is obsessed with a manager in her office who is "out to get her." I didn't want to talk about my feelings because it didn't help get anything changed, so I quit the therapist and my job and am rebuilding my career. I want my cousin to quit talking and do something! - P.V.

**Dear P.V.:** Although you are looking at the parallels in your lives, you and your cousin could have quite different things going on. The fact that you are different people, despite closeness, means you shouldn't expect her to have the same reactions to therapy you had. Add in two therapists, and you have so many different elements you should step back and rethink your conclusion that she should just quit her therapy and her job. Obviously, if you got anything out of your sessions it was the realization that you had to pull back from the emotional response to your job issues and make a plan of action. That was right for you. Your cousin may be in a different place, overwhelmed by fears, insecurities, anger or feelings. She has to deal with a particular individual and may have other reasons to stay at the job. I think by being a good example of what can be done if you step up and cut the cord, she will see that perhaps she can follow in your footsteps. Set that example, but try not to judge her.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am 16, and I have dreamed of being a veterinarian since I was a little girl. I haven't been allowed to have many pets, but I did get a job in the local vet's office for the summer, as a volunteer helper. I don't want to admit it, but a lot of what I am seeing is grossing me out, making me sick or scaring me. I can't seem to get myself not to care about injured or sick animals. Do you think I should still be a vet? - M.T.

**Dear M.T.:** Being a veterinarian, or any kind of doctor, certainly isn't about not caring - so I hope you don't think of that as a goal when you are trying to adjust to the realities of your volunteer job. If there are other young people around, you might talk with them about the things that bother you and see if they think you will get used to them. The fact that you love animals but haven't had much experience with them means you need to give yourself time to adjust to the things a vet sees and does before you panic and give up. That being said, there is a personality type that will succeed at the job you are considering. Mental toughness certainly is a component when it comes to the ability to care for sick and injured animals. It may be you would be more comfortable working with animals in a different capacity - at a breeder's kennel, an animal-rescue group or even one of the pet stores that feature adoptions. Or you might specialize in pet-sitting, doggie day care or the show circuit. Take time to think about alternate jobs, and in the meantime, take it one day at a time and soak in the experiences.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ 4 3 2  
♥ Q 6 4 3 2  
♠ K Q 6 3  
♣ J

**WEST**  
♦ K J 10  
♥ A J 7  
♠ 10 5 4  
♣ K 10 6 2

**EAST**  
♦ 9 7 6 5  
♥ K  
♠ J 9 2  
♣ Q 9 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q 8  
♥ 10 9 8 5  
♠ A 8 7  
♣ A 5 3

The bidding:  
East Pass 1♥ Pass 4♥ Pass 4♥  
Opening lead - two of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

Even the best players occasionally stumble in basic situations. Consider this deal played by Brazil and Norway during the 1970 world team championship.

At the first table, West led a club against four hearts, and the Brazilian declarer won East's queen with the ace. South played the ten of hearts at trick two, West contributing the seven and dummy the deuce as East won with the king.

East returned the nine of spades, South's queen losing to the king. West's jack of spades dislodged the ace, and declarer led a second trump. West rose with the ace and cashed the ten of spades to set the contract.

At the second table, with Norway North-South, the contract and opening lead were exactly the same. But at this table South played the hand more carefully and was well-rewarded for his effort.

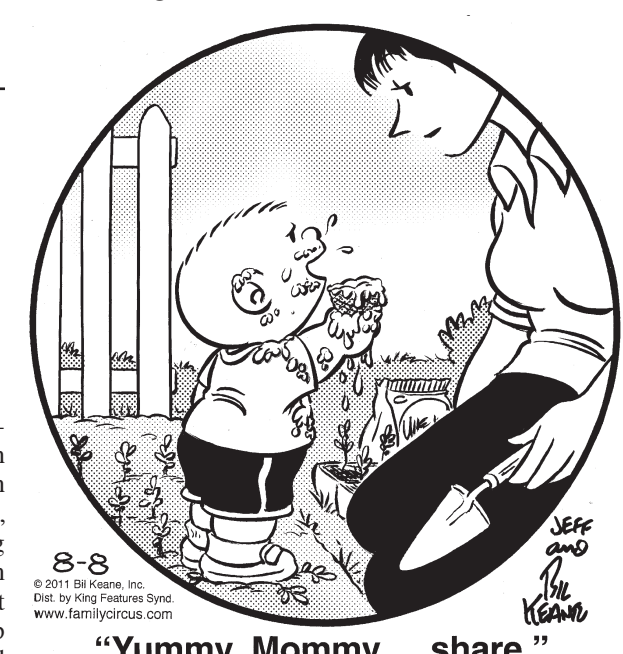
He also won the club lead with the ace and played a trump, but when East took the king and returned the nine of spades, South did not finesse. Instead, he went up with the ace and led a second round of trumps.

West took the ace but was helpless. He couldn't cash the king of spades because that would make South's queen a trick, while if he played any other suit, South would draw West's last trump and then discard a spade on dummy's fourth diamond. Either way, declarer would finish with 10 tricks.

The declarer at the second table was clearly on firmer ground than his counterpart when he spurned the spade finesse. If West had the king, it was surely wrong to finesse, while if East had the king, the opponents could never score more than one spade trick whether South finessed or not.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

**Cryptoquip**

X I T X V L L Y - W L M - R L X I A R V  
B T R T K Q T C E I T E T  
E D L M R W S K W T D H . C L S B A V I X  
E T C I H ' E T E R H H M - Y L - Q H K K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU NO LONGER HAVE A PASSION FOR A HOBBY, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE FALLEN OUT OF FERVOR WITH IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Bar bill  
4 Perspire  
9 Use a crowbar  
12 Knight's address  
13 Actress Berry  
14 Fish eggs  
15 Alternative to a jail term  
17 Eggs  
18 Rhyming tribute  
19 Vacuum brand  
21 Salt companion  
24 Opposed to  
25 "— Town"  
26 Congeal  
28 Cord fiber  
31 Cattle drive tool  
33 Pooch  
35 Location  
36 Couches  
38 Sphere  
40 End for ball or bass  
41 Western state

**DOWN**

45 PBS "Street"  
47 Extinct bird  
48 Spoon-bender Geller  
49 Raise accomplice  
54 Id counterpart  
55 Bounded along  
56 That girl promoter  
57 Boxing King  
58 Contest submission  
59 Cut the grass  
61 Recipe meas.  
2 Atmosphere  
3 Kinsman, for short  
4 Sun-glasses  
5 Irrigated  
6 Inventor Whitney  
7 Hawaiian greeting  
8 Mortises' mates  
9 Conditional stipulation  
10 Wander

11 365 days  
16 Jazz style  
20 Elevator name  
21 Bursts  
22 Modern-day money  
23 Lavish supply  
27 Also  
29 The gamut  
30 Letter-man rival  
32 Information  
34 "Frasier" star  
35 Kelsey  
37 Taste  
39 Sanguinary  
42 Egret's cousin  
44 Cheerios ingredient  
45 Took to court  
46 Therefore  
50 Choose  
51 Doctrine  
52 Discoverer's call  
53 Fresh

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Saturday's answer 8-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13						14		
15			16						17		
			18			19		20			
21	22	23				24					
25			26		27	28			29	30	
31			32		33	34		35			
36			37		38	39		40			
			41		42	43		44			
45	46					47					
48			49		50				51	52	53
54			55						56		
57			58						59		