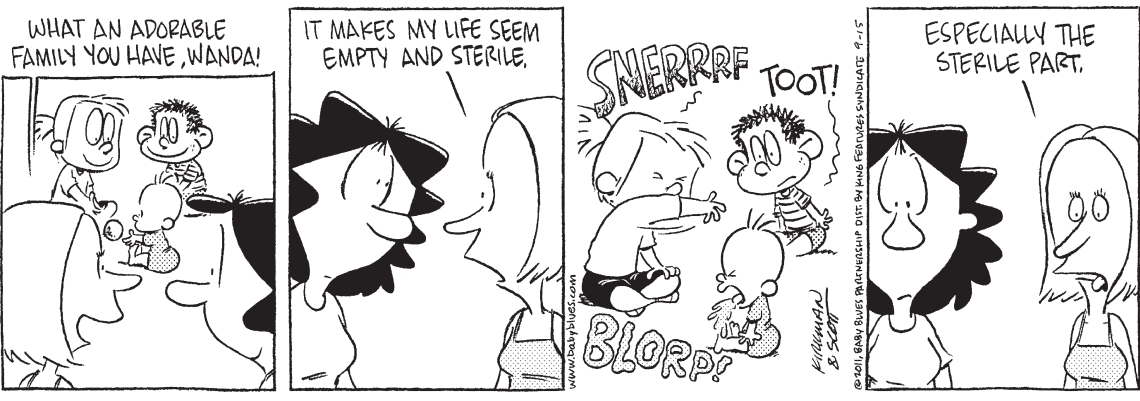
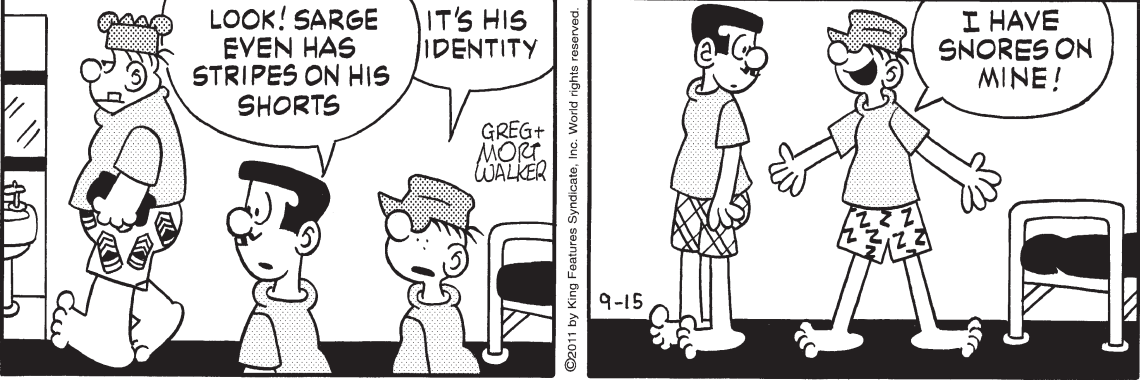


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



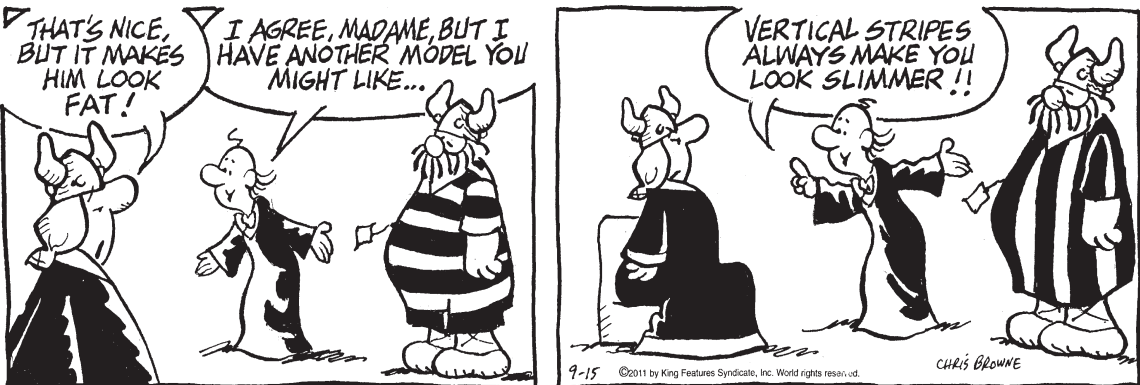
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



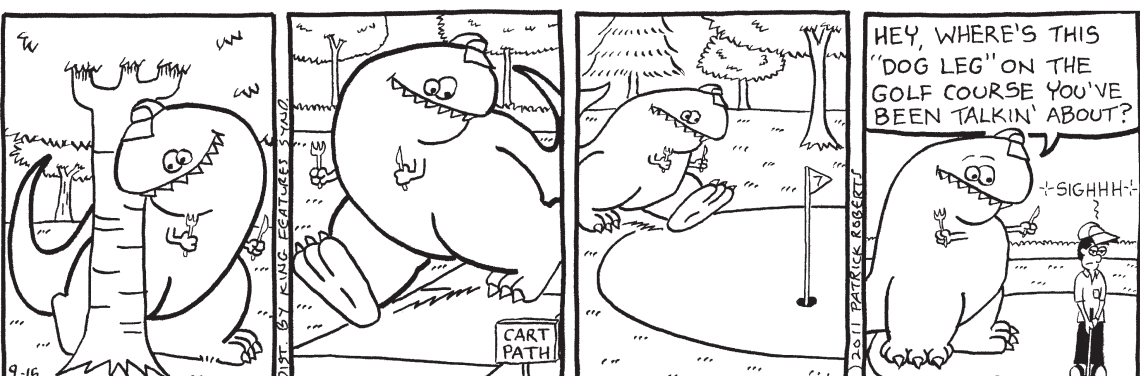
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



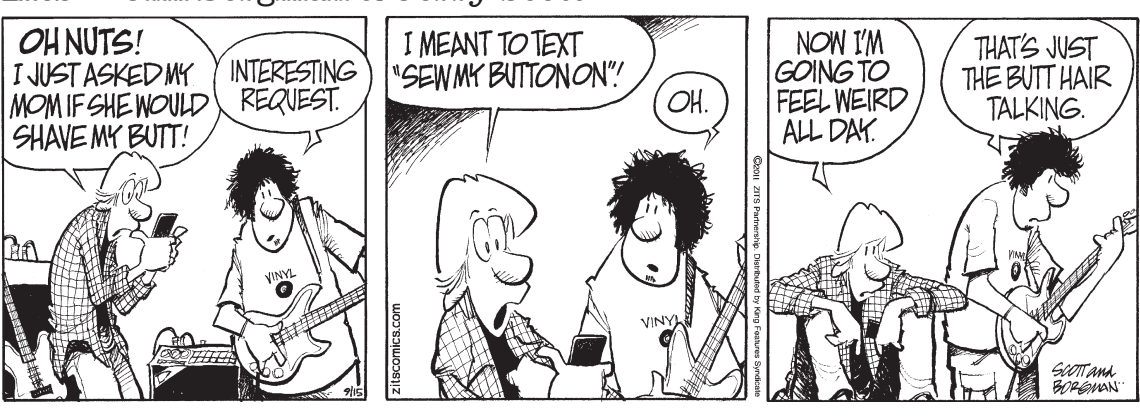
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Daughter fears every animal

Dear Dr. Brothers: My 6-year-old daughter is terrified of animals. Whether it's the dog we see on the sidewalk or a bird flying, she screams and tries to run away. She's never had any bad experiences with animals, so I don't know what she's scared of. I've tried explaining there's nothing to fear, but she's still scared. What can I do to help her get over this inexplicable fear? — R.R.

Dear R.R.: As you know by now, it doesn't always take a bad experience with something for us to become scared of it. Attempting to explain to a 6-year-old why there's no rational reason to be scared of a puppy or a goat is futile, since that fear has caught hold. Instead, you need to support her feelings and slowly introduce her to animals in a controlled, unthreatening manner. You might think her fears are unreasonable, but by acknowledging the importance of her emotions, you give her the confidence to face these fears.

There are plenty of ways you can start to work through your daughter's fear. Having her put herself in the place of the animal — through drawing, reading or playing — can help her understand and feel more powerful the next time she encounters an animal. You also can help her learn about animals from a distance — a museum, zoo or even television or the Internet can help. It's important to instill confidence in your daughter, but also teach her self-comforting skills. Rather than rushing to calm her down, teach her how to calm herself when she confronts something scary. This will give her the ability to stand up to potentially more serious scary situations later in life. In no time, your daughter should at least be able to interact with animals with less fear.

Dear Dr. Brothers: A friend of mine's daughter is showing signs of an eating disorder. She's in her early teens and picky about what she eats. My friend refuses to admit there's anything wrong, claiming that her daughter is healthy and she'll grow out of this stage. Is there anything I can do to persuade my friend to look more closely at her daughter's eating habits? — E.P.

Dear E.P.: In this case, it may be difficult to change anything without first getting through to your friend. If she denies there's anything going on, her daughter can't hope to see the truth. You don't want to scare your friend, but should impress upon her the seriousness of adolescent eating issues. Your friend would be wrong to think it's just a phase or her daughter will grow out of being picky, if she is using "pickiness" as a cover for anorexia. According to a recent study, teens who get into unhealthy eating or exercising habits retain these habits as they move into adulthood. Early identification and prevention of eating disorders is critical for healthy development and healthy eating throughout life. If your friend can't see there may be something going on and begin to address it now, she may be setting her daughter up for a lifetime of disordered eating. If her daughter is concerned about her weight or health, she needs to be led to healthy options. There may be other underlying issues, and eating disorders are sometimes only one sign of larger problems.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ J 10 4
♣ K Q J 10 8 2

WEST
♠ 8
♥ J 10 8 7
♦ 9 6 5 2
♣ A 9 5 4

EAST
♠ A K J 7 5 4
♥ K 6 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 7

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9 2
♥ Q 9 4 3
♦ A K Q
♣ 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 NT Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — eight of spades.

The Merrimac Coup

It is an essential principle of declarer play that when the outcome is in doubt, you proceed on the assumption that the cards are divided in a way that permits the contract to be made. To play otherwise would be self-defeating.

The same principle applies to defensive play. A defender should not credit declarer with a hand that makes the contract impregnable.

Consider this deal, where East applied the principle very effectively. He won the opening spade lead with the king and returned the king of hearts!

From then on, South was fighting a losing battle. He won with the ace and returned the king of clubs, but West, of course, ducked. This rendered the dummy useless to declarer, and he eventually finished down two.

Now let's assume that East had not led the king of hearts at trick two and had returned a low heart instead. In that case, South would win with the queen, establish dummy's clubs and, with the ace of hearts still in dummy, have no trouble scoring 10 tricks.

The spectacular king-of-hearts play has a sound foundation. East reasons that if declarer has the ace of clubs, the contract cannot be defeated. He therefore assigns that card to West.

Once East makes this assumption, it follows that the only way to neutralize dummy's clubs is to dislodge dummy's side entry. East cannot be absolutely certain that his plan will succeed, but he knows that unless he attacks boldly, his cause is almost surely lost.

Note that South can't thwart East's plan by ducking the first heart. In that case, East simply continues hearts to achieve the same result.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How does this childproof cap know how old I am?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/15

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.

Cryptoquip

QP NARR ZL YLNH AH QAOXLDV
FO LHP LT XQP ZDPFXPOX
XQWZO. QP'O YPTAHAXPRV
XQP XLWZQ LT RPZPHY.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY LOVES SHAVING HIS HEAD AND GOING BALD, HE MUST REALLY HAVE A HAIR-FREE ATTITUDE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Weapons | 1 "Oh, woe" |
| 5 Lovers' quarrel | 2 Lasso |
| 9 Captain Kirk, to pals | 3 "You Bet Your Life" host |
| 12 Clay-rich soil | 4 Workplace "under the spreading chestnut tree" |
| 13 Unrestrained revelry | 5 Cushy |
| 14 Actress Thurman | 6 Expert |
| 15 Prank victim, perhaps | 7 Past |
| 17 Zero | 8 Tenth |
| 18 Two trios | 9 Some large |
| 19 Occurrence | 10 "Here's my ante" |
| 21 Symbol for mercury | 11 Brewery supply |
| 22 Chocolate substitute | 12 Journey segment |
| 24 Smelling a bit off | 13 Pippet |
| 27 Rowing need | 14 Referee's call (Abbr.) |
| 28 Hide in the bushes | 15 Authentic |
| 31 McKinley's first lady | 16 Snag |
| 32 Old televangelism initials | 17 Singer Guthrie |
| 33 Space | 18 USO audience, often |
| 34 "Simon —" | 19 Oklahoma city |
| | 20 Sheriff Andy Taylor's bailiwick |
| | 21 Oil cartel |
| | 22 Knock |
| | 23 Some duties for 24- |
| | 24 Down |
| | 25 "Help!" |
| | 26 Camelot ruler |
| | 27 Dangle a carrot |
| | 28 Blonde shade |
| | 29 Kills |
| | 30 "Sopranos"-style |
| | 31 Gravy vessel |
| | 32 Pinnacle |
| | 33 Assessment |
| | 34 La Scala show-stopper |
| | 35 Holler |
| | 36 Will Smith biopic |
| | 37 Pirates' potato |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15			16						17		
18							19	20			
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			