

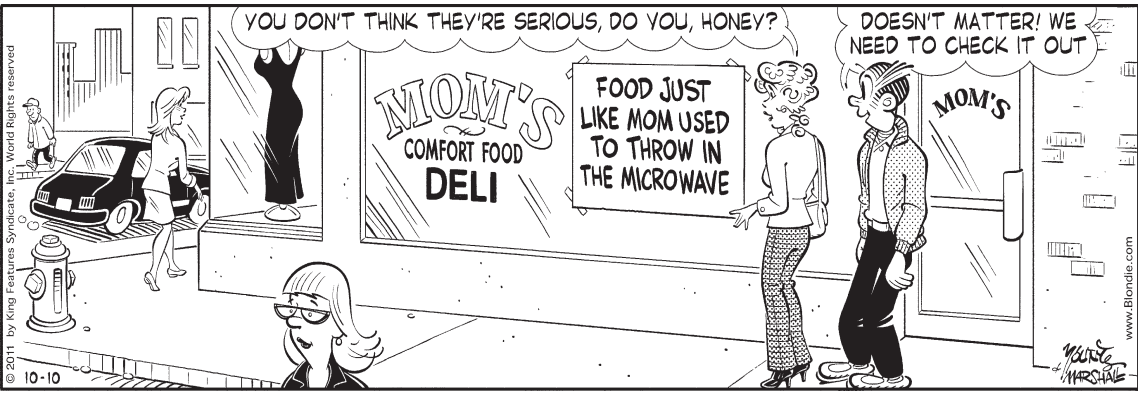
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



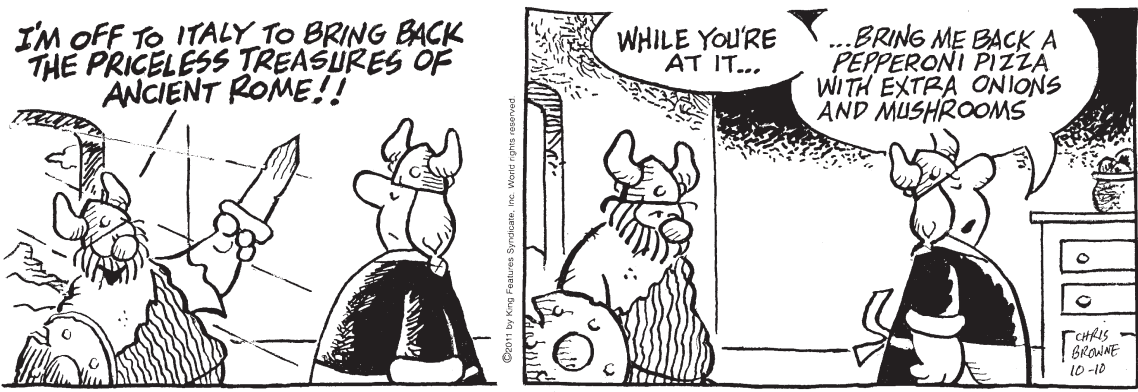
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



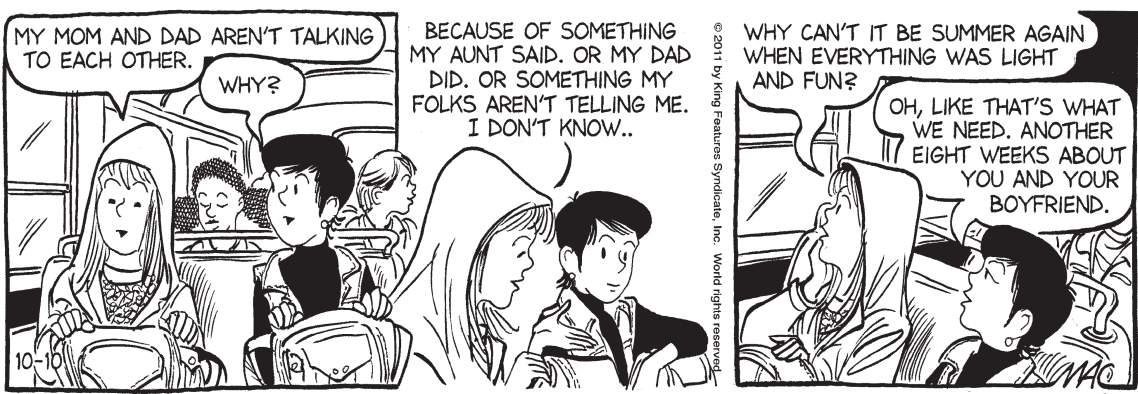
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



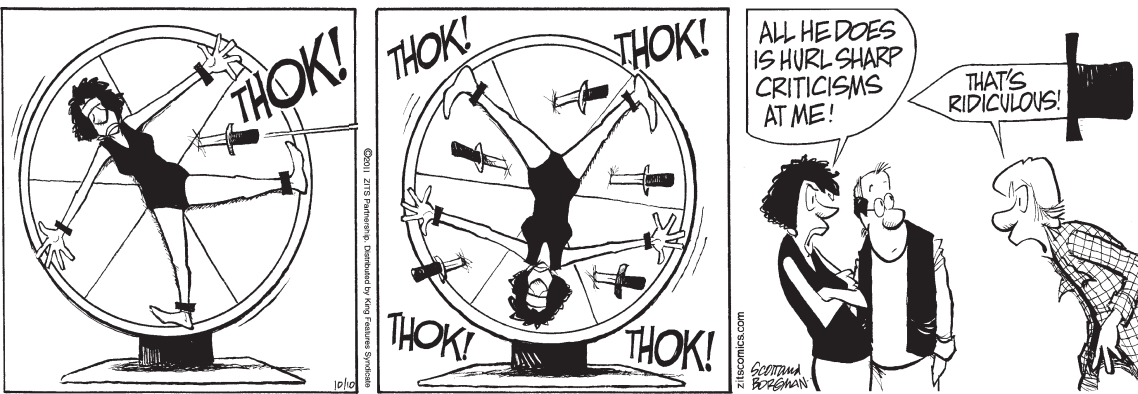
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers  
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Women suffer after combat too

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** A neighbor of mine was deployed in the Middle East and recently returned. She wasn't supposed to be on the front lines, but because of guerilla tactics, she was in combat more than expected. She's suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and struggling to work and act normally. I wonder whether this is personal, or based on her gender. Are women more likely than men to experience psychological problems following combat? – T.K.

**Dear T.K.:** It's terrible that your neighbor is finding it hard to reintegrate into civilian society, but if you investigate, you'll find this is a common problem for military personnel. According to a report in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, women are no more or less likely to suffer psychological problems after military duty than men. Depression rates also seem about the same. Rates of substance abuse were higher in men – possibly reflecting differences in the ability to work through stress and emotional issues.

Rather than standing by and speculating on your neighbor's emotional well-being, you can try to help. While you might not be a close friend, you still can welcome her back and let her know you're there to support her. With more women being exposed to combat, it behooves us to determine gender differences that might key us in to different risk factors for them. It also is necessary to know how to tailor our approaches to treating these service people based on their gender.

**Dr. Brothers:** My family recently was put in the position of having to make a difficult end-of-life medical decision on behalf of my elderly mother-in-law. We spent a lot of time talking this over with our doctor, but in the end, the decision was up to us. Since this time, although I know we made the right decision, I can't help feeling guilty. Is there anything we or our doctors could have done, to ease my guilt at this point? – M.T.

**Dear M.T.:** These decisions are never easy, and if you were able to make them with no negative feelings, that wouldn't necessarily be emotionally healthy. If you're sure you made the right decision, there should be little reason for you to feel guilty. By giving you the final say, your doctor was giving you the knowledge and experience you needed to make an informed decision, empowering you to do what you felt was best. While this can feel like it lays the blame on you, it is an effective way to make sure you are convinced that the right action was taken.

A recent study in the *Journal of Consumer Research* investigated the feelings of people put in a similar situation. This study found that when family members were given the final say in these decisions, they were, like you, confident the right decision had been made, but also experienced more negative emotions surrounding the decision than those whose doctors made the final decision for them. The thing to remember is that you can work through your guilt and grief.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♦ K 10 7 5 2  
♥ —  
♦ K 7  
♣ Q 9 7 5 3 2  
**WEST**  
♠ J 9  
♥ 2  
♦ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3  
♣ A 6  
**EAST**  
♠ A Q 8 4 3  
♥ Q 10  
♦ 6  
♣ K J 10 8 4  
**SOUTH**  
♠ 6  
♥ A K J 9 8 7 6 5 4 3  
♦ 5 2  
♣ —  
The bidding:  
West North East South  
5 ♦ Pass Pass Pass 5 ♥  
Pass Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**  
This deal occurred during the 1967 European Championship match between Great Britain and Lebanon. When the British held the East-West cards at the first table, the bidding went as shown. West led the ace of diamonds, collecting the seven, six and deuce. West then had to decide what to do next.

The British pair were using standard signaling methods, which meant that East's play of the six at trick one could have been based on either the singleton six or the doubleton 6-5. Understandably, West led the ace of clubs at trick two, hoping that his partner's play on this trick would guide him to the proper lead at trick three. Unfortunately for Britain, declarer ruffed, drew trumps and claimed 11 tricks for plus 650. A diamond continuation at trick two would have beaten the contract.

At the second table, the bidding followed an entirely different course:

West North East South  
1 ♦ 2 ♣ Dble 2 ♥ (!)  
3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ 4 ♥  
5 ♦ Dble Pass 5 ♥  
Pass Pass Dble

The British South's two-heart bid, holding 10 virtually certain tricks opposite a partner who had overcalled on the two-level, was a magnificent example of British understatement. However, his strategy was not justly rewarded, as the Lebanese East-West pair cooperated perfectly to defeat five hearts.

West led the jack of spades, and even though declarer played low from dummy, East overtook the jack with the queen. East then returned his singleton diamond to West's ace. This combination of plays left no doubt in West's mind that the six was a singleton, so he led another diamond, and the Lebanese team gained 850 points on the deal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/10

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

I QZFY FXBPUXEM HXTCE

XRRPL JX FTLSPXVF QZPCEZVS

SLIFDZVS JXXCF: "BIM JYP

RXLHPDF UP QZJY MXT!"

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** THE FELLOW WROTE A THICK BOOK ABOUT GAS, OIL AND COAL. ONE MIGHT CALL HIM A MAN OF FUEL WORDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Ho Chi Minh Trail locale, for short  
4 Recede  
7 Reveille's opposite  
11 Death notice  
13 Rocky peak  
14 Chills and fever  
15 Actress Farmiga  
16 Dined  
17 TV's "Warrior Princess"  
18 Billy Joel song, "The Down-easter —"  
20 Maintained  
22 Pen fluid  
24 Become more intense  
28 Bag inside a football  
32 Worship  
33 Staffer  
34 Deity  
36 Alternative to Windows  
37 Intelligent

**DOWN**  
1 Ex-ploding star  
2 Cain's victim  
3 Muddy stuff  
4 Greek vowel  
5 This and that  
6 Beagle or boxer, e.g.  
7 Write-off on your 1040  
8 One's years  
9 Play on words  
10 Vast expanse  
12 Stuff people?  
19 Moreover  
21 Meadow  
23 Small barrel  
25 Corn concoction  
26 "— Brockovich"  
27 Adjoining  
28 Soak up some rays  
29 Lemon's cousin  
30 Hebrew month  
31 Scepter  
35 Morning moisture  
38 — -tac-toe  
40 Taste the tea  
42 Tribal emblem  
45 NASA scrub  
47 Picture of health?  
48 Pound of poetry  
49 Tress  
50 G8 member  
51 Winter ailment  
52 Erstwhile acorn  
54 "Holy cow!"

**Solution time: 27 mins.**  
J A B O R T S A W T N T  
A B O R T I F I W O E  
M A N I A L A N T A N A  
T E M P E R R I C K  
A G A P A N M A N E S  
M I N E S T R A D  
P L A N E T A V E S T A  
L O A D S S M O G  
C A B I N O P S E Y E  
A V E S S T Y L E T  
S A N T A N A I M A G E  
K I N L A G D I N A R  
S L Y A P E E R A S E

**Saturday's answer 10-10**  
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 60 61