

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



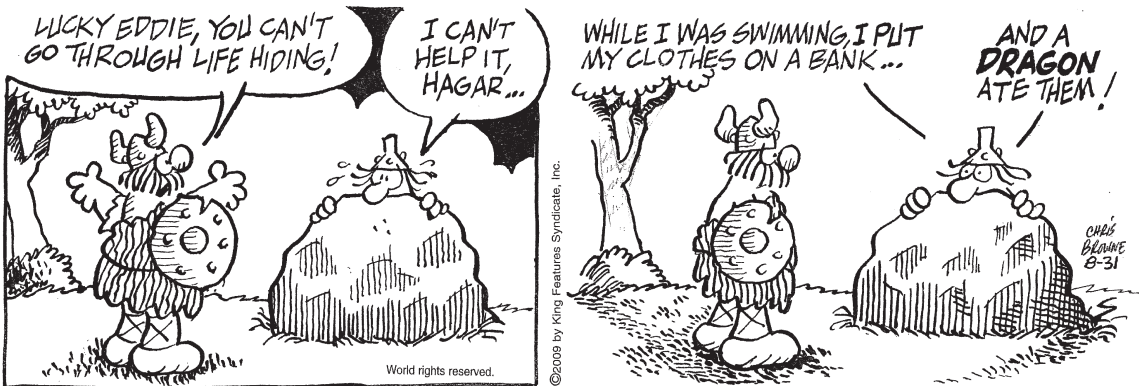
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



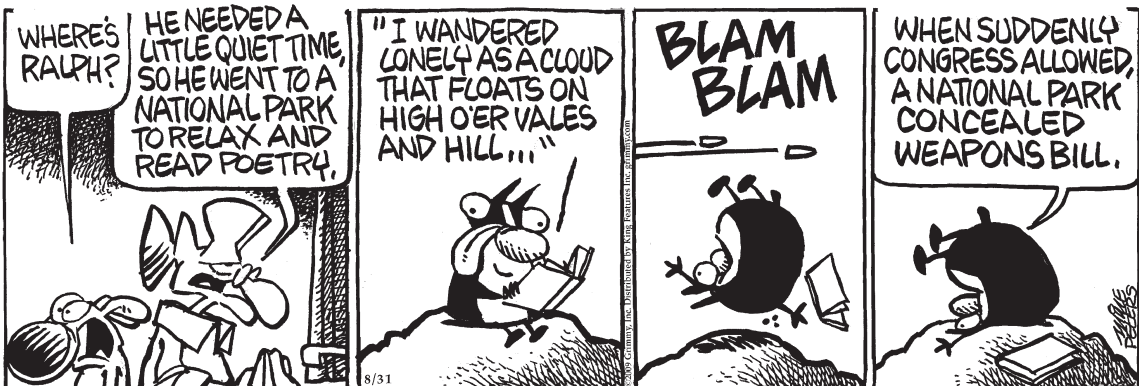
Blondie • Chic Young



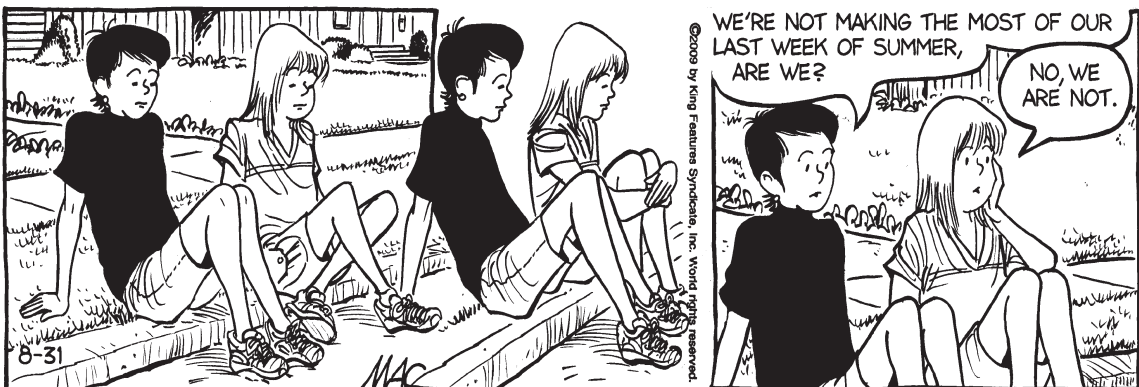
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



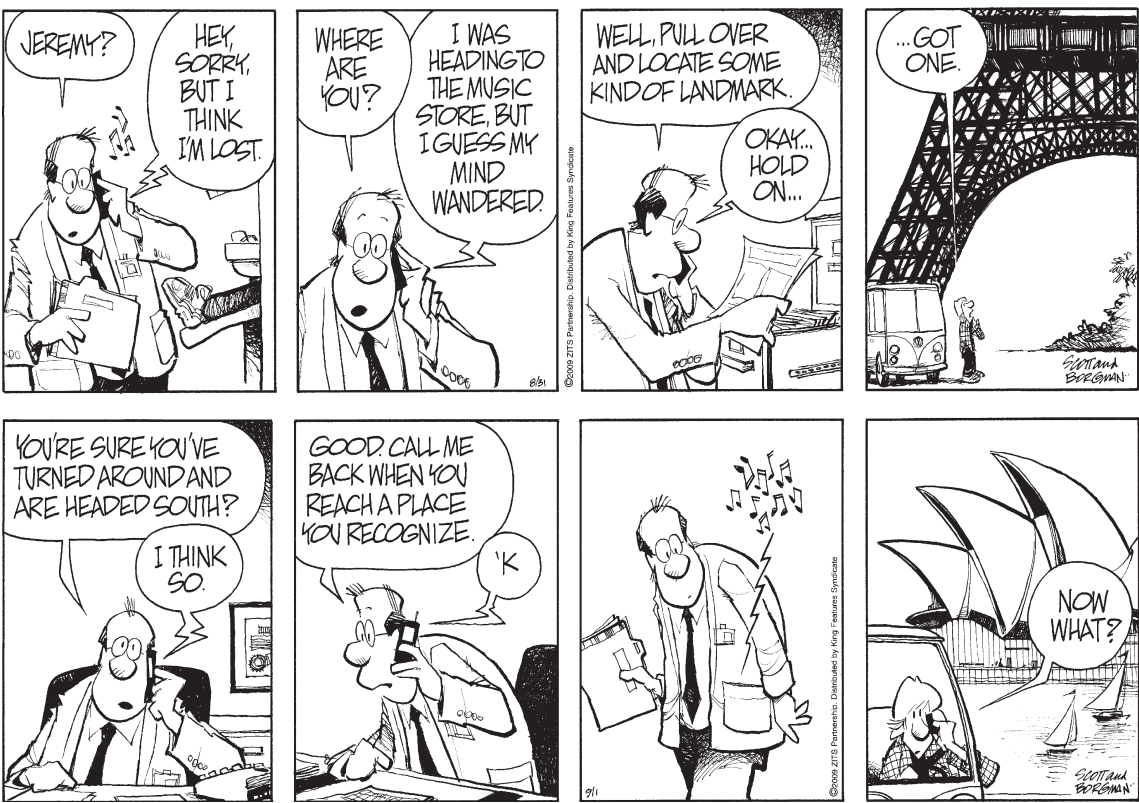
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Learning helped by relationships

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a teacher at a small private elementary school. Recently we were given research that showed that creating good, effective relationships with students goes far toward increasing performance in class. We weren't given resources on how to improve our relationships, though. Do you have any suggestions for improving student-teacher relationships? – D.L.

Dear D.L.: This is a very progressive idea in terms of education and children's development. Recent research in the journal Education Psychology Review confirms this, that student-teacher relationships are critical for raising achievement. Kids who have good relationships with their teachers feel more attached to their school, which impacts their success. Kids who have conflicted relationships like school less, and perform worse than kids who feel attached to their school.

As for recommendations, it is your role as the teacher to connect with the kids, and to show them respect and trust. By making kids feel secure and valued, you can free them to take on challenges. You can increase positive interactions by being well-prepared for classes and holding high expectations for students. Giving them choices and the responsibility to choose the best option enhances trust. In terms of discipline, you should use sound reasoning rather than coercion, which can damage your relationship with all of your students, not just the one who is being disciplined.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am absolutely terrified of public speaking. I grew up in Hong Kong, learning English and Chinese simultaneously, so I consider myself a native English speaker. But I have a residual accent, and that makes me self-conscious so that when I speak in public, I freeze up. I know public speaking is important, especially in my career, so what can I do to overcome my fear and self-consciousness? – H.C.

Dear H.C.: It is interesting that you are aware of your accent, when others probably are filled with admiration at your ability to speak two languages! Accents are often charming, and add an air of sophistication to a presentation. If the problem was of people being unable to understand what you were saying, it would be different – in that case you might have to seek remedial speech therapy. But the issue is really just your self-confidence. The first priority is to be proud of your heritage and accent!

My suggestion for becoming more comfortable with public speaking probably is going to make you uncomfortable, but it has helped many people. I suggest that you join a group such as Toastmasters International, which means going into the belly of the beast – giving more speeches! This group practices public speaking, and the members give each other feedback – and eventually speaking in public loses its fearful edge. In the meantime, stop beating up on yourself – fear of public speaking is at the top of the list of phobias. It sounds like you have a great career going; now you can make it even better.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 5
♥ Q 7 4
♦ K 9 7 6 4 3 2
♣ 9

WEST
♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8
♣ Q 10 7 3 2

EAST
♠ 10 7 6
♥ 9 8 6 3 2
♦ 5
♣ A 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 9 4
♥ A J 10
♦ A J 10
♣ K J 5

The bidding:
South 2 NT Pass North 3♦ East Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — three of clubs.

You have to have a good sense of what's going on when you're a defender, or you may discover too late that you've been had.

Consider this deal from a team match in France. At the first table, West (Henri Szwarc) led a club against three notrump. East won with the ace and returned the four.

Declarer went up with the king, cashed the ace of diamonds and then played the jack of clubs! West took the jack with the queen and returned the queen of diamonds!

As a result of this play, South had to go down one. But if Szwarc had made the mistake of cashing his clubs instead of returning a diamond, South would have made the contract. Declarer would have disposed of his ten of diamonds on the fourth club lead and would then have been able to run dummy's diamonds.

Once Szwarc returned the diamond queen, declarer was dead. He could not afford to duck the queen, because Szwarc would then cash his clubs to defeat the contract.

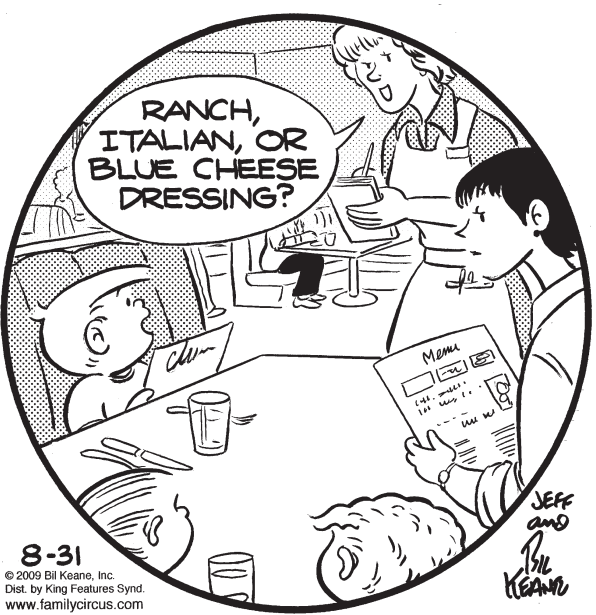
And when, in the actual case, South took the queen with dummy's king, the diamond suit remained blocked so that it could not be run. Declarer did as well as he could at this point by leading the queen of hearts and taking a finesse, but West won with the king and took his clubs to score a one-trick set.

Obviously, Szwarc viewed the jack-of-clubs lead as a Greek gift. He reasoned that the only logical explanation for South's play was that the diamonds were blocked, so he refused to cooperate with South's plan by cashing his clubs.

Strangely enough, the hand turned out to be a draw. At the other table, Szwarc's teammates bid six diamonds and also went down one, losing a heart and a club. Unfortunately, the tied result detracted somewhat from the high-level battle of wits that had taken place at the other table.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/31

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

B P V X O A M I R H V S X Y
I Y X U X Y Y X O B I I B Y X K , A S X
U X W B K X H B Y A M M Z W M J P X
O X H R O X O J I M Z B W R Z Z R X P V R Y A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE COMPANY IS OFFERING MEN'S PRODUCTS ONLY, YOU MIGHT CALL IT A MALE ORDER BUSINESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ali —
5 Spanish article
8 Sur- rounded
12 Plentiful
14 Paddock papa
15 Morning- after woe
16 PC picture
17 Meadow
18 The same amount
20 Peptic problem
23 One- time Yugoslav leader
24 Twosome
25 Exceed a limit
28 Hot tub
29 Get more maga- zines
30 Rotation duration
32 Hollow quick bread
34 Stupor
35 Falsifier
36 GSN telecasts

37 Preserve to protect from
40 Diving bird
41 Change
42 Sweater type
47 Birthright barterer
48 Volcanic boom
49 Flight compo- nent
50 Poorly lit
51 Actress Paquin

3 Chignon
4 Fisher- man
5 Outflow from
48-Across
6 Indivisible
7 Sieve
8 "I, Robot" author
9 Isinglass
10 Press
11 Say it isn't so
13 Active person
19 Pack cargo
20 Boom times
21 Arctic European
22 "Arrive- derci"

23 Piano man?
25 Made quite a few changes
26 Cheese choice
27 Demolish
29 Anger
31 "Of course"
33 Empha- size
34 John Lennon's last home
36 Swallow hard
37 Prior nights
38 Sail support
39 High- land hillside
40 Astrin- gent
43 Mentalist Geller
44 Sports- caster Scully
45 A billion years
46 Genetic sub- stance

DOWN

1 Scrooge's cry
2 Lawyers' org.

Solution time: 27 mins.

Saturday's answer 8-31

