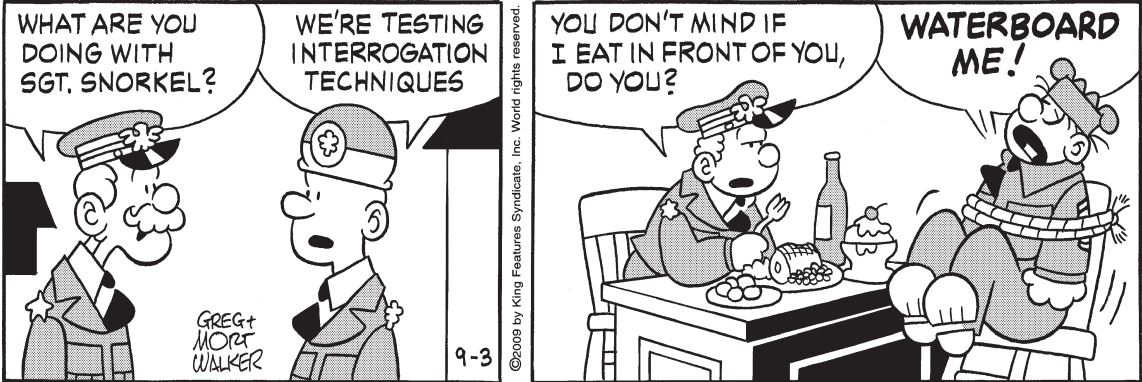


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



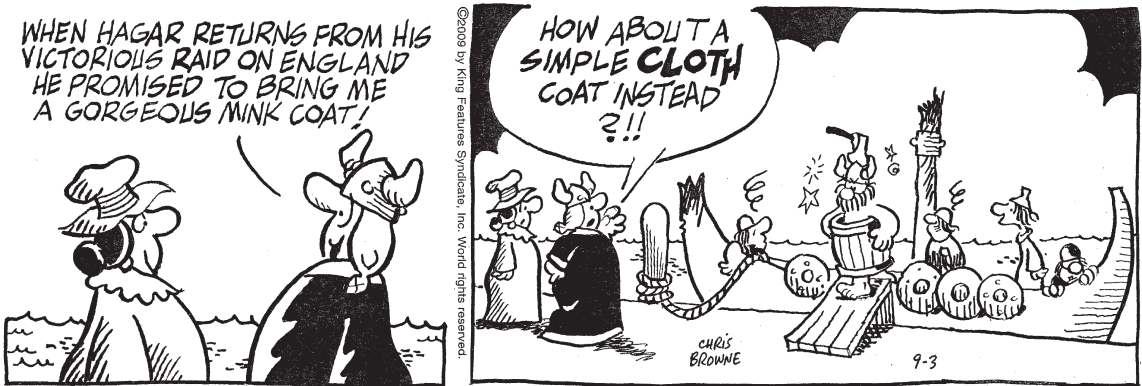
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



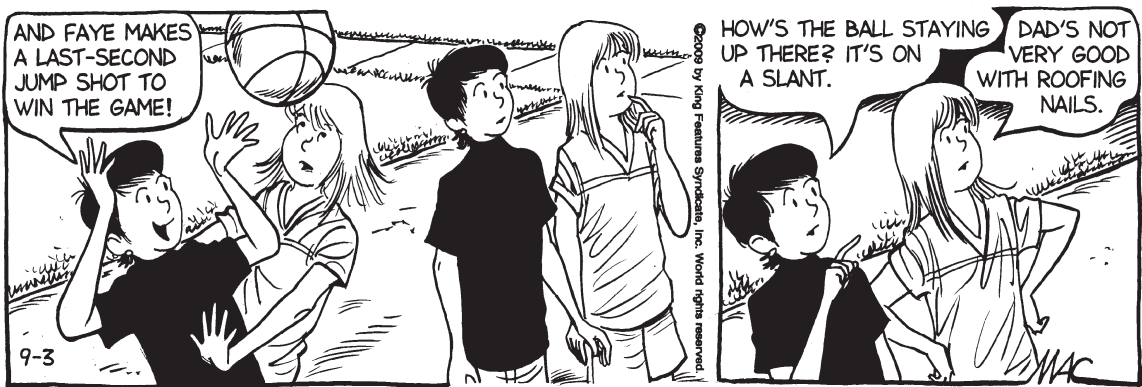
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Bossy leader took over group

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am writing on behalf of a group of people who are very disgruntled and want some advice on how to talk to one of our members. We are part of a volunteer group trying to plan a yard sale to raise money for beautification projects. We were all cooperating well, but one of us has decided to take over. He is irritating and doesn't have very good ideas. What should we say to get him to back off? – E.K.

Dear E.K.: Sometimes our goals are mutually exclusive; you can't get your message across while sparing the feelings of someone who has given not a moment's thought to yours! But in this case, since it is important to not alienate this person, I'm sure you'll find a way – even though you'd probably be justified in letting the chips fall where they may. I understand that because it is a volunteer organization and your work is for the community, you don't wish to introduce a sour note. So let's see how that might be done.

I don't think ganging up on this fellow would be a good idea. Why not pick your most tactful member to speak to him privately about his role? Try to divert his energy to a "special" part of the project – publicity, for example – and free up the rest of you to do. He may respond to praise for his leadership, leaving you free to get things done while he is distracted with his new duties. Or, break into small committees. He can head one. Then next time, pick a volunteer effort he's not interested in and use what you have learned about human nature to make it a success.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've tried to quit smoking more times than I can remember, but I always end up sliding back and then feeling terrible about myself. I know it's bad for me, and I really want to quit. I don't even feel like I'm addicted, until a craving hits and I give in. Some people seem to be able to quit cold turkey. Why is it so hard for me? Is there anything that will help? – P.R.

Dear P.R.: There are two types of addiction: physical and psychological. Different drugs – and nicotine is a drug – work in different ways to cause addiction. Many experts believe smoking is only about 10 percent physical addiction, but that doesn't make it easier to kick as a habit. Your body may recover from withdrawal in a few days, but psychological dependency will persist.

The good news, though, is that there are a lot of tips that can help you quit. Tell your family and friends that you're quitting, and lean on them for support. If you decide to use a program of some kind, really utilize all the resources it provides. Go to meetings, call the telephone help line, visit the Web site – do it all. The more support you have, the more successful you will be. You want to stay busy, and should spend time in places that don't allow smoking and be around people who don't smoke. If you slip up, it's not a lost cause. Certainly, smoking one cigarette is less bad than smoking a whole pack, but that doesn't mean you can safely smoke occasionally. Don't be hard on yourself if you have a cigarette or two, but don't totally give up, either. Learn from what made you smoke, and try to avoid that trigger next time.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 8 2
♦ A Q J 9 4
♣ K 8

WEST
♠ K 10 6 5 2
♥ 4
♦ K 8 3
♣ 10 9 7 2

EAST
♠ 8 4
♥ Q J 6 3
♦ 10 7
♣ A Q 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K 10 9 7 5
♦ 6 5 2
♣ J 4 3

The bidding:
North: 1♦
East: 1♥
South: 3♥
West: Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The Pressure Principle

There is nothing wrong with a player employing deceptive tactics or strategy. This goes for the defenders as well as declarer, all of whom may try to convince the opposition that a situation exists that actually doesn't.

Consider today's deal where East won the first two tricks with the Q-A of clubs and had to decide what to do next. Although a spade shift seemed the most natural play, East chose instead to return the ten of diamonds into dummy's strong suit. The purpose of this unusual play was to try to persuade declarer that the diamond ten was a singleton. East was hoping that this would divert South from the winning line of play.

To appreciate the effect this had on declarer, put yourself in South's shoes at this point. After taking the ten of diamonds with dummy's jack, how would you continue?

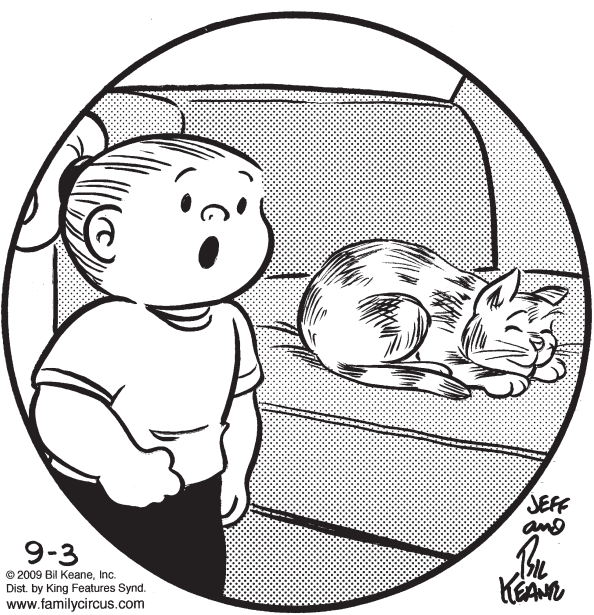
Normally, you would try to protect yourself against a 4-1 heart division by means of a safety play. The standard procedure would be to cash one top trump and, if no honor fell, cross to dummy and lead a heart to the nine, thus limiting yourself to one trump loser if East started with the Q-J-x-x.

But in the actual case, after leading a heart to the ace at trick four, declarer was afraid to try to return to dummy with a diamond for fear West would ruff. So he simply cashed the heart king next, hoping for a 3-2 trump division, and that was the end of that.

Observe that if East had made the more normal return of a spade at trick three, declarer could hardly have gone wrong. After taking the ace, he would have cashed a high trump, tried the diamond finesse and then played a heart to his nine to bring in the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Are ALL cats good at takin’ naps?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

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

Cryptoquip

TJGQS ZYIOOFWN XIIC JIS

YILSM GYFM TJGQSWIIW,

XQ TKK QWCQC LO XFGY

T MOKFGGFWN YQTCTZYQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY OLD POOCH REALLY LIKES WEARING TIMEPIECES, I RECKON HE MUST BE A WATCH DOG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 PC program
4 Delves director
8 Carnelian variety
12 Chum
13 Worshipped one
14 Rip
15 "Merci"
17 Top-notch
18 "... or — to be"
19 1/100 of a mark
21 Quarter-back Troy
24 Craze
25 Banned insecticide
26 Gratuuity
28 Luke-warm
32 Shaving cream additive
34 "Phooey!"
36 Gaelic
37 Copycat birds
39 Profit
41 Pub order
42 Squealer

44 "A Few Good Men"
46 Bankrupt Wapiti
51 Eager
52 Free-mail privilege
56 Infamous lyre player
57 Surpasses
58 Caspian, e.g.
59 Metric measure
60 Agile
61 Height of fashion?

3 Krill, e.g.
4 Harsh decree
5 Slick, maybe
6 Yucky stuff
7 Form of tobacco
8 Seatless passenger
9 Very long time (Var.)
10 Hindu royal
11 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit
16 Artesian appellation
2 Oom follower
20 Nosh

21 Leading man?
22 Without acting
23 Pen point
27 Skillet
29 Mischievous
30 Man is one
31 Bambi, e.g.
33 Peer's place, perhaps
35 That girl
38 Put into words
40 Wee
43 University near Boston
45 Sort
46 Gunshot sound
47 Always
48 Old Italian money
49 Item on stage
53 Spring mo.
54 Born
55 Whale group

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 9-3

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
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		