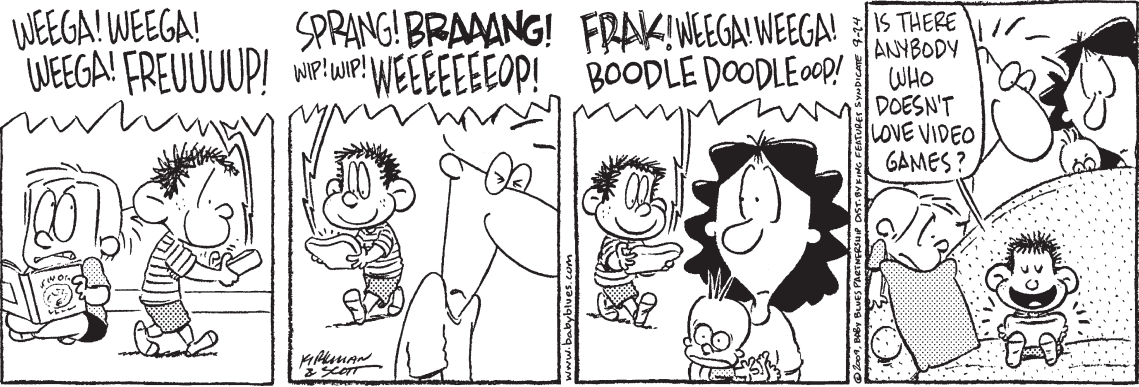
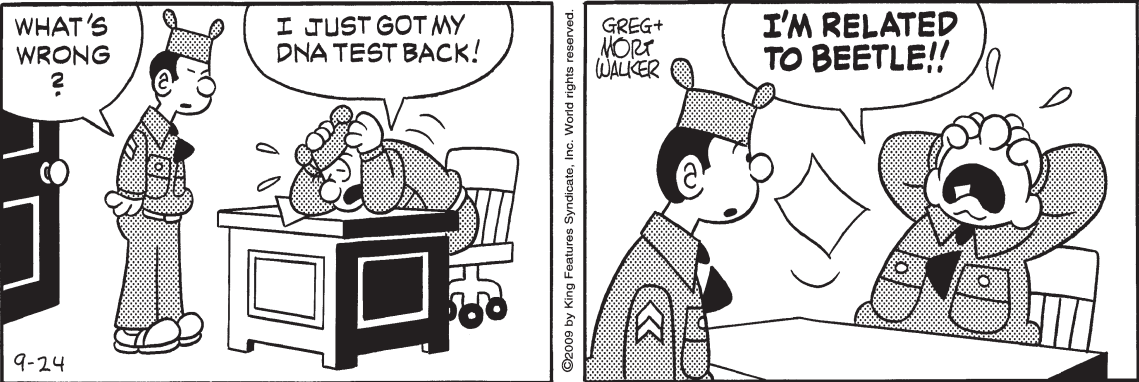


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



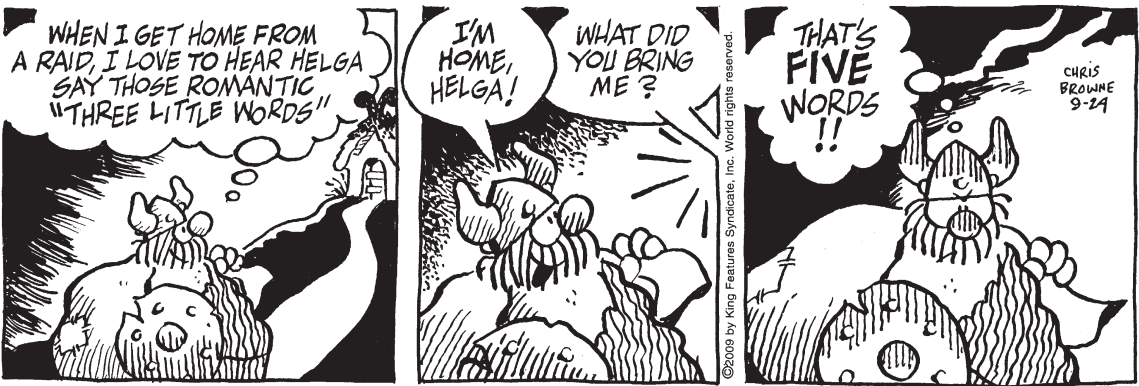
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



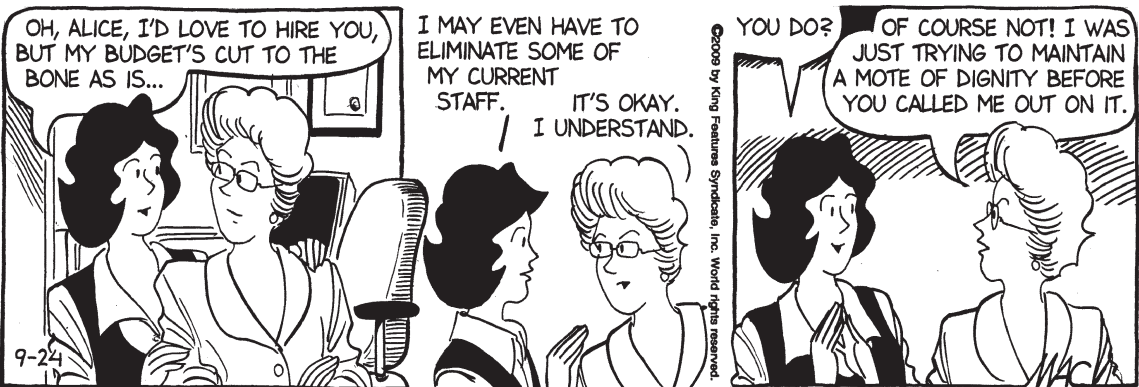
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



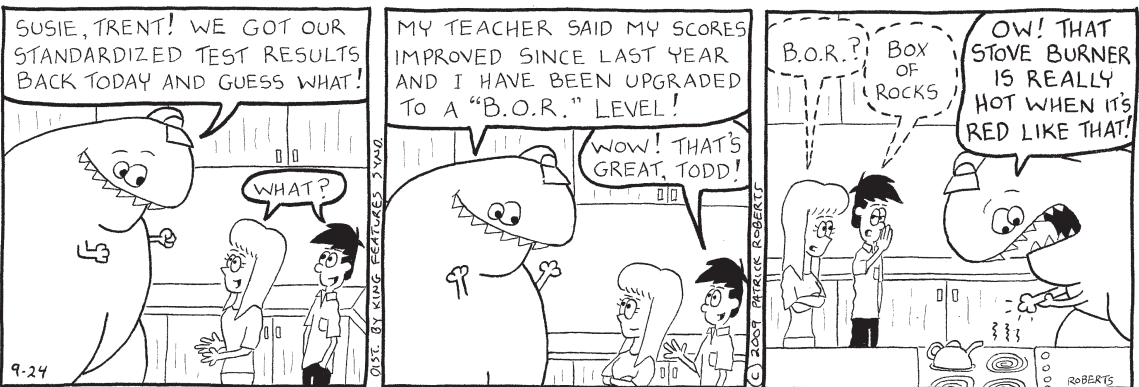
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

Ask Dr. Brothers

Sister slaps baby brother

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our 4-year-old was thrilled to have a baby brother. She wears a T-shirt saying "I'm the Big Sister," and loves to play Mommy's helper. But now that the baby has been around for a few months, she gives him "love taps" when my back is turned. Her little pats are turning into slaps and pinches, which make him cry. She says she "loves" him. Help! – S.S.

Dear S.S.: There's no doubt that your 4-year-old really loves her baby brother – but she may have other feelings that need to be addressed. When the newborn entered her life, she was caught up in the expectation and excitement of the arrival. It's easy for a small child to get caught up in the excitement of her parents. But now things have settled down, she realizes her world has changed. There's now a little brother, and it doesn't look like he's leaving!

Her love taps may express resentment. Where she once looked at her new baby brother as a new toy, she now sees him as competition. It's important for you to focus her on protecting rather than provoking. Let her know she may not hurt her brother, and help her practice soft touches. Make her feel important in her special job to be a big sister, and that it's OK to sometimes be upset. When she sees her brother as someone who needs her, she'll most likely lay off the love taps and go back to being Mommy's little helper.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My little boy has always liked to draw. He was drawn to the comic strips as soon as he could hold a newspaper, and buys comic books so he can imitate the pictures. He's now going into fourth grade and has told everyone in sight he is going to be an artist. The thing is, I hate to say this, but he still can barely get beyond stick figures, and doesn't seem to have any talent at all! Will he ever get better, or should I try to point him in another direction? – L.B.

Dear L.B.: While it's difficult to render a final verdict on your child's artistic prospects at such an early age, having the encouragement of a supportive parent can do wonders. Successful artists of all stripes share reminiscences of having strong backing from their mom and dad. It's not hard to see why – a child who receives positive feedback about his artwork is much more likely to continue than one who is met with indifference.

Even if your child never develops the chops of Michelangelo, there still may be hope for a career. In the past few years, comics have become more respected by publishers and readers alike, and are now commonly referred to as "graphic novels." The "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series of graphic novels – which features characters rendered as little more than stick figures – has made the New York Times best-seller list several times. Realize that each person's art is unique. The important thing for you to relay is that his viewpoint and style are just as valid as anyone else's. A child who has someone to believe in him can accomplish great things, even if they look like just scribbles to you now.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9
♥ 8 7 2
♦ K 7 4 2
♣ Q J 9 5

WEST
♠ J 8 7 4
♥ K J 9 6 4
♦ J 9 3
♣ K

EAST
♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ Q 10
♦ Q 10 6
♣ 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10
♥ A 5 3
♦ A 8 5
♣ A 10 6 4

The bidding:
East Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
South Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
West Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
North Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — six of hearts.

Maximizing Your Chances

Occasionally, declarer may make a play that might arouse suspicion that he had peeked into one of his opponents' hands. While such things have been known to happen, the fact is that most such plays are based more on sound reasoning than on ill-gotten information.

Consider this case where South was in three notrump and West led a heart. Declarer held up his ace on the first two hearts and won the third as East discarded a low spade.

The outcome now depended on how South handled the club suit, from which he needed to score three tricks to make his contract. The obvious approach was to cross to dummy and try a club finesse. If it won, 10 tricks would be there for the taking; if it lost, he would go down one.

After careful consideration, declarer plunked down the ace of clubs, caught West's king and finished with an overtrick!

Since the chance of West's holding the king singleton with five cards outstanding is exceedingly small (less than 3 percent), while a finesse offers roughly a 50 percent chance of success, it might seem that South was either clairvoyant or had seen the king in West's hand. However, declarer had a very sound reason for playing the clubs as he did.

South's primary concern was to try to develop the three club tricks he needed in the safest way possible. He could afford to lose a club trick in the process, so long as he did not lose it to West. A successful club finesse was therefore not really necessary to make three notrump, but it would be disastrous if West happened to hold the singleton king.

There were thus two different chances to make the contract: if East had the king of clubs, or if West had the singleton king. The play of the ace catered to both possibilities.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/24

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.

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

Cryptoquip

NUZS JOTZ O QKVVKE-YI NK

NUZ JKPGZ NUON EOB PZHS

IKKH. GN EOB TZQGFGNZVS

FKN OF ZAYOV BZAYZV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SHY ROCK IS MUCH TOO BASHFUL TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. IF ONLY IT WOULD BE A LITTLE BOULDER!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ballot dangler
5 Annoy
8 Puerto
12 Jeans maker
13 French pronoun
14 Low pH
15 Cupid's alias
16 Favorite
17 Conked out
18 Melted-cheese dish
20 Talon
22 Chic, and then some
26 Assume for argument's sake
29 Layer
30 Slight amount
31 Author Turgenev
32 Bit of wordplay
33 Lascivious
34 Mai
35 Branch

DOWN

36 Briskly self-assured
37 "My fondest wishes"
40 Pulsate
41 Ceremony
45 Reed instrument
47 Menagerie
49 Capri, e.g.
50 Bank transaction
51 Conclusion
52 Trawler gear
53 They get connected
54 Shelter

Solution time: 25 mins.

PAY	TEL
BALI	TOPIC
ERNIE	EXITED
LITTLE	ILLICIT
KEY	DAMNS
LESS	HEMP
ABIDE	LORDS
AVOID	RIBS
WAG	GROPE
LITTLE	BOYBLUE
LOUISE	IRONY
ENDED	NAPA
GET	GEE

Yesterday's answer 9-24

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			