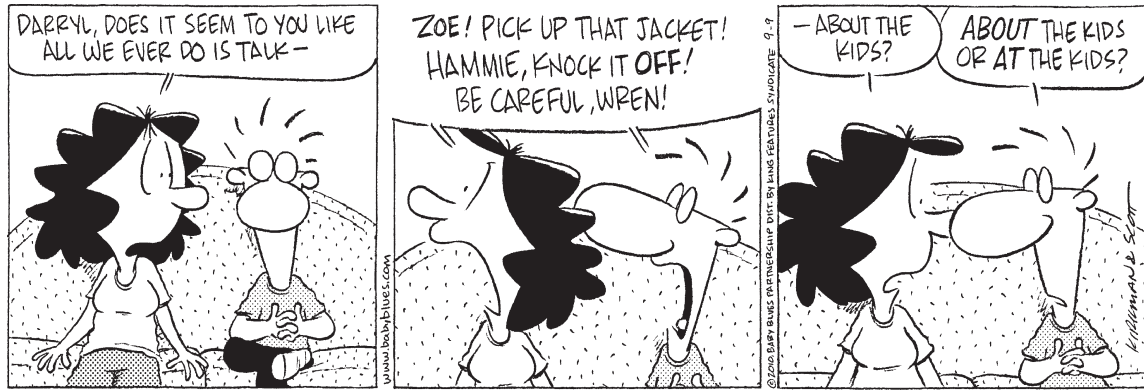


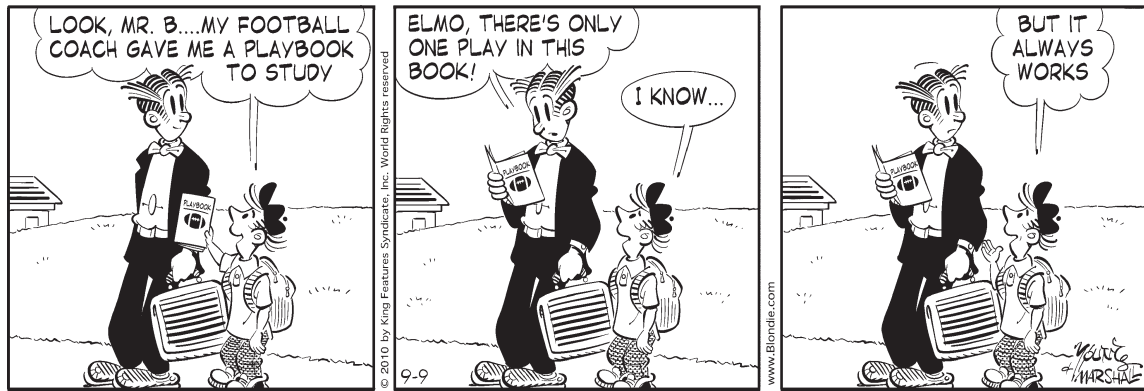
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



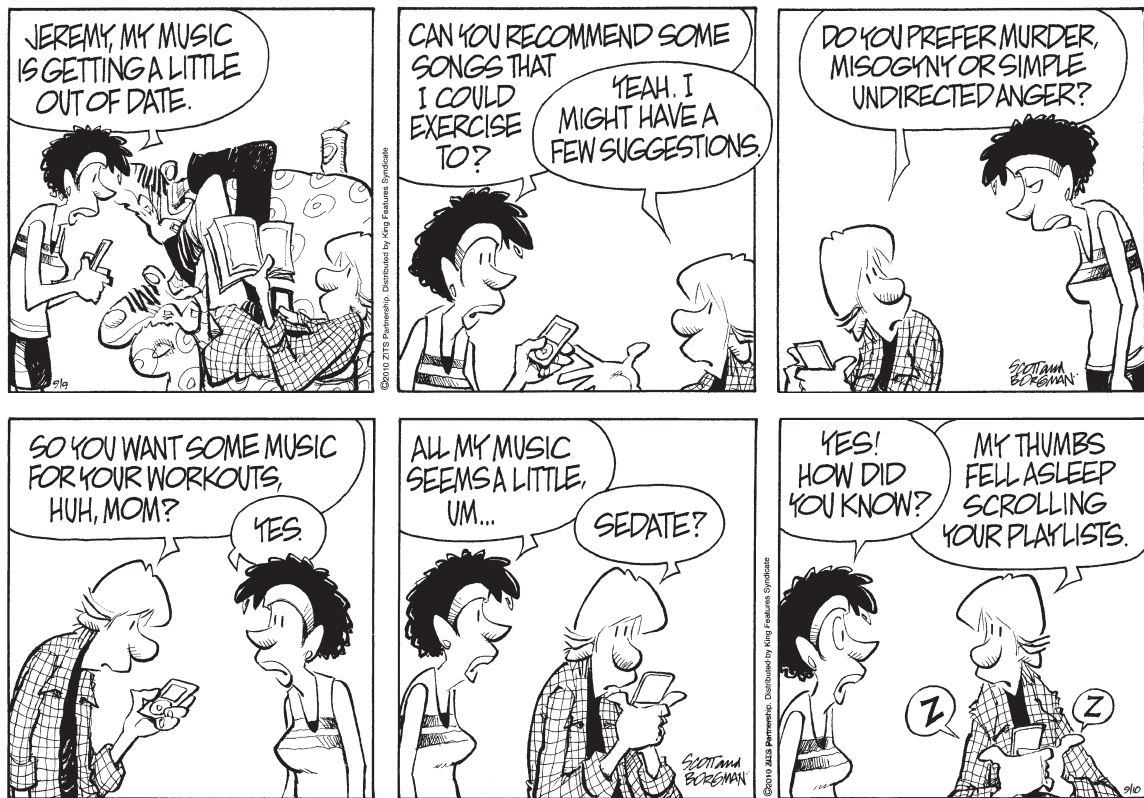
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**He always needs to be told chores**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** We are at the end of our rope with our 14-year-old boy. You would think he's old enough to realize when mowing the lawn or taking out the trash need doing, but we have to tell him. Repeatedly. Over several days! My husband and I are sick of being drill sergeants. At what age does it occur to kids to pitch in once in a while for their room and board? - L.J.

**Dear L.J.:** Perhaps part of the problem is the free room and board! Not that you want to start collecting rent, but he should begin to have some appreciation of what things cost and are worth. Ask him to help with the shopping when he wants his favorite meal. Ask him to be responsible for his own chores, like taking care of his room, taking out his trash and washing his clothes. Perhaps he will be more willing if he is asked just to pull his own weight, not do things for the whole family. Teenagers tend to complain they are being used as slaves when they would rather be out with their friends or practicing sports, etc.

One way to stop being drill sergeants is to set up a bulletin board with all the chores on it and the days assigned to everyone for particular tasks. That will make the calendar the culprit. Give your son flexibility to trade or be paid for odious tasks. This will allow him to feel more in control, and he may pick something creative, like cooking, or practical, like painting, that can help him become a more capable and competent adult.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I can't believe I'm writing this. Our 18-year-old daughter has saved up money to buy herself a present: new breasts! I was mortified when she told my husband and me - but he's OK with it! I don't know who I'm more mad at. I thought I raised her with a "beauty lies within" philosophy, and I thought he was on the same page. How can I put a stop to this? - G.O.

**Dear G.O.:** I think you need to see why your daughter is thinking this way. Does she have well-endowed friends making her feel less than pretty? Is she seeking approval from a boyfriend, or aiming on a career in adult entertainment - or looking to work at a restaurant chain known for large-breasted women? Does she feel unfeminine because of her body? There are many possible concerns, and I don't blame you for being upset. To give your husband the benefit of the doubt, perhaps he is just filing this idea under "Whatever my baby girl wants is fine with me."

Perhaps it is not too late to talk about the downsides. Better yet, have a trusted physician do the honors. There may be implications for infections, multiple surgeries, difficulty breastfeeding and other unpleasant outcomes. Perhaps after your husband hears about these, he will not be so willing. Treat her to a shopping spree at Victoria's Secret. If her "problem" could be fixed by push-up bras, go for it! You have nothing to lose and your daughter will thank you in years to come.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

**Inspired Defense**

There are times when a player can see that if he defends normally, declarer will almost surely get home with the contract. On such occasions, a bit of inspiration may be needed to alter the course of events.

Consider today's deal, where South wound up in three notrump after North had made a "splinter bid" indicating support for clubs, game-going values and a singleton or void in spades. South appeared well-prepared for a spade lead despite North's announced shortness in the suit, so West tried leading his own long suit.

Declarer took the first trick with dummy's queen and played the club jack, taken by West with the king. It seemed obvious to West that if he led another heart or switched to a spade, South would come to at least nine tricks after conceding a second club.

So West put on his thinking cap and came up with the only play that could give his side a chance - he switched to the queen of diamonds! South was so grateful to be handed a diamond trick that he automatically covered the queen with dummy's king, assuring that either the king or jack would become a trick. After the king held, declarer reverted to clubs. West won with the ace and, pursuing his plan, played the ace and another diamond. When the smoke cleared, South was down two.

For West's plan to succeed, declarer had to hold any of several two- or three-card diamond combinations. But the plan would not work unless declarer could be induced to play the king on the first diamond lead, unblocking the suit so that West could later reach his partner with his deuce of diamonds.

Shifting to the queen at trick three therefore served a dual purpose: It unblocked the diamonds so that they could later be run, and it gave an impulsive declarer - who could have ducked the queen without costing himself a trick - enough rope to hang himself.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



9-9

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www.familycircus.com

"When goldfish die they can be either buried or flushed."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

HLXSN ALRN KPPRCZVV RTZD  
HEPUT DTDCTQU ZQT JXPHX  
KPQ SQLXJLXF APVS PXTU:  
RET AELAZFP CTTQU.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A BLOODSUCKING ARACHNID BECAME CAUGHT IN SOME MIRE, ONE COULD CALL IT A TICK IN THE MUD.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Bed frame piece  
5 Cribbage scorer  
8 Newspaper page  
12 Cab  
13 The whole enchilada  
14 Hemingway or Haydn  
15 In the thick of  
16 Carnival city  
17 "— go brag!"  
18 Pacific discoverer  
20 Threaten  
22 Squid squirt  
23 Longing  
24 Longest abbr. on many calendars  
27 Nero and Napoleon  
32 Eggs  
33 Greek H

**DOWN**  
1 Impale  
2 Dalai —  
3 Botanical angle  
4 Morsel  
5 Pet bird, often  
6 Actor Wallach  
7 — onto (snatch)  
8 Church key, e.g.  
9 Irrational distrust  
10 Grand-scale tale  
11 Hamlet, e.g.  
19 Broad-casting  
21 CBS logo  
24 Turf  
25 A Gabor sister  
26 Geometric curve  
28 Urban transit letters  
29 Seeming displacement, to astronomers  
30 Tier  
31 Baltimore newspaper  
36 Stabbed  
37 Sermon subject  
38 Swoop and seize  
41 Coiffure  
42 Culture medium  
43 Ear part  
44 Individuals  
46 Midday  
47 Olympian's prize  
48 Supplements, with "out"51 Rage

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | L | D | A | L | P | C | E | L | L |
| E | R | T | E | L | E | A | H | I | Y | A |
| E | I | N | S | T | E | I | N | I | D | E |
| S | A | T | I | E | G | A | L | O | S | H |
|   | R | A | T | S | M | I | L |   |   |   |
| T | R | E | E | R | E | A | M | O | D | D |
| S | U | T | E | I | E | I | O | N | O | R |
| P | E | G | L | O | R | D | A | S | H | Y |
|   | H | A | S | S | E | A | S |   |   |   |
| L | E | T | T | E | R | C | L | A | R | E |
| O | L | L | I | O | E | I | T | H | E | R |
| B | I | E | N | A | V | E | E | G | O | S |
| E | A | S | E | D | Y | E | P | O | K | E |

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    | 19 |    |    | 20 | 21 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 24 | 25 | 26 |    |    | 27 | 28 | 29 |    | 30 | 31 |
| 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |
| 35 |    |    | 36 | 37 |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 42 | 43 |    |    | 44 |    | 45 |    | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| 49 |    |    |    | 50 | 51 |    |    | 52 |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |
| 56 |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |