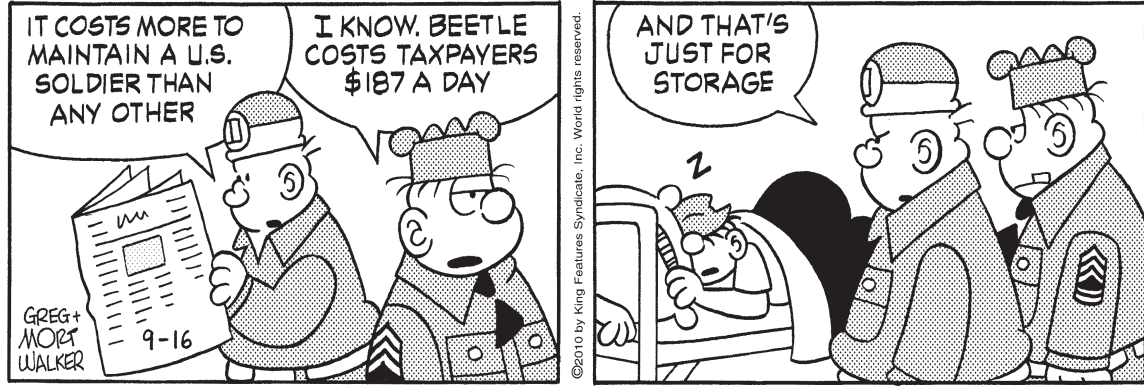


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



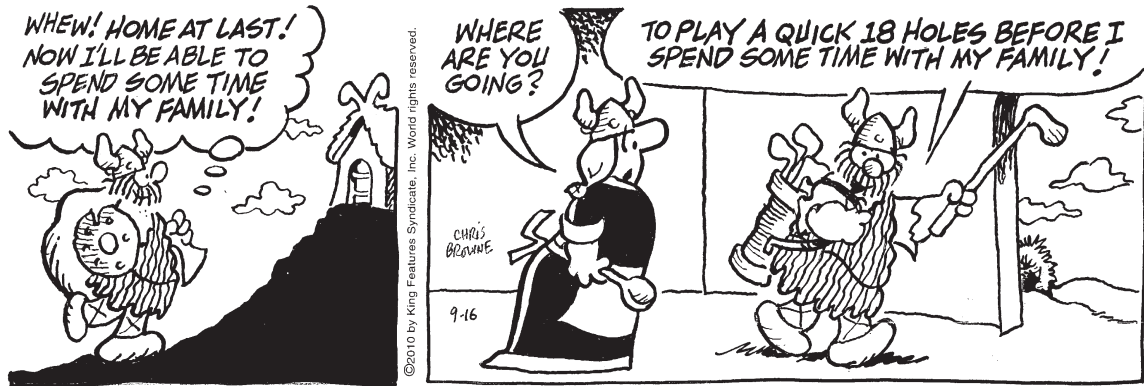
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



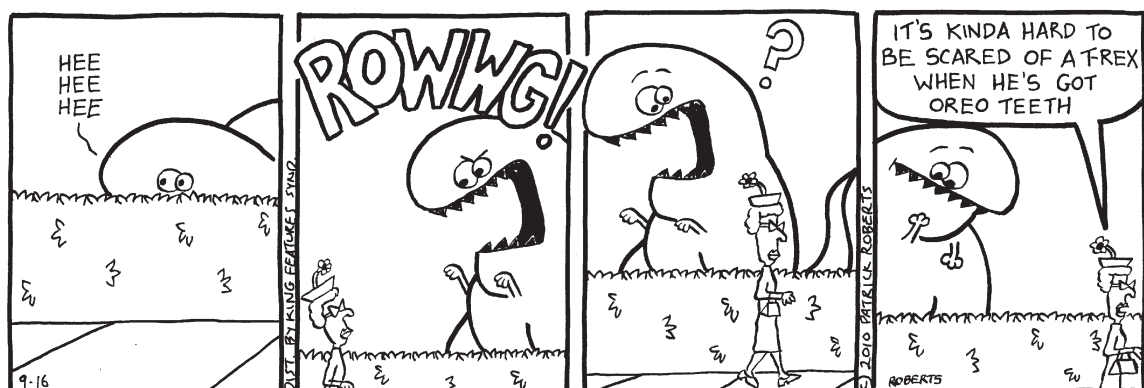
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

He feels the heat talking to trainer

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm in a great football program at college. My teams have always had male trainers, but this one has two women on the staff. The other guys don't feel comfortable going to the women trainers for injuries, but I don't have a problem with it. The only thing is that my teammates make remarks when I use the female trainers. So, should I stop using them? I like the way they listen to my issues. — J.T.

Dear J.T.: It is easy to find fault with female trainers in the locker room — since it has been a traditionally male stronghold, the guys probably have a bias toward keeping it that way. But female trainers and reporters have had access to male domains for a while now, so it is not unreasonable to expect players to adjust, just as you have. I would just keep on using whichever trainer you are assigned or choose to go to when there is an injury or a physical-therapy issue you need help with.

You may be interested in a recent study from North Carolina State University. It found that male football players preferred male trainers for both gender-specific and other injuries, but when it came to psychological issues, there was no preference for a female or male trainer. But when it came to treatment for depression, the players preferred to speak to a woman counselor — perhaps reflecting a need not to appear as weak to another male. Old stereotypes die hard, and women continue to be seen as more nurturing and caring. Since football players have a macho image to uphold, it makes sense they might feel less willing to divulge psychological issues to another man. In any case, remember all the trainers are there to help you achieve your goals and stay healthy — if they are all qualified, that's what counts.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am 17 and have been baby-sitting for these people in my town for about six months. My mom drops me off. The baby is cute, and is usually asleep, so it's an easy job. The couple gets home late from parties, and the husband drives me home, as I don't have my license. Last night the guy was a little drunk, I think. He kept joking with me about how pretty I am and how his wife is getting wrinkles. I like the job, but this was awful. What should I do? — C.B.

Dear C.B.: You have a couple of issues here, and it's good to address them rather than just saying "oh well" and going on with life and your baby-sitting job. I know the work is easy, but you are beginning to pay a price for that. No. 1 is the use of alcohol and driving while impaired. You should not be put in a position where your life is in jeopardy because someone else has been drinking and drives you home. So if you want to keep the job, I suggest getting your license or asking your mother or father or even a friend to pick you up after baby-sitting and deliver you home.

Chances are, after you get your license you will feel more empowered to get other baby-sitting jobs without a complication with the husband. Try working for a single mother or for an older couple who need help with grandchildren. Although the husband was probably drunk and won't remember or will be embarrassed, there's a chance something like that would happen again. So you have to make sure you are not receptive to such remarks — from this guy or another husband — and learn to say something like, "This conversation is making me uncomfortable."

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 9 8 6 3
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ K
 ♣ K Q 10 9 7 4

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 10 5 2
 ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ J 6

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass
 2NT Pass 3♠ Pass
 4♣

Opening lead — six of diamonds.

Rise and Shine
 "Automatic" plays work well in most deals, but they are sure to lose points in others.

Take this case where the defense was less than adequate. West led a diamond to dummy's king. Declarer returned a trump and, after East followed low, went up with the king. South then cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding one of dummy's hearts, and ruffed a diamond in dummy.

He next played a heart, won by West with the queen, but there was nothing West could do to defeat the contract. So declarer made four spades, losing a spade, a heart and a club.

It is true that in most deals East should play low from the A-4 when the trump is led from dummy, following the general principle of second hand low.

But in this case, East should go up with the ace at trick two. He should realize that South has the ace of diamonds (West would not lead away from the ace at trick one), and that declarer will probably win the spade and immediately discard one of dummy's hearts on the ace of diamonds. (South might even have the A-Q of diamonds and discard both hearts from dummy.)

Had East taken the ace of trumps at once and returned a heart, declarer would have lost a spade, two hearts and a club for down one.

East probably hoped his partner had the Q-x of spades and that declarer would finesse the jack, but the specter of the diamond ace in South's hand, and perhaps the queen also, should have been East's primary concern.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Now I won't know if my things are missing or just put away."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QNQRYPH ORTUBHY HFNRG H

QPNEJTTNP AUKUSA H EJOHYJ

BHFZPUKJP JYNBRGUNS

YJTTNST: "OI EHPJ YHZI."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE SIMPLY CAN'T DECIDE WHICH COAL PIT HE PREFERS, COULD YOU SAY HE'S OF TWO MINDS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Whack at
 5 Oil cartel
 9 Insect
 12 Colum-
 bus'
 home
 13 Pocket
 bread
 14 Literary
 collection
 15 Speaks
 ill of
 17 Banned
 pesticide
 18 Ranking
 19 Verboten
 21 Either
 mate
 22 Reside
 24 Warhead
 weapon
 27 Expert
 28 Long
 periods
 31 Extinct
 bird
 32 "— the
 fields
 we
 go, ..."
 33 Feedbag
 morsel
 34 Space-
 craft
 compart-
 ments

DOWN
 1 Weeps
 loudly
 2 Abbott's
 second
 baseman
 3 Verdi
 opera
 4 Monoto-
 nous
 drumbeat
 5 Comic
 strip
 penguin
 6 Pendu-
 lum site
 7 Ordinal
 suffix
 8 Societal
 level
 9 Bitter-
 ness
 10 Loosen
 11 Feline, to
 Francisco
 16 "— Town"
 20 Hearty
 brew
 22 Fear, and
 then
 some
 23 Toil
 24 Mischie-
 vous type
 25 Bill's
 partner
 26 Oaths
 27 Life-
 guard's
 place
 29 Kvetch
 30 Pigpen
 35 Trinity
 member
 37 Ingratiate
 39 Picture
 puzzle
 40 Ruff
 Table
 address
 41 Ethereal
 42 Geneal-
 ogy chart
 43 Ski lift
 type
 44 Infant
 45 "— have
 to do"
 46 He and
 she
 49 Jungfrau,
 e.g.
 50 "CSI"
 evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-16

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								53			
54				55					56		