

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



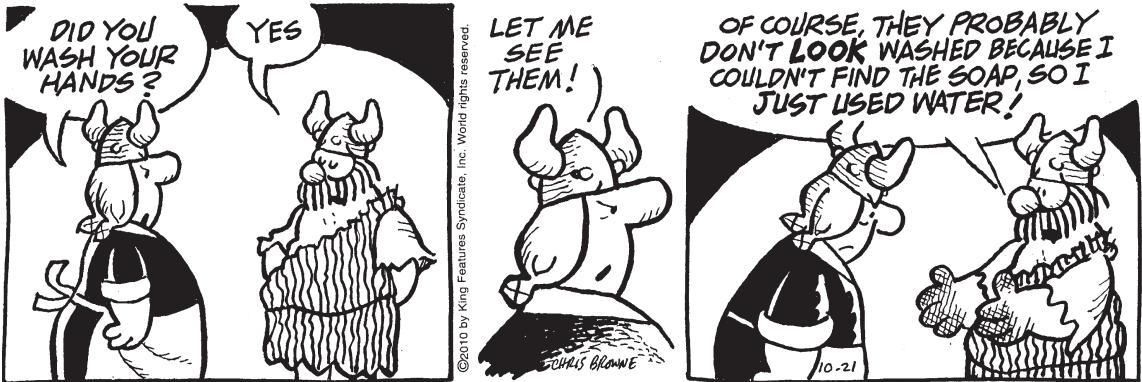
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



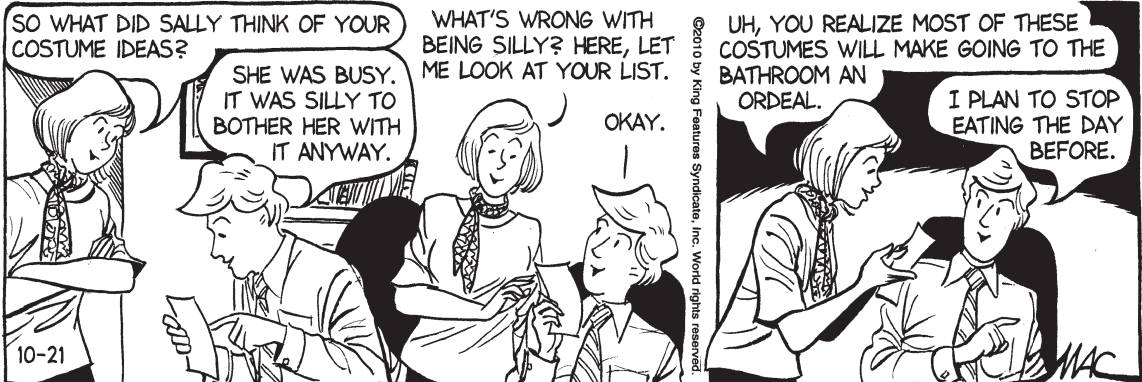
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



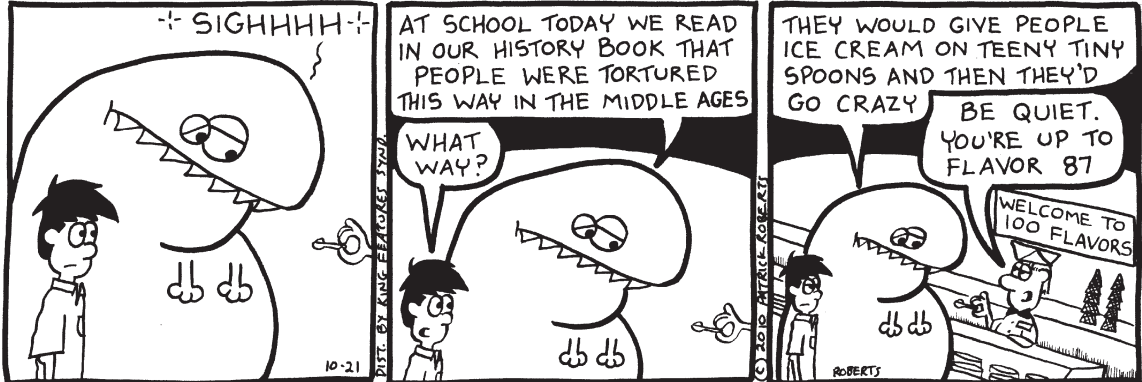
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



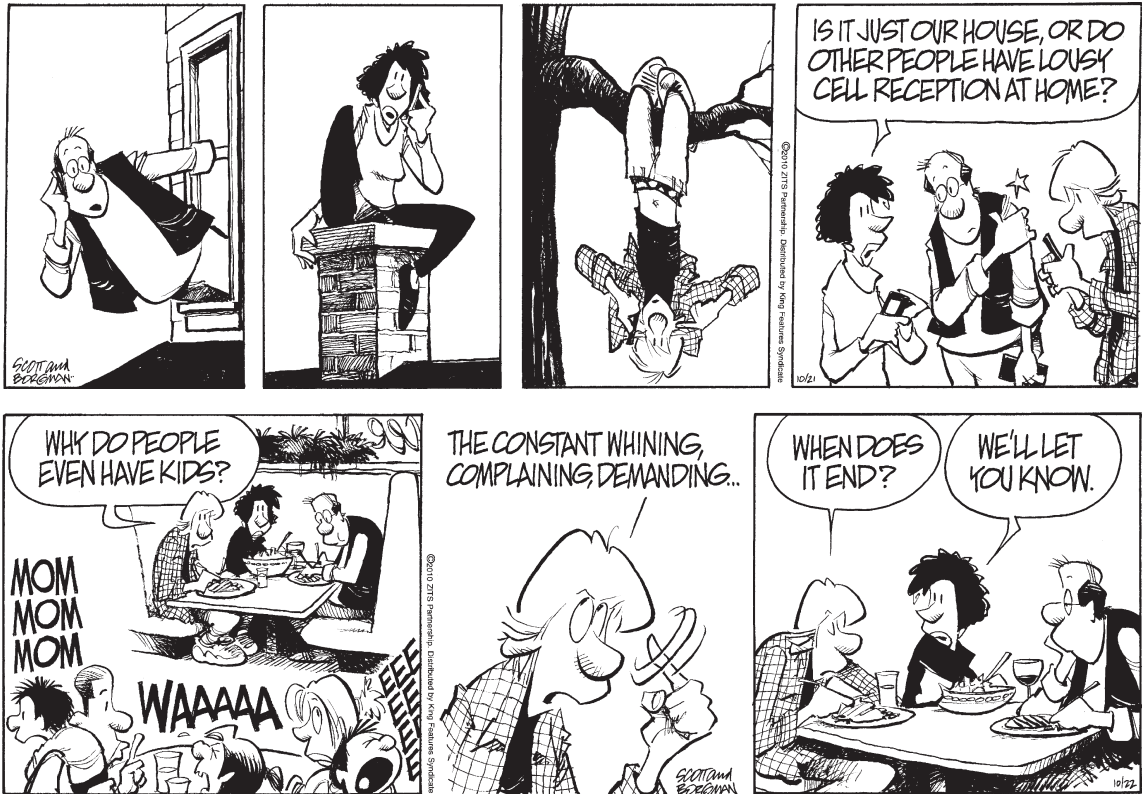
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Teen can't do the homework

Dear Dr. Brothers: No matter what I've tried, I just can't get my 13-year-old in the chair long enough to do his homework. It's not that he's not doing well in school, it's just that he has zero interest in continuing after the last bell has rung. I don't want to go the bribery route, as it just seems wrong to reward what he should be doing. Any ideas on how to motivate him? – H.B.

Dear H.B.: It is difficult for kids to see the connection between going the extra mile in school and their success as an adult. Most children don't get the idea that education is useful for many careers. They see school as one thing and the time out of school as their real life. The challenge is in getting both parts together and having this new awareness translate into trying harder to make the educational experience mean something. A recent study at the University of Michigan highlighted how students can be motivated to take schoolwork seriously. Students in middle school saw either movies related to educationally linked careers or about careers that didn't emphasize education. They were given an extra-credit assignment, and the students who watched the material that made connections between career and education were eight times more likely to do the assignment. Children need to know engagement in school is not just for teachers and parents. Bribing might not be the answer, but showing your son that link could make a big difference. Help him focus on what he might like to study in college, and let him explore internships.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Please settle an argument. We have a 16-year-old son who is artistically gifted. Whether it is writing, painting or playing music, he is extremely talented. The problem, as my husband sees it, is that our son "lays around too much." He's referring to my son's complete lack of interest in sports. I believe he's starting to make my son feel worthless, and it's making me angry. How do I stop this? – P.T.

Dear P.T.: You are a very observant parent to be so aware of your son's personality and learning style, as well as his artist's soul. Knowing that his "lying around" is not just mindless downtime but probably some of the best creative use of his time may come naturally to you. It may be harder for your husband to grasp, especially if he is more action-oriented and believes boys and sports automatically go together. Your son might not mind a game of catch or one-on-one upon occasion, so it might be good to ask him to do some messing around in the backyard or driveway with your husband once in a while, just to have some father-son time that his father can understand.

But by the same token, it's important your husband get a feel for the world your son inhabits, and let him pursue his own talents. If your son is willing to sit down and talk, it might help you understand how he thinks and pursues his goals. Anything that can make his ways less foreign to his father should help their relationship. Ideally, your husband can get excited about some of your son's activities and switch some of his ideas about fathers, sons and sports over to what is important to his own child. Having everyone on the same page would be a great goal. (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST  
♠ J 9 2  
♥ J 10 9 3  
♦ 7 3  
♣ Q 10 9 5

EAST  
♠ Q 10 8 5  
♥ 8 7 4  
♦ A Q 2  
♣ J 6 4

SOUTH  
♠ A K 7 4  
♥ K Q 2  
♦ 8 6  
♣ A K 8 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♦ Pass  
3 NT  
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

To Cogitate Is Not a Sin

The question of when a defender should or should not win a trick has no easy answer. The natural tendency is to take a trick when the opportunity presents itself. But with experience one learns that sometimes it is wiser to reject a trick than it is to take it.

How to recognize the difference from one situation to the next is not easily defined. Perhaps the best generalization is that you should take a trick unless there is a good reason not to. Today's deal provides a case in point.

Declarer won the opening heart lead with the queen, led the eight of diamonds and let it ride. The success or failure of the contract now hinged on whether East won the trick or ducked it.

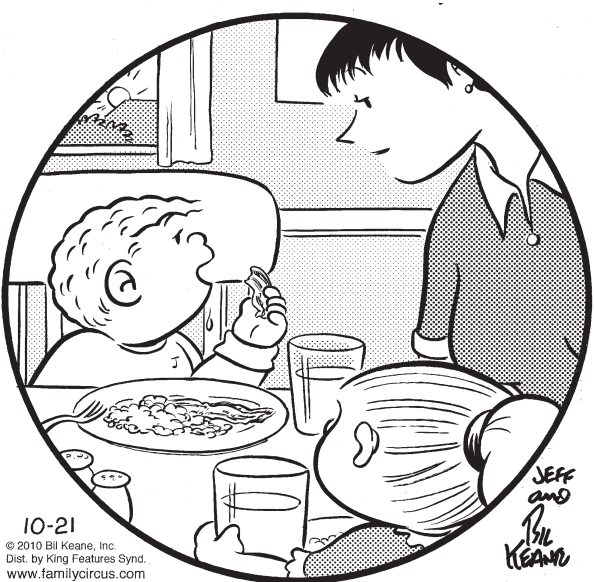
Had East taken the eight with the queen, South would have had no trouble scoring 11 tricks. He would have won any return in his hand and led a diamond to the king, forcing out the ace. The ace of hearts would then provide the entry to dummy's remaining diamonds, and declarer would score the rest of the tricks.

The actual East wisely decided not to win the first diamond, and as a result South soon found there was no way to make nine tricks. He continued with a diamond to the nine, but when East produced the queen, South realized he was fighting a losing cause, and he finished down one.

By refusing to win the first diamond trick, East severed a critical line of communication between declarer and dummy. How could he tell it was the right play? Because dummy's shortage of entries and the strong possibility that South had only two diamonds indicated that the holdup offered the best chance to defeat the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/21

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

YOXDBPO D YBCXM KV OJHP

TOZO VKZXRYJF ADHOC YF

AMO VOJKC, R TKBJL PDF

AMOF TOZO XKGGDC-LOOZOL.

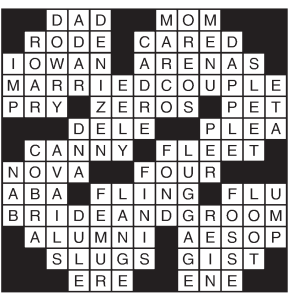
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS PRODUCT IS MOST DEFINITELY NOT A GOOD VALUE. A PERSON MIGHT EVEN SAY IT'S COST-DEFECTIVE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Slender nail
  - 5 Blond shade
  - 8 Police action
  - 12 Dolly material
  - 13 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
  - 14 Grooving on
  - 15 Shrek, e.g.
  - 16 Commo-tion
  - 17 Morse morsel
  - 18 Paging device
  - 20 Let gravity take over
  - 22 Game show hosted by Steve Harvey
  - 26 Board meeting prop
  - 29 Payable
  - 30 Hit the slopes
  - 31 Tax
  - 32 Edge
  - 33 Goblet feature
  - 34 Prior to
- DOWN
- 1 Amorphous mass
  - 2 Anger
  - 3 Farm fraction
  - 4 Cook onion rings, maybe
  - 5 More than just startle
  - 6 Blue
  - 7 Thug
  - 8 Done with, once and for all
  - 9 Poetic feet
  - 10 Part of TGIF
  - 11 Play- —
  - 19 Dine sewer
  - 21 "Catcher in the —"
  - 23 Fool
  - 24 String instruments
  - 25 It ain't worth a nickel
  - 26 Staff leader?
  - 27 Zeus' sister
  - 28 Rosary recital
  - 32 Kings and queens
  - 33 More impertinent
  - 35 Aviate
  - 36 Shell game prop
  - 38 Acquired relative
  - 39 Other-wise
  - 42 — list
  - 43 Hellenic H's
  - 44 St. Louis team
  - 45 Crone
  - 46 Grecian vessel
  - 48 Lamb's dam

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-21

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			