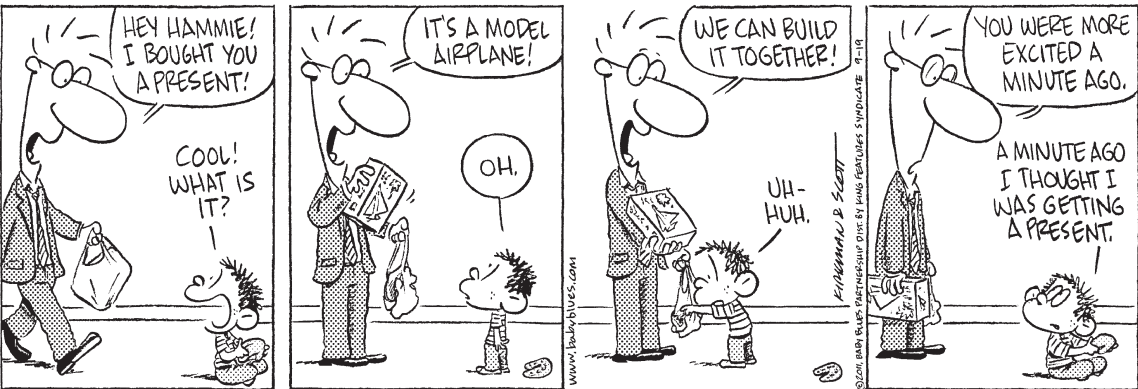
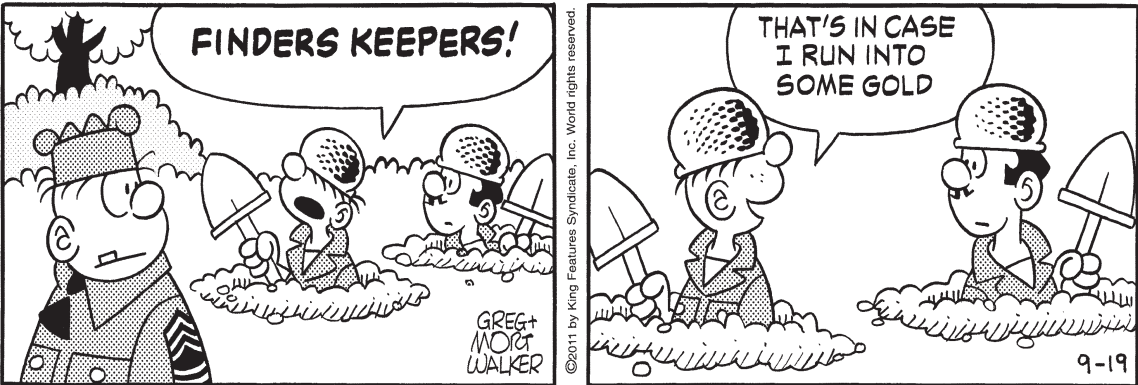


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



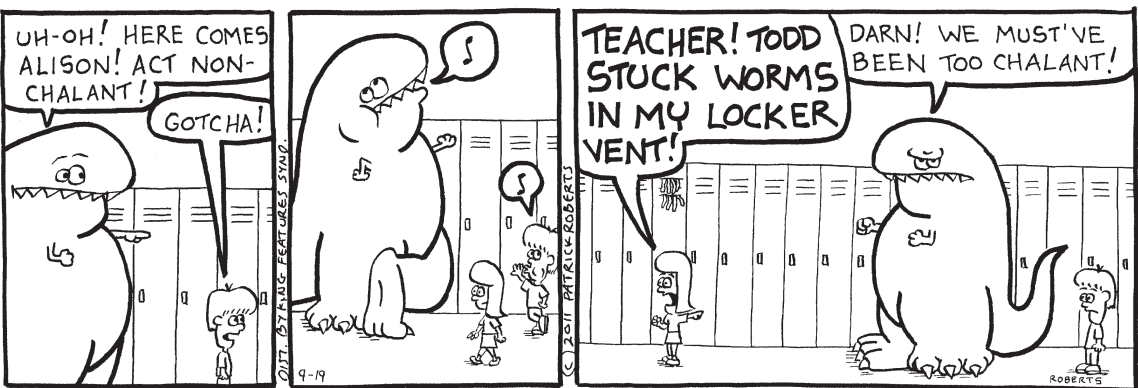
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



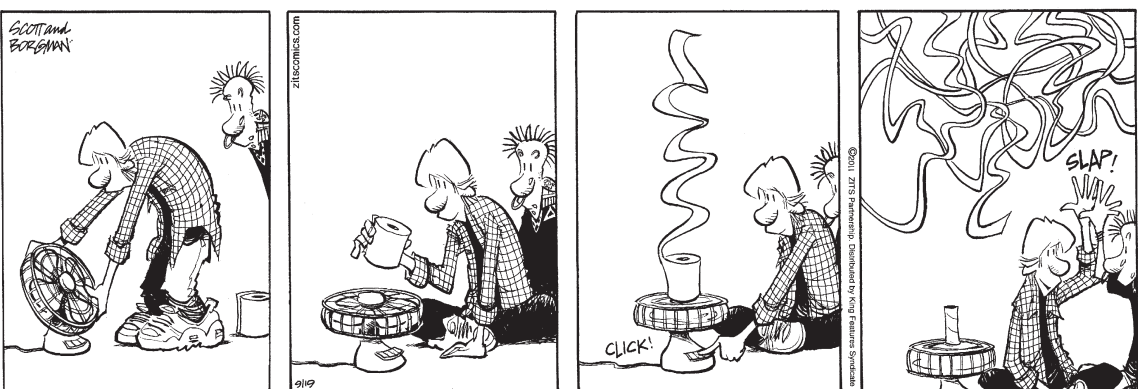
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Trial coverage keeps her riveted

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am not the kind of person who goes in for stories of murder and tragedy. But a recent case spilled over into the news, and as the trial approached I got interested. I found myself watching every minute of this horrible child-murder case. I went on to read the blogs and magazine articles, and even dream about it. How can I wean myself from this obsession? – F.H.

Dear F.H.: If it makes you feel any better, you are far from alone. Many who would never pick up a supermarket tabloid find that occasionally there is a case that lures us into that world. And being the curious creatures we are, we are driven to “investigate” the case on our own by reading and watching everything we can get our hands on. It’s human nature to want to somehow understand the horror in order to make sense of it all.

Because this particular case ended up in a trial – which may or may not have turned out the way you wanted it to, because surely you formed an opinion of the prime suspect – there is likely to be a natural climax. There will be a period after the trial in which you may feel lost and purposeless without your daily real-life drama. Don’t try to go cold turkey – read the message boards, hash it over if you feel moved to do so – and let the events slowly fade from your mind as you get back to normal. This would be a good time to pursue a new interest with zeal. And know that because of this experience, you might want to avoid reality TV and murder cases in the future.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a 42-year-old guy with a wife and three kids. Ever since I can remember, my parents have been bickering and battling, but no one ever took it too seriously. But my mom just told me she and my dad have decided to get a divorce. I didn’t know what to say, because I find this unbelievable. They are both 75 years old. Who gets divorced at that age? What will I tell the kids? – B.B.

Dear B.B.: Well, 75 is the new 50, I suppose. So you can look at it in a more positive light: Both of your parents must feel young enough to want to have a better life for themselves going forward. The majority of people who have spent a lifetime bickering have found their rhythm by the time they reach senior citizen status – the fights are scripted and predictable, and even provide some comfort in that life will go on after the battle stops, as it always has. When that changes, it must be scary – for everyone in the family.

So, first I would make sure your mom isn’t just blowing off steam after a bad day, and also is wondering if the news of a decision to divorce will get a rise out of you. You probably should sit down with both of them and ask why they are considering a divorce and what their plans look like. Chances are, they’ll be sheepish and contrite about their quarrel and the fact that they are worrying and alarming you and will be disappointing their grandchildren if they follow through. On the other hand, they could know exactly what they’re doing and might not really care if they have your blessing. Take the time to sit down with them and sort it all out before you get too upset.

(c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J 8 7 6 5
♥ 10 3
♦ K J 3 2
♣ A

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

EAST
♠ 4 2
♥ Q 9 7 5 2
♦ 7
♣ K J 9 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9
♥ A J 4
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ Q 10 8

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1♦ Pass 3♦

Pass 4♦ Pass 4♦

Pass 4NT Pass 5♦

Pass 5NT Pass 6♦

Pass 7♦

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Famous Hand

A partnership generally does best to select the suit that contains the greatest number of cards in the two combined hands as the trump suit. It follows that they would normally choose an eight-card fit rather than a seven-card fit, or a nine-card fit over an eight-card fit, or 10 over nine, and so on.

However, the rule has its exceptions. There are times when an eight-card suit, divided 4-4, serves as a better trump suit than a nine-card suit. This deal from the 1966 U.S. Team Trials provides an example.

If the hand is played at spades or notrump, declarer makes 12 tricks, period. At one table, North-South got to seven spades, down one, and at six other tables, the final contract was either six spades or six notrump.

At only two tables was the excellent contract of seven diamonds reached. With diamonds as trump, the grand slam was foolproof. All South had to do was to ruff a club in dummy to produce a 13th trick. This extra trick was not available in any contract but diamonds.

The advantage of playing the 4-4 fit rather than the 6-3 fit is that declarer makes an extra trump trick. With diamonds as the trump suit, he scores five diamonds and six spades, but with spades as trump, he scores only four diamonds and six spades. The eight-card suit thus serves more effectively than the nine-card suit.

Note that North never rebid his spades, despite holding six of them, and that South never supported spades with the A-Q-9. Both players realized that the more evenly divided diamond suit would produce an extra trick or two that would not be scored if spades were trump.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

9/19

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

L A F G C W G M P X Q G S T P X X

R G U W N C B D A U A B G M G P X G U B C

P D C V S S F A U W E F T G U C L X P N S E

L F C M A W V F A N: “U C N A Q A A R.”

Saturday’s Cryptoquip: P E N N S Y L V A N I A

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IF A HORDE OF SHOPPERS RUSHES TO ONE PARTICULAR SPOT IN A MALL, IS THAT A DEPARTMENT STORM?

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Injure severely
 - 5 Second mo.
 - 8 Reverberate
 - 12 Erstwhile Peruvian
 - 13 Meadow
 - 14 Carpet style
 - 15 Entrance
 - 16 Tuna variety
 - 18 Baseball game division
 - 20 Not on the road
 - 21 School district CEO
 - 23 Common Mkt.
 - 24 Type of tree
 - 28 Sharpen
 - 31 “That feels so good!”
 - 32 Distend
 - 34 Raw rock
 - 35 Restaurant employee
- DOWN
- 17 Dined on
 - 19 Unfeeling
 - 22 Billy
 - 1 Calflength foe
 - 2 Unsigned (Abbr.)
 - 3 PC picture
 - 4 Actress
 - 5 Standard bearer?
 - 6 Slithery swimmer
 - 7 Ali —
 - 8 Shun
 - 9 “Chattanooga —”
 - 10 Damage
 - 11 Curved molding
 - 24 Pouch
 - 25 Cry of derision
 - 26 Old joke
 - 27 Simplicity
 - 29 Blunder
 - 30 Golf-ball prop
 - 33 Clock information
 - 36 Vain
 - 38 See
 - 40 Election mo.
 - 42 Pro-longed sleep
 - 43 Muscat’s land
 - 44 Sniffer
 - 46 Owl’s call
 - 47 Sicilian volcano
 - 48 Shafts of light
 - 50 Edge

Solution time: 27 mins.

BOP	BAMA	SAGA			
ADO	EVIL	EXAM			
ROLL	CALL	EELS			
BREAKS	SKY				
YET	TARAS				
SABER	JAM	ELL			
OVER	WAR	MESA			
FIT	ZIG	AESOP			
AVATAR	ADD				
MINX	GUINEA				
ERIE	TOLL	CALL			
ALOT	DIM				

Saturday’s answer 9-19

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
49						50			51	
52						53			54	
55						56			57	