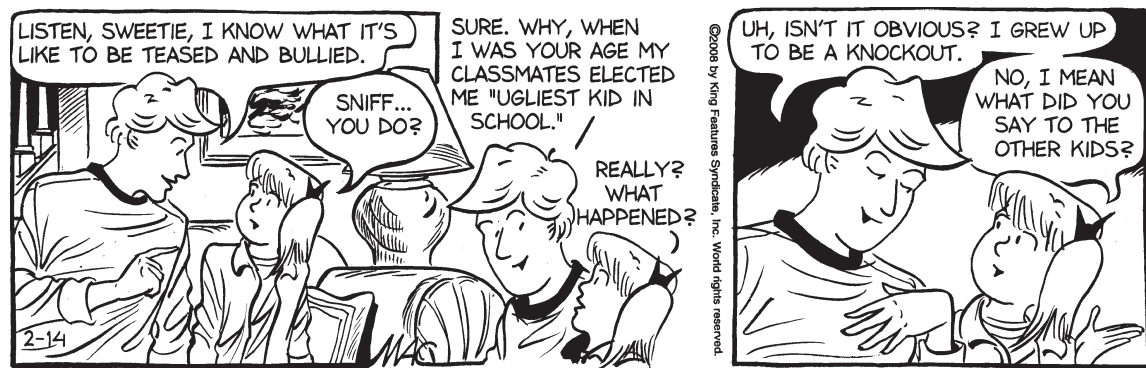


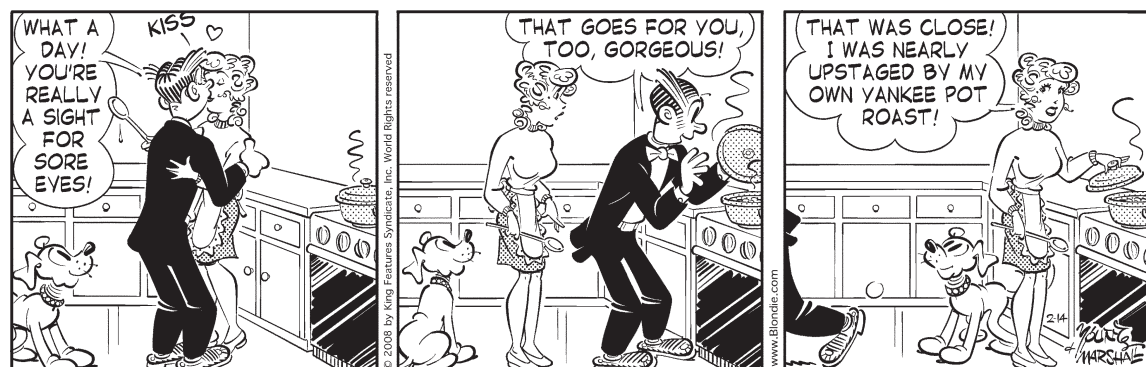
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



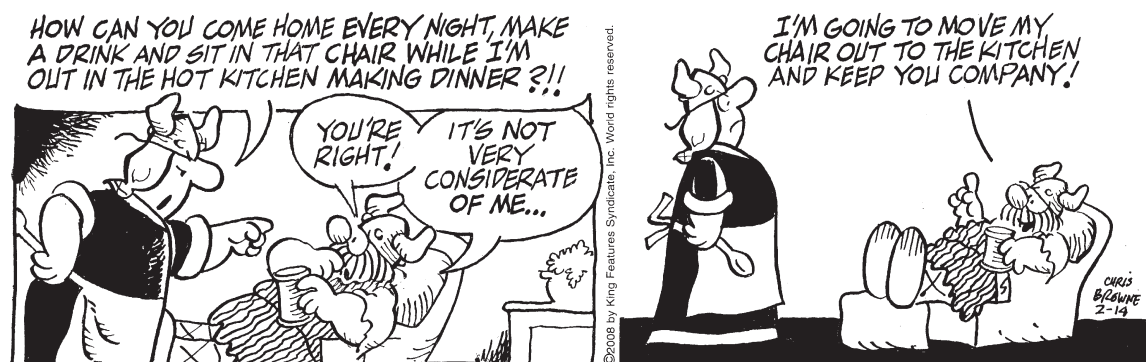
**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



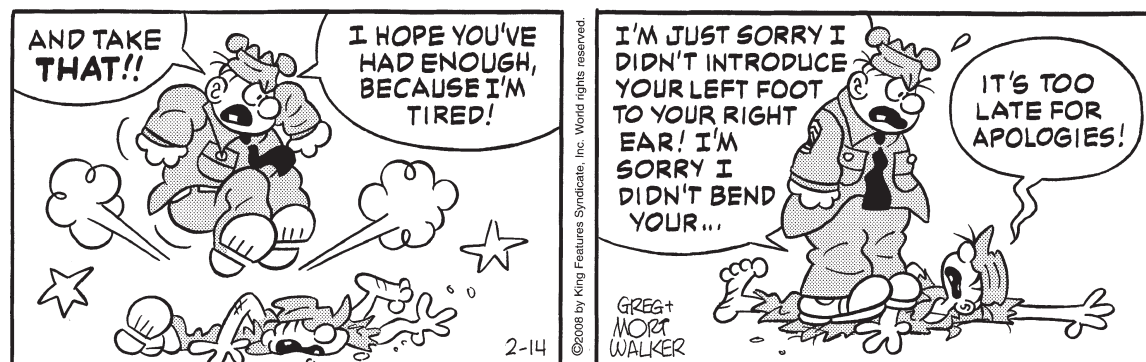
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



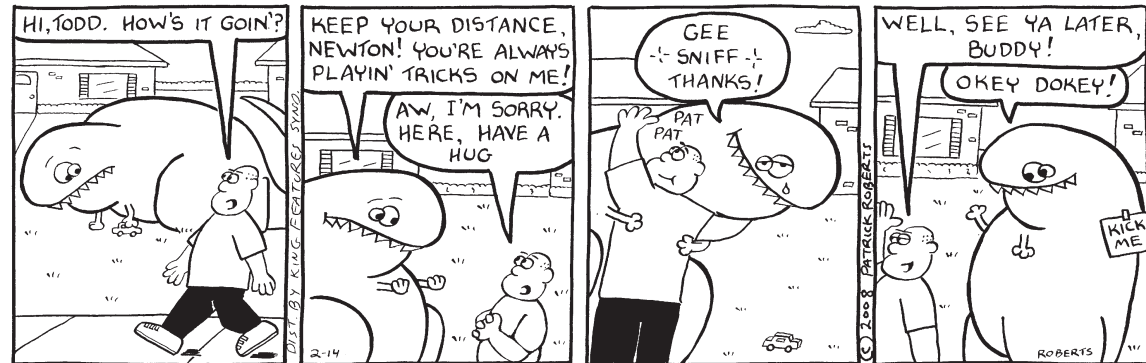
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



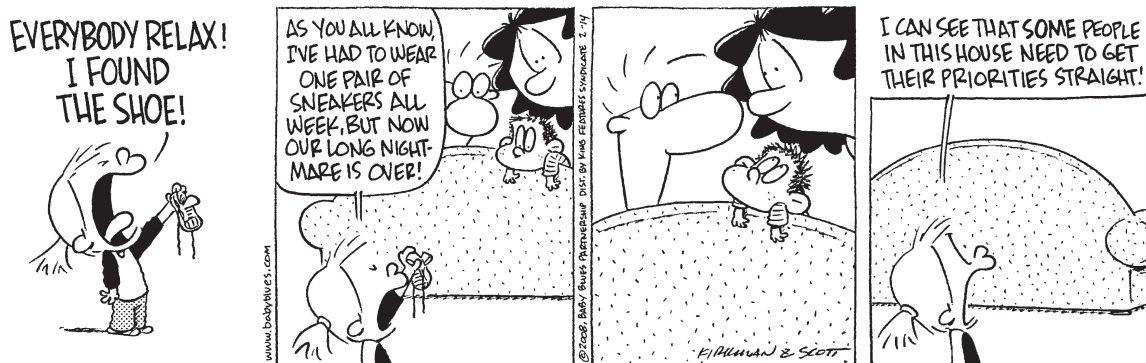
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Tod the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



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



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**Cryptoquip**

YMQMAXIJ BJMVOFXIQ  
AXIQXIQ FJDUNIDJD BFN  
OIDMVXDBXJC UFNCOV

ODJFD: "PNIDYOYJF FJVNFD."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN LAWYERS ZIP THROUGH COURT SESSIONS RAPIDLY, I GUESS THEY COULD BE CALLED TRIAL BLAZERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Z

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/14

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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/14

**Bridge**

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	A K		
♥	A J 8 2		
♦	9 6 4		
♣	A K J 10		
<b>WEST</b>			
♠	J 8 7 4 2		
♥	5		
♦	A 10		
♣	9 8 6 5 3		
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	9 5		
♥	K 7 6 4 3		
♦	J 8 5 3		
♣	Q 4		

The bidding:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass  
Opening lead — four of spades.

**High-Class Defense**

Good defense often requires meticulous care to achieve the desired goal. For example, take this case where East-West must function perfectly to defeat four hearts.

Declarer wins the fourth-best spade lead in dummy and plays the K-A of hearts, on which West discards the deuce of spades. For whatever it's worth, this discard tells East that West started with precisely five spades and South, therefore, with two.

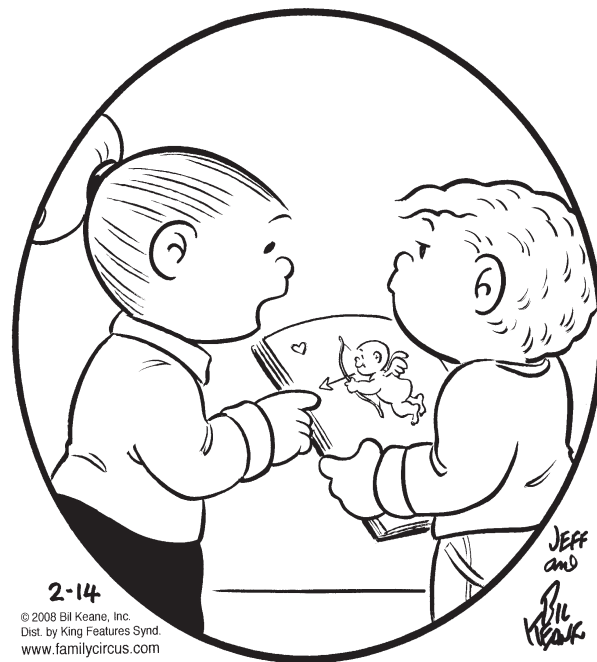
Declarer next plays three rounds of clubs, discarding a diamond as East ruffs the third club with the queen. East must now return a low diamond, not the king; if he returns the king, the suit becomes blocked and South makes the contract.

Actually, East has all the clues he needs to justify the low diamond return. He knows South started with two spades, five hearts and two clubs, and therefore with four diamonds. East's only hope thus lies in assuming that his partner has the ace of diamonds; if declarer has the ace, the contract cannot be defeated. Accordingly, East returns the deuce of diamonds, not the king, hoping to score three diamond tricks.

The burden of the defense now shifts to West, who must be careful not to win the diamond with the ten after declarer follows low. Winning with the ten may seem abnormal when the trick can be won with the ten, but it is the right play nonetheless.

West is in a similar position to gauge the situation accurately. He knows his side cannot win any tricks in the black suits, so three diamond tricks must be taken before South can discard another diamond on dummy's remaining club. The only way this can happen is if East holds the K-Q of diamonds. West therefore wins the diamond with the ace, returns the ten and so defeats the contract.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



2-14  
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**Crossword**

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Fashion magazine	1 Differently
5 Poorly	2 Place
8 Gush forth	3 Lascivious
12 Legal claim	4 Raise in status
13 Vast expanse	5 Newton or Stern
14 Take-out order	6 Got the ball
15 Witnessed	7 Garfield's favorite meal
16 Billboards	8 Office employee
17 Therefore	9 Part of Iberia
18 Mother of Minos	10 Early bird?
20 "— Misbe-havin' "	11 Court
22 Mise-en-scène	<b>Solution time: 25 mins.</b>
26 Divulge a secret	
29 Tattooist's supply	
30 Sticky stuff	
31 Appellation	
32 Sch. grp.	
33 Periodicals, for short	
34 Intention	

Yesterday's answer 2-14

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				