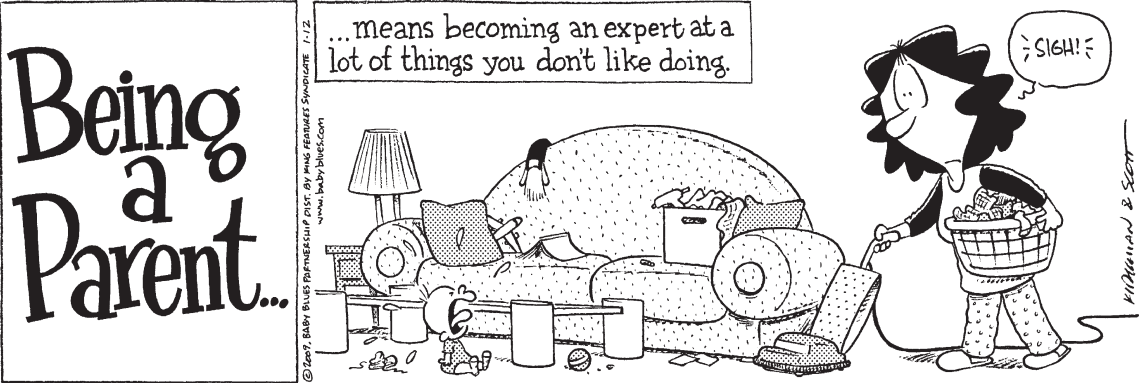
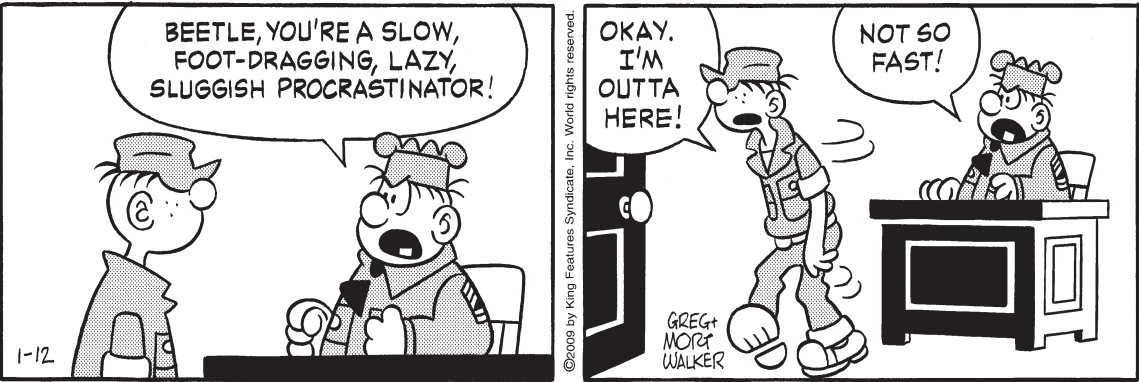


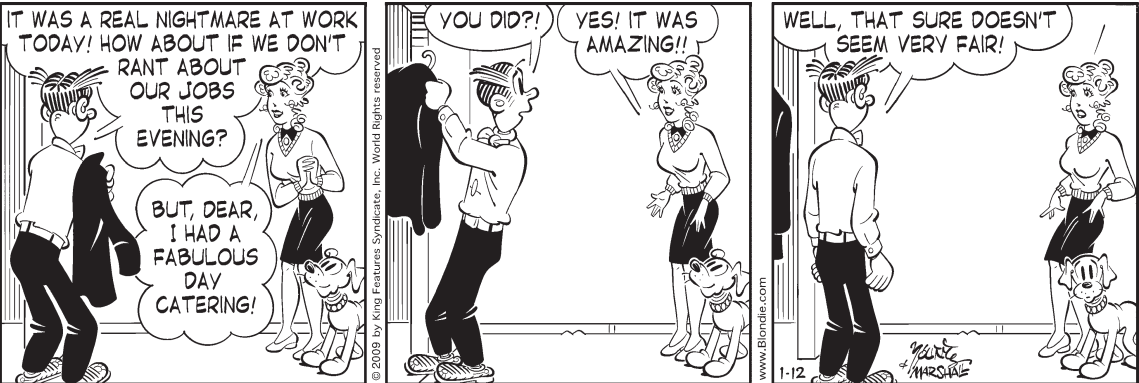
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



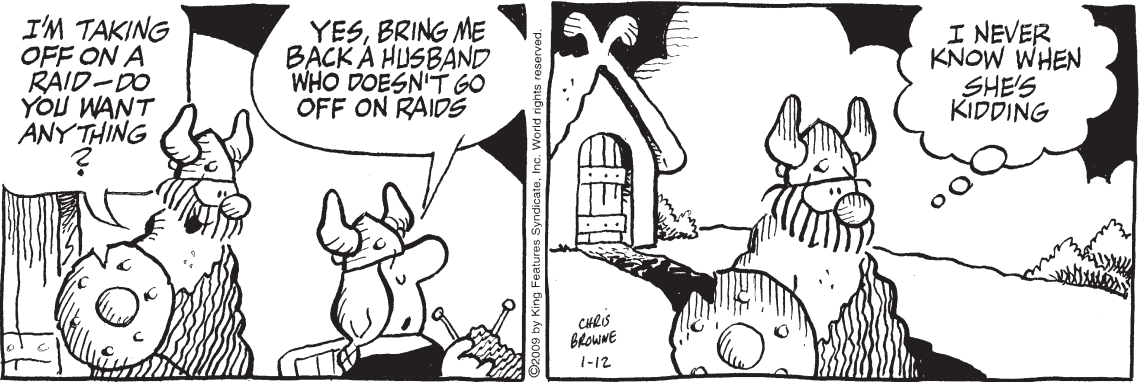
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



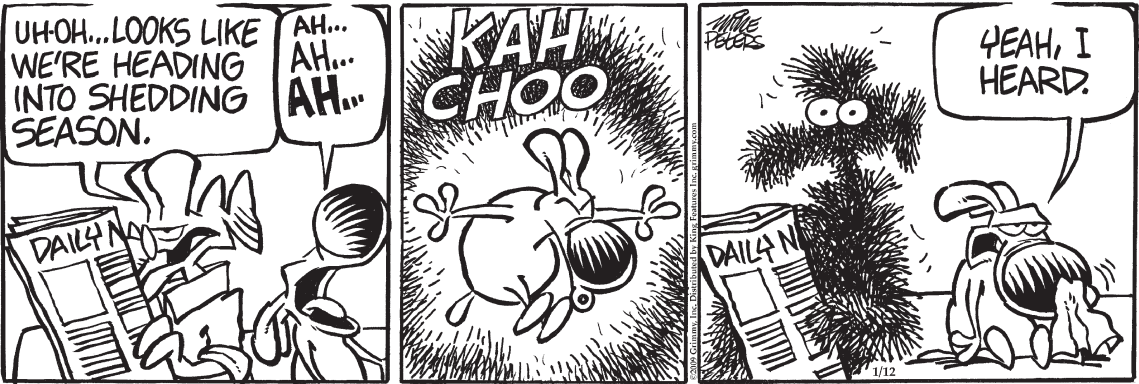
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



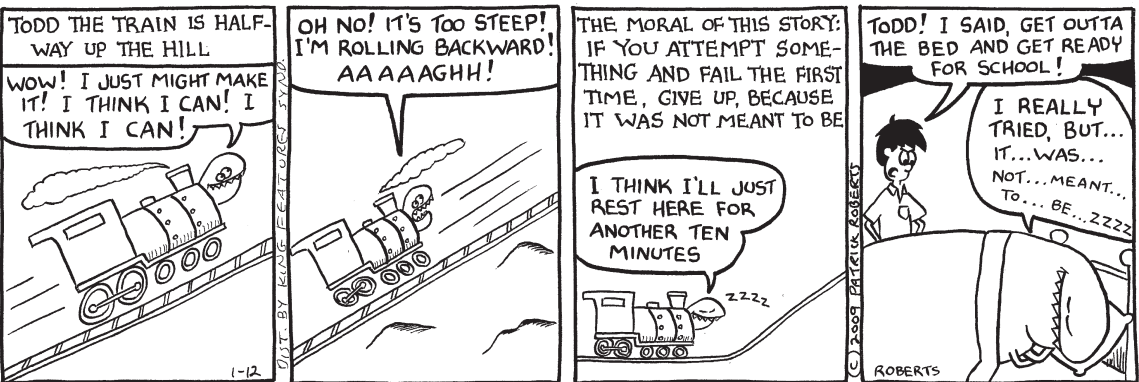
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



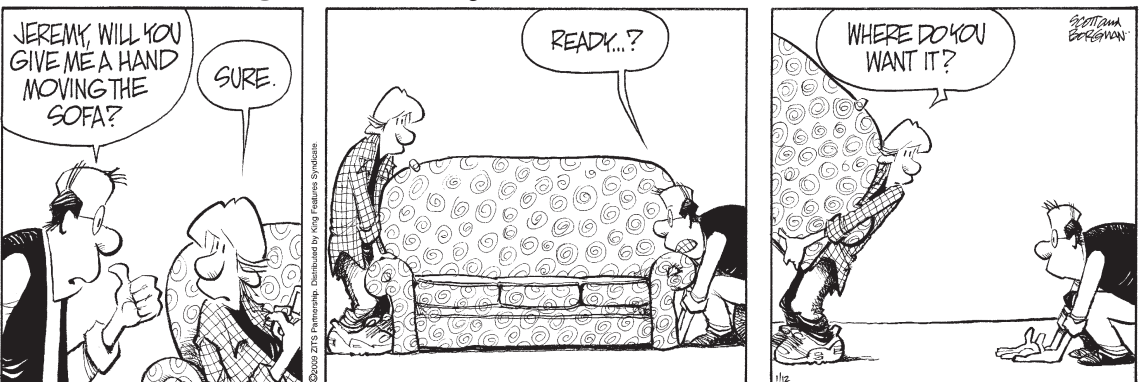
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



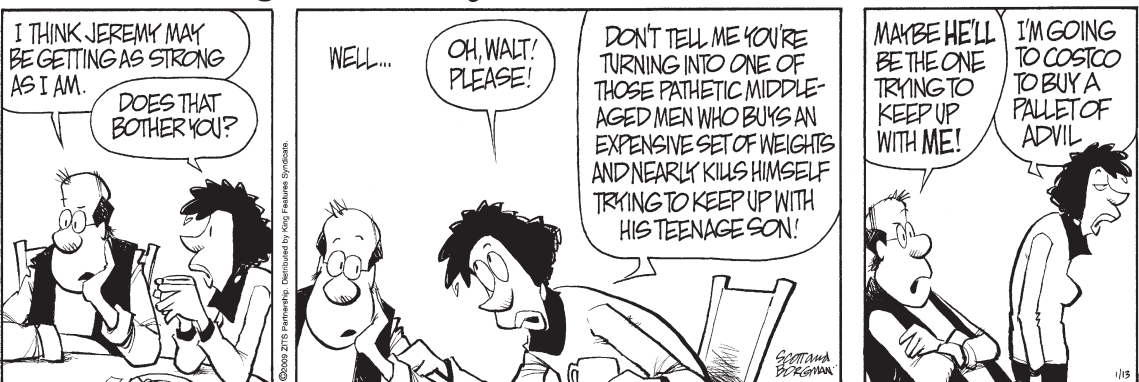
Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts




Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

- Ask Dr. Brothers

Group spends work time at play

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am torn between being a good employee and having a little fun. There's a group of guys and gals at my office who spend about an hour (blending it into lunch) every day gabbing about the prime-time shows they saw the night before. I wasn't in this group, but I just started watching something this season that they are talking about. It takes at least a half-hour away from my usual worktime. Would it make me a bad person to join in with this group? – C.P.

Dear C.P.: Well, let's see ... do you want to keep your eyes focused on your job and your career path? Or would you prefer to become part of the office happy hour? Maybe you could become the resident trivia expert on your favorite television show! Think that would get you very far up the job ladder? Excuse the sarcasm, but I think you have an inkling of what I am getting at, and that's why you asked the question.

You must realize that this group to which you aspire has a certain reputation around the office – one that will not escape the boss and may negatively impact the careers of those who are goofing off. If you are worried about missing out on a social experience, you could find that sort of thing down at the local watering hole or game-playing on the Internet after hours. It is a great thing to have friends at work. But when the social hour intrudes into your employer's time, you really could find yourself skating on thin ice. You need your resume to be impeccable – especially in the current economy, where finding a new job might not be so easy. So, talk up your TV show, but not instead of working.

Dear Dr. Brothers: OK, my husband and I are in our late 20s. When we got married, we didn't have any money or much stuff, so we would go shopping at the local flea market to furnish the house with secondhand things. It was great. The problem is, that was four years ago, we are still going to this place almost every weekend, and our house is beginning to look like a flea market itself! We love this shopping but are wondering if we are addicted to it, or what? – L.B.

Dear L.B.: It is great that the two of you have found an activity to do together on the weekend, instead of just going your separate ways, like many couples. And it's also nice that you were able to furnish your home inexpensively and using your creativity to give it your own personal signature. But yes, continuing to shop when your house is starting to overflow could be a problem to deal with before it becomes much more difficult.

The fact that you are flea-market patrons instead of shopping at an upscale boutique might be masking the fact that you are shopping addicts. If it hasn't impacted your pocketbook in a bad way, it might begin to when you start to lose control. And though this usually is a one-person issue, the two of you seem to share the problem. Break this destructive pattern by doing something else with your weekend. Maybe you can start selling some of the stuff on eBay -- but no buying!

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ 9
♥ 9 8 7 5 4
♠ A K Q 9 4
♣ K 10

WEST

♦ K J 7 2
♥ Q 10
♠ 10 7 6 3
♣ 8 7 4

EAST

♦ 10 8 6 5 4
♥ A 2
♠ J 5
♣ Q 9 5 2

SOUTH

♦ A Q 3
♥ K J 6 3
♠ 8 2
♣ A J 6 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	Pass

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal was played in a pairs contest at the 1982 world championships in Biarritz, France. Our story concerns itself with the table where East-West were respectively Elsaeid Izzeldin and Ehsan Abbasi of Kuwait, and where North-South arrived at six hearts on the sequence shown.

North's two-diamond response to one notrump was a transfer bid guaranteeing at least five hearts and forcing South to bid two hearts. The three-diamond bid showed at least five diamonds and implied interest in a slam. Three spades and four clubs by South were cuebids confirming good support for one or both of North's suits, but the other bids that propelled them into a slam were based more on optimism than on the appropriate high-card strength.

Abbasi, on opening lead, chose to start with the ten of trumps from his doubleton Q-10! Izzeldin won with the ace and returned a spade to South's ace. Declarer thereupon crossed to dummy's king of clubs and returned a trump toward the K-J.

After East followed low, declarer, completely confident that West would not have led a trump from the Q-10 doubleton, finessed the jack and showed his cards at the same time, saying: "I will next draw the queen of trumps with the king and the rest are mine."

At this point, Abbasi, a perfect model of politeness at the table or away from it, replied with a courteous smile:

"I'd be pleased to concede your claim, but the rules require me to follow suit, and unfortunately, I do not possess a small trump to duck with. I therefore have no choice but to win your jack with the queen. However, the rest of the tricks are indeed yours."

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

1/12

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

HSHEVPQAV CKFEKHA KQ
LFMM KIH LGKV'C PEFSHCK
GLH LEHFD ZFEMQE
HDZMQVHH F CLQQZHE IHEQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE WILDLIFE RESERVE, THEY WERE CONDUCTING AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH FOR SOME MISSING LYNX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals C

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Highway
5 Wrestling surface
8 Ego
12 Harvard rival
13 — Khan
14 Nastase of tennis fame
15 And others (Latin)
16 Insisted on
18 Cunning
20 Do relief work
21 Low card
23 Links standard
24 Bearing
28 Carvey or Delany
31 Eggs
32 Tea variety
34 "— Juan"
35 Stroll
37 Narrow-necked bottle
39 Party bowlful
41 Challenge
42 Weakness of a sort

DOWN

49 Obama, for one
51 Thailand, once
52 Needing a tiebreaker
53 Square root of IX
54 Opposed to
55 Infamous emperor
56 Joan of —
57 Encounter
1 Pumper-nickels' kin
2 Inauguration recitation
3 Winged
4 Take out of context?
5 Put into a frenzy
6 Time of your life?
7 Domestic
8 Mythical sailor
9 Site of fabulous wealth
10 False state-ments
11 Govt. agents
17 Intensify, with "up"
19 Gift
concealer

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-10

EW	SA	FE	BR
LO	IB	EX	RU
KN	EE	DE	AM
ST	ER	NA	LA
GE	MA	SL	EE
AL	LO	Y	B
HO	T	CO	CG
AG	WA	X	CA
BO	PE	E	MA
C	PE	A	ER
CU	ES	B	EE
AF	RO	L	EE
PO	EM	ER	ST