

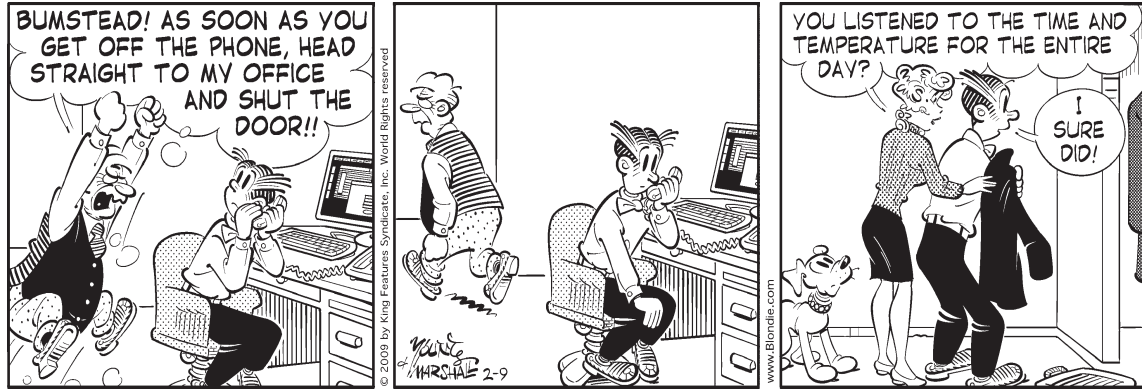
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



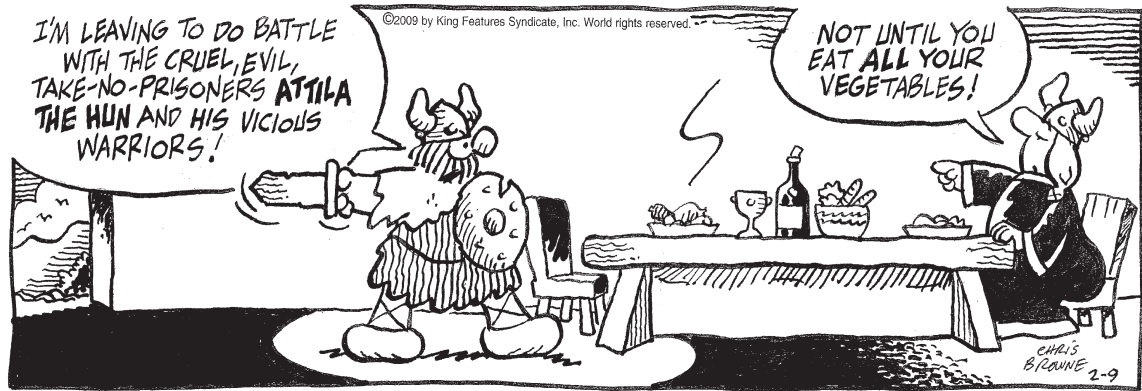
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



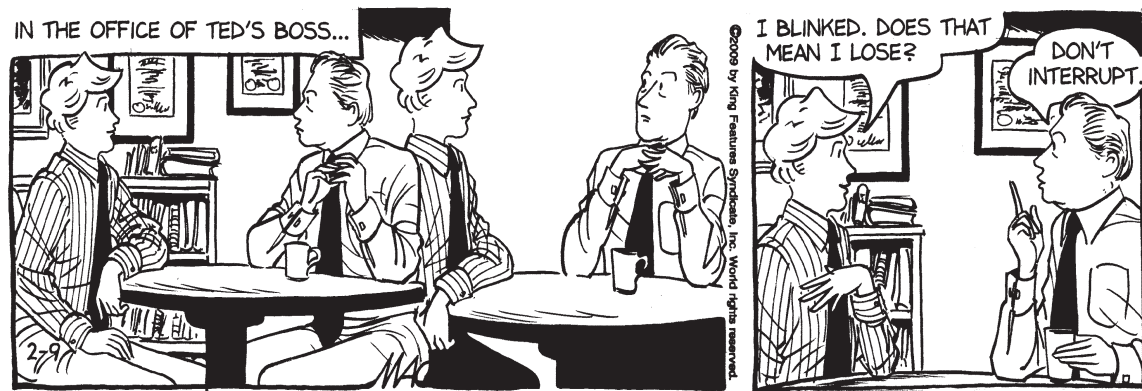
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



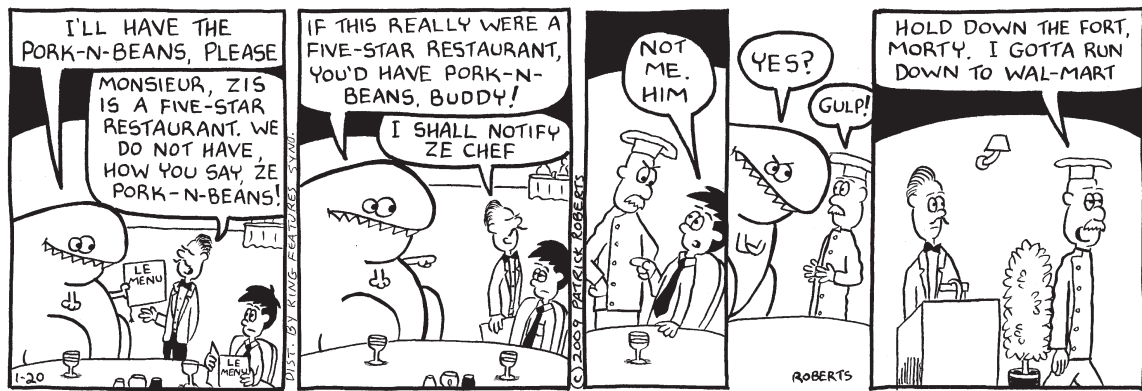
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



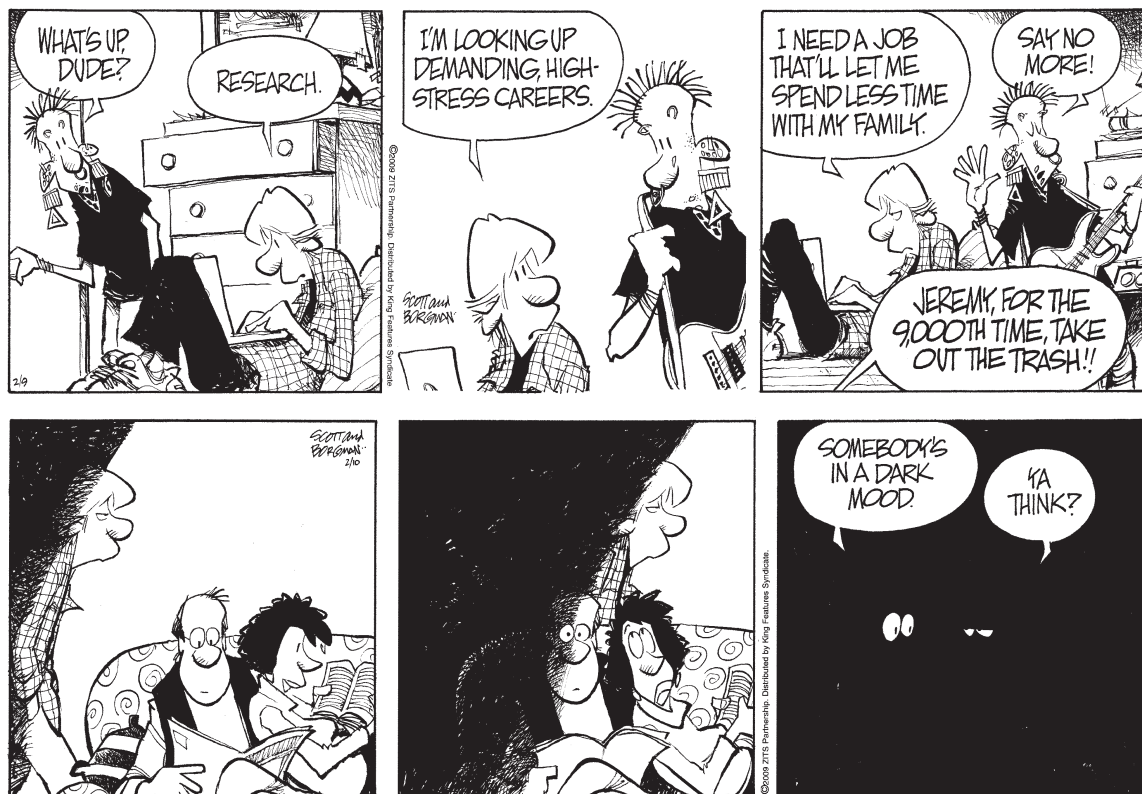
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers
Scared of looking at stock market

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm very worried, and I just can't do it. With the economy so deep in the tank, I can't bring myself to look at my stock statements. I'm scheduled to retire in five years, and I'm afraid that what I'll find there will send me into a panic. I know it seems silly, but is it better for my mental health to not know just how much money I've lost? Is it sometimes better to not know something if you fear it will have a horrible effect on you? — B.E.

Dear B.E.: You seem to be wrestling with the age-old question of knowledge versus blissful ignorance. But with something as important as your financial future, maybe it's time to stop philosophizing and make some decisions. Crack open the stock page. With so much recent market instability, the numbers probably are as bad as you think. But that's no reason to push the panic button just yet. Now that you've recognized that there is a problem, you can take steps to correct it. If you don't already have a financial adviser, you might want to get one. Talk to someone with investment experience for some cool-headed advice. So remember that even five years is a decent amount of time for the market to bounce back and for you to recoup any losses. The only way you can achieve peace of mind is by confronting the situation before it gets worse. But if it is too much for you to cope with, consider hiring a professional to do the worrying for you.

Dear Dr. Brothers: It hit me in the checkout line. While I was checking out with my spring wardrobe at my favorite boutique in the Village, I realized I can no longer afford to go shopping like I used to! My whole image is predicated on keeping up with the latest trends — friends even look to me as some kind of walking Vogue fashion preview issue — so I can't go from this to looking like a bag lady. Please help me save it! — D.S.

Dear D.S.: While how we look on the outside usually is a good indicator of how we feel on the inside, sometimes we have a tendency to over-compensate. We identify ourselves so much with our chosen style that the choice itself becomes our persona, and we wind up losing sight of what's really important.

Your recent financial situation may be a blessing in disguise. You seem long overdue for a good, hard look in the mirror to find out who you really are. Do you really want to spend the rest of your life worrying about what's "in" all the time? Perhaps it's time to try on something really cutting-edge and different, and just let yourself be you. Throw away your Fifth Avenue cookie-cutter image — don't equate how good you look with how much you spend. Don't trip over your designer heels to follow the latest fashions; set your own trend by following your own path. Maybe you should get a job in the fashion industry. But do work on developing a signature style that's truly your own.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K J 8 6 4
♥ Q 7 4 2
♠ A K 8 3
♣ —

WEST
♦ A
♥ A K J 10
♠ Q 4
♣ K Q 9 8 6 2

EAST
♦ 7 2
♥ 9 6 5 3
♠ J 10 9 6
♣ 7 5 3

SOUTH
♦ Q 10 9 5 3
♥ 8
♠ 7 5 2
♣ A J 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 1♣ Dble Pass
2♠ 3♥ 4♠ 4NT
Dble 5♠ 5♣ Pass
Pass Dble Pass
Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Neither side vulnerable.

This deal occurred in the semifinal of the 1996 United States Open Team trials. The match brought together two powerhouse squads captained by Howard Weinstein of Chicago and Zia Mahmood of New York.

The final contract was five spades doubled at both tables, but only one of the declarers got home safely.

At the first table, Michael Rosenberg of the Zia team wound up as declarer after the auction shown. The bidding was relatively straightforward up to East's four-notrump bid, which asked West to choose a suit for the purpose of sacrificing against four spades.

West, Bruce Ferguson, led the heart ace and cashed the spade ace. He then exited with the king of clubs, a play that would have been harmless on most occasions, but not this one.

Rosenberg won the club king with the ace, discarding a diamond from dummy, drew a second round of trumps and led the jack of clubs. West covered with the queen, ruffed in dummy, and declarer subsequently discarded another diamond from dummy on the ten of clubs. Rosenberg then made the rest of the tricks on a crossruff for plus 650.

At the other table, North rather than South wound up as declarer at the same contract, and East led the jack of diamonds. Declarer, Steve Weinstein, won with the ace and conceded a spade to the ace. Lew Stansby, West, then cashed the heart king and exited with the diamond queen. Weinstein won with the king, but, without any assistance from West in the club suit, he could not avoid a diamond loser at the end and finished down one, minus 100.

The combined pickup of 750 points for Zia's team gave it a 13-IMP gain on the deal and helped put it into the final.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/09

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.

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

Cryptoquip

O X R P V M U V S A S Y M K V R M
K S R S E V Y N I V O I Z M O M S R N X R E
T I Y F , T V S Q Q Q X F V M I
P S Q Q U X K S O Z A V Y O Z A V Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW HIT SERIES ON WHICH PEOPLE SALSA AND TANGO WITH SAILORS: "DANCING WITH THE TARS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Scolded loudly
5 Young lion
8 Skaters' venue
12 Dorothy's player
13 Work with hold
14 Mideast port city ...
15 ... and a dweller therein
16 Soft fabric
18 Grayish red
20 Long, harsh speech
21 House section
23 Cauldron
24 Heavy military footwear
28 Makes a hole
31 Rowing prop
32 Missionary Junipero
34 Unit
35 Commandment pronoun

DOWN
1 African nation
2 Circle dance
3 Mosque VIP
4 Go ashore
5 Repeated employee
7 A- number-1
8 Rifleman's tamping device
9 Act of thinking
10 Dweeb
11 Leg joint
17 With it weapon (Abbr.)
22 Dunder-head
24 Make marginal notes
25 "That feels good"
26 Casino
27 Actuality
29 Wildebeest
30 Prepared
33 Taj Mahal city
36 Kam-pala's country
38 Optimistic
40 Toper's interruption
42 Cold War
43 Magical herb of myth
44 Ceremony
46 Hebrew month
47 Anger
48 Harvard's rival
50 Poorly lighted

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19			20				
				21			22				
24	25	26				27		28	29	30	
31				32			33		34		
35				36			37		38		
				39			40				
42	43			44			45		46	47	48
49							50			51	
52							53			54	
55							56			57	