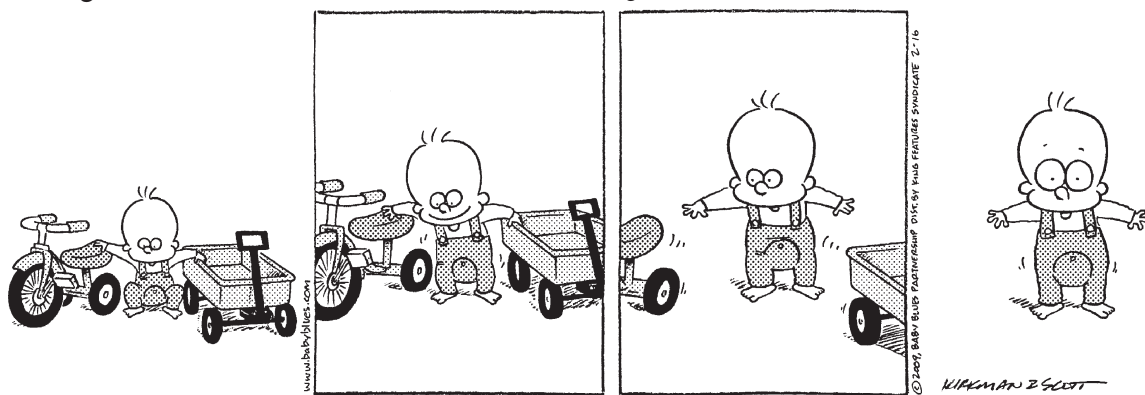
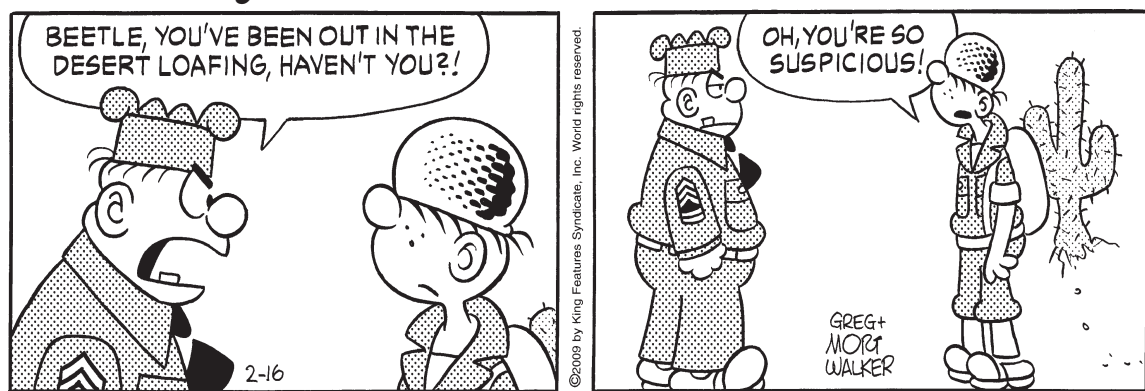


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



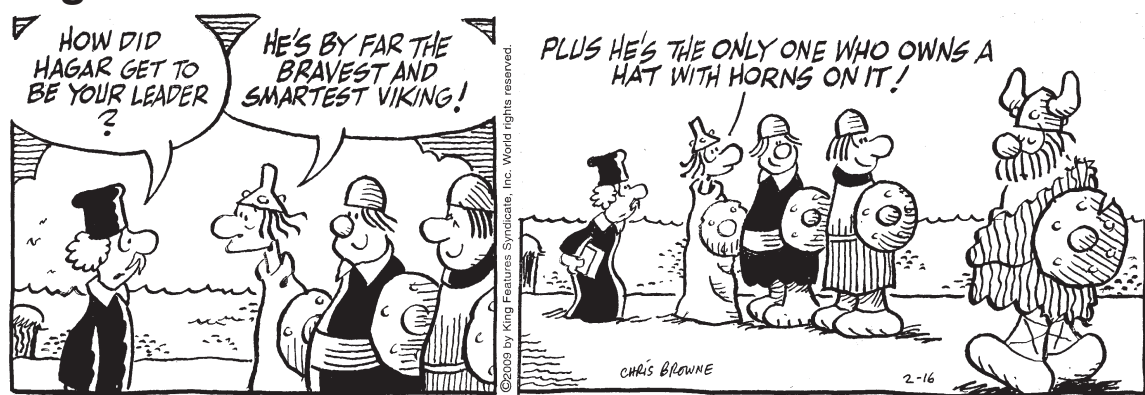
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



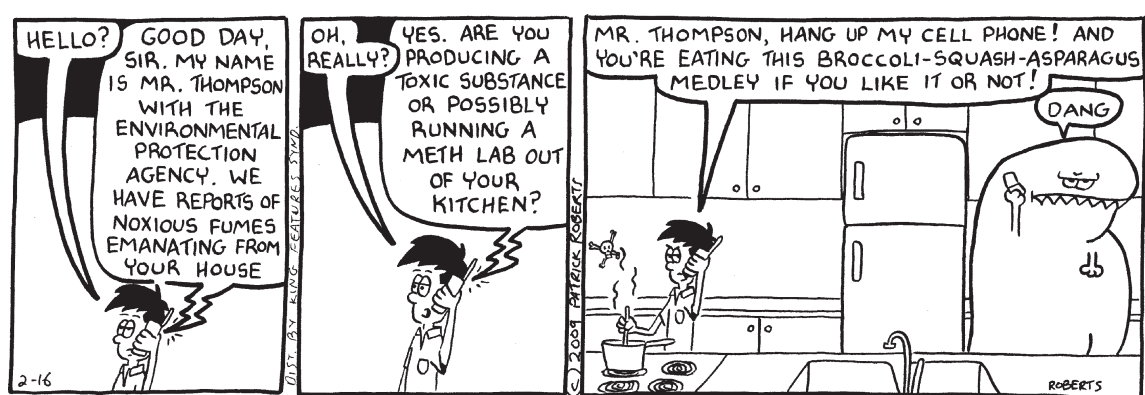
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



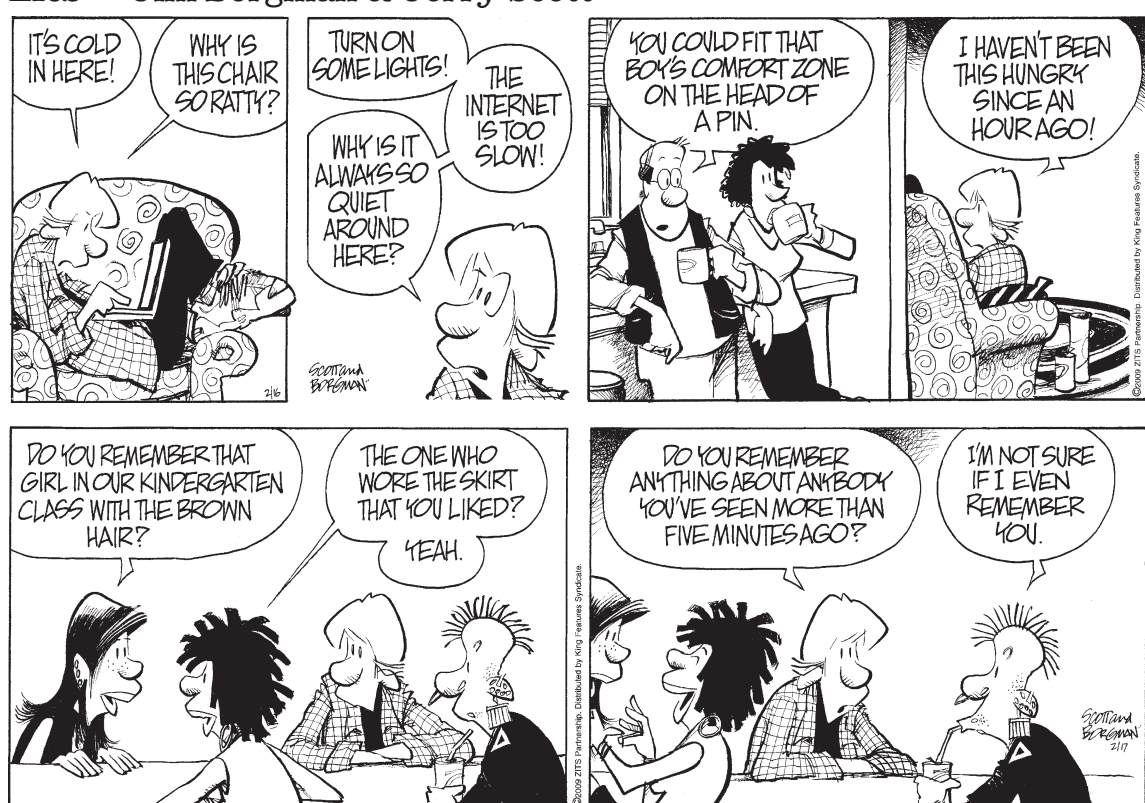
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Worried about losing your job?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I should be feeling lucky or fortunate or whatever you want to call it. I was one of only seven employees to be kept at my job, with five others being let go. I feel guilty being one of those to survive the job cuts because I am not sure that I deserve it. I mean, I try to do a decent job at work, but I don't think I am a better employee than my jobless friends. Help. - P.C.

Dear P.C.: With millions of people being laid off and just about everyone else wondering if they might be next, the workplace has become a source of increasing anxiety in America. You don't think you deserve to be one of the lucky ones, yet you are happy it is you who is left with a paycheck instead of the guy at the next desk. There are many conflicting feelings, and above all, there's a lack of any control over what happens next. It's enough to set anyone on edge.

How to deal with this? I think you should talk to other "survivors" and see if they are feeling the same thing you are. There often is great comfort in sharing similar thoughts, and it will help you focus on the fact that nothing you have done or said has made things worse for your fellow employees or those who have been laid off. The current round of business troubles won't last forever, so develop other parts of your life that may give you a respite from all this worry, stress and guilt.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I work in real estate, and I have kids in preschool and elementary school. I have after-school care for both of them, but they don't really like to go, so I have started taking them to work with me - to preview houses that I might want to show. They either sit in the car and play, or come in if no one is there. I really don't like to drag them along with me, but I want to be with them. Is this selfish of me? My employers don't really care, but is this bad for my kids? - F.O.

Dear F.O.: Not everyone feels the yearning to be with their children -- many moms and dads are focused on work or on each other, and are quite satisfied with getting the little ones off to school and tucking them in at night with a story. But for those who yearn to be with their kids as much as possible, working life presents many challenges. It might seem easier if you were in some far-off city, stuck in a cubicle, but since you have the choice of putting the kids in the car and going to work, you have to cope with making the decision that is right, not just the one that's available and attractive.

If your kids really don't like after-school care, are you sure you really encouraged them to like it? Perhaps they say they dislike the after-school program because they know you want to be with them and they don't want to hurt your feelings. Check it out.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A 7 3
♥ 10 8 6 5
♦ Q
♠ A 10 8 3 2

WEST
♦ K 8 6 4 2
♥ K Q 9 2
♦ 10 5
♠ K 6

EAST
♦ J 10
♥ A J 7 4 3
♦ A 9 8 7 4 3
♠ —

SOUTH
♦ Q 9 5
♥ K J 6 2
♦ Q J 9 7 5 4

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

Famous Hand

The 160-deal semifinal match between Brazil and the United States at the 1985 Bermuda Bowl in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was one of the most exciting in world team championship history. After a nip-and-tuck battle that the Brazilians led most of the way, the Americans trailed by only 6 IMPs going into the last two hands. This was the penultimate deal.

In the Open Room, with a large partisan audience watching on Vu-Graph, the Brazilians, seated North-South, reached six clubs doubled as shown. The declarer was Marcelo Branco, and the cheering throng could see that the slam was unbeatable, provided Branco guessed how to play the clubs.

After ruffing the opening heart lead, Branco tabled the club queen, on which West smoothly followed low. With the audience — far removed from the playing area — shrieking "finesse, finesse," Branco pondered the situation and finally called for the ace. Down one for a loss of 200 points.

At the second table, with a Brazilian pair now holding the East-West cards, the bidding went as follows:

North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1 [S]
Pass 2 [H] Pass 4 [H]
Pass 5 [C] Pass 5 [H]

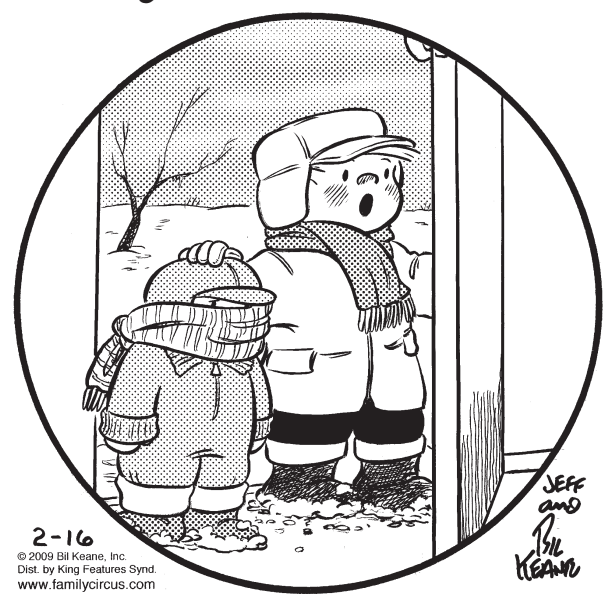
Here, the American North-South pair didn't even enter the bidding, and the Brazilians climbed to five hearts under their own steam. The critical bid was West's leap to four hearts on minimal values, which encouraged East to try for slam with a cuebid of five clubs.

Five hearts might have succeeded on another day, but on this occasion declarer found it impossible to overcome the bad breaks in hearts and diamonds, and finished down one.

Thus Brazil, with chances to gain significantly at both tables, instead lost 250 points — exactly 6 IMPs — to throw the match into a dead tie with one deal remaining. We'll see what happened on that deal tomorrow.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"PJ wants to come in now. His eyes are cold!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/16

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.

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

Cryptoquip

ILE OVJTHZ XFHBJ X

ELXOLR-RVGL ZXZZXR EKH

NLJBNILM JH KVO HRM OTKHHR:

"ELRTHZL FXTG, HJLLN."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD YOU SAY FICTIONAL CHARACTERS SUCH AS BILBO AND FRODO BAGGINS ARE CREATURES OF HOBBIT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Erstwhile Peruvian
5 Apiece
8 Summer getaway
12 Really scary
14 Curved molding
15 Pay the tab
16 Memorization method
17 Healthy
18 Forest officer
20 Book of photos
23 Ireland
24 Actress Jessica
25 Nouveau riche type
28 Look at
29 Strike zone's lower boundary
30 Lummoxx
32 Revolts
34 Hint
35 Drenches
36 1-2-3 dance
- DOWN**
1 Conditions
2 Born
3 Tabby, e.g.
37 Chevrolet named for an antelope
40 Listener
41 In a few minutes
42 Fasten your seat belts
47 Fat
48 Attack verbally
49 Sicilian spouter
50 Before
51 Requirement
5 Wily
6 Versifier
7 Does an encore, literally
8 Eyeball part
9 Enthusiastic
10 Apportion (out)
11 Equal
13 Slender
19 Carney and Garfunkel
20 Six-pack muscles
21 Stead
22 Traffic noise
23 Tools for duels
25 Wobbly
26 "Shake, Rattle, and —"
27 Lacking slack
29 German canal
31 Tasseled hat
33 African nation
34 Late comic
35 Slender George
36 Hear the alarm
37 Capri, for one
38 Castle protection
39 X-rated material
40 "— homo!"
43 Eg. and Syr., once
44 Away from WSW
45 Beehive State native
46 Spacecraft compartment

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

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		