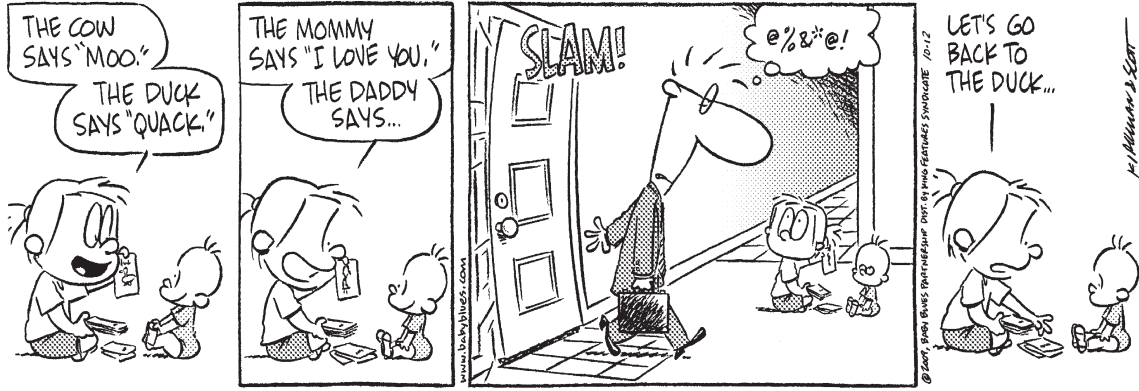
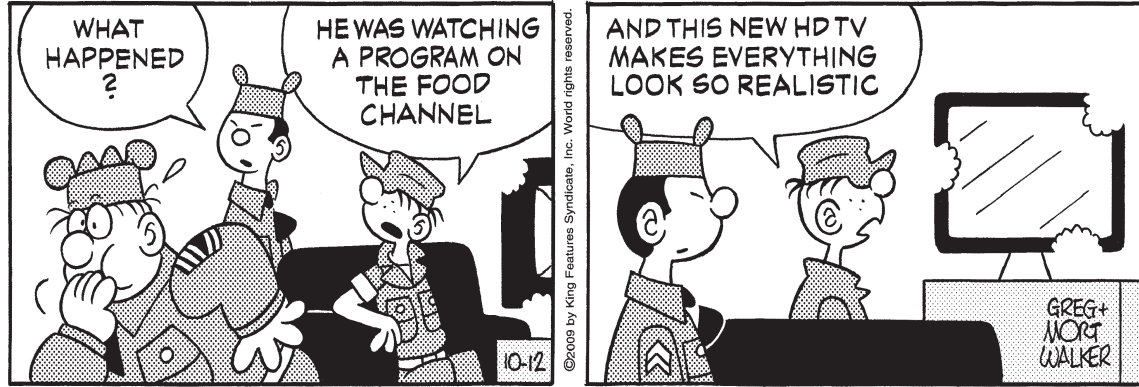


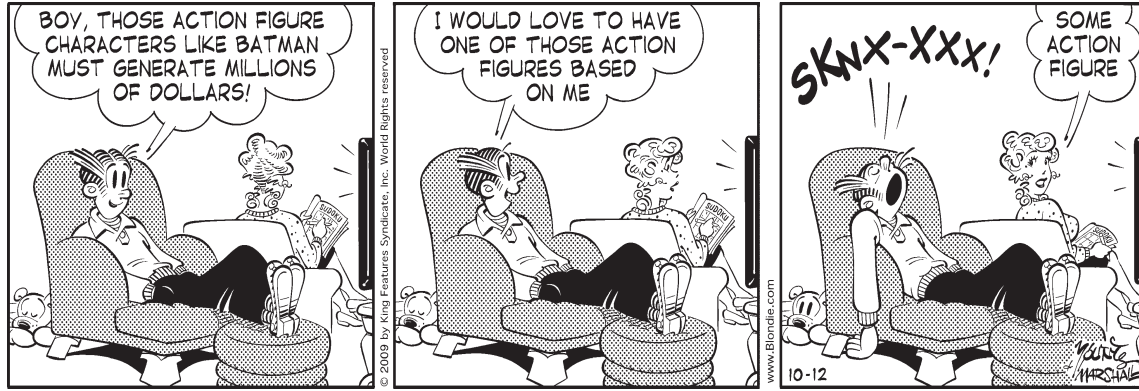
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



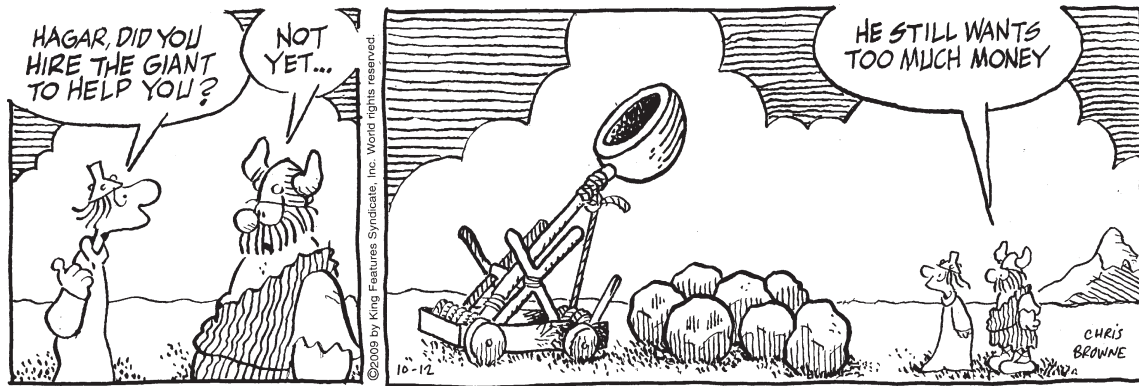
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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

Dad hides being laid off

Dear Dr. Brothers: Just as my two teens were going back to high school this year, I got a notice that I'd been laid off. My job has been a big part of my life, and while I am trying to get another one, I am feeling depressed. I didn't want to tell my kids or wife on the first day of school, so I've been going off in the morning as though to work, but really only to look for work. Now I feel I have to keep pretending until I get a job. Am I really protecting my kids, or not? — L.F.

Dear L.F.: Although this scenario is new to you, let me assure you it has been around forever — or at least since the dreaded pink slip was invented. It has always been a blow to lose a job, especially for the man of the family, even if he isn't the only breadwinner. I sense you took the route of "don't tell" because you were trying to spare your children embarrassment. That is thoughtful of you — but in this economy, I believe they will be more impressed by honesty about what is happening than to know you were hiding the layoff to make sure they didn't feel discomfort.

You want your kids to know you trust them to handle the truth, and that they are resilient, as are you. So I think the best way is to let the cat out of the bag before the charade goes further. The last thing you want to do is have to apologize to your family for deceiving them, and face their disappointment in addition to having to look for a job. They may understand you were trying to spare them worry. But I am fairly sure they will be at least a little upset by deception. So why not get rid of that part of your problem right away? Once the news is out, people can start to help you.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Last year I took on a volunteer job at the urging of a church friend. I deliver meals to seniors in our community who are homebound, and it has been satisfying. But one of the very elderly clients has taken a great interest in me, and has asked to be included in my daily life. I'm a friendly person, but I am more and more uncomfortable with this. She is all alone. How do I keep a distance but not hurt her? — C.J.

Dear C.J.: This is indeed a rather sad situation. What you took on as nothing more than a volunteer job, someone else has come to think of as a personal relationship and a vital part of her life. That disparity in looking at a relationship makes for an awkward set of circumstances. But let's make this work for both of you. The last thing you want to do is hurt this lady's feelings, but I understand how alarming it must be to have her trying to embed herself in your family.

First I would take this problem to the person who drew you into the organization. What feels unique could be something others have faced, and they might have strategies to deal with it. Without criticizing your client, see if other volunteers can relate to what you are going through. There may be guidelines in place to help you through this. If all else fails, the key is to get other volunteers to pitch in and give this woman a more varied group of people to become interested in. It is wonderful she is so outgoing, and perhaps a group of teens wanting to serve the community can adopt her as group. Don't be the only fish in the sea.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K Q J 8
 ♥ 10 5 4 3
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ Q 9 4
EAST
 ♠ A 9 7
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ J 10 7 5 4 2
 ♣ 10 8
SOUTH
 ♠ 4 3
 ♥ A Q 8 7 2
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ A K J
 The bidding:
 South West North East
 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
 4NT Pass 5♣ Pass
 5♠ Pass 6♥ Pass
 Opening lead — nine of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in a match between Austria and Italy at the world championship held in Monte Carlo in 1976. It was played at 44 tables, and 23 times South got to six hearts, a dreadful contract that had about a 20 percent chance of making. However, thanks to a fortunate lie of the opposing trumps, the slam was successfully negotiated by 22 of the 23 declarers.

The opening lead was usually a diamond, a club or a spade. Against any of these leads, declarer's only real chance was to take a first-round trump finesse — leading low to the queen — and next play the ace, hoping to find East with precisely the doubleton king. The 22 lucky declarers found this to be the actual case and, as a result, scored 1,430 points.

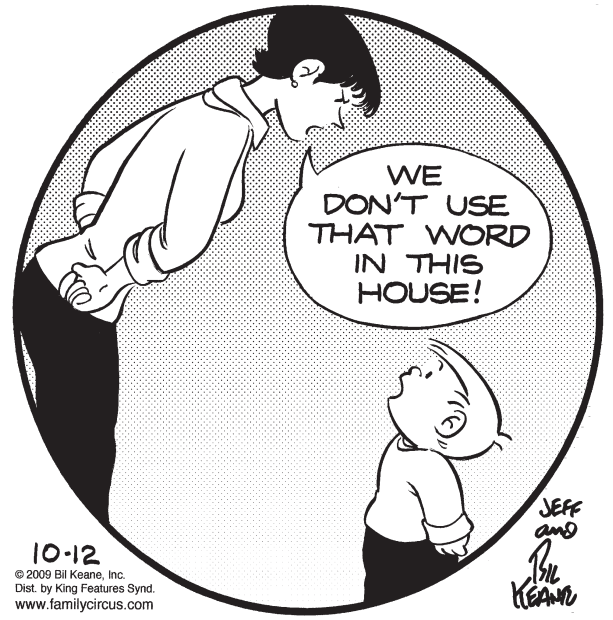
The Austrian declarer was the only one who failed to make the slam. At his table, Italian star Benito Garozzo chose the diabolical opening lead of the nine of trumps! Declarer, in an effort to guard against the possibility that East might have the K-J-6 of trumps, covered the nine with the ten and won East's king with the ace.

Declarer then led a diamond to the queen, returned a trump and, when East produced the six, found himself faced with a harrowing guess. He had to decide whether Garozzo's opening lead of the trump nine was from the J-9, which would be an unusual lead against a slam, or whether Garozzo's lead of the trump nine was a singleton, also an unusual lead against a slam.

With nothing to go on, the Austrian declarer elected to finesse the eight and so went down one. Ironically, the slam was easy to make without a trump lead, but once the trump was led, declarer had a chance to go wrong — and did.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



10-12 "Do I hafta go outside to use it?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/12

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.

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

Cryptoquip

ORMLD R VG V GVOPDH VP
 CDOLHRURMA BQVP OPHRNO
 IB NVOPV, LISQC R UD V
 QRMASRMD QRMASROP?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CIRCUS TAMER IS PREPARING HIS ANIMALS FOR MUCH DIFFICULTY. I'D SAY HE'S GIRDING HIS LIONS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Arbiter | 1 Phoned | 31 Conver- | 31 Scouted |
| 4 Suitable | 2 Satan's | 40 Every | 25 Cow |
| 7 "I Remember —" | field | 50 Thunder | 26 Part |
| 11 Acknowl- | Miniver" | 51 Shy | 27 of 32- |
| 13 Hawaiian | Solution time: 27 mins. | 52 Cart | 28 Across |
| 14 Raw | | 53 Shop | 29 Bivouac |
| 15 Pleasant | | 54 Unrul- | 30 shelter |
| 16 Felon's | | 55 Portrayal | 31 payer's |
| 17 Approach- | | 56 Uncontrol- | 28 dream |
| 18 Slight | | 57 Purchase | 29 colored |
| 20 Rickey | | 58 A Great | 29 Farm |
| 22 Pitch | | Lake | 30 fraction |
| 24 Wood | | 59 Put one | 31 Bank |
| decay | | over on | 32 trans- |
| caused by | | 60 Indivisible | 33 action |
| fungus | | 61 Conclu- | 31 Roulette |
| 28 California | | sion | 32 bet |
| observa- | | 19 High- | 35 Can |
| 32 Range | | lander's | 38 — de |
| 33 PC | | hat | 40 Wit- |
| picture | | 21 "— | 38 nessed |
| 34 Mesh | | between | 42 In- |
| 36 Admitting | | state | 45 Part |
| customers | | 47 Clinton's | 48 Actress |
| 37 Obliterate | | veep | Lena |
| 39 Variance | | 49 Require | 50 Pop |
| of | | 51 Ostrich's | 51 cousin |
| opinion | | 52 Prune | 54 "See |
| | | 54 "See | ya" |

Saturday's answer 10-12

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
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52			53		54		55
56					57			58	
59					60				61