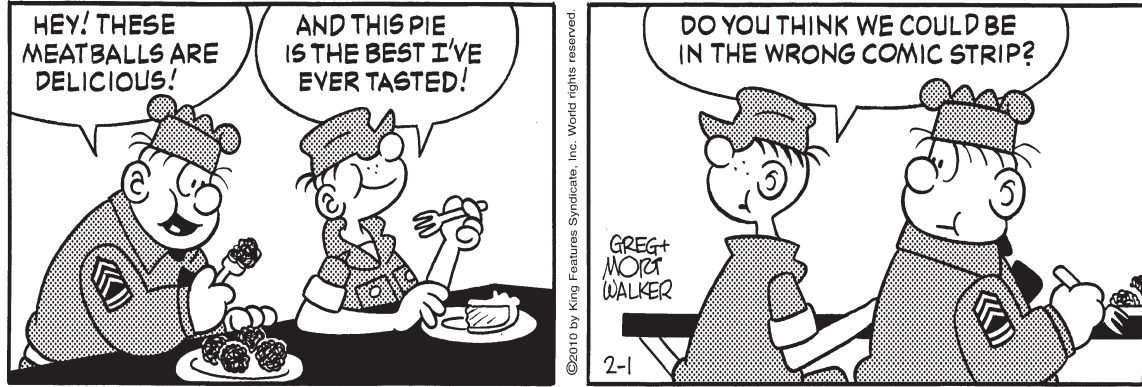


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



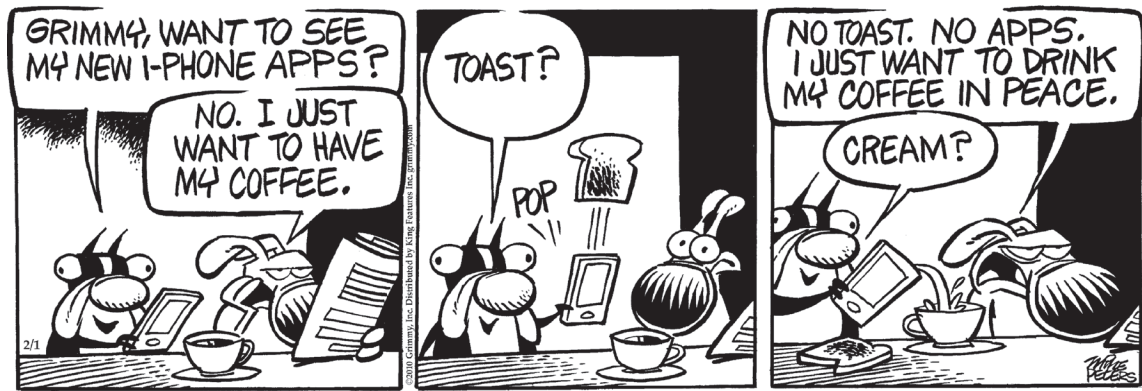
**Blondie** • Chic Young



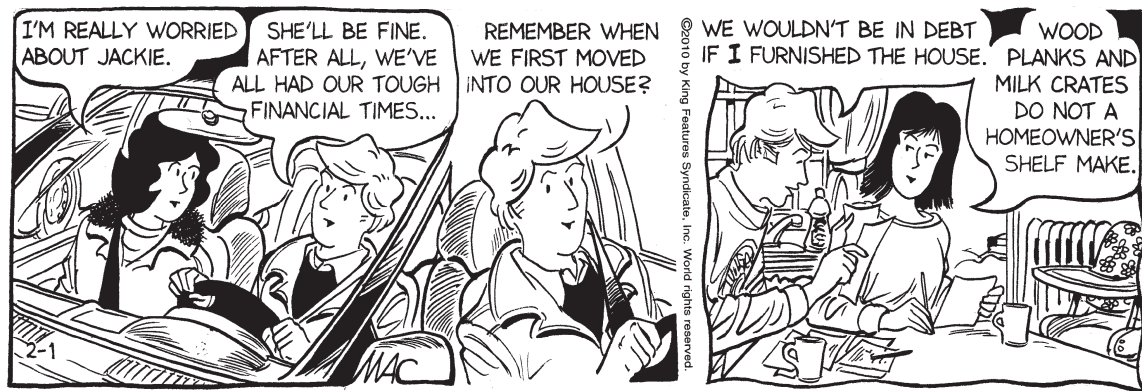
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



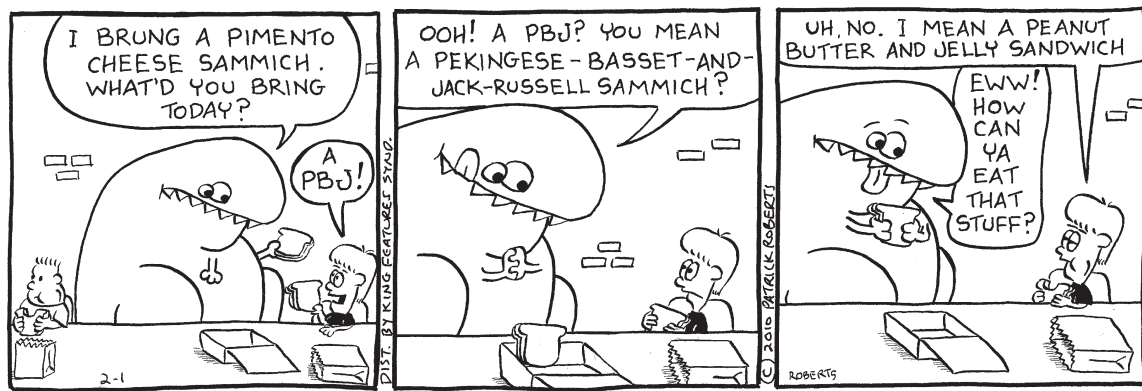
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



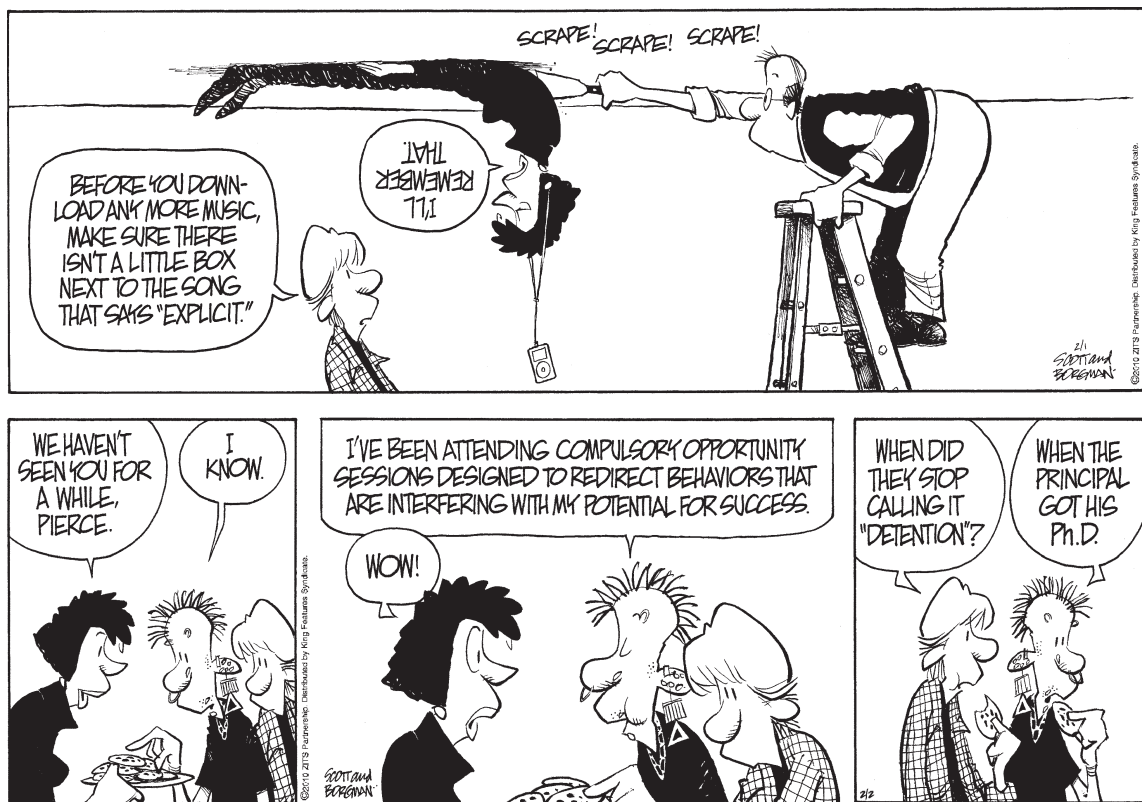
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**No creativity, advertiser says**

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have spent 10 years learning the ins and outs of the advertising industry, and I've been successful. It took me a long time to work up from a go-fer to a position where I am able to come up with whole campaigns. But lately I am running out of ideas, or inspiration. How can I continue to work hard for my clients when I feel I've got nothing left to give? - J.B.

Dear J.B.: I don't want to bring up the "B" word in this brief conversation, because you haven't thought of your recent difficulties that way, but I think there is a chance you are experiencing - yes, burnout. While you seem to be conscientious about serving clients, it must be worrying when you see you're no longer functioning like a well-oiled machine when it comes to meeting their creative needs. Sometimes when it takes years to attain success in a field, it is a bit of a letdown to arrive. You've had time to build fantasies of how much better your career would be once you were in charge of the creative team.

Now, an anticlimax may have set in as your achievements have grown. You may be asking, "Is that all there is?" And it may be time for a break - when was your last vacation? Or perhaps you could work into your schedule a course on creativity to get your juices flowing again. Even a personal coach might help you sort out priorities and focus on the tasks at hand. Don't be too hard on yourself - it is natural to have higher and lower points along any career path. Above all, don't panic - which may affect your performance more, creating even more pressure to perform.

Dear Dr. Brothers: We have moved around the country quite a bit, my son and I. He's 17 now, and starting to grow up fast. He never really knew his dad, who committed suicide when he was only 2 years old. I have seen him online a lot lately looking at ancestor sites and newspaper obituaries, and it seems it is only a matter of time before he learns the truth. How do I handle this? I have always told him that Daddy died in an accident. It was much easier. - C.C.

Dear C.C.: It is always so difficult to handle suicide when there are children involved, and I'm sure you did what you thought was best at the time - or what you could handle - by telling your son his dad died in an accident. Regardless of how great a man he was, when your son finds out he committed suicide, it is bound to shock him. He will have to revise his picture of his father, unless you have told him the man was depressed, ill, self-destructive, whatever. Chances are, you have painted a brighter picture for your son. Now, he not only will doubt the things you told him, but he may think badly of you for sugarcoating the truth. He may even say you are a liar.

With all that, it's impossible to gauge his reaction. But it might be better to let him know you understand he has questions about his father you could answer. And let him ask. It will be better to hear the truth from you, since he's already heard the false information. You can cushion the blow, whereas if he learns the truth from a newspaper, he is bound to feel alienated. Your son will know you were trying to protect him, and in time will forgive you. But he may need time to think about what he would have done in your place. (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A J  
 ♥ A 9 7 3  
 ♦ 8 2  
 ♣ 1 9 6 5 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 10 6  
 ♥ Q 5 4  
 ♦ J 10 5  
 ♣ A Q 4 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 4 3 2  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ A Q 7 4 3  
 ♣ 10 8

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Q 7 5  
 ♥ K J 10 8 2  
 ♦ K 9 6  
 ♣ K 7

The bidding:  
 South 1♥ West 3♥ North 3♥ East Pass  
 Opening lead - jack of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

This deal occurred in the 1971 world team championship and was played at six tables. At three of the tables, the final contract was four hearts, played by South. Each West led a diamond, and each East won with the ace and returned a club.

The similarity continued when each West cashed the Q-A of clubs and shifted to a low spade. All three declarers then rejected the spade finesse, playing the ace from dummy. But from that point on, the play varied at each table.

At one table, in the match between France and the United States, the French declarer played the jack of clubs from dummy at trick five, hoping in that way to resolve the problem of how to play the trumps.

But East, Bobby Goldman, didn't swallow the bait. He did not ruff the jack of clubs with his apparently useless trump, nor did he ruff when the nine was led next. Declarer, having discarded his Q-7 of spades, decided that East must be protecting the Q-x-x(-x) of trumps and accordingly played the ace and another trump. Down one.

At the second table, in the match between Australia and Brazil, declarer also led dummy's jack of clubs at trick five. But here East ruffed with his one and only trump. Declarer overruffed and easily made the contract when he continued with the king of hearts and took the marked trump finesse against West after East showed out.

At the third table, declarer did not play the jack of clubs at trick five, but instead cashed the A-K of trumps. This established West's queen as the setting trick, and declarer finished down one.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



2-1  
 © 2010 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/01

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

JT WNH OCW M TNNS MGS  
 JO OMQOIQ MFQNKHOIKW  
 TMGOMQOJV, WNH VNHKS VMKK  
 JO MG JGVCISJFKI ISJFKI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN COMPOSER JOHANNES' PIECES WERE JUST TOTALLY UNPLAYABLE, DID THEY BECOME BRAHMS' BOMBS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals F

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
 1 Sheepish remark  
 4 Spring-time mo.  
 7 Reed instrument  
 11 Lisa, ex of "The View"  
 13 H1N1, for example  
 14 Tarzan's transport  
 15 Small toy  
 16 Spinning  
 17 Paradise  
 18 Hiawatha's craft  
 20 Have on  
 22 Actress Merkel  
 24 Poor substitute  
 28 Baby sitter, often  
 32 Actress Sevigny  
 33 Fat  
 34 Sort  
 36 Competent  
 37 Pruritic
- DOWN**  
 1 United nations  
 2 Verdi opera  
 3 In due time  
 4 Sternward  
 5 Clear the streets of snow  
 6 Money of India  
 7 Was more important than  
 8 Auction action  
 9 Inseparable  
 10 Still, in verse  
 12 February 2nd
- 19 Conclusion**  
 21 Joan of —  
 23 Parisian pal  
 25 Actress Jessica  
 26 Highway payment  
 27 Zorro's marks  
 28 Smooth-talking  
 29 Assess  
 30 — enemy  
 31 Capp and Capone  
 35 "Krazy —"  
 38 Thee  
 40 "... or — to be"  
 42 Lighter output  
 45 Story-teller  
 47 PC picture  
 48 Comedian Caroline  
 49 Missing  
 50 Hot tub  
 51 Right angle  
 52 Slithery fish  
 54 "Catcher in the —"

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-30

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
56						57			58	
59						60			61	