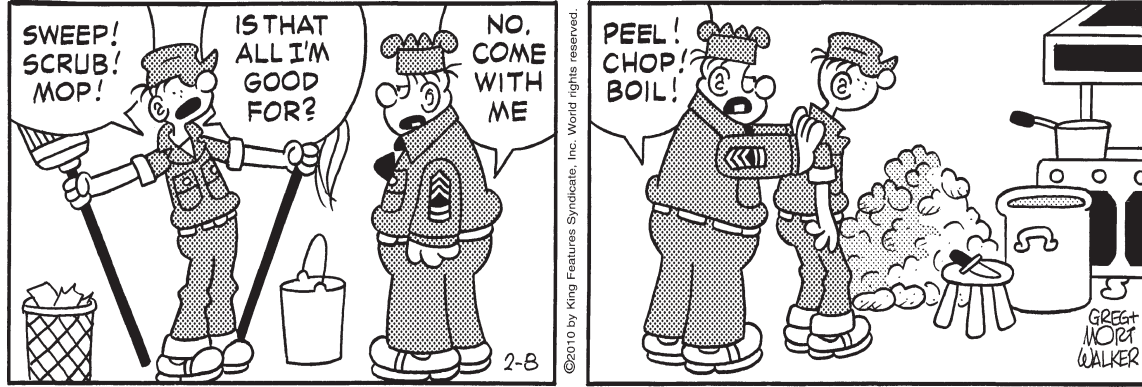


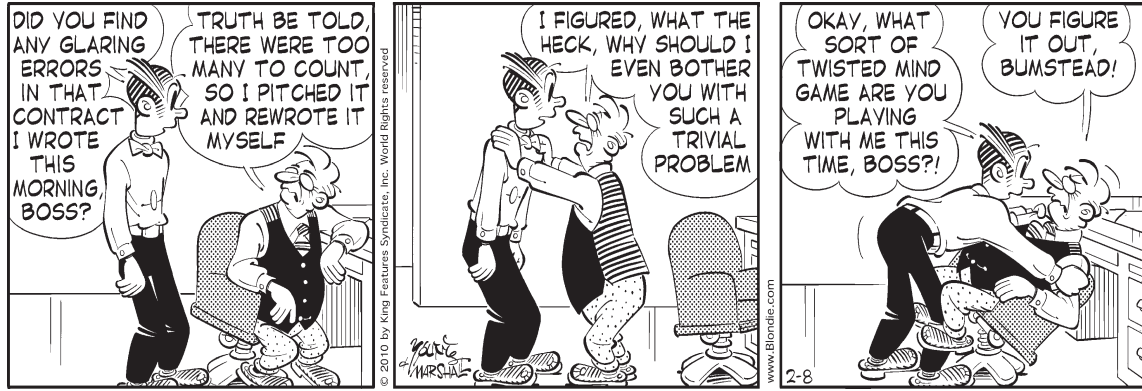
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



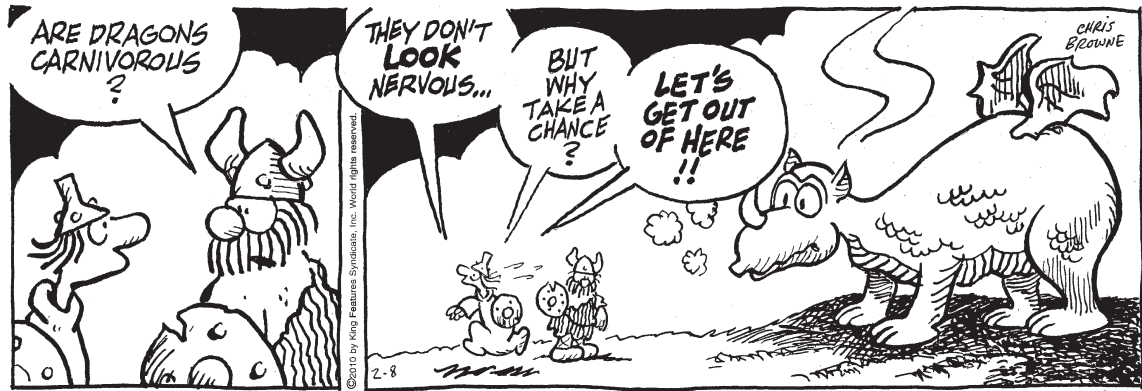
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



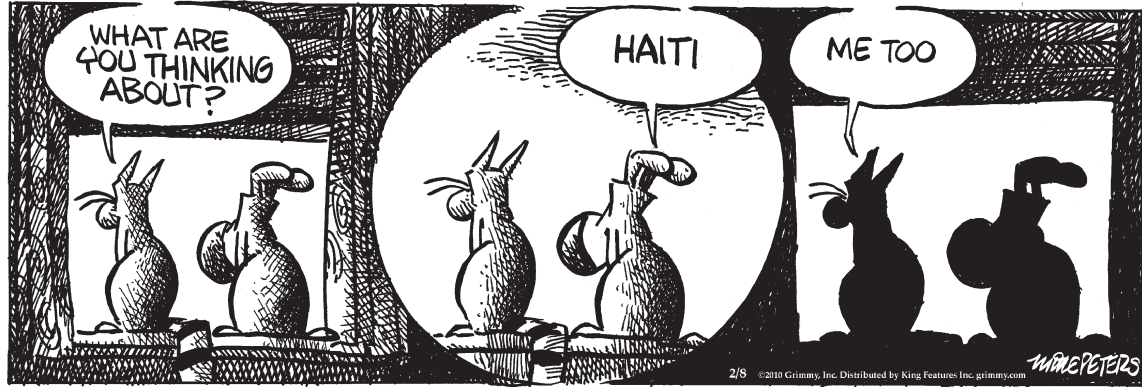
Blondie • Chic Young



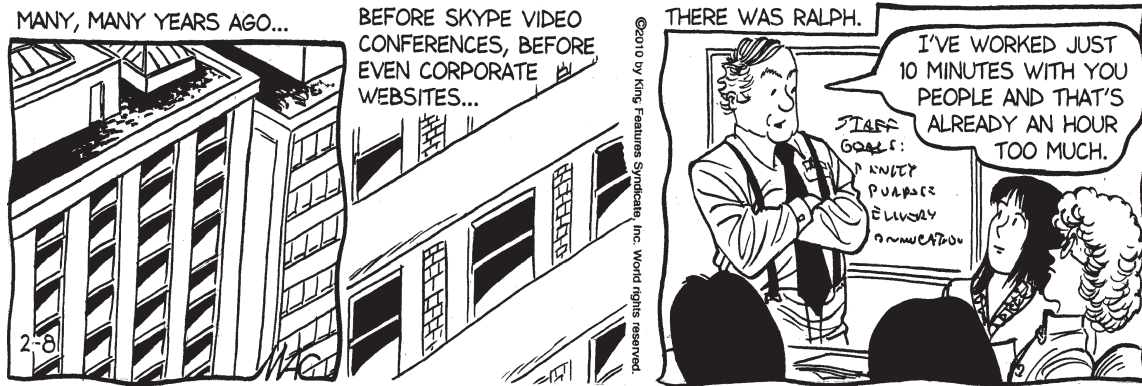
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



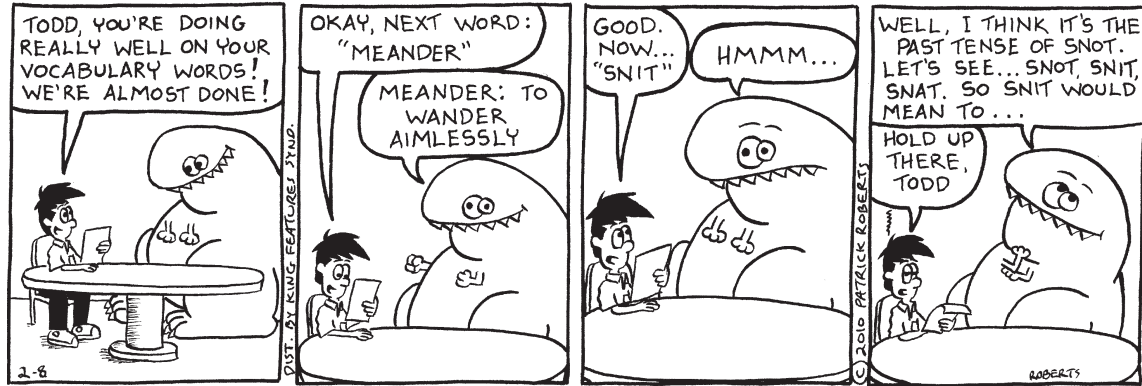
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



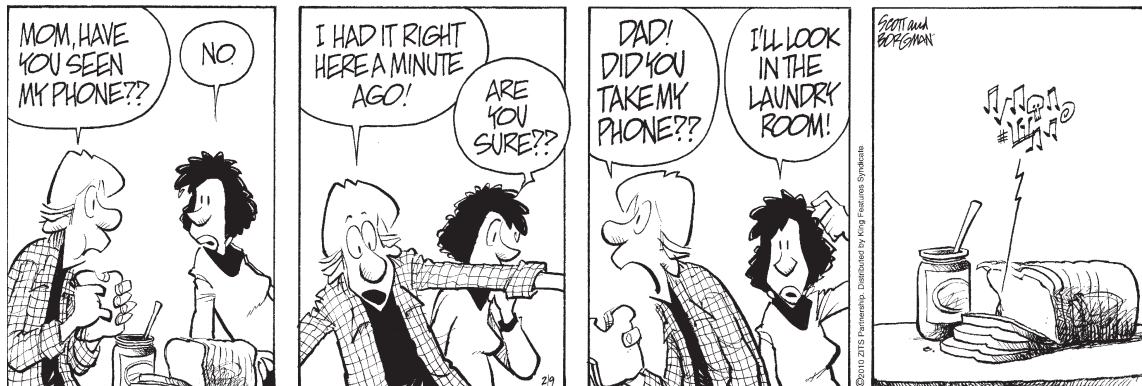
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Woman admires sister's courage

Dear Dr. Brothers: My little sister is braver than I am. She's two years younger but has accomplished so much: Peace Corps, building schools in Africa, you name it. Meanwhile, I have been a secretary and a housewife. My sister's married, but still doing all this with her husband. Mine is an accountant. I am tired of feeling like I didn't inherit the risk-taking gene. Is there any way I can become braver? — B.F.

Dear B.F.: You just might benefit from a little jump-start with an adventure vacation. Where your sister has done these things as a part of her natural lifestyle and career, you can still try out the feeling of taking on challenges by signing up for two weeks or a month in an exotic locale with a work/play agenda structured for you with others trying to achieve the same things you are. Or, you probably could turn to the local newspaper for ideas on projects to help others — some of which undoubtedly will strike you as risky if you aren't used to venturing outside your comfort zone.

The most important part of this is that you genuinely aren't afraid to try something new in order to feel better about yourselves. You and your husband will do fine, if you both are motivated this way. If he isn't, find another partner for these activities, or go by yourself. You should be able to pursue your dreams. Team up with your sister — she probably would be delighted to guide you. Join the local fire department, mentor a needy kid, volunteer to drive a school bus — opportunities for bravery are all around you! Enjoy!

Dear Dr. Brothers: My sister was always everything I was not in school: pretty, popular and fun. Now I am a stay-at-home mom, happily married, and she is divorced, with a new man every few months. My niece, 15, spends a lot of time with my girls. She is complaining about the newest boyfriend, and I heard her tell my daughter that he tries to flirt with her when her mom isn't around. Should I stick my nose in? — L.D.

Dear L.D.: I read between the lines that you don't think much of your sister's lifestyle — or perhaps you have never gotten along, and this is why you feel you have had the last laugh. Regardless, it is nice you are able to provide a safe haven for your niece should she feel she needs one. Let her know you are there for her, and she can always turn to you. It sounds as though her home is not comfortable for her, and your sister hasn't put the needs of her daughter first.

If her father is in the picture, it would be a good time to strengthen her relationship with him — it would be easy for her to become suspicious of men, or to go to the other extreme, with unfortunate results. Meet with your sister and tell her what you overheard. She needs to know her daughter should not be expected to be alone with the new man, and that you expect she will not look at her daughter as a rival. This isn't sticking your nose in — there really is no way you can stay out of this, after hearing what you did. If your sister takes it casually or gets mad at her daughter, you might have to go even farther.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 7 4
 ♥ K 1 7 3
 ♦ K Q 8 4
 ♣ 10 4

WEST
 ♠ Q 9 6 2
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ A J 7 2
 ♣ Q 6 3

EAST
 ♠ A J 8 5 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 9 5 3
 ♣ K 8 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 10
 ♥ A Q 10 9 6 5 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A J 9 7

The bidding:
 West Pass North Pass East Pass South Pass
 2♣ 4♥ 1♠ 4♠ 5♥
 Dblc
 Opening lead — two of spades.

Famous Hand
 This deal occurred in the London Sunday Times Invitational Pairs. It features one of the most successful swindles ever perpetrated in this prestigious event.

Hans Kreyns and Bob Slavenburg of the Netherlands were North-South when the bidding went as shown. West led a spade, and Slavenburg, faced with a seemingly hopeless task, played the king from dummy, losing to the ace. East returned a spade, which Slavenburg ruffed.

South's only real chance for the contract was to steal a diamond trick, so at trick three he led a diamond, hoping West would duck. But West took the ace and led another spade, ruffed again by South.

As anyone can plainly see, declarer had to lose a club trick and go down one. But Slavenburg, well known for his ability to pull a rabbit out of a hat at the bridge table, made the contract! Deliberately ignoring dummy's K-Q-8 of diamonds, Slavenburg played four rounds of trumps, winding up in his hand in this position:

North
 ♠ K Q 8
 ♣ 10 4

West
 ♠ J 7 2
 ♣ Q 6

East
 ♠ 10 9 3
 ♣ K 8

South
 ♥ 9
 ♠ A J 9 7

Slavenburg led his last trump, and West, under the illusion that he had to hold his J-7-2 of diamonds to guard against dummy's K-Q-8, discarded a club. Declarer threw a club from dummy, and now East, who likewise felt he had to keep his diamonds, also discarded a club.

Slavenburg then took the last four tricks with his A-J-9-7 of clubs to make five hearts doubled. (c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"... 'cause I'm sick in bed with a cold."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/08

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

Cryptoquip

BNY YNMDF NGL ELVLE QN
 WCQO NV PNOOCU OUELKF WX
 K ZNQLD'O UKXCGP PMLOQO?
 QBL ENNZLEO' EMZNEO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER I STICK THIS CARVING KNIFE INTO THE PUMPKIN, YOU MIGHT SAY I'LL HAVE A GORED GOURD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Legs (Sl.)
 5 Gratuity
 8 Competent
 12 Six-sided state
 13 Singer Sumac
 14 Close up tight
 15 Optimistic
 16 "War of the Worlds" invaders
 18 Maintenance course
 21 Health resorts
 23 "My country, — of thee"
 24 Drinks garnished with olives
 28 Distort
 31 "Rocks"
 32 Points
 34 Eisenhower nickname
 35 Skillful
 37 Strict disciplinarian

DOWN
 1 Mentor
 2 On
 3 Lone Ranger trademark
 4 Least gregarious
 5 Eardrum
 6 "— little teapot, ..."
 7 Rid of rind
 8 Without changes
 9 Rug in old-style baby photos
 10 Memory —
 11 Differently

17 Potent stick
19 Grand story
22 Rope fiber
24 Central
25 Expert
26 Source of a second opinion
27 White wine + soda
29 — out a living
30 Drenched
33 Celebrity
36 "We hold these — to be ..."
38 Funny, in a way
40 Blackbird
42 Urban pollutant
43 One of the Three Bears
44 Nibble away (on)
46 Walkway
47 Gilligan's home
48 Young bovine
50 A Gabor sister

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-8

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
31				32			33			34
35				36			37			38
				39			40			41
42	43					44		45		46
49						50				51
52						53				54
55						56				57