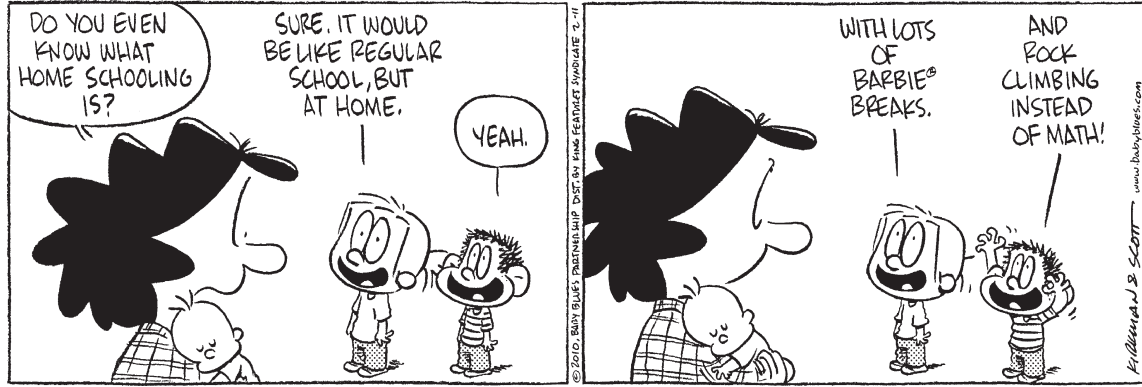
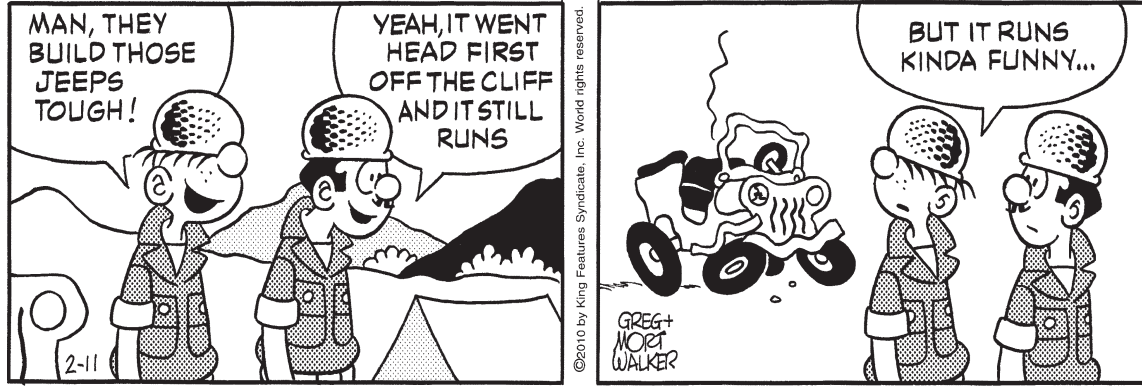


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



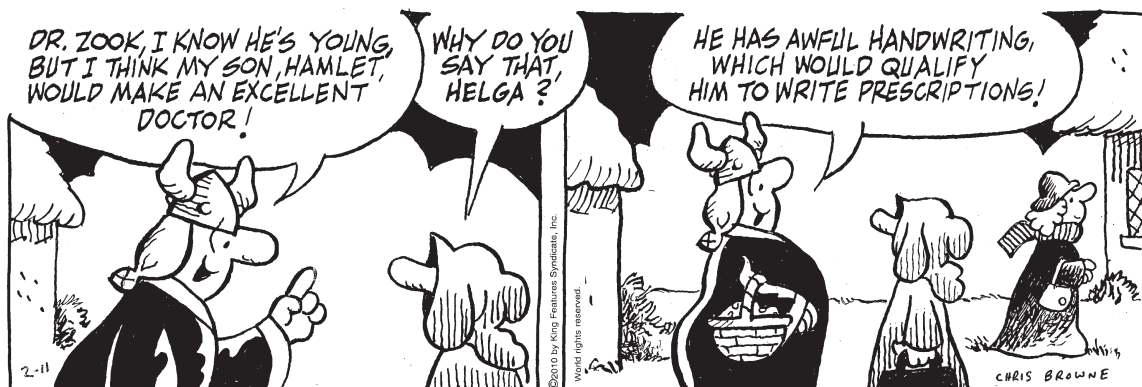
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



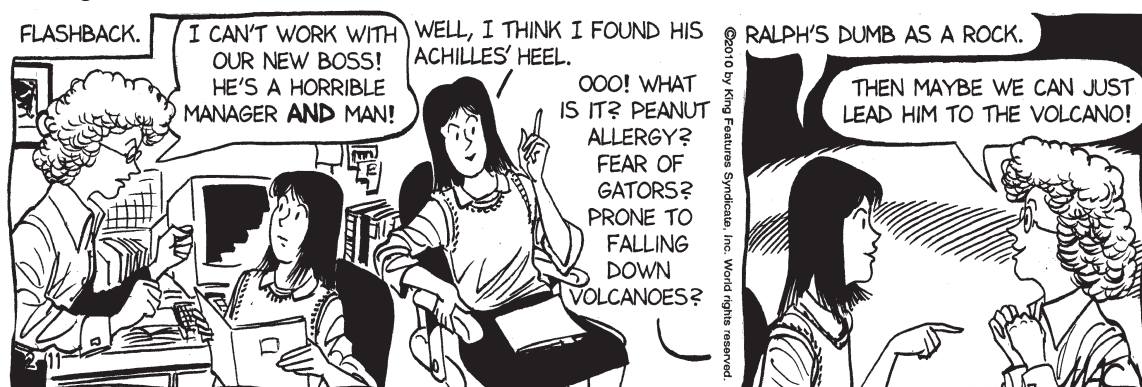
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



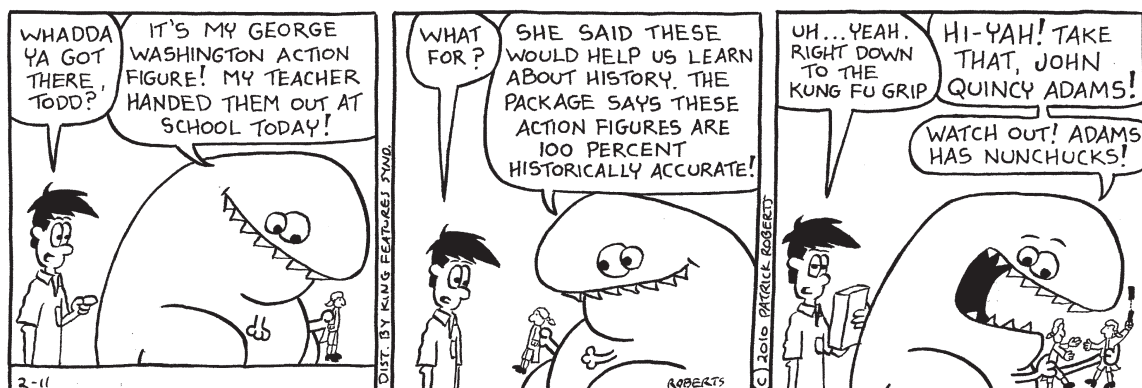
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Husband spoils 10-year-old girl**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My husband has spent the past 10 years thinking of ways to spoil our daughter. She's now going into middle school, and becoming a demanding little diva with a strong materialistic streak. She knows if I say no, she can go to her dad. I want her to be kind and generous, with values my husband and I shared. — L.R.

**Dear L.R.:** You thought you knew your husband, and were on the same wavelength. You assumed you would raise her with the values and character you admired in one another. But she got daddy wrapped around her little finger — it happens all the time. No wonder there is a tradition of daddy's girls battling mean old mother. And dads seem to have no defense against daughters' adorable pleadings. So yours probably has fallen prey to the age-old problem of raising a spoiled brat because he hasn't the heart to say no.

Ask your husband to get together with you to solve this issue before your daughter develops deep-rooted ways of operating that won't be helpful to her in the future. There is nothing wrong with being materialistic, as long as you have the means to support your habit — so your husband must teach your daughter the importance of work and responsibility. There's nothing wrong with having things if you share; so point her to some opportunities to volunteer, help others and develop compassion. You have your work cut out, but it's not too late to help your husband wake up and change course. You should work together to forge common goals for your family. Good luck.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My wife's behavior has me worried and my child feeling hurt. We have a 13-year-old son who recently has gotten involved in intramural sports. He's not the most athletic, but he tries and seems to enjoy basketball and football. I am working, but my wife is free to go to these games and support our son. She started going but has stopped, and isn't explaining why, to him or to me. What should I do? — W.B.

**Dear W.B.:** It is a shame you can't find some time to support your son's athletic endeavors on your own. Perhaps there will be some time on the weekends when working parents can get more involved. This would help ease the frustration at your wife's lack of participation, and your son would have his dad involved. If this isn't possible, there's always the game of hoops in the driveway after work — don't think he wouldn't appreciate a little one-on-one with his dad. Even if you aren't athletic, it would still be fun.

Your wife may have become discouraged because your son isn't very athletic. Maybe she sees him getting less play time, or is worried about injuries. Maybe she is shy. Maybe she has a heavy schedule, or her son has asked why she doesn't make some noise, or the coach has banned her. There could be many reasons for her lack of participation — you really need to talk and let her know it's an important topic. Now's when your child is going to decide whether to be a jock or sit on the bench, and his family's support could be crucial. Be prepared to listen and compromise.

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ A Q 10 8  
 ♦ K 9 5 2  
 ♣ A K 6 3

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

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K Q J 9 7 3  
 ♥ J 9 3  
 ♦ 10 4  
 ♣ 5

The bidding:  
 North: 1♠, 2♣, 3♣, 4♣  
 East: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass  
 South: 1♠, 2♣, 3♣, 4♣  
 West: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

**Camouflage**  
 Part of the skill in dummy play consists of giving as little information as possible to the defenders about your hand. For example, take this deal where South is in four spades.

First let's have him play the hand incorrectly. He wins the club lead with the king and cashes the ace, discarding a diamond. He then plays four rounds of trumps and finesses the jack of hearts, losing to the king. East doesn't have to be a genius to know that he should now cash the ace of diamonds to hold South to 11 tricks.

At this point, East can count that declarer has seven trump tricks, the A-K of clubs and the three heart tricks visible in dummy for a total of 12 tricks. So it becomes obvious to East that if he doesn't cash the diamond ace, it will go down the drain.

Now let's go back and have South play his cards a bit less revealingly. He wins the club in dummy and leads a spade to the ace. (There is no good reason to take an immediate discard on the ace of clubs, which would reveal that South started with only one club.)

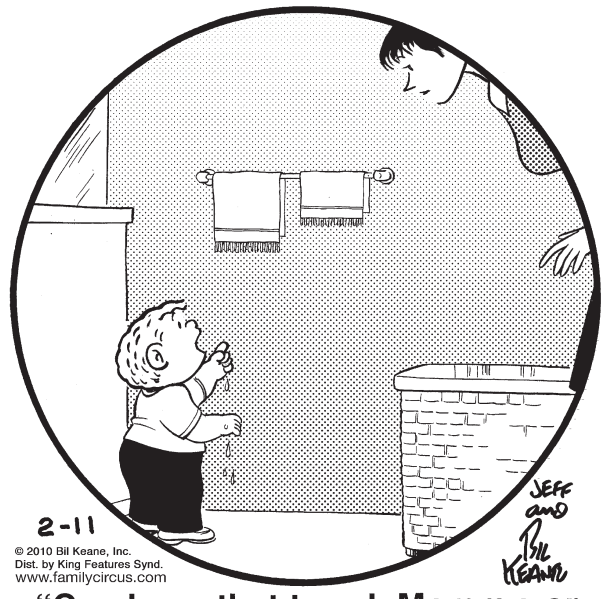
Declarer next leads the three of hearts to the queen. He does not extract trumps first, which would disclose his trump holding. Also, he does not lead the jack of hearts. He allows each defender to think that the other might have the jack and that dummy's hearts might therefore not be solid.

East wins the heart queen with the king but does not know that he must now cash the ace of diamonds or lose it. From East's point of view, West might have the intermediate hearts, so East may return a spade or a club.

It is true that on this deal only 30 points are at stake, but there's no harm in perfecting your technique for those times when it really matters.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Cryptoquip**

Q O R S G O V H R G O M R L R H

X R A M X R X G V H G R D J G O R I M C

I J D S Z R G , A V F J X B V F H D B

G O R B Q R K R G D Z M S C A V L R K ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF A PERSON IS TOTALLY UNABLE TO ADD UP NUMBERS, YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S SUFFERING FROM IN-SUM-NIA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Fungus product  
 5 Enthusiast  
 8 Small combo  
 12 Duel tool  
 13 Blond shade  
 14 Maintained  
 15 Approach  
 16 Crossword clue  
 17 Regulation  
 18 Green  
 20 Ids' counterparts  
 22 Beach pastime  
 26 Normand or Mercer  
 29 Sweet potato  
 30 Greet the villain  
 31 Hawkish Olympian  
 32 Energy  
 33 Spill the beans  
 34 Roulette bet  
 35 Garfield's owner  
 36 Kid napped?

**DOWN**

1 Options list  
 2 Admitting clients  
 3 Mad king of literature  
 4 Develops (from)  
 5 Belly-button  
 6 — Today well in the past  
 7 Early hour  
 8 Pulsate  
 9 Having a second life?  
 10 Under the weather  
 11 Worshipper's writing  
 21 Workout venue  
 23 Fibbing  
 24 Burden  
 25 Earring site  
 26 Sports-caster  
 27 Vicinity  
 28 Sheets  
 32 It was launched in 1977  
 33 Round, as a nose  
 35 Lustrous black  
 36 "No seats" abbr.  
 38 Wind-blown soil  
 39 Alphabetized list  
 42 Fairy tale villain  
 43 Option from  
 44 Howie Mandel  
 44 Scream  
 45 Bankroll  
 46 See 50-Across  
 48 Have bills

**Yesterday's answer 2-11**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20	21		
				22			23			24
26	27	28				29				30
31						32				33
34						35				36
37						38				39
						40				41
45	46					47	48			49
50						51				52
53						54				55