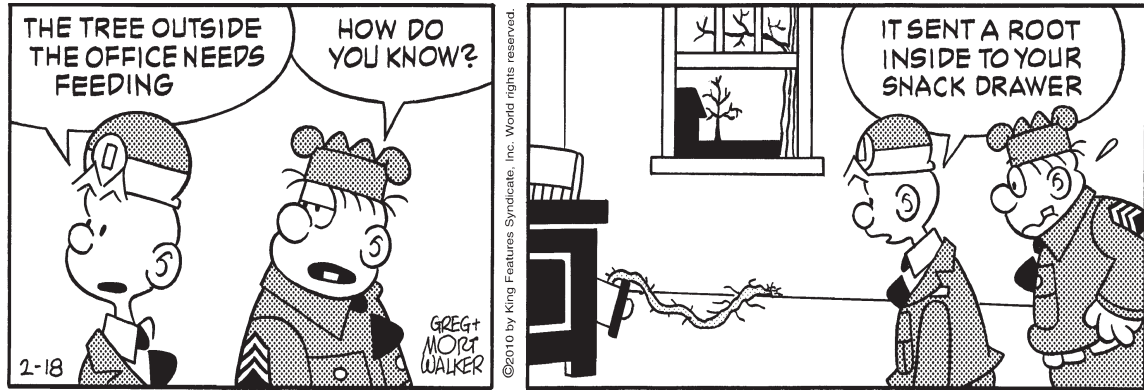


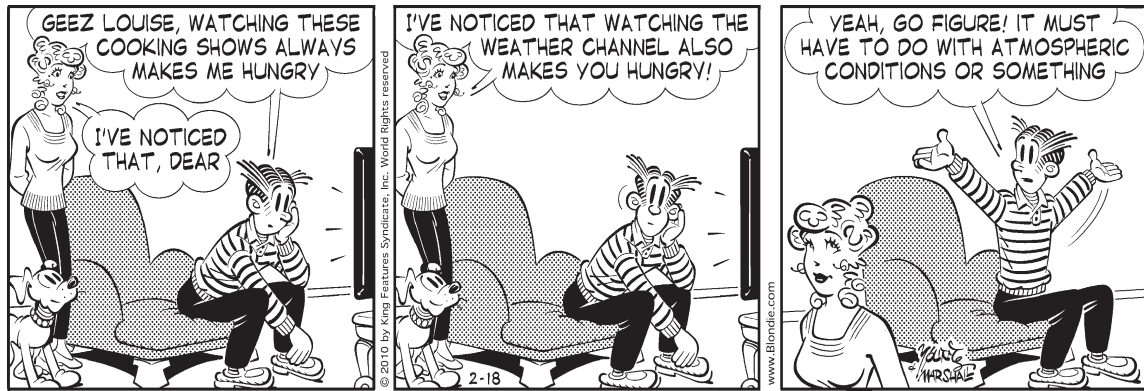
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



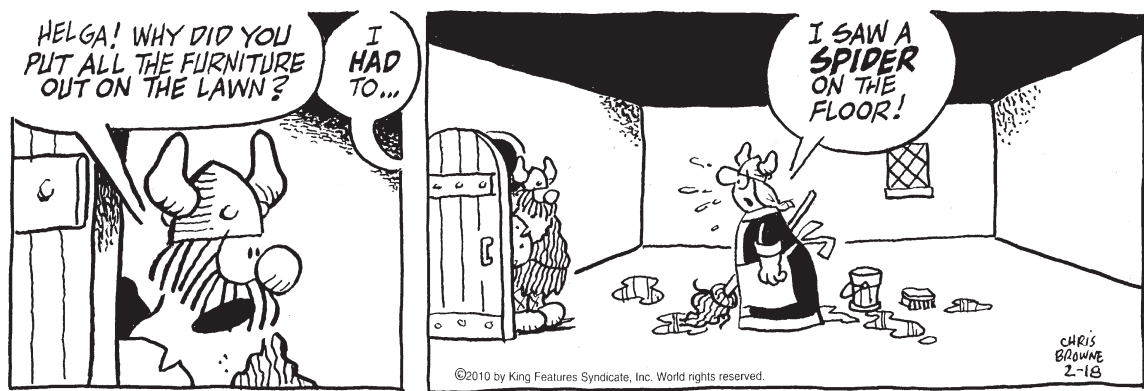
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



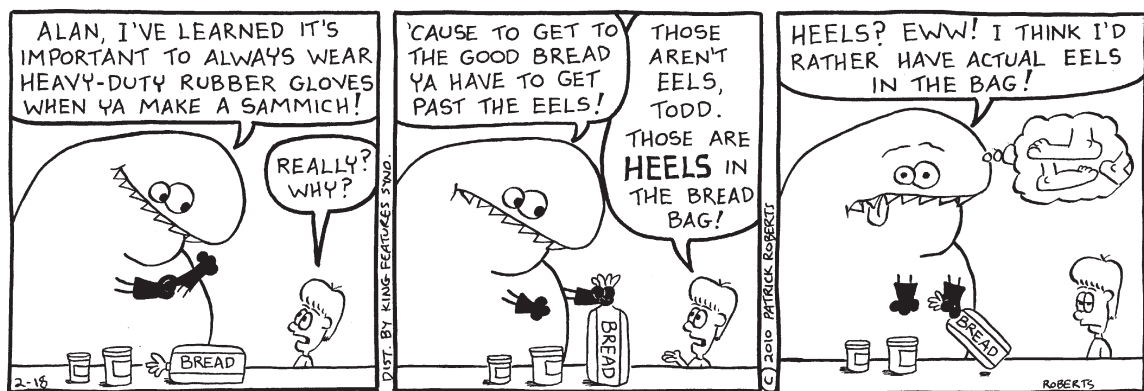
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



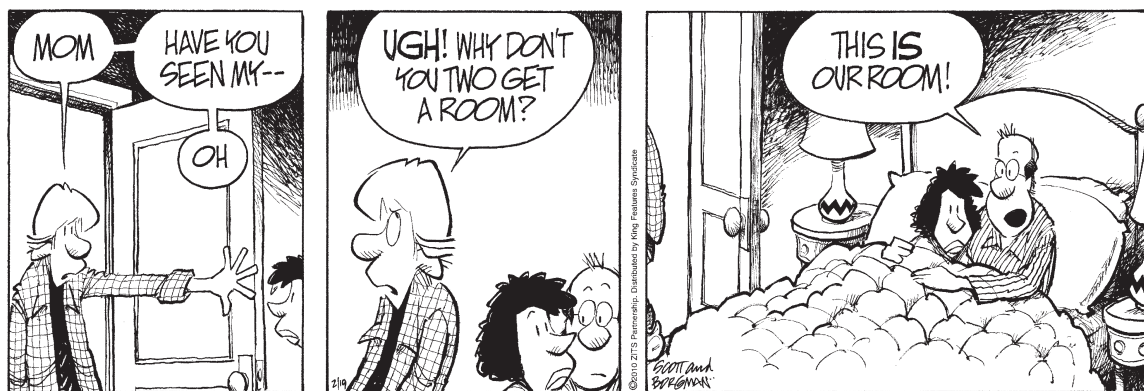
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Nervous mom, anxious kids?**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I hate to admit it, but I almost didn't allow myself the opportunity to have two wonderful kids, because I knew I would wreck them with my anxiety. I didn't want them to grow up fearful like I am, but I am seeing signs of shyness in my 6-year-old and nervous habits in my 8-year-old. Have I already ruined them? I take medicine for anxiety, but everyone still jokes about what a worrier I am. — H.P.

**Dear H.P.:** You are carrying a heavy load of guilt, and that can't help your feelings about being a parent. Most parents are concerned about their influence — and often the ones who are most worried are doing the better job! It is far from a foregone conclusion that if you are anxious, your kids will be too. The fact that your worrying is seen as amusing in the family tells me your kids and husband are distancing themselves from that behavior as a role model. That's what you want to happen, although effective therapy or medication for yourself so you are respected and empowered would be a better outcome.

A recent study at Johns Hopkins University has found that family therapy reduces the incidence of children of anxious parents developing symptoms. The odds are against you if you do nothing: Data show that kids from families like yours have up to seven times greater chance of developing anxiety disorders. So, you have your work cut out. Get the gang together, and work on this as a family. You won't be sorry.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** There have been times lately when I have found myself lying to my children, who are elementary through high-school age. I am always justifying telling a little white lie as the means to an end. I told them I couldn't afford sports equipment when I actually had some money. I said Grandma was sick when she just didn't want to take the time to come over. Is this kind of lying really a bad thing? — T.B.

**Dear T.B.:** Just about all parents lie to their children — some on a daily basis. Just because you call it a fib or a white lie, though, doesn't mean it might not have negative consequences. One might be that your kids don't know whether to follow your example. Parents who lie most are the most punitive to their own children's lies, according to a recent study by the University of California, San Diego. That's confusing. Kids are tough to fool when Mom or Dad tells a whopper.

The lies you cite are designed to make a child feel better about something. That is a common motivator for parents, along with trying to influence the child's behavior, the survey reports, revealing that the majority of parents surveyed admitted lying to their kids. So instead of shielding your kids to make them feel better, you might help them cope with truth. That way, you will help instill some resilience and feel better about the ways in which you parent. It can be liberating if you listen to that little voice telling you it's not a cool idea to tell a lie. Your kids will be less confused, and you will come up with much more cohesive parenting options.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♦ Q J 9 7 6		♦ A	
♠ K 9 8 7 2		♠ J 10 3	
♣ K 10		♣ 19 4 3	
♦ 5 2		♦ K J 8 7 2	
♠ 6 4		♠ A	
♣ A 7 6 2		♣ 10 9 5 3	
♦ Q 10 9 5 3		♦ K 10 8 4 3	
♠ K 10 8 4 3		♠ Q 5	
♣ Q 8 5		♣ A 6 4	
♦ A 6 4		♦ K 10 8 4 3	

The bidding:  
North: 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass 3♣ Pass 5♦ Pass  
East: 1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass 6♣ Pass  
South: 1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass 6♣ Pass  
West: 1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

**A Singular Double Tragedy**  
Some deals you hear about sound much more like fiction than fact. For example, here's one that may strain your credulity. It occurred, believe it or not, in a head-to-head match between two of the contending teams in a national team-of-four championship.

At the first table, the bidding went as shown. North clearly overestimated the value of his hand. Granting that South's one-spade response was music to North's ears, North surely overstated his high-card strength when he jump-shifted in diamonds and then leaped to five spades over three hearts. After this, South certainly could do no less than cuebid his ace of clubs in an attempt to get to a grand slam.

Of course, the slam should have gone down one since the defenders held two cashing aces. But it did not occur to West that his partner could hold the ace of trumps, and he decided that desperate measures would be needed to defeat the slam the opponents had bid so confidently.

Accordingly, he led the deuce of diamonds! West was hoping to find dummy with the K-J and East with the queen, in which case declarer would almost surely play the jack from dummy.

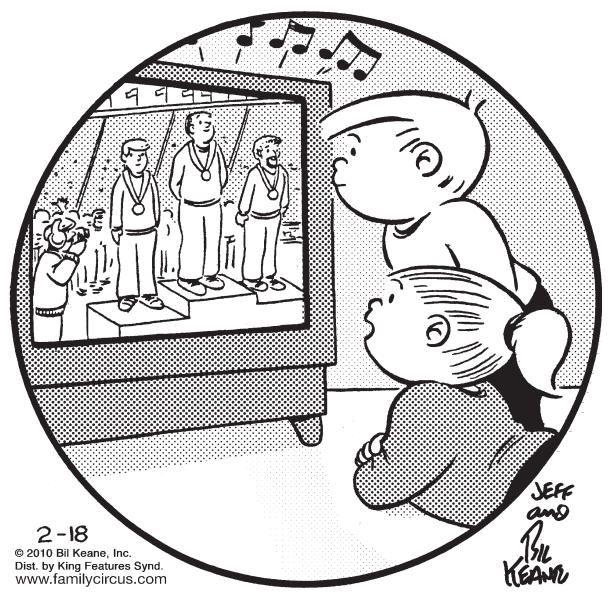
However, this proved not to be the right time or place to underlead an ace against a slam. South won the diamond with the queen and cashed the ace of clubs, discarding the king of diamonds from dummy. He then conceded a trump to East's ace to make the slam.

At the second table, the bidding went differently, but the final contract was exactly the same! Again South got to six spades, again West underled the ace of diamonds, and again South made the slam — so the deal was a washout!

Now wouldn't you agree that truth is stranger than fiction?

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



2-18  
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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Cryptoquip**

UMWMWO LHE FMEY EYXE  
KLUMXEDMJE MJ GXWEXJEMA,  
ZVAXHJV XJ X DHBV YV

FMWUJ HK GLEMWO EYV ZMBB.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST TIME OF YEAR FOR PEOPLE TO CLEAN OUT THEIR CHIMNEY DUCTS? FLUE SEASON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals U

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                 |                       |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | <b>DOWN</b>           | <b>DOWN</b>                     | <b>DOWN</b>                   |
| 1 Suitable workplace            | 41 Cattle call        | 1 Sternward                     | 21 Chicken (out)              |
| 4 Seven Dwarfs' kick            | 42 Stick with a       | 2 Expert                        | 22 Hip bones                  |
| 8 Family-biz abbr.              | 44 Window in a roof   | 3 Lobster liver                 | 23 Dine                       |
| 12 To and —                     | 46 Like               | 4 Whistler subject              | 27 Cudgel                     |
| 13 Newspaper page               | 50 Purchase           | 5 WSJ news item                 | 29 "Non-sense!"               |
| 14 Inauguration recitation      | 51 Wheels of fortune? | 6 Require fizzle                | 30 Reed instrument            |
| 15 Marinara ingredients         | 52 Annie's song       | 7 Ford Like 59-Across, probably | 31 Indigent                   |
| 17 Aware of                     | 56 Maple genus        | 9 Carry on                      | 33 Fox, for one               |
| 18 Bonfire residue              | 57 Thoroughfare       | 10 Sgt. Snorkel's dog           | 35 Chic, to Austin Powers     |
| 19 Windows workspace            | 58 Inseparable        | 11 Boutique                     | 38 Conclusion                 |
| 21 Infamous middle name of 1865 | 59 Over-studio sort   | 16 Request                      | 40 VIP's opposite             |
| 24 Mainlander's memento         | 60 Bohemian           | 20 Get a glimpse of             | 43 Aquarium fish              |
| 25 Ailing                       | 61 Pirouette pivot    |                                 | 45 Capek play                 |
| 26 Massage                      |                       |                                 | 46 Talon                      |
| 28 Bar legally                  |                       |                                 | 47 Puerto                     |
| 32 Carriage                     |                       |                                 | 48 Portent                    |
| 34 Actress Dawber               |                       |                                 | 49 "Let's Make a Deal" choice |
| 36 Vagrant                      |                       |                                 | 53 Wrestling surface          |
| 37 Check recipient              |                       |                                 | 54 Yoko of music              |
| 39 Heavy weight                 |                       |                                 | 55 Teensy                     |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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
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	