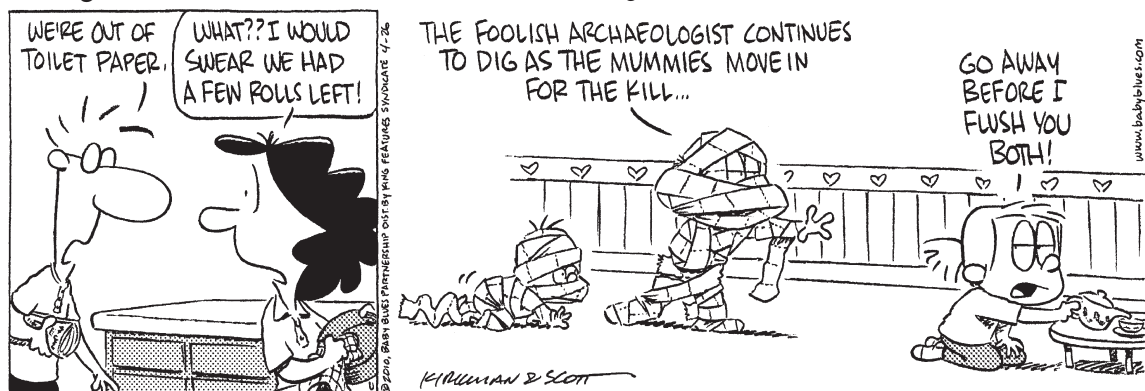
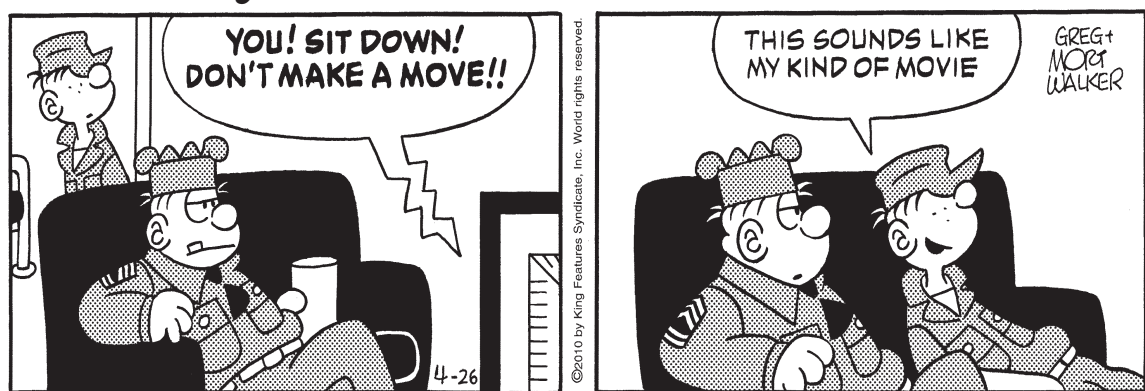


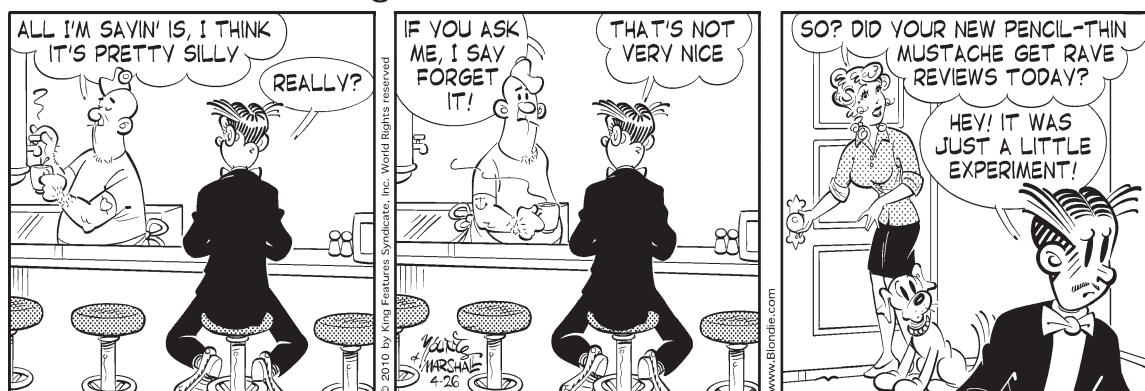
### Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



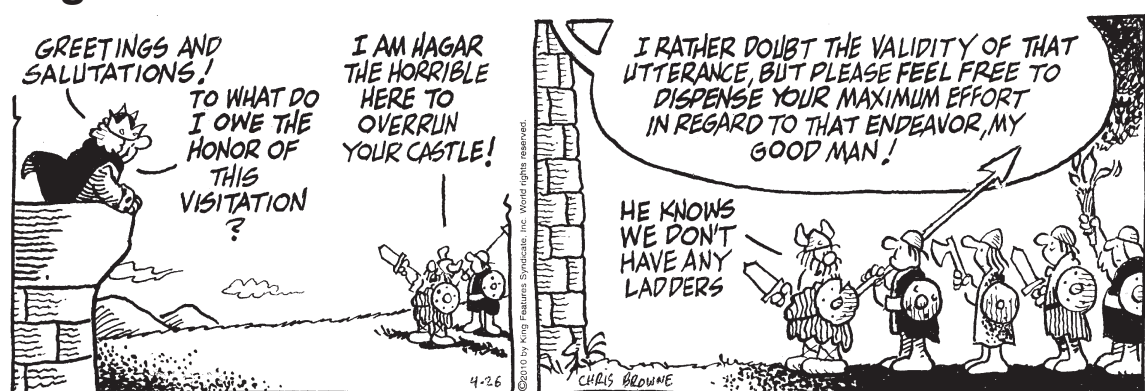
### Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



### Blondie • Chic Young



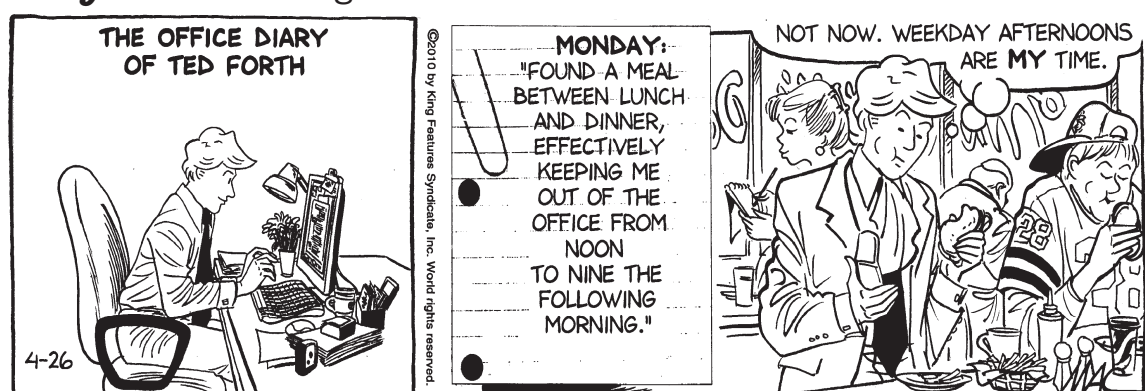
### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



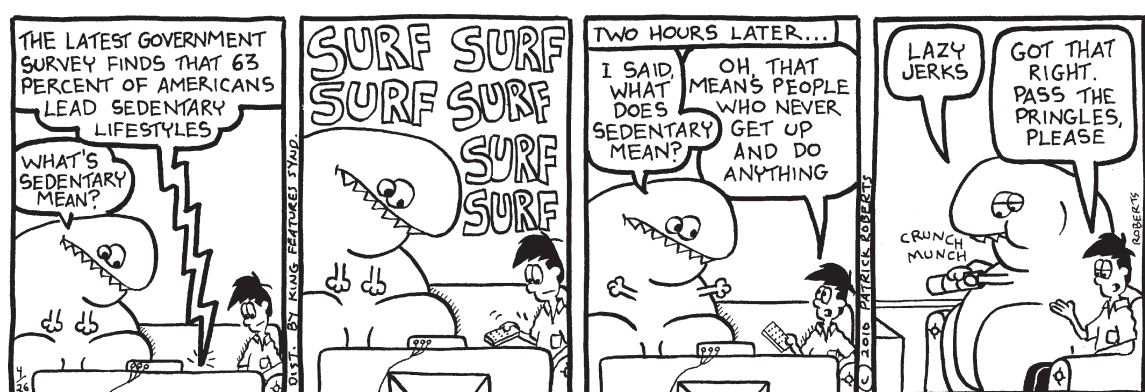
### Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



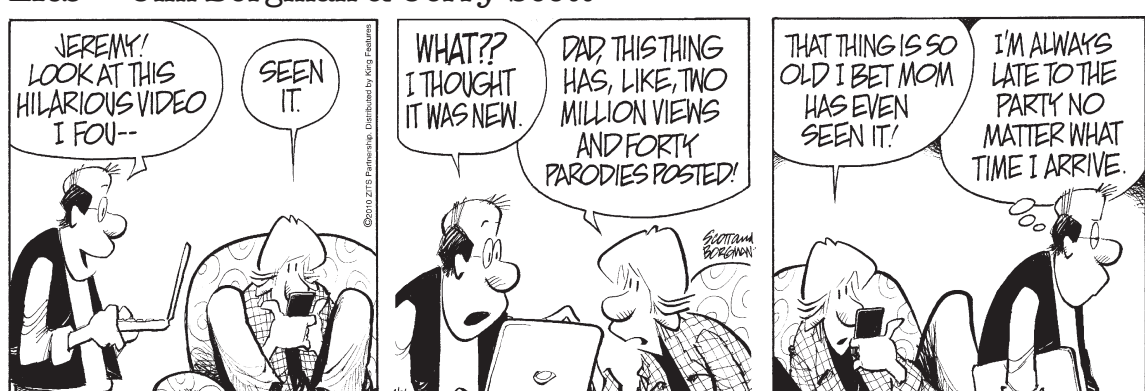
### Sally Forth • Greg Howard



### Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



### Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



### Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

## Burned-out job needs a recharge

Dear Dr. Brothers: I hear the same four words every night before I go to sleep: "Yes, may I help you?" I have to say that when I answer the phone at the customer-service center where I work. One day I counted; I had to say the words 319 times. I'm burning out at my job and need help quickly. Quitting has never been an option; I just need to get back into the swing of things. — H.B.

Dear H.B.: It is a difficult time to do anything related to job-hunting. There are so many others out of work I can see how you would be discouraged about changing your circumstances. But it shows me you have enough inner resources to continue at your job with the goal of making it more interesting and less routine. I think that is a fine attitude; now you just need a plan! Sometimes in a field like yours, there can be production challenges or marketing goals to keep the competitive spirit alive. This may or may not interest you, and whether or not you could get it implemented, you still could do something informally with a couple of co-workers to keep things interesting.

Along with focusing on people skills, another idea you could implement on your own would be to keep records of your work, the kinds of problems you encounter. Perhaps you could come up with some cost- or time-saving tips to pass along to management. That couldn't hurt your promotion chances. Are you making the most of your free time? Use that time to find and do things you love. Don't just go to work — that is guaranteed to make you feel more burnt out. If you have vacation time, take it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: To say my husband had an awful childhood would be an understatement. He dropped out of school at 15, and never learned to read and write properly. I know it still affects him, but every time I prod him to take some night classes, he snaps "I'm too old." I'm afraid he's going to carry this burden to his grave. Is there anything I can do to help him? He has a job, but not a very challenging one (janitorial). — C.W.

Dear C.W.: It is difficult going through life without the ability to read and write clearly, and your husband undoubtedly has missed opportunities because of it. But the fact that he has been able to build a life in spite of dropping out shows he can face challenges and make the best of them. With you behind him, perhaps there are ways for him to move ahead. But continuing to suggest classes might not be the best approach, since his remark about being "too old" probably reflects his social embarrassment as much as any real age-related problem that could hold him back.

There are so many online and distance learning vehicles today, I'm sure he could come up with ways to learn at home, or by using a computer at your local library. There will be programs for people in his situation, and he can learn at his own speed. Then, when he begins to be more comfortable, he might even go on to vocational training that will help him advance if he would like to. You can encourage him through all of this — just remember you may need more patience to help him over rough spots. Resistance is perfectly natural — just be there for him as he works it all out. (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

### Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ A  
♥ K J 7 4 3  
♦ J 10  
♣ Q 10 7 5 4  
WEST  
♠ Q J 10 8 6  
♥ 9  
♦ A K Q 8  
♣ 9 6 2  
EAST  
♠ K 9 7 3  
♥ 10 6 5 2  
♦ 9 6 4 2  
♣ J  
SOUTH  
♠ 5 4 2  
♥ A Q 8  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ A K 8 3  
The bidding:  
West North East South  
1♠ 2♣ 3♠ 4♥  
4♣ Pass Pass 5♣  
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

#### Famous Hand

There are many bidding conventions a partnership may adopt which, when the right hand comes along, can prove very effective. Consider this deal from the 1970 world team championship match between Norway and the United States.

With Norway North-South, the bidding went as shown. The two-spade bid, as played by the Norwegian pair, indicated a hand with five hearts and either five diamonds or five clubs.

By using this convention, often called a Michaels cuebid, North was able to immediately point a picture of his hand. South ultimately landed in five clubs, which he easily made, losing only two diamond tricks.

At the other table, with a U.S. pair now holding the North-South cards, the bidding went:  
West North East South  
1♠ 2♥ 2♠ 4♥  
4♠ Pass Pass Dble

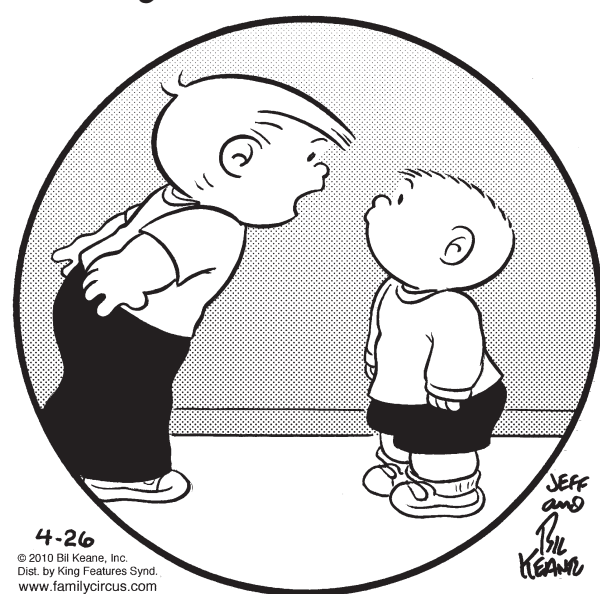
The Americans were not playing Michaels, so North overcalled at his first turn with two hearts. After East bid two spades, South jumped to four hearts, but he found himself faced with a difficult decision one round later when West bid four spades.

South elected to double, which did not turn out well when West lost only a spade, a heart and a club to make his contract. As a result, Norway gained 990 points on the deal, scoring 400 points at the first table and 590 points at the second table.

One can easily sympathize with the American South for choosing to double four spades instead of going on in hearts. He knew far less about North's hand than his opposite number at the first table, who had much more explicit information to lean on.

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### Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-26  
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www.familycircus.com

"You better watch it, P.J. Someday you'll be old enough to know better."

### Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/26

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.

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

### Cryptoquip

NV R QGRTT ZARWL DALN WTA

TARMQ NXQ MSNDAS XP RU

KULRBBC VRXA, CPK GNFLX

QRC NX'Q R MPPG ZKFFC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I REALLY BELIEVE THOSE GUYS TRIED TO CLIMB ONTO THE HORSES. I HAVE MOUNTING EVIDENCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals I

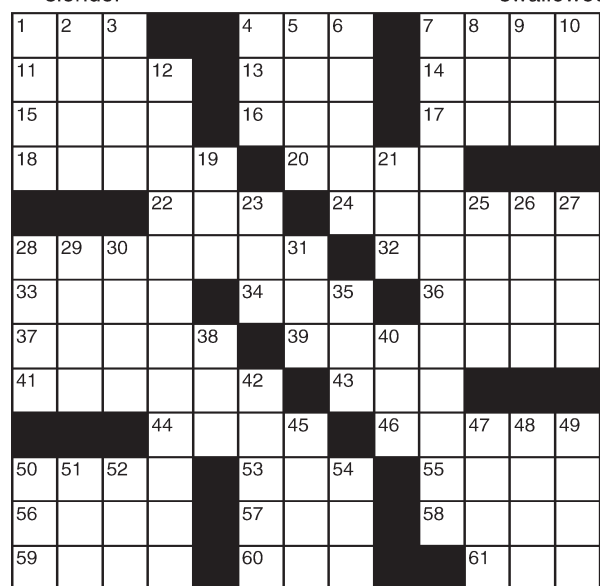
### Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Prohibit  
4 Harvest goddess  
7 Heady potato  
11 Moby Dick's pursuer  
13 Joan of —  
14 Taj Mahal city  
15 Letter after alpha  
16 Mauna —  
17 Standard  
18 In the midst of  
20 Cattle drive item  
22 Beaver's construct  
24 Least fettered  
28 Wrapped  
32 Sacha Baron Cohen portrayal  
33 State with certainty  
34 Moo goo gai pan  
36 Press  
37 Parson's home  
39 Gracefully tall and slender

41 "... — and arrows of

43 Zero  
44 Enthusiastic  
46 Duck sauce ingredient  
50 Wagon  
53 Meadow  
55 Regulation  
56 United nations  
57 Dog's doc  
58 By word of mouth  
59 Adam and Eve's third son  
60 — out a living  
61 Do sums

DOWN  
1 Ali —  
2 Throat-clearing sound  
3 Org. HQ'd in Brussels  
4 Erstwhile acorn  
5 Get ready, for short  
6 Muffler "vici"  
7 Matador's aide  
8 Freudian concept  
9 Misstep  
10 Aries  
12 Lewis Carroll's "frumious" beast  
19 Needle-fish  
21 Sphere  
23 Kitten's comment  
25 Continental coin  
26 Winter forecast  
27 Danza or Curtis  
28 Rotating parts  
29 Elliptical  
30 "—, vidi, vici"  
31 Wall Street  
38 Freudian statistic, with "The"  
35 Relatives  
38 Early bird? talk  
40 Back talk  
42 Figure out  
45 Nerdy sort  
47 Emanation  
48 Dressed (in)  
49 Maintained  
50 Couric's network  
51 Cousin of 7-Across  
52 Deteriorate  
54 Chewed and swallowed



Saturday's answer 4-26