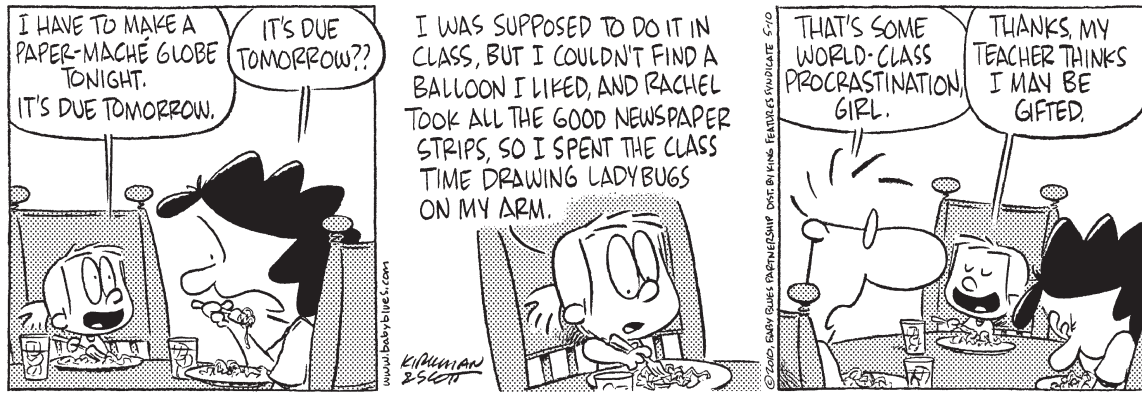


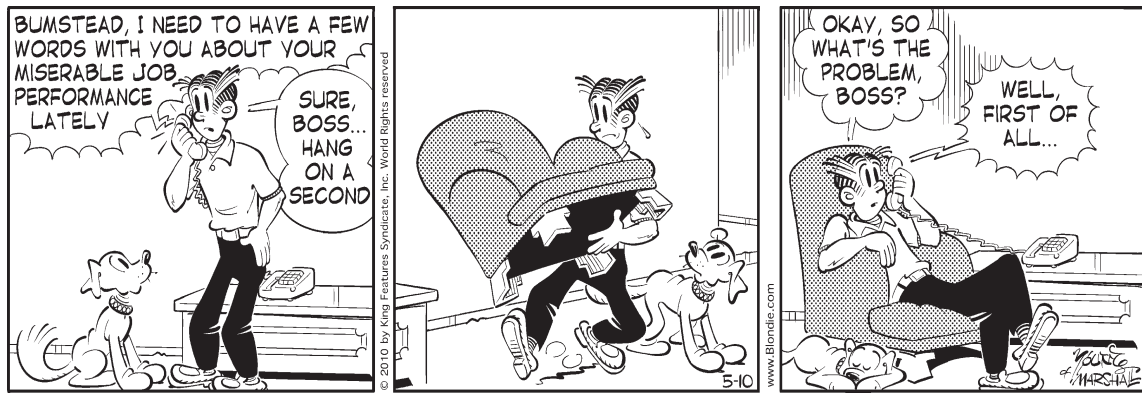
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



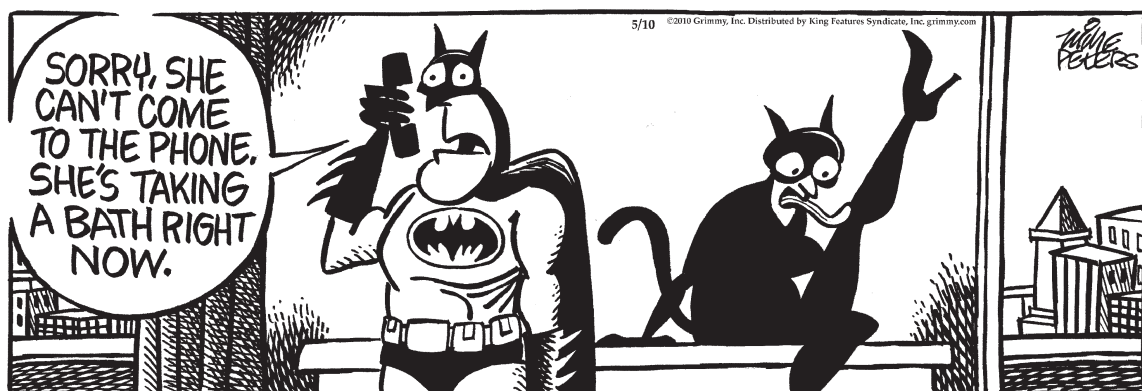
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



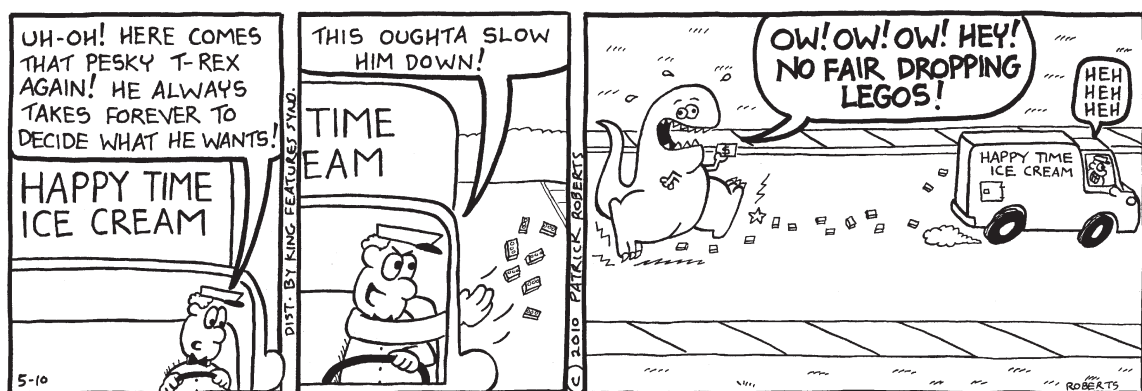
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Learn to deflect awkward queries

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a co-worker who asks inappropriate and rude questions at work, and I never know how to respond. I don't want to talk about my personal business with this woman, whom I barely know, much less trust. She frames every question as if I've failed - whether asking about my relationship status, haircut or new sweater. I want to take the high road, so how can I respond without being completely nasty? - K.Y.

Dear K.Y.: The best way to deal with a question you don't want to answer, no matter who it comes from or how it is framed, is to deflect it as much as possible. These can come from people being nosy or simply asking things that are inappropriate for a work setting. You want to answer without giving an actual answer, and focus on something positive while you're at it. By being pleasant but vague, you can send the message you're not interested in talking about that topic.

There are plenty of topics you can feel justified keeping quiet on in a work environment. If this co-worker continues to press for information, you can further deflect her by invoking your sense of professionalism. You also can turn the conversation to her - it's possible she's only looking for an opening. This might take the pressure off of you, and you'll be able to get a better read on this co-worker's motivation for questioning you. While some don't mind sharing their personal problems with anyone who cares to listen, it is your own prerogative.

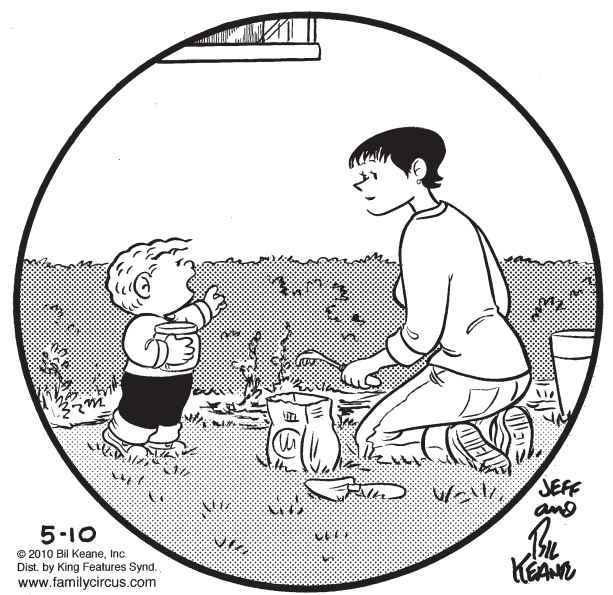
Dear Dr. Brothers: My grandson just started medical school, and I am proud of him. But I've been watching some of the TV shows about doctors, like "Grey's Anatomy," and they worry me. I hope medical school, and the profession, is not as disrespectful and unethical as it is portrayed. Is there any reality to these shows? Do doctors really act so disreputably behind the scenes? - D.D.

Dear D.D.: You can put your mind at ease, because these medical dramas are just that: dramas. They are produced for entertainment, and not to accurately represent the medical profession. They are particularly lax in portraying appropriate and realistic relationships between doctors and patients, and the ethical dilemmas that come up. A recent study published in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* analyzes how inaccurate these shows can be by looking at one season each for the shows *Grey's Anatomy* and *House*. For instance, they found 22 depictions of "ethically questionable procedures" that departed from standard practice, and in 18 of these, the doctor was not penalized. This is a gross departure from reality, where standard-practice procedures are followed, and if not, the doctor in question is penalized.

As your grandson progresses, he will cringe at how these shows glamorize and misrepresent his profession. But feel free to ask his opinion on these shows - you're sure to get a more accurate picture from a real doctor than from an actor.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Have you seen my bug, Mommy? It's this big, it's black and it has wings."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Cryptoquip

NJMUPFJ KTUK ZJLSILJC
LVGUZ CJGVZFKXUKJF BXJUK
CJZKUS TIBRJZZ, R'C MUSS
TJX U NXPFRZB NXRCJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN AN ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE ART THIEVES' CRIMES, INVESTIGATORS ARE PLANNING TO CANVAS THE AREA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 9 3 2
♥ A Q 4
♦ K 8 3 2
♣ A

WEST
♠ J 7 5
♥ Q 10 9 5 4
♦ Q 10 9 6 5
♣ 8

EAST
♠ 5 4
♥ K 10 9 8 6
♦ 7
♣ K J 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 8 7 6
♥ 3 2
♦ A J 6
♣ 8 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ 2NT 4♥ 5♣
5♦ Pass 5♥ Pass
5♠ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead - ten of clubs.

Famous Hand

In this deal from the 1987 European team championship, declarer took full advantage of the opposing bidding and a subtle slip by a defender to bring home a seemingly unmakeable slam. The deal occurred in the match between Germany and Turkey, and both North-South pairs succeeded in reaching the reasonable slam in spades.

When the Turks held the North-South cards, there was no opposing bidding. Faced with a blind lead, West hit on a diamond, and that was that. Declarer lost only a heart and so scored 980 points.

At the other table, with a German pair seated North-South, the bidding went as shown. West's two-notrump overall was "unusual," showing length in both minors. It elicited a five-club bid from his partner sandwiched between cuebids by North and South. This steered West to the safe club lead, and it now appeared declarer would have to lose a heart and a diamond for down one.

South, Uli Wenning, did not fancy his chances. West was certain to have the queen of diamonds, and East was a strong favorite to hold the king of hearts. But Wenning saw a glimmer of hope and proceeded accordingly.

After taking the club ace, he led a spade to the ace, ruffed a club, led another trump to the king and cashed the ace of diamonds. He then played a heart toward dummy.

Without giving the matter much thought, West followed with the five, and this gave Wenning the opening he needed. Instead of playing the queen, he called for the four, and an unhappy East suddenly found himself saddled with the lead!

Since East had no more diamonds or trumps, he either had to return a heart into the A-Q or yield a ruff-and-discard by leading a club. Either way, declarer's diamond loser was certain to disappear, allowing the Germans to salvage a tie on the deal.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Walking tempo
5 Paid athlete
8 Cavort
12 "Gracias"
14 Always
15 Round Table knight
16 Cabbie's payment
17 Census statistic
18 Barnum's partner
20 Accumulate
23 Calf's papa
24 Barn-roof accessory
25 Meddler who ruins a plan
28 Id counter-part
29 Human trunk
30 Steal from
32 Rorschach design
34 Hardy cabbage

DOWN
1 Old TV ministry letters
19 Dog food brand
21 Creche trio
22 Soon, in poetry
23 Low-ranking nobleman
25 Black-strap, for example
26 By word of mouth
27 Turnpike drink,
29 Recipe meas.
31 Ottoman title
33 Chopping spree?
34 Pure gold = 24
36 Heavy reading?
37 Rose holder
38 Sumptuousness
39 One
40 Datum
43 Sch. grp.
44 Shelter
45 Raw rock
46 Catch some rays

Solution time: 27 mins.

Saturday's answer 5-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
			17				18	19		
20		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		