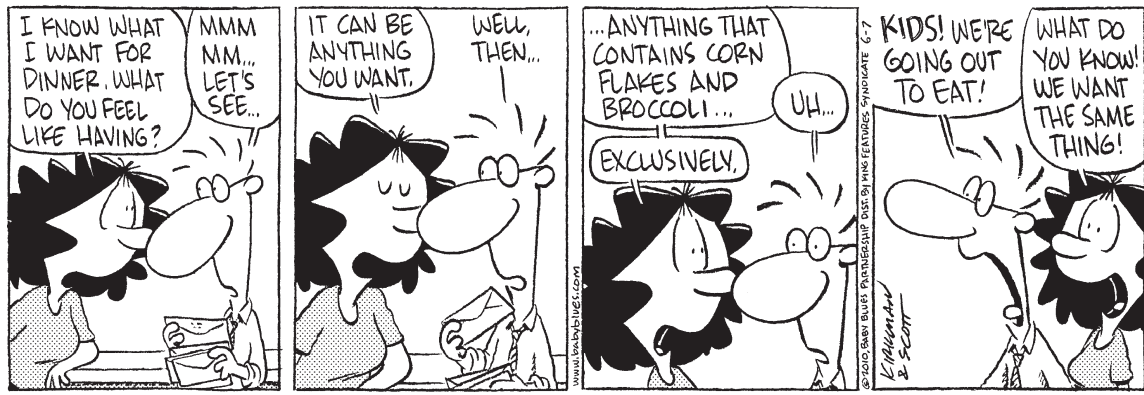
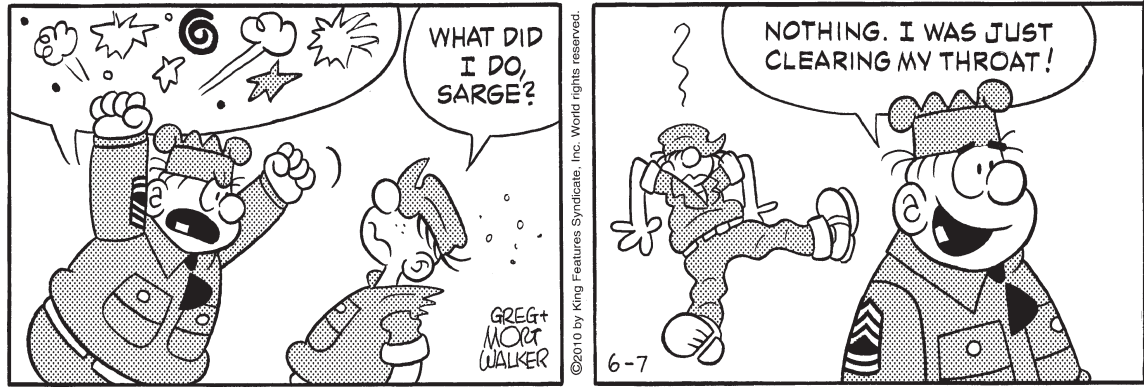


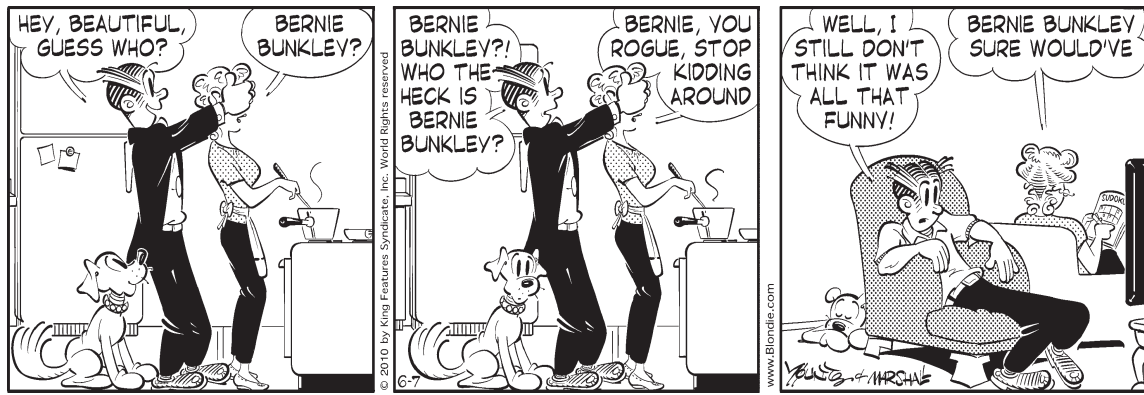
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



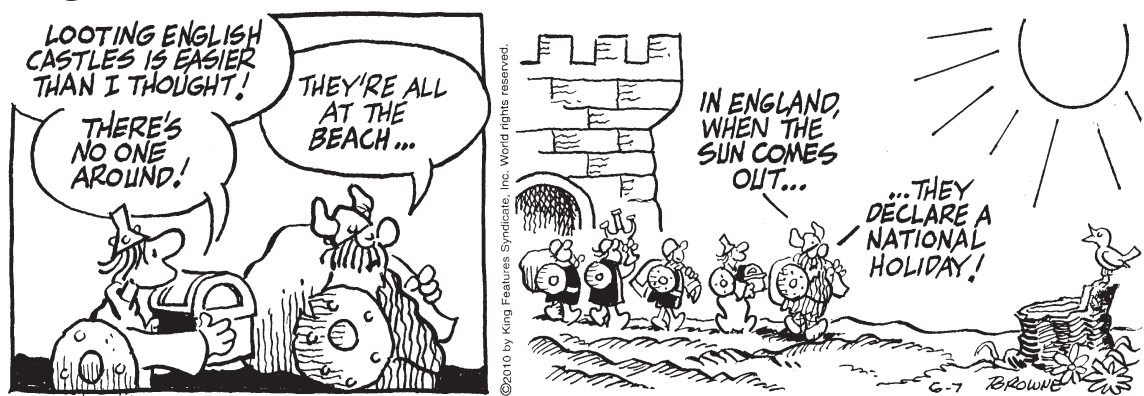
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



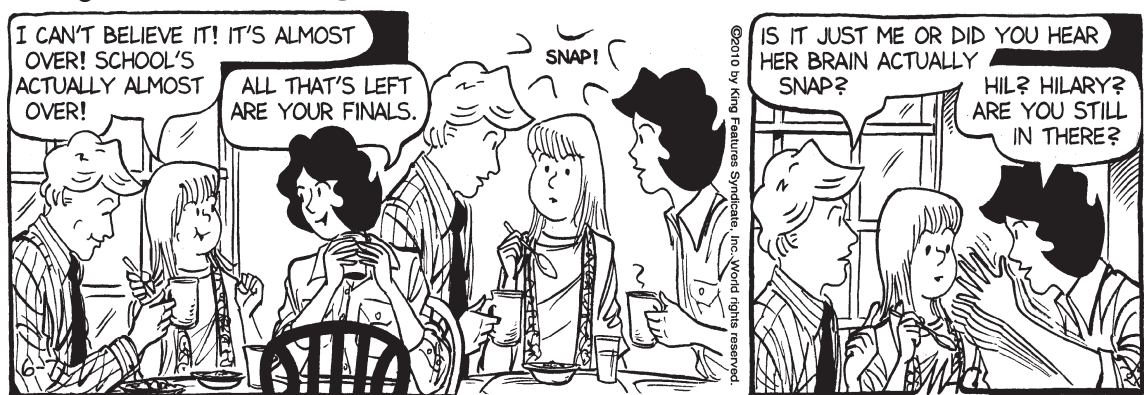
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



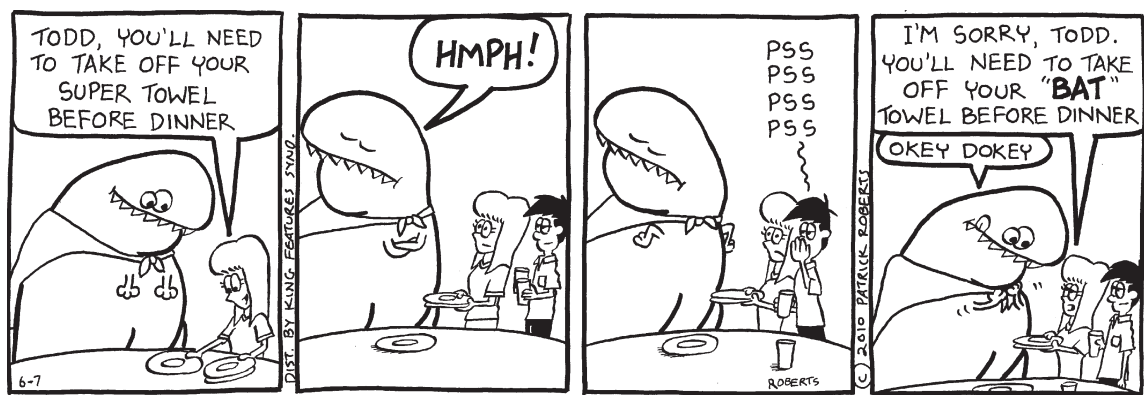
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



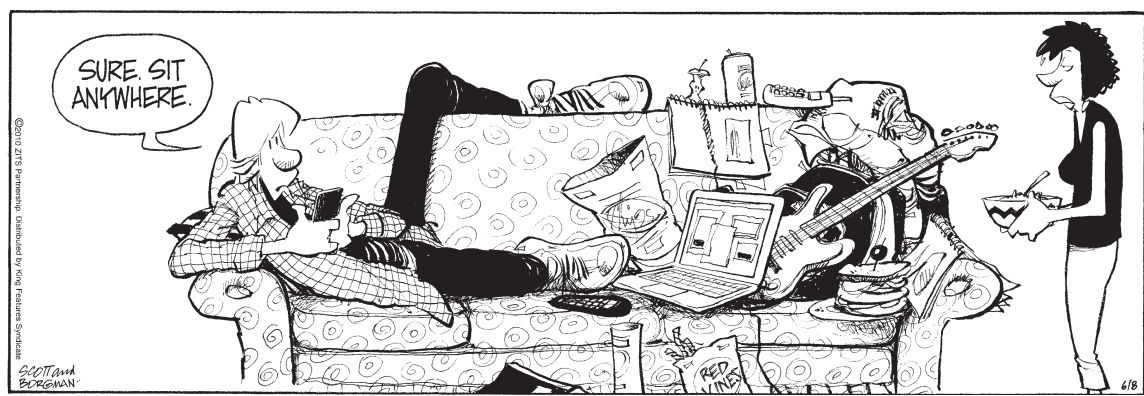
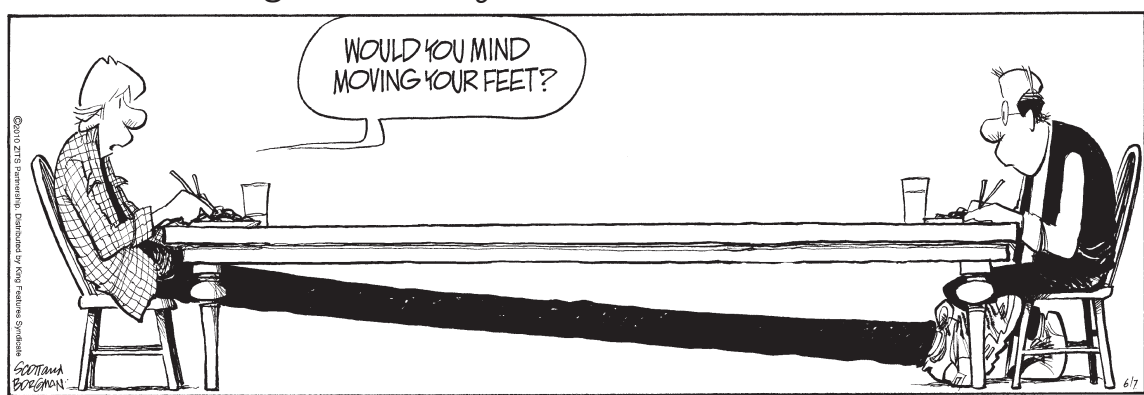
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Simple life isn't so simple**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** The recession has opened my eyes. There is too much materialism, and my family has been as guilty as anyone. In an attempt to live more simply, I've been trying to get rid of things and not buy more. However, my spouse and kids don't get it. Either they argue about why they need what I am trying to donate, or they buy more to replace it. How do I get through? - C.G.

**Dear C.G.:** First of all, congratulations on your new lifestyle choice. I hope you get your family on board soon, because without cooperation, it will be difficult to truly live a simpler life. Little is more difficult than wrestling a toy from the feverish grip of a little kid - no matter what age! The loudest word a toddler learns to shout is "Mine!" So you have a daunting chore ahead. But I don't think you should give up. There are two issues: getting the family to help others by being generous, and getting them to reject an overly material lifestyle.

Work on these one at a time. See what opportunities there are for helping others - the school probably sponsors some. So point your kids in that direction. Living more simply may be a hard change. Let each family member cut back in his or her own way. Don't pick out stuff to part with, or forbid them from getting new things. Begin to instill the values of simple living, not to focus on enforcing the rules. It may take a while, but if you lead by example, you'll succeed eventually.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I work in a small office with seven other employees. One of them is driving the rest of us nuts. I am glad we have each other to talk to, but we don't know what to do. This secretary is so sensitive to anything you say to her you have to constantly walk on eggshells. We have told her to lighten up, but she becomes defensive and teary. What are we to do? We are not psychologists. - K.B.

**Dear K.B.:** Wow, if there is one thing people hate, it's having to walk on eggshells around an individual who is too sensitive and delicate to handle the rough-and-tumble real world. Add in the element of all this drama in the workplace, and you have a real headache. So I do feel for you and your colleagues. But rather than demonize the woman making your lives miserable, look at it from her point of view. You have told her to lighten up. That's like telling someone on a food binge not to eat so much. She probably knows she is overly sensitive, but the more you criticize her, the more sensitive she's going to become!

The first step is to stop trying to get her to change. The second step would be to stop walking on eggshells and start treating her like everyone else. She needs to feel that she is the same as everyone else in order to react the same. The more normally she's treated, the easier it will be for her to fall into the behavior patterns she perceives as normal. So you guys have to set the example by being calm and drama-free. Being a good role model is a good way to teach what you want to get across. You might even volunteer to be her friend. Think about it.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 3 2  
 ♥ K O  
 ♦ A K 3  
 ♣ A K 10 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ 7 4  
 ♥ 8 5 3  
 ♦ Q J 10 8 6  
 ♣ J 9 8

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10 9 6  
 ♥ J 10 9 7  
 ♦ 5 2  
 ♣ 6 3 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K 8 5  
 ♥ A 6 4 2  
 ♦ 9 7 4  
 ♣ Q 7 4

The bidding:  
 South Pass West 2♦ North East  
 2 NT Pass 3♦ Pass  
 3♦ Pass 3♣ Pass  
 4 NT Pass 5♣ Pass  
 5 NT Pass 6 NT  
 Opening lead - queen of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

A good declarer does all he can to find out everything about the opposing distribution before making a critical play. Sometimes, though, he might have reason to wish that he had plunged blindly ahead instead of trying to improve on his chances.

Consider this deal from the 1989 U.S.-Brazil world championship final. When Chip Martel and Lew Stansby of the United States held the North-South cards, they reached six notrump following a series of artificial exploratory bids.

Stansby won the diamond lead with the ace and could count 11 top tricks. A favorable division in either spades or clubs would yield a 12th. However, Stansby saw a way to give himself an extra chance.

So he cashed the K-Q of hearts and A-K-Q of spades, West parting with a diamond on the third spade. Next came the A-Q of clubs, the heart ace and a diamond to the king. West following with the eight.

At this point, Stansby placed West with the missing J-10 of diamonds for his opening lead, marking East with a doubleton originally. East was also known to hold the jack of spades among his three remaining cards. The question was whether East's other two cards were both clubs or whether East had a club and a heart.

In the former case, the winning play was to lead dummy's last spade, forcing East to win and return a club from the jack into dummy's K-10. In the latter case, declarer had to cash the club king.

Unfortunately, Stansby opted for the endplay. East won the spade and cashed his good heart to sink the slam. At the other table, the Brazilian declarer cashed the three top clubs at the outset. When the jack fell, the slam was home.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 6/07

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

**Cryptoquip**

ZGZS QWIZ W YGDWLZL  
 QEYKKWIJ WBD BMYB  
 WIREBYVEZ VDYB, TZDTEZ MYGZ  
 HYEEZL KZ Y SYRB LDLJZS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WIN IN A SIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CONTEST, I GUESS YOU'VE DEFEATED EVERYONE HANDILY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Slightly open
- Spinning meas.
- Small songbird
- Mournfully, in music
- Continental coin
- Airship
- Actress Hathaway
- Mortarboard dangle
- Earning a bronze medal
- Horse's neck hair
- Bankrolls
- Wool grease
- Praise, in verse
- Sacred Muslim text
- Corn on the —
- Olympics spear
- Libertine
- Eye amorously

**DOWN**

- 36 Tubular pasta
- 37 "Give a hoot, don't pollute" owl
- 40 A billion years
- 41 Beefcake type
- 42 Kate of reality TV
- 47 On the briny
- 48 Entry on a sports schedule
- 49 Disarray
- 50 Wildebeest
- 51 World's fair
- 1 Wood-shaping tool
- 2 Namath or DiMaggio
- 3 Matter-horn, e.g.
- 4 "Three's Company" couple
- 5 Rock partner
- 6 Letter before omega
- 7 Butte dweller
- 8 "Pop Goes the —"
- 9 Baseball scores
- 10 Sea eagle
- 11 Playwright Coward
- 13 Clarinetist's sliver
- 19 In due time
- 20 Pair of Pilgrim-age to Mecca
- 22 Concept
- 23 "Everybody Loves Raymond" mom
- 25 Dawdle
- 26 PC picture
- 27 Frat party speech
- 29 Frat party necessities
- 31 Spelling contest
- 33 Bar orders
- 34 Fail to follow suit
- 36 Flower!
- 37 "Pop!"
- 38 Northamptonshire river
- 39 Individuals
- 40 Birthright barterer
- 43 Possess
- 44 Remiss
- 45 Mischievous tyke
- 46 Ultra-modernist

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

**Saturday's answer 6-7**