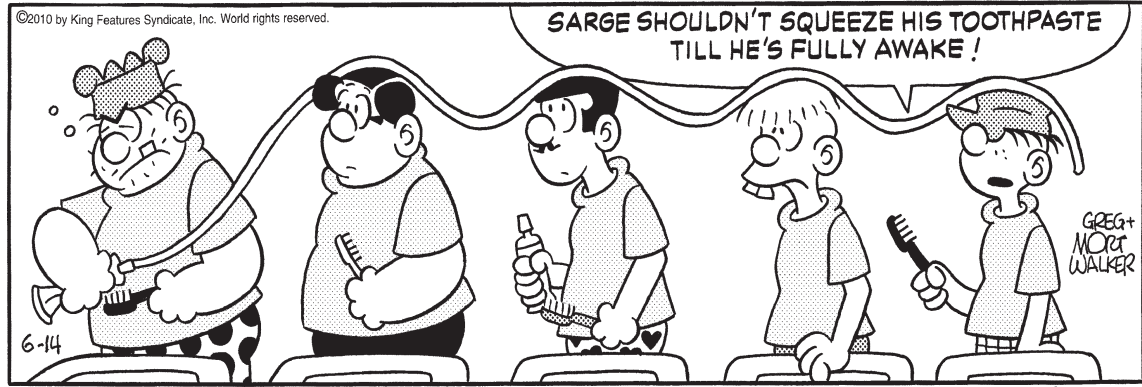


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



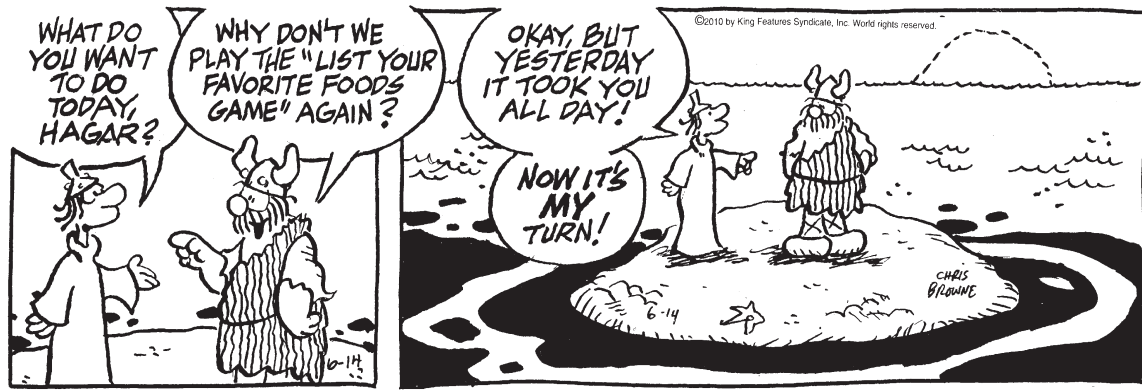
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



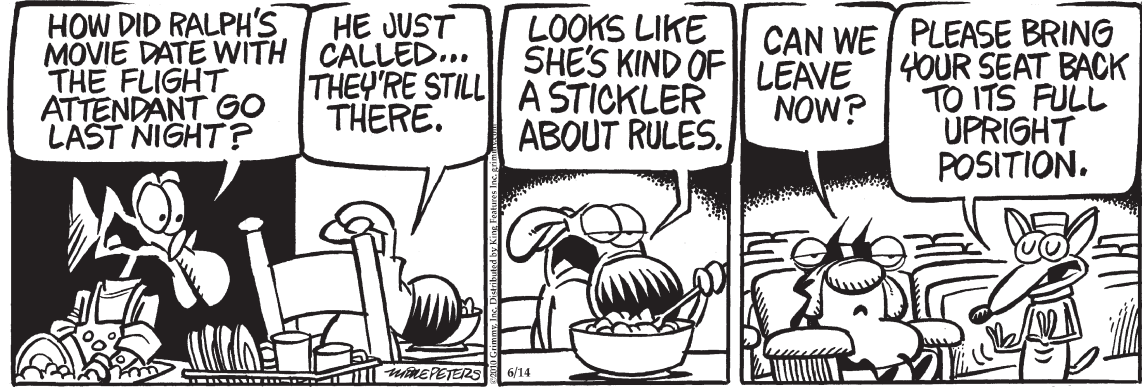
Blondie • Chic Young



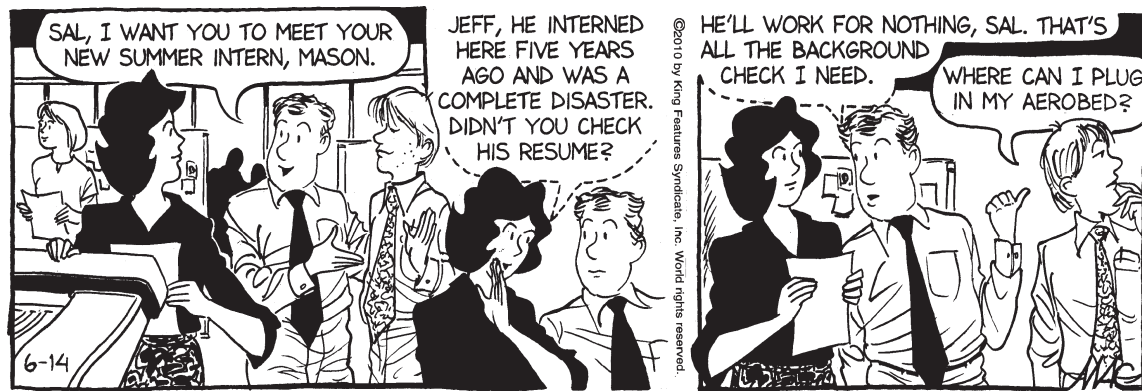
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



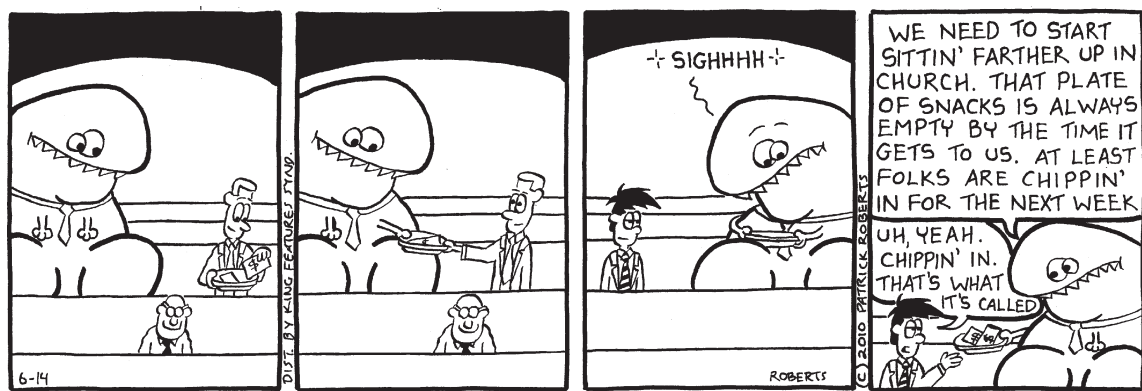
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



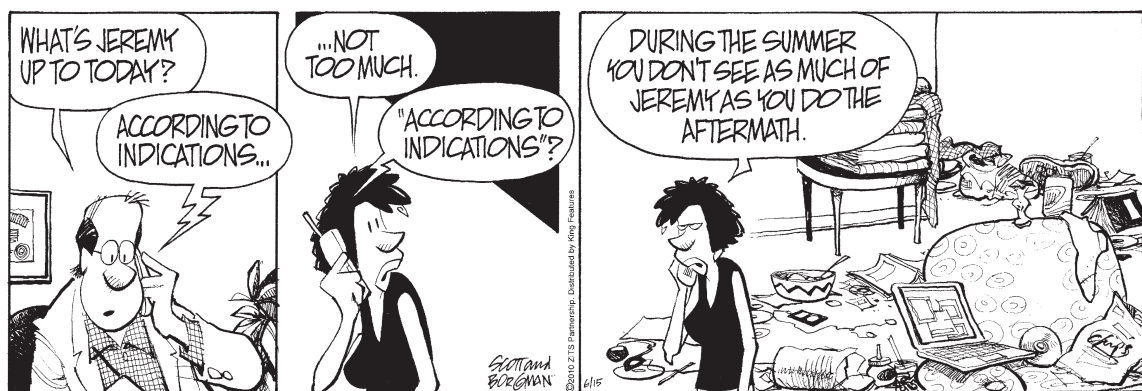
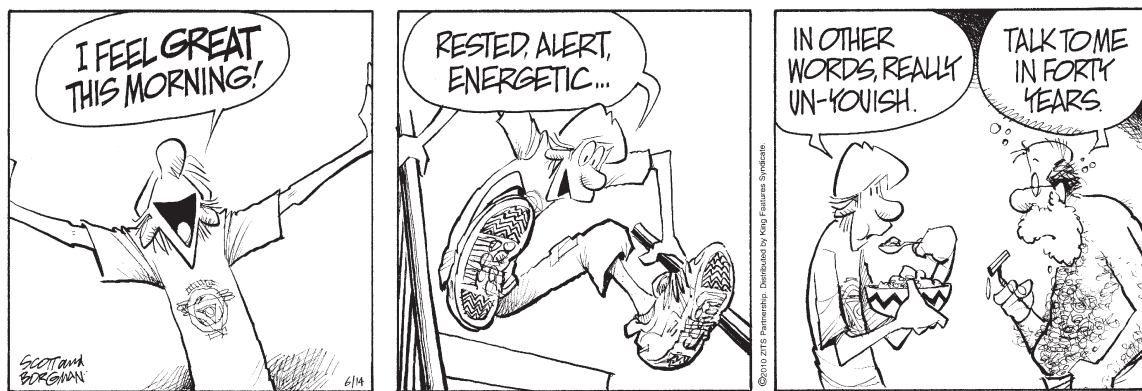
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Dad refuses to accept illness

Dear Dr. Brothers: This is the roughest time I've ever had. My mom - who was diagnosed with cancer six months ago - is fading fast. The doctors brought up the possibility of her entering a hospice, but my dad feels differently. He's convinced some miracle will happen and she will recover. I don't know how to - or even if I want to - convince him otherwise. I need help. - K.B.

Dear K.B.: This is such a sad time for your family, and I am sorry that the worry and stress has fallen upon you. It often happens that the person who is dying knows, and comes to terms with his or her condition while the family is left dealing with the agonizing wait until the inevitable happens. We haven't learned how to anticipate and deal with death in our society, which is sad, since we all will end up in the same place. Loss is always difficult for the survivors, and the period before a loved one succumbs can be excruciating. The idea of hospice is a sound one, and there should be people there trained in grief counseling who will be happy to talk to your father as well as care for your mother in her last days.

You also can be there for him by being as "together" as possible. But don't take this all on your shoulders and try to be strong all the time. It's natural for you to feel overwhelmed and want to run away. The hospice people can help you as well, so take advantage of that opportunity. These are people who have a great deal of compassion, combined with the practical knowledge of what to expect at the end of life and how to make the process comfortable and loving for all.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My situation is a strange one. My 77-year-old father lives with me, my wife and our two kids. It is what I thought was an ideal setup. My kids love having him around, and he loves telling them stories, taking them to the park and babysitting. I was shocked when Dad told me he wanted to move to a retirement community five miles away! I think he might have a crush on one of the residents there, but is too embarrassed to admit it. What can I do? - C.L.

Dear C.L.: It is loving of you to have taken your dad in. It used to be this was the way families operated - extended family has been the backbone of society and the way knowledge was passed from generation to generation. But today it's not as usual for families to stay together. It seems you would miss this. And while the situation has been great for your dad, it doesn't mean it will be forever, and he may be feeling that. It is great that he is looking forward and anticipating what his needs will be. I am sure he doesn't want to be a burden to you - and may want to head off the possibility of you and your wife and kids having to fulfill the role of nursemaid. A retirement community may provide him with other options.

Also, though babysitting may be a fun thing for you, maybe your dad would like to have new friends who are his peers. He could have many years of productive living ahead, and if he is thinking of his future in terms of more fun and a little less family, you shouldn't take it personally. Time for him to move on? Maybe!

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 4 3
♥ A 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ A 4 3

WEST
♠ Q 8 5
♥ K Q J
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ 10 7

EAST
♠ 9 7 6 2
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ 10 9 7 4
♣ 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ K Q J 9 8 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ 2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass 6 ♦
7 ♣

Opening lead - king of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This deal was played in New York in the 1956 Masters Team Championship. Harold Ogust, partnered with Boris Koytchou, opened one club. West doubled and North redoubled. When this rolled around to West, he bid one diamond, over which Koytchou said one heart.

Ogust decided to bid only two clubs at this juncture. His partner's heart bid hadn't improved his values one iota, and he was furthermore confident there would be much more bidding.

There was. West said two diamonds, and Koytchou then bid three diamonds, indicating a void in diamonds and implying club support. Ogust, having kept his hand under wraps up to this point, emerged with a jump to six clubs.

East, certain six clubs would be made, now took the highly unusual step of bidding six diamonds as a vulnerable sacrifice against nonvulnerable opponents. Unwilling to settle for what might be a small penalty when he thought he had a good chance to make a grand slam, Ogust ventured seven clubs.

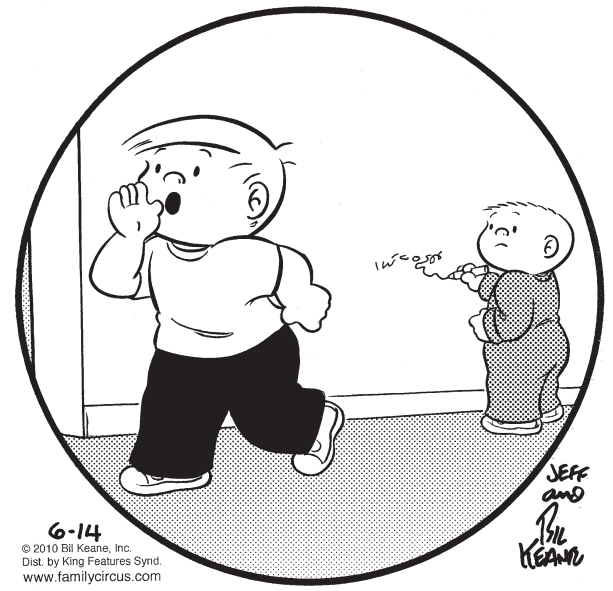
In fact, he had no trouble scoring 13 tricks. After West's opening diamond lead, Ogust ruffed three diamonds in dummy and discarded one on the ace of hearts. West's 18 high-card points thus proved to be totally worthless.

In our view, West made an ill-considered opening lead. He should have realized that both opponents were bidding largely on distribution and had undertaken a grand slam fully prepared for a diamond opening lead. It was virtually certain from the bidding that dummy would show up with no diamonds.

West should therefore have led a trump initially to try to reduce dummy's ruffing ability. Had he done that, he would have defeated the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



6-14

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"Mommy! PJ's startin' to create another disaster!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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

Cryptoquip

QGDJ ZWBDX "QGZV XM UDMUKD

WDD QPVG?" VGD WZPKMS

MJ XDNB SDZXPCK SDUKPDX

"DCD, DCD, NZUVZPJ!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEBODY SAYS "I'M THE ONE TO BLAME," WOULD YOU REFER TO THAT STATEMENT AS A FAULT LINE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Type measures
4 Incur-sions
9 Pirates' beverage
12 Siesta
13 "Silas Marner" author
14 Freudian concept
15 Motion sickness aid
17 Right angle
18 Greek mountain
19 "The Honey-mooners" role
21 Turn blue?
24 - good example
25 Dined on
26 Knock
28 Rounds before the finals
31 Memo
33 U.S. spy org.
35 Muck's partner
36 Dot
38 Ostrich's cousin

40 "Smoking or -?"
41 Greek consonants
43 Start a para-graph
45 Nearly "Dallas" sch.
47 Hawaiian souvenir
49 Allergy-medicine target
54 Skillet
55 2000 news-maker
56 Not in Gonzalez
57 Praiseful verse
58 Tears in two

59 Leno's network
60 Couple, in a gossip column
DOWN
1 Conclusion
2 Scratch
3 Resort
4 Library patron
5 Annually updated publication
6 Three, on a sundial
7 Do's and -
8 Cubic meters
9 Double-check
10 Wrinkly fruit
11 Double agent
16 Central
20 In a 1997 Spielberg movie
21 Without (Fr.)
22 On
23 Fix
27 Slapstick missile
29 Press
30 Faxed
32 Reverber-ate
34 Mutinied ship in a 1997 Spielberg movie
37 Accept-able
39 Emascu-lates
42 Subway entrance
44 Doo-wop syllable
45 Dog food brand
46 Star's role
50 Sermon subject
51 Charged bit
52 Gist
53 And so on (Abbr.)

Solution time: 27 mins.

EMS ATE LUGED
GAL GAD OZONE
GNU HIGHFIVES
ANN AWAIT
RAGS ARE DAHL
OWN DRIVES
APPLE EMEND
CHIVES EVE
TINE ADO SUNG
ERICA NOR
NINE LIVES FBI
AROMA ONE ILL
BEGUN TEA TEL

Saturday's answer 6-14

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	
31			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		