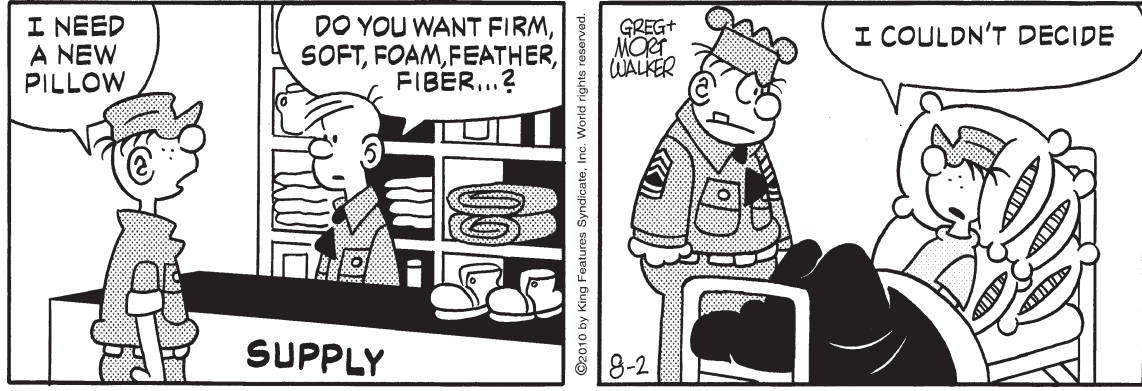


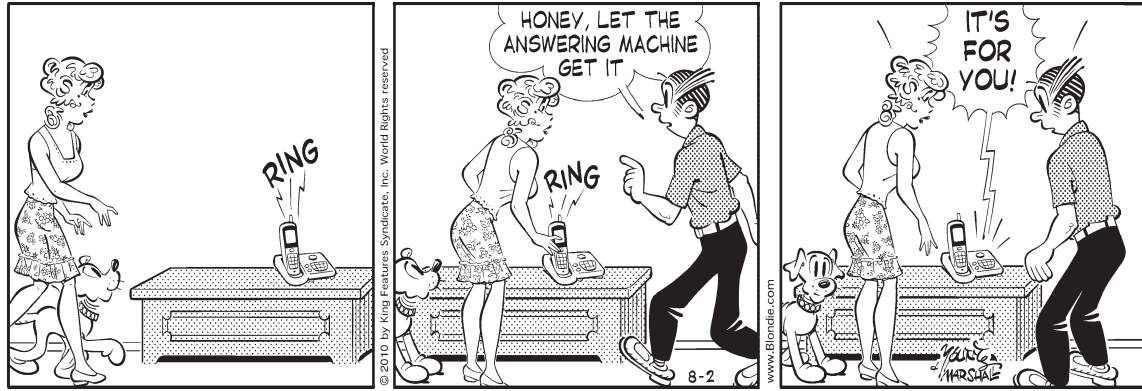
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



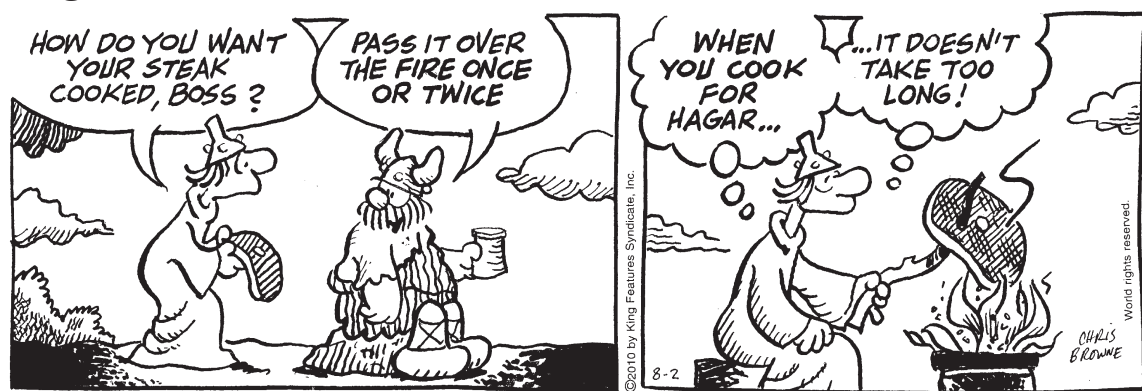
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



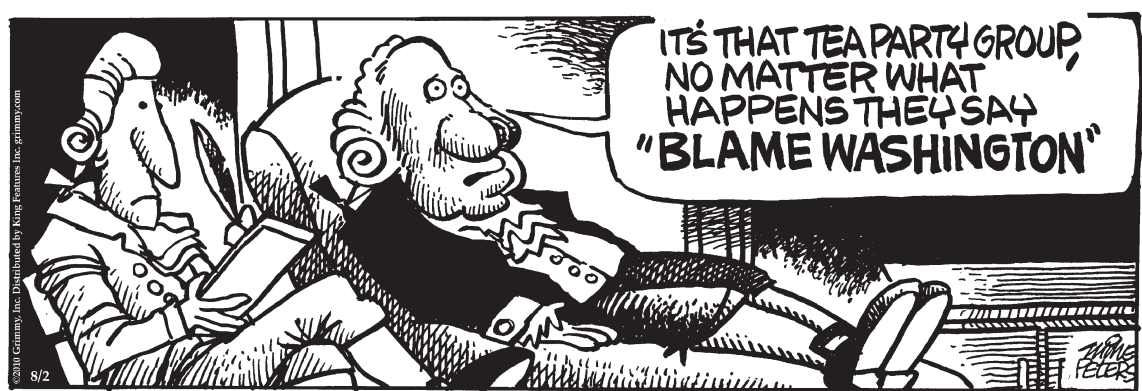
Blondie • Chic Young



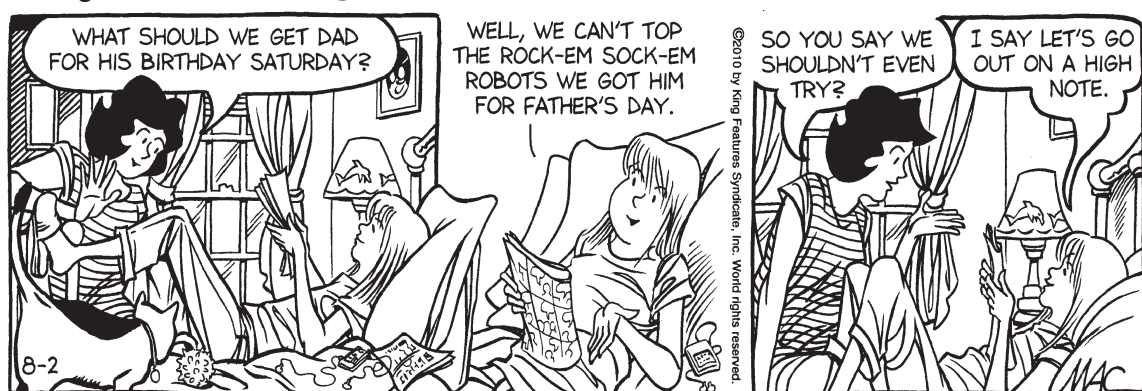
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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
'Sorry' seems her only word

Dear Dr. Brothers: If there's one thing I can't stand, it's hearing someone constantly apologize. I'd forgotten how much I hated it until I caught up with a friend from high school. Within two minutes, she apologized for something silly, and then continued to interject "I'm sorry" after almost every sentence. She did this when we were teens, and I thought she'd have grown out of it by now. What makes someone so sorry? — T.C.

Dear T.C.: That is an interesting question that probably has a number of answers. At the core might be the need for reassurance that the sorry person is likable. By constantly apologizing — for trivial things and things over which she has no control — she appears to be caring, considerate and fair. But beyond wanting to project these qualities, she may feel like a victim and wants to make sure no one is mad at her. If she is lucky, maybe some people will even forgive her, and will feel sorry for her on top of it!

Why someone would want to put herself in this position is somewhat of a mystery — it has to do with a low sense of self-worth or guilt, possibly for something she got away with. Or guilt from hurting someone. But she simply may be suffering from depression and/or anxiety, which can magnify feelings of guilt in the sufferer and perhaps drive him or her to saying he or she is sorry. If this is the case, your friend almost certainly could benefit from therapy and possibly medication. Want to ask her what's up?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I do it every time. I psych myself up for a new movie from my favorite director or a new CD from my favorite band, only to be disappointed. I've been like this since I was a kid, always setting myself up for the next big fall. This is by no means a life-threatening issue — I'm just wondering why I always have high expectations and if there is anything I can do about it. I'm sick of always being disappointed. — F.D.

Dear F.D.: High expectations are not a bad thing in themselves. In fact, we usually are told by teachers, parents, mentors and supervisors that we should set our goals, hopes and — yes — expectations very high. Then when we reach our goals, we can be proud. But if we find high expectations constantly short-circuited, something needs to be adjusted. As you have found, getting too excited about something sometimes yields disappointing results. It is good to be an optimist who thinks things always will turn out well, but let's face it — you could be learning from each episode in which things turn out for the worse.

What you may need to pick up on is the reality of lowered expectations. I am not saying to lower your standards, or to settle, or anything negative. What you need to do is simply realign your expectations with reality. Make sure what you hear people say is what they meant to convey. Ask others if they understand what you want before they disappoint you. With a better grasp of reality, you will be better able to set your expectations. And when they are disappointed, you can fine-tune what you are seeking. Good luck to you.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 10
♥ 8 6 2
♦ K 3
♣ A J 9 6 5

WEST
♠ Q 9 8 7 6 5
♥ K J 4
♦ 1 7
♣ 10 3

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

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A 7
♦ A Q 10 9 5 4 2
♣ K 4 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 NT
Pass 5 ♠ Pass 5 NT
Pass 6 ♠ Pass 7 ♦
7 ♠ (!) Pass Pass 7 NT
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This remarkable deal occurred in the 1976 world championship match between Brazil and the United States. The bidding that led the Brazilian North-South pair to seven notrump is highly esoteric; we merely record it as it actually happened.

South was Gabriel Chagas, brilliant young star of the Brazilian team, who found himself in seven notrump with only 12 sure tricks in sight. Had he chosen to rely on a club finesse for his 13th trick — by cashing the king and then leading a club to the jack — he would have gone down one.

But Chagas, mindful of West's seven-spade sacrifice bid, decided to rely on a squeeze instead. Accordingly, he cashed his seven diamond tricks and the ace of spades, producing this position:

North
♠ K J
♥ 8
♦ A J

West
♠ Q 9
♥ K J
♦ 10

East
♥ Q 10
♣ Q 8 7

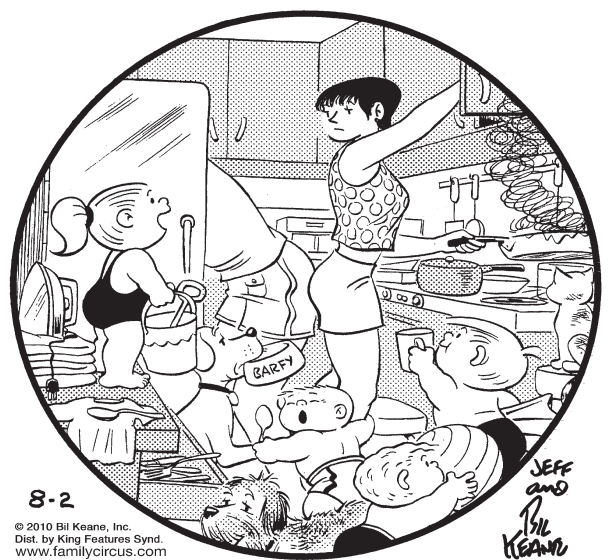
South
♥ A 7
♣ K 4 2

Chagas next played the king of clubs, followed by a club to the ace. West could not afford to part with a spade, so he discarded the jack of hearts.

Declarer then cashed dummy's king of spades, and East found himself similarly pinched. He could not afford to discard the queen of clubs, which would make South's four a trick, so East discarded the four of clubs and won the last two tricks with the A-7 of hearts to make the grand slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-2
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/02

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.

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

Cryptoquip

TO XOC TYFRO TSBJFGK IC
CYO MYIFBXIJFGK DIMCSBW.
F YIAO CS UIW FC TIU RSAO
IC DFBUC UOIC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE REALLY BELIEVE THAT POLICEMAN SHOULD'VE BECOME AN ARTIST. HE'S ALWAYS DRAWING HIS GUN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Reed instrument
5 Legislation
8 Parks of civil rights fame
12 Part of Dante's "Divine Comedy"
14 Grand story
15 Sea in the North Atlantic
16 Valley part
17 Mouth
18 Resides
20 Vaults
23 Wan
24 Raw minerals
25 Accomplish
28 Perch
29 Heron's cousin
30 A Gabor sister
32 Not intact
34 Profit
35 Blunders
36 Not flat, as terrain
- DOWN**
37 Oat cereal
40 Ford Explorer
41 Tolkien beasts
42 Strong blend
47 Hawaiian island
48 Skilled musician
49 Feed the hogs
50 TV Tarzan Ron
51 Dance move
1 Chances, for short
- 2 Sheepish remark?
3 Bobby of hockey
4 "Hotel California" band
5 Speech impediment
7 Idiomatic site of discipline
8 Late night flight
9 October birthstone
10 Ledge
11 High cards
13 Lectern locale
19 Tiny amount
20 "Help!"
21 Saharan cheese
22 Greek cheese
23 Fame measures
25 Distress
26 Scallopini meat
27 Super-bad?
29 Noble title
31 What-ever number
33 Dis-arrange
34 "— this day our daily bread"
36 Injure
37 Cattle calls?
38 Caspian Sea feeder
39 Reverberate
40 Agile
43 Part of R.S.V.P.
44 Drunkard
45 Away from
46 "Alley —"

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	T	A	C	A	S	H	I	N	O	N
E	A	U	A	R	E	A	N	O	G	O
A	U	G	U	R	I	E	S	A	R	I
M	R	E	D	E	T	H	E	R		
E	L	E	G	Y	O	G	L	E		
G	O	N	E	T	R	E	S	P	A	S
A	P	T	C	R	A	N	E	U	T	E
D	E	S	O	L	A	T	E	A	G	E
S	P	R	I	G	A	I	D	S		
O	L	I	O	A	U	G	R	A	T	I
M	E	N	U	T	R	E	E	U	K	E
A	D	S	E	N	D	S	E	W		

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		