

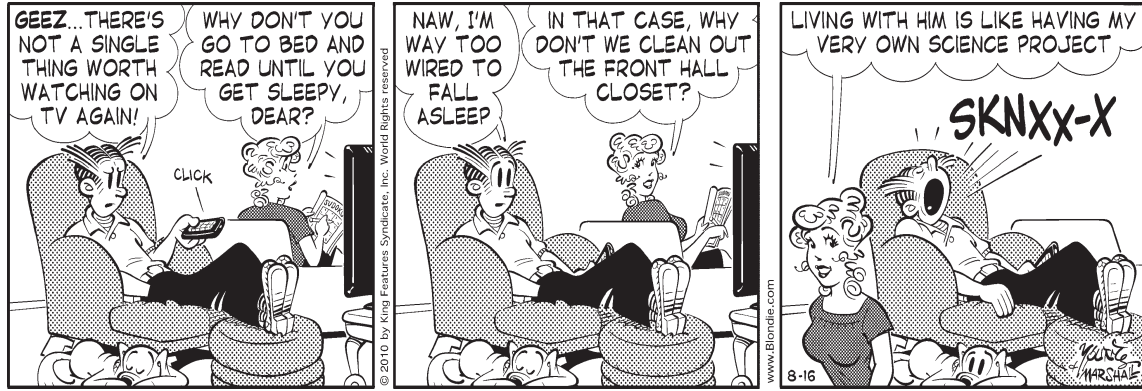
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



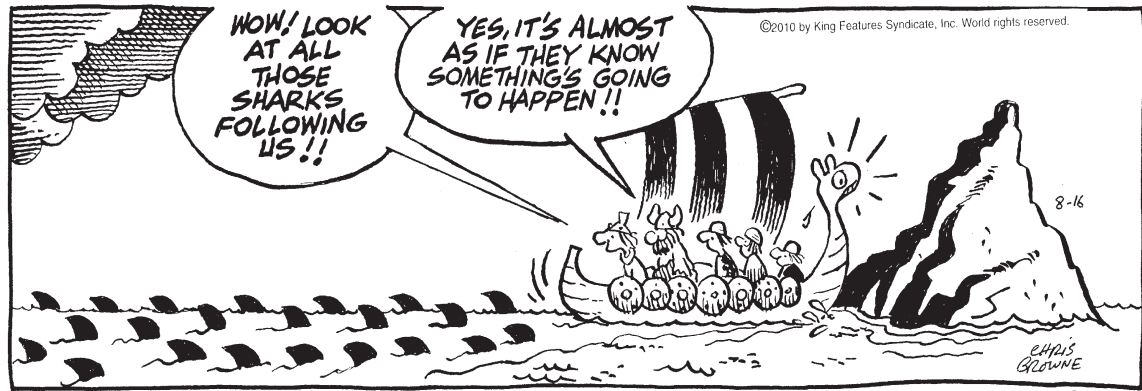
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



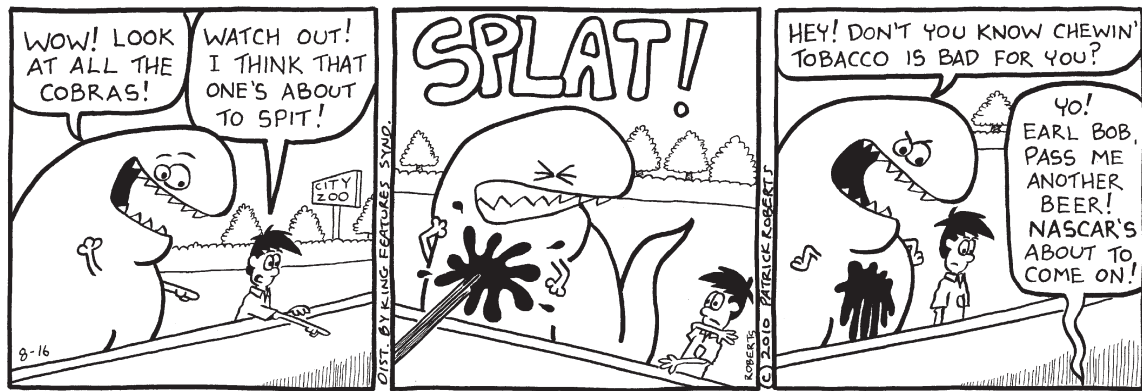
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



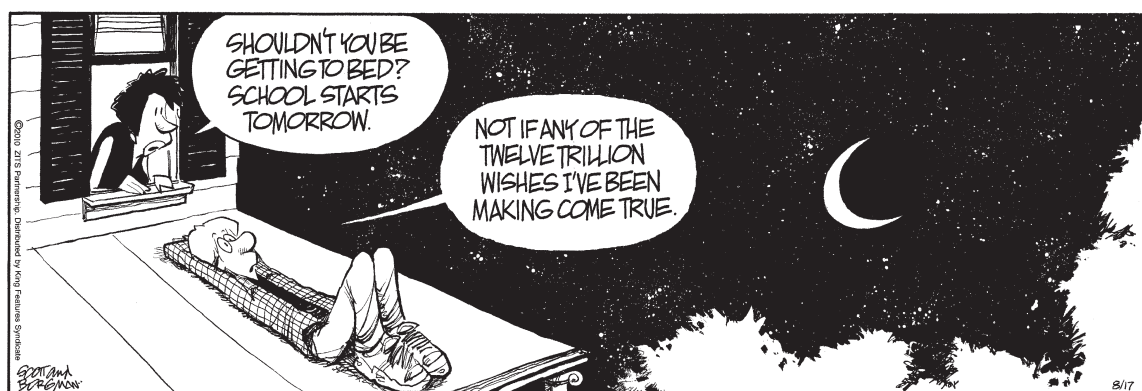
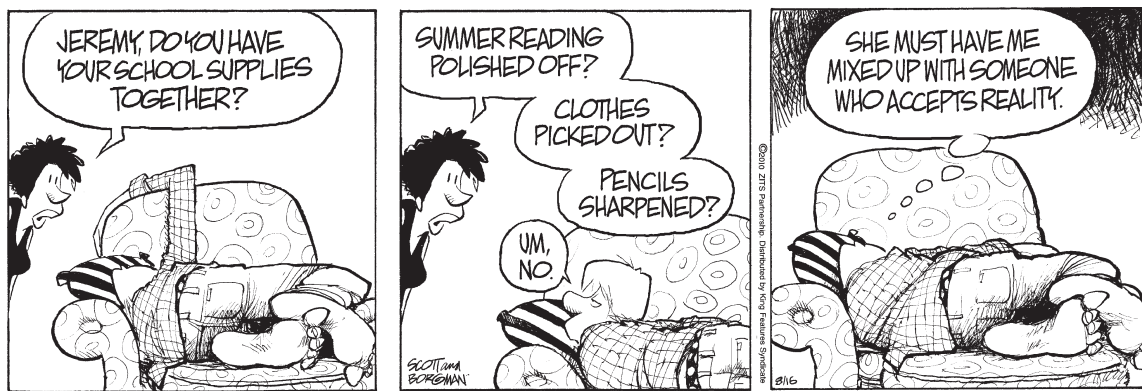
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Corporate closet holds quandary**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I've been fortunate enough to have a successful career in the corporate world. I've been promoted to vice president, and there is a huge gala being thrown in my honor. My problem is this: No one at my job knows I'm homosexual. They will be bringing their wives, and I would love for my partner of 15 years to go, too—but I don't want to risk my career or make this my coming-out party, either. Help, please?—G.K.

**Dear G.K.:** It is interesting you have gone this long without revealing your secret, and I wonder if revealing it at the gala would make a nice beginning for your newly enhanced career. You have weathered many a company party in the past 15 years, and gone to many events where spouses or dates were invited. Are you the only gay man in the boardroom? Do you have a good handle on the corporate culture? Is it acceptable to be open about homosexuality? There still is discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace and it is good to know if there would be any threat to your position or career path.

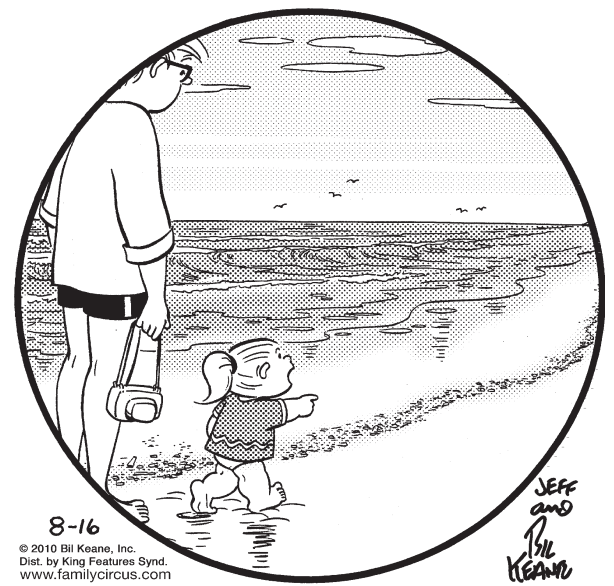
That said, I can see you have indulged in wishful thinking. If only you could invite your partner and be open. You can do that, but you need to be aware of the possible consequences—socially and career-wise. Possibly the revelation of your secret would result in a big ho-hum, or warm wishes. There's no way to know without trying. But your colleagues might not be so surprised. Chances are, you have let slip a number of clues.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I don't want to sound like a whiner, but I can't stand the lack of support from my parents. I'm a 20-year-old college junior who, with friends, has developed a program for the Internet that can earn big bucks. This isn't me tooting my own horn—our professors are blown away. The problem is, my parents think the Internet is a toy and I'm wasting time! Arrgh!—F.W.

**Dear F.W.:** It does seem strange that being on the cutting edge of software development should earn you such disrespect from your parents. I suppose they won't come around until you have graduated and gotten a great job offer or an investment that will make your dream a reality. In any case, the more you can do to stay on track and stay positive by being around people who believe in you, the better things will go.

Don't be too hard on your parents—although most people with college-age children are at least able to receive e-mails asking for money, some are clueless when it comes to the Internet revolution. Technology is moving at a dizzying pace, and perhaps someday you can explain it to them and show them what your program does. Let them know it hurts when they don't believe in you—maybe they'll take a class. In any case, don't give up on your dream. Just be as patient as you can, and hope things improve. Good luck!  
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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Somebody should clean the ring around this ocean."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/16

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

**Cryptoquip**

LOPF-ZBD MPFHP YPZCHDBFN  
AOPJBZWC I MPFSLDA APWWBFN  
Q Z C T D L L K J Z Q B F P C  
KLSPWA: CTP MZFBCI YZBD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THESE KIDS ARE EFFICIENT AT ICING BAKED GOODS, COULD YOU SAY THEY'RE FROSTER CHILDREN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Cheese partner  
4 Genesis woman  
7 Equipment of —  
11 Midwestern state  
13 A billion years  
14 Operatic solo  
15 — and Teller  
16 Youngster  
17 Change  
18 Will of "Men in Black"  
20 Nitwit  
22 Embrace  
24 "Pop Goes the —"  
28 Bar music-maker, often  
32 Former planet  
33 October birthstone  
34 Poorly lit  
36 Muscat's land  
37 Boarded  
39 "Scram!"  
41 Stuck-up

**DOWN**  
1 Beer ingredients  
2 Throat-clearing sound  
3 Short skirt  
4 "A mouse!"  
5 Null partner  
6 Provide an income for  
7 Inspected  
8 Historic time  
9 Atmosphere  
10 Comic Romano  
12 Watchful tool  
21 Energy square  
23 Delty

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

DOORS	AHA	TAM							
ONSET	NUN	OVA							
COMER	GENESIS								
	OLIVES	MEAT							
DIS	PAL	OPENS							
ARIA	LABEL								
HASSLE	IRONIC								
	SATYR	YETI							
CADET	EDS	MOD							
ADIT	MASQUE								
CHASSIS	UNSER								
TOR	ACT	ADIME							
ICY	GAS	BOSOM							

Saturday's answer 8-16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12				14		
15				16			17		
18				19		20	21		
			22		23		24		25
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52			53		54		55
56					57			58	
59					60				61