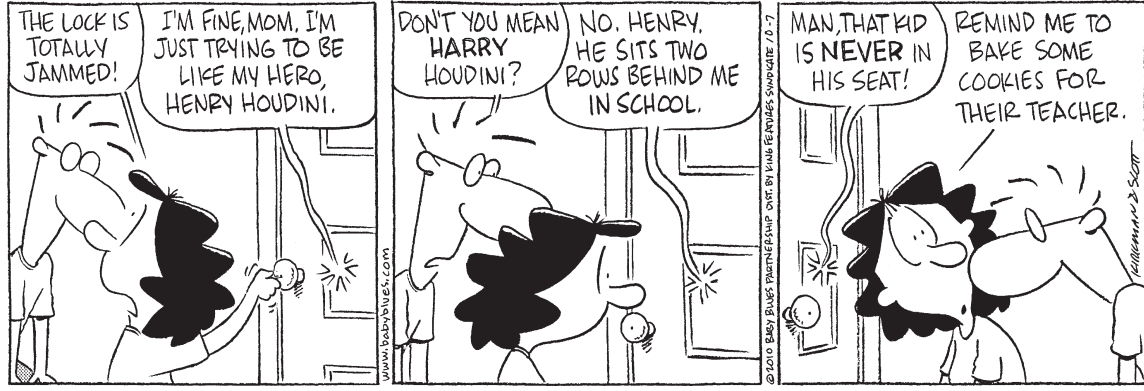
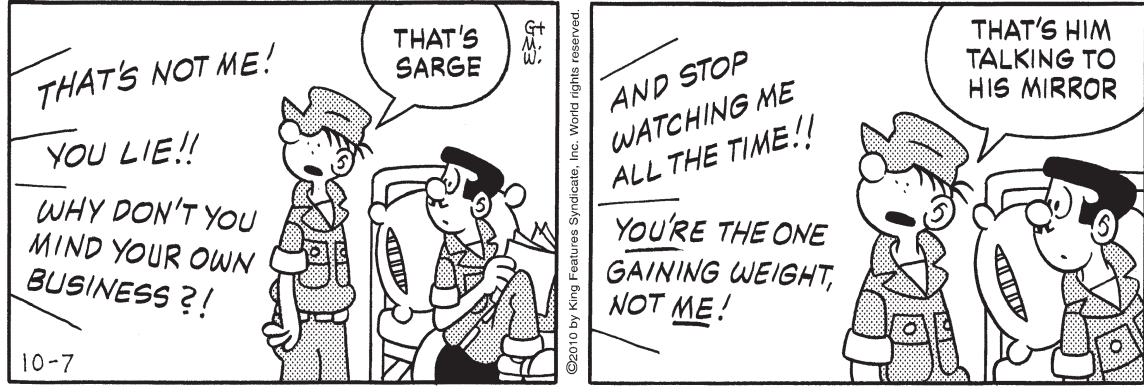


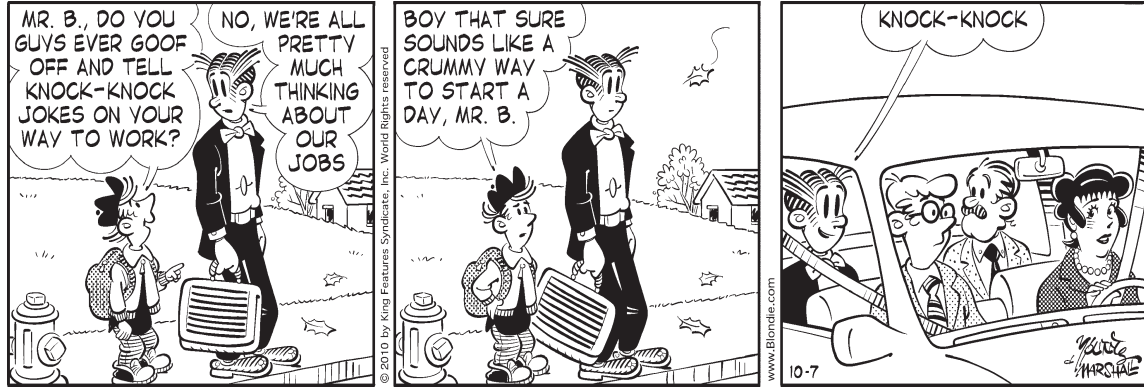
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



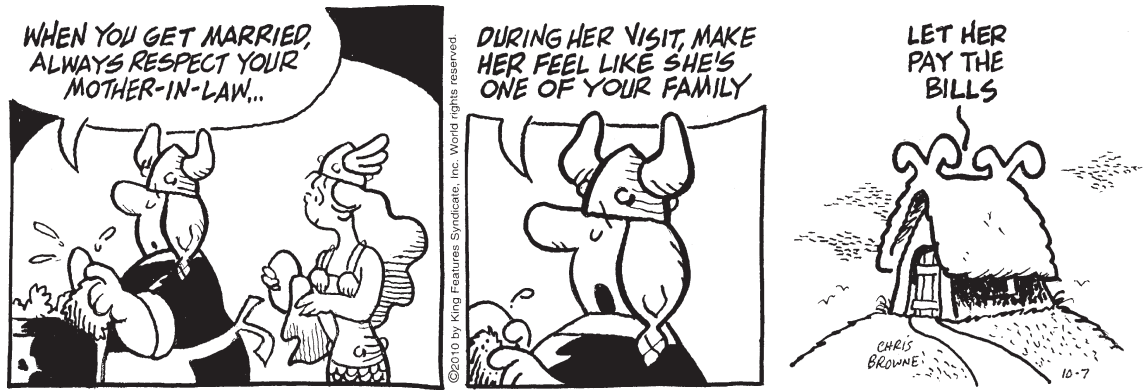
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



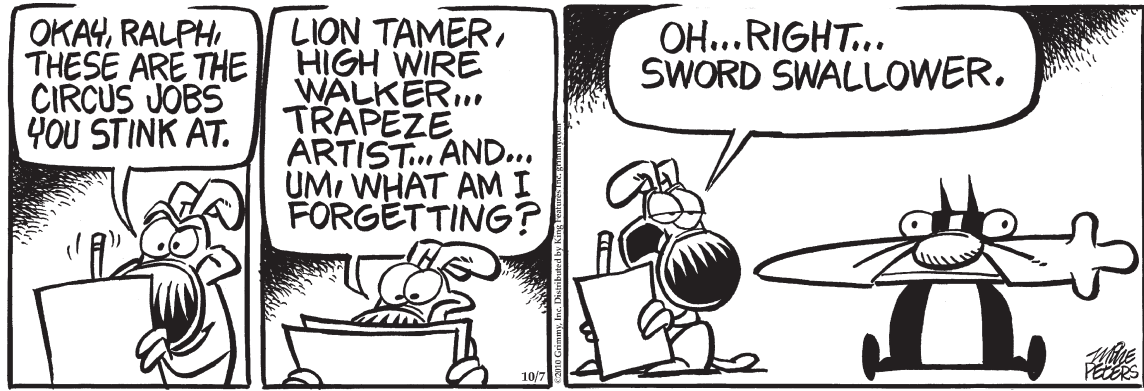
Blondie • Chic Young



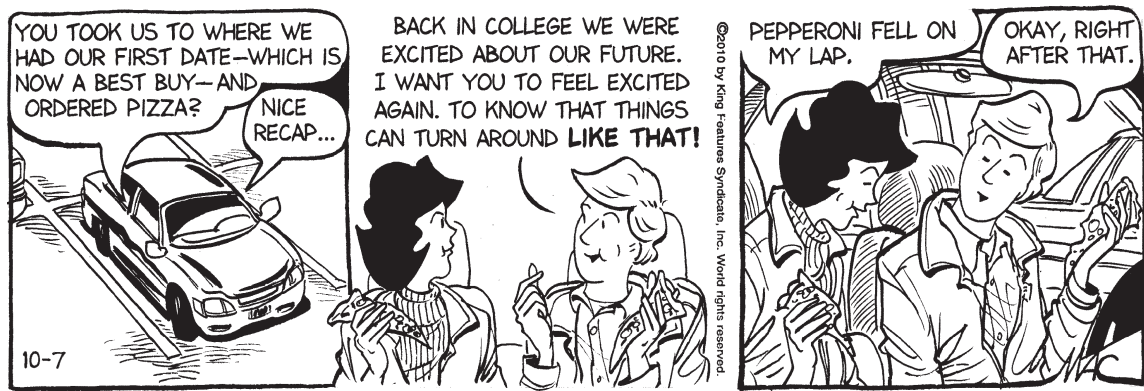
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



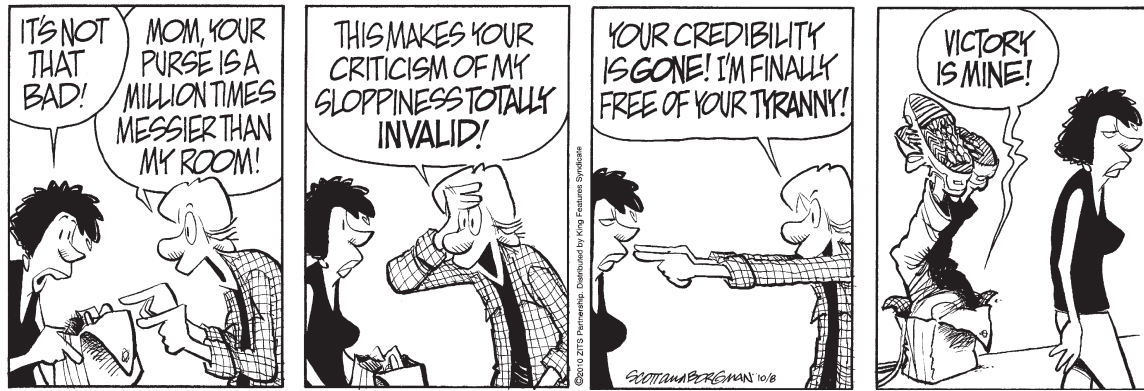
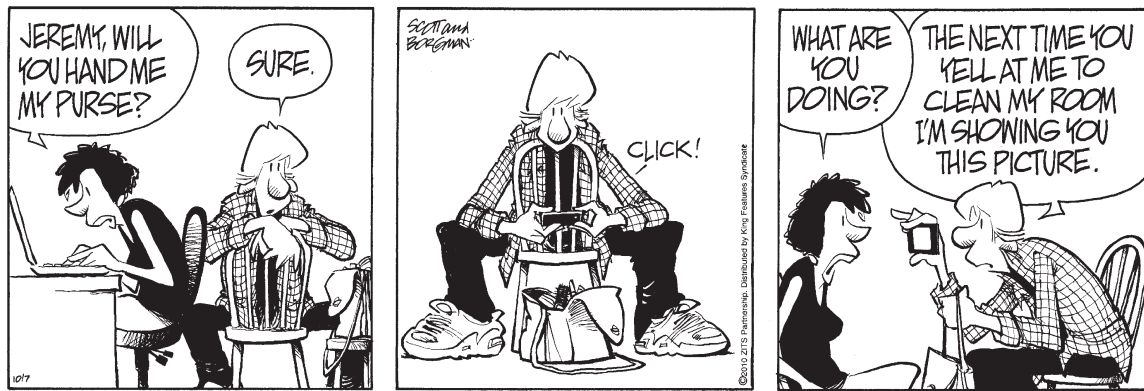
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Bare beach visit in summer plans

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our daughter will have the privilege of spending next summer in France. She's a senior in college, and has been selected to be part of a group that will study the architecture of Paris. She shocked both my wife and me by saying she intends to visit a nude beach there. In the age of Facebook and the Internet, we are worried pictures will show up on the Net. How can we stop her from making a big mistake? — M.C.

Dear M.C.: I understand you want to be protective of your daughter when she is traveling in a foreign country and representing her parents as well as her college and country while abroad — that's a lot of pressure, and it should make her think twice about doing anything that would embarrass herself, her school or you. I'm sure your concern is that she not get caught up in some terrible DVD being sold on a porn website. That is unlikely to happen, though, since she is going to France instead of the spring break-type coast of Florida or Texas seaside resort towns.

If you have never been to the South of France or to the Caribbean islands frequented by Europeans, you will find a different atmosphere on the beaches there than you may be used to at home. If there is any nude sunbathing to be had — and I have to say it is not so unusual there — just make sure you discuss with your daughter what kind of behavior is acceptable and what is not. Even though she is just doing a bit of R and R after working at a serious pace, you probably should have that conversation. The beaches she'll be visiting will have their own rules and policies, and they are more than willing to let your daughter participate as long as she obeys them. But she may lose her nerve completely!

Dear Dr. Brothers: My brother's always been a religious person. Since he was young, he's been very devout — serving as an altar boy and never missing mass. We thought he would grow up to be a priest or something, but he's fallen in with an extreme bunch after breaking with our church. He's living on a commune and shows no interest in the outside world or his family. It's freaking us out. Can we get him out of a cult? — T.V.

Dear T.V.: Although there are very few places you could take your brother if it were clear he was not making decisions for himself and was open to being rehabilitated after joining a cult, you have a lot of investigating to do first. If you keep the lines of communication open as much as possible, you have a good chance of not losing your brother to a dangerous lifestyle. Try to find out about the group he has joined, and whether local authorities consider the commune a problem or you are just worried that they might.

In any case, you see and talk to your brother, to make sure he is all right and still in his normal frame of mind. If you can't get through to him or he seems hostile or changed in a major way, you want to know this firsthand. It may be he is not in harm's way and is discovering his true calling. You don't want to jump to conclusions and alienate him further. But you have a right to be concerned about his welfare and ask him to keep in touch until you are convinced he is safe and in control of his own activities. Don't give up.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 4
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ K Q 10 6 2
 ♣ K 7

WEST
 ♠ K 10 6
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 9 8 3
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 3

EAST
 ♠ —
 ♥ J 10 8 6 3 2
 ♦ A J 5 4
 ♣ 5 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 9 7 5 3 2
 ♥ K 7 4
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A Q J

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
 3 ♣ Pass 4 NT Pass
 5 ♦ Pass 6 ♣
 Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Proper Technique

Bridge is hard to play flawlessly, as almost all of us would readily concede. However, the nature of the game is such that the great majority of mistakes go unpunished — and this is as it should be because most mistakes are minor and the good Lord is generally forgiving in such cases.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that a player must occasionally pay for even a minor mistake. That's exactly what happened in this deal where South failed to make a slam he should have made.

He won the club lead and played a low spade to the jack, winning the finesse. But he eventually went down one since he now had to lose a trump trick as well as a diamond.

South would have made the slam had he led the queen of spades instead of the deuce when he took the finesse at trick two. In the actual case, if West covers with the king, declarer wins with the ace and, after East shows out, later finesses against West's ten. The only trick declarer loses is a diamond.

The queen is technically the right play, as it wins not only when West has the singleton or doubleton king, but also when he has the tripleton king.

Ordinarily, leading the deuce to the jack would not be a fatal error, because it costs a trick only in those hands where West has all three trumps — only an 11 percent probability. Nevertheless, assuming that South plans to finesse in spades, which is the proper play, the queen lead never costs a trick. But because the deuce lead will sometimes lose a trick, it is better to start out by leading the queen.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/07

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.

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

Cryptoquip

K B G P G U A Y I V C Q Z C Q Z

K B G U N Y T S C K T G G R T F G V X

R A S V Q P S U . B G ' T M V A I N I U X

N M U N C Q K C F G M U N C Q K C P P .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE HORSE CARETAKER HAD SO MUCH TO DO LATELY, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY HE WAS SADDLED WITH WORK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 19 Yours truly |
| 1 Jokes | 1 Pop singer | 21 Acronym to an over-sharer |
| 5 Adipose tissue | 2 Came to earth | 24 Coopers-town's Mel |
| 8 Fleet from far off? | 3 "Geel!" | 25 "Go, team!" |
| 12 Burn remedy | 4 Ignite | 26 Stravinsky ballet, with "The" |
| 13 Unfriendly | 5 Intruder-blocking software | 28 Lawyer's due |
| 14 Ferris wheel, e.g. | 6 Expert thing | 29 Hydrant |
| 15 Heart of the matter | 7 Glitch in thing | 30 Also |
| 16 Agt. | 8 Street child | 31 Thither |
| 17 Boast | 9 Aries, Leo or Sagittarius | 36 Van Gogh subjects |
| 18 In | 10 Blood-hound's clue | 37 Allow |
| 20 Not us | 11 Does some mending | 38 Majestic |
| 22 A handful | | 41 Bell or Kettle |
| 23 Wrong (Pref.) | | 42 Hearty |
| 24 "Carmina Burana" composer | | 43 Stratford river |
| 27 Kinship | | 44 Auction |
| 32 Mai — (cocktail) | | 46 Norway's capital |
| 33 Mainlander's memento | | 47 Profound |
| 34 Sticky stuff | | 48 Tosses in |
| 35 Off-mimicked Michael Jackson video | | 51 Journal |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-7

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		