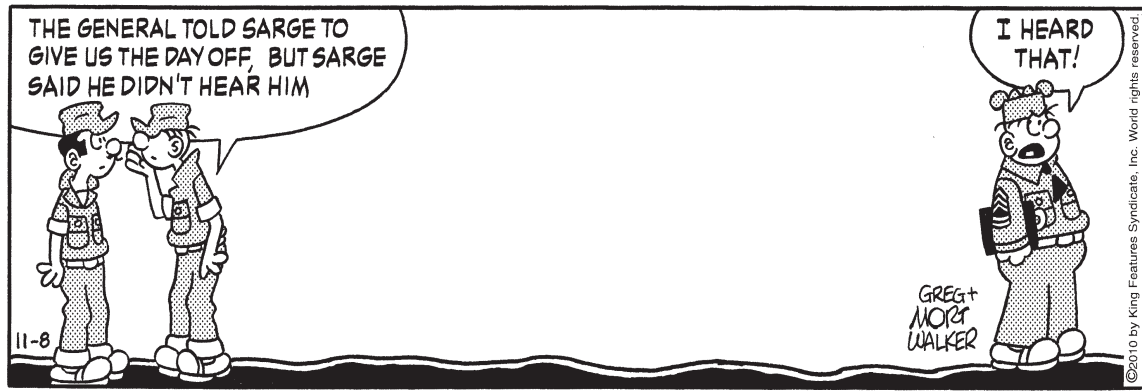


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



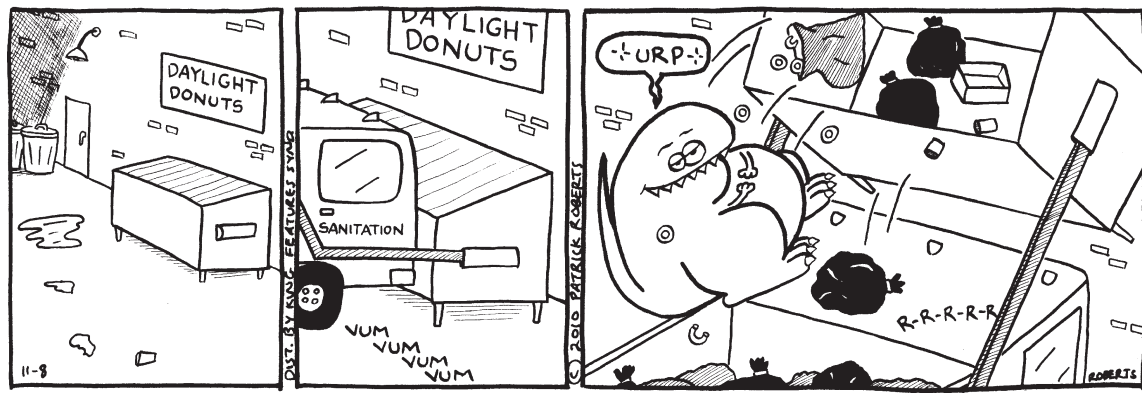
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



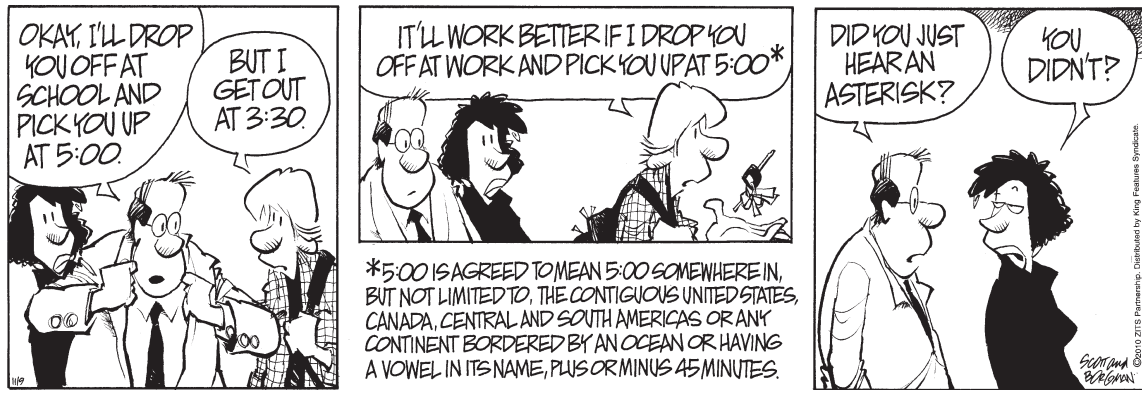
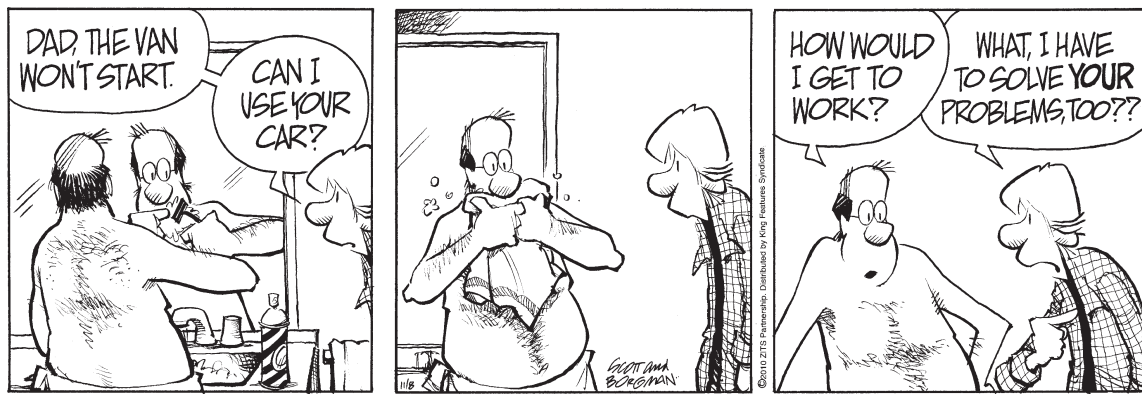
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Boss needs help with motivation

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm the manager of a small new company – there are only five of us, mostly just out of college – and I'm having a hard time getting everyone to work together and stay motivated. I know this is a hard time for businesses starting out, but it seems like no matter what the threat is, it doesn't get my employees to work harder. How can I motivate them without making them all hate me and decide to quit? – L.G.

Dear L.G.: This sounds like it's a classic problem of the carrot or the stick. You're using the stick to motivate your employees, and they would prefer the carrot. The perception of danger evokes the brain's "fight or flight" response, and that limits the extent to which people think and work effectively. Instead, you should motivate your team from the opposite direction, promoting a positive environment and making them feel protected from threats. This will make your employees feel good about themselves and decrease their stress level, and also enhance their abilities to think creatively and communicate clearly.

There are a number of ways to implement a positive environment, and most of them come from changes in your own attitude. You could start by minimizing power differences between yourself and your employees, as well as giving them as much autonomy as you can and minimizing uncertainty. This will give employees a feeling they are in control of their own destiny. It's also important to emphasize fairness and avoid favoritism. With these tips, you should be running a happier, more successful business!

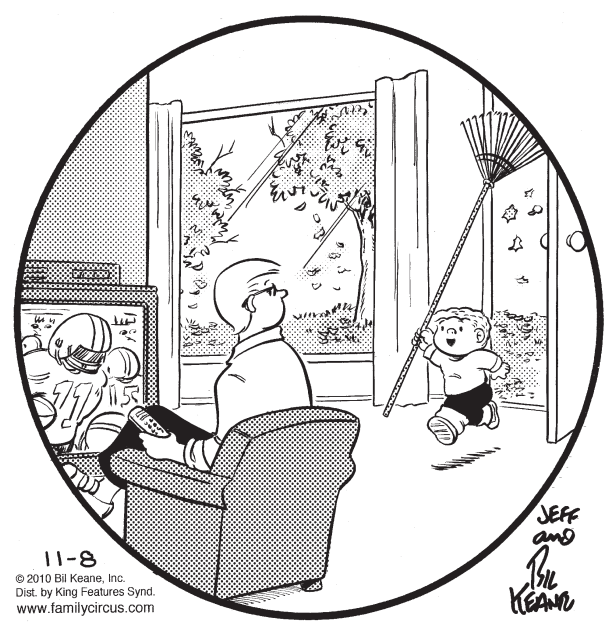
Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been working at my office for almost a year, and I don't have a good read on the people. I haven't had any major problems, but neither have I made friends. I usually don't have a problem; I just think the work environment is making me hold people at a distance. How can I find clues as to whether my co-workers like me? And if they don't, how can I improve those relationships? – D.R.

Dear D.R.: Honestly, figuring out relationships at work is no different from doing so in your personal life. If you think you're holding back because of the environment, you're probably right. Think about how they interact with you casually. It's easy to overlook obvious things, like co-workers inviting you out for lunch or giving you a nickname, when it's in the guise of business. On the other hand, if you hear people talking behind your back or falling quiet when you enter the room, it might be time to confront the problem.

There are a few tricks you can use to come across as more personable and open, even as you work on opening up. Everyone likes a good listener, so listen more and remember details to work into conversations later. You don't want to appear fake, but faking interest until you actually are interested isn't wrong. The main thing to remember is that if you truly want to develop relationships, you have to let your guard down.

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Daddy! Mommy wants you!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/08

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.

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

Cryptoquip

DNW AP Q EPYQHZHT PO
OPBZAQE RTNZSQPC FP BKEN?
WTF, Q FKIPFT Q'ST RTTO
I POATCQOY DZOATCQOY.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: INEXPENSIVE

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I ACTUALLY VIEWED ALL THOSE DELEGATES VOTING "YES," I WOULD SAY I WAS AN AYE-WITNESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals V

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 18 6 2
♥ K 8
♦ 9 8 3 2
♣ K 4 2
WEST
♠ A
♥ A Q J 9 7
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ 9 8 5
EAST
♠ 10 9
♥ 10 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A J 10 5 4
♣ —
SOUTH
♠ K Q 7 5 4 3
♥ —
♦ A Q J 10 7 6 3
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ Dble 4 ♥
5 NT Pass 6 ♣ Pass
7 ♠ Dble
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Famous Hand

How can you bid a grand slam missing the ace of trumps and still come out ahead? Believe it or not, it actually happened when teams from Washington, D.C., and Chicago clashed in the final of the 1988 Grand National Team championship.

The bidding shown took place at the table where Jack Oest of Chicago held the South hand. North's double was "negative," promising four spades. Oest's five-notrump bid, to his way of thinking, asked about the quality of North's spades, and he interpreted the six-club response as showing the spade ace. He thereupon leaped to seven spades, which West quietly but assuredly doubled.

Declarer ruffed the opening diamond lead and sheepishly led a trump. West took the ace and tried the ace of hearts, but South ruffed, drew the last trump and claimed.

Minus 100 didn't figure to be a winning result for North-South, and things certainly looked gloomy for Chicago when the Washington pair at the other table sensibly stopped in six spades on this auction:

South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ Dble 4 ♥
6 ♣ Dble Pass Pass
Redble

South's redouble gave West, Gerald Caravelli, pause for thought. He asked himself how declarer could be so certain that six spades would make and concluded that South expected to lose no tricks in the red suits. This left declarer with a black two-suiter, so Caravelli decided that his best chance to defeat the slam was to find his partner with no clubs, or one club and two trumps.

Accordingly, he led a club and was delighted when East ruffed. That, plus the ace of trumps, gave East-West a one-trick set. Redoubled, this came to 200 points, giving the Chicagoans a net gain of 100 points, or 3 IMPs, on the deal.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Explain that?
4 Recede
7 PC picture
11 Very excited
13 Book-spine abbr.
14 Un-dressed
15 — gin fizz
16 Away from
17 Carey or Barrymore
18 Serf
20 Abominable Snowman
22 Steal from
24 Crown
28 Los Angeles team
32 Attack from concealment
33 Jai —
34 Intention
36 Operatic solo
37 Glacial ridge

39 Topic
41 Site of rapid development
43 Sticky stuff
44 Peruse
46 Bit of tomfoolery
50 Head light?
53 Old soldier
55 Franc replacement
56 Acknowledge
57 37-Across material
58 Winter forecast
59 Stitched
60 Female deer

61 Type
measures
1 Corned beef dish
2 Lecher's look
4 Enos' granny
5 Skeletal
6 Evidence a pinprick
7 Harrison Ford role
8 Scoundrel
9 Praise in verse
10 Fresh girl of song
19 Pirouette pivot

21 — the
season ...
23 Lingerie item
25 Catastrophic
26 Grand story
27 Vegan's no-no
28 Morse code symbol
29 Margarine
30 Pub missile
31 Bro's relative
35 Beer vessel
38 Third letter
40 Squeezing snake
42 Goliath's vanquisher
45 Retro art style
47 Melody
48 Press
49 Bulls' mates
50 Owns
51 Rd.
52 De-pressed
54 Golfer's prop

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 11-8

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
28	29	30				31			32
33						34			35
37						38			39
41						42			43
			44			45			46
50	51	52				53			54
56						57			58
59						60			61