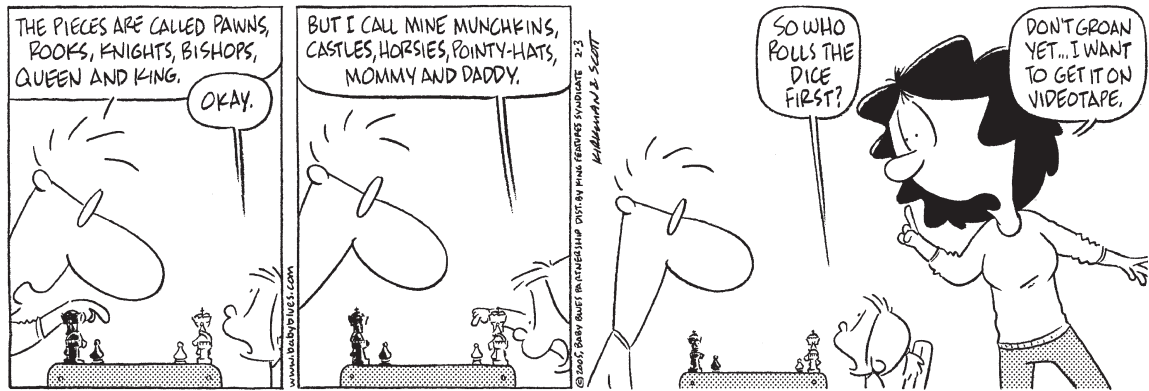
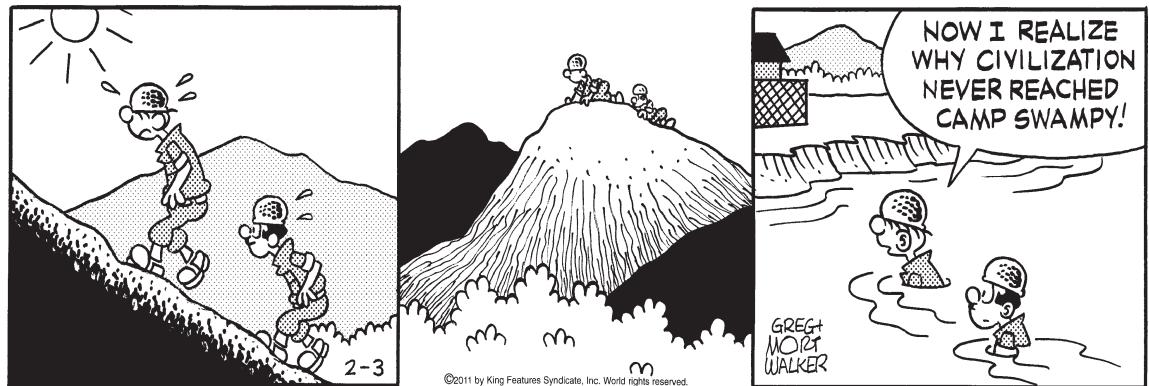


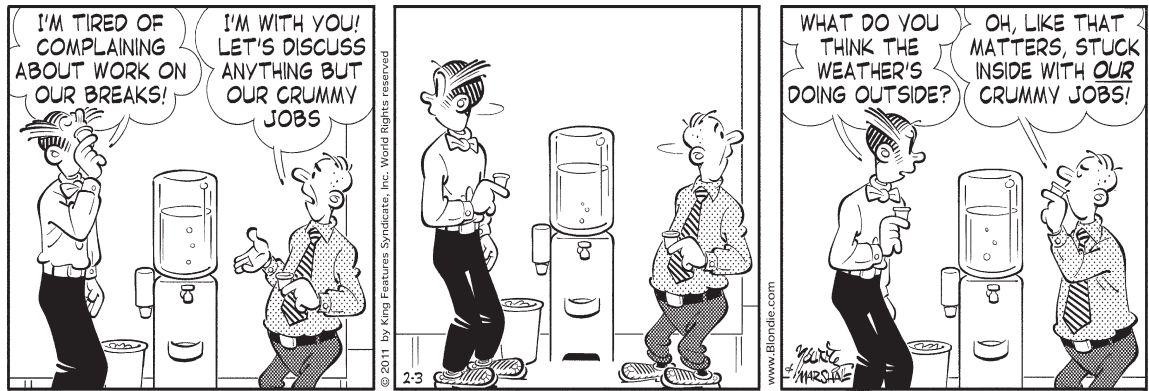
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



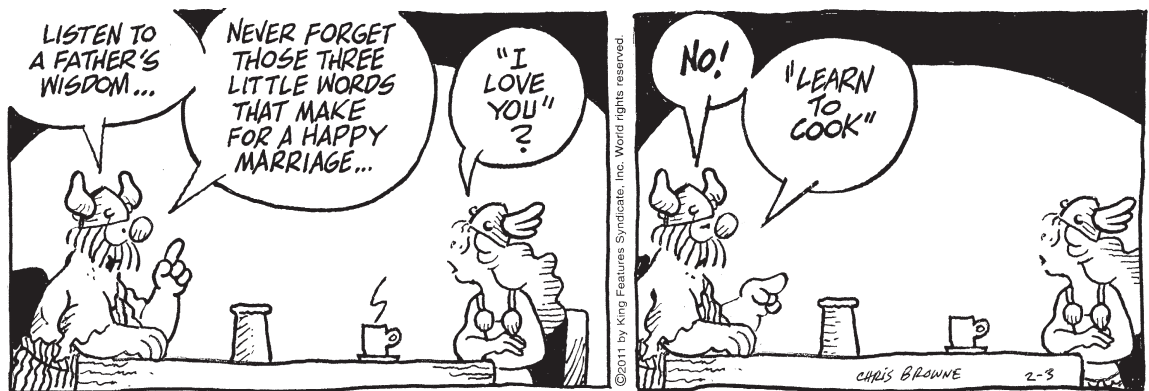
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



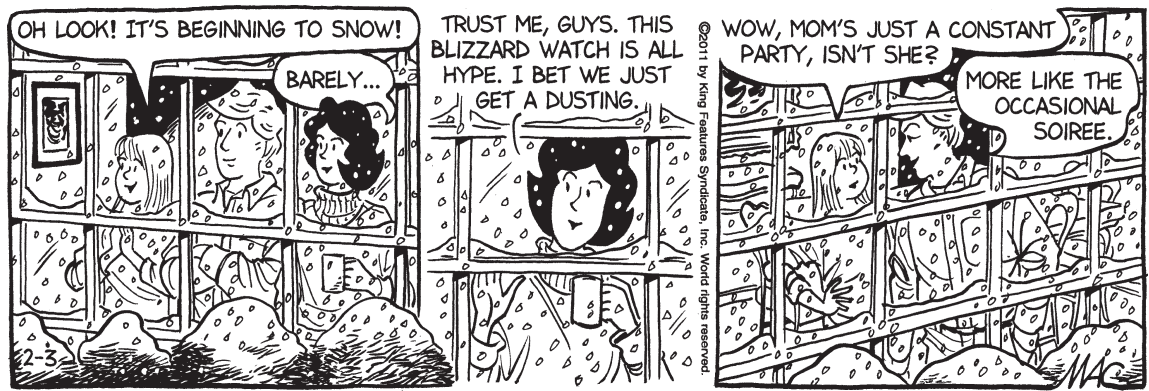
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



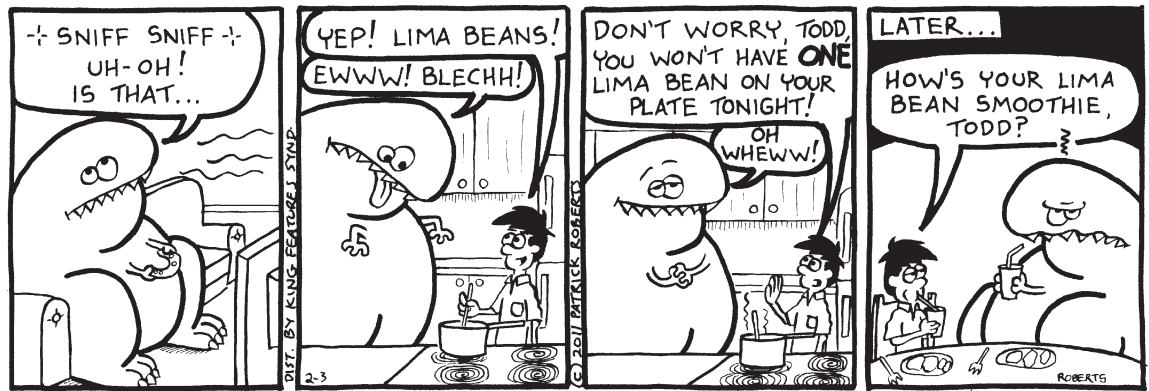
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Little neighbor wins her heart

Dear Dr. Brothers: We moved into this subdivision about two years ago. I've made the house nice, and we are happy. But while my husband is at work (he prefers I don't work), I have become attached to the 2-year-old next door. I baby-sit and play with him all the time, and he is sweet. The mother is happy to have free time. Is it wrong to become attached to the little guy? I think about him a lot when I'm not with him. — B.E.

Dear B.E.: Since you are asking if it is wrong, you must have guilty feelings about becoming attached to somebody else's child — or you have a feeling something isn't quite right. When you think about someone when you aren't with him, it could almost seem as though you have fallen in love — which you undoubtedly have! There usually is room in our lives for plenty of love, but there's the threat of getting hurt when we deal with strong feelings. So perhaps this is weighing on your mind — will you have to get over a broken heart, or will he? It's complicated, and I see why you are stepping back and looking at your life.

I'm sure if you start a family, this situation will resolve itself naturally. There's nothing wrong with being attached to the child next door, but if you don't start your own family, you may have a harder time separating reality from a fantasy of this child being your own. In the meantime, how about getting a part-time job in a day-care center, where you can stay busy and interact with kids? Explain to your husband that though you don't have to work, you certainly can choose to work.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have an adorable little girl, 4 years old. I have always dreamed of my daughter and me having little tea parties, going shopping for cute dresses, etc. Call me an old-fashioned mom who wants her child to be girly. Anyway, she has been uncooperative about feminine things. She asked me to chop off her curls, and she wants to wear jeans and a T-shirt like her big brother. I am heartbroken! How do I persuade her to be a girly girl? — J.M.

Dear J.M.: This seems like you might be asking the wrong question. I suppose there are ways to bribe, punish or motivate a child into being something she is not, and turn a tomboy into a girly girl. Or, it's possible that if you wait 10 or 15 years, your unfeminine child might turn into a girly young woman on her own. But I think the best course now is to let your child develop into someone comfortable in her own skin. This may mean you have to give up tea parties and dresses. Or you might postpone them till middle school. That will be disappointing, but you need to suck it up and move on, for your daughter's sake.

The question you didn't ask was, "How do I help my child find her own true self?" As soon as you help her develop interests that will light up her life, you'll see that letting her follow her own dreams is more important than your fantasies. You can have a great relationship no matter what path she chooses — be it climbing trees, playing sports or wearing a tiara.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 9 5
 ♥ J 6 2
 ♦ 10 4 3
 ♣ K 9 2

WEST
 ♠ 6
 ♥ Q 10 8 4
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ Q J 10 8 5 3

EAST
 ♠ 7 4 3
 ♥ 9 7 3
 ♦ Q J 7 5
 ♣ A 6 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 10 8 3
 ♥ A K 5
 ♦ K 8 6 2
 ♣ 7

The bidding:
 South 1♠ West 2♣ North 2♠ East 3♠
 4♣
 Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Never Say Die

Some plays that are regarded as abnormal may become normal when they're made in circumstances where standard procedure won't work. Take this case where South brought in a seemingly unmakeable contract by deviating from the norm.

West led the queen of clubs against four spades, and declarer saw at once that his chances of making the contract were decidedly poor. The opening lead indicated that East had the ace of clubs, which in turn meant that West, who had overcalled on the two-level, had to hold the ace of diamonds.

But South found a way to make his game despite the unfavorable location of the two missing aces. He ducked the queen of clubs and ruffed the ten when West continued the suit. Recognizing that it was pointless to cross to dummy with a trump to lead a diamond to the king, he instead led a low diamond from his hand at trick three!

This play certainly violated the standard practice of leading toward strength instead of weakness. But South was well aware that he had to take unusual steps to have any chance for the contract. After West played the nine of diamonds, dummy's ten lost to East's jack. East returned the nine of hearts, won by South with the ace.

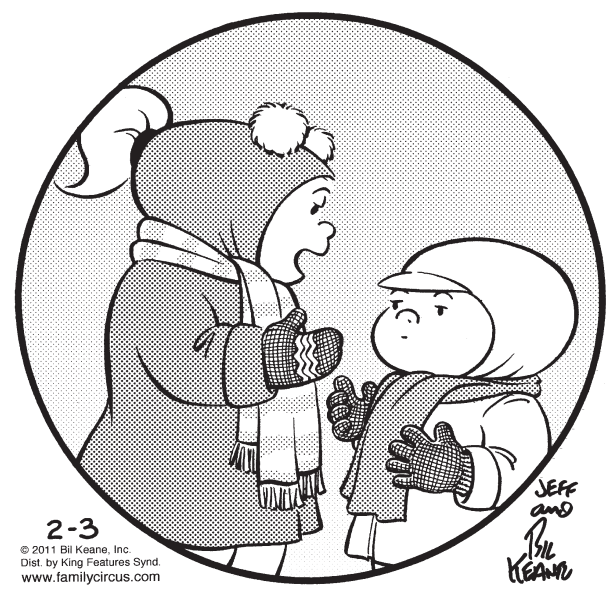
Declarer now made his second good play when he led the six of diamonds, forcing West to win with the ace. West exited with a club, ruffed by South.

Declarer next played three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and returned a diamond, finessing the eight after East followed low. South then discarded a heart from dummy on his king of diamonds and so made four spades.

Note that declarer could not have made two diamond tricks had he initiated the suit by first leading low from dummy.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-3
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

F MZILE'U GLZY ILGP TNOM
 Z ABNU DW POMBQBKFOZQ
 OBEYFUFBEFEK, ANU UML
 EZTL DZIQBI GF EKW Z ALQQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO GET ALL BOTHERED BY IMPRECISE PUNCTUATION USAGE, I SAY "COMMA DOWN!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Unhealthy | DOWN | 22 Coventry |
| 1 Tranquil | ily | 1 Scoop | cop |
| 5 Ointment | pale | holder | 23 Earring |
| 9 — de | 40 "I see" | 2 First | locale |
| deux | 41 SeaWorld | 3 Naughty | 24 Fuel |
| 12 Do as you're told | attraction | 4 Yours truly | 25 Debtor's letters |
| 13 Pelvic bones | 43 Big flop | 5 Prejudice | 26 Zapper |
| 14 Joan of — | 47 Chance | 6 Matter-horn, | 27 Vegan's ancestor |
| 15 Rag | 48 Tatum O'Neal's first movie | 7 Whopper | 29 2-Down's mom |
| 17 Shell-game item | 51 Tramcar contents | 8 Mrs. Homer Simpson | 30 Morning moisture |
| 18 Respectable people? | 52 Verve | 9 Wearable origami? | 35 Our uncle |
| 19 Glisten | 53 Felipe of baseball | 10 Neighborhood | 37 Tribal magician |
| 21 "Behold!" | 54 Apiece | 11 Con | 39 "Great!" |
| 22 Dim, as with tears | 55 Tear in two | 16 Expert | 40 Melody |
| 24 Vex | 56 Untouchable | 20 Part of UNLV | 41 Buy stuff |
| 27 Cattle call | | | 42 Aesopian also-ran |
| 28 Molt | | | 43 Stave (off) |
| 31 D.C. VIP | | | 44 Unrivaled |
| 32 Fall back | | | 45 Dove's vocabulary |
| 33 Rd. | | | 46 Responsibility |
| 34 Fellows | | | 49 Brewery product |
| 36 Rushmore figure | | | 50 Skillet |
| 37 Ragout or ratatouille | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-3

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								53			
54					55					56	