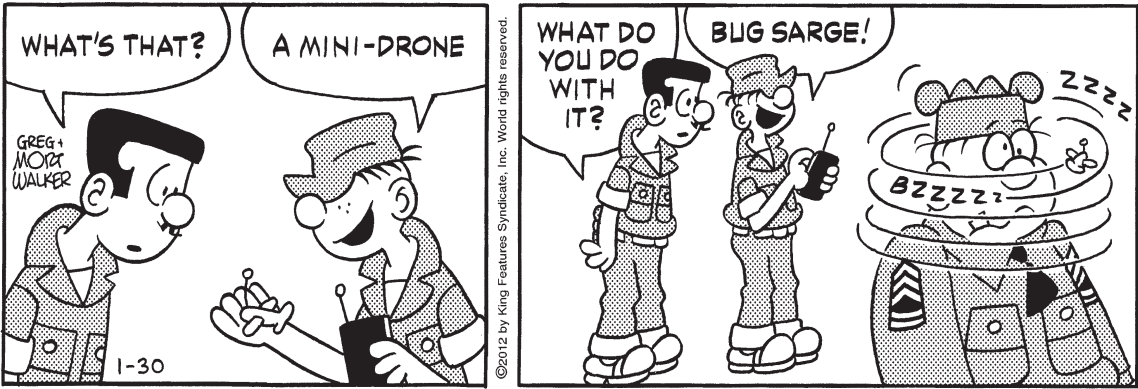


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



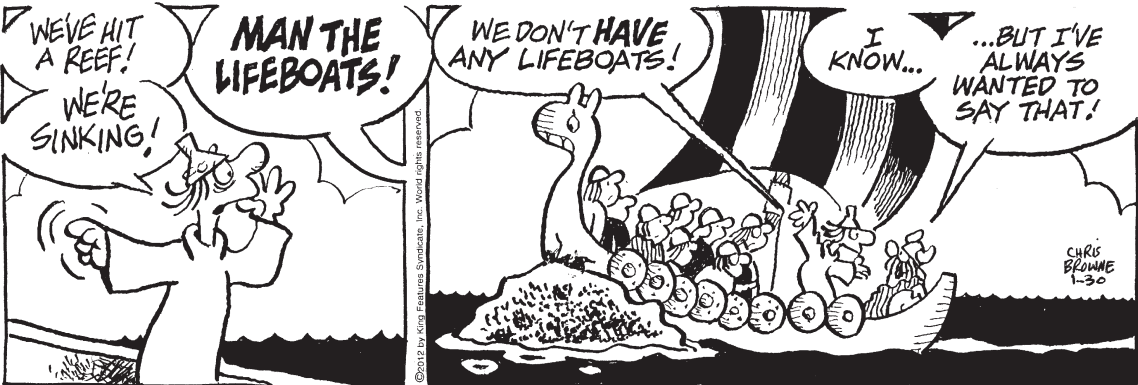
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



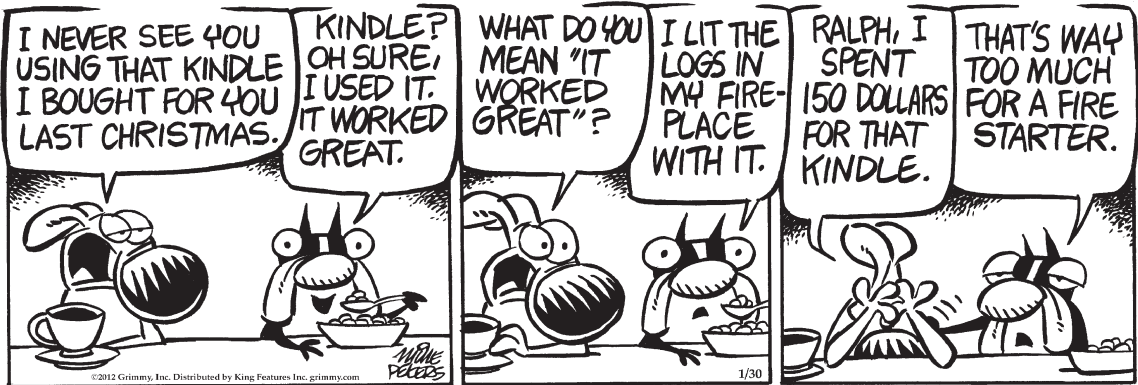
Blondie • Chic Young



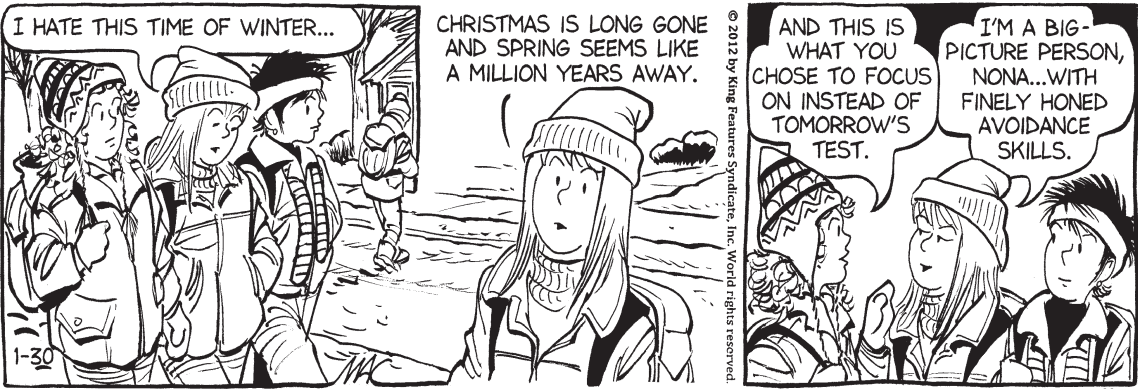
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Speaking up is not her style

Dear Dr. Brothers: I work in a place where the more flamboyant you are, the more likely you are to get ahead. I may not be a good fit for this office, but it's all I have, and I don't want to lose this job. I am very quiet and unassuming. I do my work well, but part of it is dealing with customers, and that's where I fade into the woodwork. Do you think I should keep being myself, or should I try to change in order to get ahead? – D.N.

Dear D.N.: There's generally something to be said for keeping a low profile at work. If no one takes much notice of you, then you can't get into too much trouble or have your work scrutinized too carefully. Is this your attitude? If so, you have to admit that it isn't really helping you, because being more visible and putting yourself out there are actually a part of your job.

Your natural low-key personality or preference for quiet competence may not be enough to help you keep that job in this economic climate. So you may have little to lose if you try to fit the corporate image by fine-tuning your work persona. You don't have to change a lot – no one wants you to stop being the individual you are. But why not try a few approaches that will lift your profile? Buy some new clothes, and wear a more colorful tie? Change your hair, or grow a goatee. Got a goatee? Cut it off. Ask an officemate to go out to lunch with you a couple of times a week. Hand your reports to the boss personally instead of leaving them on her desk. Practice your handshake, and learn more about each client. Get the picture? All you need to do is become more visible, and I'm sure rewards at work will follow.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a widow who wanted to get out of the house and do something so I didn't fall into depression after my husband died last year. I have friends who volunteer at organizations for sick children and homeless people, and they told me how fulfilling it is. But every time I volunteer, I am overcome with sadness because I feel sorry for everyone. Can I learn to react more like my friends do? – L.W.

Dear L.W.: I'm sorry your volunteering experiences have not been rewarding. Rather than being discouraged, I hope you will at least focus on the good you have done for the people you've encountered. They say virtue is its own reward, and perhaps it is wrong to focus on what our generosity can do for us – but when the time you spend volunteering makes you feel bad, it is understandable you would not want to continue. Just because your friends are more suited to enjoying the work doesn't mean it is going to be personally rewarding for you, too. You are vulnerable, and your emotions are volatile.

It could be you are suffering from depression, which is magnifying the negative vibes you are receiving at your volunteer work. If you get some help with that, you might find you have a different response. But the world of volunteering is vast, and you might want to focus on work that won't bring you down – perhaps building a house, clearing a vacant lot, recording audio books for the blind or other activities that are less emotion-laden will help carry you through.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in a national team championship in 1977. At the first table, the bidding went as shown, and South got to five diamonds. East's three-spade bid, in response to partner's takeout double, was strictly pre-emptive and was an attempt to cramp the opponents' bidding space. It indicated a long spade suit in an otherwise worthless hand.

West was Peter Nagy, playing with Eric Kokish, both well-known Canadian stars. It did not seem to Nagy that he would defeat the contract by making the routine opening lead of the king of spades. In fact, had he done so, South would have made five diamonds easily, scoring four diamonds, six hearts and a spade ruff for 11 tricks.

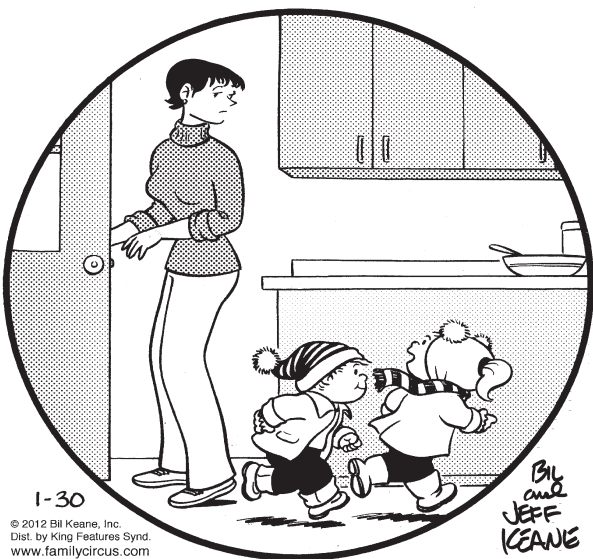
Instead, Nagy made the imaginative and highly unorthodox opening lead of the four of spades! Kokish won dummy's eight with the nine, and it did not take him long to figure out why his partner had underled the A-K of spades. He shifted to a club, and Nagy cashed the Q-A of clubs to put the contract down one faster than declarer could say "Good play."

The hand is an excellent illustration of the principle that a player should not allow himself to fall into the habit of making so-called automatic or routine plays. In the vast majority of deals, the king (or ace) of spades would be the normal opening lead, and no one would give even a moment's thought to any other lead.

But here, as Nagy demonstrated so well, he not only thought of the four of spades as a possible opening lead, but had the courage of his convictions to lead it. His reward was a gain of 700 points.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

1/30

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

MOJ VB KFMD SEMRV TLMTOL

DFM CSBMQ S YLQVSPX

EQSXJ MC VQSXKTSQLXV

TOSKVPY: "P OMBL ORYPVL."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSICAL FAVORITE THAT'S EVOCATIVE OF STINGING INSECTS' ALTERCATIONS: "FIGHT OF THE BUMBLEBEE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals V

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 Demon
4 That woman
7 Ban-shee's cry
11 Bridle strap
13 Church seating
14 Without acting
15 Greek vowel
16 Exist
17 Apportion (out)
18 Honey bunch?
20 Highland hillside
22 Cage component
24 Machine-gun by plane
28 Wheedled
32 Olympics award
33 Acknowledge
34 Used a shovel
36 Super-market stack
37 River embankment
- DOWN
39 Varied
41 California city
43 Hawaiian garland
44 Prisoner's room
46 Oust
50 Leaping insect
53 Slight touch
55 See 45-Down
56 Freeway access
57 — out a living
58 Reddish horse
59 Chills and fever
60 Butterfly catcher
61 "To be or — to be"
- 1 Eye part
2 Cat's call
3 Pocket bread
4 Hot tub
5 KFC flavor
6 Basin accessories
7 Football position
8 Commotion
9 Under the weather
10 Caustic solution
12 Cliff-hanger, often
19 Wire measure
21 \$ dispenser

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	A	C	O	N	A	B	A	I	L	L
A	L	O	H	A	R	O	T	M	A	O
M	I	M	I	C	C	O	M	M	A	N
F	L	U	E	R	E	D	R	E	S	S
L	E	N	S	O	R	B	I	T		
Y	I	E	L	D	S	R	E	A	C	T
A	R	E	N	A		L	O	O	P	
M	A	D	L	I	E	S	P		M	O
O	L	T	O		S	C	H	I	S	M
C	O	M	M	E	N	T		C	H	O
H	U	E		T	I	A		A	U	D
A	D	S		A	P	R		S	T	E

Saturday's answer 1-30

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		
59					60						61