

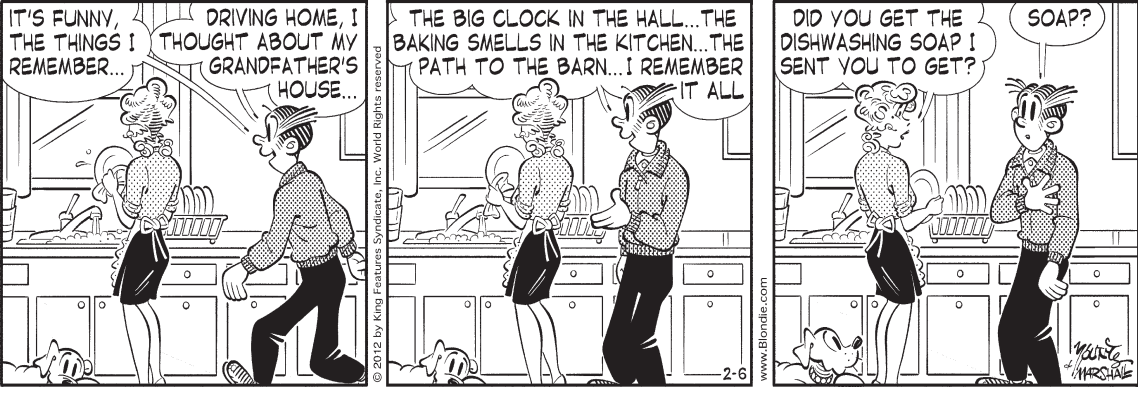
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



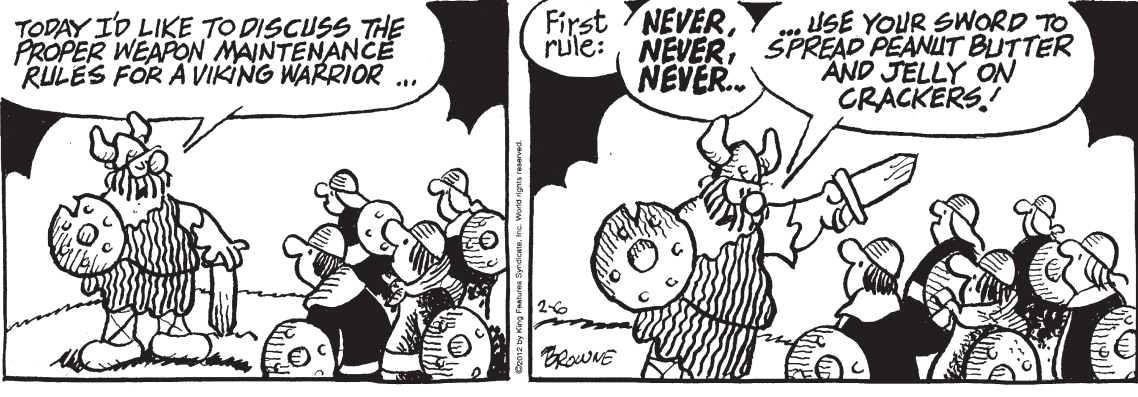
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



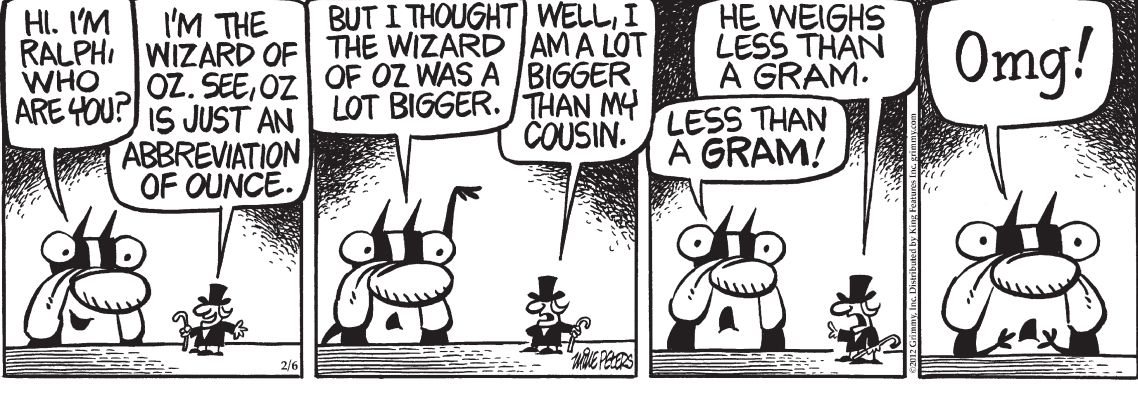
Blondie • Chic Young



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
She learned coworker's secret

Dear Dr. Brothers: A coworker I go out to lunch with occasionally laid a bombshell on me. She is having an affair with her supervisor, who is engaged, and they are "doing it" all over the office after hours. I don't know why she told me. I promised not to discuss it with anyone, but I feel weird when I see the two of them. It is starting to affect my work, as they are everywhere! – C.L.

Dear C.L.: It must be disconcerting to have been trusted with such a secret. Obviously, the two of them feel it is a good thing to spend time together behind closed doors after work. When you are sworn to silence, it is difficult to then turn on the friend and tell her what she is doing isn't cool. So, what can you do? I would start by making sure you don't do anything to empower her. She may be using your tacit acceptance of the situation as a sign it's OK. Don't be available as her confidant, and find some extra work to do when it's time for lunch.

If she has any sensitivity at all, she will sense the situation is making you uncomfortable and you won't be there to lend an air of legitimacy to her after-hours activities. If she confronts you, it may be necessary to risk a rift that will make it awkward around the office. But it may be necessary for you to tell her you are not OK with keeping her secret, and while you won't start gossiping, she can't count on you any longer to be her confidant. Let her know how you feel, and I think you'll end up in a better place.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a person who brings a valuable talent to my job. But no matter what I have done, my boss tries to undermine me. I have tried to figure out why, but I can't. I have always done my work well, and other people who supported and complimented me are starting to jump on the bandwagon and criticize. I don't know how to fight back. I don't want to lose my job, but I also don't want to lose my self-esteem. – S.V.

Dear S.V.: When we are treated unfairly at work, the first thing we try to do is figure out what we did to deserve it. And when others start piling on, it can have a devastating effect on self-confidence. What you don't want to happen is to have this get to you so that your work actually does start slipping, and your critics' complaints become a self-fulfilling prophecy. But there are some steps you can take to turn the situation around if you are willing to sacrifice the scenario you've painted, starring you as the victim.

Whatever the facts of the matter are, you can change your own thoughts about it, as well as your behavior. It may be true your work is exemplary and your boss is out to get you. But instead of playing the victim, you could look at the situation from a more objective point of view. Under these circumstances, what role can you play that will put you in the best light – knowing your boss's attitude might hold firm? Can you tell yourself you will continue to have high standards and let your work speak for itself? Attitudes like that in people under stress usually are noticed and admired by others. Give it your best try.

(c) 2012 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

EAST
♠ A 10 5
♥ 9 6
♦ K 10 9 5 4 3
♣ 8 5

SOUTH
♠ Q 9 4
♥ K J 8 7 5
♦ 8
♣ A Q 7 6

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

Famous Hand

This deal was played in the 1965 world championship match between the United States and Great Britain. Ivan Erdos was South for the U.S. and got to six hearts as shown.

West led the jack of clubs. It would seem that the best way to try to avoid two spade losers is to attempt a diamond finesse. If it succeeds, one of your two spade losers will disappear.

But Erdos, in a truly remarkable performance, made the slam even though East had the king of diamonds. He won the club lead with the king, played two rounds of trumps, cashed the A-Q of clubs and ruffed a club.

Erdos learned from these plays that East had started with precisely two clubs and two hearts. East was therefore much more likely to have the king of diamonds among his nine unknown cards than West, who had only six unknown cards. Accordingly, after leading a low spade from dummy to his queen, which won, Erdos played two more rounds of trumps, producing this position:

North
♠ K 8
♦ A Q

West
Immaterial

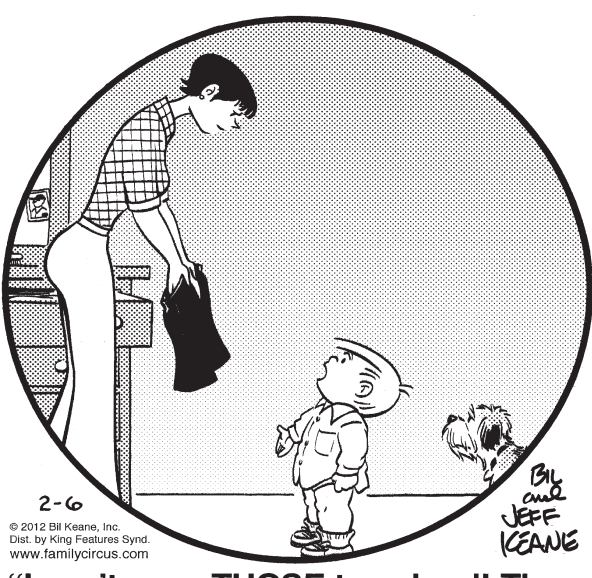
East
♠ A 10
♦ K 10

South
♠ 9 4
♥ 7
♦ 8

Erdos now led his last trump, discarding a spade from dummy, and East was a deceased pigeon. In practice, East discarded the ten of diamonds. But this availed him naught when Erdos next led a diamond to the ace, caught the king and so made the slam. Had East discarded the ten of spades instead, Erdos would have conceded a spade to East's ace to achieve the same result.

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/06

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.

Cryptoquip

VORD-MODQBSE YIT CYSE RNYWV

R LRPYWC LYSTR IYYQBSE

NRXQ YS ZOD XZBITZYTT

"COSVBPOSVRI MRSBO."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COMPUTER PROGRAM ONLY RUNS IN VERY CHILLY WEATHER, I GUESS THAT'S WINTER-ACTIVE SOFTWARE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Player of old 45s
 - 5 Small barrel
 - 8 Rotate
 - 12 Thing
 - 13 Romano or Liotta
 - 14 Choir voice
 - 15 Wound cover
 - 16 Incoming flights
 - 18 Horror movie reaction
 - 20 With uniformity
 - 21 Boast
 - 23 Big laugh
 - 24 In hand-cuffs, maybe
 - 28 Tower city of Italy
 - 31 Debt letters
 - 32 Gin and —
 - 34 Convent person
 - 35 Give temporarily
 - 37 Set up
- DOWN
- 1 Greet the villain
 - 2 Need to scratch
 - 3 "Factor"
 - 4 Drink to excess
 - 5 Indonesian volcano
 - 6 Listening organ
 - 7 Move in a spiral
 - 8 Prepare for a big purchase
 - 9 Recent fad
 - 10 "— have to do"
 - 11 Inquisitive
 - 17 Wall climber
 - 19 Formerly, formerly
 - 22 Literary category
 - 24 Have a bug
 - 25 Fish eggs
 - 26 Second-place contestant
 - 27 Without detouring
 - 29 Take to court
 - 30 More-over
 - 33 Irene of "Fame"
 - 36 Clears the windshield, in a way
 - 38 Standard
 - 40 Plead
 - 42 Grate
 - 43 Sea eagle
 - 44 Tatters
 - 46 Story
 - 47 Verve
 - 48 Roster
 - 50 Butterfly catcher

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-6

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			