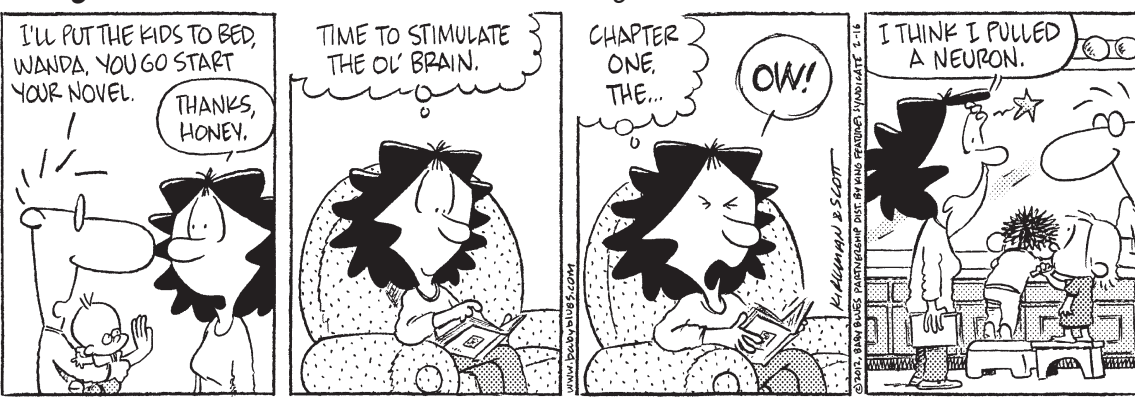


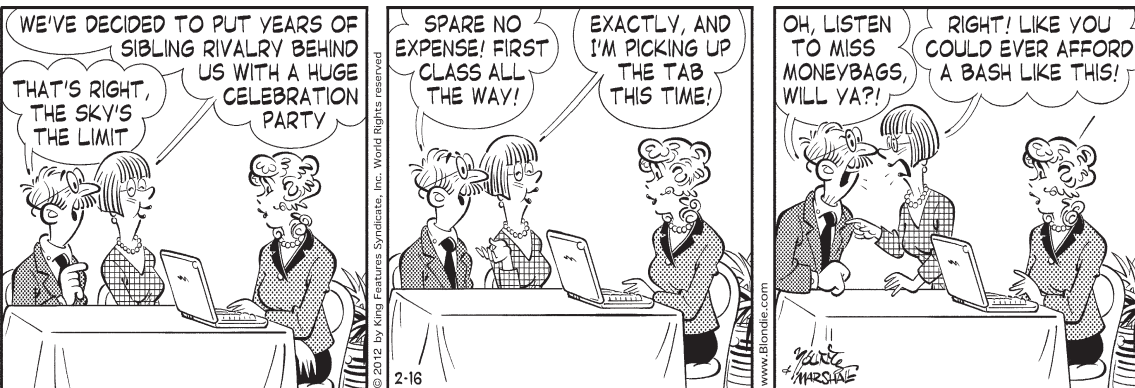
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



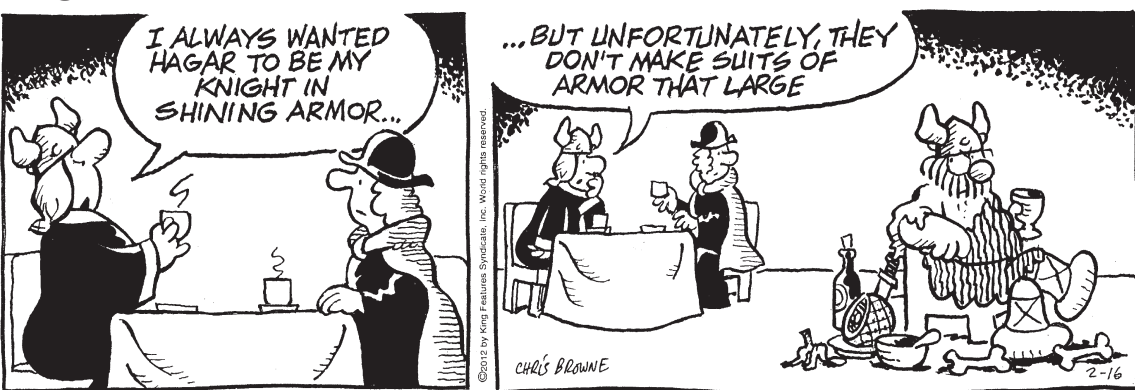
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



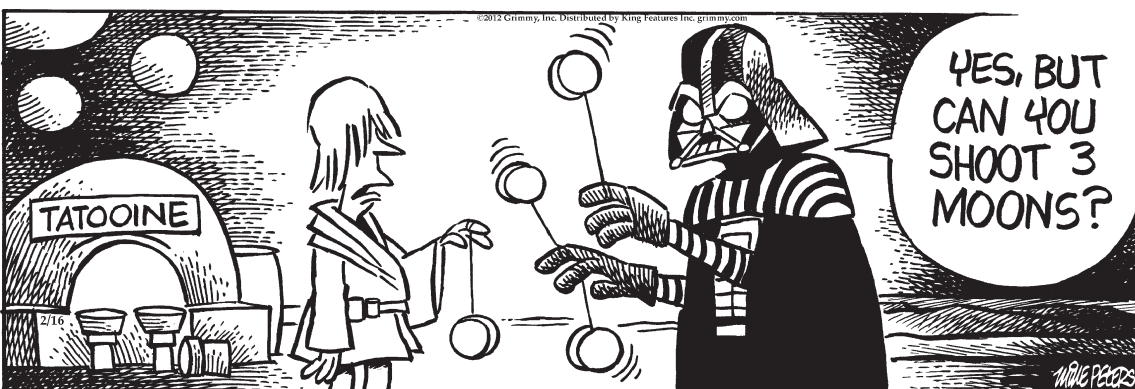
Blondie • Chic Young



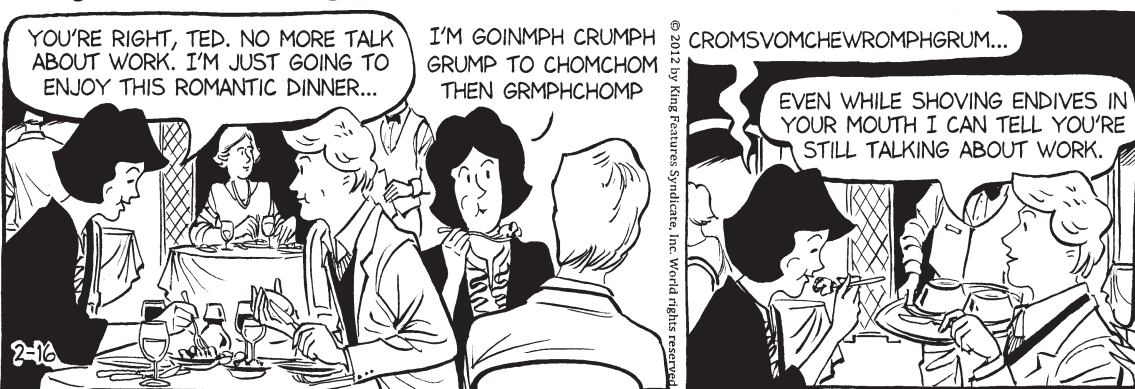
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



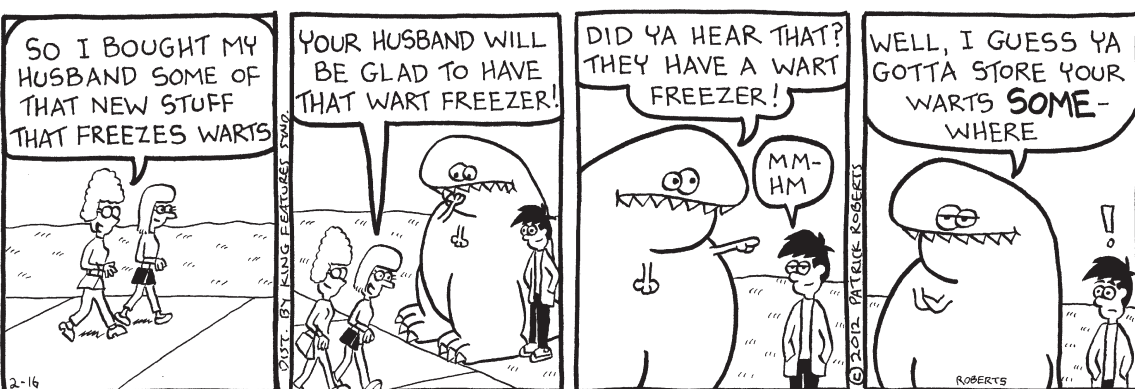
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



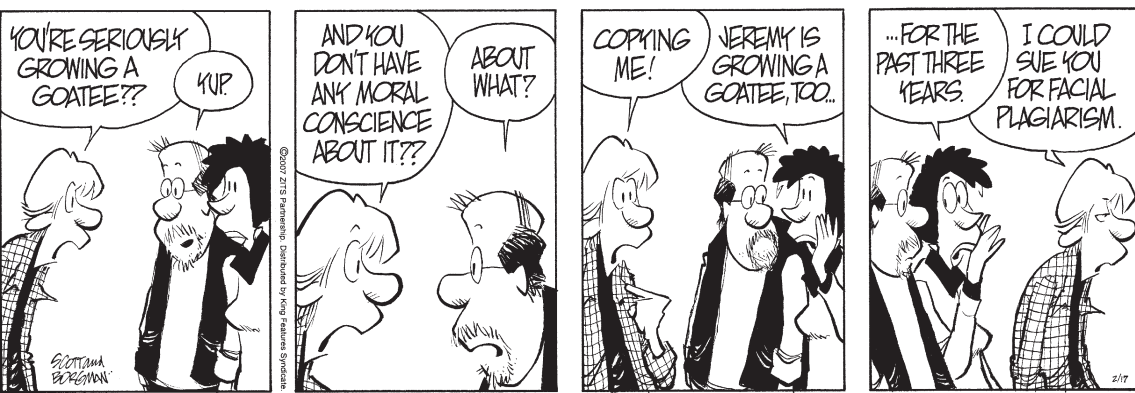
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Kids affected by low cash flow

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I used to make a good living in our small business, and we passed the benefits along to our kids. They are in middle and grade schools, and they always have had what they wanted, within reason. Now they are upset because all our money goes toward the mortgage and bills, just to keep afloat, and there's little left. I feel bad for them; is this hurt going to linger after things get better? — D.B.

Dear D.B.: You must know you are not alone and this scenario is being played out in homes across the country. I know how hard it must be to deny your kids and watch them become unhappy and upset. They are old enough to be told the facts so they will understand you are taking care of things in a way that will see your family through to better times, and you're all in it together. Explore with them the idea that some of their friends are in the same boat, and emphasize you are proud when they sacrifice with you.

The goal is to strengthen your family so you're all on the same page and working for the same goals. Once your kids feel they are an important part of the process, they may be able to shift their focus to a more mature one. Help them identify ways to contribute by doing things they enjoy that don't require money, and challenge their imaginations by asking them how they could have fun and pitch in. Kids across the country are becoming inventors, performers, recycling experts, gardeners, etc. There's no reason they can't, too.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I are having a difference of opinion about the stories we share with our children at bedtime. The kids are different ages, and he likes to pile them all in together and take the old storybooks of fairy tales and dramatize them with as much scary stuff as possible. I think it overexcites the kids and may even frightens them. I would prefer a quiet time before bed, with nothing too stimulating or frightening. — M.Y.

Dear M.Y.: I tend to agree with you, especially if you see signs that your husband's theatrics are doing the opposite of what a bedtime story should do, chasing sleep away rather than inviting it. Fairy tales traditionally are filled with strange creatures such as gnomes, fairies, nymphs, giants and elves — all fascinating, but some frightening. The debate about whether they are too scary for children has been going on forever — and despite the appearance of modern fairy tales on television and in the movies, their appeal hasn't gotten less troubling or more soothing for children.

However, you should have no trouble compromising. If you're comfortable with all the kids listening together, when it's your turn to read, find modern storybooks with fanciful characters designed to be read to the youngest sibling in the group. This will avoid scaring the younger kids, while the older ones still may enjoy the story and comradeship. They also may decide to start reading quietly in their own beds at bedtime, and if left to their own devices will pick the kind of story that is more appropriate for their personalities as well as their age.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Bad Luck Is Not to Blame
Assume you're declarer at four spades and West leads the king of clubs. You win with the ace, cash the A-K of spades and finesse the diamond ten, losing to East's jack.

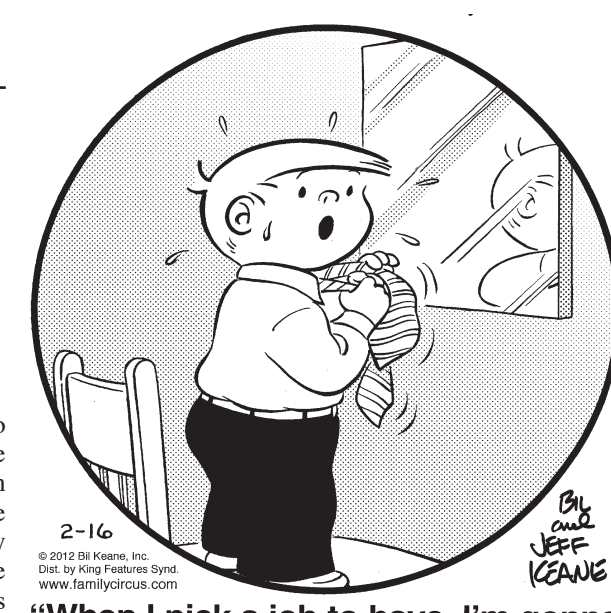
East returns the eight of hearts, and when you follow low, West's nine forces dummy's queen. You cross to your hand with a trump or by ruffing a club and lead the nine of diamonds, finessing again. East wins with the king and delivers the killing blow by returning the deuce of hearts. West cashes two heart tricks, and you go down one.

You could, of course, claim that you were unlucky. You could argue that West, who entered the bidding, should have had either the king or jack of diamonds. But if you analyze your play objectively, you discover that you misplayed the hand. It wasn't just bad luck that beat you; there was a sure-fire way to make the contract, and it was not really difficult.

When East returned the eight of hearts at trick five, you should have played the king instead of following low. This would have forced West to take his ace, and the contract would then have been secure regardless of what he returned or where the king of diamonds was located. Thus, suppose West returned the jack of hearts after taking the ace. You'd win with dummy's queen, ruff a club and try another diamond finesse. The finesse would lose, but you would be home free. East would not have a heart to return — he could not really have more than two hearts considering West's heart overcall — and when he returned a club instead, you would ruff and dispose of your heart loser on dummy's fourth diamond.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/16

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

K R R Z U X F I H X F G B W Q N J
U J N L R T J U P R , J I R L U G T D K
W G R B N R J D H J Z D D C U X F
K D G Q P U T X U F I J N X Q C R .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERY TIME A PROMINENT CARTOON BEAR SHOOTS ONE OVER PAR, I BELIEVE THEY CALL IT A YOGI BOGEY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Burst
4 Answer an invite
8 Mid-June honorees
12 George's brother
13 — out (supplements)
14 Out of the storm
15 Unimprovable place
17 "— do for now"
18 Back
19 Great commotion
32 Crazy
36 Avis adjective
37 Basin accessories
39 Pie filling?
41 Deteriorate

DOWN
1 Spot on a domino
2 "... man — mouse?"
3 Render immobile
4 Given a makeover
5 Tackle moguls
6 Two-piece suit's lack
7 Intellectual pretender
8 Company that merged with Benz in 1926
9 Choir member
10 Sandwich shop
11 Vend stat
16 Census
20 Roulette bet
21 Ocean motion
22 Acknowledged
23 High-lander's hat
27 Aries
29 Strong herbicide
30 Jog
31 Loathe
33 Scholarly Flop
35 Crafty with Benz
40 Malign in 1926
43 Luke-warm
45 Satchel
46 Chore
47 Black
48 List-ending abbr.
49 Information
53 Sleep phenom
54 Carte lead-in
55 Evergreen type

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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		

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