

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



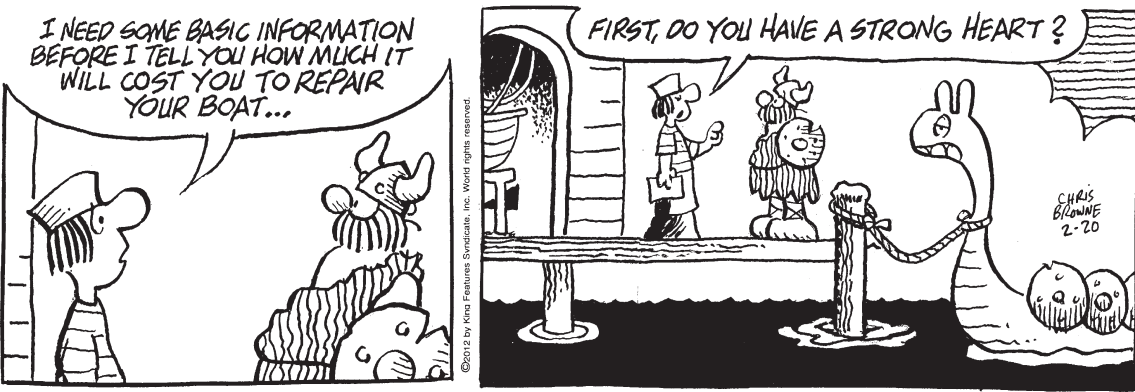
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



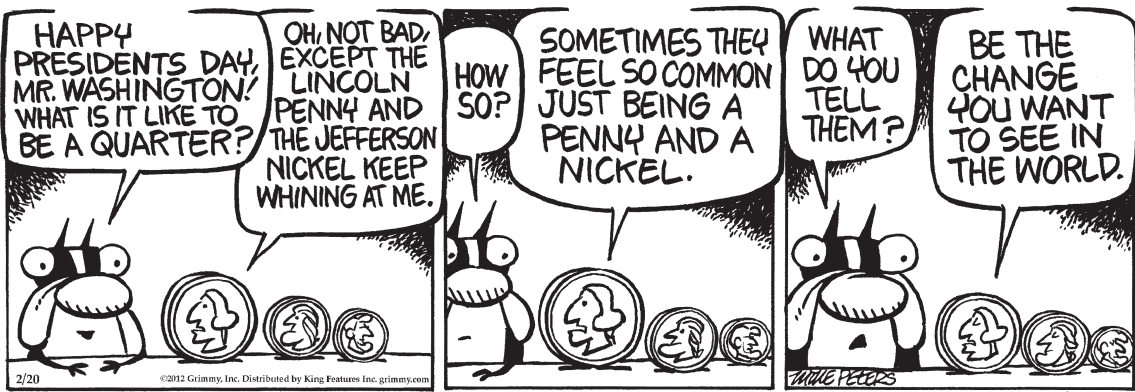
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



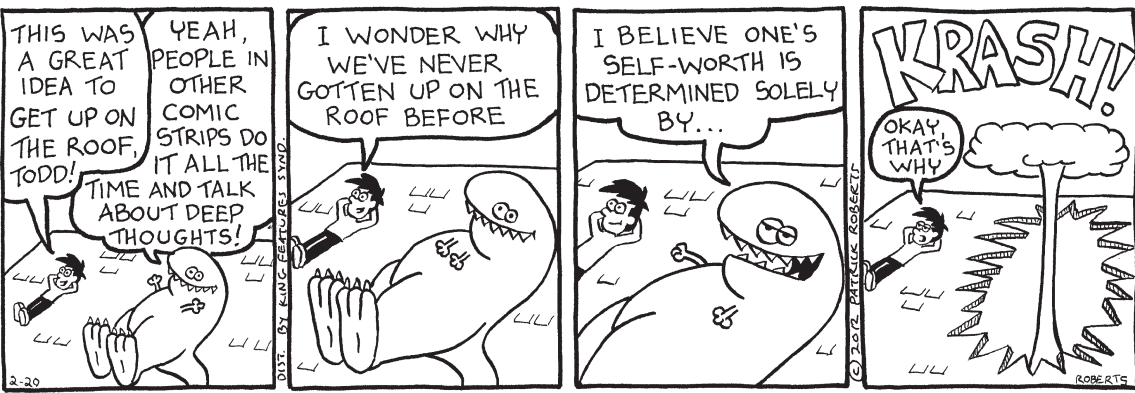
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



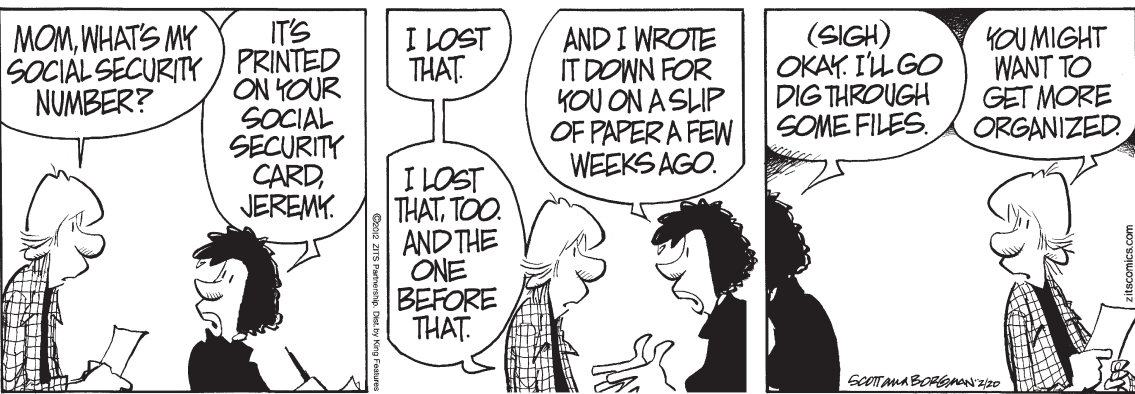
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Is the boss having trouble?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been so busy trying to do my job at this manufacturing company that I didn't notice at first that my boss was changing. He's gone from supportive and involved to distant and suspicious, and I don't know if it is me or him. Everyone is worried about the economy and whether there will be layoffs and whatnot, but now I'm thinking there is more going on. How do I figure out if I am about to get the ax, or if maybe he's on the way out? - V.B.

Dear V.B.: It's good you haven't gotten all paranoid about your job and gone off the deep end - because it sounds to me like it's your boss who may be on the hot seat. Of course, any trouble he may find himself in could trickle down to you and your job security. So it is a good idea to do a little sleuthing and find out what is happening. Along the way, you should come up with a more sophisticated understanding of how management operates and how well you fit into the organization. You can start at your own desk. You say your boss is aloof; is he withholding work from you? Has he become more critical, or given you extra things to do that he should be responsible for? These could be signs that he is either not happy with your work or is under review himself.

Remember, your boss has supervisors, too. They may be leaving him out of the loop, or planning to revamp the department. This is a good time to be as professional and efficient as possible while keeping your ear to the ground. Surely there is a rumor mill you can pay attention to without getting embroiled in gossip yourself. If you feel comfortable, you can ask the boss if everything is all right. He may spill the beans.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My family just went through a holiday season where one of our uncles brought yet another cheap-looking date to all the parties and ruined things for the rest of us. He does this every year with one sleazy broad after another. He's the only unmarried older guy, and the rest of the family has a hard time getting him to figure out that he shouldn't be bringing strippers to our homes. He's a nice guy, but he's clueless, and we don't want to hurt him. - A.D.

Dear A.D.: You say that you all love your uncle and that you don't want to hurt his feelings, but it seems clear that you are all pretty upset with him. And the way you talk about his girlfriends can't help but be an attitude he has caught wind of at your family gatherings. So if there was any chance of hurting his feelings, you very likely have already done so.

The fact that he has continued to do so for years means one of two things. The first is that this is the only way he can try to feel like a part of the family, and he genuinely would like you to accept his girlfriends. The second is that your uncle likes to hang out with women who will not fit in just to spite the rest of you, and therefore he doesn't care what anyone thinks. He may find your condescending attitudes hurtful or maddening, and he may have a different take on a social life and relationships. Since this is a recurring problem, the family may just decide it is easier to accept his taste in women and focus on his willingness to stay involved in holiday celebrations. It may never be perfect, but what family situation is?

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠AKQ
 ♥A4
 ♦KJ853
 ♣KQJ

WEST
 ♠J107
 ♥832
 ♦9
 ♣1087643

EAST
 ♠8653
 ♥J10965
 ♦Q76
 ♣9

SOUTH
 ♠942
 ♥KQ7
 ♦A1042
 ♣A52

The bidding:
 East Pass South Pass West Pass North Pass
 Pass 1NT Pass 4♣
 Pass 4♦ Pass 5♠
 Pass 5♥ Pass 7NT

Opening lead - jack of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the U.S.-Switzerland match in 1968. When Robert Jordan and Arthur Robinson were North-South for the United States, the bidding went as shown. Four clubs was Gerber, asking for aces, and four spades showed two; five clubs asked for kings, and five hearts showed one.

With all the aces and kings accounted for, Jordan bid seven notrump, hoping his diamonds would produce the extra tricks needed for the grand slam.

Exercising his customary wizardry, Robinson proceeded to make the contract despite the 3-1 diamond break. After winning the spade lead - and before tackling the key suit, diamonds - he cashed all his spades, hearts and clubs.

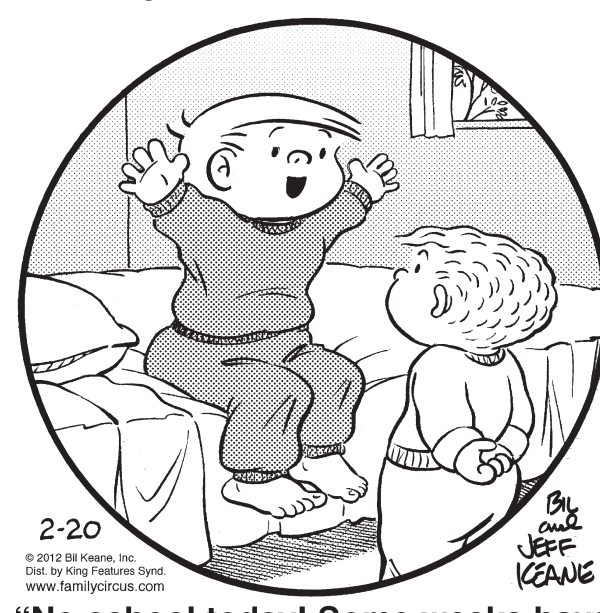
In the process, Robinson learned that West had started with six clubs and at least three spades and three hearts, and therefore could not have more than one diamond.

Accordingly, Robinson next cashed dummy's king of diamonds and then led a diamond to the ten to score 2,220 points.

At the other table, the Swiss North-South pair stopped at six notrump, but because declarer could not afford to jeopardize the small slam by first taking all the tricks in the side suits, he wound up making only six when he played the A-K of diamonds early on.

It is interesting to note that seven diamonds would have gone down one with normal play. Only at seven notrump can declarer afford to test the side suits in order to shed light on the diamonds.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"No school today! Some weeks have bigger ends than others."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/20

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

KWLB OX ZPOIP RZH VAWDBC
 WCB RCDOXK RH AHIWRB
 WXU UBMRCHD BWIP HRPBCM
 A W L G M : " G W R R A B M P B B V "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN SENDING LETTERS TO EACH OTHER, DO YOU SUPPOSE SLIMY GASTROPODS CHOOSE TO USE SNAIL MAIL?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Salary
 4 Lying face-down
 9 Wheel center
 12 "Born in the —"
 13 Staffers
 14 Yoko of music
 15 Colorado mountain
 17 Can metal
 18 Definite article
 19 Sloppy home
 21 "Little — Annie"
 24 Filth
 25 Roman 7
 26 Stitch
 28 Propelled a row-boat
 31 Catch sight of
 33 Water barrier
 35 Ancient Persian
 36 Scatter anew
 38 Not well-lit

DOWN

1 Young pooch
 2 "— was saying, ..."
 3 Tibetan bovine
 4 Turkish officials
 5 Grew mature
 6 Praise in verse
 7 Some tides
 8 Inuit series of wins
 9 Long series of wins
 10 One state
 11 Scrawny verb ending
 16 Biblical verb ending

20 Agana's island
21 Finished
22 Get up
23 Weaking
27 Bankroll
29 Rim
30 Home-owner's document
32 Annie Lennox's "No More I Love —"
34 Armed citizenry
37 Insight
39 Plural of "Mr."
42 Indiana's state flower
44 Rock band's need, for short
45 West African nation
46 Unseal
50 A Bobbsey twin
51 Dine
52 — carte
53 Barbie's companion

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-20

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		