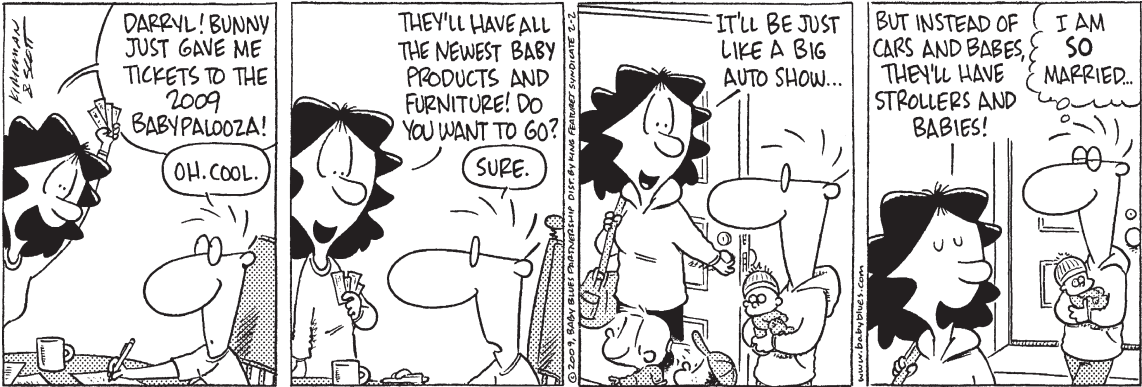
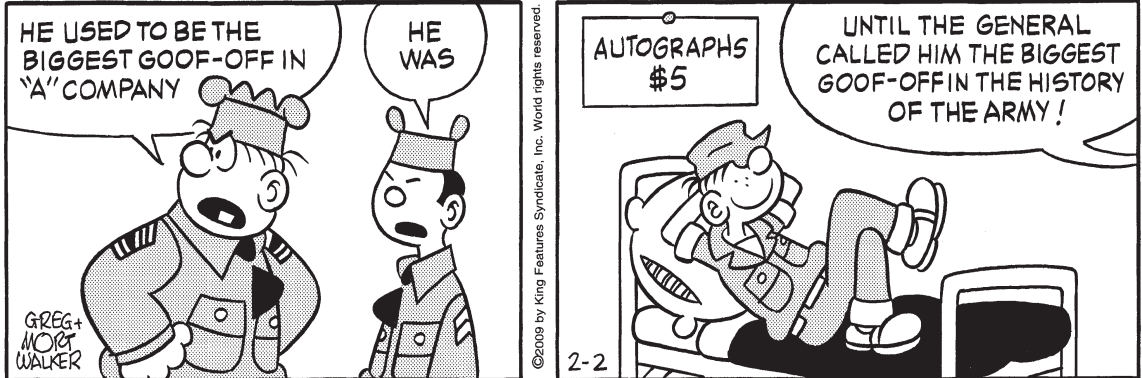


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



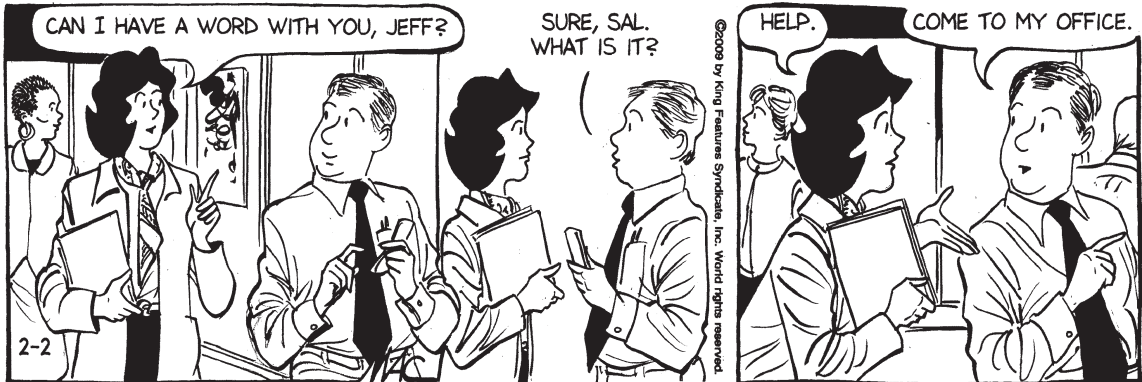
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



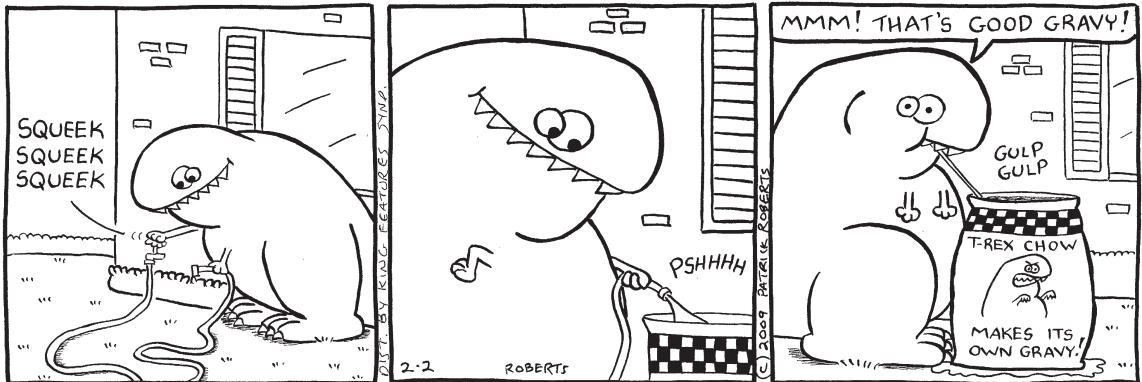
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



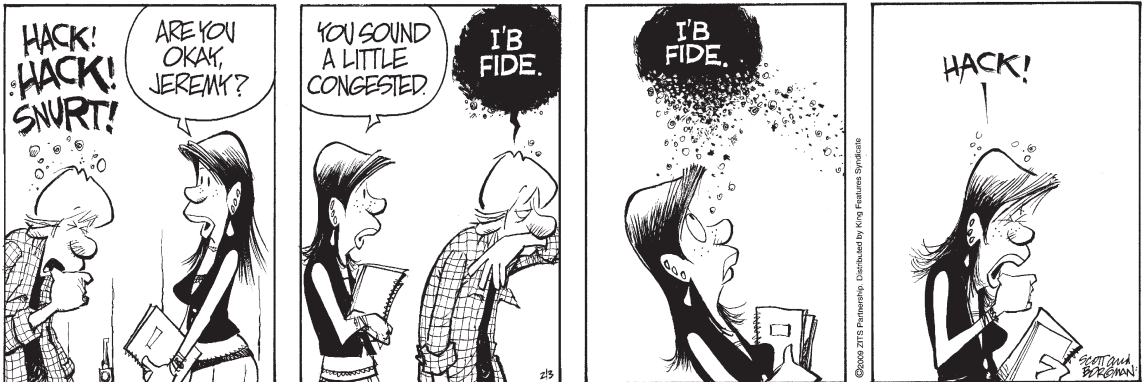
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Worried about losing your job?

Dear Dr. Brothers: Work is a drag these days. Everyone seems to be furiously competing with each other to do the best job possible so that they don't get laid off. I refuse to participate. I figure that whatever I do doesn't matter – either I am going to get laid off or I'm not. I wonder if I am being too stubborn, because I'm getting nervous. Should I just play the game, like everyone else? – D.G.

Dear D.G.: With the economy in such bad shape, it seems everyone's behavior is changing. It definitely has a scarring effect on the nation's psyche – we're buying less and worrying more, and we're acting differently, too. It's no surprise that your co-workers are going out of their way to make a good impression. It's easy to see their point – if there are going to be cutbacks at your job, it's only logical for management to keep those employees who do more.

In deciding whether to "play the game," you need to decide what's important to you. Some of us aren't really cut out to be team players, and that's most certainly looked down upon in the standard 9-to-5 world. You have to decide if it's right for you to go the extra mile and put in more work for the same pay if you want to keep your job. It may not be worth it to you – and that's not necessarily a negative. Perhaps it's time for a major life overhaul. Do a personal inventory to find out what really makes you a happy worker. It's possible you'll find you're better off being your own boss. Self-employment can do wonders for one's self-esteem.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm married, but I might as well be a single woman from August to January. My husband is a football fan, and I am one of those football "widows" who is totally ignored during the entire season. If my husband is not plopped in front of the TV, he's at the stadium with his buddies. Why do men become these drooling idiots, and how can I get over this resentment? Please don't tell me to join him or get myself a hobby. I just want his company. – M.E.

Dear M.E.: We all have hobbies or activities that maybe we go a bit overboard with. It's not really a guy/girl thing. Men may become "drooling idiots" during game season, but women may seem equally mindless when it comes to being a fan of a band or a TV show. The thing that makes it fun to be a devoted fan of something is the sense of community one gets from fellow aficionados. When you're with a group that shares the same interests as you, you feel comfortable with them because they speak the same language you do. The reason you're excluded from your husband's football fetish is because you don't share that specific interest with him. And that's OK – husband and wives don't need to share every single thing with each other. Perhaps a good idea for those five months when your husband is "away" is to come at the whole situation from a different angle. He's really not gone every day of the football season – just Sundays and Monday nights, most likely – so find something else to do with your time. Maybe a night out with the girls is all you need to help you feel less lonely. (c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 17 6 2
♥ K 7 4
♦ K 9 3
♣ 10 6 3
WEST
♠ Q 4
♥ 6 5 3
♦ A Q J 10 6 4
♣ Q 5
EAST
♠ 10 3
♥ 10 9
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ A K 9 7 2
SOUTH
♠ A K 9 8 5
♥ A Q J 8 2
♦ J 8 4
The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West 2 ♠
3 ♠ Pass
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Famous Hand

The late Harry Fishbein, well-known star and impresario of New York's now-defunct Mayfair Bridge Club, was noted most for his imaginative bidding and play.

rule that could not be broken if the situation called for it, and he was always on the lookout for such situations. No one ever accused him of being a monolithic player.

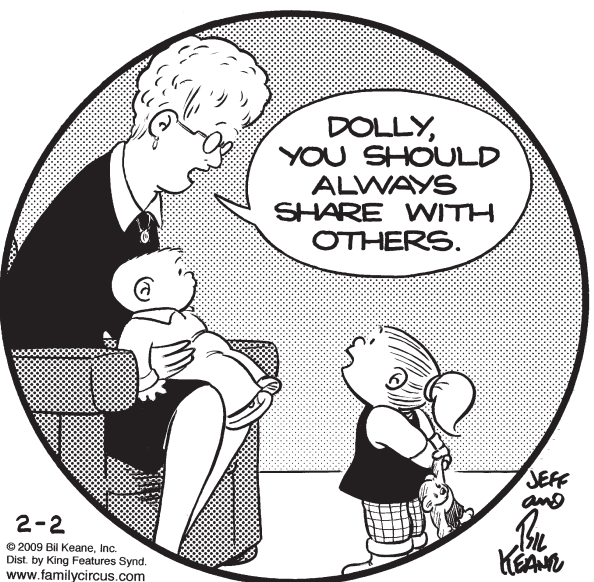
Here is an example of the type of play he was capable of making on the spur of the moment. Fishbein was West, defending against four spades, and he began by leading the queen and another club to East's king.

When East next played the ace of clubs, Fishbein had to decide which card to play. He knew that a fourth club lead by East would promote his queen of spades into the setting trick, but he was afraid East might return a diamond instead. This could prove fatal if South, who had bid two suits and shown up with three clubs, was void of diamonds. If he was, South could ruff the diamond and cash the A-K of spades to make the contract.

The question, therefore, was how to get East to continue with a fourth club. Discarding a low heart might cause East to lead a diamond, while discarding a low diamond might induce a trump or heart shift. And so, Fishbein did something that very few players would think of -- he discarded the ace of diamonds!

It was not difficult for East to grasp the meaning of this extraordinary discard, since he also knew declarer might be void of diamonds. Accordingly, he led the nine of clubs at trick four, and the contract quickly went down the drain. (c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-2
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www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/02

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

2-2 CRYPTOQUIP

KBJWIBL SAW JKFCW J LWDBBW

F G R S A V S T B F T I B

V F G O D B O J W B J G P V D B J W B

TIJML FG RFDPL: "TCGGM IJGB."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY HOMEMADE GOULASH IS SO DELICIOUS, I HEARD THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE CALLING IT STEW-PENDOUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 44 Ready for the picking | 2 Not "fer" | 21 Sphere |
| 1 Pouch | 46 Miniature | 3 Barber's tool | 23 Thickness |
| 4 Paintings | 50 Cohort of Ringo | 4 Likely | 25 Tidy |
| 7 Jazzy phrase | 53 German pronoun | 5 Harvest | 26 Stare |
| 11 Enthusiastic, and then some | 55 Sandwich cookie | 6 For-bidden | 27 Supplement, with "out" |
| 13 Legume | 56 Stereo hookup | 7 Controversial comedy legend | 28 Dud |
| 14 Nastase of tennis fame | 57 Letter after pi | 8 Under the weather | 29 Mysterious character |
| 15 Frost | 58 Skaters' venue | 9 "A curse upon thee!" | 30 Saharan |
| 16 Bill | 59 Press clothes | 10 A handful | 31 Consume |
| 17 Ball of yarn | 60 Very long time | 12 Controversial comedy legend | 35 London's — |
| 18 Office mail receiver | 61 Payable | | 38 Actor Wallach |
| 20 Milne bear | | | 40 Page in an atlas |
| 22 Tear | | | 42 Steeple |
| 24 Vitamin C source | | | 45 Reverberate |
| 28 Delicate | | | 47 Crossword diagram, e.g. |
| 32 Fracture | | | 48 Options list |
| 33 Entice | | | 49 Oxen's joiner |
| 34 Tibetan critter | | | 50 — Beta Kappa |
| 36 Moon-struck state | | | 51 Atmosphere |
| 37 Reserved | | | 52 E.T.'s vessel? |
| 39 Dangled a carrot | | | 54 Sweetie |
| 41 Bicycle parts | | | |
| 43 Combat | | | |

SAMBA	ODD	SAL
IDIO	BAA	PRO
TIONAL	JINGLES	
GRADES	RITE	
OWL	SIC	OATER
HOES	STUDY	
MOA	SIC	NEESON
ROOST	DINO	
ARGON	III	NEW
THEN	BELONG	
TINGLES	WALES	
ANI	YET	APEAK
ROE	ERA	NASTY

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
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41					42		43		
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60					61