

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



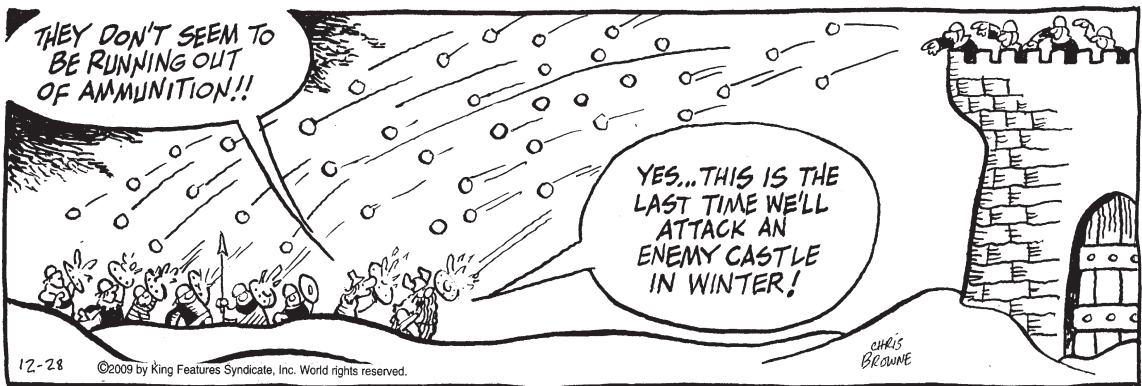
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



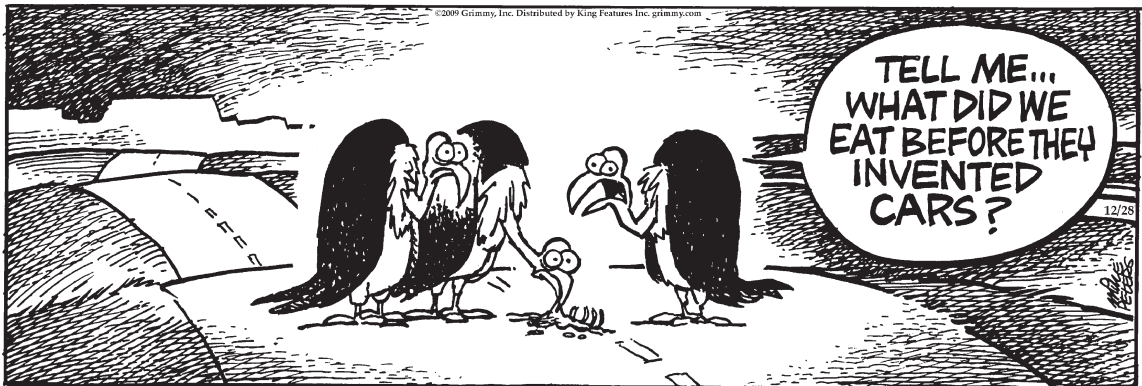
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



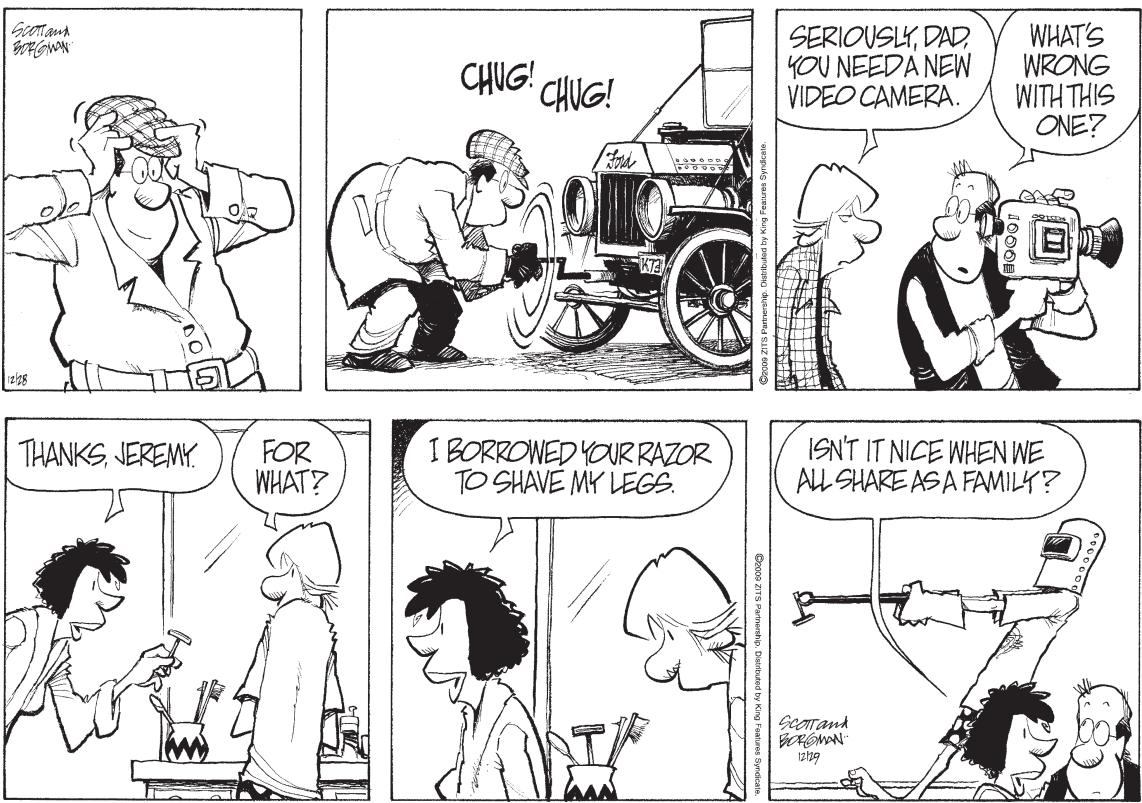
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Boring job exhausts reader

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm having an anniversary, though nothing I feel like celebrating: I've been at my job for 10 years. I feel lucky to be employed, but my job is unchallenging. A monkey could do it. The weird thing is that even though it doesn't require physical or mental energy, I go home exhausted. I feel I'm in a deep rut, with no way out. Any clue as to how to change? – H.B.

Dear H.B.: It is an awful time to go job-hunting, yet the bad economy also presents opportunities for people who want to branch out on their own, change careers or move up in their organization. Because many are already laid off, you might find there are chances in your workplace for a lateral move or a step up to more challenge. But I hear you when you say it seems like too much effort. A recent study in Great Britain showed men in dull jobs were 16 times more likely to have low levels of leisure-time physical activity off the job. I wonder if you might fit into that category.

When you come home, do you collapse on the sofa? Try getting exercise and see if your energy improves. It is easier to think, plan and get motivated to change if you are rested and refreshed, and enjoy time off from work. Since the anniversary is not happy, why not set up a goal for yourself to be happier by your 11th anniversary? How you do it is up to you ... but if you can't drag yourself off the sofa to take a walk, you might need outside help with a case of depression.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband comes from a wealthy family of bankers. His lineage stretches back to the founding of our country – very "old money." Here's the conundrum: Our son has decided he does not want to take up the family mantle, opting instead for volunteer work overseas. My husband is apoplectic at the idea, but I differ. It's my son's life. How do I make peace? – N.S.

Dear N.S.: Family career traditions can mean very different things. In one clan, the children may be grateful to have their career path laid out – because they will be able to apprentice in the family business and make a smooth transition to the room at the top without as much sweat as they would have blazing a trail on their own. Other kids don't want anything to do with the old man's profession. They want to make their own choices. That seems to be the case in your family.

You are in a difficult position here. Your involvement in the tradition is only by marriage, so you are likely to carry a little less authority when it comes to calming down your husband. On the other hand, you are his wife, and that counts! I hope both of you know your son well enough to consider his motivations. Nothing says he couldn't do overseas work and join the business at a more mature age. A family meeting might clear the air and set up some alternative routes for your son to consider. It IS his life and his decision, and a family behind him is the best plan of all.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ A K J
♦ A K J 10 9 8 4 2
♦ 10

WEST

♠ 8 6 4 3 2
♥ 8 3
♦ Q 7 6
♣ A 8 5

EAST

♠ A K J 10
♥ 10 7
♦ Q J 9 6 4 3 2

SOUTH

♦ Q 9 7
♥ Q 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K 7

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5	Dble	

Opening lead — six diamonds.

Famous Hand
Italy won the 1999 World Junior (25 years or younger) Team Championship held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In posting the triumph, the young Italians evoked memories of their illustrious forebears, the legendary Blue Team of the 1950s and '60s. The Italian juniors compiled 13 wins in 15 matches during the round-robin qualifying stage and then handily defeated Israel and the United States in the semifinal and final.

The victors gained heavily in today's deal from the final. At the first table, Tom Carmichael and Joel Wooldridge of the U.S. reached five hearts as shown. Italy's Bernardo Biondo correctly diagnosed the double by Riccardo Intonti as requesting a lead of dummy's first-bid suit -- diamonds. Intonti ruffed the lead, cashed the spade king and returned a club to Biondo to secure another diamond ruff — +300 for Italy.

At the other table, the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	4♣	4♥
5♣	6♦	Dble	

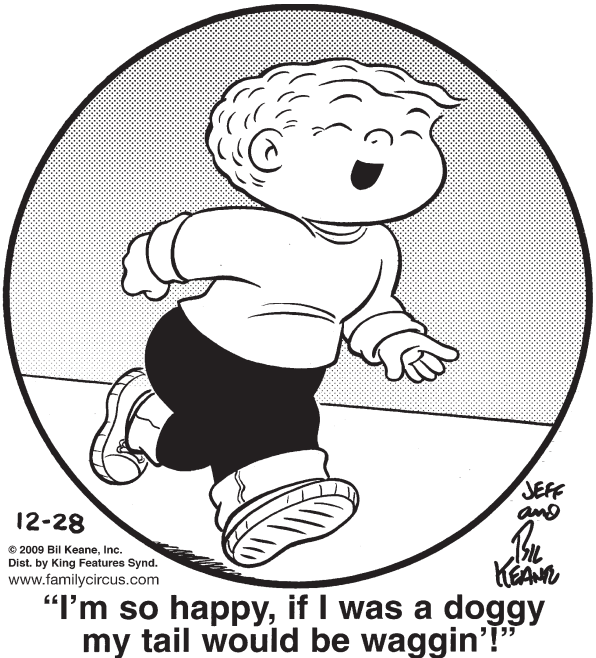
The opening two-diamond bid by North (Andrea Mallardi) showed one of several types of hands – in this case, a strong one-suiter. When Eric Greco and Chris Willenken of the U.S. then barreled into five clubs before Mallardi could use Blackwood, the Italian gambled that his partner (Mario D'Avossa) had an ace and leaped to six diamonds.

After doubling, Greco led the spade king, on which Willenken played the eight. This supposedly showed an odd number of spades in the partnership's methods. However, Greco miscalculated by continuing with the spade ace, and it was all downhill for Mallardi from there.

He ruffed the spade, cashed the diamond ace, overtook the heart jack with the queen, discarded his club on the spade queen and took the marked diamond finesse to bring in the slam. Plus 1,090 added to the 300 gained at the other table gave Italy a 16-IMP pickup on the deal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

12/28

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

KVUBHOV NG DVSR OBEMYCUD

YBO UREOCMVSBKTG TBSJV,

C JHV00 GRH NCJDQ OBG

CQ YBO OHK-OQBEQCBT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MOUNTAIN OF BREATH MINTS WERE BEING HAULED IN WAGONS, ONE COULD CALL THAT A TIC TAC TOW.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Treasure hunt aid
4 Mario Puzo subject
9 College transcript stat
12 Brewery product
13 Attach
14 Yule fuel
15 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" aide
17 Exist
18 Tuna at a sushi bar
19 Ticked
21 Super-market employee
24 Perches
25 With 26-Across, it "will come," in song
26 See 25-Across
28 Made crow noises
31 Colorless
33 Young fellow

DOWN
35 Arizona tribe
36 Relaxed
38 Energy
40 "— the fields we go"
41 Unkempt one
43 Baryshnikov's field
45 "Its own reward," they say
47 GIs' entertainers
48 Fuss
49 76 trombones?
54 Zodiac sign
55 Uptight
56 Life story, briefly

16 Droop
20 Beehive State
21 Foretell
22 Emanation
23 Fundamental
27 Kiss
29 Duel tool
30 Gossip
32 Suspenders
34 "Clair de Lune" composer
37 Reservations
39 Doesn't get an F
42 Jaunty chapeau
44 High-arc shot
45 Crooner Jerry
46 Concept
50 Literary collection
51 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
52 Pinch
53 Female deer

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 12-28

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		