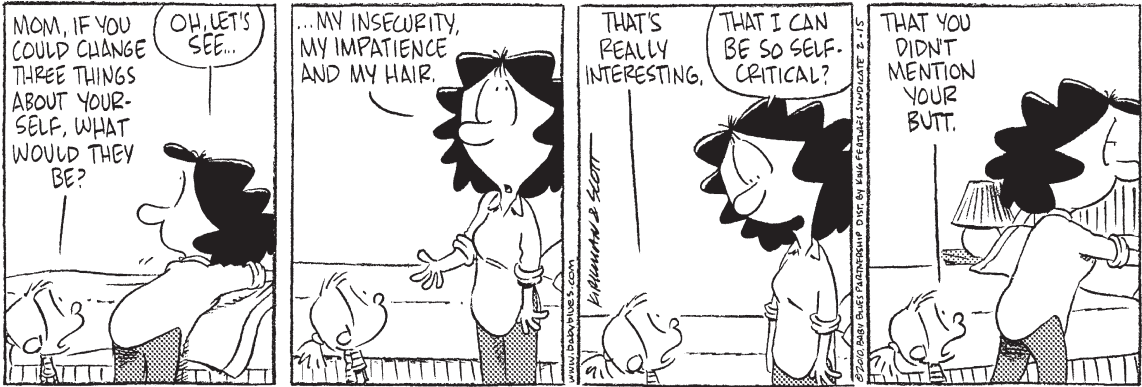
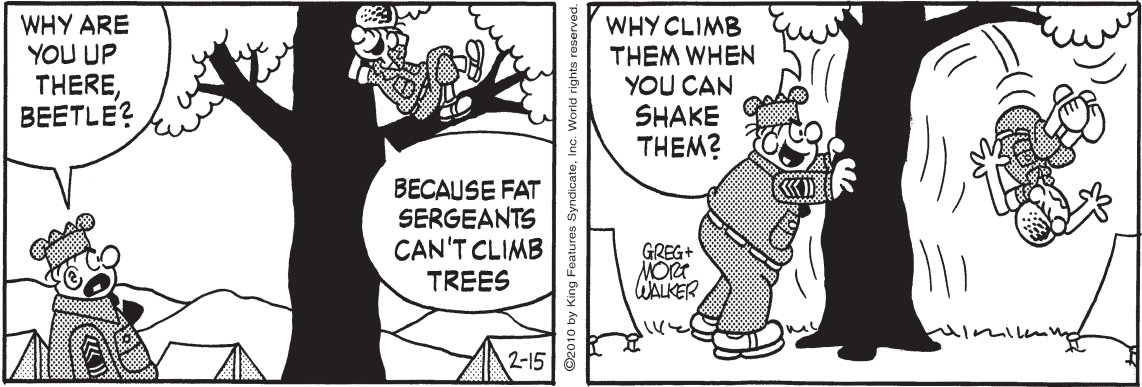


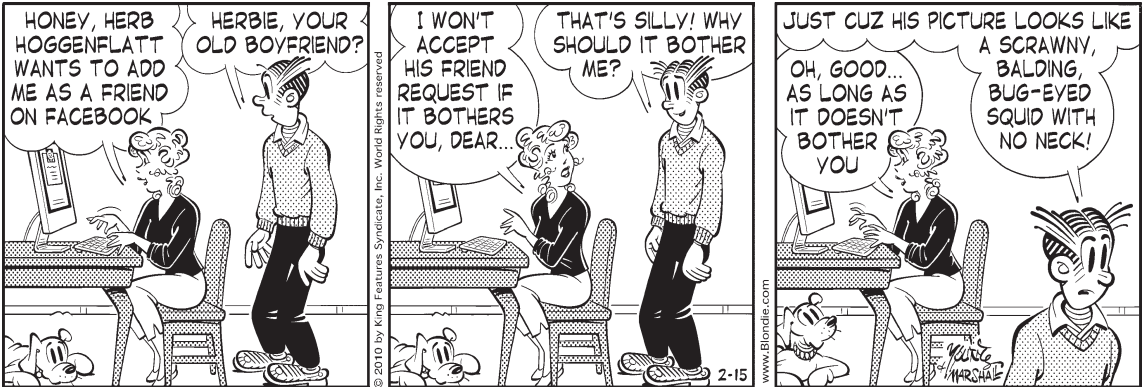
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



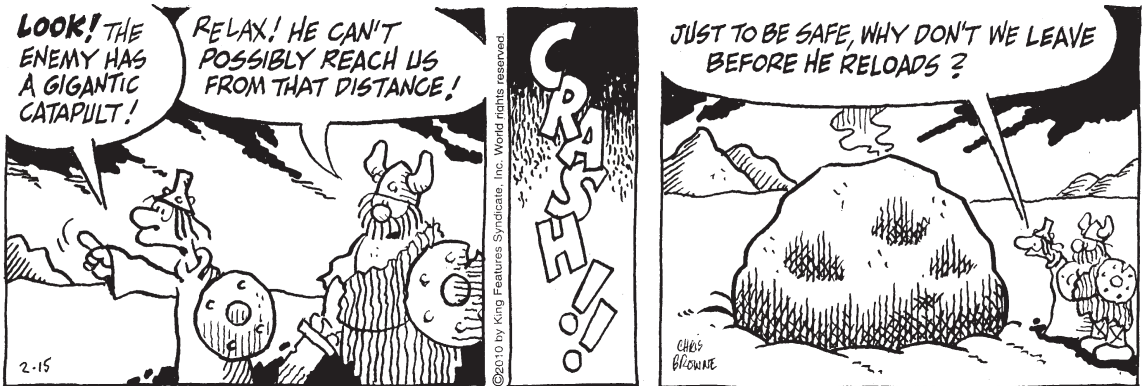
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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  
Jobless husband concerns his wife

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My husband was laid off from his job. At first he had a positive attitude. He got a resume together, did networking and all that stuff. But he hasn't had but two interviews, and his prospects seem bleak. We are tapping into our savings. He told me last night that he just wants to sleep all day today. Is he heading for trouble? I don't know what to tell the kids about what is "wrong" with their daddy. – D.B.

**Dear D.B.:** It could very well be that your husband has run out of steam – that his optimism has been replaced by the grim reality that there may not be a job for months, and even then, the job is likely to be less prestigious and lucrative. Some prognosticators are saying we won't recognize the job market anymore when this recession is done – that the lifelong career path is a thing of the past. So you all have some adjusting to do, and I won't kid you into thinking it will be easy.

A recent survey by the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health America found that people without jobs are four times as likely to have severe mental-health problems. More than one in 10 report seriously considering self-harm. Those who have kept their jobs but take pay cuts also were at increased risk. If you are able to afford it, your family should get counseling so you all can learn strategies for keeping hope alive. Your husband should try not to succumb to the "sleeping all day" escape syndrome. Many in his boat have used the opportunity to start doing their own thing – with encouragement from home.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have a very close-knit and loving family, and strong bonds with both of my brothers. One is older, and one much younger. The problem is, both of their wives are jealous of me! I don't feel as if I can spend any time alone with them anymore. They are decent to my face, but I wonder how long that will last. – C.P.

**Dear C.P.:** Well, let's look on the bright side first. You come from a loving family, and obviously no one wants that to change. The difficulty is in incorporating others into the family unit and making them feel just as special and welcome as you can. This may be where you and your brothers have fallen down on the job. I see a failure to make the in-laws feel special compared with the original members of the family. So, rather than react to their jealousy I would bend over backward to include them and extend a warm hand. This may be a difficult task for you, but it will pay off – big time – in the end.

Girls who are jealous of their sisters-in-law often are insecure themselves. That is not to say that perfectly "normal" young women don't sometimes find a threat within the family. Any female who takes up her new husband's time is frowned upon by this type of individual. You might admit a bit of jealousy on your part and try to let go. Sometimes you have to be the grown-up.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 6 2  
♥ A K 7  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ A Q 7 3

**EAST**  
♠ J 8  
♥ Q 10 9 4 3 2  
♦ 8  
♣ 10 9 8 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q 7 4  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ A 5 2  
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:  
North 1 ♠  
East Pass  
South 1 ♠  
West 4 ♣  
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

This hand was played many years ago by British star Adam Meredith. The bidding was far from perfect, but that's how it went. Meredith then proceeded to make four spades by an ingenious method of play.

West led the diamond king and, when Meredith ducked, continued with the queen. East discarded a heart, and Meredith won the queen with the ace. He then cashed the A-K-Q of spades, learning that West, who had already shown up with six diamonds, also had four spades.

Meredith seemingly had four sure losers at this point – a spade, a heart and two diamonds – and had to find a way to eliminate one of them. This would have been easy to accomplish had the clubs been divided 3-3, but Meredith realized that this was unlikely to be the case.

After long thought, he concluded that his best chance for the contract was to try to convert his spade loser into his 10th trick by ruffing a diamond!

Accordingly, he led a heart to the king at trick six. Had West shown out, it would have meant he had three clubs, assuring the contract. But West followed suit, and Meredith then played the A-K of clubs.

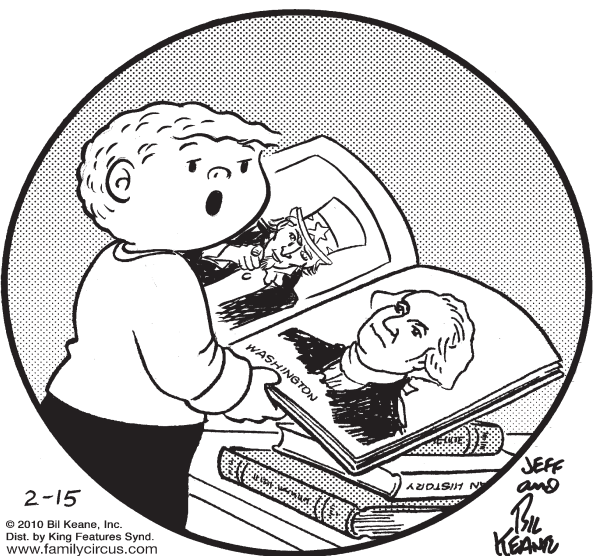
When West followed to both clubs, Meredith knew he had the contract in the bag. He led another club toward dummy's Q-7. It would have done West no good to ruff, so he discarded a diamond. Dummy won with the queen and continued with the seven of clubs. When East played the ten, Meredith discarded his last diamond!

East was now forced to return a heart. Again West could not gain by ruffing, so he discarded another diamond. Meredith won the heart with dummy's ace and ruffed a diamond as West helplessly followed suit, and the game was home.

It might appear that if East ruffs the second diamond lead, the contract cannot be made. In that case, however, South can still come to 10 tricks by eventually squeezing East in hearts and clubs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/15

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

HN P WOPQLHMW HCLEJCMJS  
NP EEQ NOZC CK APMV PS SAI  
QPEPV XPO, CPKXJ SAPS'Q  
P QEHL ZN SAI SZMWQ.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** THE LONGTIME ROWING BOAT RACER WANTS TO FIND A NEW CAREER. HE MUST BE BORED OUT OF HIS SCULL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Goya subject  
5 Illuminated  
8 Hairless  
12 Trespass  
14 Malaria symptom  
15 Electrical energy measurement  
16 Tragic  
17 Type units  
18 Removed the lid  
20 Computer shortcut  
23 Small branch  
24 Actress Judith  
25 Idea  
28 Wynken, Blynken and —  
29 Doughnut-shaped figure  
30 Reaction to fire-works  
32 Lacking  
34 Sweat outlet  
35 Steerer's place

**DOWN**

1 Kitten's comment  
3 Literary collection  
3 Intersection (Abbr.)  
4 Blood line  
5 Cambodia's neighbor  
6 Hosp. section  
7 Discard  
8 No-goodnik  
9 Not "fer"  
10 Entice  
11 Home-owner's document  
13 Speed skater  
19 Any of 12 popes

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

ATE SOPH BRAD  
LEI TOTA EURO  
PETERPAN ANEW  
HIES ORGAN  
STERN FADE  
WORE PANORAMA  
AGO ROTOR REF  
MARZIPAN CBER  
ABEL PHOTO  
WOOF SEAR  
ERST PANATELA  
BALL IGOR AIR  
BLOG PEWS LET

Saturday's answer 2-15

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
47					48					
49					50			51		