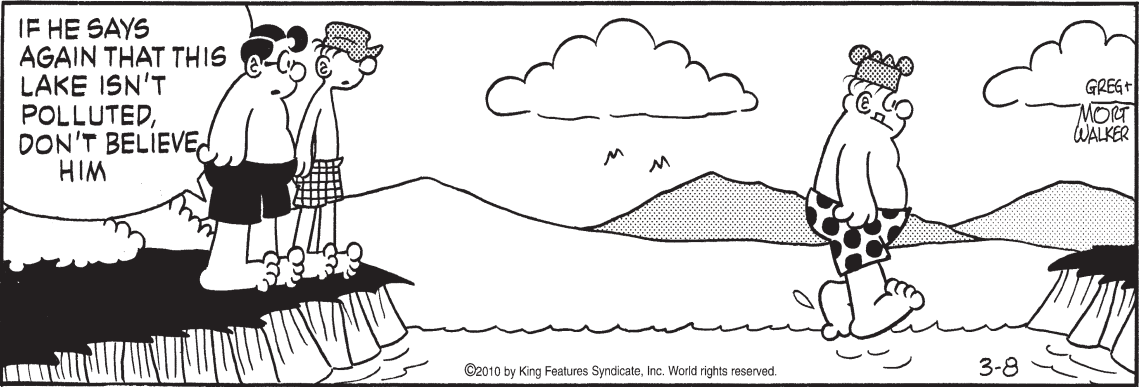


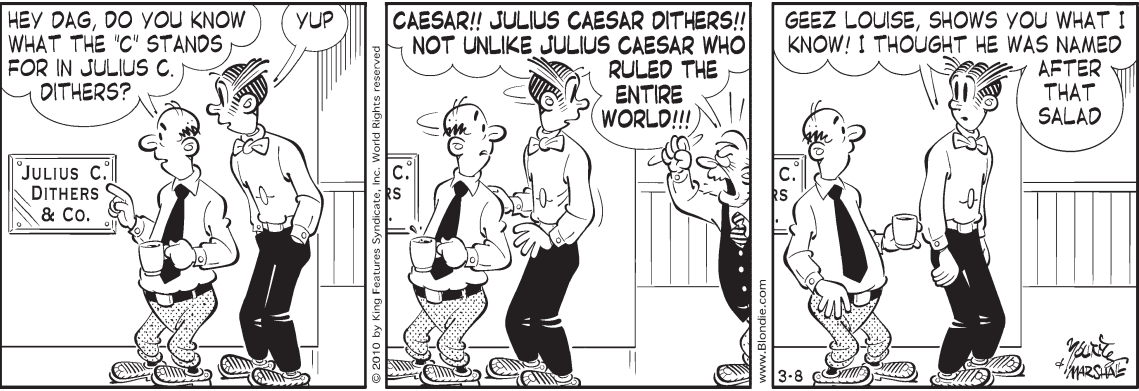
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



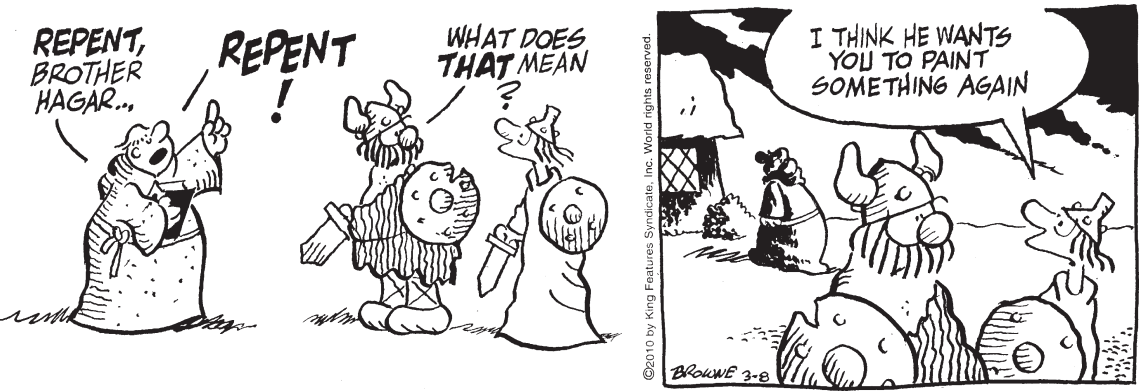
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



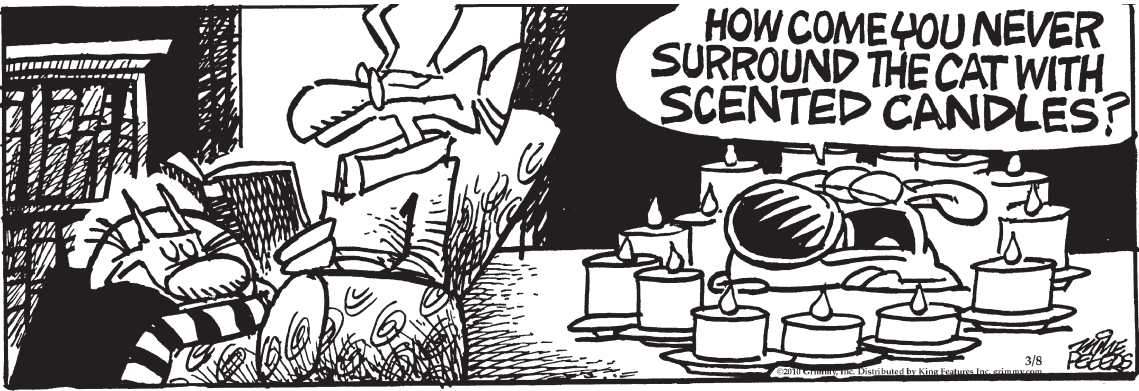
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



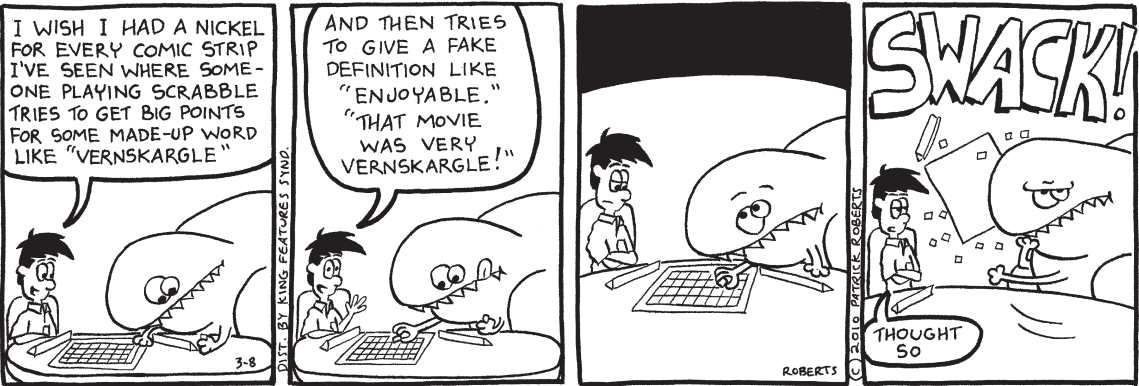
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



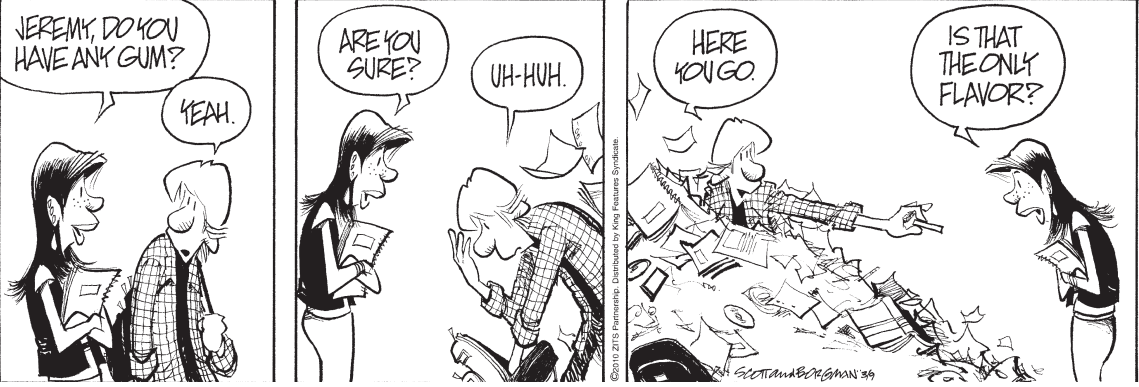
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers  
• Ask Dr. Brothers

He pretends to go to work

Dear Dr. Brothers: This is embarrassing, but I have started something I don't know how to stop, and I'm pretty sure I should stop. No, I'm not having an affair. My girlfriend thinks I have a good job, though, and I did – but I lost it a month ago, and I am still pretending I have it! Anyway, I feel bad telling her about my day, when I am making it up. How do I get out of this? Help! – C.Y.

Dear C.Y.: I don't have to tell you how dishonest and self-destructive this kind of behavior can be, as you sound plenty remorseful. When a man pretends to go to the office each day after losing his job, it's usually a cry for help from a part of him that feels the shame and hurt of losing a job are too much to share with a loved one. Usually there are people at home who are heavily dependent on him, and he wants breathing room to come up with a new idea before the whole family has to mourn the loss of the old one.

Unfortunately, these ruses take up enormous amounts of energy that could be used in job-hunting. And you are digging your grave deeper by telling about your nonexistent day. If you stop that, confess to her and try to get her to see you weren't trying to fool her but just hang on to your self-esteem, she may forgive you. But don't be surprised if she is upset. If she can get past this deception, ask her to help you work toward getting another job. Let her know she is an essential part of your life and that you don't want to disappoint her further. Include her in most every decision, at least until you get your credibility back. Realize that this is a trust issue, and you have blown it, big-time. So don't expect miracles. Good luck.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a woman who has a job that, unfortunately, carries with it travel to various cities. I've never liked flying, but have to do it, so I grit my teeth and go. But I've noticed that the more security measures are stepped up, the more nervous I become. Then I worry about looking suspicious because I am nervous! Is there any way to calm myself down? I take a tranquilizer, but it's not very effective. – B.W.

Dear B.W.: Sometimes even medication doesn't help if we don't get to the root of the problem. It sounds as though you are very frightened, perhaps about getting caught up in some horrible security snafu, or perhaps about ending up in an interrogation room while your plane leaves without you and you miss all your appointments. And even worse, being fired at the end of it all. So you are putting pressure on yourself not to stand out – which, of course, would make anyone nervous.

It may be you could get noticed if screeners turn to behavioral profiling – checking passengers who act scared. You might need to join a therapy group that stays up to date on airline practices (keep some kind of fearful flyer membership card in your wallet to show the screener!). You may find such a program will help you focus on the anxiety rather than trying to make it go away through medication. Facing the fear and conquering it would be a more permanent solution. Know that you are not alone – a recent Gallup/USA Today poll showed that the increased security at airports is making other modes of transportation more attractive, even if their safety record isn't as good. Go figure!

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ 5  
♥ A Q 8 4  
♦ J 10 8 6  
♣ 10 6 3

WEST  
♠ Q 10 7  
♥ 9 7 6 5 3 2  
♦ 3  
♣ A 5 4

EAST  
♠ K J 6 4 2  
♥ K J 10  
♦ 4  
♣ Q 9 7 2

SOUTH  
♠ A 9 8 3  
♥ A K 9 7 5 2  
♦ K J 8

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥  
Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦  
Pass 5♦ Pass 6♦  
Opening lead — five of hearts.

Famous Hand

On this deal from the 1989 world team championship finals, the United States picked up a substantial swing when Chip Martel and Lew Stansby bid a slam that was missed by their Brazilian counterparts at the other table.

Martel was North and Stansby South in the auction shown. Stansby's two-diamond rebid was a bit conservative, but he made up for it later by carrying on to slam after Martel's leap to five diamonds. Indeed, Stansby's five-spade cuebid was an attempt to reach a grand slam if his partner had the right hand. But Martel understandably decided that he had already done his all, so he signed off at six.

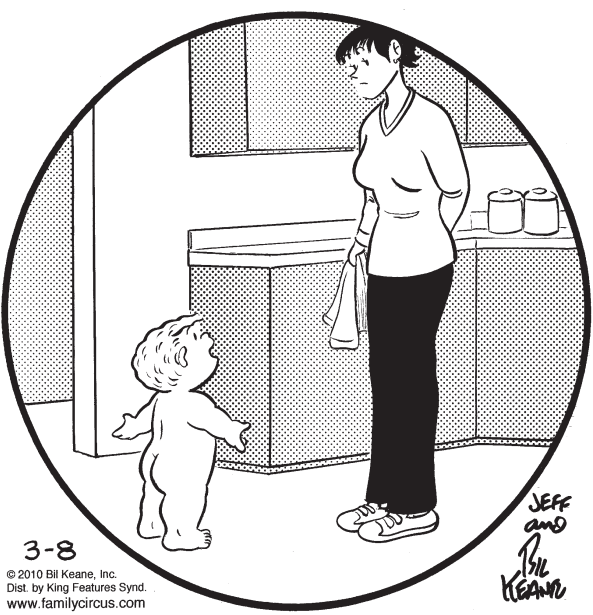
West led a heart, and declarer tried dummy's queen. Stansby ruffed East's king, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. He then led a trump to the king, ruffed another spade, ruffed a heart and ruffed his last spade. A club was discarded on the ace of hearts, and a club was led toward the K-J.

Declarer might seem to have a pure guess as to whether to play the king or jack of clubs after East follows low. In actuality, though, Stansby had much more to go on. The play to this point had revealed that East started with five spades to the K-J and the K-J-10 of hearts. If he also held the ace of clubs, he would surely have opened the bidding rather than pass initially. So Stansby played the jack of clubs, and the slam was home.

At the other table, the Brazilian North-South pair rested quietly in five diamonds, giving the Americans a 500-point (11-IMP) gain on the deal.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

©2010 Concepts Puzzles. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

OWUXG W'L N JWK YNU EY

MNIWUK JI XHGBWD XNHB, W

CWQG DE DSWUQ EY LIOGCV

NO N DNQG-XSNHKG DIMG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I AM THE BEST HOUSEPLANT SPRAYER IN THE WORLD, WOULD YOU CALL ME THE MASTER MISTER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Refuse abruptly
  - 5 Brooch
  - 8 Actress
  - 12 Hodge-podge
  - 13 Salt Lake tribe member
  - 14 Black-birds
  - 15 Dregs
  - 16 AAA vehicle
  - 18 Shoe style
  - 20 Ponders
  - 21 String instrument
  - 23 Conclusion
  - 24 Rope contest
  - 28 Facility
  - 31 Exist
  - 32 Georgia of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
  - 34 Dead heat
  - 35 Hostels
- DOWN
- 1 Thin neckwear
  - 2 Rodriguez or Trebek
  - 3 Willing, old-style
  - 4 Balkan land
  - 5 Insults
  - 6 Judge Lance
  - 7 Mr. Gingrich
  - 8 Leather-neck
  - 9 Flood
  - 10 "Casa-blanca" role
  - 11 Inquires
  - 17 Definite article
  - 19 Abundant
  - 22 Former capital of Nigeria
  - 24 Mai — (cocktail)
  - 25 Coffee shop vessel
  - 26 Watson and Crick's field
  - 27 "Stop" signal
  - 29 Ma'am's counterpart
  - 30 "A mouse!"
  - 33 Asian nation
  - 36 Nets
  - 38 Royal clown
  - 40 Hallucination letters
  - 42 Out of control
  - 43 Hindu princess
  - 44 Verifiable
  - 46 — Major
  - 47 Into the sunrise
  - 48 Coloring agents
  - 50 — Khan
- Solution time: 27 mins.
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | T |   | S | O | P | H |   | P | R | A | Y |
| O | A | R |   | T | O | R | I |   | R | I | S | E |
| W | H | O | L | E | H | O | G |   | O | O | P | S |
| S | U | N | D | A | E |   | H | E | N |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | O | L | D |   | H | O | G | T | I |
| S | K | I | P | S |   | B | A | N |   | O | O | D |
| L | I | S | A |   | C | U | T |   | M | O | O | D |
| O | W | L |   | W | A | G |   | B | E | L | L | Y |
| T | I | E | P | I | N |   | S | O | T |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | E | G | O |   | A | N | O | I | N |
| T | A | U | T |   | P | I | N |   | M | O | N | E |
| S | I | F | T |   | U | N | T | O |   | C | A | P |
| P | L | O | Y |   | S | K | A | T |   | A | P | E |
- Saturday's answer 3-8

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
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		