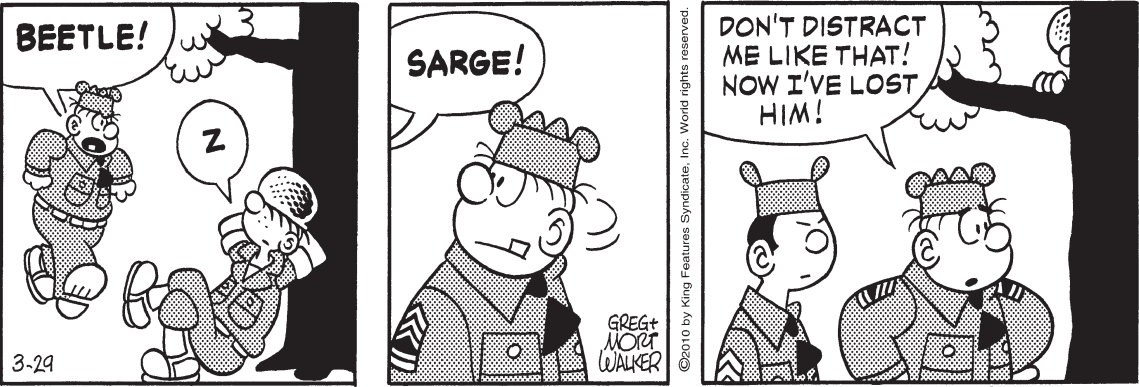


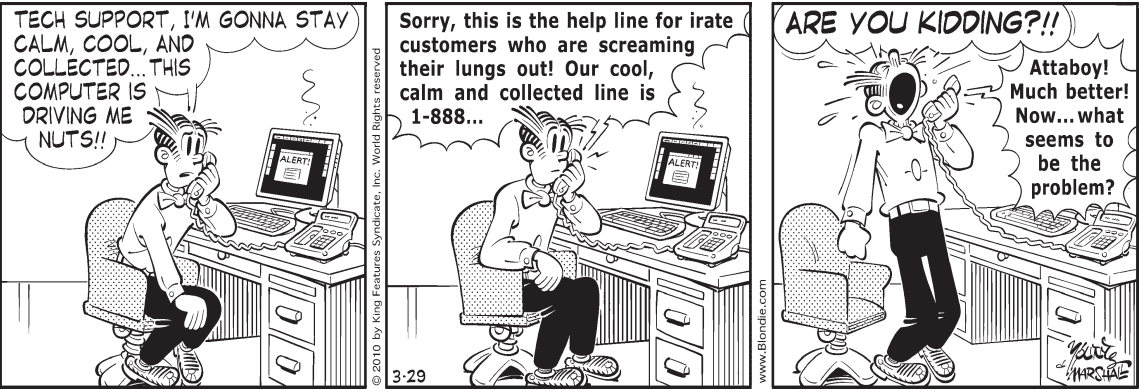
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



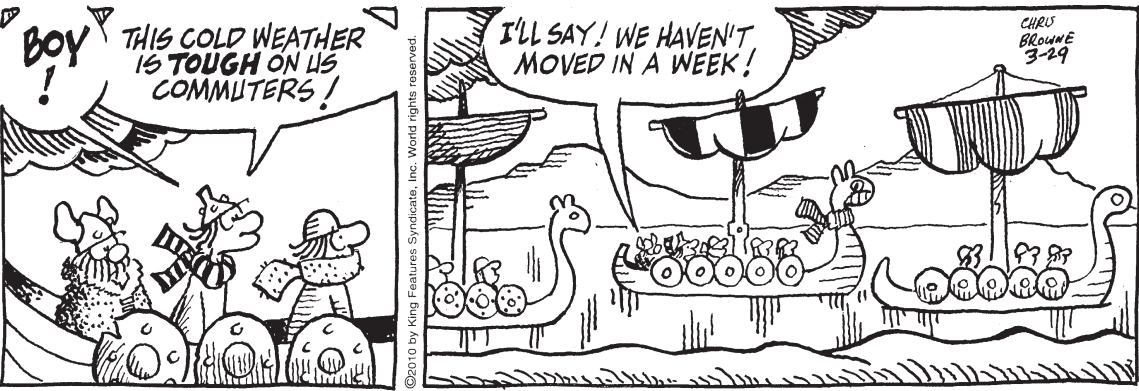
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



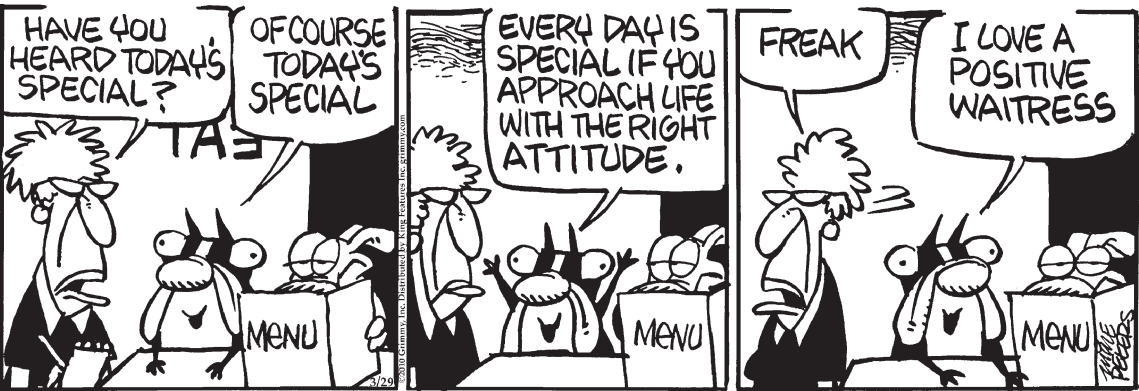
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



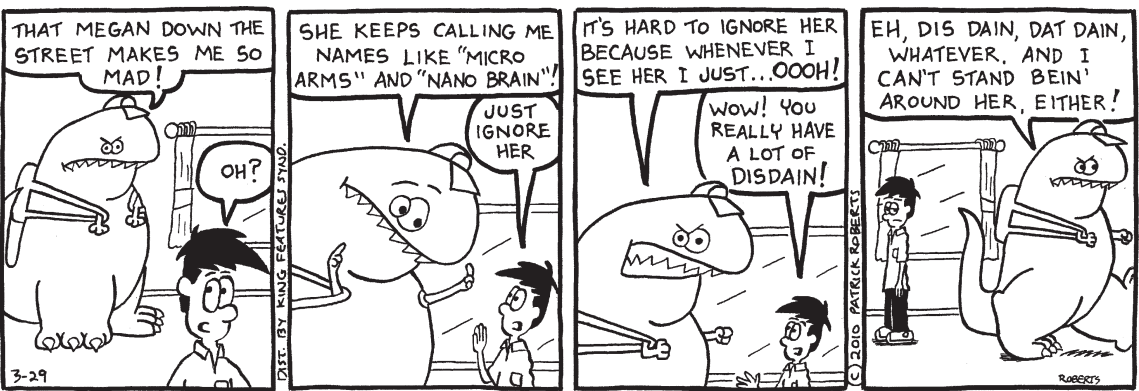
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



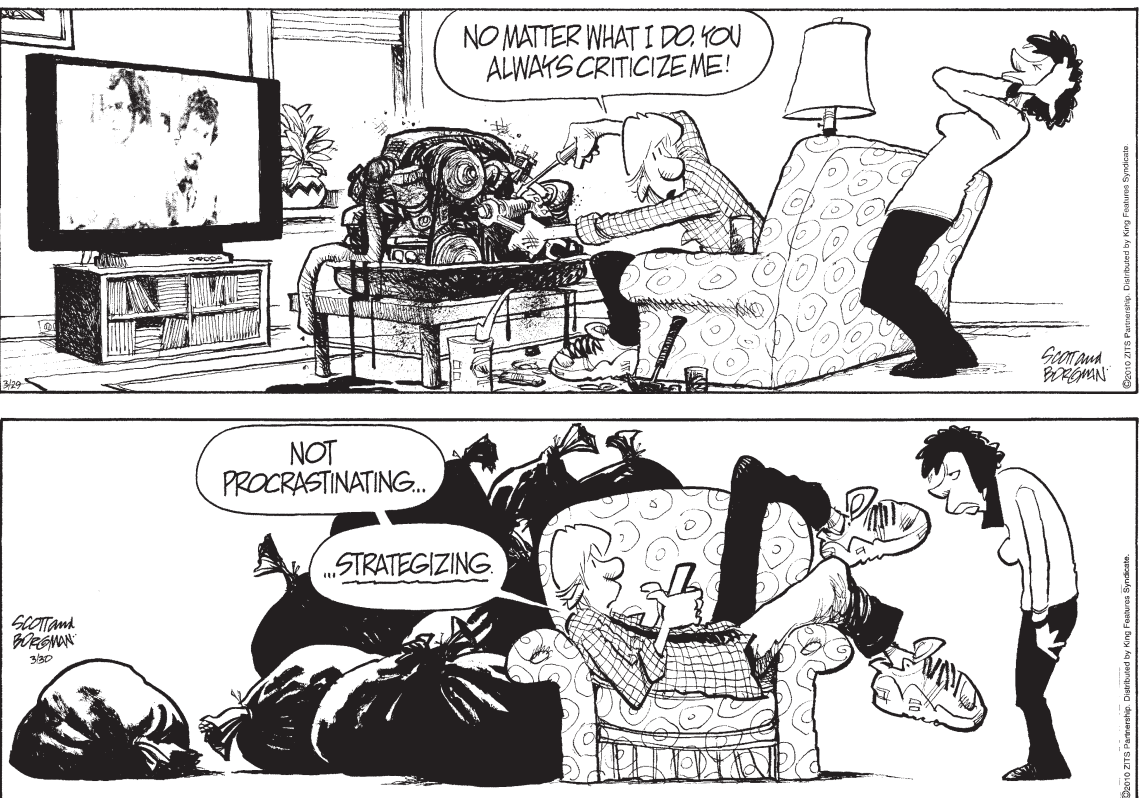
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Coach can't motivate team

Dear Dr. Brothers: I just landed a job as coach for a high-school basketball team. Due to the team's history of not making it to the playoffs, my new job is by no means easy, but I look at it as a challenge. Turns out I might be the only one. No matter how much I try, I just can't get my team going. They seem to have no spirit whatsoever. Wouldn't you think being the lowest-ranking team in the area would motivate them? – R.L.

Dear R.L.: Motivation is hard to get a handle on sometimes. It could be that the fact your team has nothing to lose and nowhere to go but up isn't motivating to the individual members. They may feel branded with a "loser" label and therefore less likely to work as a team to improve. It may be they need to experience being winners before they can find the key to success. So anything you can do to have them achieve some easy wins might help boost their egos – perhaps exhibition games with neighborhood teams or charity fundraisers against opponents they can surely beat would begin to raise their status.

A series of experiments at Cornell University published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* seems to confirm that the higher a group's status, the more motivated they will be to stay on top. It is the potential loss of status to a team they feel is inferior that keeps groups on their toes, according to the findings in this study. Being the underdog doesn't carry the same weight, as there is no status being threatened, just a less-attractive label to lose. So get your team in a position to win something, and build up their pride from there. Community involvement may end up being the key to your success.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I just got out of a contracting job in Iraq. It was hard work, and I've seen horrible things. Now that I'm back on U.S. soil, I'm finding it hard to get any job. This might have something to do with the large facial tattoo I have on my right cheek. I got it while in Iraq, and don't so much regret it as I resent doors being shut in my face. I'm not that bad of a guy. How can I make people less judgmental toward me? – A.T.

Dear A.T.: It used to be that only sailors, convicts and motorcycle gangs sported tattoos. And although their popularity has waxed and waned the past few years, there is no doubt that we see tattoos on all types of people to a degree that was unheard of just a couple of decades ago. So you are not alone. The problem is you have taken the tattoo far beyond what most people are comfortable with. There's a whole class of people who have them only in "secret" places, inaccessible to the casual observer. Then there are those who have one traditional tattoo on the upper arm. But more and more people seem to be having multiple tattoos all over their bodies.

The face, though, seems to be one of the last frontiers, and many tattoo artists will not consider face work. Unless you have it removed, you probably will have to resign yourself to working in a field in which tattoos are cool, or in which you have no contact with the public and the employer doesn't mind, or in which you are your own boss. That still leaves choices stemming from a big one you made about where to be tattooed. It won't help, at this point, to worry about the past – put your thinking cap on, and get going.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠AK98753
♥A1743
♦4
♣1042

EAST

♠108752
♥J
♦AK54
♣985

SOUTH

♠AKQJ96
♥Q6
♦10972
♣Q

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 1♣ 2♣ 2♥
4♦ 4NT 2♠ 6♥
Dble 7♣

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Famous Hand

Although bridge is primarily a game of skill, luck plays a role in the outcome of many hands. Today's deal from the 1989 Bermuda Bowl final between Brazil and the United States provides a classic case in point.

When Gabriel Chagas and Marcelo Branco of Brazil held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. Chagas-Branco bid aggressively to reach the excellent grand slam in spades, which is home free if the opposing spades are divided 3-3 or 4-2 (a combined chance of 84 percent) and hearts split 2-2 or 3-1 (90 percent).

West led a diamond, trumped in dummy, but after the spades turned out to be 5-1, the hand fell apart. When the smoke cleared, Branco had lost three diamonds and a trump trick for down four – 400.

At the other table, where Chip Martel and Lew Stansby of the U.S. were North-South, the bidding went:

East South West North

Pass 1♣ 2♦ 2♥

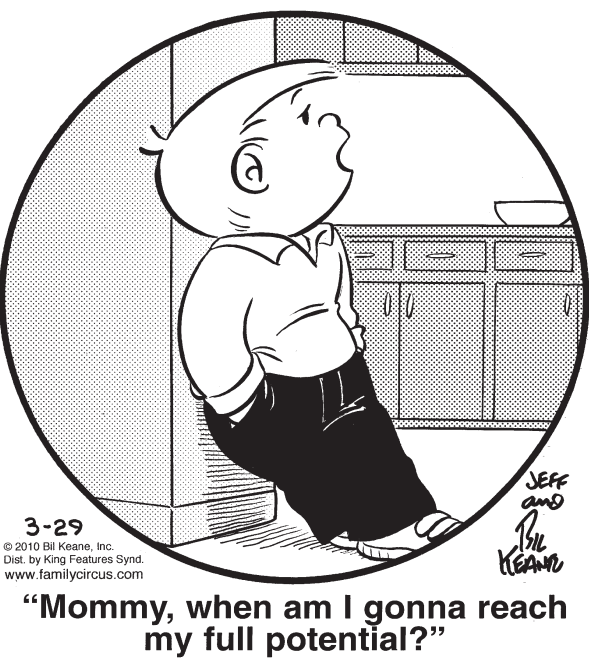
5♦ 5♠ 2♠ 6♥

Again West led a diamond, and again declarer lost four tricks, but here the outcome was down three. As a result, the U.S. gained 100 points – 3 IMPs – on the deal. Had the spades divided more normally, though, the Americans would have lost 750 points (13 IMPs), so they had every reason to thank Dame Fortune on this occasion.

This setback did not discourage the Brazilians in the least, however, as they went on to capture the world title in convincing fashion, winning by 54 IMPs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

CPW ZGBO INCY UA YNUMN G

TPGSOK YCA DS MKOGLUAZ

LNO DOIL-LGILUAZ TUMQPO:

"POL'I BGQO G WUPP."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR OLD DITTY THAT EXPLAINS HOW TO HOAX UNWARY LONDON INHABITANTS: "PUTTIN' ON THE BRITS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cauldron
4 Surprise cries
7 FDR's dog
11 Essen's river
13 "Phooey!"
14 PC picture
15 First name of
18-Across
16 Anger
17 Lascivious
18 Modernist poet
20 Otherwise
22 Youngster
24 Melted-cheese dish
28 Sleep-wear
32 Exceedingly
33 Egg
34 — Kippur
36 London art gallery
37 Gold or silver
39 Yellow-orange
41 Roman magistrate

DOWN

1 Get ready, for short
2 Anise-flavored liqueur
3 From one end to t'other
4 Sapporo sash
5 Tortoise's opponent
6 Ledge
7 "HTTP Error 404" message
8 High card
9 De-pressed
10 Plus
12 The unskilled
19 Poorly lit

21 Junior
23 Rotation
25 Cherished one
26 "Do — others ..."
27 Paradise
28 "— and Circum-stance"
29 State with conviction
30 Twine fiber
31 "Help!"
35 Periodical, briefly
38 High-arc shot
40 Watch chain
42 Wild West show
45 Lunch-time, maybe
47 Blunder
48 Merriment
49 Bygone times
50 Crazy
51 Id counterpart
52 Old horse
54 Compass dir.

Solution time: 27 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| PECAN | CON | ARR | | | | | | | |
| TEASE | ADO | TOE | | | | | | | |
| ALTER | BOTCHUP | | | | | | | | |
| ASH | YON | EASEL | | | | | | | |
| DOUG | TASTY | | | | | | | | |
| ALPACA | CHOPPY | | | | | | | | |
| RISER | NASA | | | | | | | | |
| FEELS | LEG | TIP | | | | | | | |
| ALLI | GAELIC | | | | | | | | |
| KETCHUP | ADHOC | | | | | | | | |
| ENO | ASS | SLURP | | | | | | | |
| DAN | THE | SEPTA | | | | | | | |

Saturday's answer 3-29

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | 12 | | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | 20 | | 21 | | |
| | | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 | | 25 | 26 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | | 32 | | | |
| 33 | | | | 34 | | 35 | | 36 | | |
| 37 | | | | 38 | | 39 | | 40 | | |
| 41 | | | | 42 | | 43 | | | | |
| | | | 44 | | 45 | | 46 | | 47 | 48 |
| 50 | 51 | 52 | | | 53 | | 54 | | 55 | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 |