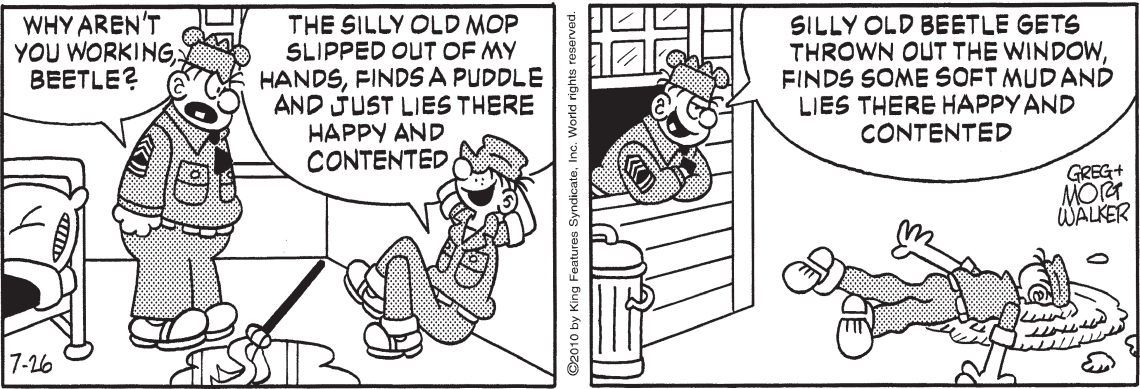


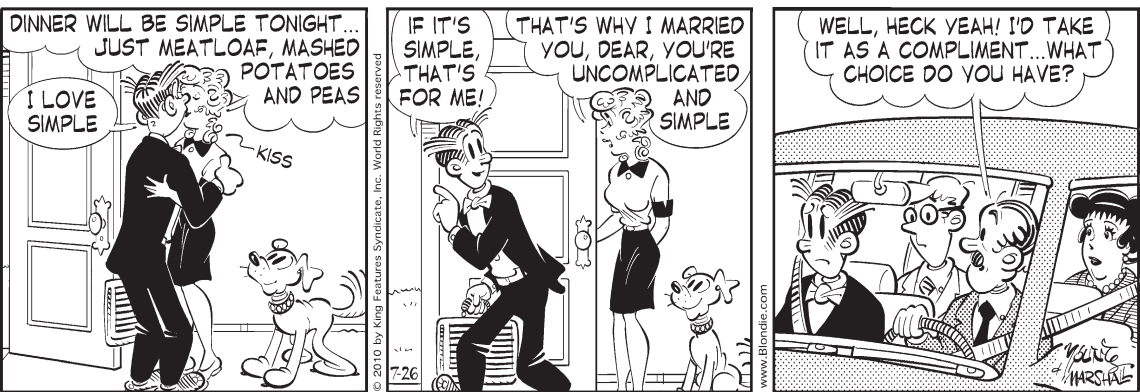
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



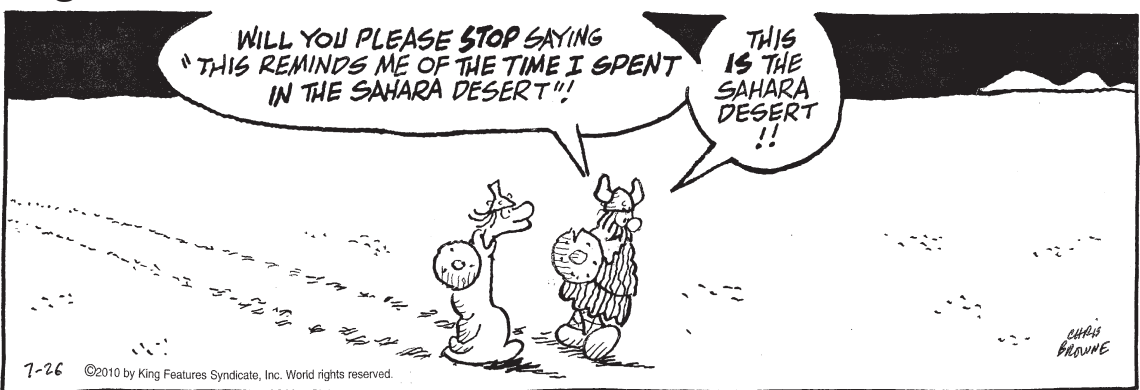
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



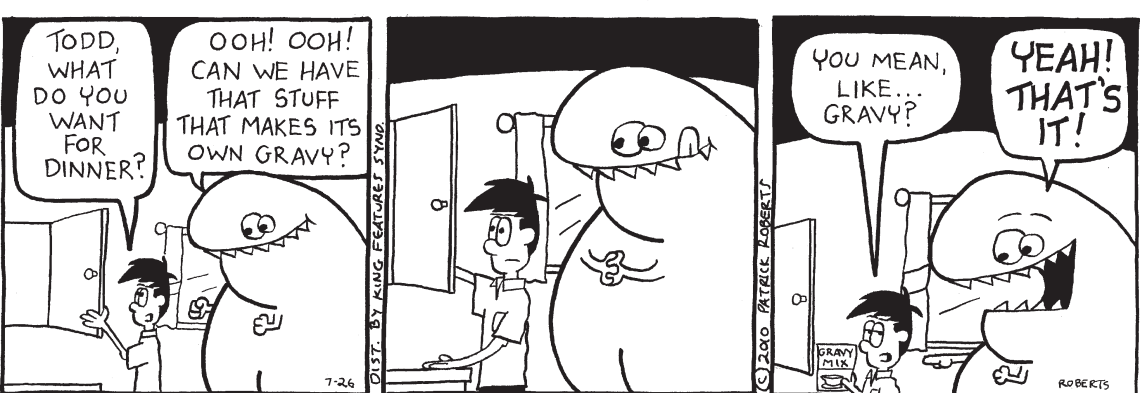
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



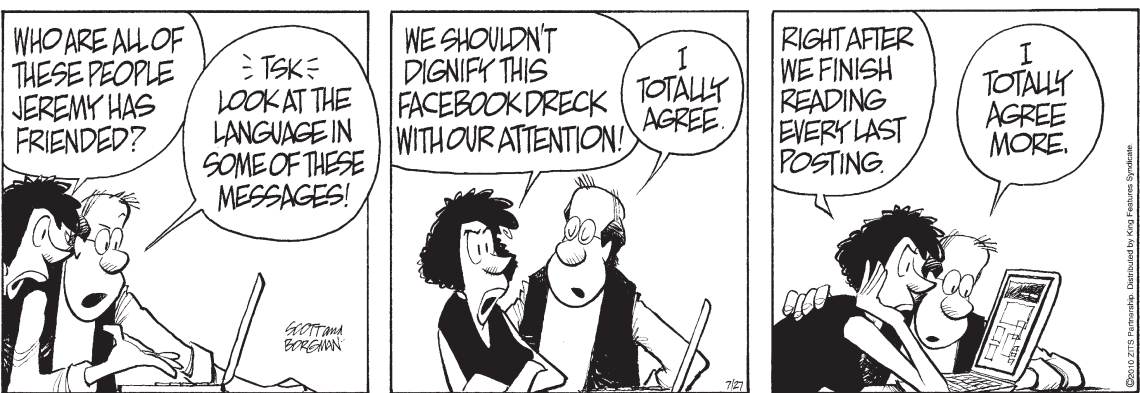
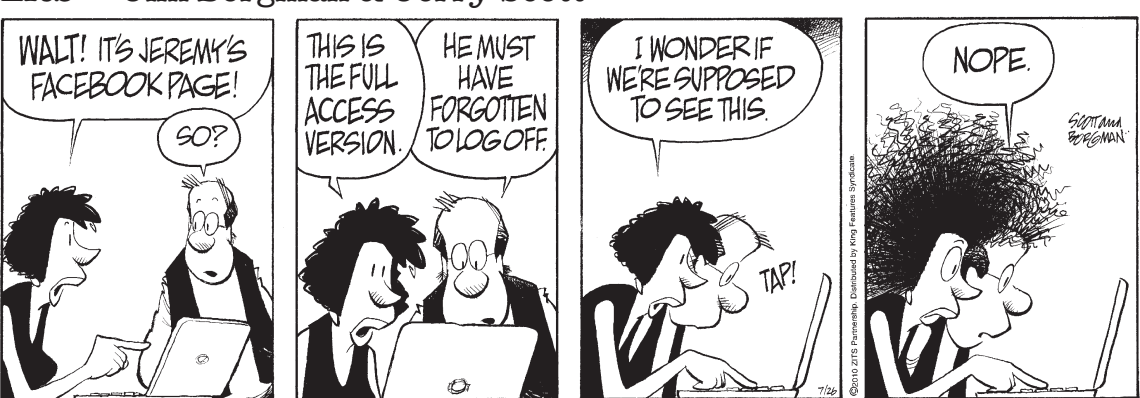
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Interview makes the difference

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been interviewing for jobs, and have had no success. I think I'm qualified, but I don't do well one-on-one with the interviewer - I'm terrible at ad libbing! I always thought that when interviewers asked your favorite color or what you do in your spare time, they were just killing time. Do these questions really get you anywhere? And have I been losing out because I never know how to answer these meaningless questions? - J.L.

Dear J.L.: Unfortunately, you're mistaken about these "filler" questions. A lot of the time, these seemingly unimportant questions have a very important purpose - and that's why they are used. There are a lot of "stock" questions that don't have right answers but give the interviewer an idea of how prepared you are for the interview, as well as how much you've thought about your life. These questions are the ones you know they're going to ask: "Where do you see yourself in 10 years?" And "What are your greatest weaknesses?" If you don't have an answer, you sound like you're not serious about the interview.

Then there are the questions that seem totally irrelevant to the position - whether about your hobbies or your favorite movie. With these questions, the interviewer is trying to get a more complete idea of what kind of person you are. How you spend your free time can indicate a lot about your personality and what kind of employee you're likely to be. It is best to be honest when answering these, and think about this ahead of time if you're nervous. In the current job market, everything you can do to give yourself an edge is important, so don't put off preparing for that next intimidating interview.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am the manager of a small office, and we have one employee who really hasn't been performing up to par recently. I think I'm a fair and forgiving boss, but this woman is really pushing the limit. This is the first time I've been in the position of deciding whether it's appropriate to fire an employee, and I really don't know what to do. Are there any guidelines for when it's a good idea to fire someone? - S.B.

Dear S.B.: The first time you have to fire someone can be intimidating. It's hard to know when to try to work with that person, and when to pull the plug. In the long run, though, it's best to confront the situation and do what needs to be done, rather than risk losing the respect of other employees. There are things you should try before firing this person, though. First, it's important that you've communicated your expectations about her performance, and that it is not satisfactory. You also should give a new employee at least a few months to get acclimated.

If you've tried these things, you still need to think about the practicalities of firing. Make sure you have a plan to deal with being one person short, and make the transition as smooth as possible. You also want to keep this woman's feelings in mind, and have the conversation in private when no clients or outsiders are around. If realistic, offer to act as a reference, or allow her to resign. This will ease her transition to a new job. Lastly, it's important to communicate with the rest of the office throughout the process.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

6 5
7
A 6 3 2
Q J 10 6 3 2

WEST

Q 7 3
A K Q J
K Q 7 4
9 7

EAST

A 8 2
10 8 5 2
10 9 5
K 8 4

SOUTH

K J 10 9 4
9 6 4 3
J 8
A 5

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass Pass 1 NT Pass
Pass 2 ♣ Pass Pass
Dble Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Famous Hand

Americans Jill Meyers and Shawn Quinn won the 1998 World Women's Pairs in Lille, France, continuing individual hot streaks that had seen the two players separately win a combined total of 14 North American championships and five world titles in the previous decade.

Their victory was all the more remarkable because it was the first time the two had played together as partners, aside from a few practice sessions they arranged just before departing for France. Today's deal, which pitted them against another top American pair, Carol Sanders and Dorothy Truscott, earned the winners a near-top.

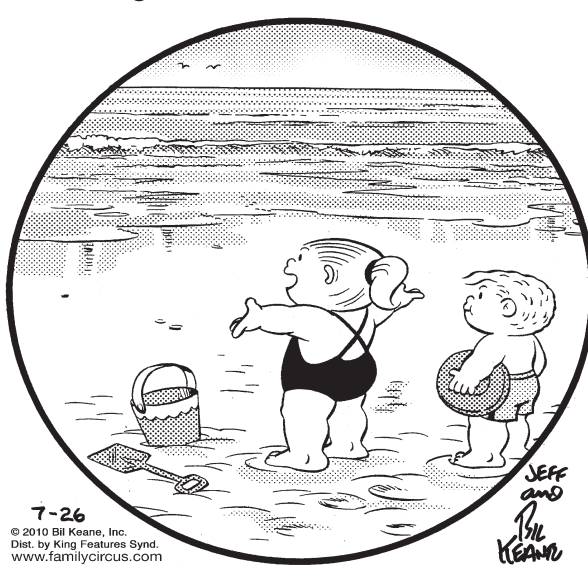
The deal exemplifies the aggressive tactics matchpoint scoring frequently requires. After Meyers passed Quinn's opening notrump bid, Truscott competed by bidding two spades. Meyers' double indicated some high-card values, and Quinn elected to go for the +200 she would get if the vulnerable contract could be defeated one trick.

Quinn led the heart king and, after dummy's singleton heart came into view, switched to a trump. Meyers won with the ace and returned a trump. Truscott put up the king, cashed the club ace and continued with a second club.

Meyers won with the king and returned a heart, allowing Quinn to collect three more heart tricks. Declarer later got rid of her diamond loser on one of dummy's good clubs as West ruffed with the spade queen, but the damage had already been done. The seven tricks collected by the defenders gave them a score of +500 and no doubt exceeded both of their initial expectations.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Every day God lets some water out so there's room to play on the beach."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/26

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

OBKR EBK PSPMBRAT YNNDKT

ENOPST EBK ONVPR'W OPSV

PLLYK TSARD, EBK WLATKS

WLAKT BKS MATKS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TRYING TO ROUND UP WITTY OFFICERS, THE POLICE CHIEF WOULD SOMETIMES CRY "CALLING ALL CARDS!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 On the rocks
- 5 Periodical, for short
- 8 Pro —
- 12 Noted woman
- 13 Hostel
- 14 Individual
- 15 —The Red
- 16 Recover quickly
- 18 Tie on
- 20 Values
- 21 "— the word!"
- 23 Homer's interjection
- 24 Abscond after release from jail
- 28 Bigfoot's cousin
- 31 Man-mouse link
- 32 These (Sp.)
- 34 Chaps
- 35 —-edged (top-quality)
- 37 Whale variety
- 39 Father
- 41 Lima's country
- 42 Hi-fi hookup
- 45 Public lecture
- 49 Neve or Naomi
- 51 "South Park"
- 52 Sandwich cookie
- 53 Can. neighbor
- 54 Fasting period
- 55 Frayed
- 56 Bear hair
- 57 Historic times
- 22 Don't slouch
- 24 Trot
- 25 Mentalist
- 26 Seaisickness
- 27 Arranged in thin layers
- 29 Sleuth, for short
- 30 Press coverage
- 33 Agile
- 36 Fisherman's catch
- 38 Belt holder
- 40 Society newcomer
- 42 Garbage barge
- 43 Poi base
- 44 Egg (Fr.)
- 46 Watchful one
- 47 Arm bone
- 48 Citi Field team
- 50 Baton Rouge sch.

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-26

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		