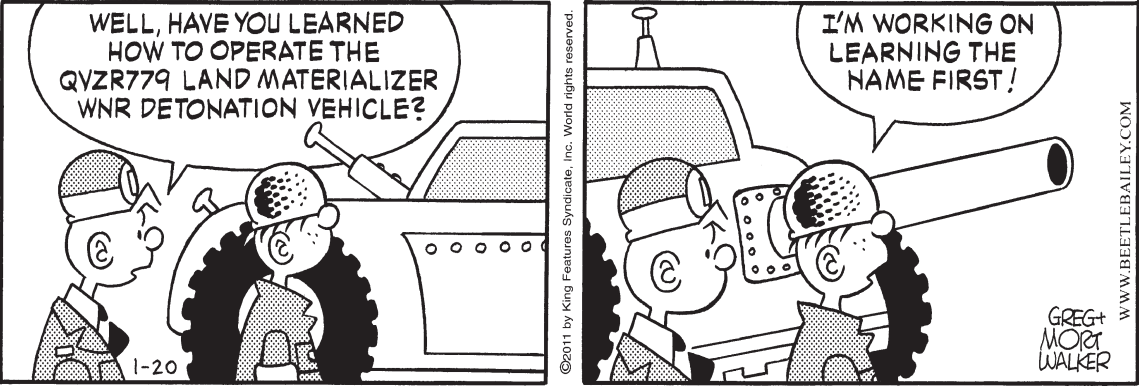


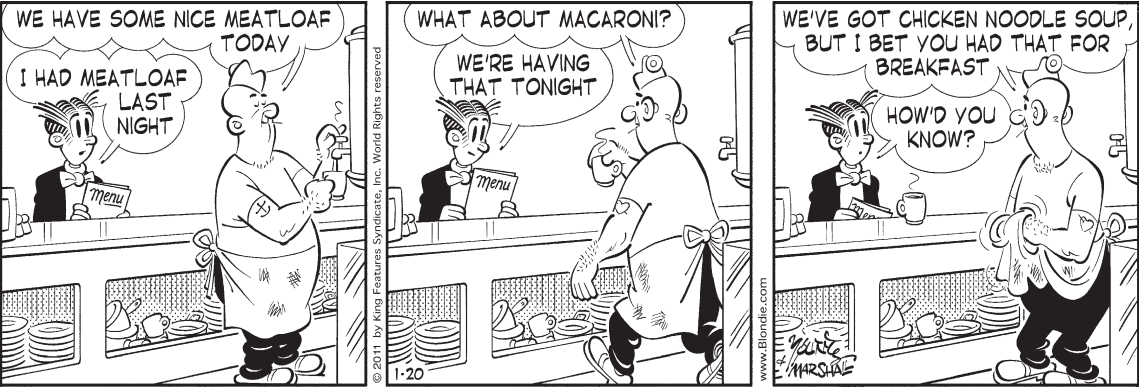
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



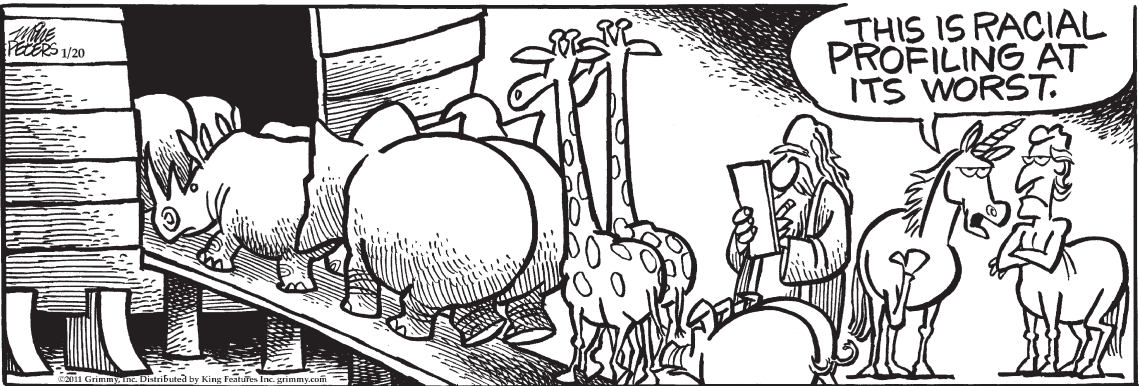
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



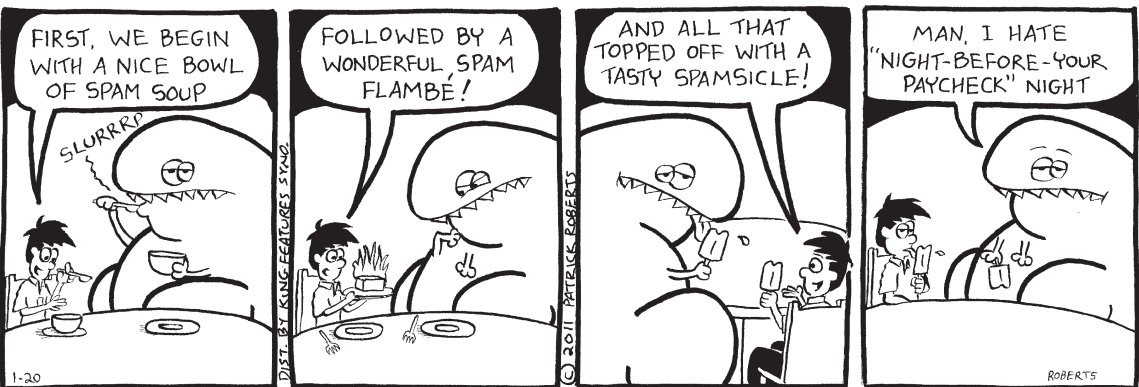
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



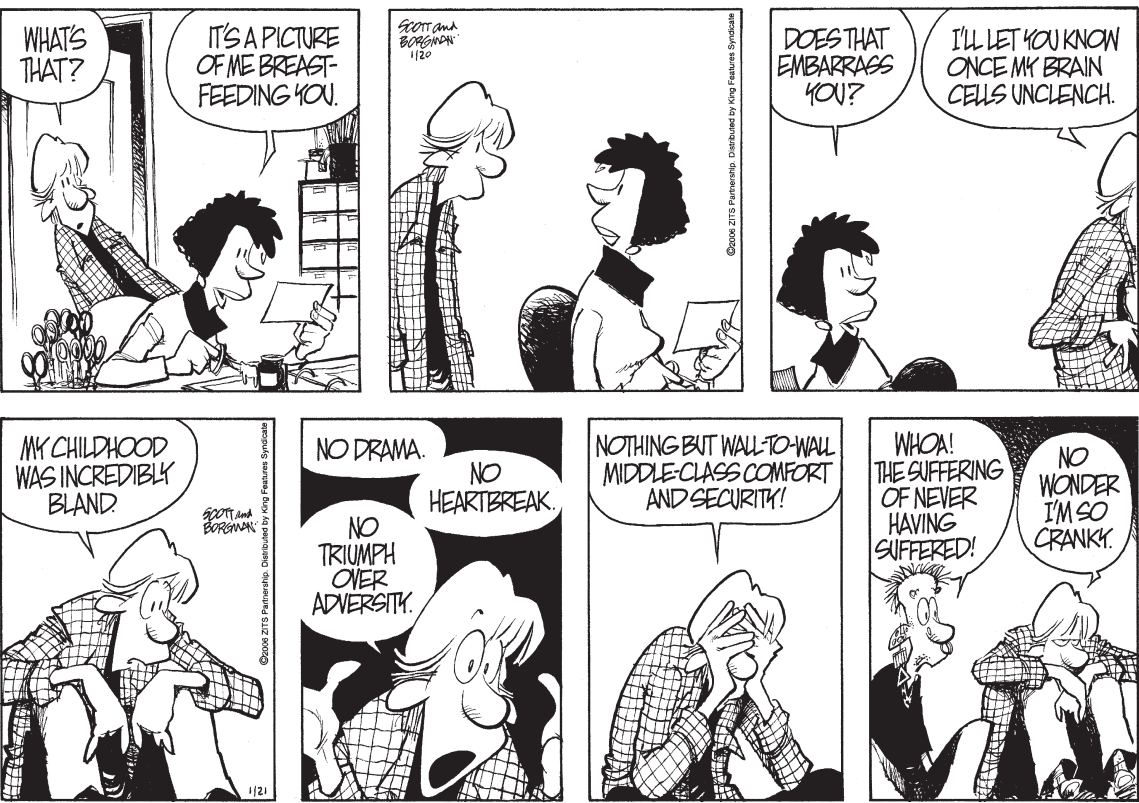
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

New husband flirts with girls

Dear Dr. Brothers: I should have known, when my future husband caught my eye at the local bar where we met – he was so cute and inviting I went over to his table. The rest is history – and we have been married for six months. Last night was our first night out and, to my amazement, he was flirting – with several girls! I feel sick. What do I do or say? – B.H.

Dear B.H.: You must have been shocked to look up and realize your new husband was flirting with other women as though he were free. And I know you must be scared, wondering what this means for your marriage. Obviously it doesn't bode well for the future for you to witness this and not say anything – you can consider it a test on his part, although he might not seem aware of looking for a reaction. So you need to react and not let this slide. Just make sure he was really flirting, and not just being friendly – you know the difference. You don't want to overreact.

Your husband may just be a flirty type – or he may be trying to maintain his available status. Tell him it upset you and you need him to flirt only with you. Be as direct and firm as possible without getting angry. Then listen to explanations and try to see if you need to give him a pass for that time. If he knows what expectations you have in public, you will have a clear way of judging whether he's being himself or looking for action. At least he will be on notice.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I just started a new job, where my performance is out in the open for everyone to see. I'm not used to being in the spotlight, so I get flustered. A co-worker told me it'll get better and I believe that. In the meantime, I'm making a fool of myself by being nervous. Do you have any tips I can use to calm myself to do what I know how to do? – L.P.

Dear L.P.: It seems like you have the confidence, but you're lacking the practice. Fortunately, if you know you're good, it can be easier to overcome the nerves all are prone to before performing. One tip many performers use is visualizing their performance beforehand. The parts of your brain you use thinking about a task are the same as those you use when you're actually doing it. By visualizing your performance, you're practicing in your own home (or coffee shop, or subway car). Then it's like you're already a pro.

Analyzing your performance when preparing is the only way to improve, but once you're on the spot, your focus should be on doing and not overanalyzing. You can try diversionary tactics to clear your mind, like focusing on your breathing or counting backward by threes. You also can prepare by using a few words as "focus words" that allow you to focus on one or two main aspects of your performance as you repeat them.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 5
♥ K 9 8
♦ K 6
♣ 10 7 4 3

WEST
♠ 10 9 7 3
♥ 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ K Q J 8 2

EAST
♠ 7 4 2
♥ A 7 5 3 2
♦ 9 6

SOUTH
♠ 8 6 2
♥ Q 4
♦ A Q J 10 6 3
♣ A 5

The bidding:
North: 1 ♠
East: Pass
South: 3 ♥
West: Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Case of the Missing Damsel
Declarer obviously cannot control the distribution of the defenders' cards, which may or may not be favorable to his cause. What he can do, however, is to try to find a way to improve his chances on those hands where an unfavorable lie of the cards may exist.

Take this case where South went down one but should have made the slam. He won the club lead, cashed three trumps and the ace of spades, then led a diamond to the queen and finessed the jack of spades.

East took the queen and returned a club, and that was the end of that. Of course, had declarer seen East's spade holding, he would have cashed the king and made the slam. But it would not be fair to criticize South for failing to guess that East had the doubleton queen of spades.

Declarer's real error came earlier, when he missed an opportunity to give himself an extra chance. He should have drawn trumps and then led a club. There was no need to try an early spade finesse; it could be taken just as well later on, if necessary.

West would win the club and, let's say, return a spade. Declarer takes the ace and ruffs a club, on which East shows out. South now cashes the Q-A of diamonds and a trump, producing this position:

North
♠ K J
♣ 10

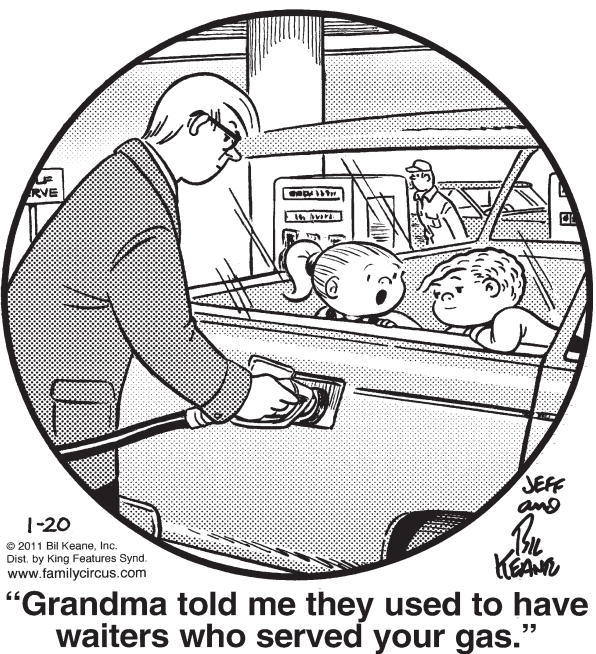
West
♠ 10 9
♣ Q

East
♠ Q
♦ J 9

South
♠ 8 6
♥ 10

Declarer plays his last trump, West discarding a spade, dummy a club and East a diamond. South now leads a spade, and West follows with the ten. Thanks to the earlier plays in the club suit, declarer knows that West's remaining card is the queen of clubs, so a spade finesse can't possibly succeed. He therefore puts up dummy's king, catches East's queen and so makes the slam.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 1/20

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

JYRSWFP SGRVQYJBGV VTFV

WFG HGPX IB OQHOBQPX

OPFXBU IX IHFRVSGZ

IQFZZFQVR: THV-FSQ IFRRHHG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ONLY LOVE SOUTH AMERICAN MEAT DISHES SERVED HOT. I PARTICULARLY DESPISE CHILLY CHILE CHILI.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ostrich's cousin
4 Obi, e.g.
8 Luminary
12 Police officer
13 Look lasciviously
14 Sulk
15 Against the current
17 Eject
18 Bill
19 Studied primarily, with "in"
21 Light blond
24 Enthusiast
25 Journal
26 AAA job
28 Avoids
32 Worked with
34 Slight touch
36 Lover's quarrel
37 Make less bright
39 Pouch
41 Coll. transcript no.
42 LummoX
44 Follower of a pair of hips?

DOWN

1 Old French coin
2 Swab
3 Stole the attention from
46 Flute's little kin
50 Lillie or Arthur
51 Pennsylvania port
52 On the ascent
56 Barracks array
57 Carina
58 Storm center
59 Dangling site
60 Tend texts
61 Drops on the grass

16 Strain
20 Roast's drippings, in a sense
21 Blunder
22 Mislay
23 Affirmative action

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-20

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					60					61		