

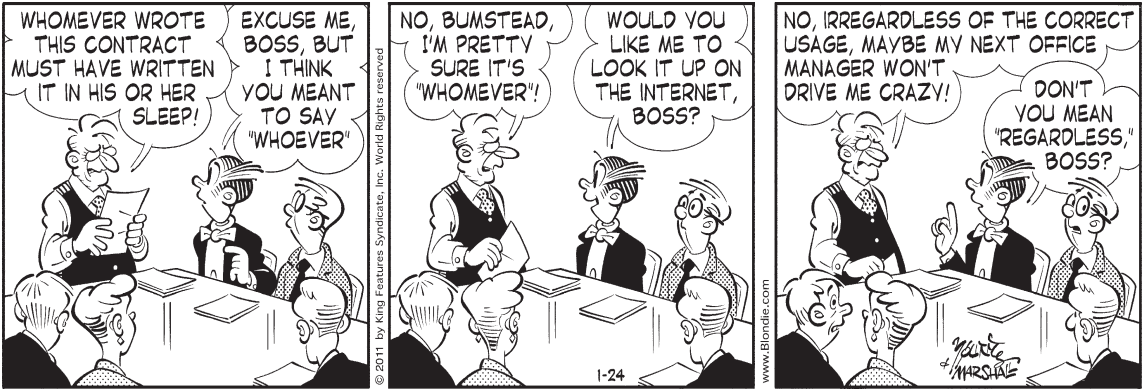
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



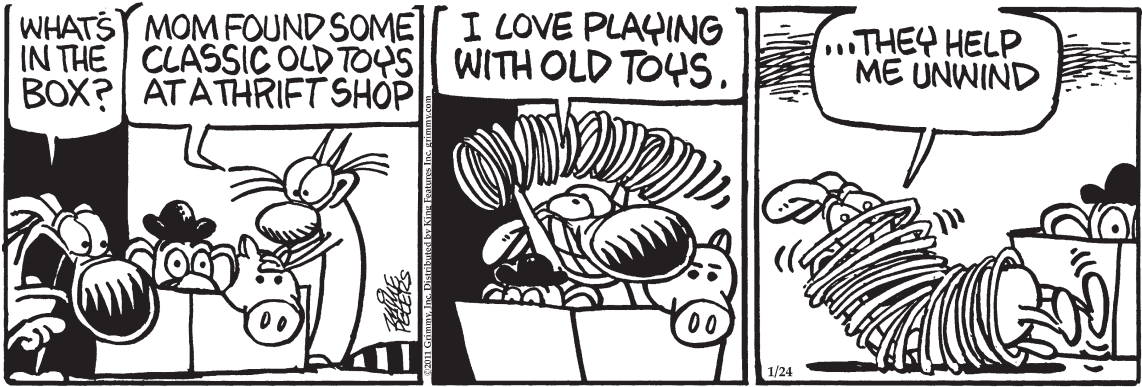
Blondie • Chic Young



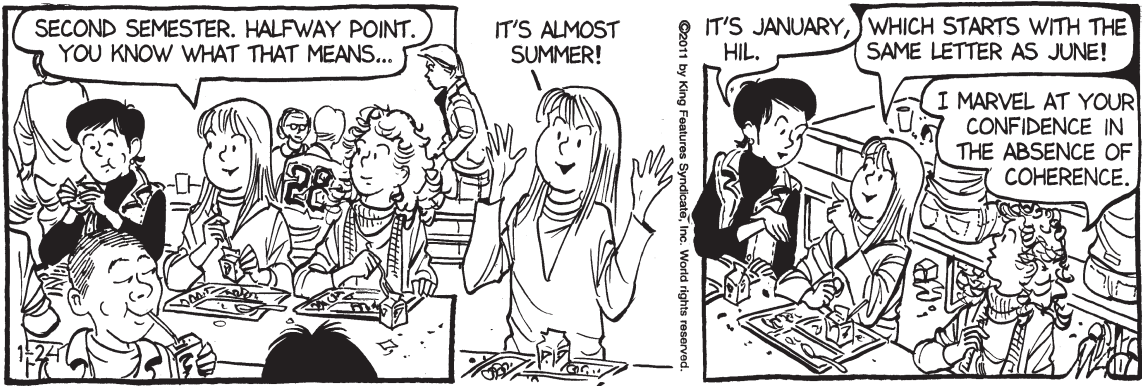
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



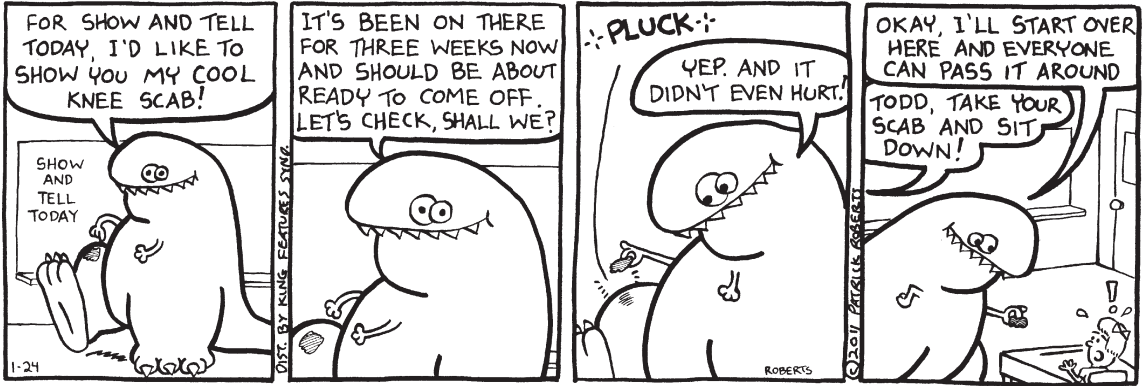
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



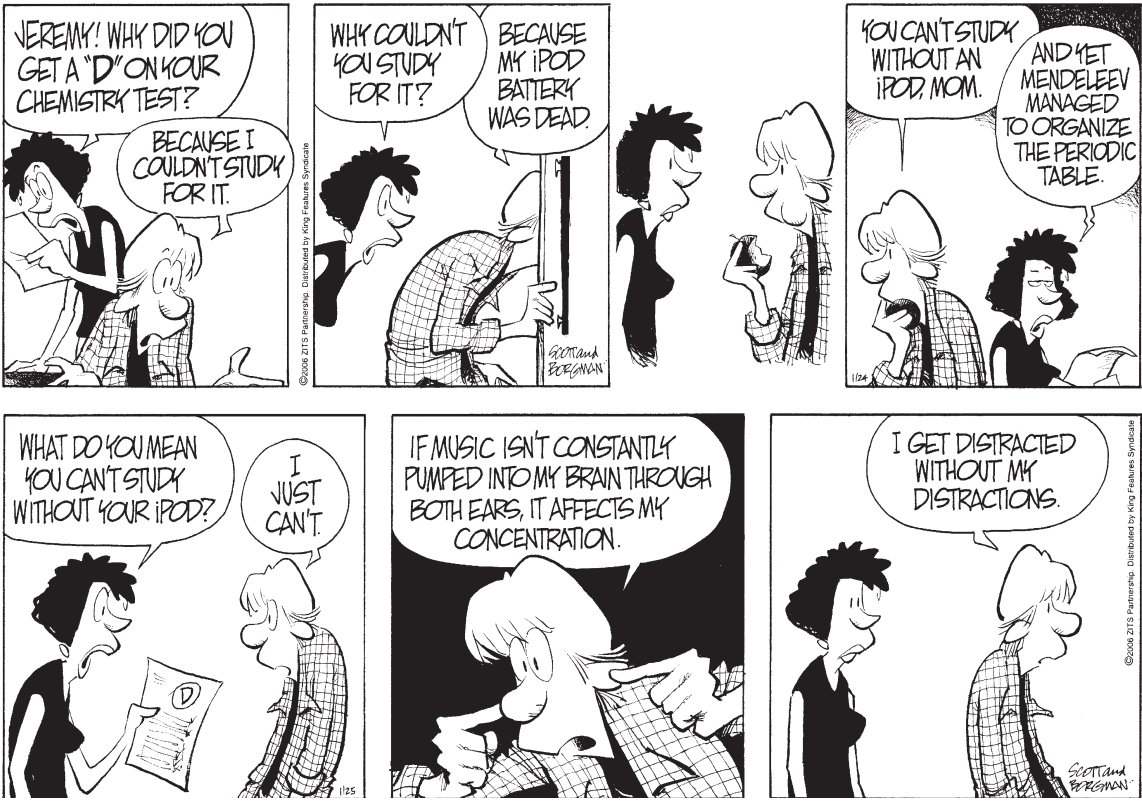
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Why did she mess up chance?

Dear Dr. Brothers: It was not supposed to happen. I was favored to win the race at my field club. But though I was better according to practice times, when it came time for the start, I was paralyzed and lost time I never made up. I know I could have beaten everyone. This was a few years ago, so I have moved on to other victories, but I am wondering what makes people choke. – B.H.

Dear B.H.: Choking is common in just about any endeavor. But where we notice it the most is in sports – where everyone is watching, while they look at our record and statistics, and decide what we “should” be able to accomplish. Scientists have tried to study the phenomenon of choking to break down why and how it happens. The results show that pressure is a big part of it, as are overthinking, analyzing every move and trying to be in control of all aspects of the outcome.

Choking starts in the head. We want to succeed, especially when we know we can. Overthinking can be bad when it interferes with performance, and so can not practicing under stressful conditions, according to research by a University of Chicago scientist who took on the topic in a new book. Whether you have the cultural OK to succeed is important as well – if you're a girl and happen to race against boys, you're likely to feel you can't win because society has told you boys are better runners. Visualize that idea away!

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have hurt someone's feelings, and don't know how to deal with it. I am sensitive myself, so I can't understand how I mistook my cleaning woman's situation, but I offered her some clothing I was going to take to a donation center. I thought she and her kids could possibly use it. She refused and started to cry, said she didn't need charity. What do I do now? I've employed her for five years. – S.R.

Dear S.R.: They say no good deed goes unpunished, and it's often the case that well-meaning people find their good intentions lost in recriminations when others take offense. Perhaps in the past you donated clothing to a worker in your home with different results. You perhaps have a stereotype that says cleaning people are poor and will appreciate a handout. That could be far from the truth. Even on the low end of the economic scale, many people with a job would be uncomfortable taking clothing from an employer.

Your problem is that you didn't understand your cleaning woman's circumstances or mindset. The only thing you can do now is say you are sorry you misunderstood her needs, let her know you didn't mean to embarrass her, and go on with your relationship. You have nothing to be ashamed of and I imagine that your cleaning lady will want to move on as well. If you really want to help her, focus on her work – perhaps a raise or improvement in benefits could be arranged.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8
♥ 8 3
♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ J 7 6 4 3 2

WEST
♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ Q J 10 9
♦ 9 7 3
♣ K 8

EAST
♠ K J 9
♥ 7 4
♦ K J 10 5
♣ A 10 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 7 2
♥ A K 6 5 2
♦ A 6
♣ Q

The bidding:
South 2♣ **West** Pass **North** Pass **East** Pass
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred during the annual South American bridge championship some years ago. The bidding was opened by the Venezuelan South with two spades – strong but nonforcing – and was followed by three passes.

West made the normal opening heart lead. Declarer cashed the A-K of hearts and led another heart, ruffed in dummy with the eight and overruffed by East with the nine. East shifted to the ace and another club, ruffed by South with the deuce.

South led another heart, won by West with the jack as dummy and East discarded clubs. West returned a low diamond to the Q-K-A, and declarer exited with a diamond, producing this position with East on lead and South needing four more tricks:

North
♦ 8 4
♣ J 7 6

West
♠ 6 5 4 3
♦ 9

East
♠ K J
♦ J 5
♣ 10

South
♠ A Q 10 7
♥ 6

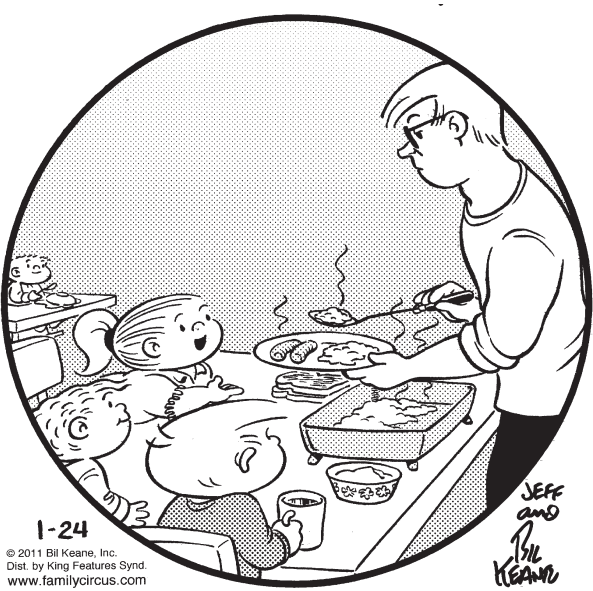
East returned the ten of clubs. Declarer ruffed with the seven, and West (Carlos Cabanne of Argentina) underuffed with the three! South led the six of hearts, ruffed by West with the four as East discarded a diamond. Declarer then ruffed West's diamond return with the ten of spades but had to concede a trump trick to East for down one.

Now let's suppose Cabanne had not under-ruffed in the diagrammed position but had instead discarded the nine of diamonds. In that case, he would have been forced to ruff declarer's heart lead at trick 10 and return a trump through East's K-J, allowing South to make the contract.

True, only a partscore was involved, but Cabanne should at least have been awarded a small distinguished-service medal!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

G ROQQOA B HDKZFO DY
RDOFL UOYOUOQPGQN YBFDZL
KONBK PBLLOL BQA IGIKOA
GI "HOULZL HOULOL."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASS OF EXTRA-LIGHT EXTINCT REPTILES THAT HAD THE SPECIAL ABILITY TO FLY HIGH: DINO-SOARS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Plead
4 Agriculturists' venues
9 Corn on the —
12 Rage
13 The Little Mermaid
14 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
15 Maryland metropolis
17 Steal from
18 Bobby of hockey fame
19 Wheeled stretcher
21 Royal home
24 Needle case
25 Swiss canton
26 Fashion monogram
28 Homes for bees
31 Transmit cap
33 Scottish cap
35 "—, Nanette"

36 Non-believer
38 Dallas basketballer, for short
40 Edge
41 Pc. of wordplay
43 Ebb
45 Go against
47 Judge Lance
48 Cow's comment
49 Navy rank
54 Blunder
55 Sun-dried brick
56 Fresh
57 Born
58 McEntire and others

59 Adam's mate
DOWN

1 Clothes protector
2 Historic period
3 Hair goop
4 Without bias
5 Recliner part
6 — de Janeiro
7 Come together
8 Detective
9 Meat-eater
10 Reed instrument
11 Infant
16 Youngster
20 Destroy
21 Turning point
22 Vicinity
23 Asian city-state
27 Felon's flight
29 Oklahoma city
30 Not all
32 Soap actress
34 Xylophone's cousin
37 Dale Earnhardt's org.
39 Kills bills
42 Crystal-lined rock
44 Massachusetts cape
45 Portent
46 Skin opening
50 Crowd
51 Individual
52 Gun the engine
53 Ram's partner

Solution time: 27 mins.

Saturday's answer 1-24

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
54				55				56		
57				58				59		