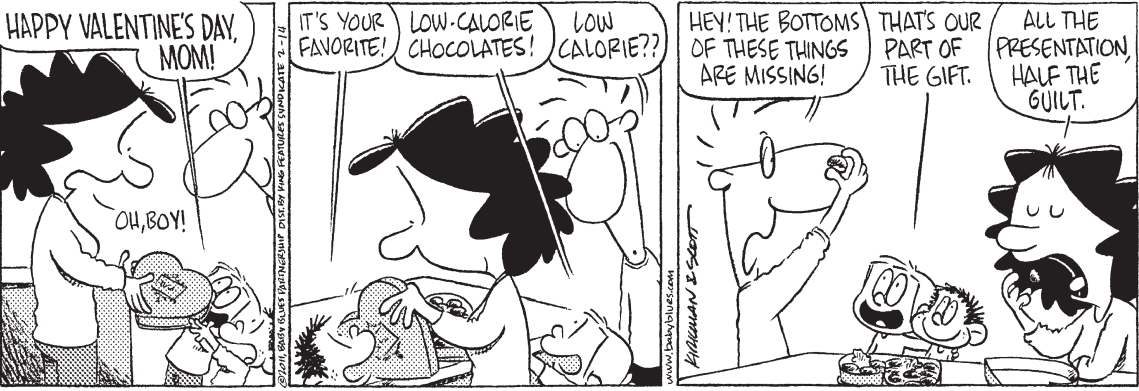
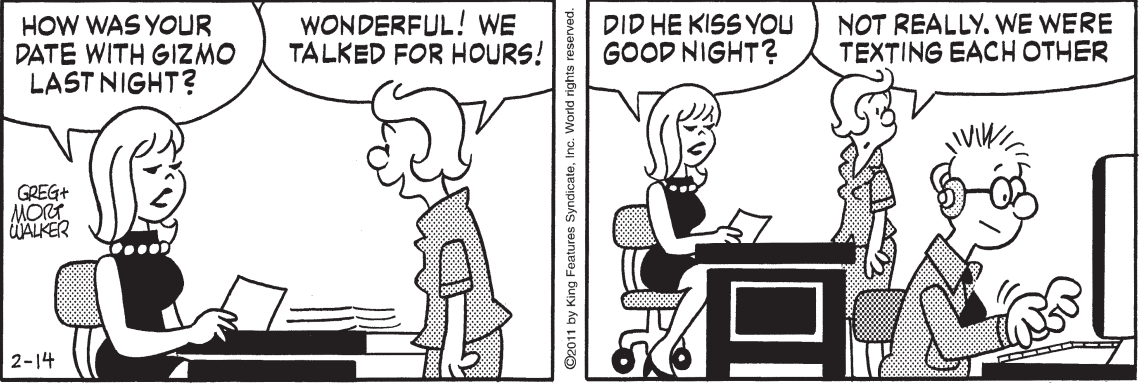


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



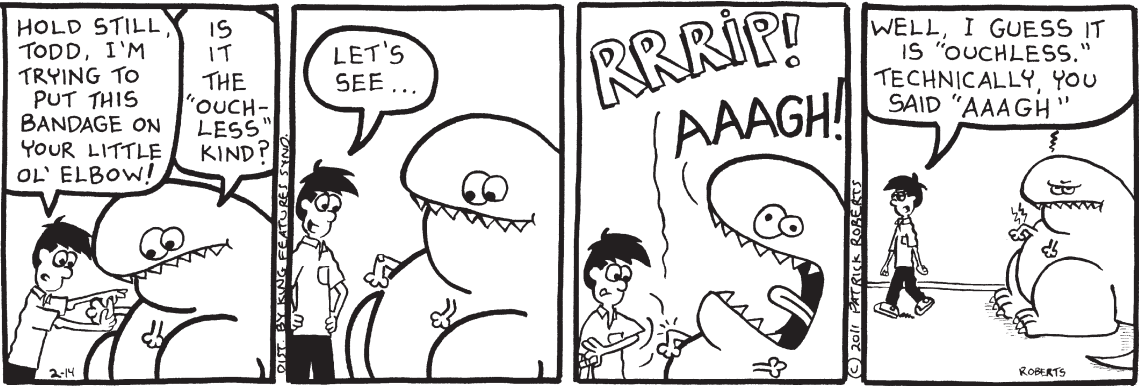
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



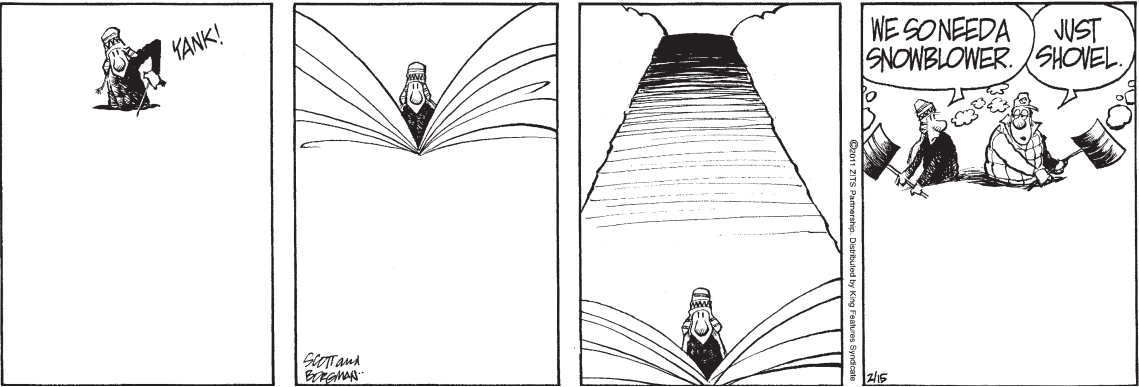
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Can differences fit in marriage?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I think I may have a major problem on my hands. My fiancée is more than satisfied with the simple life, while I want to rule Wall Street. She is happiest when tending to her garden or taking a class, while I take pleasure in making as much money as I can. We've been getting along great for the past three years, but is it possible for two people with such differing goals to be truly happy in marriage? – H.K.

Dear H.K.: Dating and marriage can be two totally different entities for a couple, and it is this change that is rightfully troubling you. Although you don't say what you want to do with all this money, one major difference that might bring you some peace of mind is that after marriage, you should have mutual goals – at the very least, financial ones. Now is a good time to talk about what those may be. Vacations? Toys? More education? Savings for college for future kids? A house – or a bigger house? With this discussion, your values will come into play and you will see if there are areas where you can compromise.

The other issue I see in your question is one of the actual work itself – are you the type who will work long hours and skip vacations to maximize profits? Is your future wife gainfully employed, or is her “work” gardening and enjoying her home? The work lifestyle is part of the equation. It might not look too good on paper, but if you have been doing great for three years, you already have achieved a good track record for living your lives. Just realize marriage will bring changes that can be both good and bad, and that you need to work out your choices ahead of time.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a 16-year-old girl who lives in the Deep South. The politics and religious views around here are extremely conservative and anti-gay. Problem is, I'm pretty sure I'm a lesbian. What's worse, I have a mad crush on my best friend and I'm pretty sure she's not gay. There are not too many people I can talk to about this, and I don't know what to do. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. – D.B.

Dear D.B.: You don't mention your parents, and I wonder if you have a relationship in which you can be open and honest. If they are typical, they assume you are heterosexual and don't want you to have sex until you are older. You also don't mention being religious, but I'm sure you are aware that religious establishments can express anti-gay sentiments. Your parents and others you encounter might not have thought through this issue and might never have had to confront it where a loved one is concerned. So be prepared for difficult times, and try to have patience.

On the other hand, if you are being mistreated, discriminated against or bullied as you come out, don't be afraid to stand up for yourself. If your school doesn't have a gay-friendly club, check online or in a local alternative newspaper for support groups – they exist if you dig a little. Keep an open mind about your sexuality before you label yourself as anything – and realize that whatever one's gender or sexuality, trying to initiate relationships that have a chance of success is the way to go. Many crushes are inappropriate and don't work out at all – that's why they are called “crushes” instead of “relationships”!

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ 8 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ Q 8
♣ K Q J 4 3
WEST
♦ 9
♥ J 7 6 4 2
♦ J 10 9 7 6 2
♣ —
EAST
♦ 6 5
♥ 8 5
♦ A 5 4 3
♣ 9 8 6 5 2
SOUTH
♦ A K Q 10 7 4 3
♥ A 3
♦ K
♣ A 10 7
The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
6 ♦
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Famous Hand

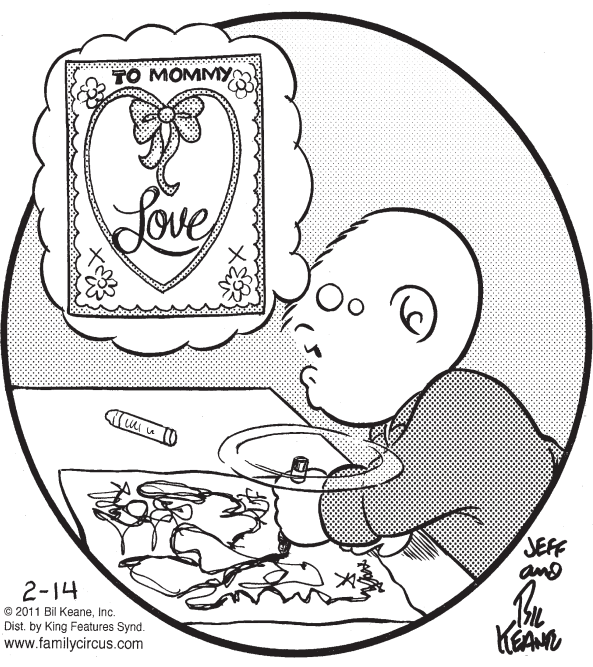
This deal contributed substantially to the victory by a U.S. team over Pakistan in the finals of the 1986 world championship. When the hand was first played, the bidding went as shown. South's two-club opening was strong and artificial, after which the bidding was natural, except for North's cuebid of hearts at his second turn. When Blackwood revealed that North had no aces, South settled for a small slam in spades. East, Robert Lipsitz, won the opening diamond lead with the ace and quickly concluded that his side's best -- and probably only -- chance to defeat the slam was to find his partner with a void in clubs. So he returned a club at trick two and was delighted to see West ruff for down one.

The deal seemed headed for an identical result at the second table when the American North-South pair also reached six spades. Here, however, because of a quirk in the U.S. pair's bidding methods, North bid spades first and was therefore about to become the declarer. But this development prompted West to double six spades, hoping to steer East to a club lead.

West's plan would have worked beautifully had everyone passed (and East led a club). But North, interpreting the significance of the double perfectly, wisely retreated to six notrump, a contract that was safe against any lead. Indeed, had East not cashed the ace of diamonds at trick one, declarer would have made all 13 tricks.

The combined result of plus 990 at one table and plus 50 at the other gave the U.S. a total gain of 1,040 points, or 14 IMPs, on the deal.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/14
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	4	7	6	8	5	2	1	3
2	5	3	1	4	9	8	6	7
8	1	6	2	3	7	4	9	5
7	3	5	8	2	6	1	4	9
6	2	1	9	5	4	7	3	8
4	9	8	7	1	3	5	2	6
5	6	9	4	7	2	3	8	1
1	7	4	3	9	8	6	5	2
3	8	2	5	6	1	9	7	4

Cryptoquip

GJIGRYKJ YNGTT CR XMCYM

TOHJKROT TOHJU AGRU

JCLLKQKRO XGUT OW JKYKCIK

LWNVT: OQCYV-WRWAKOQU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COGNOMEN FOR SOMEBODY WHO ALWAYS WRITES ORCHESTRATIONS ALL BY HIMSELF: THE LONE ARRANGER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 It's a long story
5 "The Talk" network
8 Make over
12 Demographic of a sort
14 Still
15 Implode
16 "The — on the Floss"
17 Away from WSW
18 With unfriendliness
20 Beg
23 Writer Vonnegut
24 Injure
25 Institution of higher learning
28 Use a shovel
29 Impressive formation
30 Legislation
32 Miner, perhaps
- 34 Leaning Tower city
35 Ninth Greek letter
36 Thread
37 Asian sultanate
40 Conger, e.g.
41 Ireland
42 Conversation
47 Plankton component
48 Framework
49 Antelope's playmate
50 Zodiac sign
51 Without (Fr.)
- DOWN
1 Pouch
2 Past
3 Solidify
4 Glistening
5 Manage somehow
6 Ralph Kramden's carrier
7 Mirrorlike
8 Distant
9 Satan's specialty
10 "The Farmer in the —"
11 Having no siblings
13 McNally partner
19 Paris airport
20 Third degree?
21 Non-clerical
22 Therefore
23 "M*A*S*H" locale
25 At a turning point
26 Smooth-talking
27 Facility
29 Burn
31 "— and Peace"
33 Straight
34 Airline employees
36 2009 Broadway musical set in Nigeria
37 Abacus component
38 Anger
39 Incite
40 Ticklish Muppet
43 Raw rock
44 Sine — non
45 Coffee vessel
46 Affirmative

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-14

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
47					48					
49					50			51		