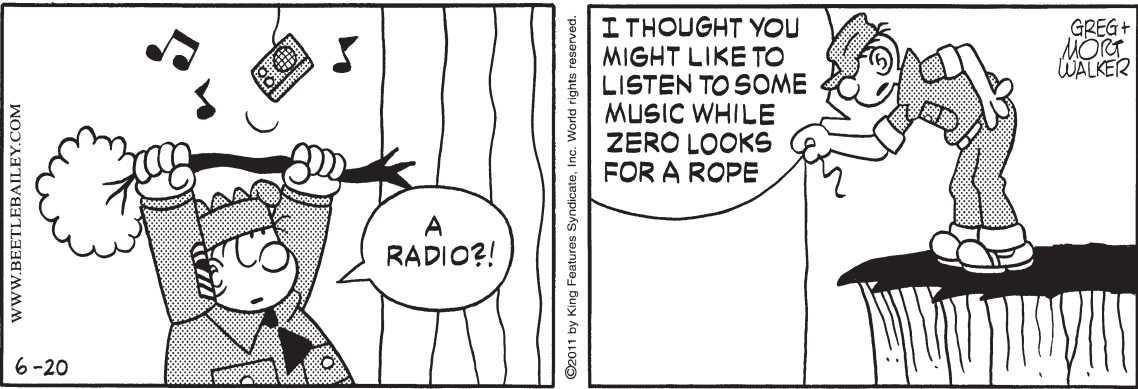


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



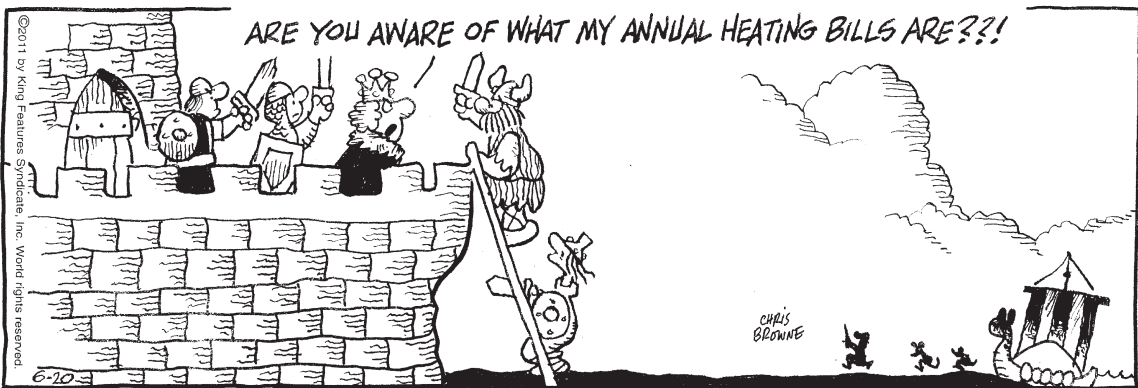
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



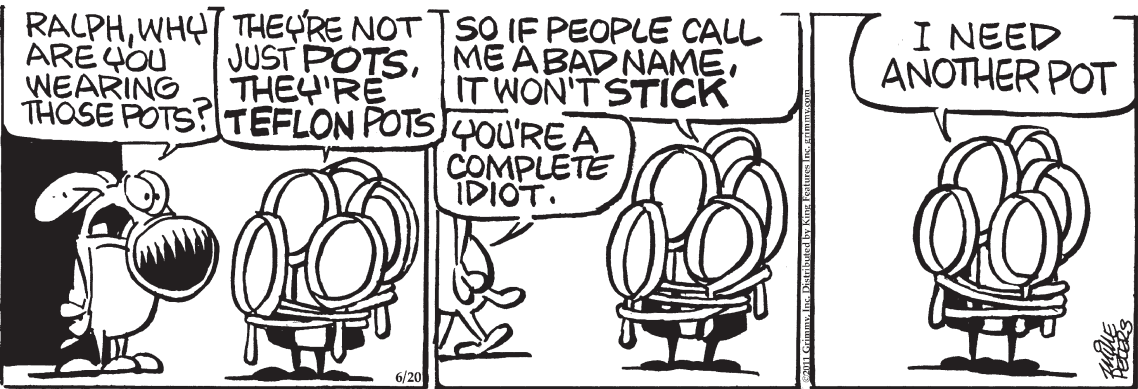
Blondie • Chic Young



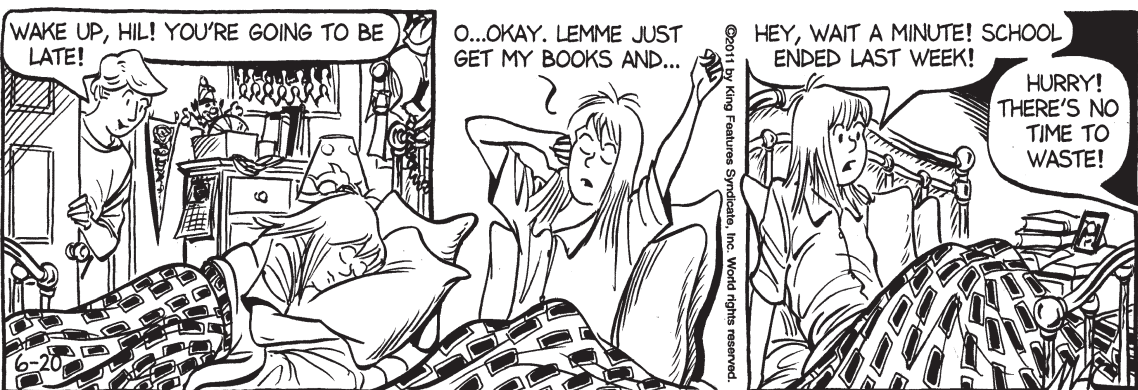
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



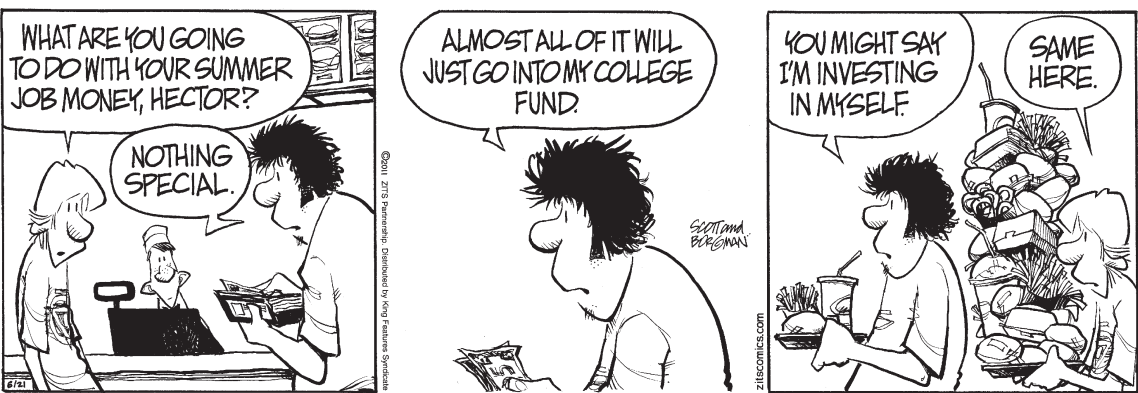
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

Ask Dr. Brothers

Meeting people starts stuttering

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been putting off seeking professional help; I was hoping you can give me some insight. When I'm in an uncomfortable situation – meeting people or talking on the phone – I stutter. I'm fine the rest of the time, but in certain scenarios, it's embarrassing. That I know the stammers are coming makes it worse. What can I do? – C.H.

Dear C.H.: I am sorry you are having this problem. Meeting new people is difficult for many of us, so I can imagine what a tough time you have. The worst thing would be to avoid social situations so you don't practice the behaviors that lead to successful interactions. If you seek help from a speech therapist and support from others who have faced the same problem, you should improve your situation.

There are some ideas you could consider now. Remember everyone is nervous when they meet new people. There are few of us who don't want to be liked. So, remember most people are not out to judge you; they are trying to make a good impression themselves and hoping you like them. Try to find something about new people you meet that interests you; taking your mind off yourself may be difficult, but it will help you focus on things other than the way you speak. If you combine speech therapy with an outgoing attitude, you will find people opening up and the stress lessening. Eventually, these meetings will not be so difficult, and you can enjoy new friendships.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Last week at a party, I met the most affectionate and caring guy. He even pulled out my chair for me! Now we're talking on the phone and online, I found out something not so nice: He went to jail for five years on an aggravated-assault charge. I can't find much about it on the Internet, but I think I should know what happened. Should I ask him? – B.P.

Dear B.P.: If you aren't afraid to see this man again, you certainly have the right to question him about his past. While you've known him only a short time, it would be troubling if he never broached the subject himself, knowing anyone could research his background. How did he make the guest list for the party? Someone you could speak with must know him better than you do. So don't be afraid to get a personal reference from whoever brought him to the party. If he was convicted of a violent crime, you might want to be very careful about proceeding with a friendship.

He may deny his guilt, which would mean you will have to figure out if he is in denial, looking for an easy out and/or just a liar as well as a convicted violent criminal. So be careful. You may decide a relationship with this man is not worth the risk of living with his past hanging over you. You will have to think about whether you want to open up this can of worms by seeking his side of the story. He may be the most rehabilitated, remorseful ex-con in the world, but you don't have to date him. In any case, good luck.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Famous Hand. When two teams sit down to play for the world championship, anything at all can be expected to happen. And it did – in this astonishing hand from a match between Sweden and the United States in 1953.

It was Deal No. 3 – before the players even had a chance to warm up – in the 256-board match won by an American team composed of John Crawford, Theodore Lightner, George Rapee, Howard Schenken, Sam Stayman and B. Jay Becker.

When Nils-Olof Lilliehook and Gunnar Anulf were North-South for Sweden, they arrived at six hearts as shown. The American West led the club ace and wisely shifted to a spade, and the slam went down one.

It was a remarkable deal in many ways. North's K-Q-J of clubs and diamond void proved to be virtually worthless, and South's magnificent diamonds were practically useless.

When an American pair held the North-South cards at the other table with Schenken South and Stayman North, the bidding went:

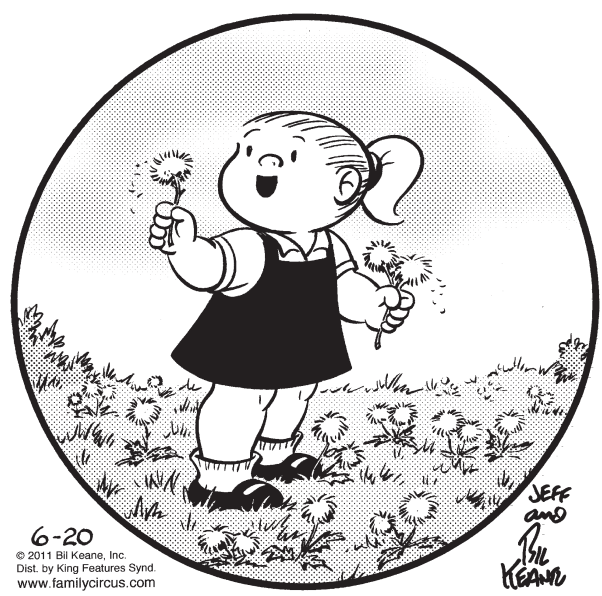
South: 2♥, 3♥, 4♥, 6♥. West: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass. North: 2♠, 3♠, 5♥. East: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass.

A trump was led, and Schenken drew three rounds of trumps and cashed the A-K-Q-J of diamonds, discarding all four clubs for dummy. He then conceded the ace of spades and so made the slam, giving the U.S. a net gain of 1,030 points on the deal.

It is very odd that two top-notch pairs could both bid a slam missing two cashable aces on a deal where, if it were dealt in the average home game, the likelihood is that the players would use Blackwood and thus avoid the slam. It makes one wonder whether the pros are really as good as they're cracked up to be.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, look! The dandelions have grown little fluffy hairdos."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

6/20

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.

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

Cryptoquip

BPRB GAMI IZAGAITK BTDZ

JZFTAC SRV VA DAMXDZMBRG

TM MRBXFZ, T SAXGC

KRGG TB RM ZJTK ZJAKP.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SHEEP STEPS IN TO SETTLE A DISPUTE, I WOULD CHARACTERIZE THAT AS OVINE INTERVENTION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Energy job, 4 Method Hippocratic, 7 Additionally e.g., 11 Destruction Aristocratic, 13 Greek H sandwich, 14 Middy shop, 15 Sandwich cookie around, 16 Dickens the track, 17 With 52-Down, year-end rival, 18 Value 57 Exist, 20 Versifier 58 Nintendo competitor, 22 Embrace 59 Safe-cracker, 24 "Do unto ...", 28 Custodian 60 Hot tub, 32 Mannerly 61 Lair, 33 "Once a time".

DOWN: 1 Front of a ship, 2 Modern-day money, 3 Harbor structure, 4 Symbol of intrigue, 5 On, 6 Mississippi river, 7 Cole Porter musical, 8 Gehrig of baseball, 9 Scale member, 10 Singleton, 12 "Forget it!", 19 Shack, 21 And so on (Abbr.), 23 Deity, 25 Wicked, 26 Wedding shower?, 27 Coaster, 28 Broadway composer, 29 Pinnacle, 30 Protuberance, 31 British rule in India, 35 Beer vessel, 38 Historic period, 40 Martini ingredient, 42 Book of maps, 45 Angelic instrument, 47 Lost vital fluid, 48 Olympic 27-Down, 49 Verve, 50 24 hours, 51 First lady?, 52 See 17-Across, 54 Pod occupant.

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

Solution time: 27 mins. Saturday's answer 6-20

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
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52			53		54		55
56					57				58
59					60				61