

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



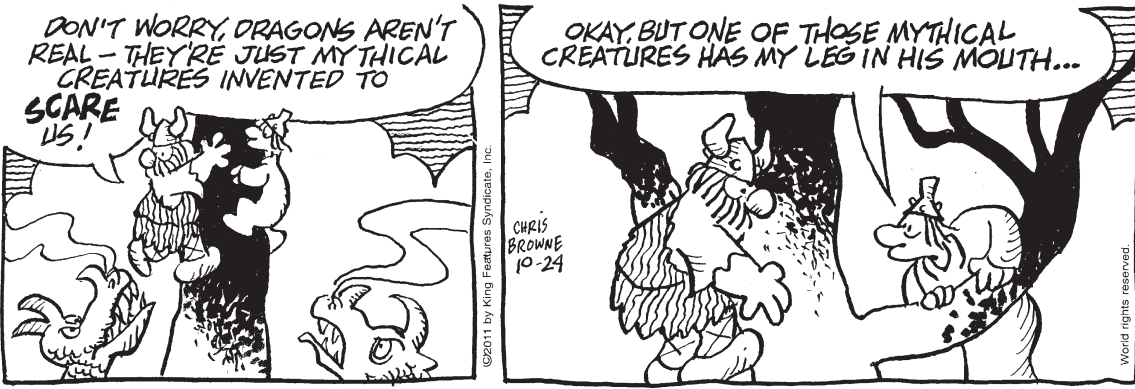
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



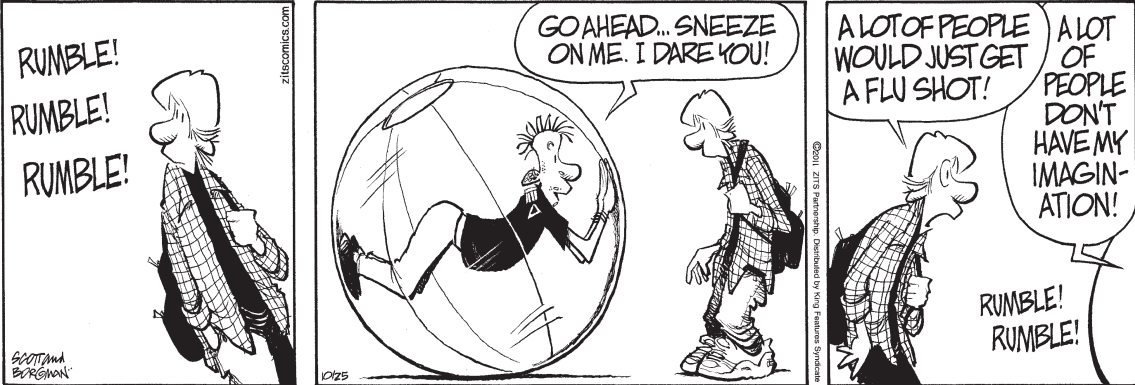
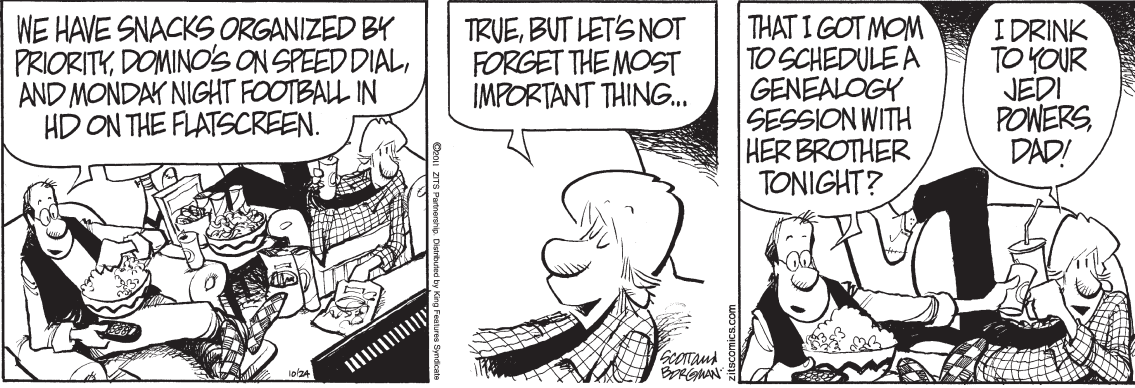
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Office rudeness growing problem

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have worked in the same office for nine years. When I began, there were high standards of behavior and a power structure based on your job. Now everything seems to be going down the tubes. My colleagues and I notice people don't seem to be following the rules anymore, and rudeness is on the rise. What can we do to get back to the way things were? — K.B.

Dear K.B.: Unfortunately, you might not be able to turn the tide of ill-humor and bad behavior sweeping the corporate scene. While you and your colleagues can turn the other cheek, ignore it or try to kill them with kindness, workers throwing old rules out the window probably are unhappy. They may be underemployed, overworked or both. The economy has made it impractical to leave a job for which one is ill-suited, so there are a lot of disgruntled employees who don't want to be there. All this makes for a rise in insults, rudeness and ugly behavior that is free-floating rather than targeted toward any one individual.

The American Psychological Association recently discussed workplace incivility, and found that, according to research at Indiana Wesleyan University, 75 percent of workers have experienced rudeness at work. Another survey put the number lower, but indicated such behavior seems to be spreading. If you want to do something, you can suggest training for employees in basic manners. This may not be well-received, but until the economy picks up, it may be your best bet.

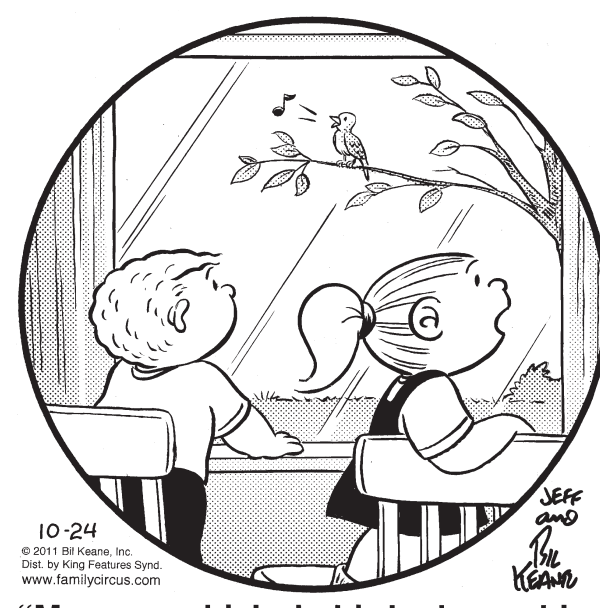
Dear Dr. Brothers: My job is great, but not my whole life. I wish I could say that for the people I work with. Everyone is one big, happy family, expected to socialize on weekends, get kids together, etc. I am single and don't go for this togetherness. I have my own friends and want to keep it that way. How do I get around this without getting a bad reputation and maybe not advancing at work? — D.V.

Dear D.V.: You seem to imply your unwillingness to go on play dates with colleagues can mean you will fail to get promotions. If you are sure it is realistic and not just speculation, you'd best do something to combat the reputation you may develop as not a team player during recess. It's unfair, but you may have to think of extracurriculars as part of the job description until you find a niche that preserves your free time. As a single guy, you have fewer options for socializing, but that can be good.

Why not start a book-discussion or dart-playing group for the singles, managers, tech guys, or whatever group makes sense? It can meet every couple of weeks so it doesn't take up a lot of time. Or you can volunteer in the name of your company — on a house build, food drive or road cleanup. These activities may be more comfortable than going out to dinner or bowling and making chit-chat with the secretary down the hall.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/24

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

OGM JOHLDPM JQTD AJ VR
 BLO ZHQATBMJ LHM ZHMOOR
 MDOMHOLKDKDP. K XQTF
 BLFF OGMV VMXJ OGLO LVTJM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD GUESS THAT WHEN CAIN'S ELDEST SON WAS JESTING, HE LIKED TO TELL ENOCH-KNOCK JOKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Feedbag fill

5 Chicken — kum

8 Gumbo ingredient

12 Howls

14 Billy Joel's "—"

15 Severely strict

16 Decline, as the visible moon on a domino

17 Spot on a Victoria nation

18 Lake Florida city

20 Succumb to gravity

24 Kill

25 Without flexibility

28 Peace (Lat.)

29 Star, for short

DOWN

1 "— Town"

2 Clay, today

3 Yank

4 Not neat

5 On

6 Romanian money

7 Soothed

8 Lee Harvey —

9 "Star Trek II: The Wrath of —"

10 Tear asunder

11 On the briny

13 Met melody

19 Smooth-talking

20 Recipe meas.

21 Banned apple ripener

22 Long skirt

23 Folder fodder

25 Bent

26 Meadows

27 Holler

29 Fellow

31 Shelter

33 Small beard

34 Handgun

36 Now, on a memo

37 Restaurant employee

38 Satan's domain

39 Facility

40 Once more, in dialect

43 UN workers' grp.

44 Eggs

45 Seine

46 Anger

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 10-24

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		