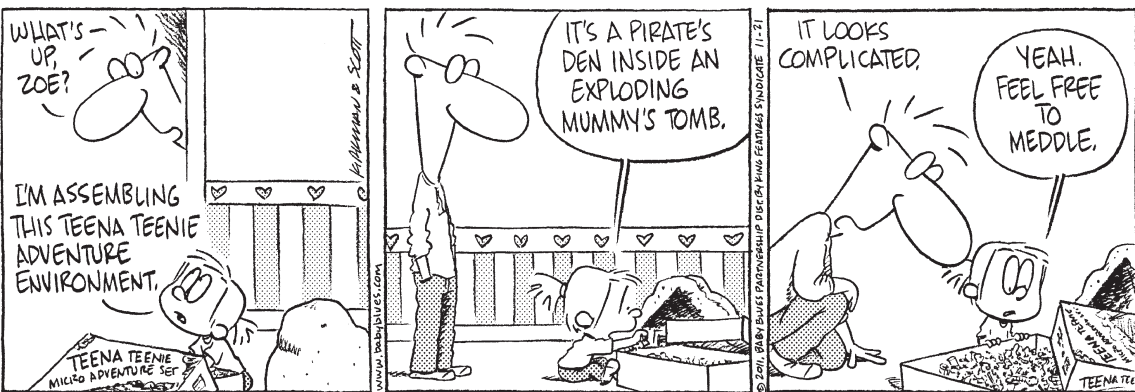
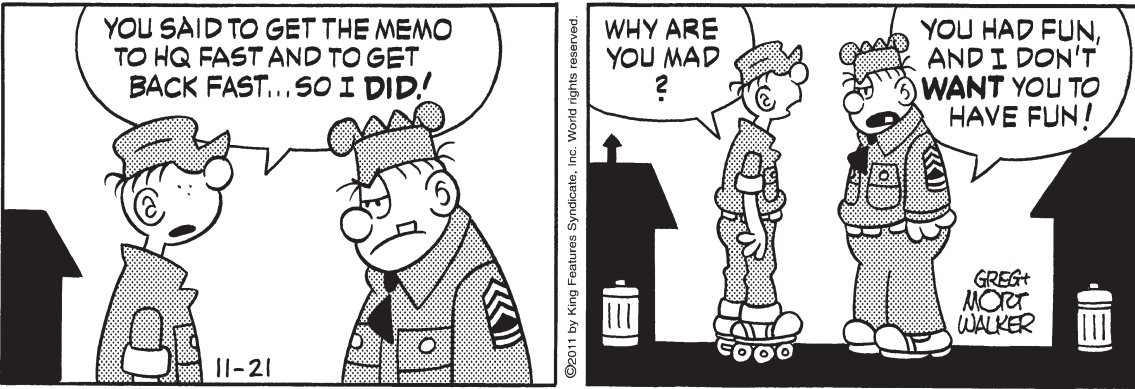


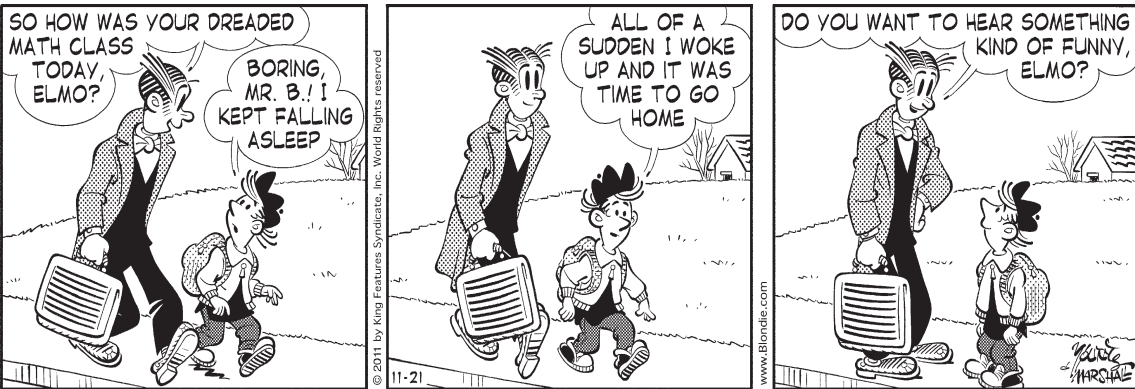
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



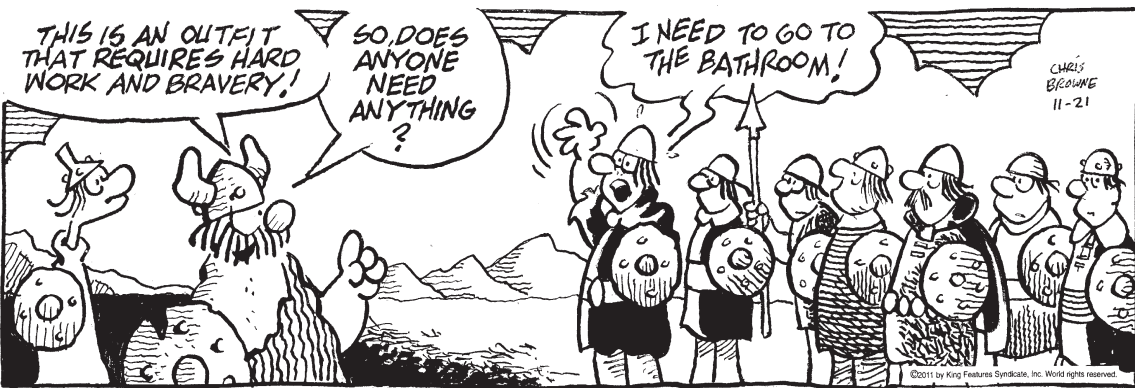
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



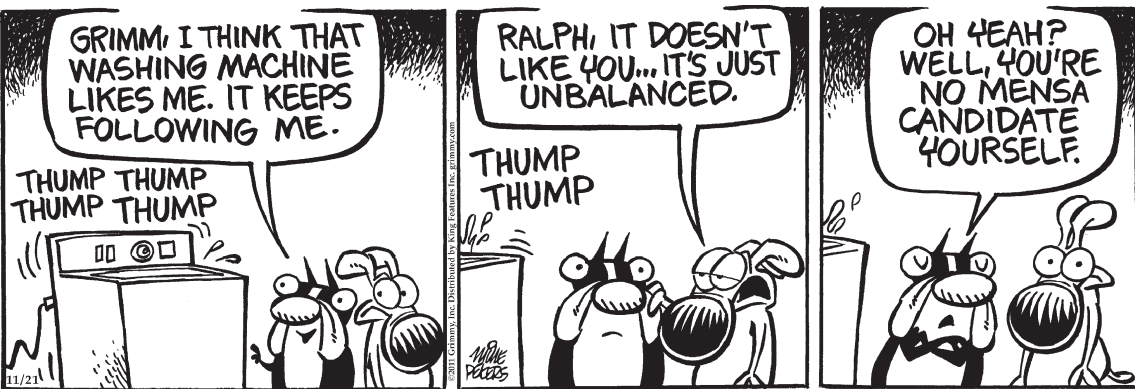
Blondie • Chic Young



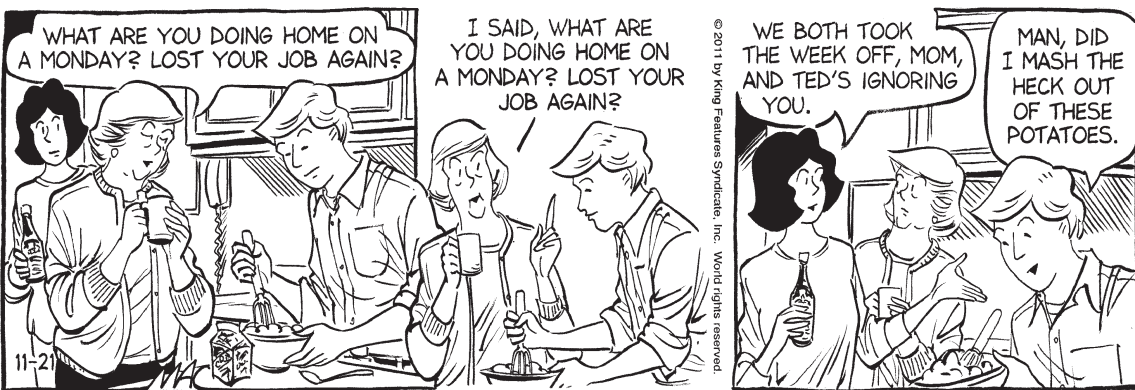
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



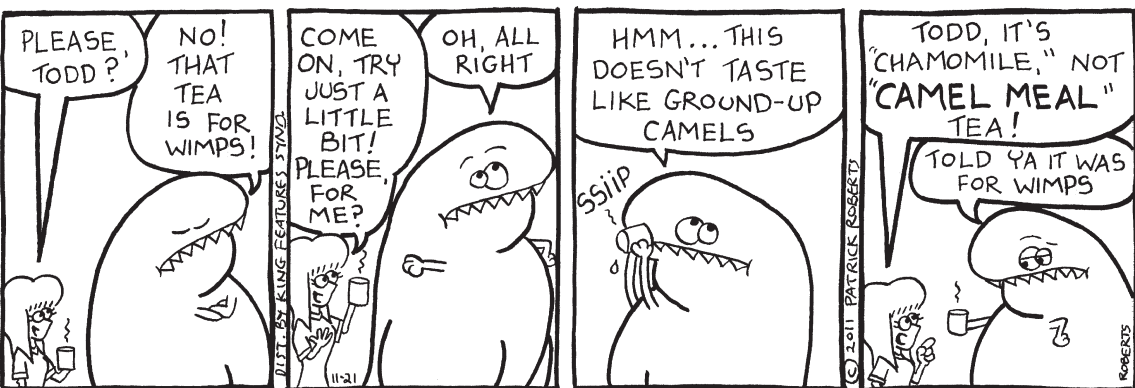
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



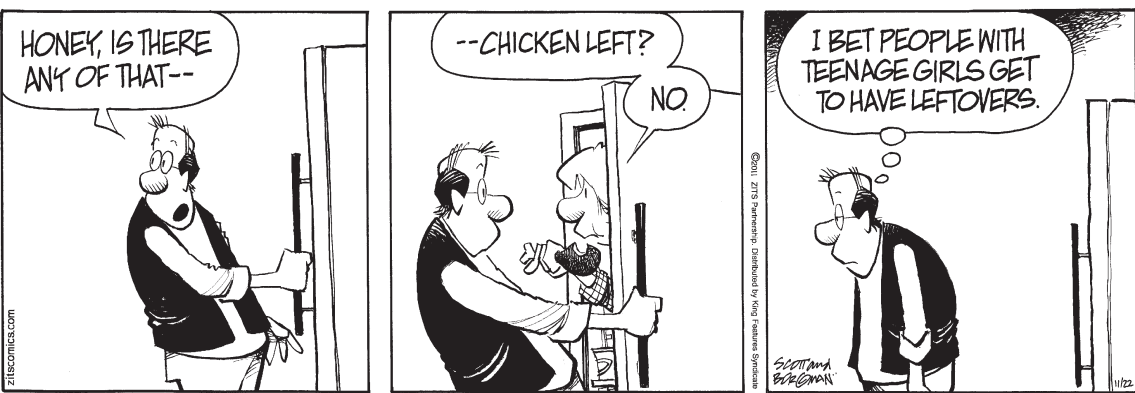
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

He's changed to keep his job

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've had a checkered career, but I've always been a good, honest worker. In my latest job — one I'd like to make into a career — employees have been dropping like flies due to the economy. I have found myself becoming cutthroat and manipulative just to stay on top, and I don't like it. Is this wrong, or should I do what it takes to keep my job? — M.T.

Dear M.T.: You may think being cunning and ruthless at work is the way to go, and perhaps it is — in the short term. That kind of behavior often leads to one of two outcomes: Either the people you step on as you march up the ladder will crush you on your way back down, or you will make such an impression with your successes you will be promoted to the next level — where you may feel compelled to become even more cutthroat. So while seems like a proactive way of getting noticed, it may not end up being the kind of attention you need for long-term success.

More importantly, this behavior is not sitting well with you. You know you are not being yourself, and that some of your methods may be questionable, no matter how hard you try to justify to yourself that it's a matter of necessity. It's always best to be true to yourself and your values, so if you can figure out another way to proceed, do it. Networking, classes or simply putting in overtime might give you the leg up when it comes time for pink slips to be distributed. Set some goals for yourself that are attainable by working harder or smarter so you don't have to rely on your wits to get you through. The economy won't always be bad, so long-term thinking is what you need.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I lived with my boyfriend for 10 years, and while we were happy without being married, we considered each other a life partner. A year ago he left me to be on his own. At the same time, one of our friends divorced, and now the two are dating. I suspect it was planned. Should I confront them? Everyone accepts them as a couple and I am unable to move on. — K.F.

Dear K.F.: Your sad saga is the oldest story in the book. It's hard enough to be left behind, but at first you can be grateful he's not leaving you for another woman. You try to adjust to living without him. Inevitably, he will start dating. If it were a stranger, you could try to understand. But if he turns to a friend it is a different story.

But the worst scenario is the one in which the two of them planned and manipulated events to make it look like a coincidence — for them. If you confront them, you might find they would never admit betrayal. Or they may admit it, saying they didn't want to hurt your feelings. In any case, the answer probably is not going to change anything for you in terms of what you have to do. But if you think it would somehow bring closure and allow you to move forward, go ahead and ask.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/21

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.

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

Cryptoquip

RPEZ AL ZPC SGEIK IEUC
BO E SGCEFOELZ WCGCEY
RPBLC EKL WYEAU ZB UEFC
TCBTYC LUEGZ? EYY-SGEAI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE BIG QUEEN BEE WOUNDED ME A TOTAL OF FOUR TIMES, I WOULD CALL THAT A STING QUARTET.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Heights (Abbr.) | 1 Noah's boat | 41 Advertisement | 13 Aid and — |
| 5 Madam's counterpart | 2 Island memento | 42 Close associate | 19 Buffalo name |
| 8 Droops | 3 Pampering, for short | 47 Top-notch DNA, on "CSI" | 20 Science workshop |
| 12 Trust | 49 Burn something | 48 DNA, on "CSI" | 21 Mid-month date |
| 14 Hint | 50 Upper House member | 49 Burn something | 22 "Hold the —" |
| 15 Bribe | 51 TV host Carson | 50 Upper House member | 23 Finnish bath |
| 16 Unusual | | 51 TV host Carson | 25 Vows |
| 17 Small barrel | | | 26 Basin |
| 18 The hot wings caused his downfall | | | 27 Hindu wrap |
| 20 Maximum | | | 29 Expression |
| 23 Winter precip | | | 31 Take to court |
| 24 First man | | | 33 Scanty glimpse of |
| 25 Table tennis tools | | | 34 Cheated at hide-and-seek |
| 28 Ottoman ruler | | | 36 Dumb-struck |
| 29 Indeed | | | 37 Health resorts |
| 30 Existed | | | 38 Lotion additive |
| 32 VIP | | | 39 Moon goddess |
| 34 Lima's land | | | 40 Valhalla bigwig |
| 35 Humor writer | | | 43 "— Got a Secret" |
| Bombbeck | | | 44 "— moment |
| 36 High nest | | | 45 M divided by IV |
| 37 Deli meat | | | 46 Indispensable |
| 40 Have debts | | | |

Solution time: 27 mins.

SEC	USED	MUSS
IRA	RENO	ORAL
CALABASH	INFO	
AJAR	BESET	
AMMAN	SORT	
COAX	SPRAYCAN	
TARMAITZ	ATE	
STILETTO	PLOW	
INEZ	LOAMS	
SNAFU	AHEM	
LICE	CALAMINE	
AGAR	ONUS	TEN
THIS	BAMA	YET

Saturday's answer 11-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15								16		
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		

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ AK 10 5
 ♥ J 9 7 5 3
 ♦ K Q 10 9
 ♣ —

WEST
 ♠ J 6
 ♥ A 8 5
 ♦ AK Q J 9 7 6 4
 ♣ 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 9 8 7 4 2
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ 10 2

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

The bidding:
 West 1♠ North 1♦ East 4♥ South 4♥
 West 5♣ Dble 1♠ Pass Pass
 South 6♣ Pass Pass 6♥ Pass Pass
 Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Famous Hand
 The first international match for the world title was held in Bermuda in 1950. An American team won the event in a three-cornered match that included a British team and a Swedish-Icelandic team.

This hand was the very last one played in the match between England and the United States. It brought to a dramatic climax the 108-board confrontation, which the Americans won by 3,660 points.

The principle interest of the hand lies in the bidding. England's Joel Tarlo opened one club, doubled by Sam Stayman for takeout. After Nico Gardener's one-spade bid, George Rapee jumped to four hearts.

Tarlo, not vulnerable and with nine winners in his own hand, bid five clubs. Stayman, playing possum, then bid only five hearts. He was confident that a slam in hearts could be made, but he didn't want to give the show away by bidding six directly, which might encourage East-West to sacrifice at seven clubs. The thing to do, Stayman decided, was to ease into the slam.

Tarlo then bid six clubs according to schedule, and Stayman passed in order to further the impression that he was doubtful about undertaking a slam. He intended to bid six if Rapee (who was obliged to take some action) doubled.

But Rapee came through with a six-heart bid, and Tarlo was now up against it. He knew he could not go down more than four at seven clubs doubled (-700 in those days), but he also knew the save would be foolish if it turned out that six hearts, bid so reluctantly, could not be made. So he left the decision to his partner. Gardener passed, and six hearts was duly made for a score of 1,530 points (including 100 honors).

At the other table, the bidding went:

West 1♣ North 2♣ East Pass South 3♥
 West 5♣ North 6♥ East Pass South Pass
 West 7♣ North Dble

to give the U.S. a substantial gain. (c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.