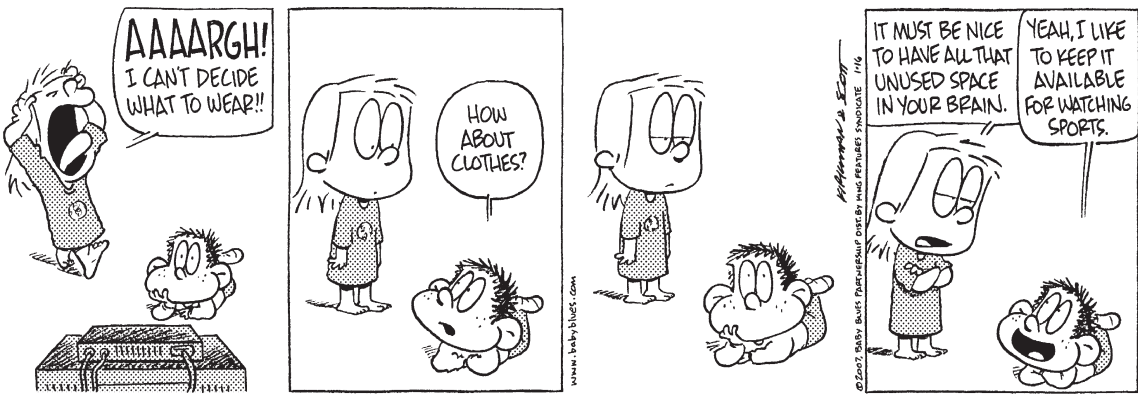
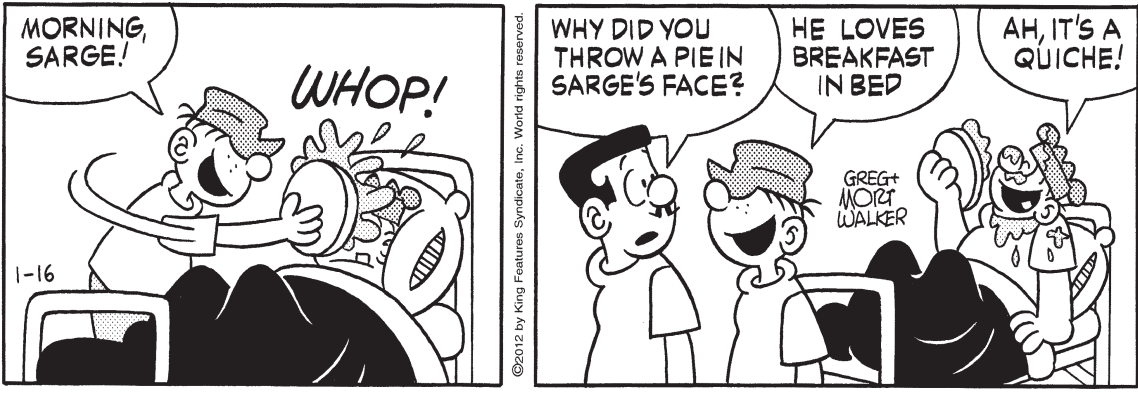


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



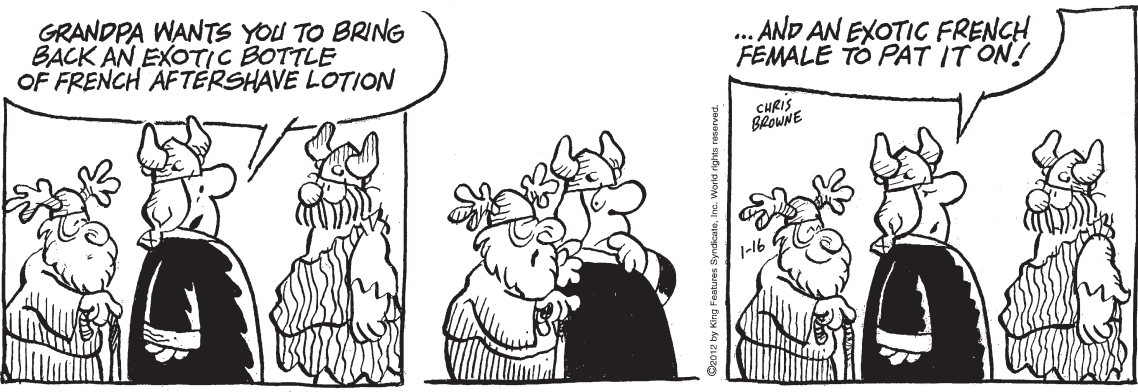
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



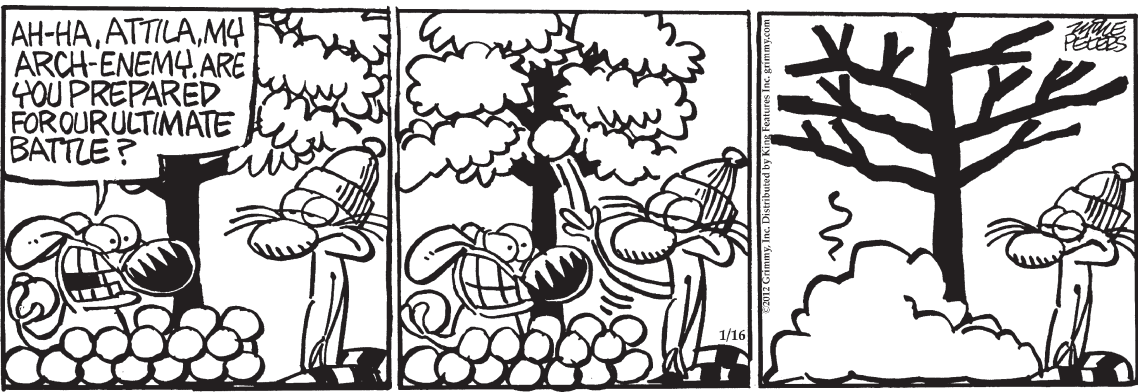
Blondie • Chic Young



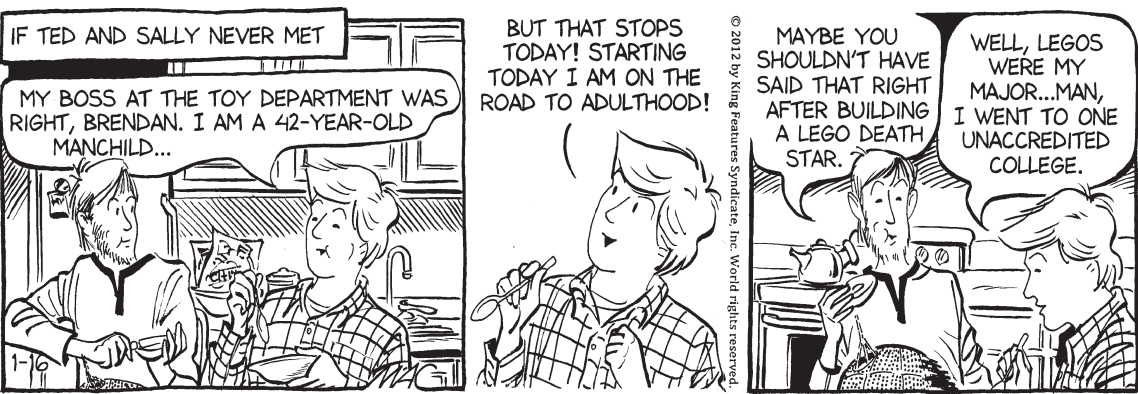
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



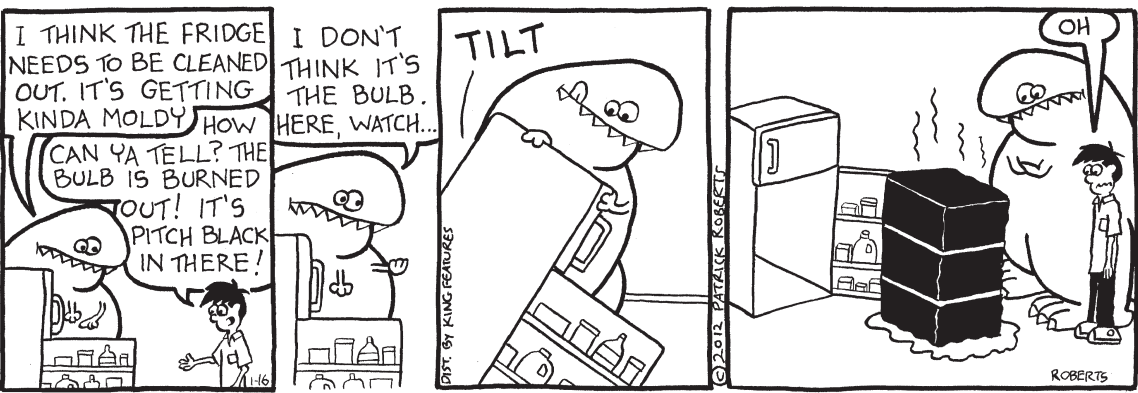
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



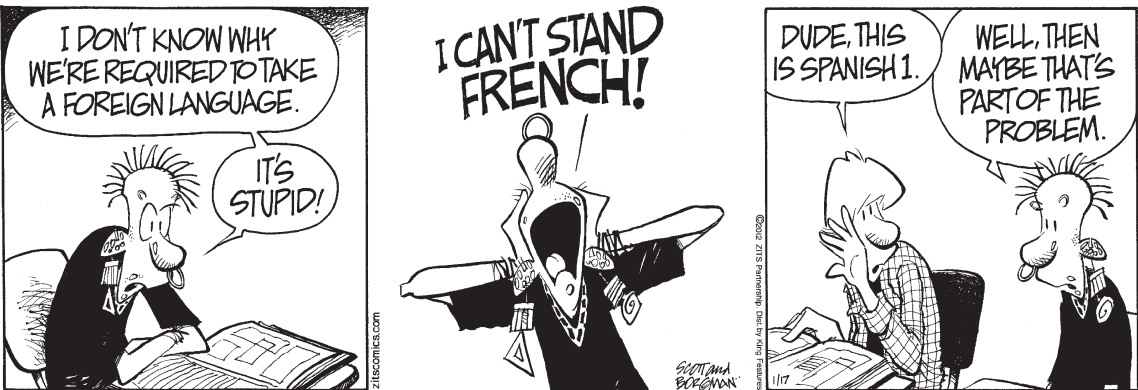
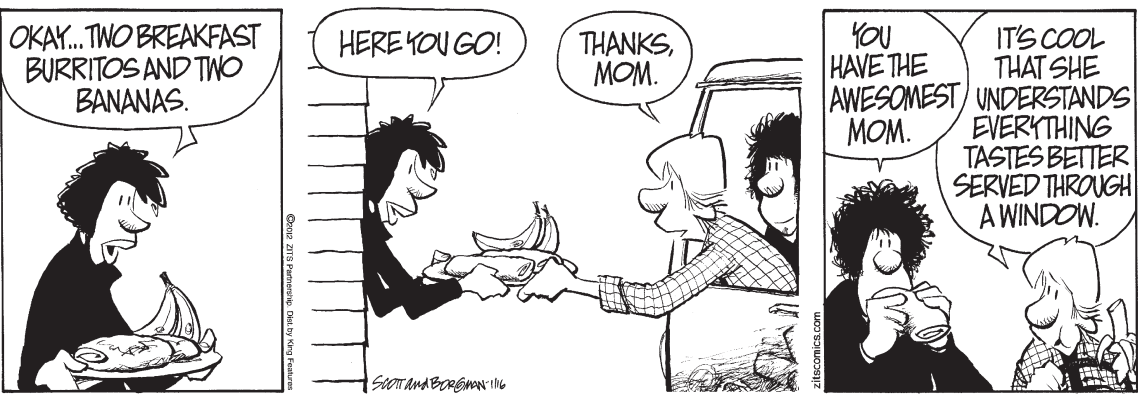
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Breaks at work become an issue

Dear Dr. Brothers: When I started working at my job five years ago, the atmosphere was great. It was fairly casual, and everyone pretty much set their own schedule. It didn't matter when you came or went (within reason) or how many breaks you took, as long as you got your work done. Now things are different. We are monitored by a supervisor who makes sure we don't hang around the break room or come in too late. Can something like this wreck a job? – K.L.

Dear K.L.: While some of us do better under close supervision than others, most of us are hard-wired to value our autonomy, and we take a certain amount of pride in being able to handle our own scheduling. That's basic to feeling we are mature and skilled enough to earn our pay and be proud of our efforts. Although many lower-level jobs are strictly supervised, the reins generally are loosened as jobs progress up the corporate ladder. And perhaps the hardest part is the fact you've already had a taste of freedom – it's difficult to go from a situation with autonomy to one with very little. I can see why you are discouraged.

So, the short answer is, of course it can wreck your job – if you let it. I'm sure you don't want to be out on the street looking for something else in this economy, so you may want to sit back and try to understand these moves from your employer's point of view. Today, everyone must pull his own weight, and often his or her laid-off former co-worker's as well. Businesses have to tighten their belts to survive, and if yours has been leaking profits, productivity needs to be boosted. Try not to take it personally if you can help it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a mother of two who decided to go to a technical school at night to get a degree that will help me re-enter the job market. I've never been a good student, and nothing has changed – I do fine in class when I am asked to discuss the material, but when it comes to tests, I get nervous and freeze up like I used to do in high school. Do you have any tips that will make me feel less like a 16-year-old in school? – F.R.

Dear F.R.: Test-taking can be a challenge for most students from time to time, and today's crop probably has it worse with the emphasis on test scores. There is no rule saying once you are an adult, testing anxiety disappears. When you have had anxiety in the past, it's natural to fall into the old habit. So it's a common problem, and there are ways to cope.

Have you thought of practicing at home with a timer and a test? If you can re-create pressure as test-taking starts, you can identify what is making you nervous. Learn relaxation techniques, and stop the fake test as soon as you feel yourself losing control. Go back to the test as soon as you feel confident. Ask the instructor to give you insight into what the test will cover – your studying shouldn't go to waste. Get plenty of sleep the night before, and eat something that gives you energy before the test. And don't focus on the outcome – just focus on the question. There's plenty of time later to find out how you did.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH  
♦ K 4  
♥ 5 3 2  
♦ Q 8 6  
♠ A J 7 3

EAST  
♦ 10 8 6 3  
♥ J 10 9  
♦ K 9  
♠ K Q 5 4

WEST  
♦ 2  
♥ 7 6 4  
♦ J 10 7 5  
♠ 10 9 8 6 2

SOUTH  
♦ A Q J 9 7 5  
♥ A K Q  
♦ A 4 3 2  
♠ —

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♦ Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♥ Pass  
Pass (!) Pass  
Opening lead – ten of clubs.

Famous Hand

This extraordinary deal occurred in a match between Argentina and Italy in the 1963 world team championship. It was played on Bridge-O-Rama before a huge and enthusiastic audience.

Marcos Santamarina and Luis Attaguile were North-South for Argentina when the sequence shown took place. North's pass of six hearts, an obvious cuebid, was astounding, to say the least. Spades had previously been agreed upon as trumps, and South's diamond and heart bids merely showed first-round control of those suits. The heart cuebid might have been based on A-x, or even a void!

Perhaps North was so deeply engrossed in trying to decide whether or not to bid seven spades that he did not realize, when he passed, that South's last bid had been six hearts, not six spades.

Whatever the reason, Santamarina's pass was surely one of the most serendipitous bids ever made in a world championship event. And when the missing trumps divided 3-3, Attaguile had no difficulty scoring 12 tricks, collecting four hearts, six spades and the two side aces. Six spades almost surely would have failed with normal play, as evidenced by what happened when Italy later played the hand in that contract.

Against six spades, the Argentine West also led a club. Declarer took the ace, discarding a diamond, drew trumps, cashed the A-K-Q of hearts, then played the ace and a low diamond.

South could have made the slam by playing the diamond eight from dummy, but he did not know that East had the king and that it was now singleton. After playing the queen and losing it to the king, declarer later lost another diamond trick to go down one, giving Argentina a 1,030-point pickup on the deal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 1/16

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.

Cryptoquip

SUQI EQNT MZDGA BDTS

ZQHRB MHDGFR MHGZM MFR

FSQKOZDHQFK QBNMFRB:

“UMHHDAB DE AOS IMHQZZSMF.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO BREAK APART SOME HARDENED SAVORY MEAT JELLY, I BELIEVE I CAN JUST USE THIS ASPIC ICE PICK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Largest continent
  - 5 Humpty Dumpty
  - 8 Carpet style
  - 12 Like a superintendent's apartment, often
  - 14 Couturier Chanel
  - 15 Food closets
  - 16 Top-notch
  - 17 Years on end
  - 18 Disposition
  - 20 Tine
  - 23 Belch
  - 24 Contained
  - 25 Lingers
  - 28 Hammar-skjöld of the U.N.
  - 29 Incites
  - 30 Cistern
  - 32 Weds
  - 34 — E. Coyote
  - 35 Carry a load
- DOWN
- 36 Mediteranean island
  - 37 Jellied incendiary
  - 40 Listener
  - 41 First person offerings
  - 42 Bakery
  - 47 Zilch
  - 48 North Carolina cape
  - 49 Census data
  - 50 Take to court
  - 51 Navy-related (Abbr.)
- 2 Aegean, e.g.
- 3 Hostel
- 4 Go to
- 5 Ireland
- 6 "Gosh!"
- 7 Move-
- 8 Shrimp dish
- 9 Hula-
- 10 Zits
- 11 No
- 12 stay-at-home
- 13 Kermit is one
- 19 Blunders
- 20 Third deg.
- 21 Paper quantity
- 22 Gymnast
- 23 Holder for cream cheese and lox
- 25 Victories
- 26 Wicked
- 27 Sodium chloride
- 29 Caspian feeder
- 31 Afternoon gathering
- 33 Actor
- 34 President
- 36 Damon or Dillon
- 37 "Peter Pan"
- 38 Work like —
- 39 Sheet of glass
- 40 Renaissance family name
- 43 Junior Olympics org.
- 44 Savings-plan acronym
- 45 Water (Fr.)
- 46 Former fast flier

Saturday's answer 1-16

