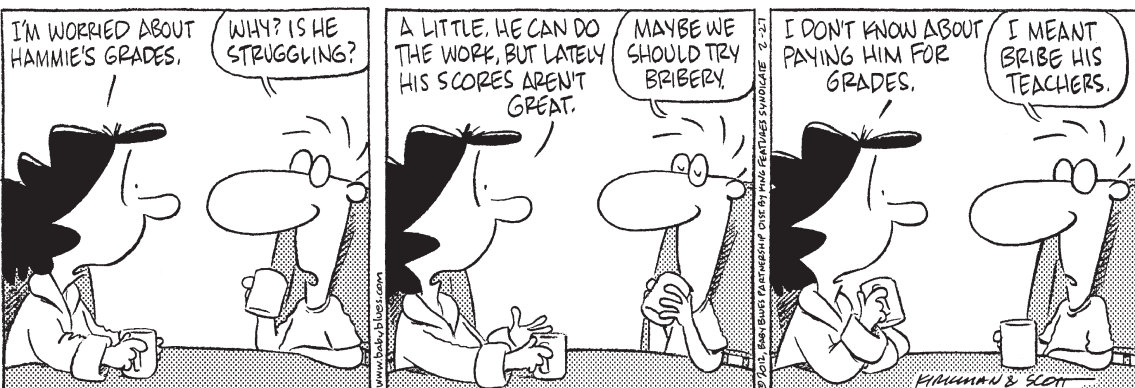
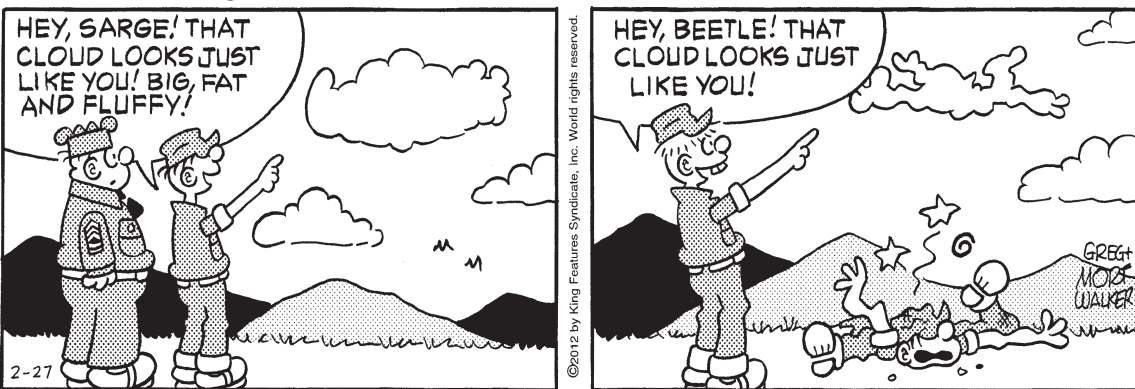


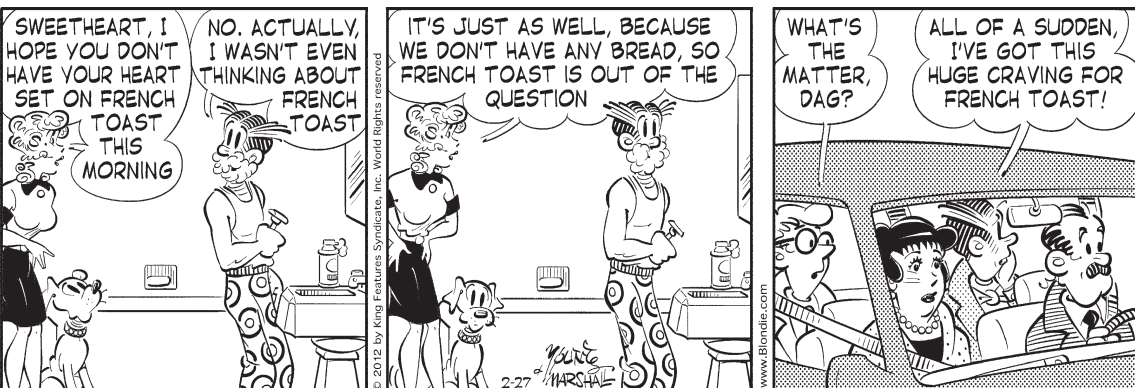
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



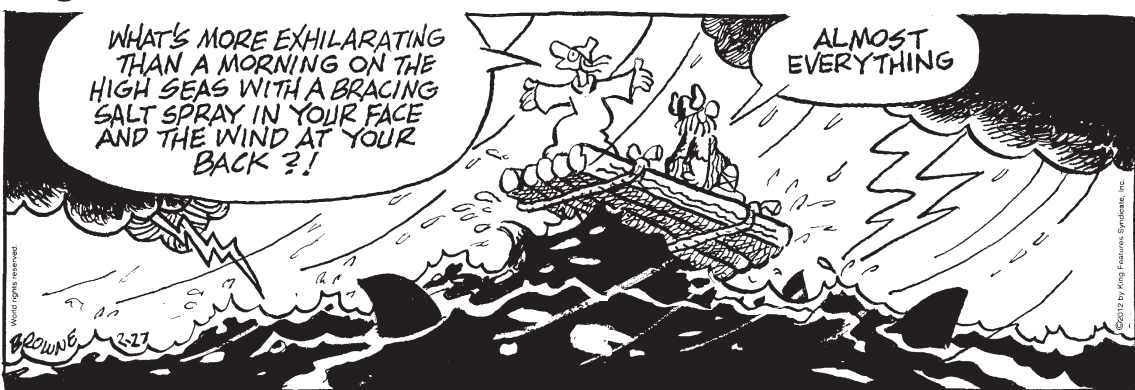
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



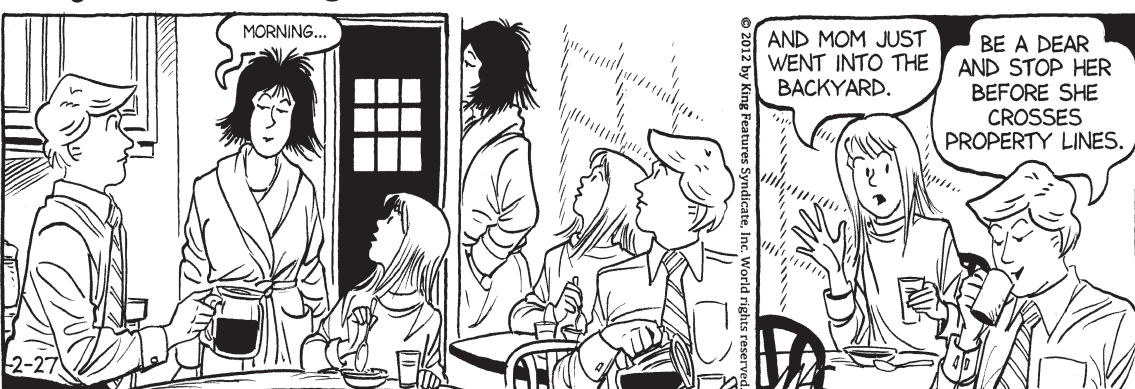
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



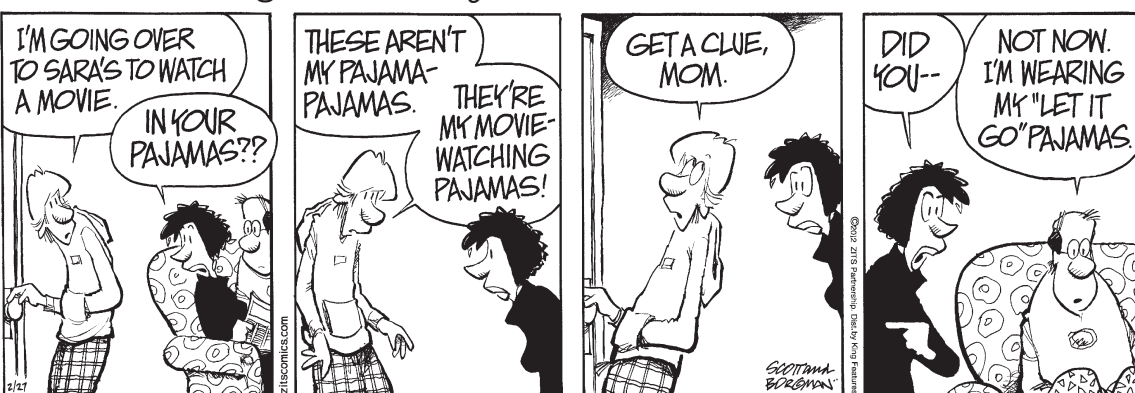
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Grad's new job just doesn't pay

Dear Dr. Brothers: I think I've made a big mistake, and I don't know what to do. It took me a long time to find a job after college, and I had to live with my parents. Six months ago I got a job and decided to move with friends into our own apartment. My folks were upset and didn't think I could afford it. They were right. I barely have enough money to eat, and I am running up credit-cards. I don't want to go home. Help! – F.T.

Dear F.T.: First of all, stop beating yourself up. You are in the same position as many other young people, but at least you have the savvy and humility to admit you may have misjudged the situation. Other people have been in denial until everything blows up in their face – and by admitting a problem, you likely will avoid a disastrous scenario that would leave you in a worse place. The first thing you need to do is get a handle on expenditures and think about making a budget.

You shouldn't be using a credit card at all now, and you may need to move to a cheaper place with more people, or consider returning home. I realize that would be discouraging and would feel like a setback. But to do nothing would be a bad idea. Your folks would be happy to have you back, and if you asked them for help with budgeting, they may be of great service while you are trying to save money. Let them know you expect to pay rent and that you appreciate their understanding. Then work on getting out again.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I work in a busy management office. I have a responsible job and no time to sit around and chitchat. When I first came here, the receptionist was friendly, and we started going to lunch, etc. Now she takes up work time hanging around my office gossiping. Her job doesn't require much except greeting visitors, and I regret making friends with her because I don't have time to waste. How do I handle this? – P.J.

Dear P.J.: It's difficult to start a new job. You feel like a stranger, and you don't know the office politics or who to make friends with and who to avoid. Your first instinct is to make friends with those who are friendly to you. That seems to have happened to you. Now you are settled in and trying to secure your place, not to mention get your work done on a daily basis, and here comes the one person who was nice to you to sabotage your efforts – purely out of innocence. It is sticky.

You must feel you owe this woman allegiance after how she treated you as a new employee. The fact that you enjoyed her company and feel she is a friend complicates things. But with most friends, we can be honest without hurting their feelings. Try drawing her into your world. She may be bored and have no concept of how it feels to have a heavy workload. Perhaps she could be given more to do. But in any case, thank her for her help in getting you started, and ask her for her help to be the most productive employee possible. Try doing this and it may work.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9
♥ Q 7 3
♦ J 5 4
♣ K 9 8 6 2

WEST
♠ 8 2
♥ J 10 8 6 5 2
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ —

EAST
♠ 7 6 5
♥ A K 4
♦ A 9
♣ Q J 10 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 4 3
♥ 9
♦ K Q 6
♣ A 5 4

The bidding:
East 1 ♠
Pass
South Dble 2 ♠
Pass
West 1 ♥
Pass
North Pass 3 ♠
Opening lead — two of hearts.

Famous Hand
This deal was played in the 1935 national pair championship held at Skytop, Pa. The hand received wide publicity at the time because it was one of the first published examples of the ruffing convention that B. Jay Becker introduced into tournament play at this event. The convention has since become accepted standard defensive procedure and is known by most players as the suit-preference signal.

The idea was a simple one. By making judicious use of spot cards in a ruffing situation, a defender could indicate which suit he wanted returned after his partner ruffed.

Becker held the East hand, and his partner, Waldemar von Zedtwitz, led the two of hearts. After seeing dummy, Becker concluded that his partner had not led a club – the suit he had opened the bidding with – because he did not have one to lead.

Furthermore, the deuce of hearts, supposedly West's fourth-best heart, could not be on the level because von Zedtwitz would not have bid one heart over South's double with only a four-card suit headed by the jack. So Becker read the heart deuce as being a request for him to return the lower-ranking side suit, clubs.

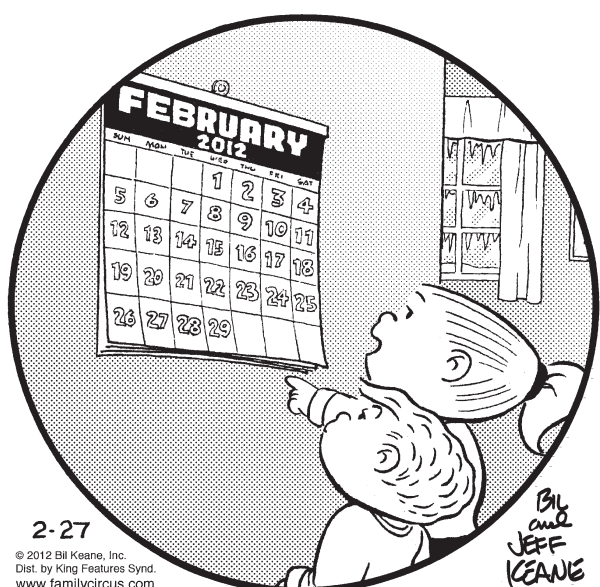
Accordingly, he won the heart with the king and returned the three of clubs. This asked von Zedtwitz to return the lower-ranking suit (as between hearts and diamonds) after he ruffed the club.

Everything worked out as planned. Waldy ruffed the club and, in conformance with his partner's request, returned a diamond. Becker won with the ace and gave his partner another club ruff. They got no more tricks, but the contract was down one.

The mechanics of the suit-preference signal are very simple. A low card calls for a return of the lower-ranking side suit, and a high card calls for a return of the higher-ranking side suit.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/27

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

GPJL ZVPTC Z KHUUPD

DHZQFJL Z IUHQFIZU QPVH

CDHJCX-KPTQ NPTQG Z OZX:

"KQPIE ZQPTJO CNH IUPIE."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MIGHT A GROUP OF RASCALLY BOYS BE TELLING DETAILS OF THEIR ANTICS AROUND A ROARING SCAMP-FIRE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Vim and vigor
 - 4 Had breakfast
 - 7 Acceptable
 - 11 Rowing props
 - 13 Bagel topper
 - 14 Pleasant
 - 15 Seniors' big event
 - 16 Mischievous tyke
 - 17 Paradise
 - 18 Provide with funds
 - 20 Seethe
 - 22 Barbie's cohort
 - 24 Ruins the shoe polish
 - 28 Custodian
 - 32 Grin
 - 33 Portent
 - 34 "Holy mackerel!"
 - 36 Surveyor's map
 - 37 Suit material that draws lint
 - 39 Rocket launcher
- DOWN
- 41 Stuck up
 - 43 "Le Coq —"
 - 44 Picnic spoiler
 - 46 Playful water critter
 - 50 Primary
 - 53 — and caboodle
 - 55 Dry riverbed
 - 56 As well
 - 57 Compass pt.
 - 58 Japanese sashes
 - 59 Rhett Butler's closing word
 - 60 Caribbean or Mediteranean
 - 61 Witness
 - 19 Drenched
 - 21 Suffix with robot
 - 23 Present
 - 25 Flaky pastry dough (Var.)
 - 26 Anti-aircraft artillery
 - 27 Bristle
 - 28 R&B singer
 - 29 Prayer ending
 - 30 Infamous fiddler
 - 31 Steal from
 - 35 Bankroll
 - 38 Greek vowel
 - 40 Menagerie
 - 42 "OMG!"
 - 45 Day shift start
 - 47 Keep — on (watch)
 - 48 Actress Falco
 - 49 Get up
 - 50 Angry
 - 51 — carte
 - 52 Doctrine
 - 54 See
 - 7-Down

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-27

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	52			53		54		55		
56					57				58		
59					60					61	