

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



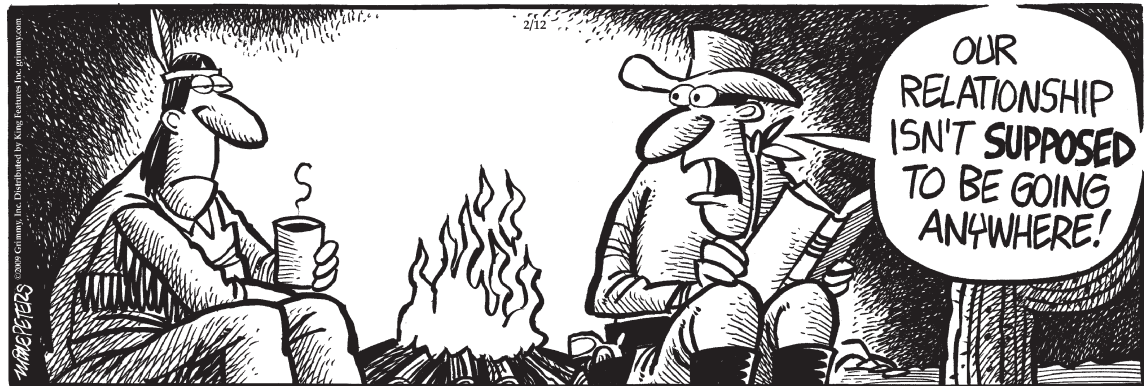
Blondie • Chic Young



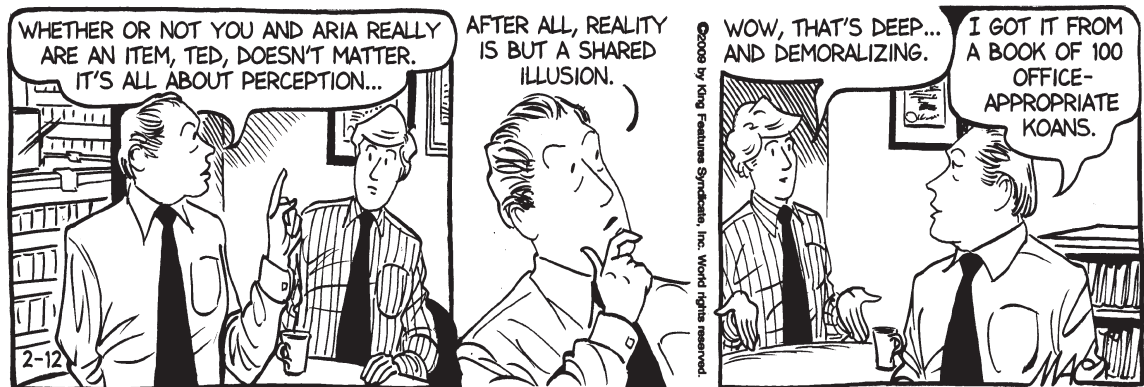
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



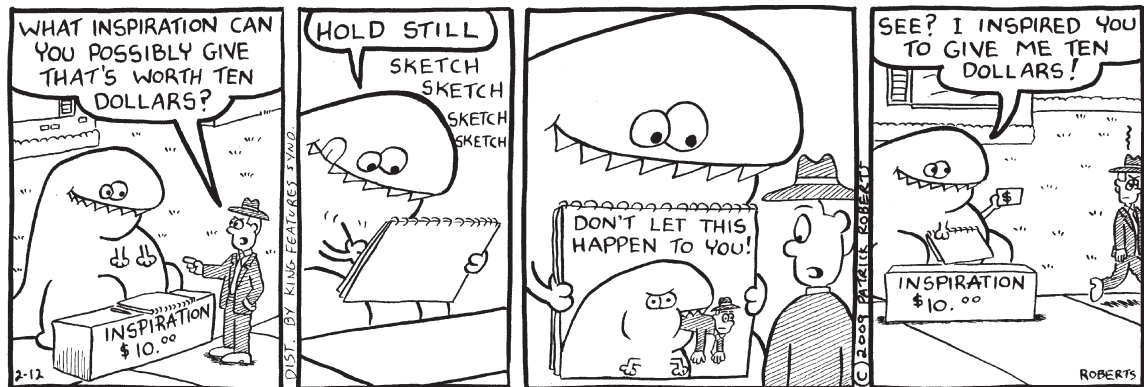
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Take charge of your own life

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a 76-year-old woman who has lived quite happily for the past 23 years in my apartment in the city. Recently, I was mugged on the way home from the grocery store (a small, nonviolent incident perpetrated by a teen who was later caught). Now my children are insisting that I move to an elder-care facility. I know their intentions are good, but I'm very happy where I am, and I refuse to let a little thing like the mugging change my whole lifestyle. They keep persisting, though! What should I do? — C.V.

Dear C.V.: Sometimes it's difficult to deal with someone who wants "what's best for us" — but look at the situation from their perspective. How would you feel if there was something you could do or say that might prevent harm from coming to your children — and they just casually shrugged off your suggestion? You probably would become more worried, thinking that their blase attitude would get them in further trouble.

It's one thing to be told "Don't worry," and it's quite another to present them with facts as to why they shouldn't. Bring up the fact that in all the time you've been at your apartment, this is the only time you were a victim of a crime. Since you've been living at the same address for more than 20 years, you most likely have made friends with the people in your neighborhood. Tell them that you're not at the "home" stage yet, and have people you can turn to in times of trouble. Your children obviously don't want to lie awake at night worried about your safety, but they need something to work with. Assurances work much better when they are backed up by proof, and more frequent visits from them also might make them aware of your lifestyle.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I didn't know it was that big of a deal until her teacher called. It seems my 6-year-old daughter bursts into tears quite frequently and upsets all the other children in her kindergarten class. She does this at home every once in a while, but I never gave it too much thought, thinking that's just how she is. Should I do something about her behavior, or is it something she'll eventually grow out of? — S.N.

Dear S.N.: To borrow from an old movie, "What we have here is a failure to communicate." Your daughter is trying to tell you — and everyone else around her — just how unhappy she is. Since she hasn't yet found the "proper" way to express her dissatisfaction, she bursts into tears.

It's time to school her in the fine art of expressing unhappiness without tears. Her standard school education needs to keep pace with her emotional vocabulary — and all learning begins at home. Let her know that you are sorry she is unhappy, but that you can't help her while she is crying. When she's ready to listen, start to establish a simple procedure for her to express her unhappiness. Tell her the first step is to tell you what's wrong in a calm voice — explain to her that you can't hear her through all that crying. Next, tell her to ask for what she wants in the same level voice. While you most certainly will not be able to quash every teary episode, you'll be letting her know that she can't cry her way through life.

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ AKQ32
♥ QJ104
♦ AKJ
♠ 8
WEST
♦ J8
♥ K632
♦ Q94
♠ AKJS
EAST
♦ 105
♥ A8
♦ 7632
♠ 109642
SOUTH
♠ 9764
♥ 975
♦ 1085
♠ Q73
The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 1 ♠ 1 ♠
Pass 4 ♣
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Standard Operating Procedure
One of the most important principles of defensive card play is the assumption that you can defeat the opposing contract. No other approach is acceptable.

Consider this deal where West allowed declarer to make four spades. After leading the king of clubs and seeing dummy, West had to decide what to do next.

Reluctant to lead a heart away from the king, or a diamond away from the queen, West chose to adopt a passive line of defense and shifted to a low trump at trick two. Declarer played two top trumps, conceded two tricks to the A-K of hearts and easily made the contract.

The outcome would have been altogether different had West instead shifted to a low heart at trick two. East would have won with the ace, returned a heart to the king and ruffed West's heart continuation for down one.

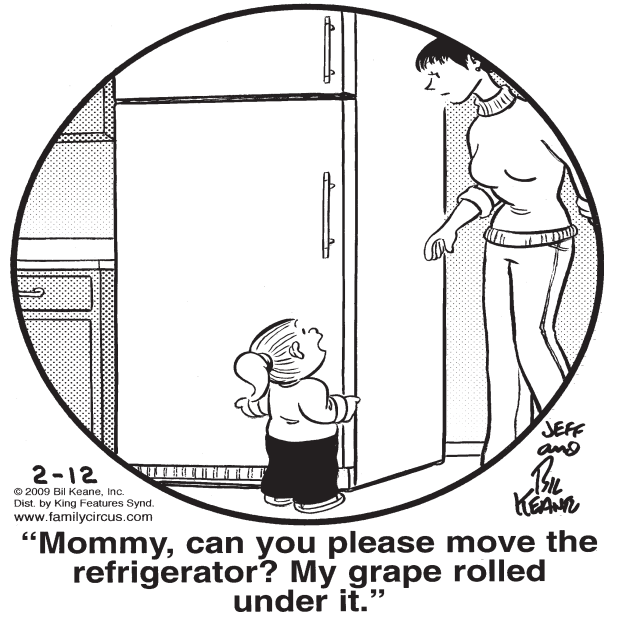
It is true that there was no way for West to know that East, rather than South, had the ace of hearts, and it might therefore be argued that a low heart play by West was a dangerous move.

However, there's no real merit for such a contention. From West's viewpoint, the contract can't possibly be stopped if declarer has the ace of hearts. He should therefore credit East with that card because it offers the only chance for the defense to score four tricks.

True, East must also have precisely a doubleton heart for this assumption to bear fruit, but it costs West nothing to hope for that as well. In bridge, many assumptions are, of necessity, based on hope, and in dire circumstances, it can hardly be wrong to hope for the best.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

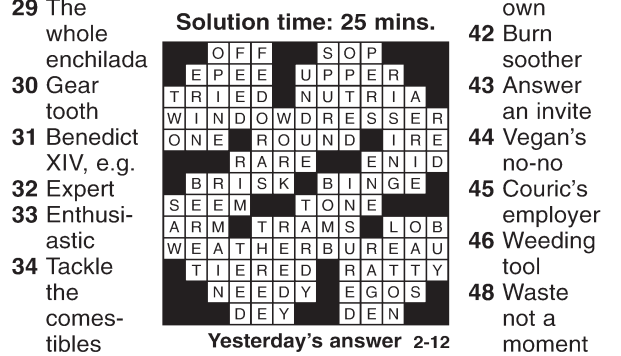
PO EJJ RO QUG MGRMJG PC
E CEQPRC ZGIPC QR ISRRT
QUGTNGJKGN, PN QUEQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU THINK THE DEMOCRATIC DONKEY AND REPUBLICAN ELEPHANT COULD BE CONSIDERED PARTY ANIMALS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Seed covering
5 Shrilk bark
8 State with conviction
12 Conflagration
13 Leading lady
14 Bygone VHS
15 Oriental nursemaid
16 Scratch
17 St. Louis landmark
18 Call a spade a shovel?
20 Price
22 Woman of letters?
26 Horsey laugh
29 The whole enchilada
30 Gear tooth
31 Benedict XIV, e.g.
32 Expert
33 Enthusiastic
34 Tackle the comestibles
- DOWN**
1 Some-where out there
2 Frost
3 Persia, now
4 English Channel port
5 Mocha's country
6 Actress Gardner
7 Fabric used for sheets
8 Disconcert
9 Upright
10 List-ending abbr.
11 "Go, team!"
19 Wrestling surface
- 21** Pussy-cat's partner
23 Topped chip
24 Not "for here"
25 Big Apple cardinal
26 Jet forth
27 Ancient mariner?
28 Make as good as possible
32 Moderate brown shades
33 Unexpected blessing
35 Coop denizen
36 — Lanka
38 Choir member
39 Take as one's own
42 Burn soother
43 Answer an invite
44 Vegan's no-no
45 Couric's employer
46 Weeding tool
48 Waste not a moment



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			