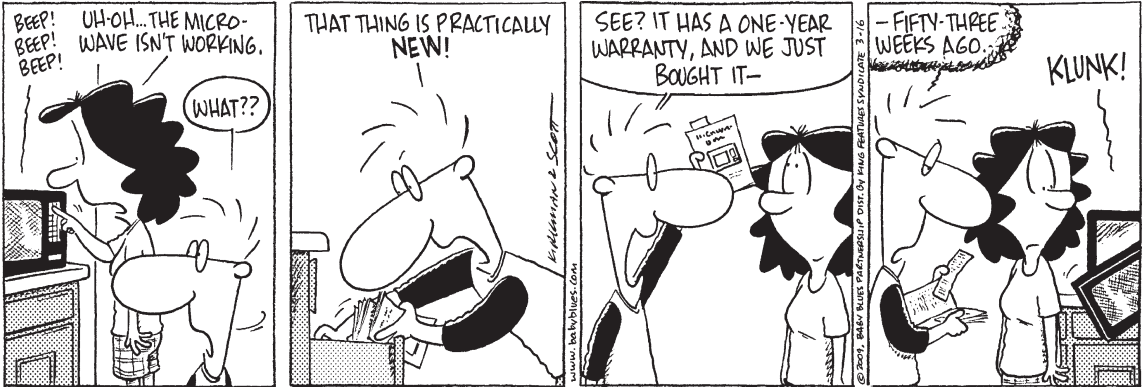


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



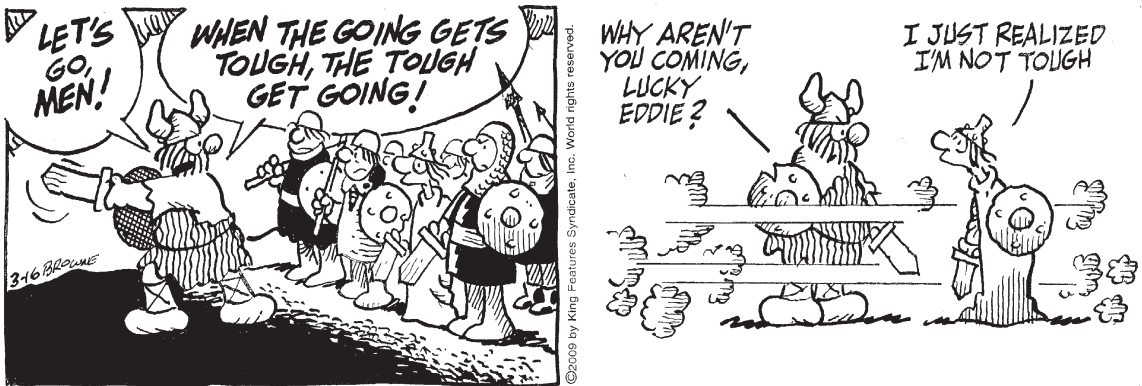
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



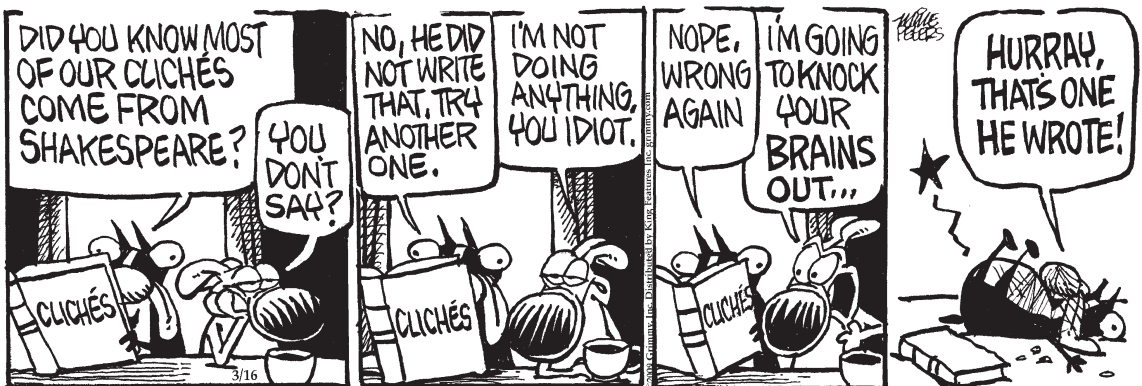
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



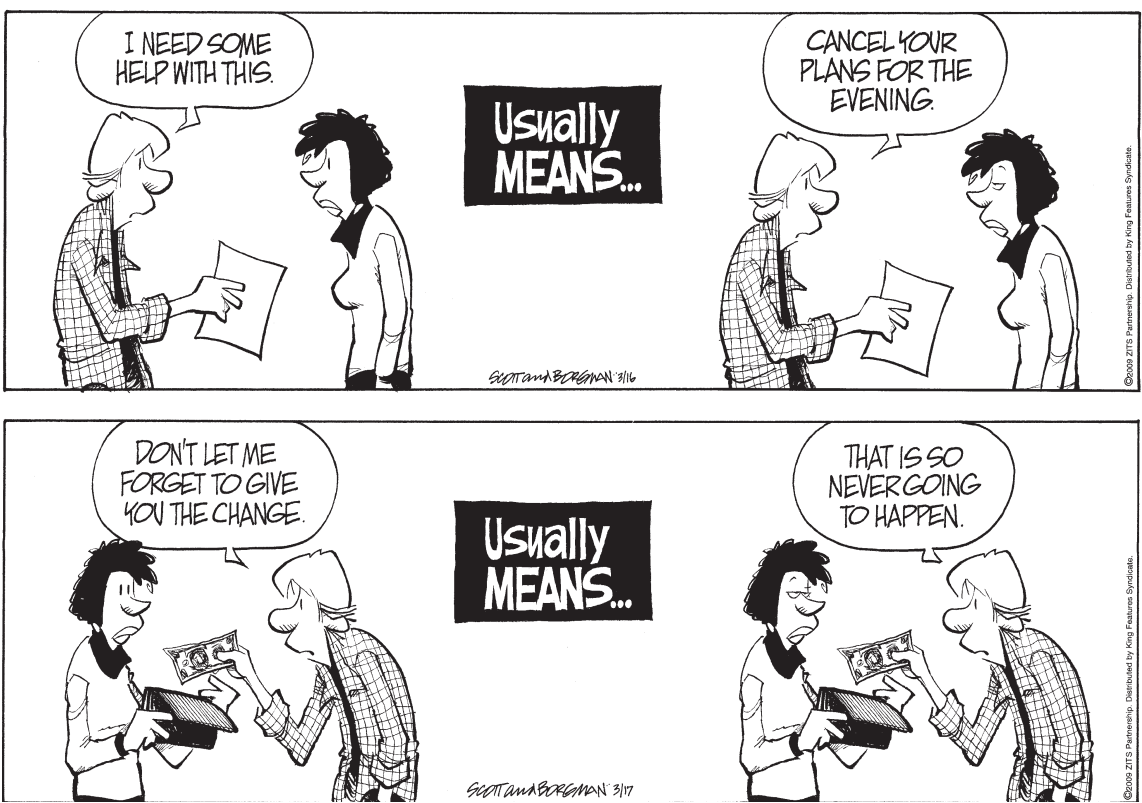
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Need an attitude adjustment?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a new job and I'm not doing so well. I don't want to get fired because it might be hard to find a new gig in this economy, so maybe you can help me with some tips for coping. Anyway, I work for a large department store, and they took me out of sales – which I loved – and put me in customer service. The people are sometimes so nasty that I am either crying or snapping back at them. I know it's just part of the job, but I need some help adjusting to this! – D.N.

Dear D.N.: It's too bad that you were transferred from a job you loved to one that probably is not very suitable for you. Or is it? Perhaps we need to take a closer look at the qualities you need to succeed in both jobs, and find out if you can transfer some of the skills you already have and build up some of those you don't. First, to succeed in sales, you probably are good at engaging people and are not too timid to communicate with them. Those are attributes not everyone has, and who knows – maybe your personality is one of the reasons you were given this new job. You also probably have a good aptitude for persuading others – every top salesperson can win over customers – and this also will be a plus in your new job if you realize it.

You should acknowledge that you have been given a tough assignment. No one ever says that customer service is easy – people can be unreasonable, angry, and downright rude and nasty. Perhaps it would help you to read some books on this challenge and find some responses you can draw upon when possible to avoid losing your cool. If you can calm the customers and let them know you want to meet their needs (within the store's guidelines), that's half the battle. Take lunch with some of the more veteran workers and see if they have tips to give you. Sometimes just getting together and sharing horror stories can make the job more bearable.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I signed up to help mentor some elementary-school kids, and I had a good time meeting and talking with them at breakfast at the school. These kids don't have much of a home life, as they have poverty issues, and I was trying to help them become good citizens. I suggested they help me clean up a ravine next to the school that was littered with stuff, and said I would meet them on the playground. This didn't work out with the staff. Why would they be so negative? – P.B.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K Q J 9
♥ A K J 7
♦ —
♣ K Q 9 5 4

WEST
♠ 7
♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ A J 4 3
♣ A 7 6 3

EAST
♠ 8
♥ 10 9 2
♦ K Q 9 7 6 5
♣ J 10 8

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

The bidding:
East 3 ♦
South Pass
West 5 ♦
North 5 NT
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This astonishing deal occurred during a match in the 1997 Vanderbilt Teams, and had a direct effect not only on the outcome of that match, but also in determining the ultimate winners of the event.

The serendipitous result on the deal grew out of a bidding misunderstanding between Bobby Goldman and Paul Soloway, a longstanding partnership comprised of two of the best players in the United States.

After Fred Stewart and Steve Weinstein, East-West, had quickly arrived at five diamonds, Soloway elected to bid five notrump, which he intended as a takeout for the three unbid suits. He apparently felt a double at this level would have been construed as primarily for penalties.

However, Goldman read the five-notrump bid as “unusual notrump,” asking him to choose between clubs and hearts, the two lower-ranking unbid suits. He therefore bid six hearts, and everyone passed, leaving North-South in their 4-2 heart fit rather than their 11-card spade fit!

Weinstein led the diamond ace, and Goldman could see that if he ruffed in dummy, whichever defender held four trumps would then have a trump trick. So instead of ruffing, Goldman discarded a spade!

Now, as anyone can plainly see, all Weinstein had to do to beat the slam was to cash the club ace. But he reasoned that if South had no clubs, leading the ace might help declarer make the slam, while if South had a club, he would have to lose a trick to the ace eventually.

So at trick two, Weinstein led another diamond, a play that no doubt has caused him many sleepless nights since. Goldman won the diamond with the king, drew trumps in four rounds and then ran seven spades to score the rest of the tricks!

At the other table, six spades was duly bid and made by Weinstein's teammates to achieve a tie. But if Weinstein had cashed the club ace at trick two, his team would have won the match and eliminated the team that went on to win the Vanderbilt that year.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

3/16

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

3/16

Cryptoquip

WINNRWLCZ JC RZKA

NKAEAKKAO J BAKYJLC

WAHLWREY BQAAWA, BRIFO RCA

BJFF QLH J HIACWYAK HRCWYAK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NAME OF AN IMPORTANT FLAGSHIP STORE THAT ONLY SOLD LARGE, PRICEY PIANOS: "GRAND CENTRAL."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS

1 Im-presses greatly

5 Youngster in a cave

8 White-glove discovery

12 Fish with a prehensile tail

14 Norway's capital

15 Lima bein'?

16 Paper quantity

17 Vat

18 Heavy hammer

20 Photo book

23 Fraud

24 Hen pen

25 G.B.S. devotee

28 Right angle

29 Island farewell

30 Shelter from the storm

32 Riga resident

34 Barrel
- 35 Denom-ination

36 Flavor

37 Current measure

40 Support-ing

41 Laugh-a-minute

42 Flood-related

47 Misfor-tunes

48 As one

49 Lotion additive

50 Baby food

51 Roy's wife
- 5 Nursery feature

6 Can. neighbor

7 Famed social-realist painter

8 "Sound of Music" song

9 Second-hand

10 Refuse

11 Big book

13 Egg

19 Volcano's outflow

20 Expert

21 Hang out in the hammock

22 Gaucho's weapon

Solution time: 27 mins.
- 23 Young hog

25 Cut into slivers

26 "Sad to say ..."

27 Egg container

29 State with conviction

31 — out a living

33 Danger-ous fly

34 Chiseled

36 Racetrack adviser

37 Met melody

38 Pepper dispenser

39 Horse-back game

40 Buy, renovate and sell quickly

43 — pinch

44 Greek mountain

45 Every last bit

46 "Science Guy" Bill

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

Yesterday's answer 3-14

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			
									36			
37	38	39						40				
41						42	43			44	45	46
47						48						
49						50				51		