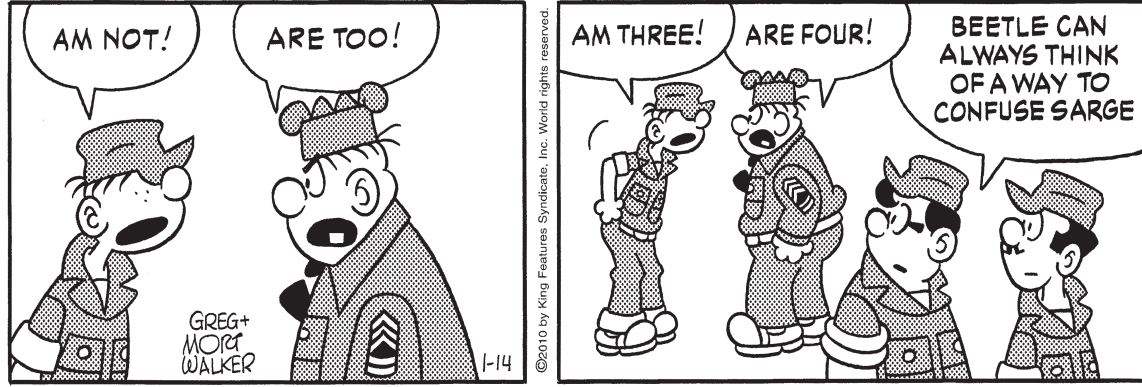




Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



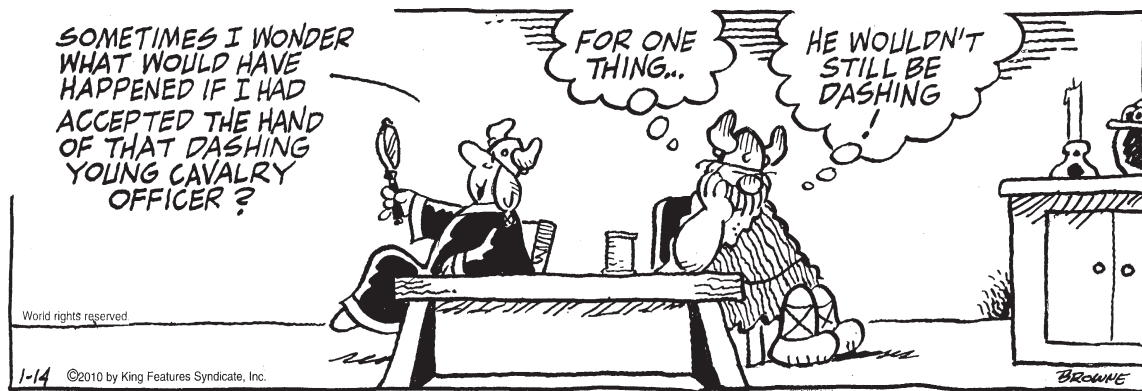
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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

Grandmother fears baby duties

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am the proud grandmother of a baby girl. She is adorable, and I have waited years for her. Now my daughter wants me to take on duties, from baby-sitting to shopping to chauffeuring. I don't want to disappoint her, but I am less healthy than I was when we made these plans. I don't think I can do all this, and am feeling overwhelmed. What should I do? - P.F.

Dear P.F.: It is sad when opportunities we have wished for never come. A different pain comes when the opportunities are postponed so long that when they do come, we find ourselves too old and tired to take advantage of them. That seems to be the position you are in, and the sooner you level with your daughter, the better. She is not going to resent you for it or deny you the opportunity to do what you can with your granddaughter, so the best idea is to list things you can manage.

It may be just a matter of organizing your time so you can make the most of the hours when you feel up to coping with the baby. Your daughter may wish to delegate driving and homemaking chores to someone else, while asking you for quality time with the baby that may not be so physically taxing - at least until the baby starts crawling and walking, and the chase begins! Yes, it is a shame that youth is wasted on the young, as they say. But sometimes it could be a blessing in disguise - that's why parents are there to take the main responsibility, and grandparents to enjoy.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have been a proud Eagle Scout since my teenage years. Now I am blessed with a son. I have waited until he was old enough to get into Scouting, but now he doesn't seem to really like it. In fact, after a year of dragging him to meetings, I can see he wants to quit but is afraid to tell me. He told his mom. I don't know whether to make him stay till he is more appreciative, or just give up on my dad-son dream. - L.B.

Dear L.B.: The trouble with having a lifelong "thing" of one sort or another and incorporating it into a dream for our kids is that the DNA doesn't always cooperate. The kids may be different from ourselves, so the thing we've spent our life adoring means nothing to them - but something else might if they are free to pursue it. So, you may have to keep your Scouting to an activity you enjoy on your own or with a future other child - this one doesn't seem to have the Scouting gene. That said, it wouldn't be a bad idea to ask him to try it for one more season, until you find something in Scouting that might spark his interest.

Use the skills you've honed to skip ahead in the manual and give your son an overview of what you can help teach him - be it conservation skills or woodworking or animal care - that he might enjoy. If none of that floats his boat, let him find something that does, and support him. It's not his fault his childhood came with preprogrammed dreams; what he picks out for himself is something he is more likely to pursue and enjoy on its own merits. The important thing is you stay connected, and don't blame or punish him in any way for not picking up your favorite activities.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Bridge bidding system diagram showing North-South and East-West bids and responses.

Bridge is a Logical Game. Bridge is a logical game. True, you have streaks of good or bad luck from time to time - depending mostly on the good or bad cards you and your partner hold - but in the long run the luck evens out, and the ability to reason well becomes the decisive factor.

Here is a good example of sound reasoning in both the bidding and play. South bids six hearts almost single-handedly, even though he realizes that if his partner holds the wrong hand, the slam may go down one.

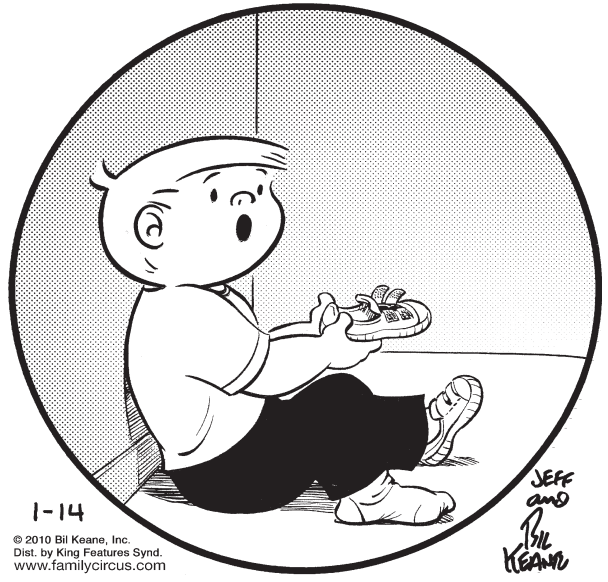
Yet South should assume that he is a strong favorite to make the slam, as there are many more hands North can have that will produce 12 tricks than there are that will yield only 11.

For example, North might have either the queen of hearts or queen of clubs, or a singleton or doubleton club, or four or five small hearts - and South would certainly want to be in a slam in all of those cases. He therefore bids the slam, even though he would not bet the family home-stead on making it.

South also plays the hand with equal assurance. He wins the club lead with the king, cashes the ace of diamonds and then leads the jack of trumps! This unusual play guarantees the contract. In the actual deal, West can do no better than take the jack of hearts with the queen, establishing dummy's eight as an entry, and declarer later discards his club loser on the king of diamonds to make the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



1-14 "Mommy, is it too soon to outgrow these shoes?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Conceptis Sudoku grid with pre-filled numbers.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/14

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.

Completed Conceptis Sudoku solution grid.

Cryptoquip

X K M S I Y Z X N R Q V I Y

I X X M B T I O T M Y M D X B T N Y O T X O X

L C M I F N X O Z R V T Y S T B N Q N F S X :

" S M L T O C O C N D K M N . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FIXING THINGS UP MAKES YOU EXTREMELY NERVOUS, YOU LIKELY ARE HAVING REPARATION ANXIETY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals G

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues for Across and Down.

Completed crossword puzzle solution grid.