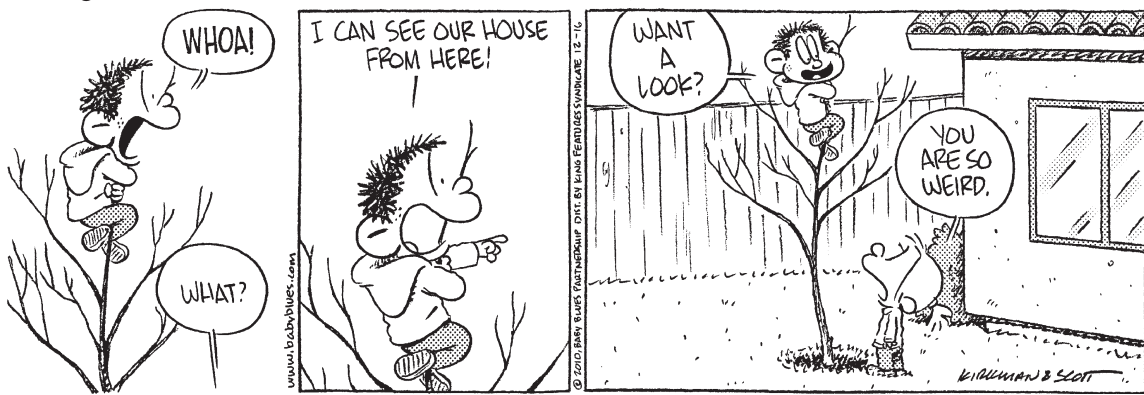


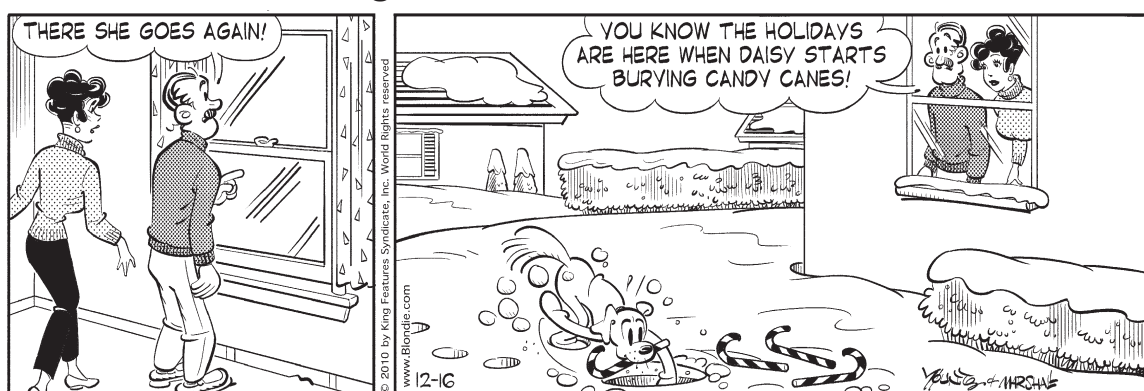
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



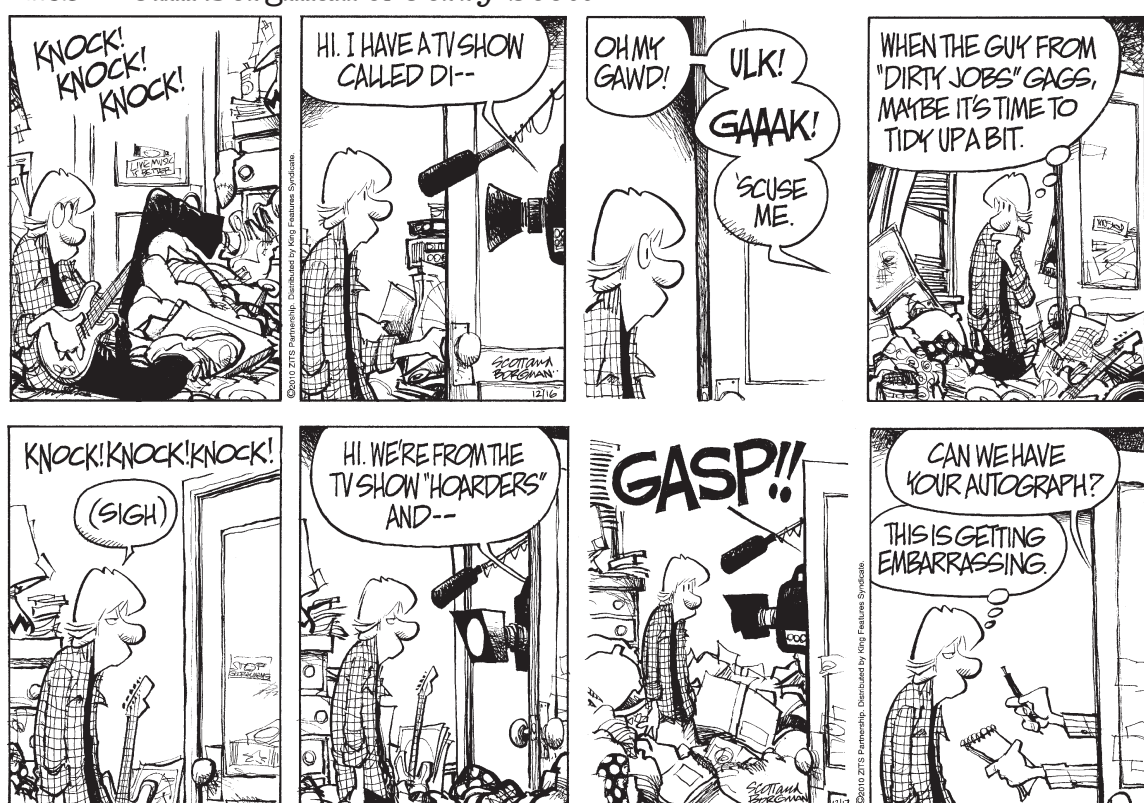
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Young parents drop all for baby

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am writing about my best friend, Bret. We've always done everything together, but now that we both have kids, it's a lot harder. You'd think we would be meeting at the playground, but it's not happening. My wife and I take our baby everywhere in a sling or backpack. My buddy stays home, and his life has stopped. How can I get him back? This is weird! - G.W.

Dear G.W.: There is nothing more frustrating than seeing a friend change, growing away from the friendship. You seem to be a very laid back and flexible couple and are having fun with your baby. Your buddy and his wife may be having a great time, too, just doing it in their own way. It could be that as the child gets older, they will begin to take him or her out and join you in all the kiddy activities that make the hard work worthwhile. Until then, be patient. You can continue to invite them on baby-oriented outings.

Even though you miss your friend, it would be wrong to try to impose your parenting lifestyle on a couple who seem to be following their own muse. But maybe you can think of some ways to still enjoy your friendship - like instituting a "boys night out" tradition, sans children. Your wives could do the same on a different night; fair is fair! Maybe just talking about being dads would be interesting. Even though you seem to be on top of things, I bet there are tips you could learn from your friend. And he could benefit by picking your brain.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am really confused about religion. I have always gone to Sunday school and worshipped with my family at our church. I like the pastor and the other kids - a lot of them go to my high school and we are in the same social group. They spend a lot of time talking about Our Lord Jesus Christ, and I do too, but there is a difference. I don't really believe in trying to be saved and saving others all the time like they do. I feel like a fraud. Help. - D.A.

Dear D.A.: High-school years are full of discovery and change. So even though you find yourself having doubts that are secretly horrifying, you should realize that many other young people probably are going through the same process and may be coming up against the same questions and doubts. Because you are questioning something you have grown up with, it may make you feel disloyal to your parents, church and pastor, or even your friends who seem to be committed to the religion you are questioning. But questioning is the key; perhaps your friends found it easier to take the path of least resistance - blind acceptance, unchanged since childhood.

Your path may be one of looking deeper into the religious traditions of your family with new eyes. Many young people like to learn about the religions of the world to help put their beliefs in perspective. It is difficult to discover that not everyone believes the way you do, but that they may be decent people anyway. See if you can take a non-judgmental attitude about religion for a while and include yourself and your own questioning in that attitude. Only then can you mature.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 6
♥ A Q
♦ Q 9 8 5 2
♣ J 10 4
WEST
♠ 10 8 7
♥ 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 4
♣ 9 8 6
EAST
♠ K J 9 3
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ 6
♣ 7 5 3 2
SOUTH
♠ 5 4 2
♥ 6
♦ A K J 10 7 3
♣ A K Q
The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♦ Pass 3♦
Pass 6♦
Opening lead - jack of hearts.

A Monarchical Decision

Assume you're in six diamonds and West leads the jack of hearts. How would you play the hand?

Actually, the slam cannot be defeated regardless of how the missing cards are divided, provided you know who has the king of hearts. Thus, if you knew that West had the king (it is normal to lead the jack from a combination including the K-J-10), you could score your 12th trick by playing the queen from dummy. But if you knew that East had the king of hearts, you could be equally sure to make the slam by putting up dummy's ace and adopting an entirely different line of play.

So how do you decide what to play from dummy at trick one if you can't see the missing cards? In the long run, it will pay to play the ace. Why? Because West is not likely to choose the dangerous lead of a heart away from the king against a slam, so it follows that East is more likely to have the king.

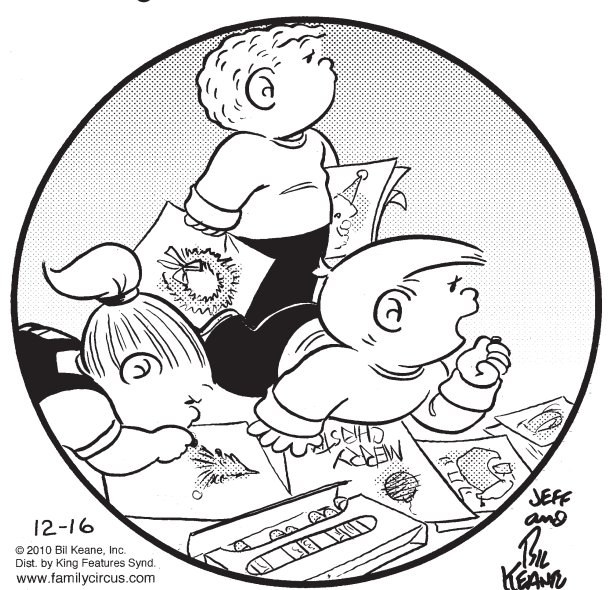
Accordingly, you play the ace of hearts at trick one and the ace of diamonds at trick two, and then cash the A-K-Q of clubs, laying the groundwork for an endplay against East. You still have no idea whether you were right in assuming that East was dealt the king of hearts.

Now you cross to dummy with a trump and lead the queen of hearts. When East covers with the king, you breathe a sigh of relief, as you are now certain to make the slam. You simply discard a spade, and whether East returns a spade, a heart or a club, your remaining spade loser disappears.

Note that if you elect to play the heart queen from dummy at trick one, you go down, losing a heart and a spade.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/16

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.

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

Cryptoquip

AV JVB ZBCCVZL NTSN NTL
CELILEELA IEBUN VI QSMJ
ISZN SIEUOSM QSQQSRZ

UZ SMNLRVCL OSMNSRVBCL?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF CROONING ENTERTAINER NEWTON SUFFERED A DECLINE IN POPULARITY, I GUESS WAYNE WOULD WANE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Makes a decision
5 Blond shade
8 Old fogey
12 Tree anchor
13 — out a living
14 Grand story
15 Chimney channel
16 Sermon subject
17 Small change
18 Precede
20 New Look designer
22 Documented evidence, maybe
26 Lays an egg
29 Insult
30 Attempt
31 Queue
32 Snapshots, familiarly
33 Active one
34 Check-casher's pair
35 Morsel

36 Handbag
37 1973 movie set at Harvard, with "The" Apple computer
40 Orange or grapefruit
45 Land measure
47 Frequently
49 Small pie
50 No stay-at-home
51 Privy
52 Therefore
53 Vortex
54 "— the ramparts ..."
55 Profound

DOWN
1 "Carmina Burana" composer
2 Game on horse-back
3 Go sight-seeing
4 Spire
5 Man of morals?
6 Schuss
7 Rocker
8 Interior designer's concern
9 One at the switchboard
10 Cacophony
11 Calendar abbr.
19 Petrol
21 "Monty Python" starter
23 Archie's wife
24 Enrages
25 Orpheus' instrument
26 Buy, remodel and sell
27 Verdi work
28 Brilliant
32 Flute's kid brother
33 Sang with someone
35 Support of a sort
36 Omega preceder
38 Abrasive powder
39 Thespian
42 Exceptional
43 Incite
44 Halt
45 Time of your life?
46 Food fish
48 Adversary

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-16

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			