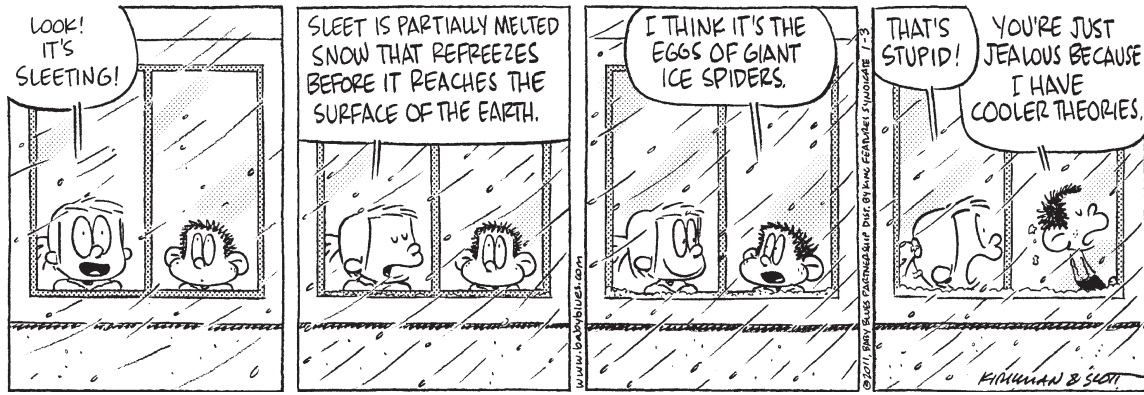


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



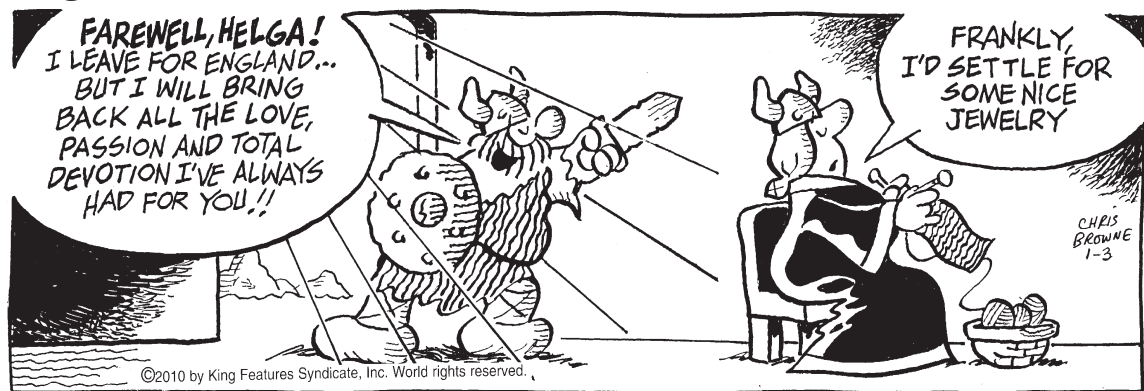
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**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

**New job needs assertiveness**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have a new job, and while it is nice to have increased responsibilities and a needed raise, I am uncomfortable with management duties. I have to whip a team of underperforming employees into shape! I am not assertive, and am wondering if they will pay any attention to me if I try to give them direction. How do I fake it and seem authoritative? – V.F.

**Dear V.F.:** Congratulations! In this economy, it's quite a feat to keep your job, much less get a promotion. Someone in charge thought you had potential, or the logistics of the job and company meant that you might not be the best material for the position but you were offered it anyway. In either case, it's up to you to prove you are worthy of this slot. One way you can hit the ground running is to start reading, watching videos and taking advantage of management training. Think about the style of supervisors and the managers you have had, and what worked or didn't work for them.

When all is said and done, you may have to step outside your comfort zone in order to assert yourself and gain the cooperation of your employees. If you have to fake it, that's all right. Soon your faking will become the real thing. Work with your own supervisor to make sure you know what is expected of you and what guidelines you can offer your employees. A boss doesn't have to be intimidating. If you work on your self-confidence, know-how, goal-setting and motivation skills, everything should fall into place.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am concerned about my brother. He's a good kid, and made it through college mostly on his charm and looks. But he has no ambition to get a job, and the only reason he works at all is because my husband offered him a part-time job in our small business and a room. It's more out of charity than anything. He's not stupid, but how can he have any kind of life if he isn't willing to do anything? Can I help? – L.S.

**Dear L.S.:** It seems you and your husband are already helping. It occurs to me that besides being kind family members, you perhaps are also under the spell of your brother's charm! If not, I'd like to know how he got you to give him a job and a room. I hope you at least expect him to pay rent and help around the house. Otherwise, it is your intelligence that needs evaluating!

If there is anything good that can come of this arrangement, it probably is the fact that your brother will either develop an interest in what he is doing or become so bored and disappointed with his lack of resources that he decides to make some effort to get a full-time job or develop job skills. Most of us work for money – to pay the rent, to feed and clothe ourselves and to buy the toys that make our lives comfortable and fun. If your brother doesn't value these things, he is unusual. And if he also doesn't have any ambition to do anything at all, he is even more out of step, as most people enjoy the feeling of accomplishment they get from work that they like.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ K Q 7 5  
♥ 9 8 5  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ 4 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ 9 6  
♥ K Q J 7 4 3 2  
♦ K  
♣ J 9 7

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 8 4  
♥ —  
♦ 9 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♣ 10 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 3 2  
♥ A 10 6  
♦ K J  
♣ A K Q 8 6

The bidding:  
3♥ Pass Pass 3NT  
Pass 4NT Pass 6NT  
Opening lead — King of hearts.

**Famous Hand**

Pietro Forquet, the Italian star who in the 1960s and '70s was regarded by many of his peers as the best player in the world, tells this story on himself. He was playing rubber bridge with his wife as his partner, and he got to six notrump as shown.

West led the king of hearts, taken with the ace, and Forquet ran five club tricks, discarding two hearts from dummy. He next cashed the A-Q of spades, at which point he paused to take stock, since he had only 11 sure tricks in sight.

Forquet knew for sure that West had started with seven hearts and three clubs, and had also followed suit twice in spades. His only unknown card, therefore, had to be a diamond or a spade.

If the card was a diamond, Forquet reasoned, the odds were 7-1 that it would be a low diamond rather than the queen. Accordingly, he led dummy's eight of diamonds to the jack, confident of a favorable outcome. But alas, West's only diamond was the queen, and Forquet went down four!

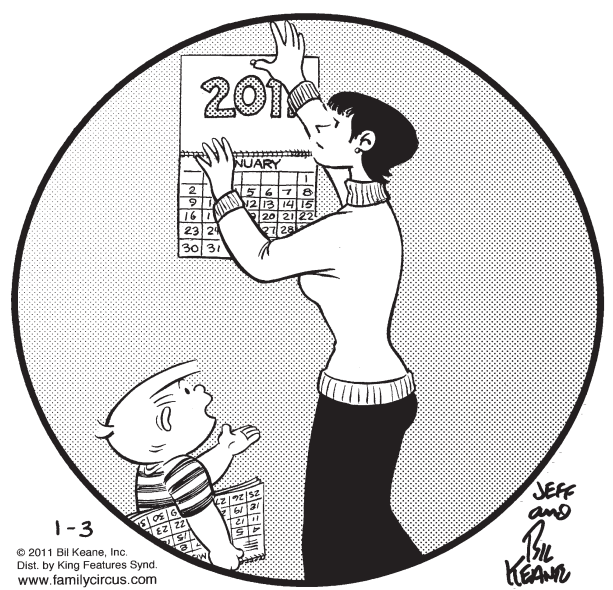
"DOWN FOUR?" said his wife incredulously. "Down four," Forquet replied sadly.

Subsequent analysis revealed that the 16-time world champion had actually misplayed the hand. At the point where he led the diamond from dummy, he could have assured the slam 100 percent by playing the king from his hand!

If West showed out of diamonds, it would mean that he had started with three spades and the suit was divided 3-3. If West followed suit in diamonds, even with a low one, the slam would still be ice-cold. In that case, Forquet would play a spade to dummy's king and lead the fourth spade back, taking care to discard his jack of diamonds on the trick! That would compel East to win the spade and return a diamond into dummy's A-10 at trick 12, yielding the slam.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



1-3

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"Now we get to go back and rerun all the months again."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

1/03

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Cryptoquip**

X FOR HX EZ O QGJEOLKZ  
 QGJQIZFA OLJTY ORAJRZ'N  
 JTYZG ZOG. AJT SXHIY NOA  
 X'S OR OTGXFKZ JGOFKZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR SINGING AN ARIA, I GUESS IT'S AN OPERA-TUNE MOMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals M

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |               |                    |                 |               |                      |             |                         |                            |                                 |                         |  |                      |                          |                   |                     |                   |             |                    |                               |                 |                |                |  |  |  |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b> | 1 "What's up, —?"  | 4 Recede        | 7 Prison      | 11 Eastern potentate | 13 Aviate   | 14 Nevada city          | 15 Suitor                  | 16 Spotted, as Tweety would say | 17 Show off the muscles | 18 Uppity ones                                   | 20 Fifty percent     | 22 Hearing organ         | 24 Dannon product | 28 Overwhelms       | 32 Shinto gateway | 33 — Domini | 34 Two, in Tijuana | 36 Hobbling                   | 37 Stem         | 39 "Blazing —" | 41 Frankfurter |  |  |  |
|               | 43 "Charlotte's —" | 44 Swindle      | 46 Consecrate | 50 Green gem         | 53 Anger    | 55 "Once — a time"      | 56 Winged                  | 57 Poorly lit length            | 59 Crooner Crosby       | 60 It's between ar and tee                       | 61 Baseball hat      |                          |                   |                     |                   |             |                    |                               |                 |                |                |  |  |  |
|               | 2 Portent          | 3 "Arrivederci" | 4 Salamander  | 5 Mediocre           | 6 Side road | 7 "Jurassic Park" actor | 8 Every iota cutter's tool | 9 Eisenhower                    | 10 Bagel topping        | 12 Cartoonist known for overly intricate devices | 19 Bando of baseball | 21 Parcel of land        | 23 Crimson        |                     |                   |             |                    |                               |                 |                |                |  |  |  |
|               | 25 Kazakh river    | 26 Frost        | 27 Cravats    | 28 Hit hard          | 29 Aware of | 30 Pesky insect         | 31 "Mayday!"               | 35 Wood-cutter's tool           | 38 Japanese pond fish   | 40 Society new-comer                             | 42 Coast along       | 45 Singer Kristoffer-son | 47 Grand story    | 48 Carbonated drink | 49 Quick cut      | 50 Poke     | 51 "The Greatest"  | 52 "The Da Vinci Code" author | 54 Type squares |                |                |  |  |  |

Solution time: 25 mins.

FOUR	DAM	EYES							
ABLE	ONE	NERO							
LONG	VAT	ATOP							
LEAGUE	ENMESH								
	APT	EEER							
WAKE	ACCOLADE								
SUV	IDO	NOR							
WRESTLER	USER								
	TAO	VAN							
SACHET	ENROLL								
AGHA	YET	ERIE							
LEER	PET	AGRA							
EDDA	EKE	DYED							

Saturday's answer 1-3

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
28	29	30				31			32
33						34			35
37						38			39
41						42			43
						44			45
50	51	52				53			54
56						57			58
59						60			61