

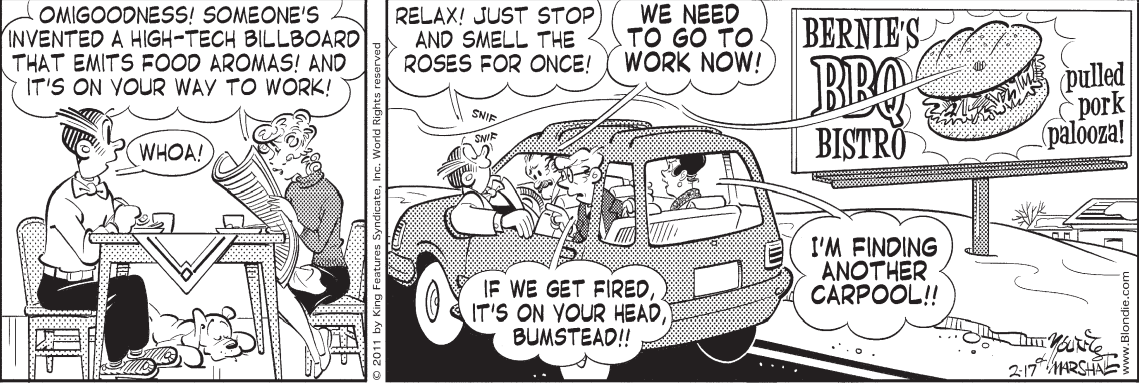
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



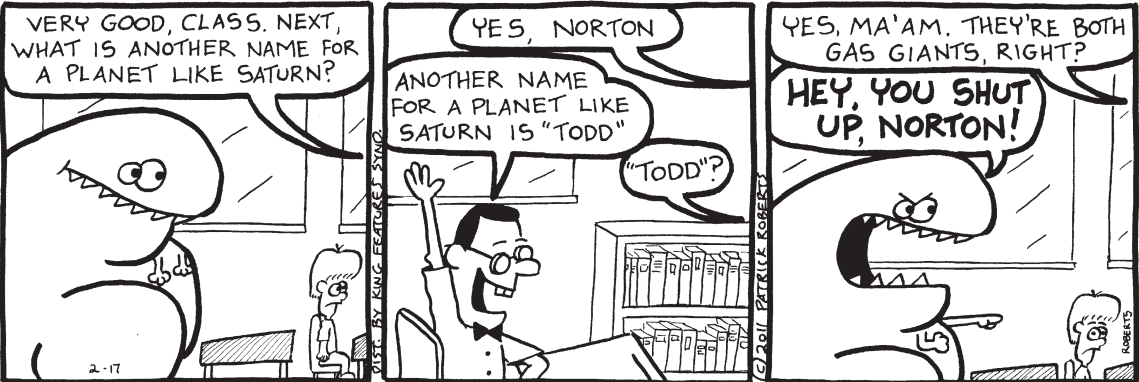
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



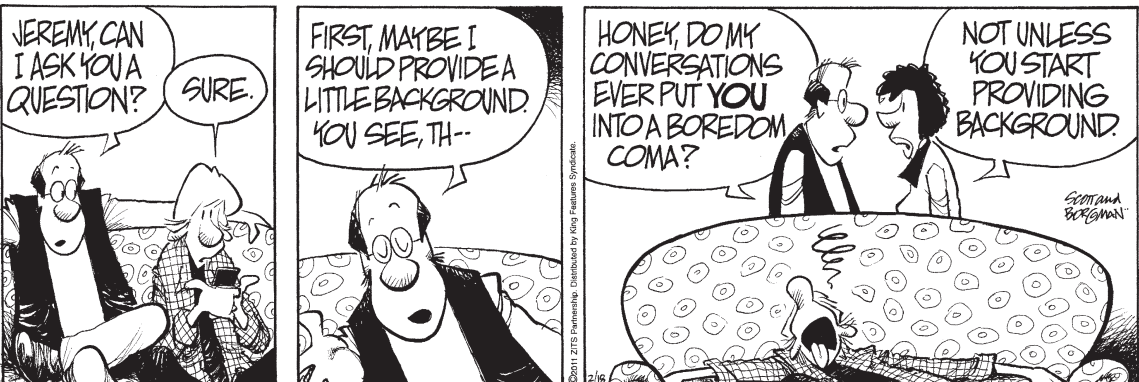
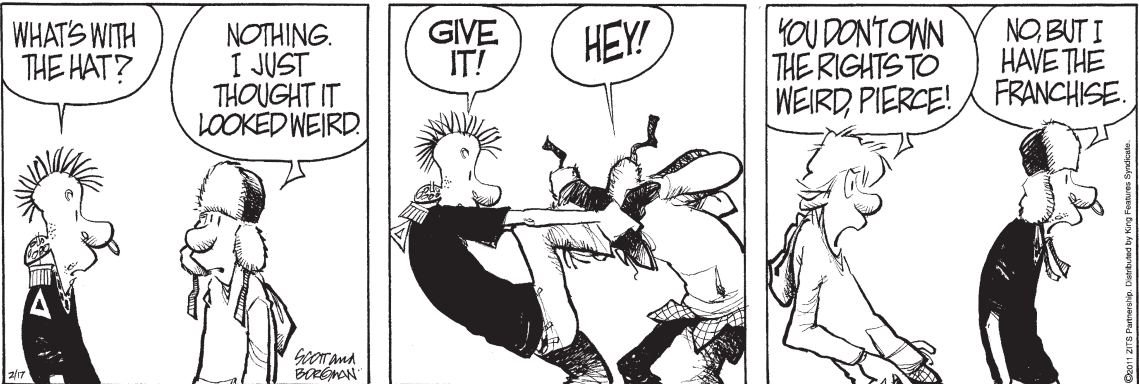
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Awkward move lingers longer

Dear Dr. Brothers: I felt like a character on “Seinfeld,” except it wasn’t funny. My girlfriend is the single mom of a wonderful 7-year-old boy. He was playing with a toy hammer when he knocked me in the knee, causing my leg to kick him. It wasn’t hard, and he wasn’t hurt – but it frightened him. Things have been weird between us since. Will this change? – B.W.

Dear B.W.: It might change, or it might not, but your job is to roll with the punches and let her know you are there for her and her son, even if they are having trouble recovering from this. Moms are protective of their children, and your girlfriend may even have had qualms about letting you into the family circle. I wouldn’t take offense if you were to find out she had checked you out before introducing you to her son.

Single moms are sometimes saddled with guilt when something goes wrong between “the guy” and her child. So although she may be overreacting, you need to understand. Ask her if the incident is bothering her. Since it involved something physical, the child may have developed fear of being with you. That would be unfortunate, but it would help you to know where you stand. If your girlfriend agrees, perhaps you could do other activities as a threesome that would show your kindness and affection for both of them.

Dear Dr. Brothers: When our newborn cries, my husband never wakes up to take care of her. The one time I literally pushed him out of bed to go turn her, he fell back asleep in two minutes! What’s wrong with him? I know he’s not faking by his breathing. Does he just not care? – F.L.

Dear F.L.: I don’t know what your husband’s day is like, but he is likely to be tired out if he can’t wake up to change a diaper. On the other hand, many men are not motivated to get up to change a diaper. What could be more fun for a dad who gets up at dawn to go to work? Seriously, although you may be twice as tired, many men consider baby care “women’s work.” Your husband may be in that camp, or a heavy sleeper.

Instead of fuming, why don’t you talk about the schedule for the baby’s next couple of months? Eventually the child will sleep through the night, but that will leave other daddy duties to pile up on the list. So now is as good a time as any to get a handle on what your husband considers to be his jobs with the baby, how he feels about doing them and how you can set up a division of labor that won’t leave you frustrated and exhausted. Night-time duties are never pleasant if one parent’s shuteye becomes the focus of drama. Set up a schedule and remove the conflict.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 10 8 3
♥ 10 9 7
♦ K 9
♠ A K J 2

WEST
♦ —
♥ J 6 2
♦ Q 8 7 3 2
♠ 9 8 6 4 3

EAST
♦ K J 2
♥ A K 5 4 3
♦ 10 6 4
♠ Q 5

SOUTH
♦ A 9 7 6 5 4
♥ Q 8
♦ A J 5
♠ 10 7

The bidding:
North 1 ♣
East 1 ♥
South 1 ♠
West Pass

Opening lead — two of hearts.

A Different Game

Those who play matchpoint duplicate – where a single overtrick can make the difference between a good result and a poor one – sometimes find themselves doing something that would make rubber-bridge players cringe. Those of you who don’t play matchpoints should steel yourselves for what follows.

The deal occurred at a regional tournament. Virtually every North-South pair reached four spades on the bidding shown, and after a heart lead, East played the K-A and another heart, ruffed by South.

No doubt most declarers were aware of the standard safety play with the spade combination shown. At rubber bridge, declarer would cross to dummy and lead any spade but the queen, intending to let it ride. This protects against three spades in either opponent’s hand (if East shows out on the first spade, declarer puts up the ace and returns a spade toward the queen) and so assures no more than one spade loser.

But many Souths, knowing that East had started with five hearts and West with only three, thought it very unlikely that East could have all three spades and West – who had not bid – none. These declarers thought West had to have at least one spade, and if it was the singleton king, they could make an overtrick. So they laid down the ace of spades and were flabbergasted when West showed out. All of these Souths – about two-thirds of the field – thus went down in an ice-cold contract.

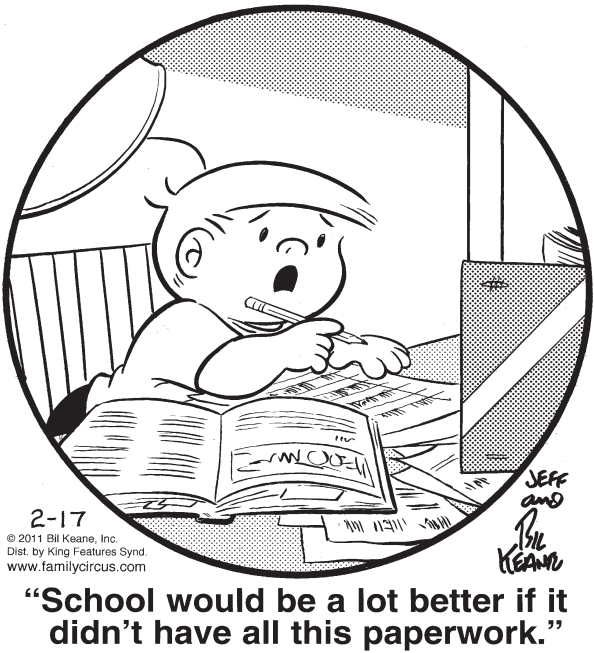
Without any revealing bidding by East-West, the expectancy that East would have all three spades is 11 percent. Since East was known to have started with five hearts, this percentage is slightly lower.

As opposed to this, the chance that West would be dealt the singleton king – normally 13 percent – was also lessened slightly by the fact that he had only three hearts.

It would therefore seem that trying to make an overtrick had about a 2 percent better chance of succeeding than the safety play. But does that justify going down in a cold contract? Such, dear reader, are the types of questions that keep matchpoint players up all night.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/17

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

J D U R G Q O H U J O Z I W U H J

K W W Z Y O W W U M Z B A D W D Z B H

J U G B Q A U G Q F R A A Z W J M B W D

Y B F Z H J I K G Z J ?

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: PERSON AT AN ALFRESCO BARBECUE WHO’S ON THE WATCH FOR ANY PARTY CRASHERS: THE COOKOUT LOOKOUT.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: A equals G

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Every last bit

4 Marine of old TV

8 Instances of word-play

12 Shelter

13 Picnic spoiler

14 On

15 TSA checks

17 Eastern princess

18 Poorly lit

19 Action-movie sound

21 Boutique, perhaps

24 Quite some time

25 In what way?

26 Bill

28 Mario-nette parts

32 — It Romantic?

34 Mojito ingredient

36 Green stroke

DOWN

37 Man of morals?

41 Chesa-peake, e.g.

42 Actor Stephen

44 Tease

46 Bring charges against

50 Long —

51 Back

52 Square dances

56 Approximately

57 Mark

58 Zero

59 Loch —

60 Sketch

61 Agent

11 Skewer

16 Party bowlful

20 Present

21 Actor LaBoeuf

22 Stockings

23 Listener

27 Clear the tables

29 Messages

30 List-ending abbr.

31 Eyelid woe

33 Bullring VIPs

35 Fellow

38 Shooter ammo

40 Jamie-Lynn’s “Sopranos” role

43 Was sore

45 Id counterpart

46 Press

47 Simple

48 Go by

49 Session with a shrink

53 Historic period

54 Pinch

55 Crafty

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 2-17

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
56				57				58		
59				60					61	