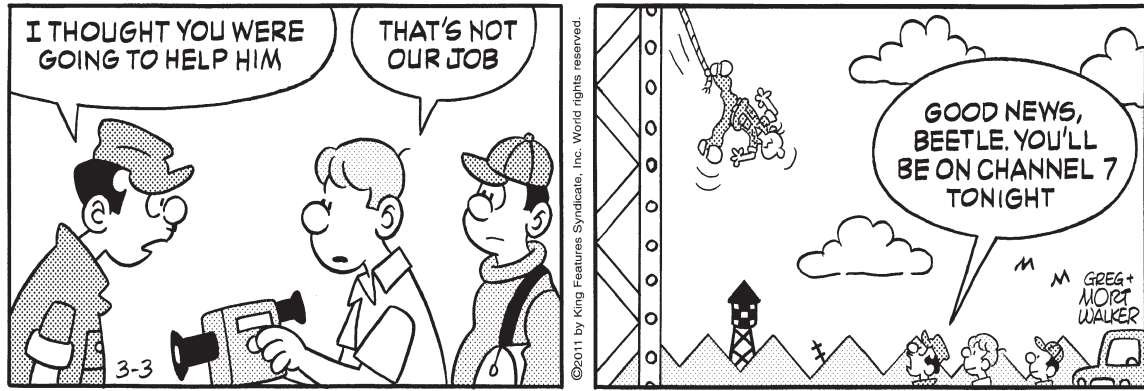


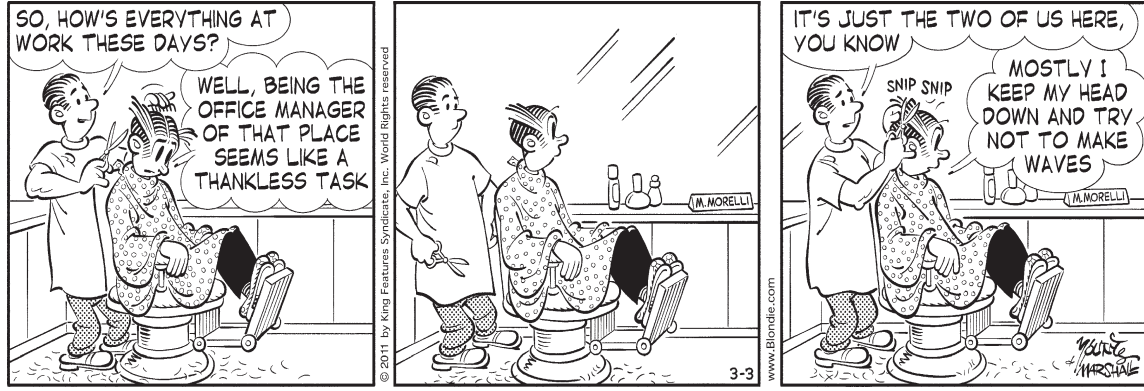
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



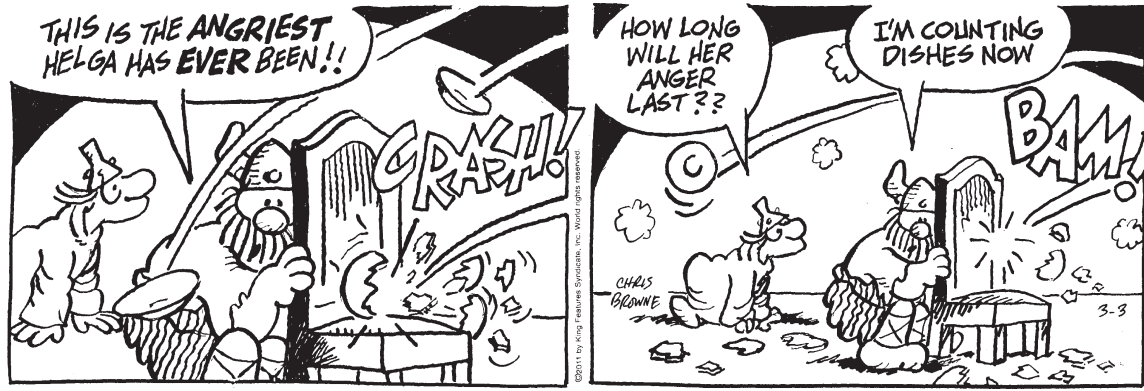
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



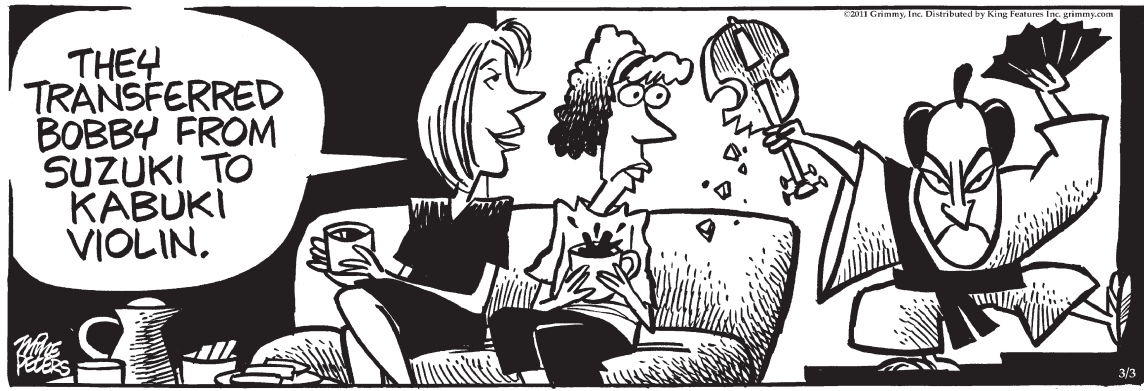
Blondie • Chic Young



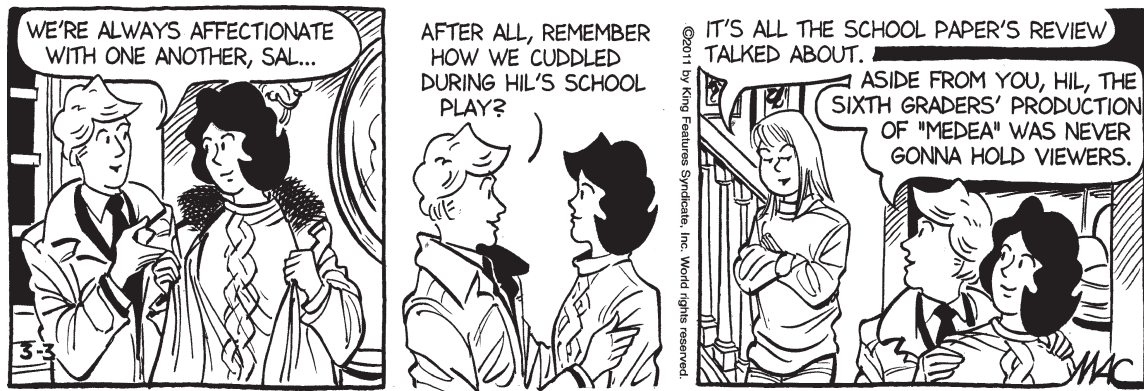
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



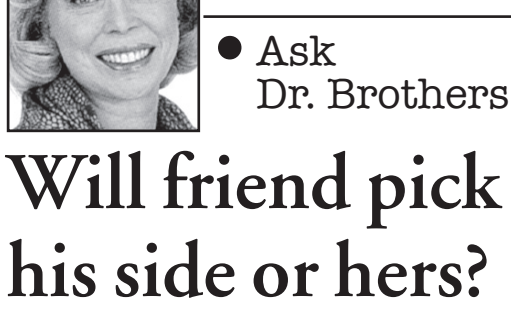
Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers



Dear Dr. Brothers: My living room has become a way station for my friends' marital problems. I've known this couple for 10 years and consider them both good friends. But when she leaves after hours of venting, he shows up with his side of the story. I know - and they know - they are headed for divorce. I'm worried about what's going to happen when I'm forced to choose a side. I don't want to be in that position. - P.T.

Dear P.T.: It might be best for everyone if you can move the action into an environment where your friends may work on their problems, or on structuring an amicable settlement. Because they are now coming just to vent, they have no reason to talk to one another and move forward. Before you have to choose, you are bound to be put on the spot and asked to carry a message or agree with some evil characterization of the other.

So before it gets to that point, I would get these two into the office of a marriage counselor or a divorce mediator. In both instances, they will be asked to come together and face the issues. If they are heading toward divorce, at least they can work out an agreement they both are satisfied with because they have done it together. After the divorce, if you don't want to choose between them, let them know you'd like to remain friends with both. If no one objects, you can do that. If one or both object, you may have to rethink the whole thing. But you might let things evolve and see which friend still acts like one.

Dear Dr. Brothers: When it came to our wedding, my husband and I let our families get the best of us. Between his mother choosing the hall and my father booking the band, we threw up our hands. Needless to say, we both were unhappy with the way it played out. We never had a ceremony for us, and it's depressing us both. - C.W.

Dear C.W.: It's a shame when the couple getting married doesn't own their wedding - but it seems we are moving away from the simple, meaningful ceremony followed by a celebration with friends and family. But since you apparently allowed your family to pay for things you can understand why they felt a sense of entitlement about where their money was going. Unfortunately, you found the wedding not to your taste.

Starting off depressed is not a good way to begin a marriage, but I am glad you are not taking it out on your family. Remember they wanted you to have a good time, so go easy on them. Were you able to take your own version of a great honeymoon trip? If not, I suggest you plan a wonderful getaway for your first anniversary, where you are in charge of the details. It may give you a fresh jump-start and control you lacked at the wedding. Please try to stop dwelling on the past and start making an exciting future for yourselves. Soon you'll be enjoying being newlyweds and having your whole life before you.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Reducing the Risk Factor. A competent declarer always hopes for the best but prepares for the worst. That is the backbone of good play, and this case from a rubber-bridge game illustrates the principle. South was in three notrump, and West started with the K-Q-J of hearts, declarer taking his ace on the third round. Without giving the matter much thought, South then led a low club to the ace. When East showed out, declarer could do no better than collect his eight high-card tricks and so finished down one.

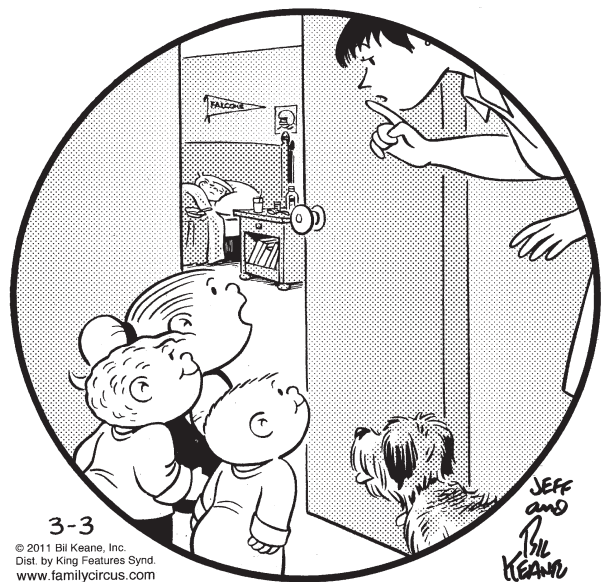
While it is granted that South was unlucky to run into a 5-0 club division, the fact remains that had he applied the principle stated above, he would have made the contract. South should have recognized that the ninth trick could come only from the club suit, and also that there was no advantage in initiating the suit by leading a low club to the ace or queen. There was a chance, however, that he might gain a trick by playing the king of clubs first. Thus, had South cashed the king initially, he would have had no trouble scoring four club tricks and making three notrump.

Declarer should start on the basis that the contract will come home easily if the clubs are divided 3-2. His next thought should be to prepare as well as he can for a 5-0 or 4-1 split. In doing so, South should conclude that if East has any holding of four or five clubs, only three club tricks can be made no matter how the suit is attacked. South should then focus all his thoughts on the possibility that West has the club length.

Once declarer reaches this point, he should realize that by cashing the king first, he can overcome the J-10-x-x-x in West's hand, while the alternative low club lead has nothing to gain and may cost him the contract. It is true that in the great majority of hands it won't make any difference which club is led first, but from the standpoint of good technique, the king is clearly the right play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"We just figured we would go in and give poor Billy some sympathy."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

L'S DSHYAXDW LC U HYUCV HPAWTBLCF PDW-BAYAPDW BUKR. XAT SLFRV KUX L'MD SUWD MDPSLYLAC WAYYUPK. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A COWBOY LETS OUT A YELL ON A HAWAIIAN ISLAND, I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE AN OAHU WAHOO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Recipe meas., 5 Con game, 9 "Wham!", 12 Brewery products, 13 Albacore, 14 Mimic, 15 Ambulance VIP, 17 Scarlet, 18 Hello, in Haifa, 19 Coin toss, 21 KC's state, 22 Tine, 24 Boston - Orchestra, 27 1989 GM debut, 28 Burr-Hamilton contest, 31 Actress Gardner, 32 Conger, for one, 33 Exist, 34 Imperfection, 36 Rd., 37 "Breckinridge". DOWN: 1 Reveille's opposite, 2 Mediocre, 3 Antitoxins, 4 Book after Job, 5 Goblet part behind a motorboat, 6 What a cow chews, 7 Blackbird, 8 Overly virile, 9 South American country, 10 Newspaper page, 11 Marries, 16 Cattle call?, 22 Grievance, 23 Portrayal handle, 24 Man's job, 25 Eggs, 26 Soar, 27 Equipment, 29 Bobble the ball, 30 Grazing area, 35 Pair figure, 39 Mac maker, 40 Snapshot, 41 Not yet, 42 Stanley Gardner, 43 Back talk, 44 Remedy, 45 Singer Redding, 46 Encounter, 49 Melody, 50 Bylaw, for short.

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