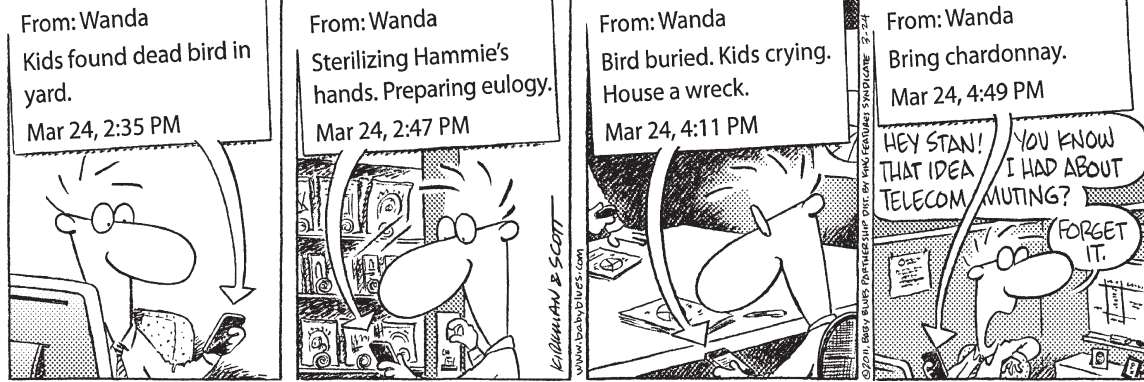
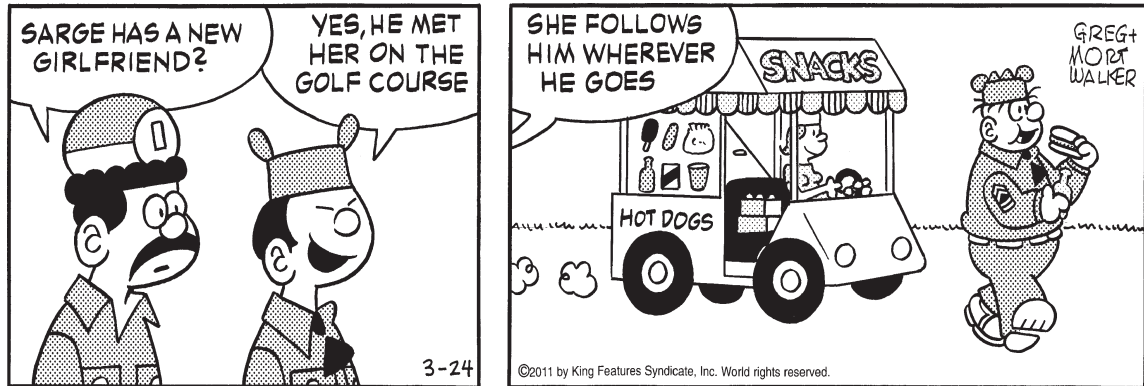


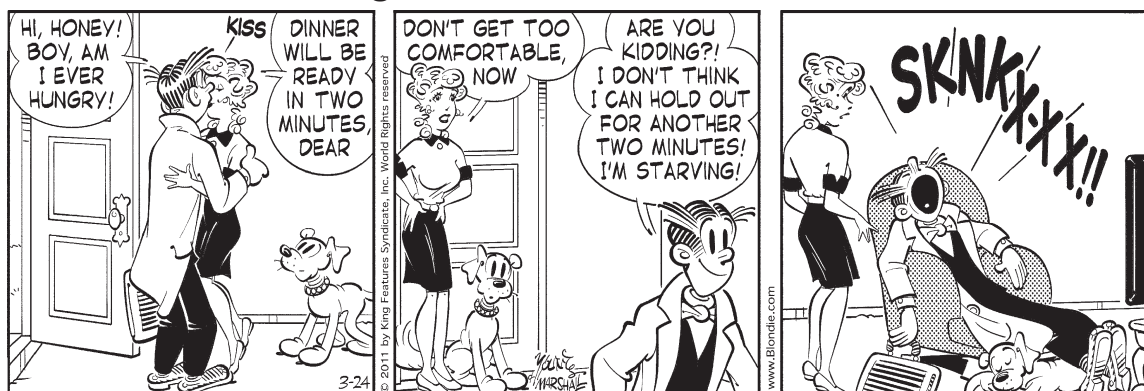
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



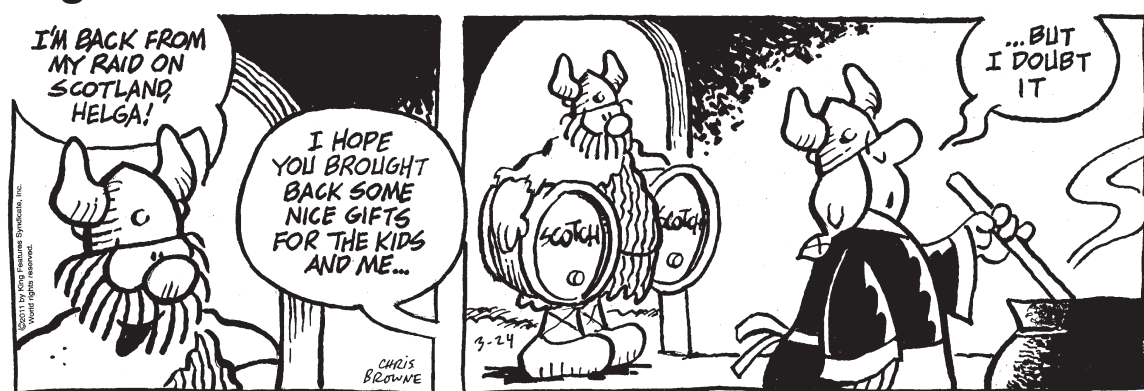
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



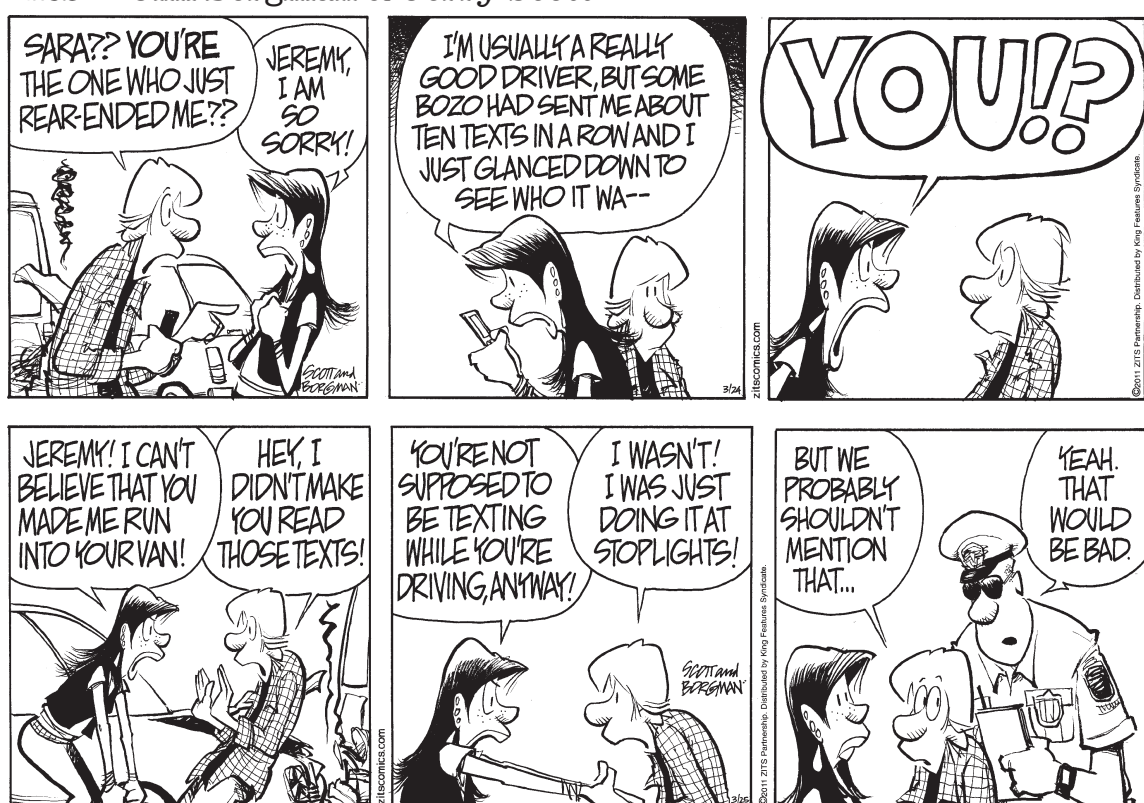
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Children want to quit church**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am very upset. After raising our children in a church, my husband and I were treated to them saying they aren't going to Sunday school anymore - as if it were their decision! They are only 12 and 10, and we expect them to grow up in the church. Our question is, Should we discipline them or not, and if not, how do we get them back to church? I'm sure our friends wouldn't understand this. - S.S.

**Dear S.S.:** I wouldn't worry about what your friends will think if your kids take their religious education into their own hands. It isn't the kind of thing that should be decided by a committee of your peers. This is a topic that is personal to your children, and one they are going to have to struggle through - with your help. It is obvious something is going on at church - or away from it - to make your kids lose interest so suddenly. Perhaps they are just realizing they have choices in their lives, and are starting to assert themselves.

While it is important for you to keep your kids involved in the church, they deserve to have time to figure out what part religion - or your religion - may play in their lives the next few years. As they mature and learn more about religions, they may find elements of their religion that don't appeal to them. Or they may be having a bad reaction to one or more of the church personnel. Try to suppress your anger and ask them what's going on. The last thing you want to do is alienate them by insisting on blind acceptance of church.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** We hired the perfect nanny a few months ago, but now I wish I had found someone who wasn't so much fun. She has my 7-year-old daughter thinking they are best friends and because of my weight I am not able to do things they enjoy together. My husband thinks she is great, too. Should I just grit my teeth and keep her, even though my daughter likes her better? It kills me to write that, but it's true. - D.W.

**Dear D.W.:** This is a common problem among families who employ live-in or other full-time help with the children. In a way, it is better than finding out there is a personality conflict, or the nanny is not really warm or even qualified. Believe me, you'd be screaming louder if your child were crying about how mean the baby sitter was, or needed her mommy instead of the nanny. So look at this as a good problem and work through your jealousy. You might not want to put it so bluntly, but that's what you are dealing with.

The first thing you need to do is not oversimplify your daughter's emotions. While she is having a grand time playing with this energetic and fun person, she hardly thinks of the nanny as a replacement for you. Think of it instead as a relationship like having a new best friend who never gets mad and walks away or likes another kid better. The nanny is no mom, and it will be helpful for you to try to be more comfortable when your daughter likes or loves other people. No one can replace you, and as you become more mobile, you will have fun with your daughter as well.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 9 5 3  
 ♥ K 6  
 ♦ A Q 7 4 2  
 ♣ A 10 8

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q J 10 4  
 ♥ 8 7 5  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ J 9 7 2

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

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K 7  
 ♥ A Q  
 ♦ K 10 9 8 6  
 ♣ K 5 4

The bidding:  
 South 1♦ West Pass North 3♦ East Pass  
 6♦  
 Opening lead - queen of spades.

**Thoughtful Defense**

This deal features a fine play by a defender in a situation where it would have been very easy for him to do the wrong thing. The hero was West, who found the winning defense just when it seemed declarer was about to get safely home with his slam.

South won the queen-of-spades lead with the ace and could see two potential losers, one in spades and another in clubs. His only real hope lay in developing an endplay, so he embarked on the standard course of stripping his suits prior to throwing an opponent into the lead. After taking the first spade, he drew trumps, cashed the A-K of hearts and king of spades, then exited with a spade to West's ten.

West had no trouble working out South's original distribution. The play to this point revealed that declarer had begun with five diamonds, three spades and the doubleton A-Q of hearts. (South could not have held three hearts, since he would not have wasted his queen on dummy's king.)

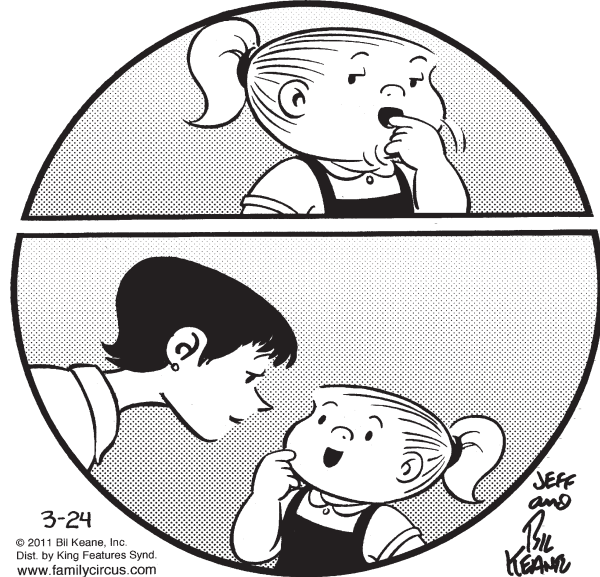
This meant that declarer started with precisely three clubs. If these included the K-Q, South had the rest of the tricks, while if he had just the queen, the slam was doomed no matter what West did next.

The critical case was where declarer had the king and East the queen. In that event, a heart or spade return would hand South the contract by presenting him with a ruff-and-discard. Therefore, a club had to be led.

Had West made the normal return of a low club, dummy's eight would have forced East's queen and left declarer with a simple finesse against West's jack. So West led the jack of clubs, and declarer was undone. Whether he won with dummy's ace or let the jack ride around to his king, he could not avoid losing a club trick and so finished down one.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



3-24  
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"My mouth is gettin' ready for another visit from the Tooth Fairy."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

**Cryptoquip**

MXHD JRZTSMVORNS XRD

VOSEMK BY NZRWK HMSJD

YBZ DROS. JREK YBOTD ZSYSZ

MB HM RD R AHWZZS ARWRRZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN WHAT FARM CART MIGHT REPORTER CHUNG STORE HER MANY FRAT PARTY OUTFITS? CONNIE'S TOGA WAGON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals A

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Napoleon's exile site
- Whirlpool
- A really long time
- 48-Down refrain
- Discoverer's call
- Horseback game
- One-on-one fight
- Solemn promise
- Elliptical
- Tried hard
- "Myth-Busters" fodder
- Kids' card game
- Sun.
- Swabs the deck
- Thief
- Tavern
- Prior to
- Have debts
- Scented
- Raised
- Book-spine abbr.

**DOWN**

- Biz deg.
- Rowing need
- Book before Ecclesiastes
- Lets
- Bedspread
- Pi
- follower
- Loud, mournful cry
- Far point in an orbit
- Head of state?
- Verve
- Auctioneer's call
- Richmond's st.
- Computer key
- "Forget it!"
- Read bar codes
- Vagrant
- From the top
- Think, old-style
- Ireland
- Yuletide
- Historic time

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-24

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		