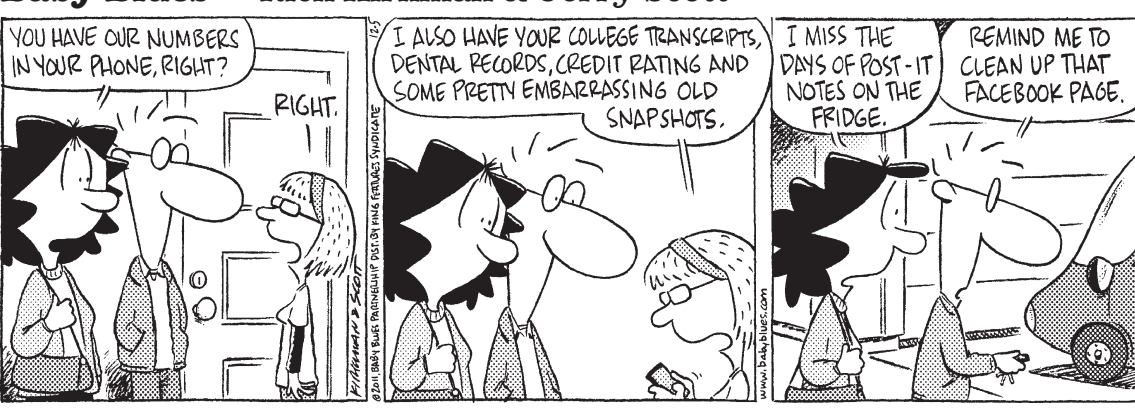
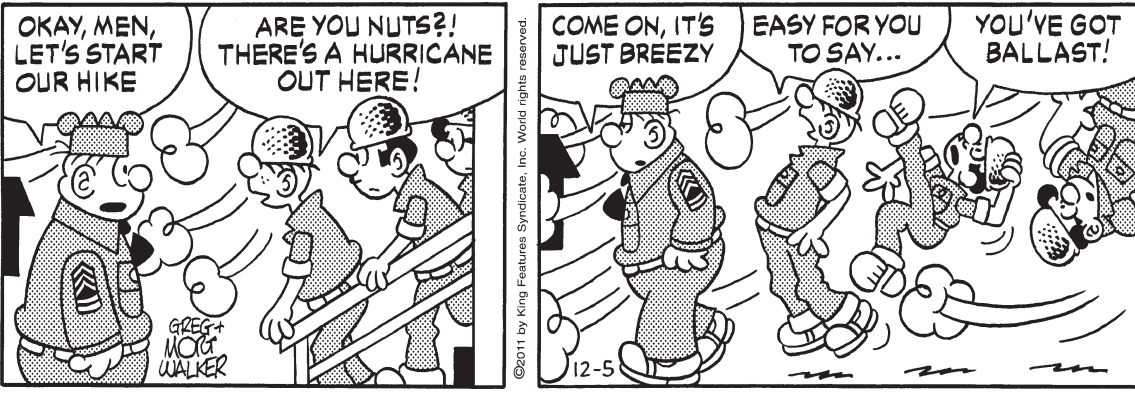


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



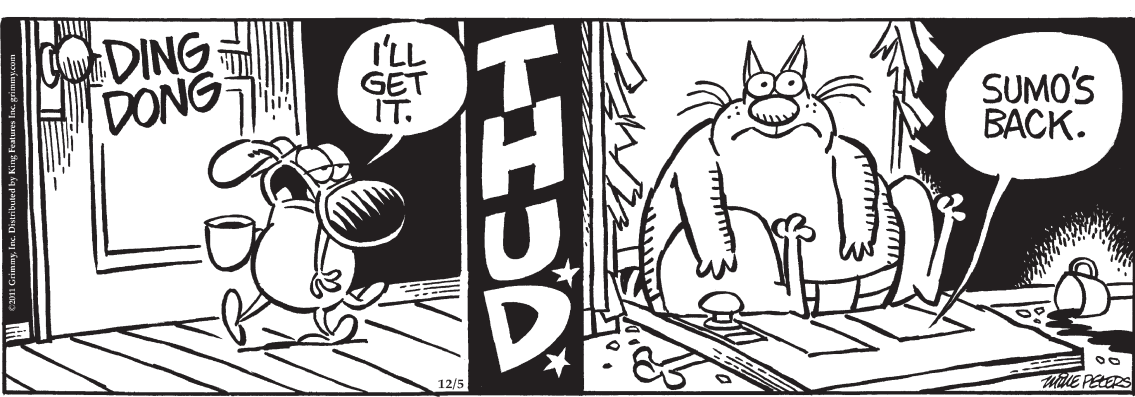
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



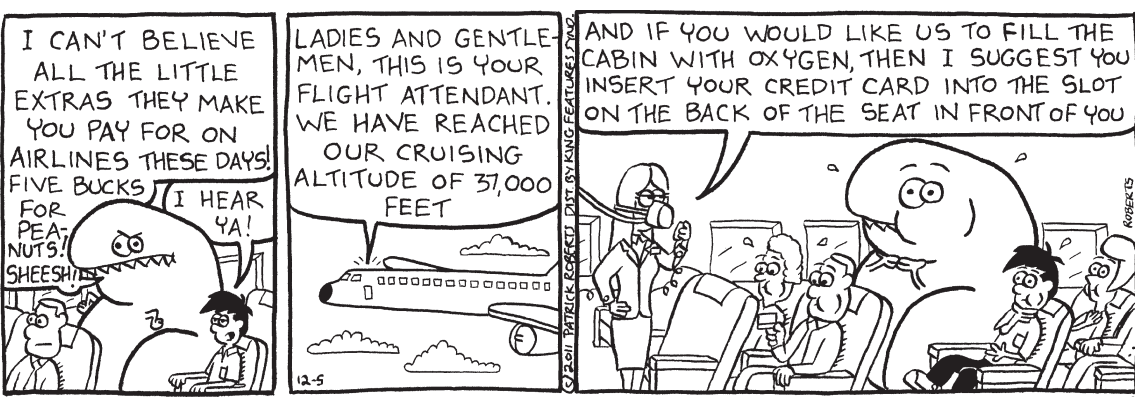
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

He's impatient with grieving

Dear Dr. Brothers: My wife died suddenly two years ago during an operation. She and I were happy in a 22-year marriage. But since I am relatively young, it's been in my mind the past year that I should be looking for another lady to spend my days with and maybe even fall in love with. The problem is I haven't been able to move on. I am filled with guilt and sadness whenever I make an attempt. What can I do to get going? - C.P.

Dear C.P.: You sound discouraged, but if you look at your progress another way, you will see you are halfway there. Your head wants to move on, even if your heart isn't prepared. If no part of you were able to move forward, you would have something to worry about. You may be aware some professionals believe there are stages of grief each mourner goes through, and until that is done, it is difficult to move forward. Whether you know about them or believe in them, you will progress in your own way, at your own speed. Right now, part of you is ready to move on, but there obviously are some memories to come to terms with as well as revising your vision of the future that would have been with your wife.

Change is difficult and the human psyche almost always resists at some level. Though you think you want to start dating, the process can be terrifying. What if you can't find anyone? What if no one wants you? What if you are hurt, or your new love dies, too? What if you end up alone again? These are thoughts you need to face and grapple with. Be patient - your time will come.

Dr. Brothers: I'm 35 and single. I had a good job, but it has been cut to part time. I recently broke my wrist, lost my beloved aunt and have moved to a new city, where I am alone. My ex calls, and I don't want to see him. With all this, I feel so stressed I don't want to get out of bed. Is it possible to cope? I thought I was strong, but I can't regain my drive and confidence. - J.N.

Dear J.N.: I'm sorry for your misfortunes but glad none of them should be the kind you will be unable to overcome. Certainly the death of a favorite aunt can be a terrible blow, but eventually you will find comfort in memories. Your wrist will heal, you will feel at home in your new city, and with luck and persistence on your part, your ex will move on. So your future looks brighter than you might recognize right now.

This is not to say it will be easy to dig yourself out of the hole you find yourself in. It is at times like these when many people benefit from talking to a professional, who will help them sort out their feelings and make plans to move up and out of where they are foundering. You may be familiar with the way some psychologists look at events and their effect on mental health. They often rank significant events that are likely to cause anxiety or depression. Moving, divorce or marriage (good things can cause stress too), a death, illness and so forth. You do have a number of them all at once. So don't be so hard on yourself.

(c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-5
© 2011 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Syndicate
www.familycircus.com

“Mommy, do we have to start being good two weeks before Christmas or three?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Sudoku grid with numbers and empty cells. 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.

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

Cryptoquip

F H H C W C Y J F I J Y W Z B Y J Z
N C V M W T C J H B O D C L L I Z H
C J B C H Z B O D C K W B T Y D " W M Z
B C N K B Y J B " : N F D V Z - C J F I C F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COUNTRY HAD AN OFFICIAL NATIONAL YARD, WOULD YOU CALL THAT THE LAWN OF THE LAND?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Two-timer 4 Arrow launcher 7 Goya's "Naked" subject 11 Scads 13 Atmosphere 14 PC picture 15 Panorama 16 Beer cousin 17 Fender bender 18 Artist's support 20 Knitting need 22 Lower limb 24 Used a switch-blade on 28 Unimportant 32 Spry 33 Relaxation 34 - de deux 36 Lug 37 Bother 39 Washing-city

Crossword grid with clues and solutions. Solution time: 27 mins.

Bridge • Steve Becker

Bridge hand details: West dealer, Both sides vulnerable, NORTH (AKJ, Q10, A, 8, 7, 6), WEST (84, AKJ, J9, A642), EAST (Q9, 2, K10532, KQ1075), SOUTH (1076532, 87653, 4, 3), The bidding: West 2♥, North Dble, East Pass, South Pass, Opening lead: ace of hearts.

Famous Hand: There are times when a partnership's bidding methods are ideally suited to a particular deal, enabling them to get a far better result than might otherwise be expected. A case in point is this deal from the semifinal-round clash between two U.S. squads at the 1990 world team championship. West was Ron Sukoneck, and East Russ Ekeblad. Sukoneck's opening two-heart bid showed five or more hearts and four clubs with 11 to 15 high-card points. After North's takeout double, Ekeblad jumped to four clubs, a "limit raise" in clubs that also implied shortness in hearts.

South, seduced by his 6-5-1-1 distribution, ventured four spades. This was passed around to Ekeblad, who made a well-judged double based primarily on his singleton heart and his good diamond holding behind dummy's expected diamond strength. The defenders then extracted the maximum penalty. Sukoneck began by cashing the A-K of hearts. Ekeblad discarded a low club on the second heart to encourage his partner to continue hearts. West followed instructions, and declarer ruffed the third heart with dummy's ace. South then cashed the diamond ace, ruffed a diamond and ruffed another heart with the spade king.

Declarer attempted to ruff another diamond with the seven, but Sukoneck overruffed with the eight and led a trump to East's queen. Ekeblad then returned the diamond king, leaving declarer with another heart and a club to lose for down three - minus 800 points. The action - if it can be called that - was much more subdued at the other table. West opened with one heart, North overcalled with two diamonds, and everyone passed. Declarer went down three for a loss of 300 points, but since his teammates were plus 800 at the other table, the net result was a gain of 500 points, or 11 IMPs, for his team. (c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.