

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



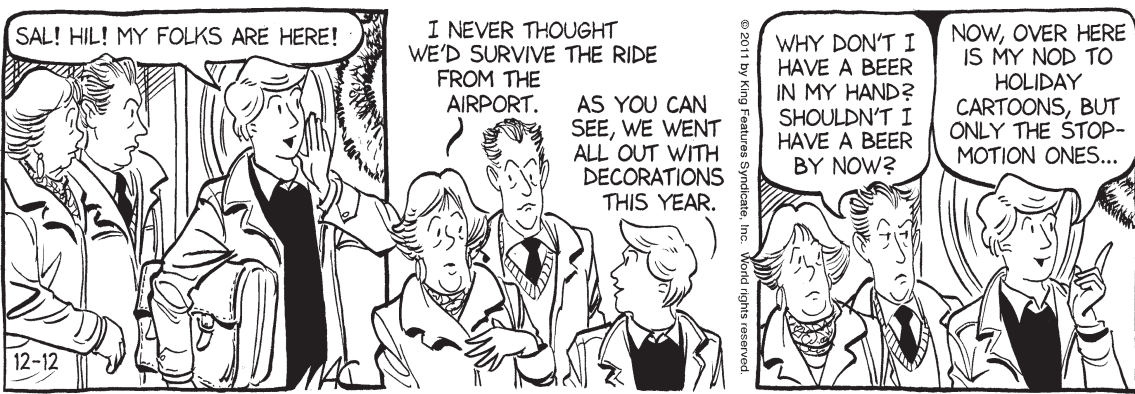
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



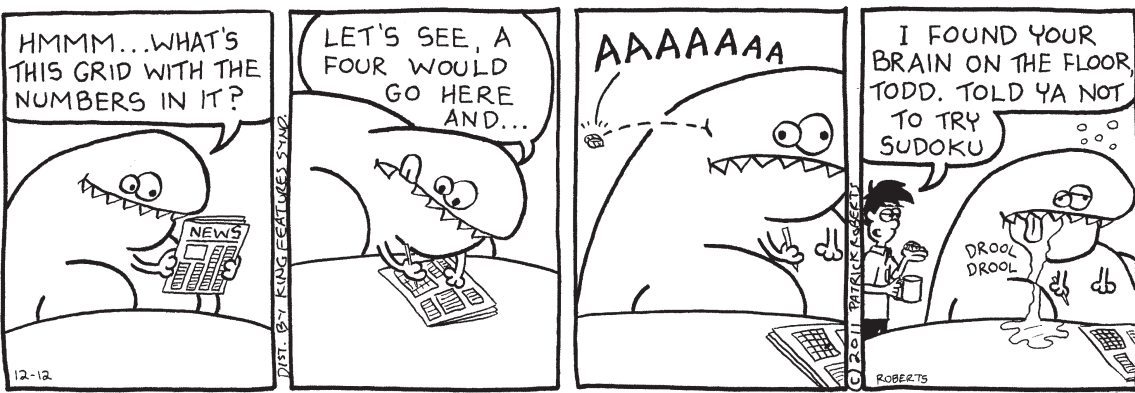
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



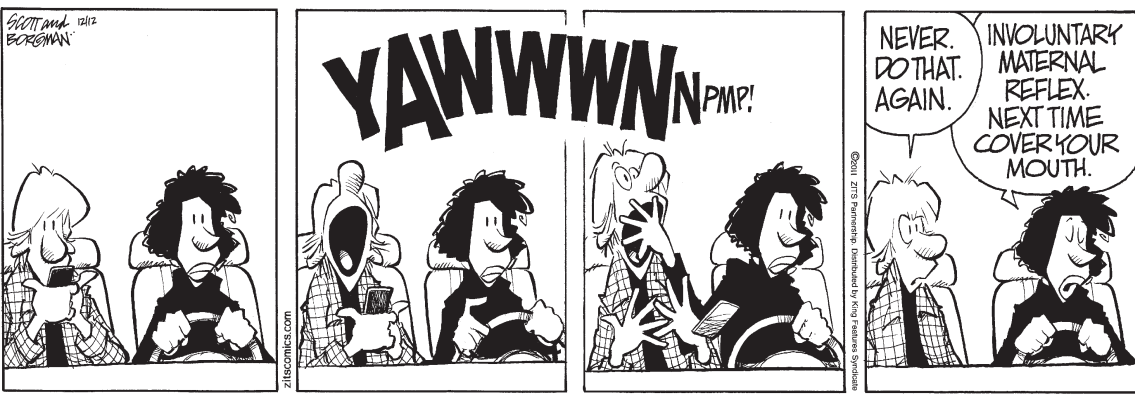
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Online degree has some benefit

Dear Dr. Brothers: I recently was laid off, and I'm thinking about school to increase the likelihood that I can find a job. I'm older and have a family to support, plus it's important for me to be at home for my kids, so I'm considering online programs rather than a traditional school. I wonder, if employers value an online degree. Is it a good idea to use online programs, or should I go with a traditional program? — L.G.

Dear L.G.: Online programs offer a few benefits you've already realized: the freedom to work on your schedule and at your own pace from home. Additionally, online programs work better for visual learners, since traditional lectures tend to be auditory and can be hard to follow. Plus, online classes tend to be less expensive. However, you need to be comfortable using a computer for extended periods and have access to high-speed Internet. And don't expect the work to be easier — most of the time, the academic rigor is similar to that of a traditional program.

In terms of the perception of online degrees, as long as your degree comes from an accredited university, your potential employer may not even know you completed coursework online. And if he does, it might not matter. Most companies regularly hire applicants who have online degrees, and your reasoning for online courses is sound. Explain that rather than give up, you worked with the university to find a program that would allow you to meet family commitments while still earning a degree — this shows commitment to your goal that will make you an outstanding hire.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband has a problem spending money. Even for things that aren't a splurge, like a new pair of pants, he agonizes about the money he's spending, so he rarely buys anything for himself. Most recently he nixed a family trip so we could put away extra savings. We're not rich, but we're not strapped for cash either, so I don't understand. What can I do to persuade my husband to live a little? — K.P.

Dear K.P.: While there are plenty of people with the opposite problem, your husband's issue about spending money is not unheard of. People like your husband are prone to focusing so closely on the future they can't see the benefits of spending in the present. We traditionally think of people who splurge as lacking in self-control and those who save for the future as having great self-control, but actually, according to a study in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, self-control doesn't necessarily play into the inability to indulge. Rather, people like your husband are trapped in the future. They worry too much about the consequences of every action and lose the enjoyment of the moment. This can show up as choosing to work instead of spend time with the family, or pay bills instead of take vacation.

You can focus on how important it is to your kids' future to bond with both parents, or how much more productive he'll be at work after taking a restful vacation. You also can help your husband to live in the moment by trying meditation or consciousness exercises together.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 5
♥ A Q 10 5 4
♦ Q 5 4
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ K 6
♥ 6 2
♦ A K 10 7 3
♣ K Q 8 2

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

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 8 7 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ J
♣ A 7

The bidding:
South 1♣ West 1NT North Dble East 2♣
4♠
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Famous Hand

Every regular partnership must make certain to discuss the precise meaning of various defensive signals. This is true for any pair that hopes to achieve the best results possible.

Today's deal shows what can happen if a pair is not on the same wavelength. Amazingly, the deal occurred in the 1977 world championship match between Australia and Sweden and involved one of the best pairs of that era.

At the table in question, with a Swedish pair North-South, the bidding went as shown. West (Dick Cummings) led the king of diamonds, on which East (Tim Seres) played the six. Seres was afraid to play the deuce on the king because he thought that might be interpreted as suggesting a club shift.

However, Cummings thought that the six play might be based on the 6-2 doubleton, so he continued with the ace of diamonds. This play ultimately proved fatal.

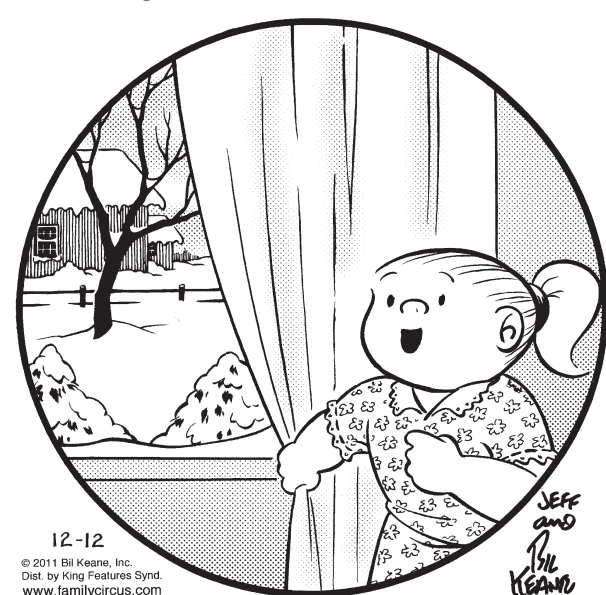
South ruffed and returned a low trump toward dummy. Cummings went up with the king and then — too late — shifted to the king of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and embarked on a line of play that guaranteed the contract regardless of where the missing heart honors were located.

He led a trump to dummy's nine, discarded the club seven on the queen of diamonds and ruffed the jack of clubs. Then, having eliminated both minor suits, declarer led a heart and finessed the ten. East won with the jack but was helpless.

Whether he returned a heart, a diamond or a club, declarer would score the rest of the tricks. And so the Swedish declarer succeeded in making four spades in a hand in which, with best defense, he would have gone down two.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/12

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.

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

Cryptoquip

VHNT YBFY CUNOJ CHYB HYJ

IGHDEYJ YU TFOD NDFGGQ

XUW VUW WDIHJHUEJ:

FE HEXDJYTDY FXDEIQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHILE PUTTING A COUPLE OF ORNAMENTAL COLUMNS, THE FURIOUS FELLOWS GOT INTO A PILLAR FIGHT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Eastern European
 - 5 Use a crowbar
 - 8 Resistance measures
 - 12 Chantilly, e.g.
 - 13 Individual
 - 14 Reach 212
 - 15 Micro-wave, for one
 - 16 Willingness to wait
 - 18 No-goodnik
 - 20 Bit of progress
 - 21 Makes a mistake
 - 23 Neither partner
 - 24 New England football team
 - 28 Astronaut Arm-strong
 - 31 "This tastes awful!"
- DOWN**
- 9 Award recipients
 - 10 Isinglass
 - 11 Coaster
 - 17 Hostel
 - 19 Bleak
 - 22 Knapsack
 - 24 Part on words
 - 25 Past
 - 26 Menace
 - 27 "— Night Live"
 - 29 Jima
 - 30 Author
 - 33 Walesa of Poland
 - 36 In a thick tangle, as hair
 - 38 Close-fitting jacket
 - 40 Regret
 - 42 Un-wanted email
 - 43 Story
 - 44 Historic periods
 - 46 Faction
 - 47 Incite
 - 48 Look for
 - 50 Wapiti

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 12-12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
				21				22		
24	25	26						27		
31				32				33		
35				36				37		
				39				40		
42	43			44				45		
49				50				51		
52				53				54		
55				56				57		