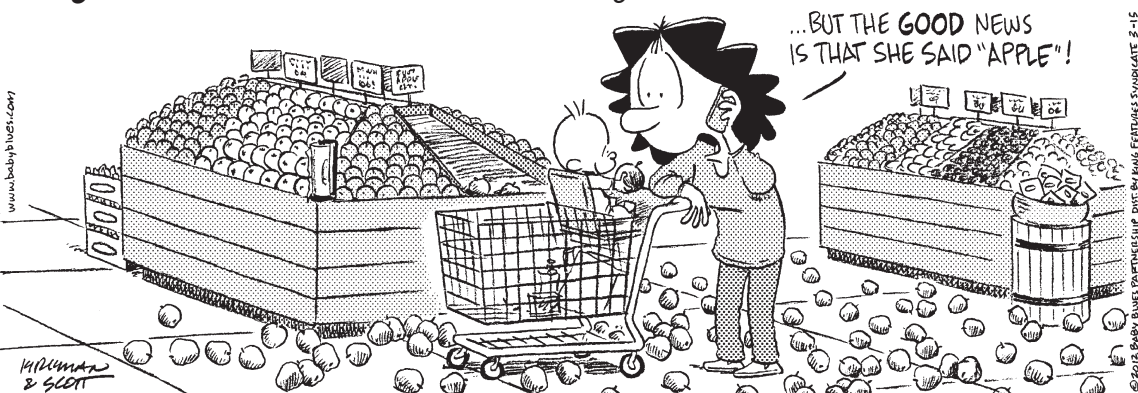


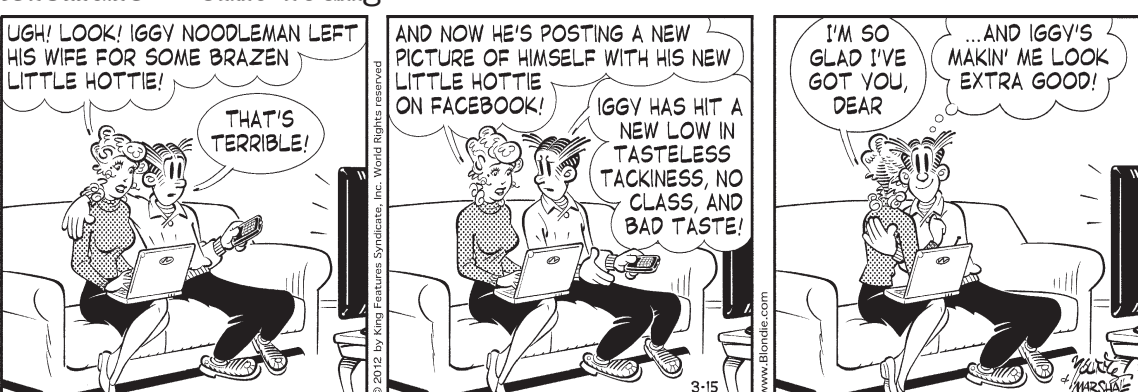
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



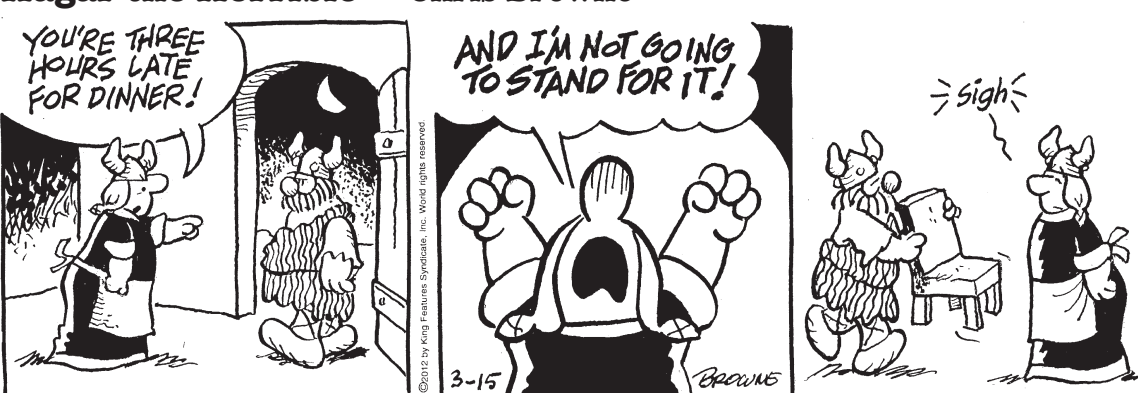
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



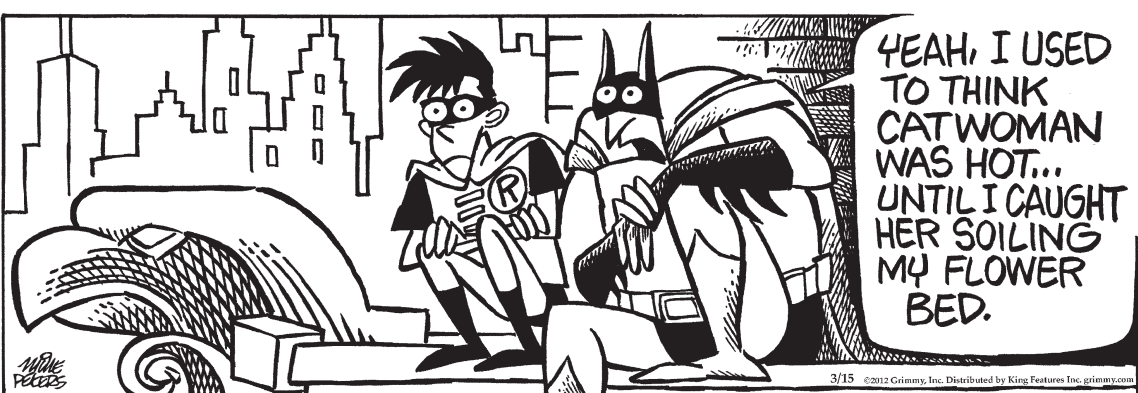
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



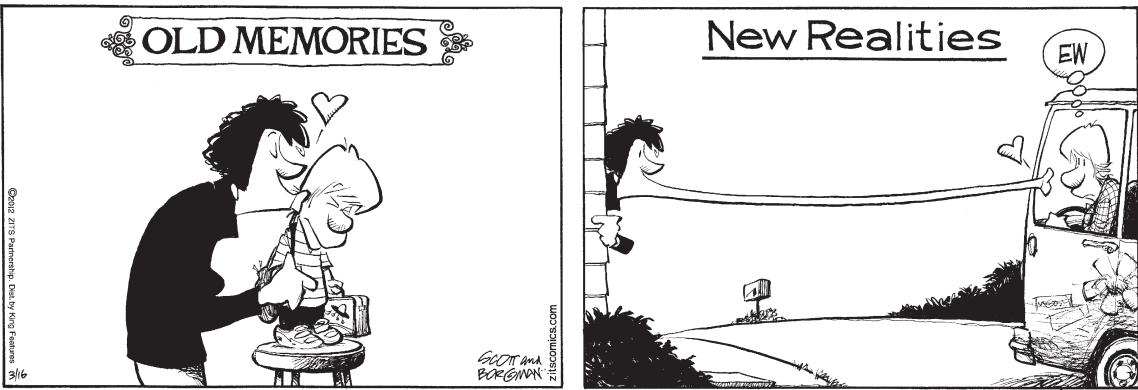
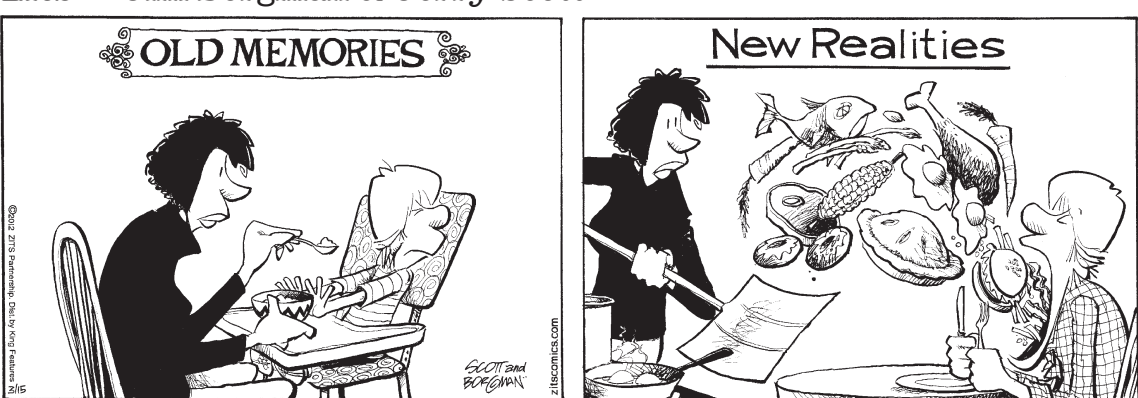
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Mom sacrifices work for home

Dear Dr. Brothers: One of my best friends is due with her first child soon, and she's planning to quit her job to be a stay-at-home mom. That would be great, except she has a successful career and a job she loves. I'm afraid she'll regret this decision in a few years. Is there any reason to think women who have good jobs and careers are happier as stay-at-home moms? – S.D.

Dear S.D.: No; in fact, the evidence seems to suggest just the opposite. A recent study published in the *Journal of Family Psychology* showed that moms with jobs tend to be happier and healthier than stay-at-home moms, particularly up until the kids begin school. However, the amount of work was important – moms who worked part time were happier and healthier than either full-time or non-working moms. This study looked at health as well as depression, and how these moms perceived their contributions to the family and their ability to be good parents. And moms employed part-time were just as involved in their kids' lives as moms who did not work.

Since part-time work seems to contribute not only to the health and well-being of moms but also of the family overall, there is no reason for your friend to stay at home if she doesn't want to. You can suggest this to her, and since many companies have options for maternity leave, it's possible that she could work something out so that she would not lose all the time and energy she's spent developing a successful career, or the happiness and satisfaction of working at a job she likes doing. With this information, hopefully your friend will be a happy and healthy mother.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Neither my brother nor his wife is working full time, and I know their financial situation is getting more and more bleak. They have two young kids, and apart from the material things my nephews are missing out on, I'm afraid this rough patch is damaging their relationship with their parents. Do you think there's any truth in this, and is there anything I can do, short of finding them good jobs? – A.R.

Dear A.R.: According to a Pew Research Center poll, nearly half of Americans surveyed say they have had financial problems in the past year. You're right to think this can affect the relationship between parents and kids. Not only are parents who are underemployed more likely to be depressed or working odd hours, but they're less likely to feel connections with their kids when they are able to spend time together.

A new study published in the *Journal of Research on Adolescence* examined some of these effects, and found that kids whose parents were experiencing financial difficulties were less likely to engage in behaviors like helping others or volunteering. Such prosocial behaviors often are linked with better moral and social development, and higher performance in school and work. The main intervention you can suggest would be to encourage your brother and his wife to seek help if you think either of them is suffering from depression. Otherwise, encouraging them to continue to bond with and spend time with their kids as usual is about all you can hope to do.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 10 5
♥ A Q 2
♠ A Q 4
♣ A 7 5 2

WEST
♦ 7 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 4
♠ 8 6
♣ K 8 6 3

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

SOUTH
♦ A K 8
♥ K J 6
♠ K 10 7 3
♣ Q 10 9

The bidding:
East 1 NT West Pass North 6 NT
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

That Number 13 Again

There are a lot of so-called guesses in bridge that, when you get right down to it, are not really guesses at all.

Take today's case, for example, where you're in six notrump and West leads the ten of hearts. You see very quickly that despite your side's 34 high-card points, the slam is not exactly a bed of roses. You have only 10 top tricks and will need a certain amount of luck -- and perhaps a modicum of skill -- to bring in the contract.

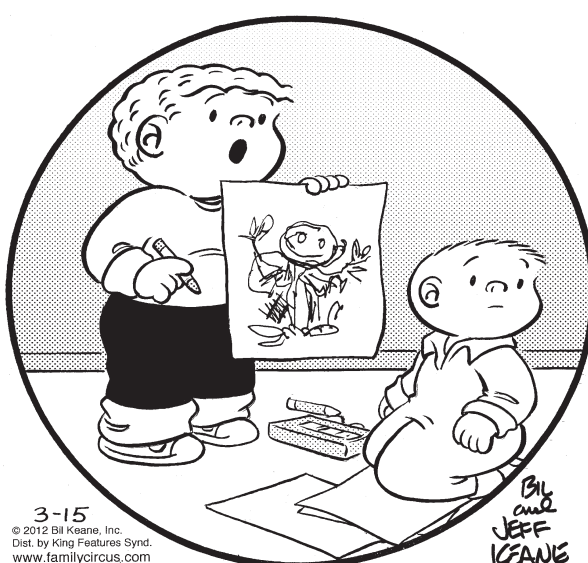
So let's say you win the heart with the jack, return the ten of clubs and let it ride, the recommended approach with this combination. East wins with the jack and returns a heart to your king, whereupon you lead the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. This brings you to 11 tricks, and two chances for a 12th trick remain -- if the clubs were originally divided 3-3, or, failing that, if you can score four diamond tricks.

But when you next cash the nine of clubs, East shows out, leaving the diamonds as your last resort. Before tackling the suit, though, you should try to gather every bit of additional information you can about the opposing hands. You do this by first taking your three spade tricks and your remaining heart winner.

As a result of what you learn by doing this, you become certain to make the contract! West has thus far shown up with exactly five hearts (East failed to follow to the third heart), four clubs and two spades (West showed out on the third spade). He therefore was dealt only two diamonds, neither more nor less. Accordingly, you cash dummy's A-Q of diamonds and continue with the four, confidently finessing the ten to make the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I drew this picture of PJ. It would look more like him, but he moved."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/15

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 T DBA MXBM BIMHG
TNDULDND MXN URBA'D
DNM TNDLEW, MXN KBA XN'D
MHMBRRA NDIXNKLWE
MXN DINWNGA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE MANY CEREAL PLANTS GROW WITHIN THAT DEEP GORGE, THEY NAMED IT THE GRAINED CANYON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chic, to
 - 39 Space
 - 41 Water
 - 4 Crooked
 - 8 Imple-
 - 12 Tramar-
 - 13 Decora-
 - 14 Unsightly
 - 15 Relin-
 - 17 Smile
 - 18 Squid
 - 19 Big-time
 - 21 19-
 - 24 Chart
 - 25 "Eureka!"
 - 26 Run-
 - 28 Financial
 - 32 Teeny
 - 34 Deviate
 - 36 Antitoxins
- DOWN**
- 1 Bygone
 - 2 Sphere
 - 3 Commit
 - 4 Signal,
 - 5 Schedule
 - 6 "Phooey!"
 - 7 Traffic
 - 8 They're
 - 9 Shrek is
 - 10 Hodge-
 - 11 Singer
 - 16 Bankbook
 - 20 Carnival
 - 21 Moist
 - 22 Canton's
 - 23 Shaft of
 - 27 Choke
 - 29 Treat
 - 30 Asian
 - 31 Appella-
 - 33 Spring
 - 35 Existed
 - 38 Hot tub
 - 40 Orna-
 - 43 Checker
 - 45 Buddy
 - 46 Muscat's
 - 47 Narc's
 - 48 Press
 - 49 Con
 - 53 Press for
 - 54 —
 - 55 Moray or

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-15

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
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	