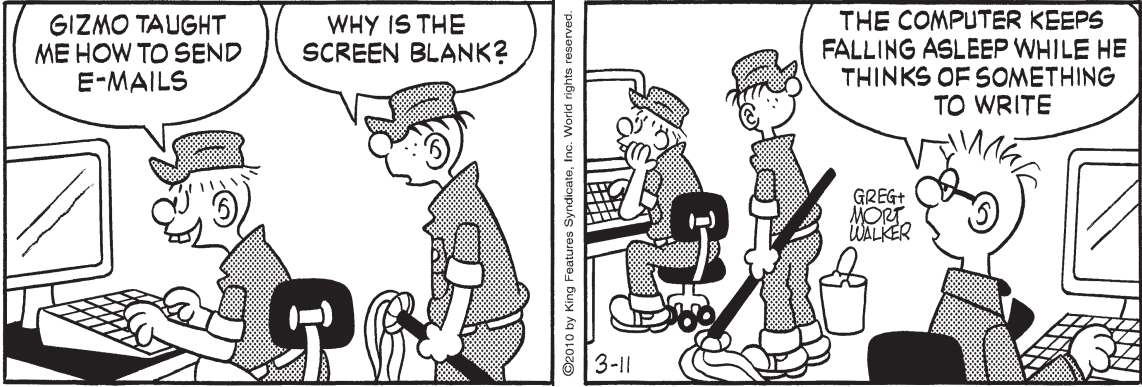


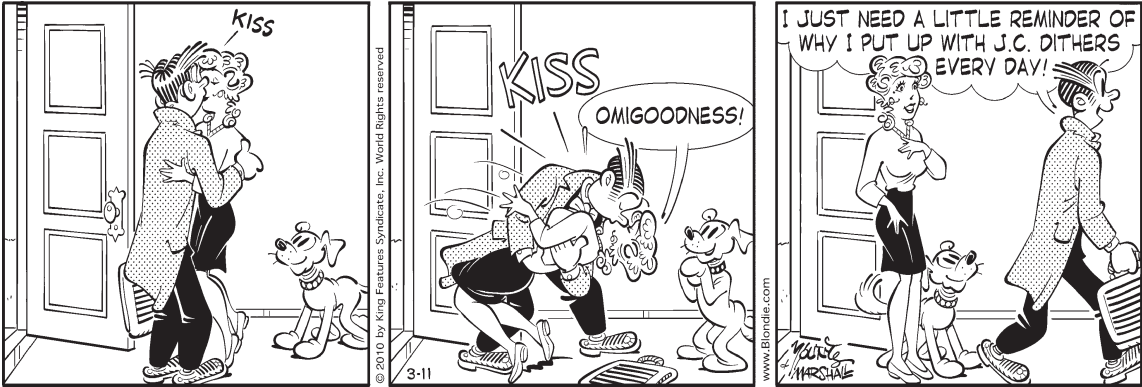
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



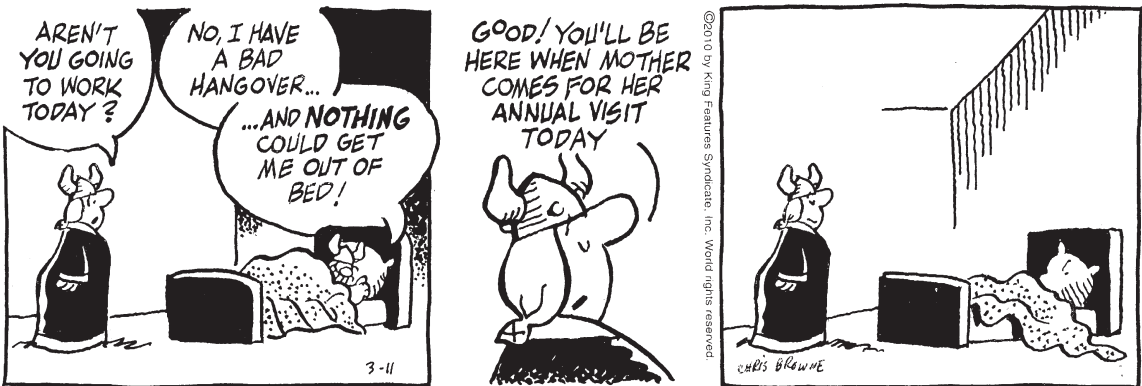
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



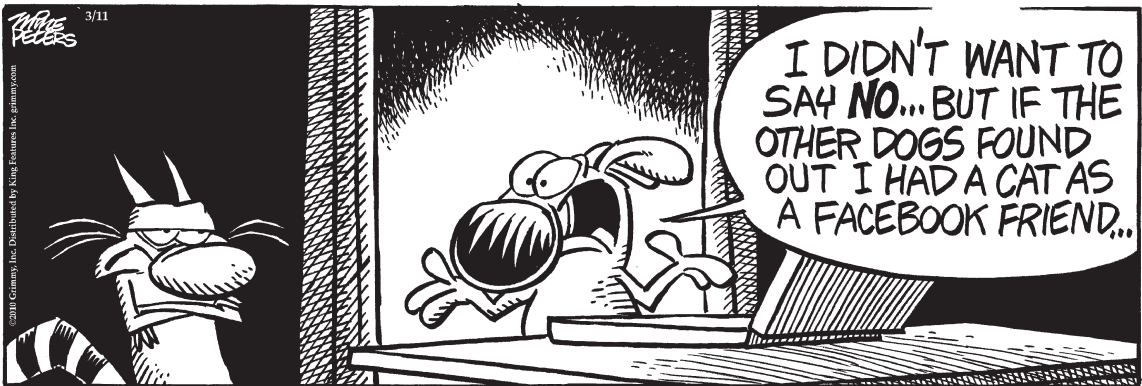
Blondie • Chic Young



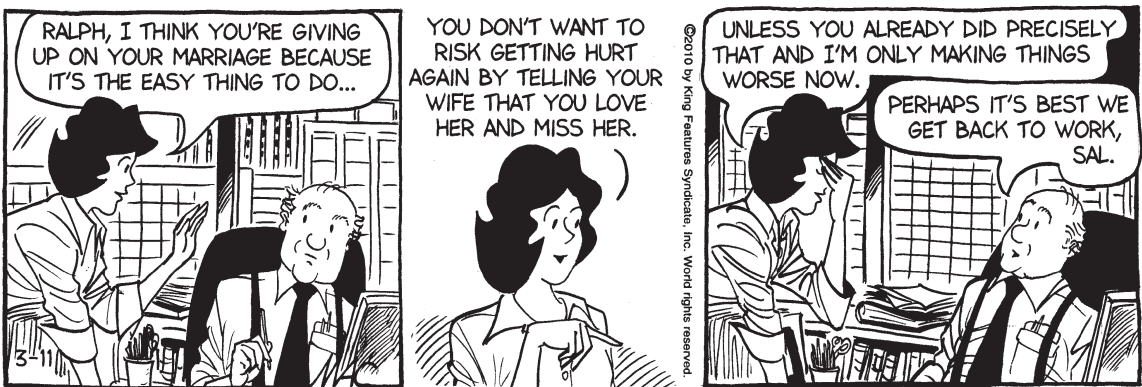
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



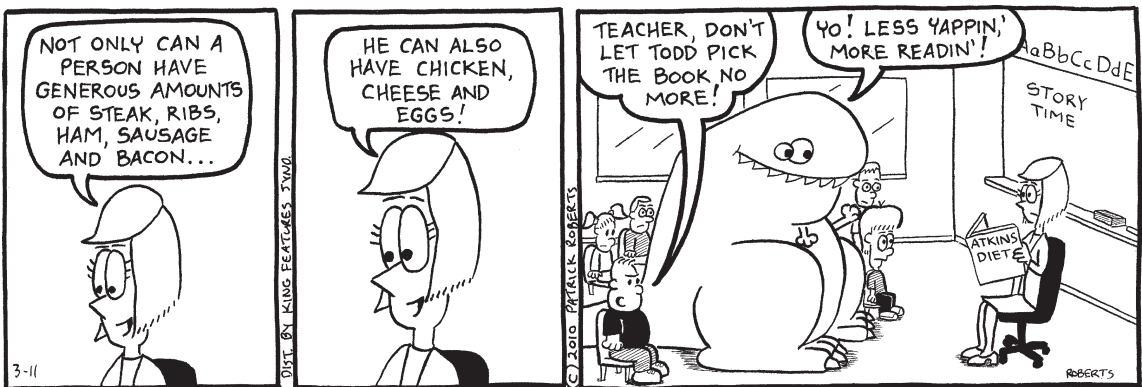
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Engineer dad pushes training

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I are a bit of an odd couple, because I am the “free spirit” type and he is more of a methodical, engineering type. So I guess I shouldn’t be too surprised that we have had clashes over how to raise our baby daughter. The latest thing is driving me nuts. He insists on trying to potty-train her with a strict regimen of rules and procedures, and I say let her wait till she is ready, as I have heard it’s easier then. How do I get him to back off? – J.C.

Dear J.C.: It’s too bad you and your husband have such different temperaments. I think the old adage of “opposites attract” may be true when people are first dating – everything about the other person that seems a bit exotic or different makes him or her more interesting. But when you have children and want to present a common front, the allure of being opposites starts to fade. This toilet-training issue might be followed by all sorts of clashes, and your child could end up confused about whose values and instructions she should follow. There could be a lot of arguing in your household – which isn’t good for anyone.

So I suggest you both take parenting classes or watch videos that could spark a discussion on parenting styles and how to blend. The toilet-training issue is a good one to start with, because you can find plenty of ammunition that supports the idea that letting children work through stages without pressure is the better way to go – and if you wait until preschool, she may follow the other kids’ lead, and you won’t have to do a thing. Suggest that your husband and baby spend time doing fun things. He may be searching for a way into her world and doesn’t know how to find it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am so frustrated with my son I am ready to scream! He is one of these kids who spends hours – days, weeks – in his room practicing. He practices everything from singing and dancing to monologues to the guitar. He is very talented, but has always refused to take lessons of any sort or perform in any public venue, even for family. Now the class play is coming up, and he won’t try out! Help! – W.M.

Dear W.M.: It must be troubling for you to know that your son has so many talents but chooses to hide his light under a barrel. He sounds like a talented boy who hears the beat of a different drummer and doesn’t intend to get in line. In fact, if you step back and let him do his own thing, he may introduce himself as he gets older or goes off to college or a career. Maybe he’s a perfectionist and isn’t ready, or shy or immature and needs time to grow into his abilities.

What he doesn’t need is pressure from his family to get out and perform. Since you are frustrated – and I can’t blame you, as you want him to reap some rewards – I think you need to back off and come to terms with reality. He may never perform in public, and you need to accept this and go on, treating him with respect. If he feels you are supportive of whatever path he chooses, you will be better off as a family. Stop talking about the play, and let him find his own way – it might even lead to the audition room.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ Q 3

♥ A Q 8 4 2

♣ K Q 6 5

♠ Q 5

WEST

♦ A K J 10 7 2

♥ 7

♣ 9 8 2

♠ K 9 4

EAST

♠ 9 8 6 4

♥ 5 3

♦ A J 10

♣ 10 8 6 3

SOUTH

♦ 5

♥ K J 10 9 6

♣ 7 4 3

♠ A J 7 2

The bidding:

West 1 ♣ North 2 ♠ East 2 ♣ South 4 ♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

It Looks Wrong, But It’s Right

Assume you’re declarer at four hearts and West leads the K-A of spades. You ruff, of course, but how do you continue?

It seems normal to draw two rounds of trumps and lead a diamond toward dummy. This allows you to make the contract if West has the ace of diamonds or, failing that, if East has the king of clubs.

But if you played the hand this way, you would eventually go down one, losing a spade, two diamonds and a club.

However, there’s a much better approach that is virtually certain to succeed. After drawing two rounds of trumps, you should lead a low club toward the Q-5 in dummy, deliberately forgoing the club finesse.

First, let’s observe the effect of this play in the actual deal. If West does not rise with the king, he never gets a club trick, and you make the contract easily. And if West does go up with the king, you play the five from dummy and later discard dummy’s 6-5 of diamonds on your A-J of clubs to get home safe and sound.

So how are you supposed to know that you should not take a club finesse in this deal? It certainly seems the natural thing to do, but there are nevertheless excellent reasons for rejecting the finesse.

You start by assuming that West has either the ace of diamonds or the king of clubs (or both) for his opening bid. Leading a low club toward the queen is therefore sure to nail down the contract. If West has the club king, you are home free and clear, as described above. And if West does not have the king, then he must have the ace of diamonds, in which case leading twice toward the K-Q-6-5 will limit you to one diamond loser.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Maybe I should try keeping a list.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/11

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

Z UZWBBDH ZPKJNNH YVRNH

YVFJZJVNH HB WDPE, V ENZJX

HEN'H OBGVO KB JNGZWN

ENJHNYU FBBR HEVNYXH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THESE CHEESE-TOPPED POTATOES HAVE STARTED GOING SOUR. MAYBE THEY'VE BECOME ROTTEN AU GRATIN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Transmit
 - 5 One of the kin
 - 8 Actor Nicolas
 - 12 Mimicry specialist
 - 13 Dove's call
 - 14 Family business abbr.
 - 15 "Arrive-derci"
 - 16 Whatever amount
 - 17 Aberdeen resident
 - 18 Move down the computer screen
 - 20 Huge financial loss
 - 22 Hypo-critical respect
 - 26 Encrypted
 - 29 Scenery chewer
 - 30 Promise
 - 31 Very dry
 - 32 Noise
 - 33 Part of N.B.
 - 34 Corral
- DOWN**
- 1 Pouches
 - 2 39-Down, e.g.
 - 3 Approach
 - 4 Slob-bered
 - 5 Resell for a big profit
 - 6 Charged bit
 - 7 Tofu source
 - 8 Katie Couric's employer
 - 9 Document repository
 - 10 Sticky stuff
 - 11 NYC hrs.
 - 19 Cover
 - 21 Branch
- 23 Hindu god of destruction**
- 24 Scoop holder**
- 25 Basin accessory**
- 26 P.D. rank**
- 27 Sandwich cookie**
- 28 Barney, for one**
- 32 Triumphs over**
- 33 Refuse to buy**
- 35 Pi follower**
- 36 Use a crowbar**
- 38 A crowd?**
- 39 Trojan War story**
- 42 Pennsylvania port**
- 43 Addict**
- 44 Early time, in verse**
- 45 Pigs' digs**
- 46 Expert**
- 48 Grazing land**

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 3-11

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