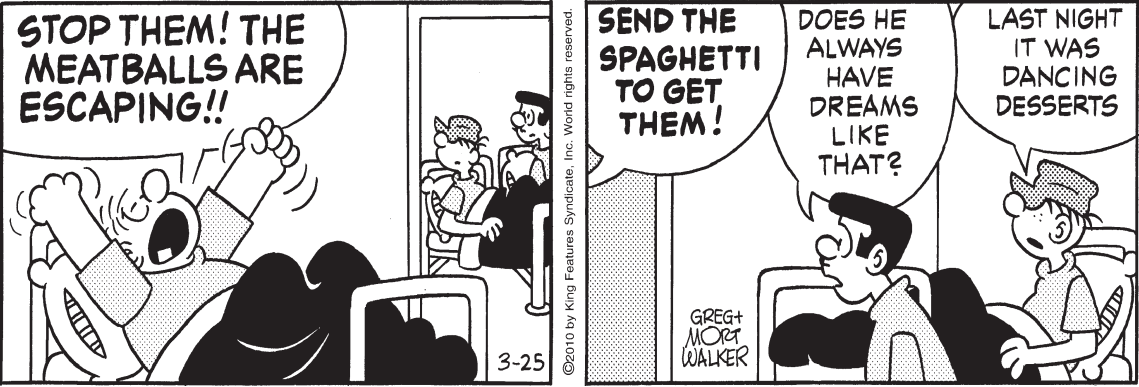


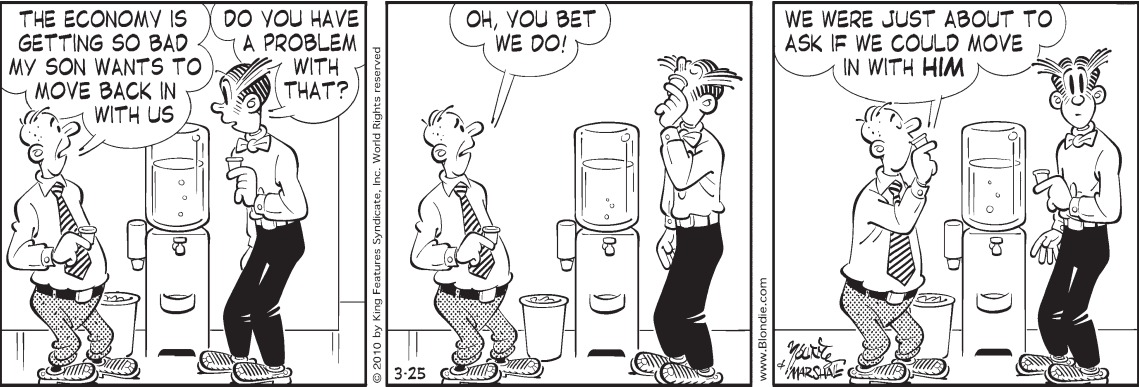
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



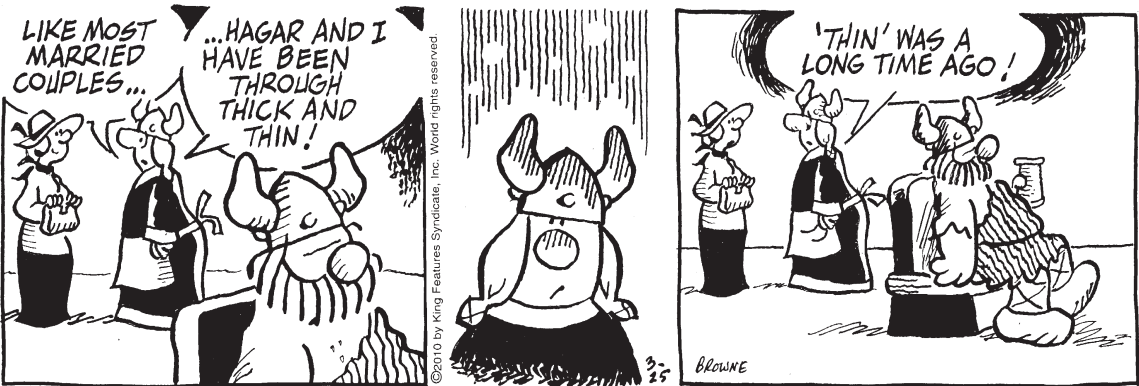
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



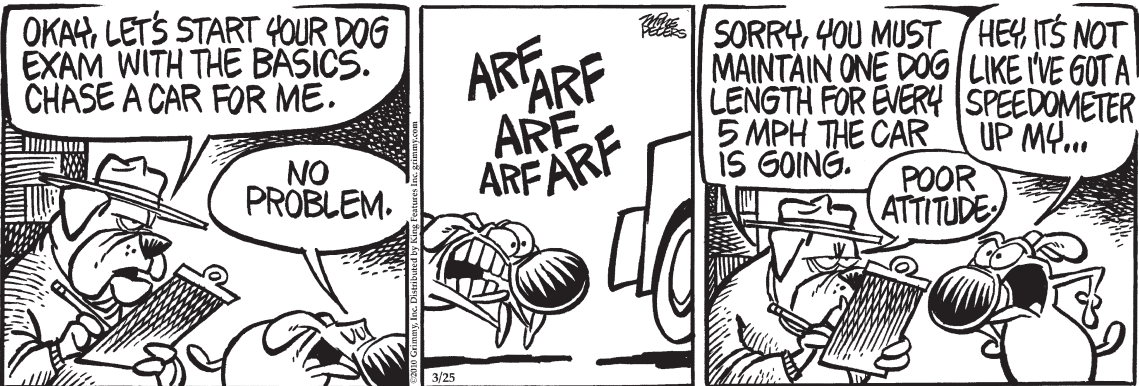
Blondie • Chic Young



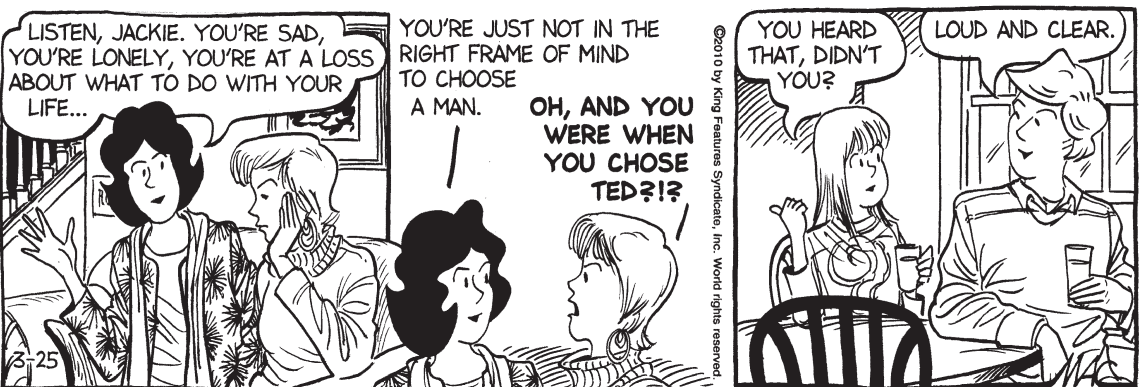
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



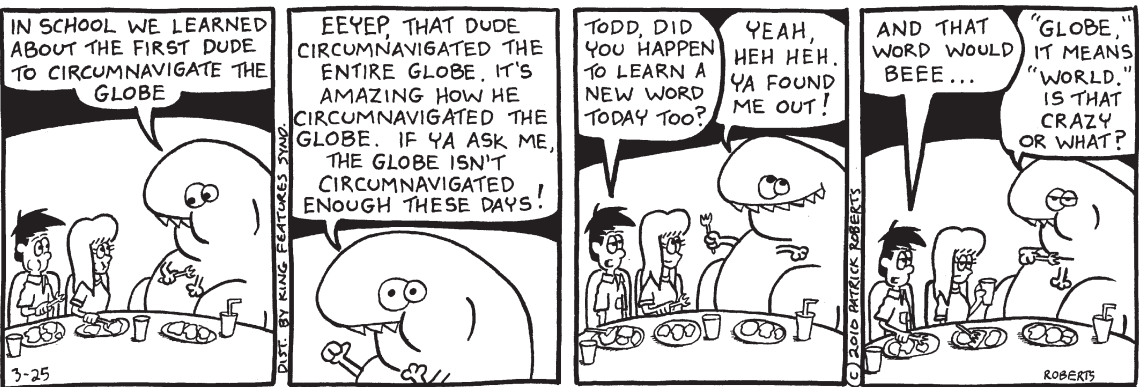
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



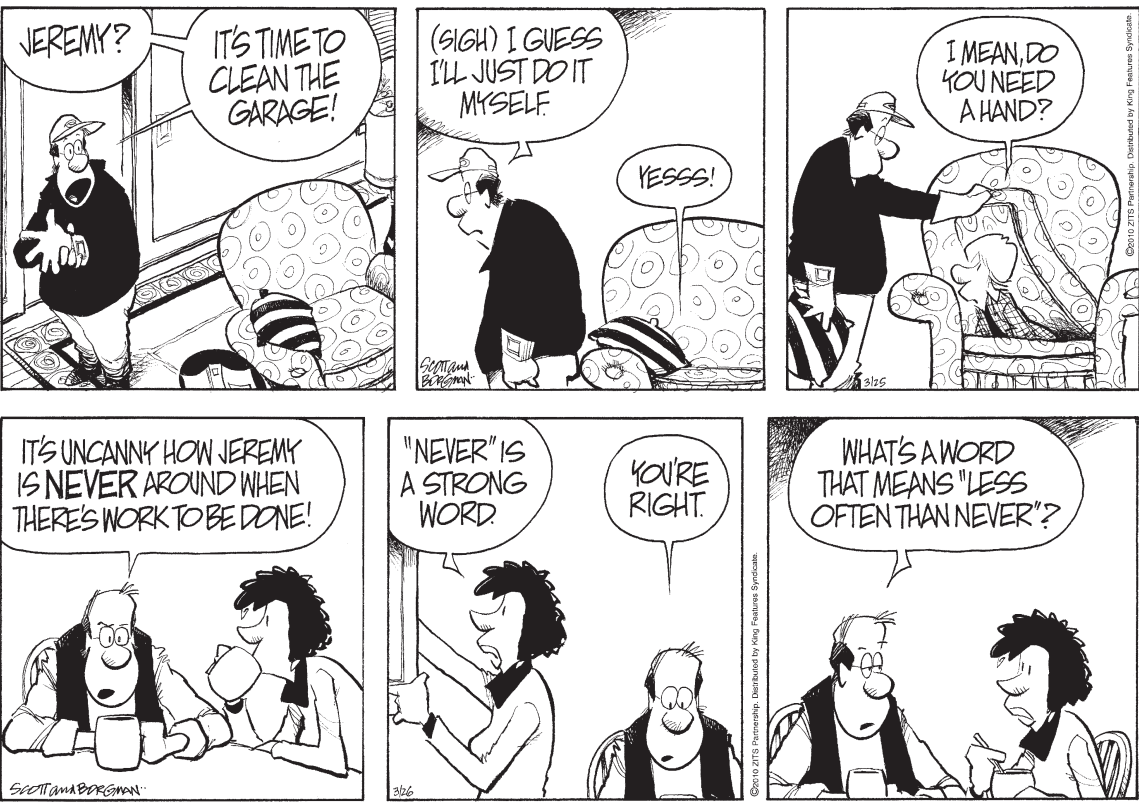
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Grandparents a model for kids

Dear Dr. Brothers: My parents are retired and have been considering moving closer. I haven't got together with them much since my children were born. Now they are preschool age and toddlers, and I think it would be good if they got to know their grandparents. On the other hand, I wonder if they might be confused by being around old people who don't have all the same capabilities as we do. – C.I.

Dear C.I.: I don't know if your children will find it confusing to know their grandparents, but it is good for them to be exposed to all types of people when they are young. It is easy for stereotypes to develop when we don't have first-hand knowledge of all those we share our world with. If your kids are shy or fearful, it would be even more important to expose them to a variety of people so they don't see the world as a scary place. Surely your parents will be more than happy to handle visits any way you want, until the children get used to them.

Inside your own family is an excellent place to teach your children about older people and their capabilities. Studies show that kids exposed to grandparent-age people have fewer prejudices about them. For this reason alone, it would be good to let your kids soak up the wisdom and family stories your parents have to offer. They can balance this against negative stereotypes about old folks in television, movies and other media. It is a shame such prejudice exists, but you can help your children disregard it by letting them interact with your parents and other older adults. Let them get excited about the new move.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm worried my kids worship celebrities like Paris Hilton, teaching them terrible values and life goals. My 6-year-old is obsessed with Hannah Montana, and my 9-year-old knows Tiger Woods cheated on his wife. I don't want to cut them off from pop culture, but I don't want them to think it's important, either. How can I teach them to appreciate better role models and learn to value real, good people? – P.N.

Dear P.N.: Kids are exposed to all kinds of people in the world of pop culture. Your kids may look up to a deserving teacher or coach, but also to celebrities – and unfortunately they might put real and fake role models in the same category in their minds. While some celebrities take care, knowing that they are potential role models, others seem oblivious to the fact that anyone impressionable might take cues from their lifestyles. It doesn't hurt to ask your kids who they look up to. You'll get some responses you expect, but the unexpected ones say what's important to your kids. You don't want your children to grow up in a bubble. To be independent thinkers and good people, they need to also learn there are selfish people. Help them compare their goals to role models, and see if acting like those people would help or hurt them. Point out when good, responsible people show up in the news, and let your kids take in how these people are respected. Highlight these qualities, and your kids will value them.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 4
♥ K Q J
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ A J 9 7

WEST
♠ 8 2
♥ 9 8 7 6 3
♦ J 9 6
♣ 6 3 2

EAST
♠ 7 6 5
♥ 5 4 2
♦ A 10 7 4
♣ K 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 9 3
♥ A 10
♦ K 2
♣ Q 10 5

The bidding:
South 1♣
West Pass
North 2 NT
East Pass

Opening lead — nine of hearts.

The Disappearing Trick

Let's say South reaches six spades on the bidding shown and West leads a heart. South counts his losers and sees that he might lose a diamond and a club. The diamond loser is certain, so the problem is to escape a club loser. Superficially, this seems impossible without attempting a finesse in the suit, but actually the slam can be made without relying on the club finesse.

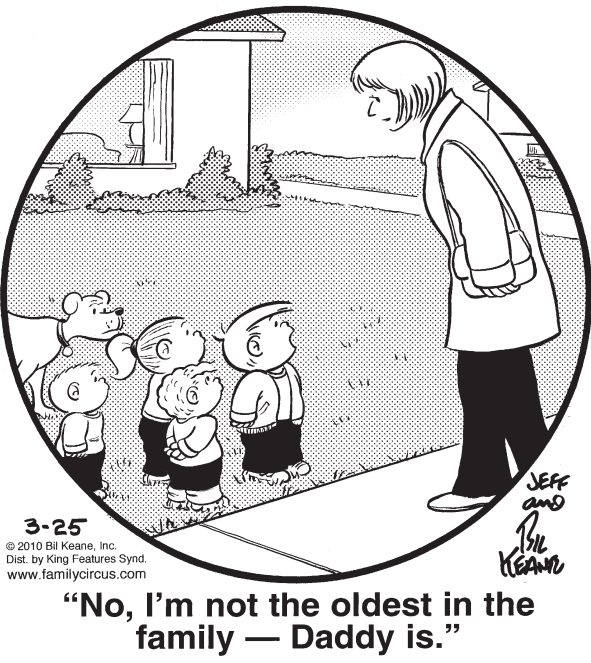
It's all a matter of guessing which defender has the ace of diamonds. Thus, suppose declarer decides to play East for the ace. In that case, he wins the heart lead with the ace, crosses to dummy's ten of spades and returns a low diamond. If East climbs up with the ace, South's worries are over. Whatever East returns, South draws trumps and eventually discards two clubs on the king of hearts and queen of diamonds.

The outcome is the same if East ducks the diamond lead from dummy. In that case, South wins with the king and later discards his other diamond on dummy's third heart. His only loser is a club. Now let's suppose declarer decides West has the ace of diamonds. In that case, he wins the heart lead with the ace and returns the two of diamonds. Whatever West plays, South makes the slam in the manner previously described.

The real difficulty is to decide where the ace of diamonds is located. This is a major hurdle, no doubt, but it's not altogether guesswork. South should decide that there is a slightly greater chance that East has the ace.

This conclusion can be drawn from West's choice of opening lead. Although there is theoretically an even chance of West being dealt the ace of diamonds, that chance is somewhat reduced by his failure to lead it against a slam that was bid in a highly unscientific manner. The reason might well be that he did not have the ace to lead.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25

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

WZURD JQD BFBJDIV WZUMDV
VDBXXN XYLDW JY MDJ
MXYTZUM VDLZDTW, NYI

FZMQJ WBN QD RVBLDW VBLDW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU TREAD VERY HEAVILY WHEN SOMETHING IS PLEASING, I WOULD SAY THAT'S A STOMP OF APPROVAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ladder component
5 Author Weldon
8 Nowhere near
12 Between ports
13 Cry of revelation
14 Relocate
15 Lima's land
16 Shaft of light
17 Raised lozenge
18 Lustful leers
22 Coop denizen
23 Conger, e.g.
24 News
27 Collection plate contribution
32 As well
33 Tic-tac-toe win
34 Actress Farrow
35 Sieve

DOWN

1 En-grossed
2 Tech support caller
3 Infamous fiddler
4 Cowboy of the pampas
5 Morning
6 Cry of discovery
7 Toy on a string
8 Spy novel author Eric
9 Wing, for example
10 State certainty
11 Great American Ball Park team
19 That guy
21 "Golly!"
24 With "—Down, Unusual"
25 See 24-Down
26 Prediction
28 Enemy
29 Tennis stroke
30 Pen point
31 Festive
36 Hebrew letters
37 Mischievous tyke
38 Not this way
41 Infinitive introducer
42 Pinnacle
43 Staff leader?
44 Spigots
46 Comical Caroline
47 Pig's comment
48 Memory method
51 Meadow

Solution time: 25 mins.

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			

Yesterday's answer 3-25