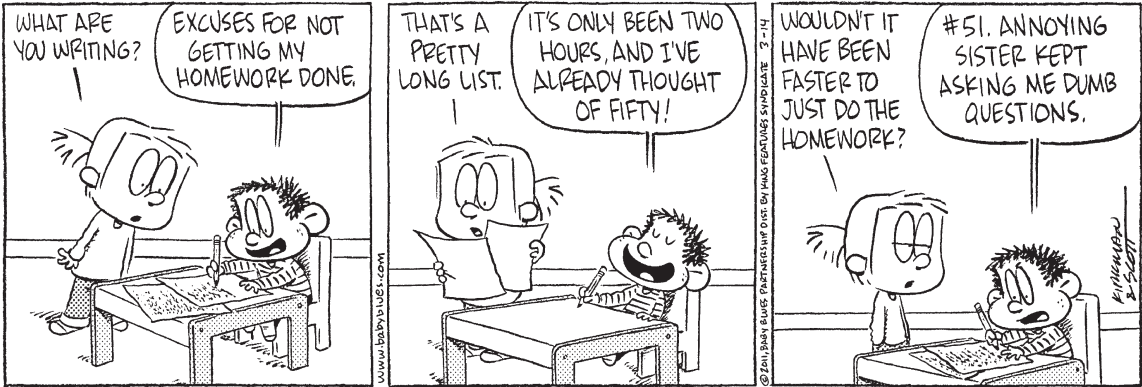
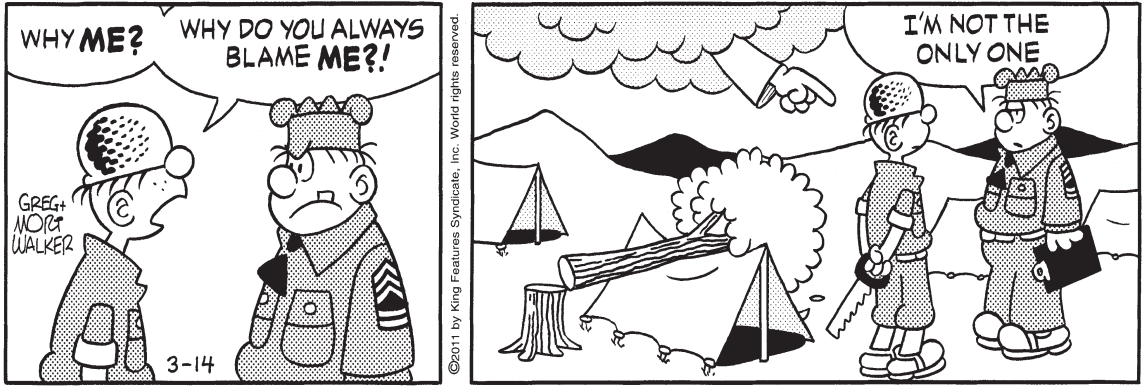


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



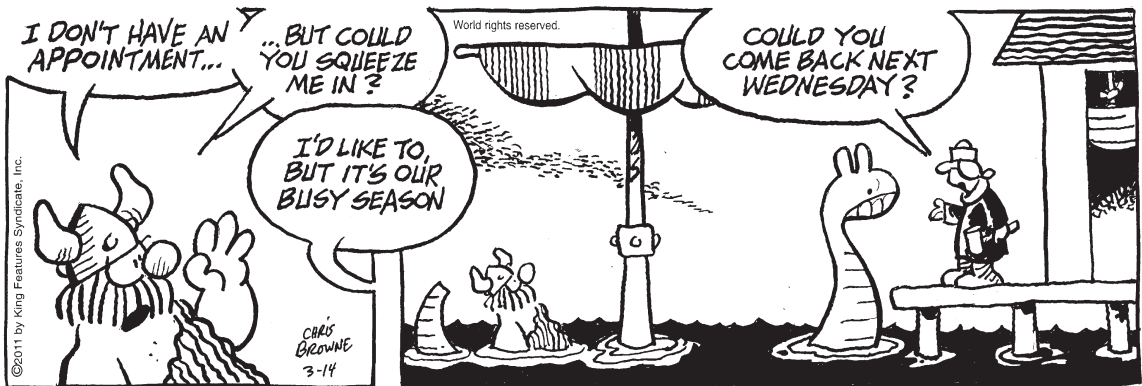
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



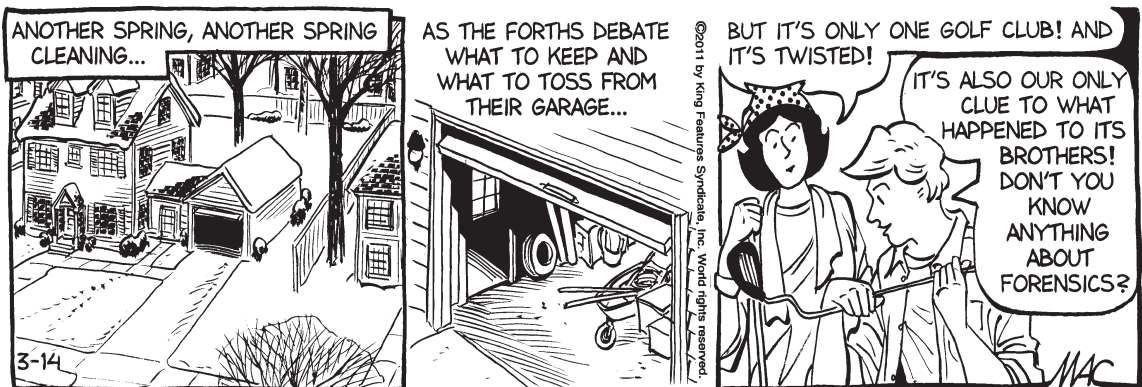
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



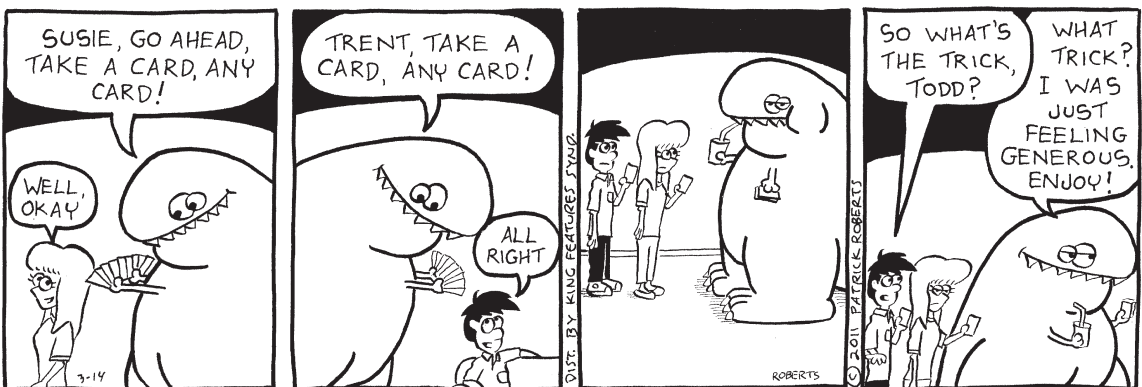
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
Husband avoids social occasions

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband is painfully shy. He doesn't like to go out, and lots of people don't even know he exists! We've been married five years, and every time I go out with friends, they ask where he is. Some take offense, thinking he feels he's too good for them – but he's not like that. He's sweet and kind. Is there anything I can do to get him to overcome his shyness? – L.J.

Dear L.J.: It doesn't sound like this is hopeless – after all, you managed to get close enough to fall in love and get married! And it could be he has a number of friends of his own, with whom he feels more comfortable. If you and your friends are very outgoing, it may simply be too overwhelming for your husband to join the festivities. Because he is shy, he might find the idea of socializing rather terrifying. You are right not to bully him into participating, but do invite him along in case he may want to come sometime.

You don't owe any apologies to friends for your husband's absence – unless you are expecting them to fulfill his role when you go out without him. It's good you aren't giving up your social life because of his shyness, but make sure you are not spending so much time apart that it affects your marriage. If you find yourselves growing apart or not being aware of what is going on in the other's world, you may want to spend some time alone to rekindle the intimacy. Perhaps one day you will start a family – an act known for bringing shy dads out of their shells as they discover the world along with their children.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Help! I'm jealous of a boat! My husband finally saved up enough to buy a little fishing boat, and I think he's in love with it. I hardly have seen him since the morning he got it, as he lovingly painted the name "Roxy" on it. He's built a carport specifically to house it, and I swear I heard him talking to it before we went to bed last night. What is wrong with him? – T.F.

Dear T.F.: I see you are perplexed about your husband's new "love." You probably thought those feelings were reserved for you and family members. It sounds like you indeed have competition, since Roxy is taking the time you shared with your husband and he is investing a lot of emotion in his boat. And it isn't even fishing time yet – just wait till he gets out on the water with his new "girlfriend"! No wonder you are wondering if you will be replaced by a thing.

Although being materialistic is not politically correct, the authors of a recent study published by the *Journal of Consumer Research* found that being in love with a car or firearm could ease owners' loneliness. They also pointed to some owners calling cars pet names, making love-at-first-sight impulsive purchases and demonstrating "passion, intimacy and commitment." All of which goes to show that you are not alone! All you can do at this point is admire his new love object and join him next time he goes fishing!

(c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ 10 7 6 3  
♥ A K 8 5 2  
♦ 9 8 4  
♠ A

**WEST**  
♦ K 5  
♥ J 3  
♦ K 10 7 2  
♣ 10 9 6 4 3

**EAST**  
♦ Q 9 6  
♥ A Q J 5  
♦ K J 8 7 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q J 9 8 4 2  
♥ 10 7 4  
♦ 6 3  
♠ Q

The bidding:  
North 1  
East 2  
South 2  
West 3

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

**Famous Hand**  
Today's deal arose in a team contest at the 1999 Fall North American Bridge Championships. It features a play that is beautiful in its simplicity but that would occur to very few players.

At both tables, the contract was four spades. It might seem, in looking at all four hands, that declarer must go down one, losing two diamonds, a heart and a spade – and that is exactly what happened when the deal was first played.

South won the opening club lead with dummy's ace and led a spade. When East showed out, declarer put up the ace and, for lack of anything better to do, led another spade. West won and shifted to a diamond, whereupon the defenders collected their two diamond tricks and played a third diamond, ruffed by South. East later scored a heart trick to sink the contract.

At the other table, after the same opening lead, the declarer, Margaret Williams, found an elegant way to give herself an extra chance if she had to lose a spade trick. Instead of leading a spade at trick two, she led a diamond!

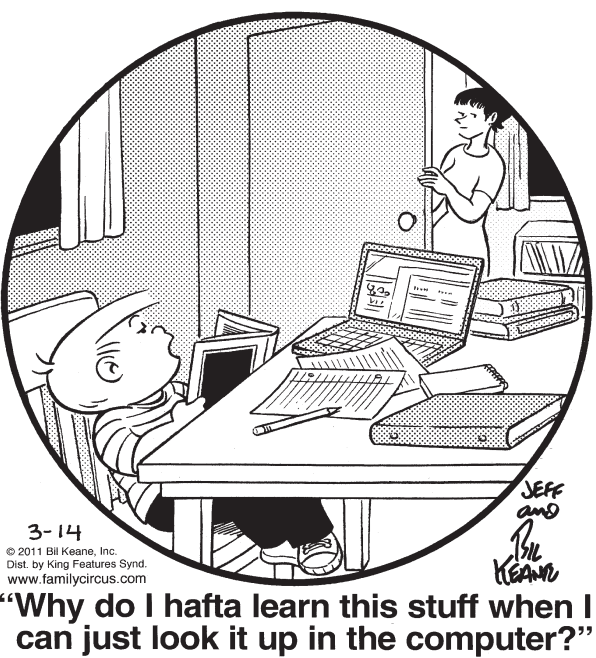
At first blush, one might wonder what possible difference this could make in the outcome, but the answer was soon forthcoming. In practice, East won the diamond with the ace and continued with the queen and another diamond, ruffed by South.

Williams now played the ace of spades and, upon learning that West had a trump trick coming, cashed the A-K of hearts before conceding a spade to West's king. West then had to return a diamond or a club, allowing South to discard her remaining heart as she ruffed in dummy, and the contract was home.

Observe that once declarer led a diamond at trick two, there was nothing they could do to defeat her. If the defense shifted to a heart after taking the first diamond, Williams could win, play a second diamond, win the heart return and ruff a diamond to achieve the same position.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 3/14

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

VE MIU KNRVU "NL MIU  
HZMUWERNLM" IZX YUUL KZXU  
CLXUWPUZ, HNC SX VM IZRU  
PMZWWUX KZWSVL YWZLXN?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: APPETIZING SPECIALTY DISH PREPARED AND SERVED ALONG A RIVER IN CHINA: YANGTZE POT ROAST.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Watched
  - 5 Taxpayer's address-ee (Abbr.)
  - 8 Injure
  - 12 Mexican street band
  - 14 Piece of work
  - 15 Small prison cell
  - 16 — fide
  - 17 Comedian DeLuise
  - 18 Family name on both "Full House" and "ALF"
  - 20 Censor's sound
  - 23 Mattel sub-division
  - 24 Ointment
  - 25 Lockable money container
  - 28 Syllable often following a dot
  - 29 Donny's sister
  - 30 Martini ingredient
  - 32 Orator's perch
- DOWN**
- 1 Type squares
  - 2 Deviate off
  - 3 Before
  - 4 Crown
  - 5 Nuclear weapon (Abbr.)
  - 6 Letter after pi
  - 7 Famous route
  - 8 Mingle (with)
  - 9 "Once — a time"
  - 10 Mysterious letter
  - 11 Despot
  - 13 On
  - 19 Liniment target
  - 20 English channel?
- 21** Cambodia neighbor
- 22** Ticklish Muppet
- 23** Fortune-telling deck
- 25** Occult doctrine
- 26** Shrek, for example
- 27** Romans' unlucky number?
- 29** Film-rating org.
- 31** "All Things Considered" airer
- 33** With hands on hips
- 34** Urban sub-section
- 36** "Star Trek: TNG" role
- 37** Waterfall effect
- 38** Engrave
- 39** Approach
- 40** Isn't healthy
- 43** Pooch
- 44** Biscay or Biscayne
- 45** Raw mineral
- 46** Alphabet ending

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 3-14

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		