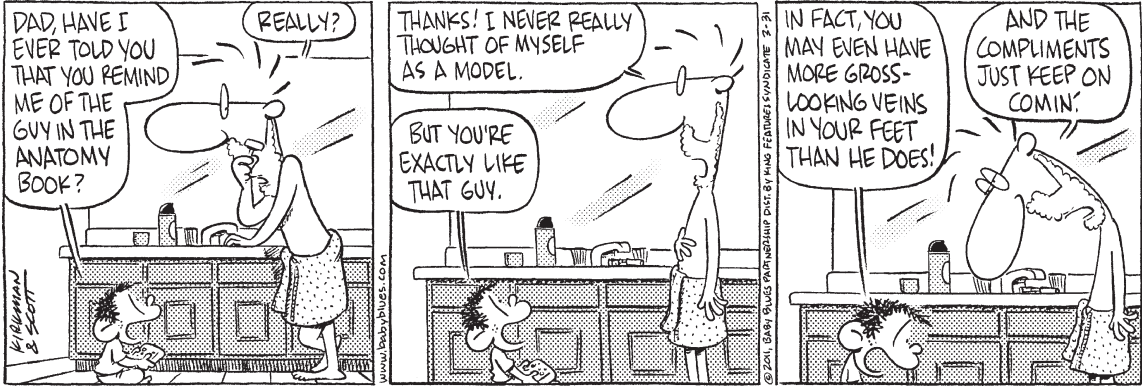
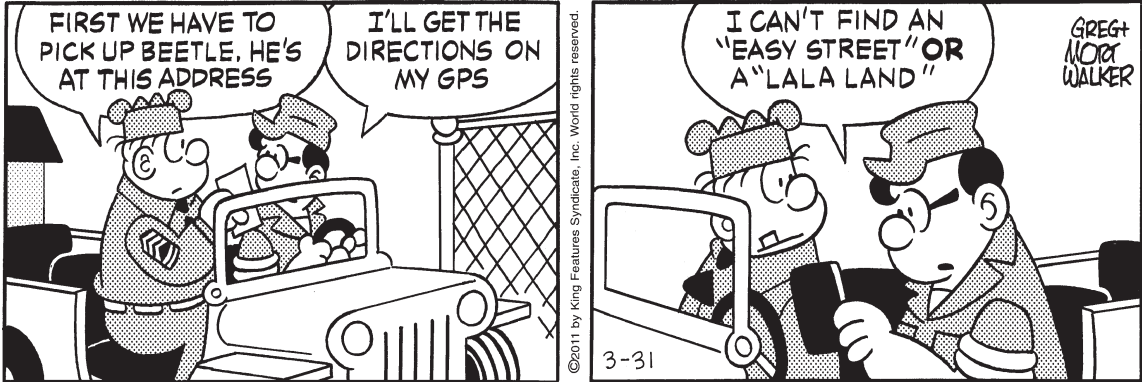


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



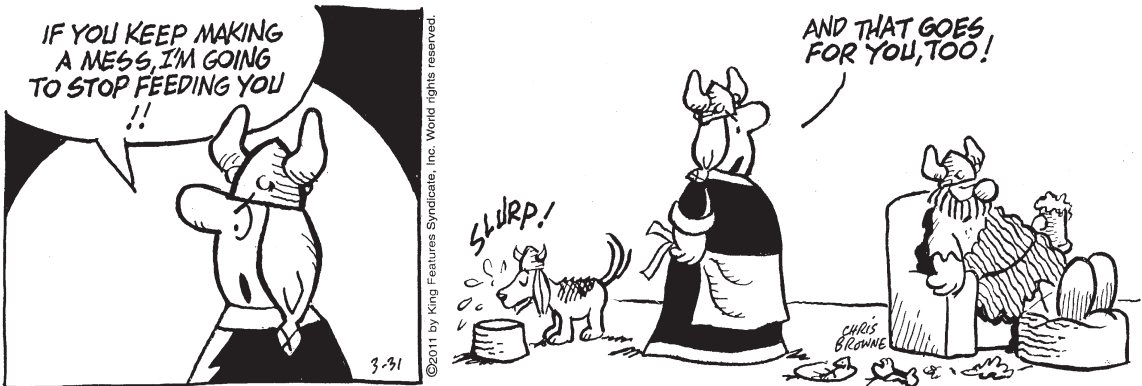
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



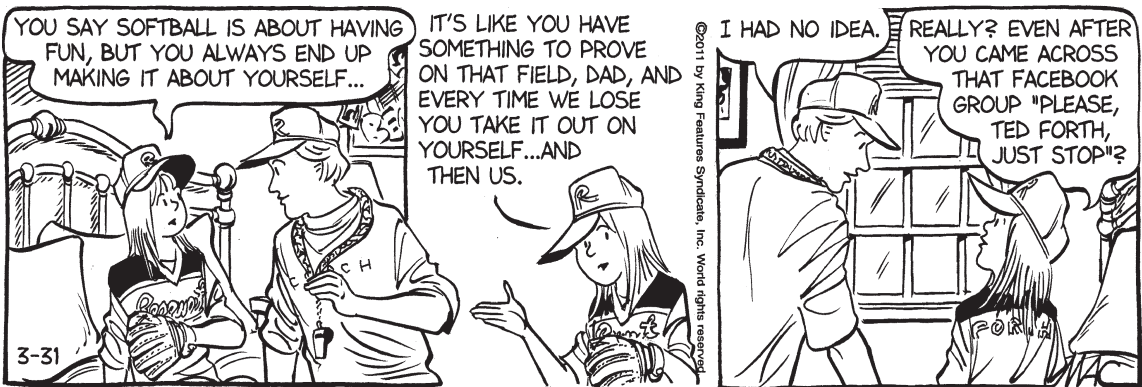
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Teen mom takes risky shortcuts

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am the mother of a teenage daughter who had a baby boy six months ago. She has kept up her studies while I watch the baby, but when she is in charge, she takes shortcuts that aren't right. She left the baby in his crib while she ran out to get a smoothie! Other times, she leaves him in a dirty diaper while she texts. How can I get her to grow up — immediately? — L.L.

Dear L.L.: Your daughter needs education on how to be a good mother. There isn't a lot of danger in not changing the diaper frequently, but if it is part of a pattern of neglect, she's setting bad precedents that need to be brought to her attention before she has something worse than diaper rash to worry about. Leaving the baby alone is a serious lapse of judgment you need to address right away. Let her know it is never OK to leave the baby alone, and set out alternatives available.

Your daughter is a teenager who doesn't want to give up a carefree lifestyle. She probably is frightened and discouraged about the responsibilities ahead of her. If the father isn't in the picture and you want to help with your grandchild indefinitely, let her know you are there for her but that it is up to her to seek out ways of learning about parenthood, just as though it were a subject at school. There are resources for teen parents and you could help her find a class or two to improve her skills. When she learns parenting can be fun as well as a responsibility, she will be more willing to make sacrifices — so take time to share the joy of parenting and grandparenting with her.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our son is 10 years old and already an accomplished artist. He is the favorite of the art teacher and has won a number of prizes in art competitions she's gotten him to participate in. We are proud, but want him to be well-rounded. He loves drawing, but never exercises or shows an interest in sports. Most of his peers are getting into soccer, baseball or basketball. We told him he has to pick a sport — his choice. He is very unhappy with us. Should we insist? — B.T.

Dear B.T.: Your son probably is feeling conflicted and confused right now. He knows you know he has native talents he is trying to develop to the fullest. Because he is a natural artist, it may seem like he doesn't have to work very hard to achieve success. Sometimes things that come easily are not particularly valued by students or their parents. On the other hand, where there is a lot of effort, struggle and defeat, the end result seems to mean more. This may be the case with the athletics you are pushing you son to engage in. Because it may be a difficult arena for him, it might appear to you to be more worthwhile.

It may be absolutely true that your son should focus on more physical activity for his health and fitness. And being a jock almost always guarantees popularity in high school, good friendships, sportsmanship and other benefits of being on a team. If your son has been having trouble making friends or doesn't have a group he can hang out with, perhaps he could begin to be a leader among artsy students, with whom he might feel more comfortable hanging out. You can do athletic things as a family — go hiking, or have his dad play catch with him. That wouldn't send the signal that you want to change who he is.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 7 2
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ A 9 8 6
♣ 9 5

WEST

♠ 9 8 4
♥ 1 10 7 5 4 2
♦ 8 6 4

EAST

♠ 6
♥ J 10 3 2
♦ K Q
♣ A Q J 10 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 5 3
♥ A K 7 4
♦ 3
♣ K 7

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ 3 ♠
6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead — nine of hearts.

A Tough Nut to Crack

It is not at all easy to make six spades on this deal — even if you look at all four hands. If you doubt this, try it and see how you fare. Despite the difficulty, the actual declarer made the slam without seeing the East-West cards!

West led the heart nine, which South immediately identified as a singleton, since East had overcalled in clubs. Although this gave declarer a positional advantage over East in both hearts and clubs, the actual mechanics of avoiding two losers posed a problem because of a shortage of entries to dummy.

After thoroughly digesting the situation, South found the answer. He won the heart nine with dummy's queen, being very careful to play the seven from his hand instead of the four!

He then drew three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and next led the eight of hearts. East was forced to cover with the ten to protect his potential heart trick, and declarer won with the king.

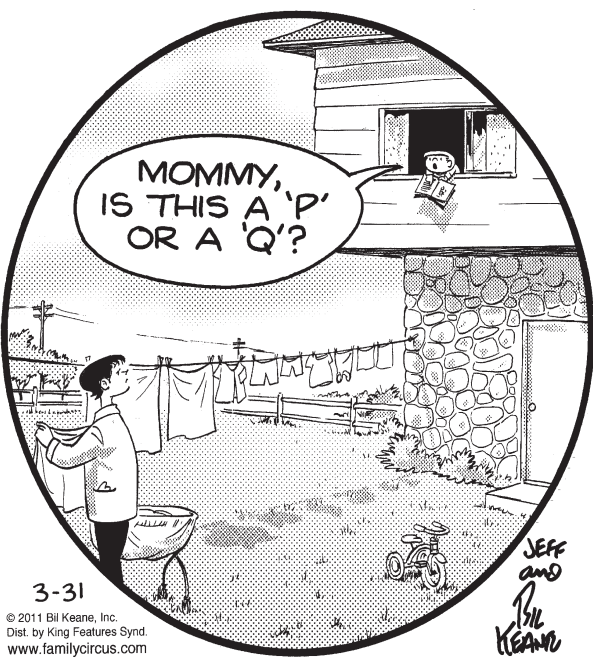
Now a diamond to the ace was followed by the six of hearts from dummy, placing East squarely on the horns of a dilemma. If he followed low from the J-3, the lead would remain in dummy and allow declarer to play a club to the king to wrap up the slam.

If East instead covered the six of hearts with the jack, South would win with the ace and lead the four of hearts to dummy's five, again putting him in position to lead a club toward his king.

A very delicate operation, you could justifiably say, but one that proves that concentration and determination can make all the difference in what it takes to win at bridge.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/31

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

TSHR OVRFRGRPHY CSHOF

ZPASR PR YVVM YPMF HDRFN

H DFT KHNC NHZ PGRV FHKS

VRSFN? H TNFKM-RHGAYF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN LEARNING HOW TO CREATE ARTISTIC HODGEPODGES, I SUPPOSE I WAS GETTING A COLLAGE EDUCATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Teen's woe
5 Cole Porter's "Let's —"
9 "All My Children" ailer
12 Surveyor's map
13 Reed instrument
14 Sine — non
15 Tuba's cousin
17 Coffee vessel
18 Rap session?
19 Bit of flora
21 Tagged player
22 Clean the cookware
24 Intl. oil group
27 Ovine remark
28 Band's bookings
31 Sister
32 Mountain
33 "— Lazy River"
34 Never again?
36 Spelling contest

DOWN

37 Mosque VIP
40 Either mate
41 About half of all adults
43 Show clearly
47 "The Greatest"
48 P.E. venue
51 H1N1 ailment
52 Future 19-
53 Across
54 Beige
55 "The Price Is Right" props
56 Collections

1 "Planet of the —"
2 Aid for Sherlock
3 California wine valley
4 Cultural, in a sense
5 Finished
6 Kimono sash
7 Debtor's letters
8 Beat
9 Fishtank
10 Char
11 Lacks the skills
16 Autumn mo.
20 Drag along
22 Red-tag events

23 Part of a super-hero costume
24 Lennon's lady
25 Play on words
26 Warm praise
27 Infant
29 Coll. transcript
30 Our uncle
35 — out a living
37 Van Gogh painting
39 Uneasy feeling
40 Eggs
41 Float gracefully
42 Earthenware pot
43 Odd's mates
44 Pleasant
45 Rudely brief
46 Os-triches' kin
49 Verily
50 "Family Guy" daughter

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-31

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | | | 17 | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 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 | | | |