

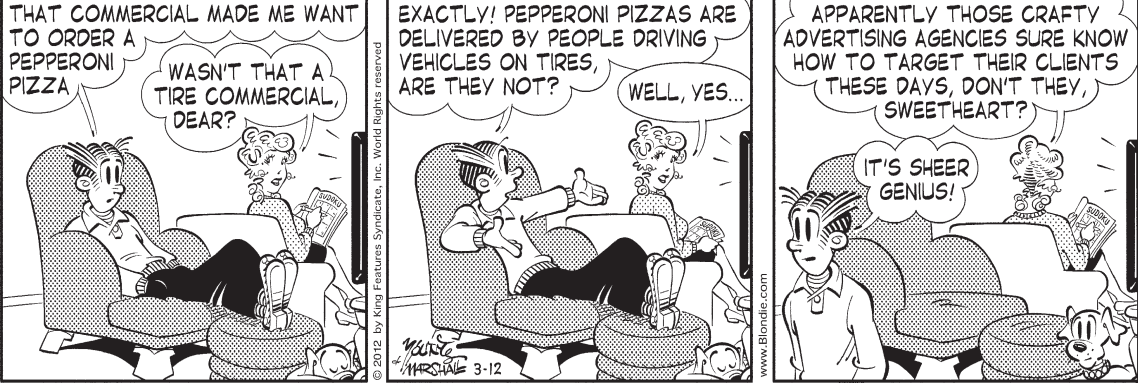
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



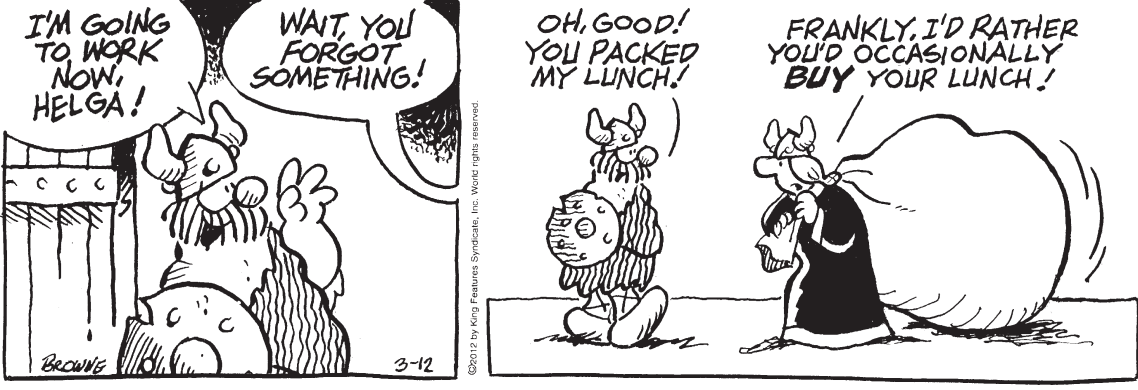
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



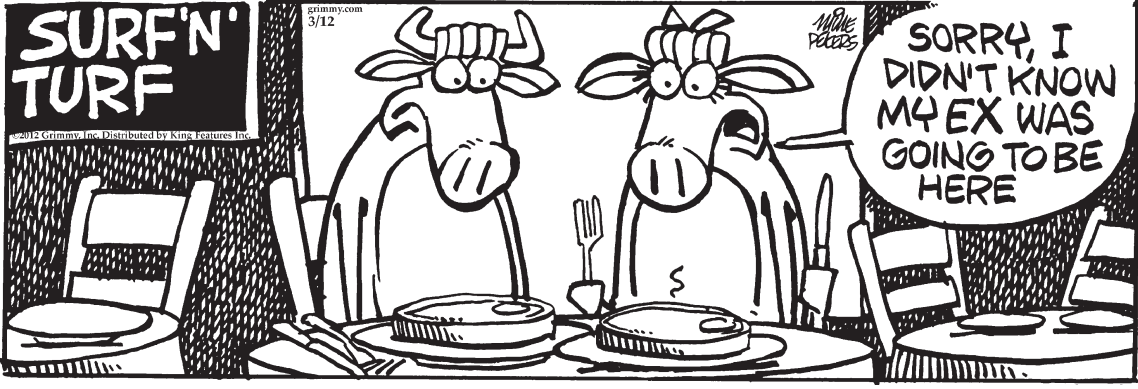
Blondie • Chic Young



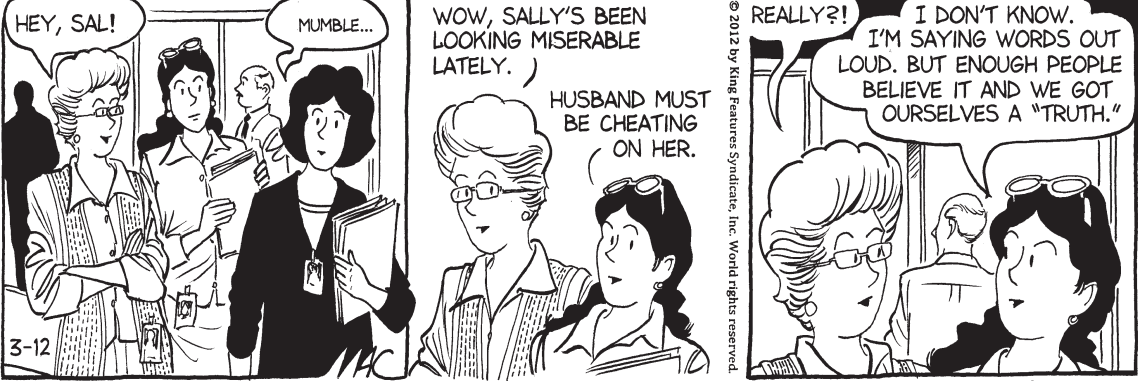
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



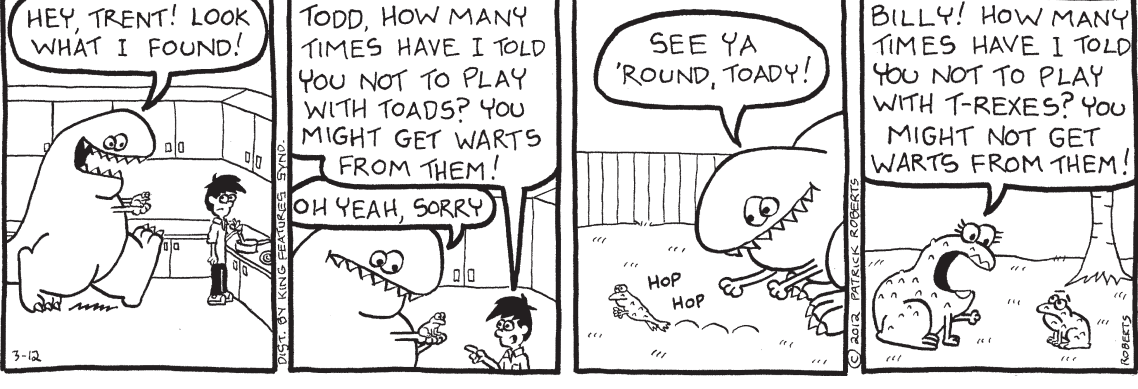
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



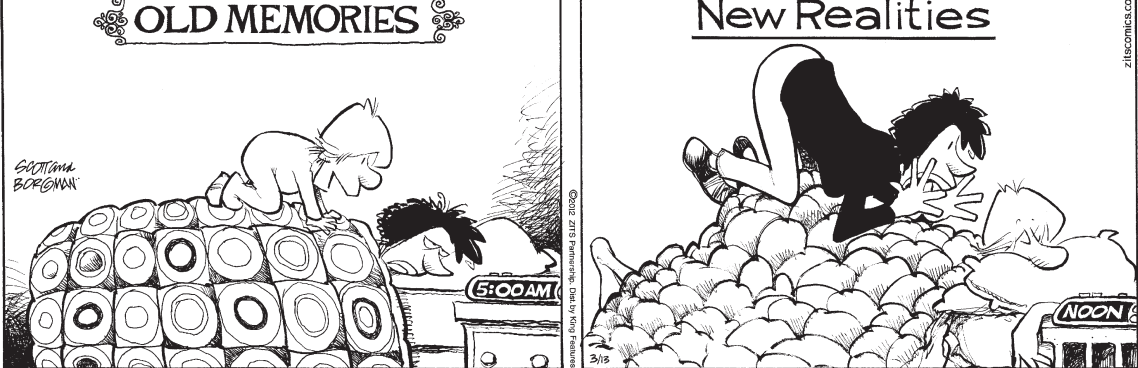
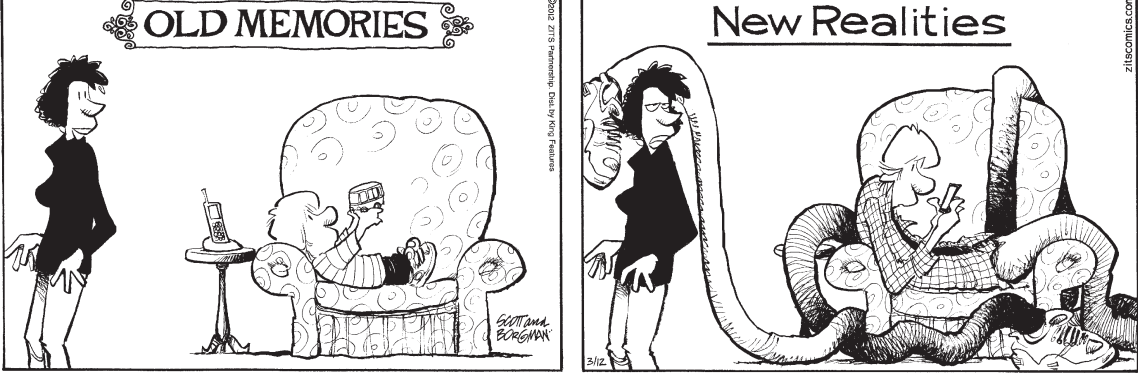
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Is husband out of work?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I think my husband may have been laid off and is keeping it secret. I don't have firm evidence, but he's acting suspicious, and I saw some e-mail from a job-hunting website in his inbox. I haven't had the heart to do any serious snooping, but I hate that he might be lying to me. Is it worth it to confront him, or should I wait it out and let him tell me? — B.L.

Dear B.L.: Feeling that a spouse is keeping something from you is difficult to deal with. Openness and honesty are the foundation of healthy relationships. That being said, timing is an issue, especially with something as delicate and emotional as being laid off. Your husband may be waiting for the right time, or may have plans in the works you also don't know about. While it can be frustrating, your husband might be protecting you by keeping you in the dark.

While you probably don't want to confront your husband in an angry way, it's best to get the situation out in the open so you can work together on solutions. You can ask him generally about work or mention you noticed a strange e-mail in his inbox, and prompt him to tell you anything worrying him. Hopefully this will give him the opening he needs, but if not, you might want to investigate further and see if there's another reason he might be keeping these developments from you. It's likely, though, he's just taking time to nurse his wounded ego before coming to you.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm retired, and to fill free time I started working at a charity organization. It's part-time, minimum-wage work, but I like it and feel like I'm doing something worthwhile. My son seems ashamed that I'm working a menial job. How can I get him to understand and respect my decision to take this job? — F.R.

Dear F.R.: There are two questions that come to mind: The first is whether your impression of your son's feelings is correct. It's possible your son is acting differently but you have misunderstood his emotions. Talking to him about this is a good first step, and will get any issues out in the open. It can be hard for people to adjust to their parents' changing roles, and this may manifest in ways that can be misunderstood. By opening up the lines of communication, you can clarify what's truly going on in your relationship.

The second question remains why he feels the way he does. It sounds like you have good reasons for taking this job, you're enjoying it, and there's no reason your son should begrudge you this bit of fulfillment. This can be addressed in a conversation with your son about why he might be having a hard time with your working. You can approach him by being nonconfrontational and admitting you're hurt by his dislike of your new role. The worst that can happen is that your suspicions will be confirmed, and then you can work on mending the relationship.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ A K Q 3
♥ 2
♦ 5 3 2
♣ Q J 10 5 2
WEST
♦ A J 9 8 7 5 3
♥ J 7
♣ A 9 4 3
SOUTH
♦ 10 9 8 6 4 2
♥ Q 10 4
♦ A K Q 4
♣ —
The bidding:
West North East South
4♥ Dble Pass 5♣
Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Famous Hand

The exploits of Zia Mahmood have been chronicled in this space on many previous occasions, and now there is one more gem to add to the pile. The deal occurred in the 2011 Vanderbilt Teams, and proved to be decisive in a match between two squads captained by Lou Ann O'Rourke and Nick Nickell.

When the deal was first played, Jeff Meckstroth of the Nickell team ended up in five spades as South and finished with an overtrick after West led the ace of hearts followed by the ace of clubs. Meckstroth ruffed the club, drew trumps in three rounds and then led the club queen through East's king to assure a parking place for his extra heart loser.

At the second table, North-South reached six spades as shown. West, Bob Hamman, led the heart ace, and the play might very well have gone the same way as at the first table, except for one major difference. On the lead of the heart ace, Zia, East, dropped the king!

Now put yourself in poor South's shoes. He has heard West open with four hearts, which would normally show an eight-card suit, and East has produced the king on the first trick. So when West next continues with a second heart, what would you do?

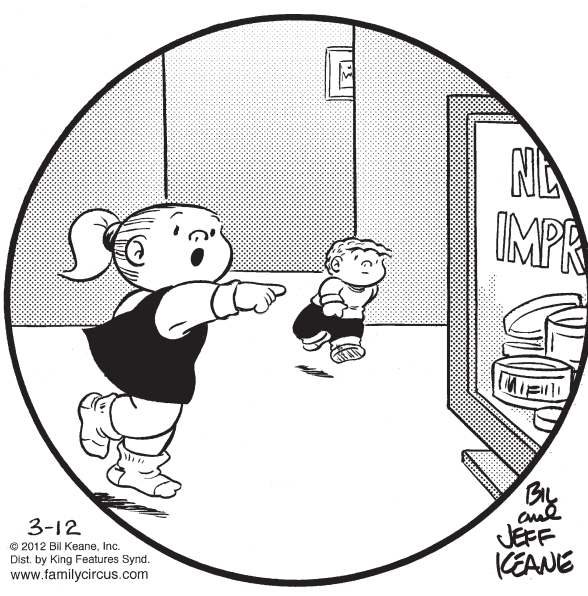
It would certainly seem reasonable to ruff high in dummy to avoid a potential killing ruff by East and then play for a 2-1 spade split. And when South did exactly that, Zia's jack became promoted as the setting trick.

One can only imagine what declarer must have felt when he saw Zia follow to the second heart, and then saw West show out on the first spade lead. The only solace might come from knowing that he was not the first (or last) to fall prey to a cunning trap laid by the artful Zia.

The 780 net points gained on the deal resulted in a 13-IMP pickup for the Nickell team, which won the match by only 3 IMPs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Hurry, Mommy! They said we have to act now while supplies last!”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

3/12

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

K IKSHDO QLB'M EBLV FLV

ML CUHXKC MFKI QLLCHLIM

MFXM WGIM JCLEU. K SGIM

CUXDDO JU KB X WXSJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING A GUY WERE TO ILLEGALLY TAMPER WITH A BROADWAY THEATER AWARD, MIGHT HE RIG A TONY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 — and aahs
- 5 Stir-frying vessel
- 8 Gets older
- 12 Opening night
- 14 Cat of "Iron Chef"
- 15 Priest-hood school
- 16 Barrel
- 17 Actor Chaney
- 18 Slim and trim
- 20 Extraterrestrial
- 23 Put your foot down?
- 24 Infant
- 25 Cabal member
- 28 High card
- 29 Sacha Baron Cohen portrayal
- 30 Haul
- 32 Emulate
- 33 Ponce de Leon
- 34 Car
- 35 Freeway access
- 36 "The — Is Right"
- 37 Horse-radish kin
- 40 That woman
- 41 Partner
- 42 Florida
- State athlete
- 47 Libertine
- 48 Makes like
- 49 Act
- 50 Used a shovel
- 51 Halt
- DOWN
- 1 Photo — (PR events)
- 2 Raw rock
- 3 Height of fashion?
- 4 John le Carré hero
- 5 Remove gradually
- 6 Hockey legend
- 7 Bobby
- 8 Pennsylvania, the — State
- 8 Take
- 9 Soccer score
- 10 Formerly, formerly
- 11 Rice wine
- 13 Part of the loop
- 19 White House
- 20 Lawyers' org.
- 21 "Arsenic and Old —"
- 22 Mountain goat
- 23 Drink noisily
- 25 Made a vow
- 26 Needle case
- 27 Campus mil. grp.
- 29 Spill the beans
- 31 Trouble
- 33 Beseeched
- 34 Sports venues
- 36 Collins or Donahue
- 37 Prison division
- 38 Lotion additive
- 39 Pivot
- 40 Too confident
- 43 Ostrich's kin
- 44 Mel of Coopers-town
- 45 Virgo neighbor
- 46 Kreskin's claim

Solution time: 27 mins.

EAR	LADE	MEMO
BIO	ALOE	AVOW
BLOWBACK	NILE	
FEES	OILED	
MORAL	META	
IVAN	MIMICKED	
DEC	BONUS	NAY
INK	BLOTS	DARN
LADY	MAPLE	
MYNAH	SUMS	
YOUR	WOLFPACK	
TYKE	EDIT	COO
HOES	DEMI	KEN

Saturday's answer 3-12

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
47					48					
49					50				51	