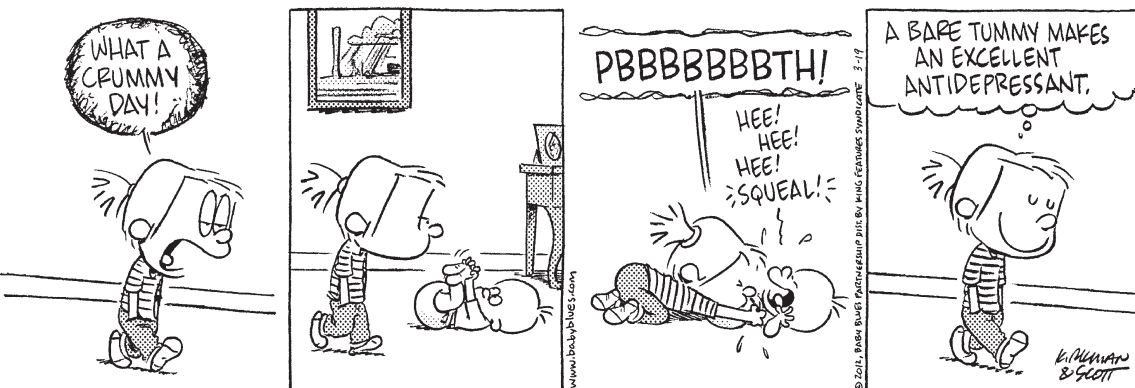
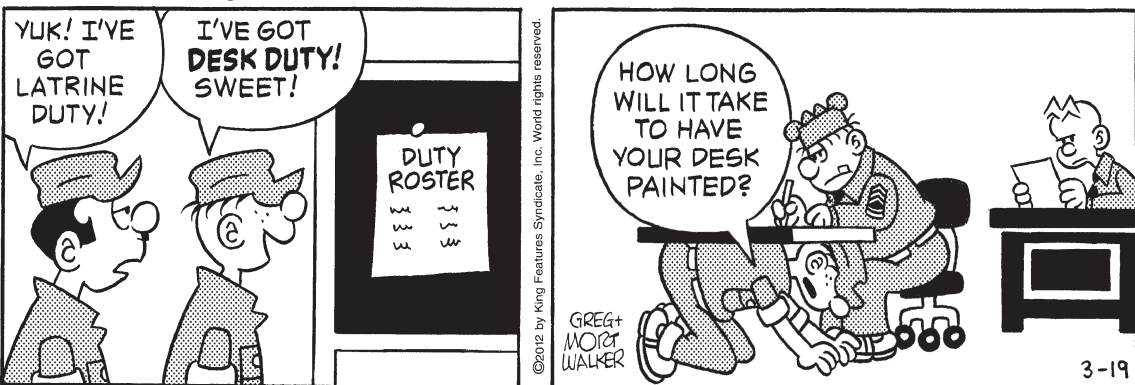


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



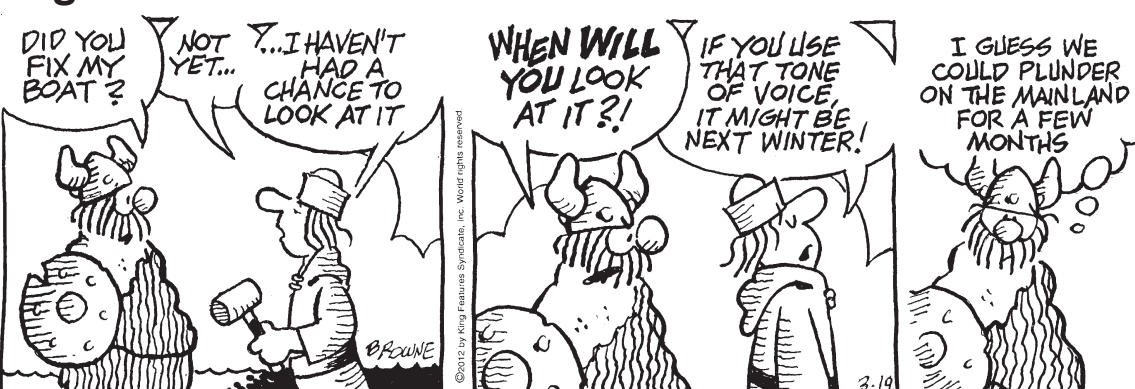
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



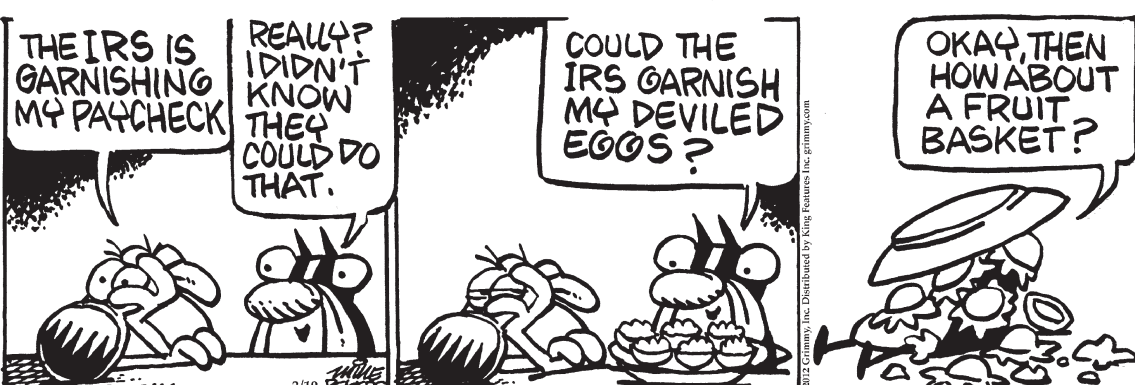
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



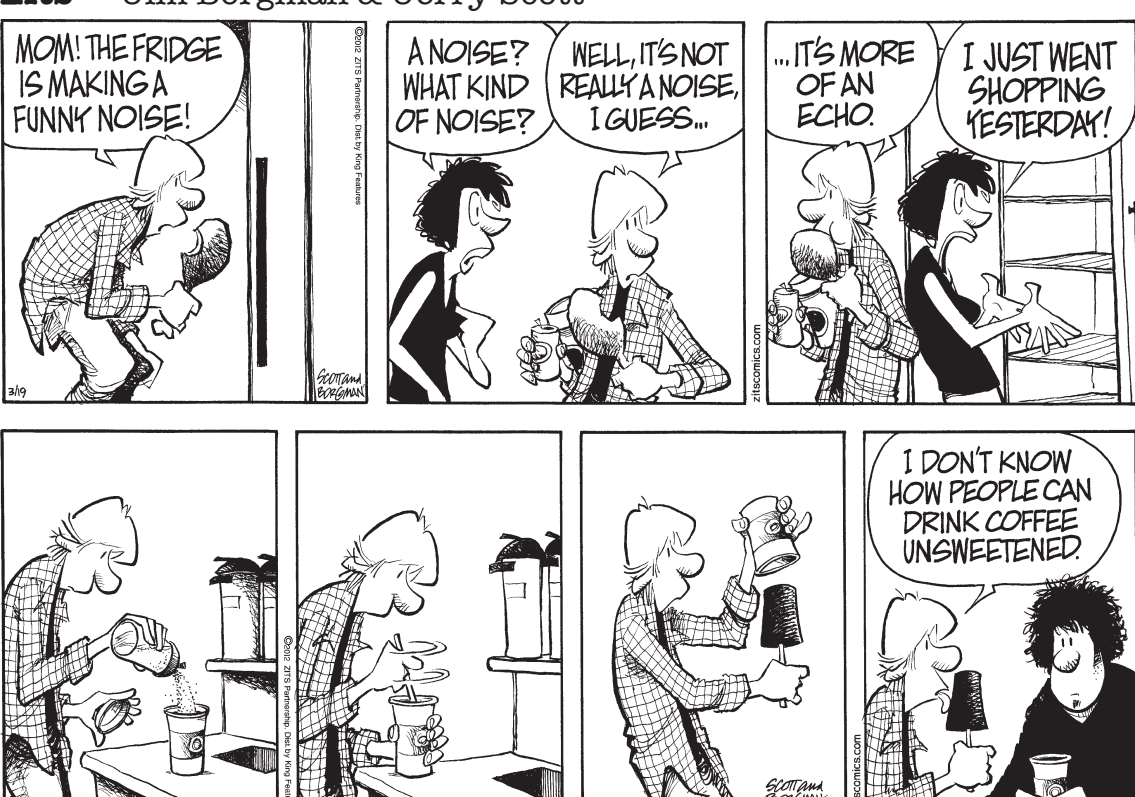
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Can't stand full-time work**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have a problem: I can't stand the work week, sitting at the same desk every day and not having any freedom. It seems all I do is commute, work, commute, watch TV and go to bed. It's not the life I want. I know I should appreciate having a good job, but I am not cut out for all these hours away from real life. I don't think I am lazy, but I am aware of my life slipping away while I'm cooped up in my car or at my desk. How can I change my attitude? - H.N.

**Dear H.N.:** In this day and age of unemployment and massive underemployment, your lament is pretty common. Despite your defensiveness about being lazy, I don't believe you need to worry about your character. It is likely the job that's the issue. If you had one you liked, you'd be more apt to lose yourself in work and not resent being behind a desk. There is nothing like a lack of motivation to make the hours and days drag. I get it.

That said, what are you going to do about it? Your feelings will change if you can change your work environment and find a reason to get up in the morning. Are there opportunities where you work for advancement or a parallel move to a more interesting and diverse position? If so, go for it. See if you can work from home or arrange job sharing or flex time so you can take on something you enjoy more. As soon as your interest begins to rise, you probably will shed some of the trapped feelings you are coping with. If all else fails, make sure you're not wasting the rest of the day watching TV - make that downtime count.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have always been supportive of my best friend as she struggled while trying to get established as a writer. I taught her about how to write and sell her work, and she leaned on me for advice since I'm already successful in the field. Now she's gotten a book contract and I'm ready to share in her happiness, but she has suddenly found a better best friend. I am hurt and don't know what to do. - B.V.

**Dear B.V.:** I can see why you are frustrated and hurt. Not only have you seemingly been replaced by a new best friend - which is bad enough - but your former best friend hasn't even bothered to acknowledge the help you gave her. This could make you bitter if you let it, but there are a few steps you can take to salvage the friendship and get back on track. First, try to let go of your anger toward your friend for dumping you and seemingly using your goodwill. It could be that in the turmoil of the moment, she is seeking to enjoy all the glory for herself, and doesn't want to be reminded that she had a lot of help and owes you a debt of gratitude, at the very least.

Why don't you wait until some of the hulla-balloo dies down, and then invite her for a lunch to talk about things? Let her know that you have missed her friendship and that you were glad to help with her current success. I am betting that she will begin to remember all you have meant to her, personally and professionally, and you can reset your relationship. Good luck!

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 4 3 2  
 ♥ 3 2  
 ♦ 9 8 7 6 5  
 ♣ 4 3 2

**WEST** ♠ A K Q 10 8 6  
 ♥ 10 8 6 4  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ 10 8 6

**EAST** ♠ A K Q  
 ♥ A K Q J 10 3 2  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ A K Q

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 9 7 5  
 ♥ J 9 7 5  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ J 9 7 5

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 2♦ Pass 2♠ Pass  
 3♦ Pass 3♠ Pass  
 4♦ Pass 4♠ Pass  
 7♦ Pass

**Famous Hand**

This is a favorite story of George B. Coffin, for many years a well-known author and publisher. The bidding went as shown, but after East bid seven diamonds, West quickly passed, not waiting for South to bid. Not only that, but East-West then improperly exchanged hands, a common practice in some games.

South, a stickler for the rules named John Lawman, who by nature was inclined to exact his pound of flesh when an irregularity occurred, now said: "Just a second, please. I haven't passed. In fact, I'll bid seven notrump!" West doubled, and, after two passes, South redoubled! West then led the king of spades.

"Just a second," said South again. "Both of your hands are exposed because you've seen each other's cards, and I'm entitled to call your plays in any way I see fit."

So Mr. Lawman directed West to lead the ten of spades instead. He took the ten with the jack, continued with the nine, calling for West's eight, then cashed the seven of spades, calling for West's six.

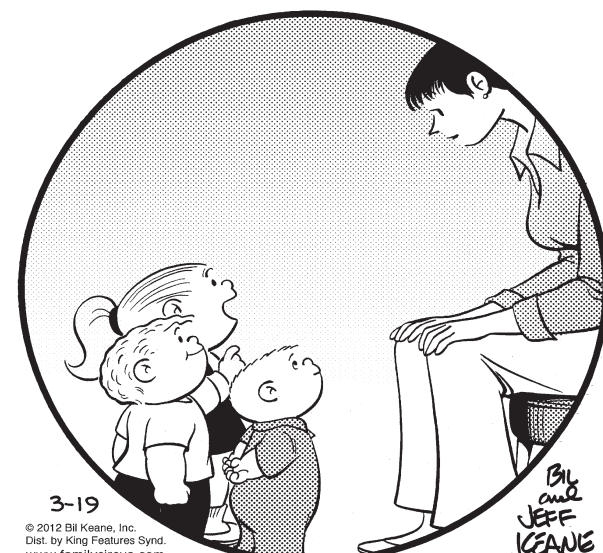
As the spades were being led, declarer forced East to discard the A-K-Q of clubs! Mr. Lawman then cashed the J-9-7 of clubs, compelling West to play the 10-8-6 in that order, and East to discard the A-K-Q of hearts.

The same process was then repeated in hearts, declarer cashing the J-9-7 of that suit. On the hearts, East, who at this point was nearing a state of apoplexy, was forced to discard the A-K-Q of diamonds.

Mr. Lawman next cashed his heart and club fives, collecting East's J-10 of diamonds. Dummy's 9-8 of diamonds then scored the last two tricks to make the redoubled grand slam!

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 3/19

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

MKLC XU K OXNMWQH ZACQC

SCXSBC KBZKHG UCCB OXLSCBCE

WX KOW XM WAYMFG

YLLCEYKWCBH: NQFCMW-YMK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT ARTIST IS HANDILY WINNING THE SKETCHING COMPETITION. I THINK HE'S CERTAINLY TOP DRAWER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
 1 Smart-phone download  
 4 Studies hard  
 9 Golf standard  
 12 Witness  
 13 Serf  
 14 Exist  
 15 It goes without saying  
 17 Zero  
 18 Acapulco gold  
 19 "Help!"  
 21 Kermit or Fozzie  
 24 Lotion additive  
 25 401(k) alternative  
 26 Red or Black  
 28 Power glitch  
 31 Super-market stack  
 33 Knight's address  
 35 Streamlet  
 36 Island greeting  
 38 Unruly group
- DOWN**  
 1 Cleopatra's slayer  
 2 Pod dweller  
 3 Corral  
 4 Household tasks  
 5 TV controls  
 6 "The Greatest"  
 7 Mell Lazarus comic strip  
 8 Filches  
 9 Catering (to)  
 10 Operatic solo  
 11 Depend (on)  
 16 Upper surface  
 20 Thy feeder  
 21 Isinglass  
 22 Caspian  
 23 Landscapes  
 27 Intent  
 29 Adhesive  
 30 Other-wise  
 32 Writer Silverstein  
 34 Theft  
 37 Takes as one's own  
 39 McDonald's offering  
 42 Nebraska city  
 44 Aye's opposite  
 45 Buy stuff  
 46 Volcanic outflow  
 50 Trawler need  
 51 Crimson  
 52 "— Got a Secret"  
 53 Taxi

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 3-19

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
54			55						56	
57			58						59	