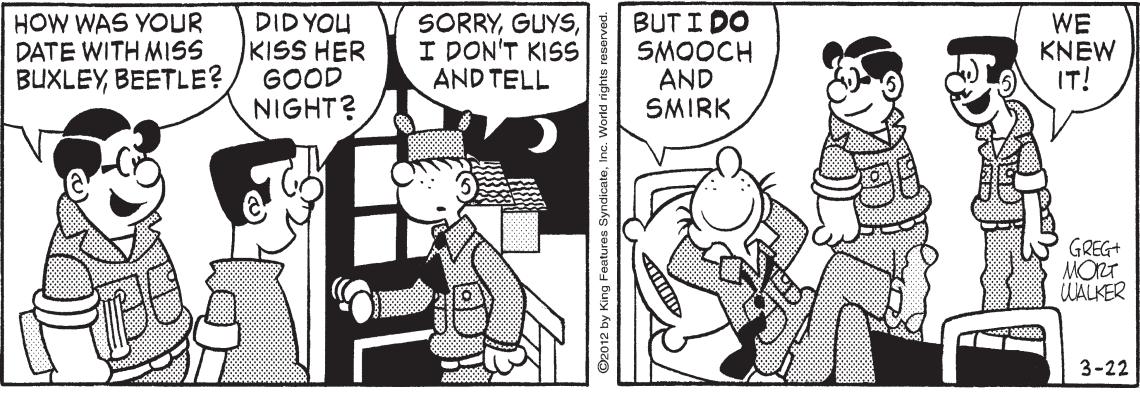


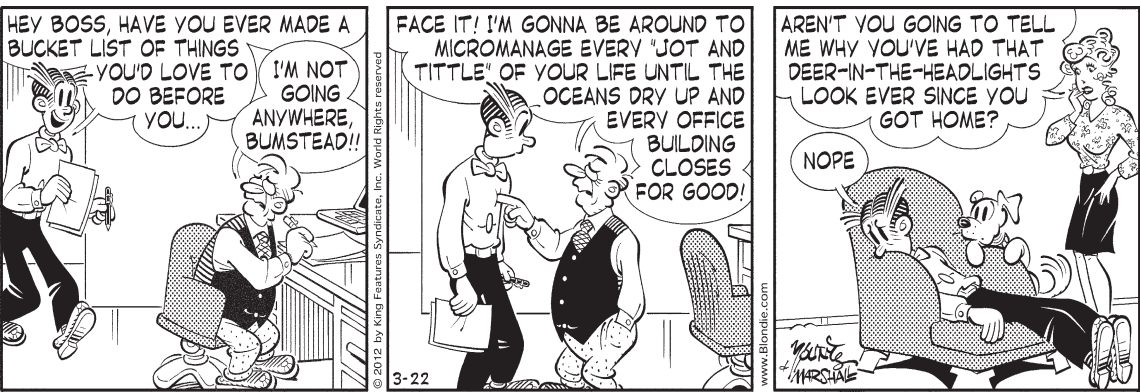
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



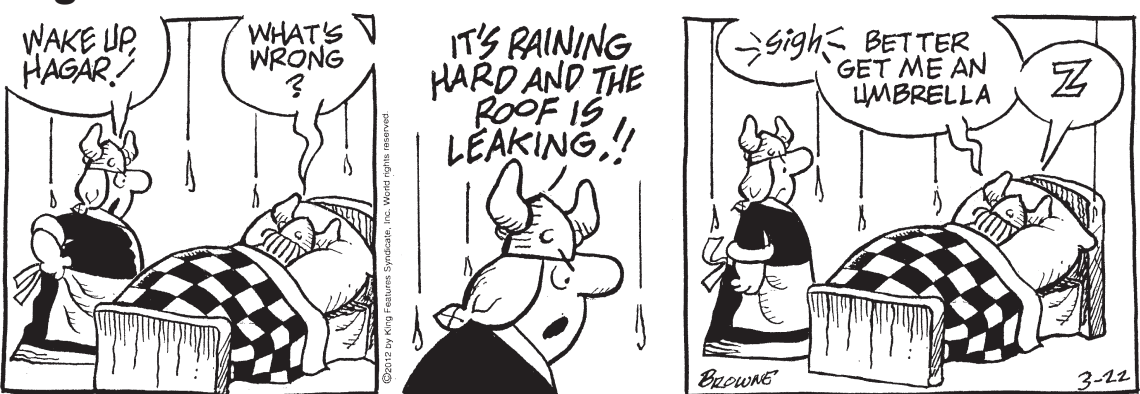
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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



Tom and Ray Magliozzi

• Click & Clack Talk Cars

Luxury diesel requires urea

Dear Tom and Ray:

Can this be true, or are my wife and I just gullible? Our dealer claims that we need to add "urea" to our BlueTec 350 Mercedes engine. With 21,000 miles on the car, we have spent almost \$200 with the dealer to add this "urea." Why? What is its purpose? Are we being taken for the ultimate luxury-car ride, or is this a legitimate cost? — Dan

TOM: Doesn't urine have urea in it?
RAY: Yes, but only at about 1/10th of the concentration the car requires. So you can't recommend that Dan simply pee into the tank.

TOM: OK, I'm crossing that off my list, then.
RAY: Urea refills are a legitimate expense for this particular car, Dan. And shame on the salesman for not disclosing this to you when you bought the car. It's an added cost and inconvenience of ownership that you had a right to know about. It's like selling someone a dog, and neglecting to mention that you have to feed it every day.

TOM: Here's why you have to add urea to this car: In order to get diesel engines — which burn dirtier than gasoline engines — to meet new emissions standards in the United States, Mercedes (like all diesel-engine manufacturers) had to add some kind of system to scrub more nitrous oxides out of the exhaust.

RAY: The system Mercedes chose is a urea-based system. When the urea is injected into the hot exhaust, it releases ammonia, which helps break down about 80 percent of the harmful nitrous oxides.

TOM: The problem is, you need a constant supply of urea. In order to keep car owners from simply letting the urea bottle run dry and forgetting about it, the EPA required that the car stop running if it runs out of urea.

RAY: Mercedes says that a 7.5-gallon supply should cover about 12,000 miles of driving. So it suggests that you get the urea tank refilled every 10,000 miles, when you bring your Mercedes in for its regular oil, filter and wallet service.

TOM: Aside from the potential inconvenience of that, Mercedes estimates the expense at about \$1,500 for every 100,000 miles you drive.

RAY: Of course, like everything else you do at a Mercedes dealership, you'll pay more to get your urea topped up there. So if the expense is a concern, you might look around for an independent shop that specializes in German cars. You'll pay less of a premium there.

TOM: You can buy your own urea (under the Mercedes brand name "AdBlue," or as another brand) and learn how to add it yourself, if you really want to cut your expenses.

RAY: Isn't it a good thing you're saving all that money with your high-mileage diesel, Dan? Otherwise, how would you be able to afford all that urea?

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, Box 536475, Orlando, Fla., 32853-6475.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 4 3
♥ 7 2
♦ AK Q J 10
♣ J 10 8

WEST
♠ 10 8 7
♥ 4
♦ 7 5 4 3 2
♣ K 7 6 5

EAST
♠ 2
♥ K Q J 10 9 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ 9 3 2

SOUTH
♠ AK Q J 9 6
♥ A 8 5
♦ —
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Ingenuity Knows No Bounds

Assume you're in six spades and West leads his singleton heart. You win East's nine with the ace and cash the A-K of trumps, hoping to find the suit divided 2-2. In that case, you could concede a heart and easily make the rest of the tricks.

But when East shows out on the second trump lead, you have to abandon this method of play because you would automatically go down one after East took the heart at trick four and returned a heart, allowing West to score a trump trick.

One way of trying to salvage the contract would be to lead the queen of clubs at trick four, hoping West had the king and would be kind enough to take it. This would create a club entry to dummy's beautiful diamonds. But when you consider that West will almost surely see through your scheme and duck the queen, you should dismiss that idea.

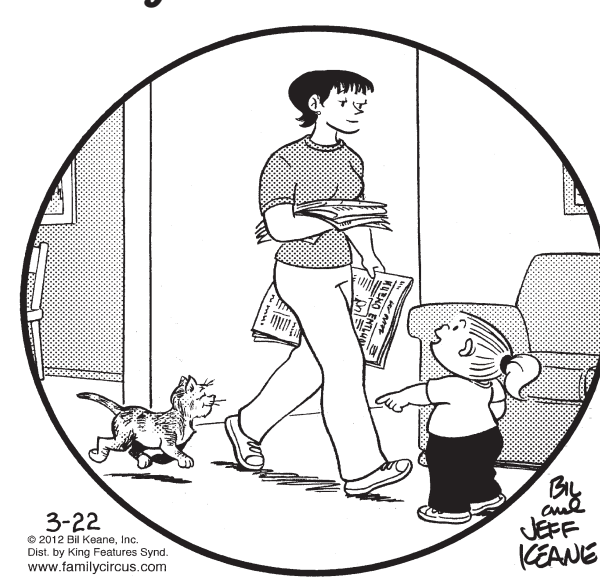
Another possibility is to lead a low club toward dummy instead of leading the queen. This would succeed if West also played low, but if he put up the king and returned a trump, you'd eventually find yourself down three.

By far the best possibility, though not easy to think of, is to lead the six of trumps at trick four, purposely conceding a trick to West's ten!

This unusual play — deliberately losing a trump trick that you don't have to lose — has everything to recommend it. It is a perfect Greek gift, since it guarantees the slam. After taking the ten, West is forced to return a club or a diamond. Either way — and no matter who has the king of clubs — you are sure to score the rest of the tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-22
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"You need to sit down, Mommy. Kittykat is lookin' for a lap to lie on."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

OYR PFQ WTCYUC KHIC QU PFQB
XCUD YLIHOC FR GJHOJ
GHRC DF XQP? HD GFQTL XC
KBYWCTP YWWBCOHDCL
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LARGE-EARED CARTOON CHARACTER WHO WAS CONSTANTLY TALKING LOUDLY AND RUDELY: MICKEY MOUTH.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Sleeping bug
5 "Avatar" technology (Abbr.)
8 Reverberate author
12 Georgia city
13 Young fellow
14 Thick chunk
15 Poetic foot
16 Work with state
17 Remedy
18 Wood nymphs
20 Meager
22 Deterioration
23 Annoy
24 Harbor structure
27 "The Defiant Ones" duo
32 Web address
33 Prot. or Cath.
34 Genetic letters
35 Breach in a levee
38 "Hey, you!"

DOWN
21 Spy novel org.
24 French nobleman
1 Deserlike great
2 Wild hog
3 TV trophy
4 Come ashore
5 Groups of grapes
6 Petrol
7 Mid-month date
8 Steep slope
9 Some old cars
10 Rodgers collaborator
11 Follow instructions
19 "— as I Doubtfire" say ...
25 mins.
28 French possessive
29 Butchers' tools
30 Type measures
31 Perched
36 Shrew
37 — carte
38 Shine
41 "We Bring Good Things to Life" co.
42 Urban fleet
43 Sandwich cookie
44 Armageddon
46 November responsibility
47 Rams fans?
48 Spigots
51 Doves' aversion

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-22

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		