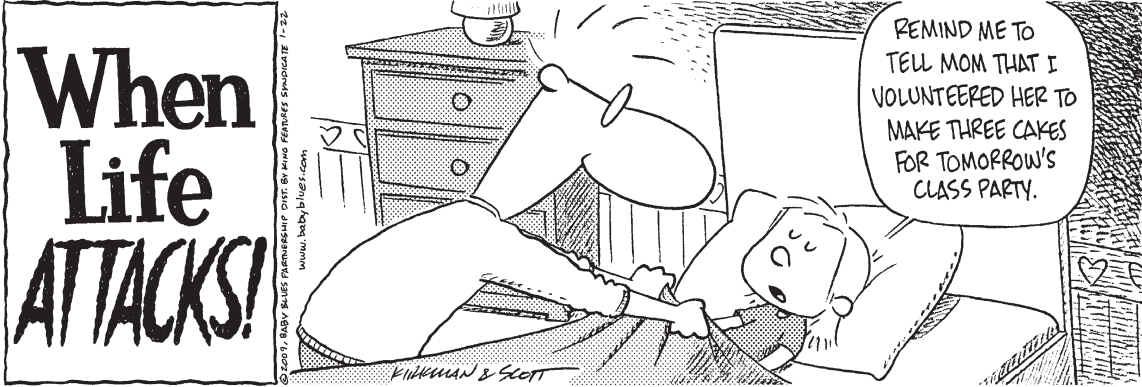
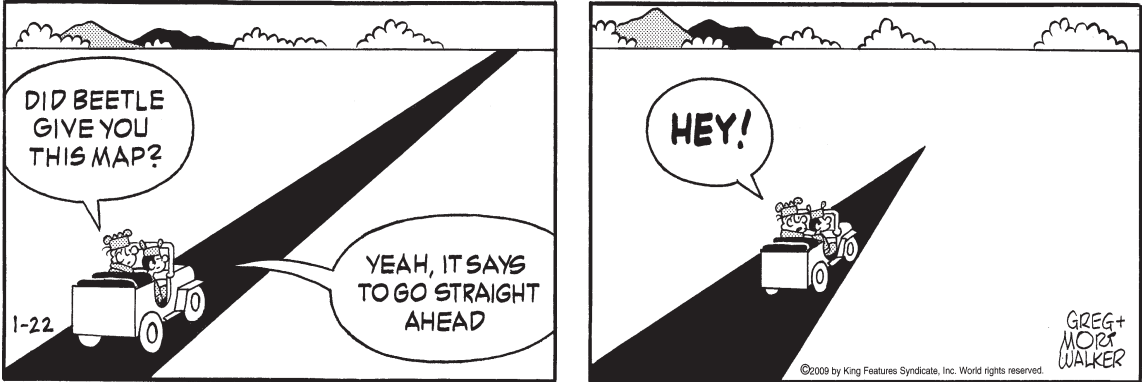


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



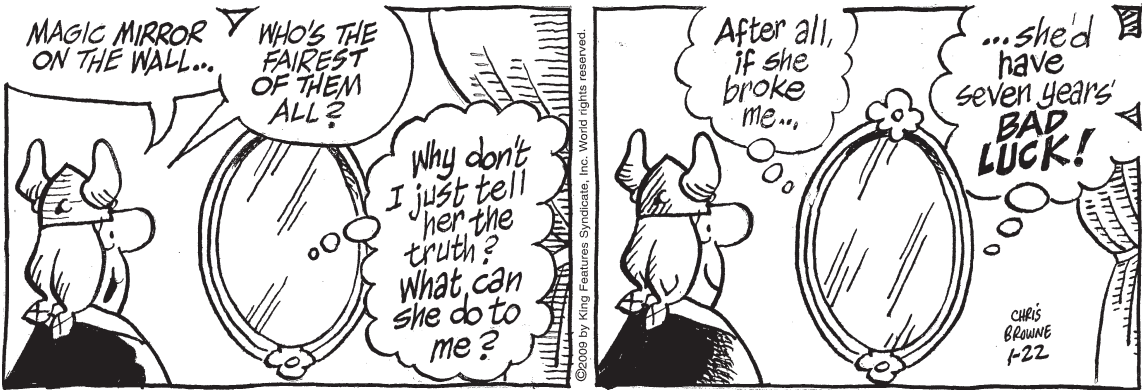
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



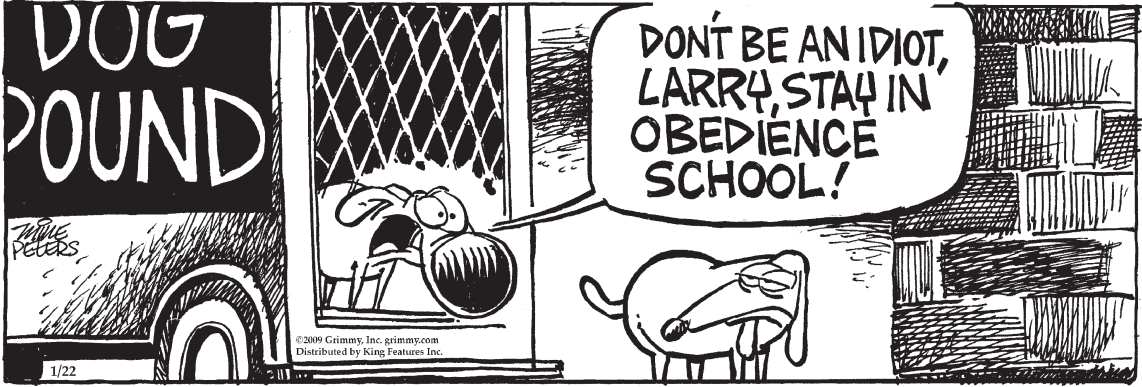
Blondie • Chic Young



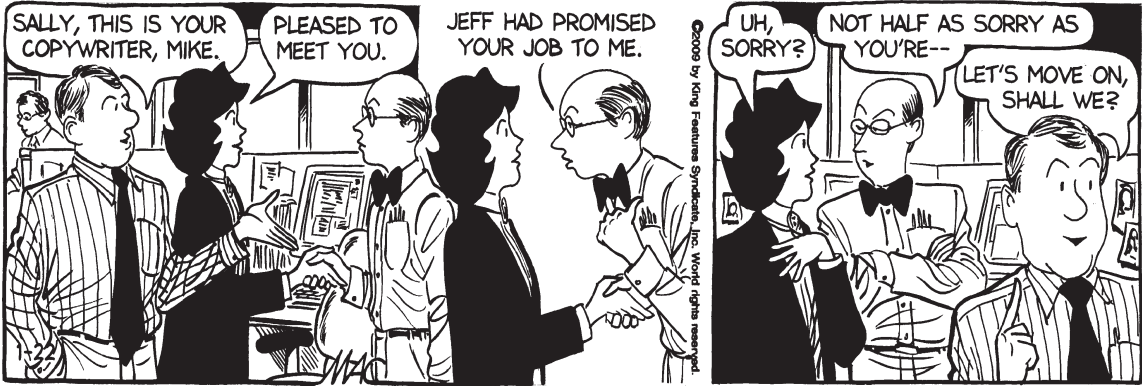
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



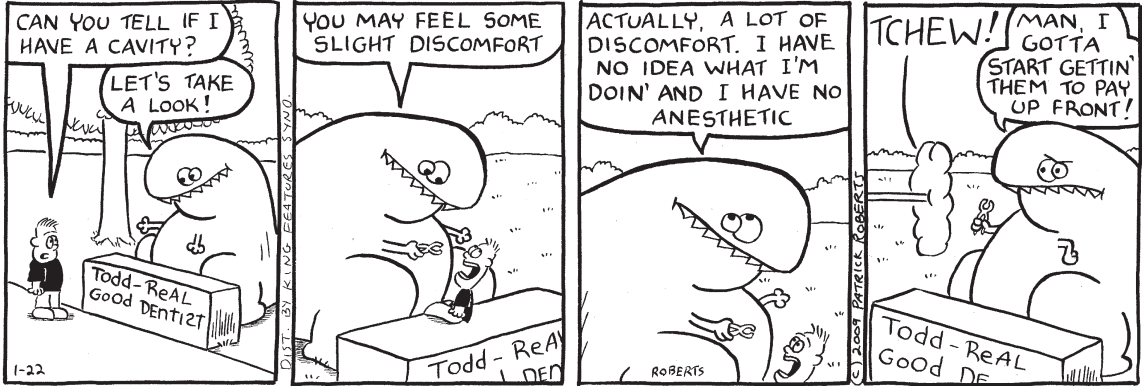
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



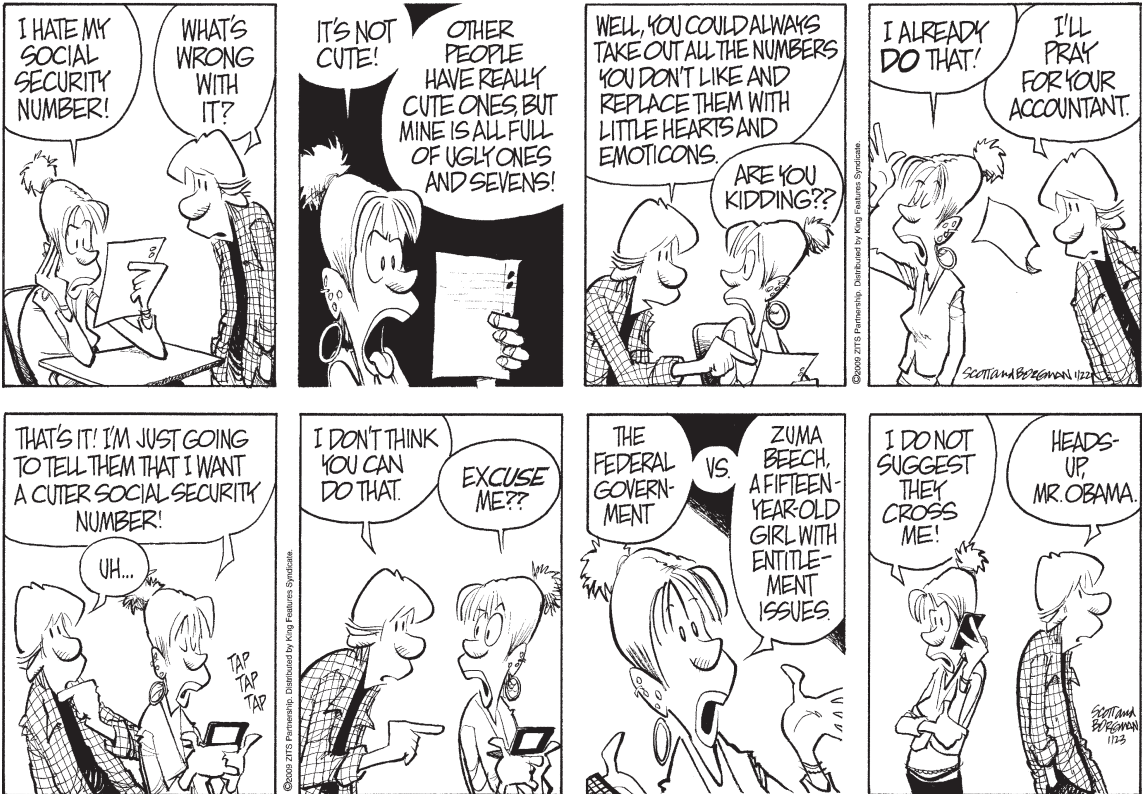
Sally Forth • Greg Howard




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Does Television Cause Violence?

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son is in high school, and is going through a tough time at his school. We've taken all the normal steps to try to help him, and our interventions seem to be helping, but he still seems unhappy. He's a solitary kid, although he gets along well with a few close friends and with adults. Is there anything simple that we can suggest he do for himself to try to nurture those relationships, as well as make him happier and help him adjust to the high-school environment? -- F.P.

Dear F.P.: It sounds like you're dealing with your son's problems in a very understanding and conscientious way, and that's great. I hope you continue to be an important part of his life and support him when he is going through hard times. There are a number of steps you can take to help him get adjusted to his new environment, most of which you may already have tried. Certainly discuss your son's progress with the school's counselor or any other members of the staff who have contact with him. You can encourage him to join clubs or sports teams, as well as maintain his friendships.

One suggestion comes from studies at Kent State University showing that expressive writing, in the form of letters of gratitude to influential people in teenagers' lives, improved their mood and feelings of happiness and satisfaction. Since your son likes spending time alone, this might be a perfect activity for him to express his gratitude for the relationships that he does have in his life. This also will reinforce the importance of those bonds, which are critical to his happiness and sense of fulfillment. Your son might never be the life of the party, but maintaining a few close friendships surely will make him happier.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have two young sons, and both my husband and I try to be careful about what types of TV shows we let them watch and what video games they can play. We've always heard that exposure to violence in the media can cause kids to become violent. Is this really true, or just speculation? Is there anything else we should be careful to watch out for? -- C.C.

Dear C.C.: Common sense and conventional wisdom both tell us that if kids are exposed to violence in the media -- whether real-life violence from news programs, realistic acted-out violence in movies or even the cartoon violence of video games -- they will be more likely to become violent themselves. In fact, both our common sense and the conventional wisdom are right in this case.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A J 3 2
♥ 10 7 3
♦ K 10 9 5 4
♣ 6

WEST

♠ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5
♥ —
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ 3 2

EAST

♠ K
♥ A K Q J 8 5 2
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 8 4

SOUTH

♠ 4
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A Q
♣ A K Q J 9 7 5

The bidding:
East 4♥ South 5♣ West All Pass North
Opening lead — ten of spades.

Cards Always Tell a Story

Let's say that in a given hand your partner opens the bidding one spade, to which you respond one notrump, and that he next bids four spades.

It is certainly reasonable to assume that your partner has more than four or five spades. True, this is only an inference -- anything is possible in the abstract sense. But your reasoning should not be based on the assumption that your partner is on an outing from the local booby hatch.

Applying this everyday principle to the present hand, South should assume, from East's opening four-heart bid and West's opening lead of a spade, that West does not have a heart to lead.

When South wins the spade lead with the ace and East plays the king, South can also logically conclude that East started with the singleton king or the K-Q doubleton. When declarer then ruffs a spade at trick two and East shows out, South confirms that West started with seven spades.

When declarer next draws three rounds of trumps, he learns that West started with two clubs. This enables him to conclude that West's original distribution was 7-0-4-2.

Accordingly, South cashes the ace of diamonds, then overtakes the queen with the king and leads the ten of diamonds, discarding a heart. West takes the diamond with the jack and leads the queen of spades, on which South again discards a heart.

West then has no choice but to return a spade or a diamond, allowing declarer to discard his last heart on one of dummy's established winners, so South makes five clubs. In actuality, declarer does nothing really miraculous to make the contract; he merely takes advantage of the inferences that are available from both the bidding and the subsequent play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

Cryptoquip

OX H XJYDKV MSL PHLK HE
HSL O M J K E Y O Z K H Z O W
Y A K E K L S A , Z S V K J N N Y S D Y S J L

G H J J O W H Z Y E O G M J Y Y P .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A GRITTY WAFFLE THAT COMES FROM CALIFORNIA? A SAN DIEGO SANDY EGGO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ming of the NBA

4 Census statistics

8 Envelope part

12 Ostrich's cousin

13 Pleasing

14 Queue

15 Don't move

17 Prayer ending

18 Piratic potation

19 Wilder drama

21 — council ("Survivor" event)

24 Snapshot

25 Computer woe

26 Torched

28 Extemporizes

32 Wan

34 Luau side dish

36 Urban disturbance

37 Fix a knot

39 Anti-quated

41 "CSI" evidence

DOWN

1 "Absolute-ly"

2 Parisian

3 Unre-servedly

4 Critter

5 Showbiz job

6 Reverber-ate

7 Arrange-ment

8 Freight-train

9 Wheels of fortune?

10 From square one

11 Teller's cohort

16 Bathroom fixture

20 "6 Rms — Vu"

21 Ski-lift transport

22 Strata-gem

23 Back talk

27 As well

29 Cinder-ella's curfew

30 Corn recipe

31 Constella-tion part

33 Leo

35 Rosten's tongue

38 Sort

40 Cause corrosion

43 Casino employee

45 Inventor

46 Whitney

47 Mosque

48 VIP

49 Arrived

53 Rage

54 Break ground?

55 Ducats

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-22