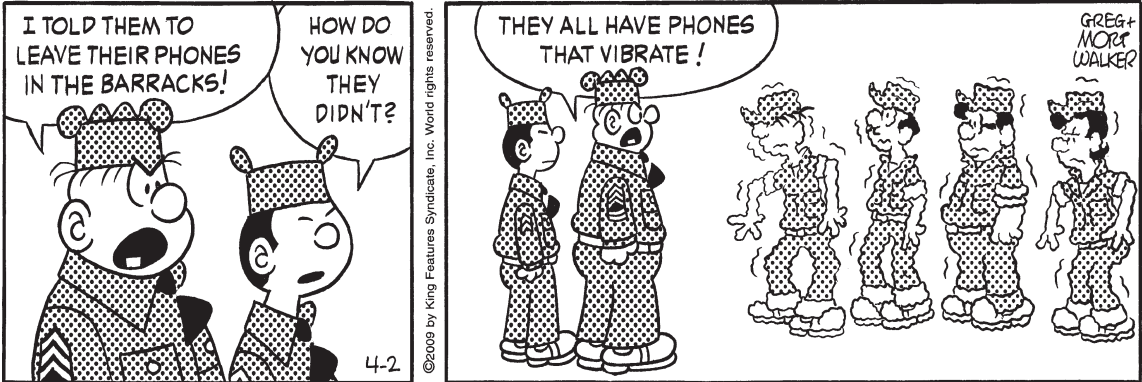


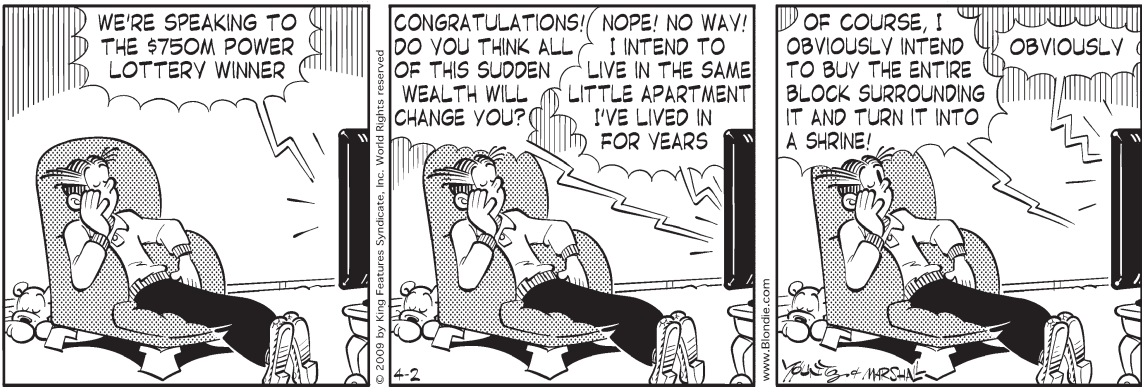
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



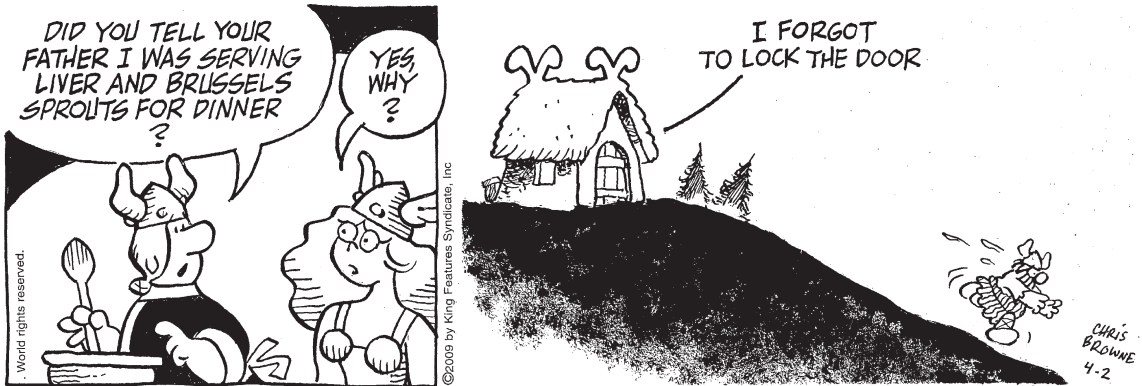
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



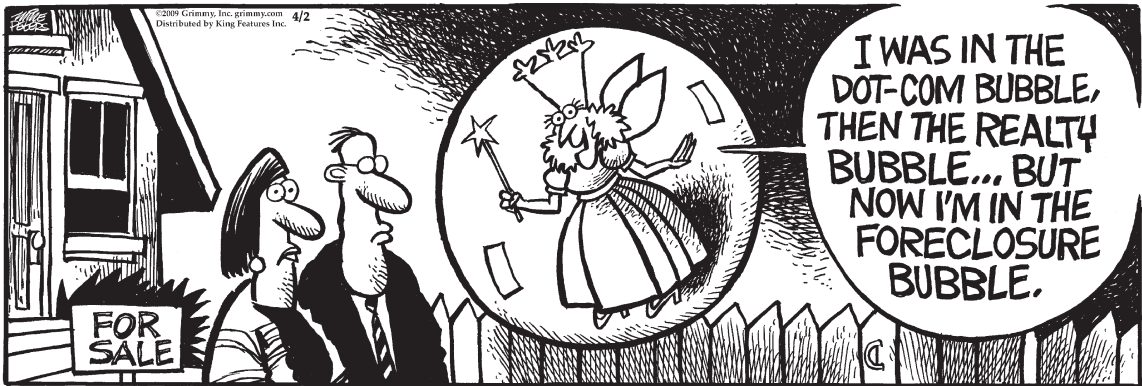
Blondie • Chic Young



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

He doesn't like neighbor's trash in, near his yard

Dear Dr. Brothers: After years of scrimping and saving, my wife and I just moved into our dream house. Everything is picture-perfect, save for one thing. It seems every time I enter my driveway, my next-door neighbor has some different kind of home-improvement project going on that involves a great deal of garbage. It's definitely not improving the look of my home when his debris blows over to my yard. I haven't met him yet, and don't really want this to be the first thing we talk about. How can I approach him without seeming too confrontational? – J.N.

Dear J.N.: The trick to being a good neighbor is getting off on the right foot. You're right in not wanting to make your first discussion with your new neighbor a confrontational one. Anyone who starts off any relationship with a negative -- especially with someone you will see frequently -- most likely will leave a first impression of being a complainer. First impressions are always hard to erase. You already think of the neighbor as trashy!

Perhaps a good idea would be to engage your next-door neighbor in some small talk at first. Maybe next time you pull into the driveway, you could roll down the window and ask him how his project is coming along. That way, you can get a good idea of just how approachable your neighbor is. With any luck, he's friendly, and you can strike up a neighborly acquaintance. After getting to know him, you might not even have to bring up his yard trash, as he may be more considerate once he puts a face to your lawn. If he still persists in not picking up after himself, it'll be easier to talk to him about his debris. He may be so into his project that he just doesn't realize all the litter he's generating -- or where it goes. But a small reminder and a gentle nudge will make for years of friendly neighboring.

Dear Dr. Brothers: For the past eight years, I've been lucky enough to have a steady job writing a weekly feature for my local paper. As a freelance writer, it's rare for a job to last this long, and I'm grateful to have the work. There's just one problem. The focus of my column is community happenings, and since I live in a really small town, there's not too much happening in the community! I'm beginning to feel all written out, but I don't want to lose this job. What should I do? – C.P.

Dear C.P.: You may be building up walls by trying too hard. Writer's block is often self-perpetuating. Sometimes we strain for an idea so much that we fail to see the obvious. Just because there may be nothing big happening in your community on any given week, that doesn't take away from the history of your town. An event doesn't have to be spectacular to write about -- and just as there are "a million stories in the naked city," most likely there are a couple thousand good ones in a small town.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K 10 8  
♥ A 10 3 2  
♦ Q J 10 3 2  
♣ —

**WEST**  
♠ 8 7  
♥ A K 9 8 7 6 5 4  
♦ 9 6 3  
♣ —

**EAST**  
♠ Q J 7 2  
♥ 9 6 5 4  
♦ —  
♣ 8 7 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ 9 6 5 4 3  
♥ K Q J  
♦ —  
♣ A K Q J 10

The bidding:  
North 1♦ Pass East 1♦ Pass West 3♦ Pass South 3♦ Pass  
Pass Dble Redble  
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Sylvia Strikes Again

It was impossible to predict what Sylvia would do at any time, since her conception of the game was completely different than anyone else's. The bids and plays she would improvise on the spur of the moment -- while to her appearing entirely logical -- were a never-ending source of astonishment not only to her harried partners but also to her (usually) grateful opponents.

Despite this, Sylvia was a popular member of the club, frequently providing the members with something to talk about whenever one of her zany bids or plays worked out in her favor.

Take this deal from Sylvia's very first team-of-four match. She was East and doubled six spades, which South -- well aware of Sylvia's proclivities -- redoubled.

West led the ace of diamonds, and Sylvia trumped it with the jack! This extraordinary play naturally drew a gasp from the large gallery of kibitzers, but thereafter the play proceeded normally, and South went down one.

At the other table, South also got to six spades (undoubled), but made the slam. Here, too, the ace of diamonds was led, but East discarded a club on it. Declarer ruffed and led a spade, West showing out.

South's only chance now was a trump endplay, which he proceeded to execute. He took the spade ace, led a heart to the king and cashed four clubs, discarding dummy's four remaining diamonds. Next he played three more rounds of hearts ending in dummy, at which point dummy's last three cards were the K-10-8 of spades. The eight-of-spades lead then left East without recourse.

Sylvia's team thus gained 1,180 points on the deal as the result of her trumping her partner's ace!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Cryptoquip

CA Y HJZPK XA GLXGNL  
PXSGLNLT RXSLHXTE UX  
LYU Y PLQUYCZ AQJCU, UKYU

SYE HL GLYQ GQLRRJQL.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU LOCATE THE DENSE SHRUBBERY GROWTH YOU'RE SEEKING, YOU COULD CRY "THAT'S THE THICKET!"  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 "Star Trek" speed factor  
5 Cribbage props  
9 Upper limit  
12 Largest of the seven  
13 Penetrating wind?  
14 Time of your life  
15 Hangout for game fans  
17 Greek consonants  
18 Off the track  
19 YouTube offering  
21 On the other hand  
22 Ask  
24 Humorous utterance  
27 Sickness cause  
28 Black, in verse  
31 Dadaist artist  
32 Have a 27-Across

**DOWN**

33 Exist  
34 Boy-friend  
36 Pigpen  
37 Staff, at sea  
38 "Clown" (George Carlin album)  
40 Scale member  
41 Nutritionists' recommendations  
43 Power failure  
47 Plagiarize  
48 Cyclist's mus-tache?  
51 Schedule abbr.  
52 "Zounds!"  
53 Piratic quaffs

**1940s headline word**  
**16 Pitch**  
**20 Rage**  
**22 Gives up**  
**23 In pre-swan mode**  
**24 Poke**  
**25 Previous to**  
**26 It's below ZXCVBNM**  
**2 Uraei**  
**3 Laugh-a-minute**  
**4 Mimicry specialist**  
**5 Bouquet**  
**6 Undergo recession**  
**7 — long way**  
**8 Do the duty**  
**9 Hershey product**  
**10 Malaria symptom**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

POPS	BOS	EVER			
ITEM	RUT	REDO			
ATROCITY	ORES				
FOUGHT	LITANY				
SIT	ERIC				
BET	PEW	ACIDS			
UTEP	NAP	ATOP			
MANIA	GAD	YEA			
ACTS	LAP				
JACKET	ANIMAL				
ARTIL	AUDACITY				
MITE	FRI	ODOR			
BAYS	FIN	TIME			

Yesterday's answer 4-2

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				