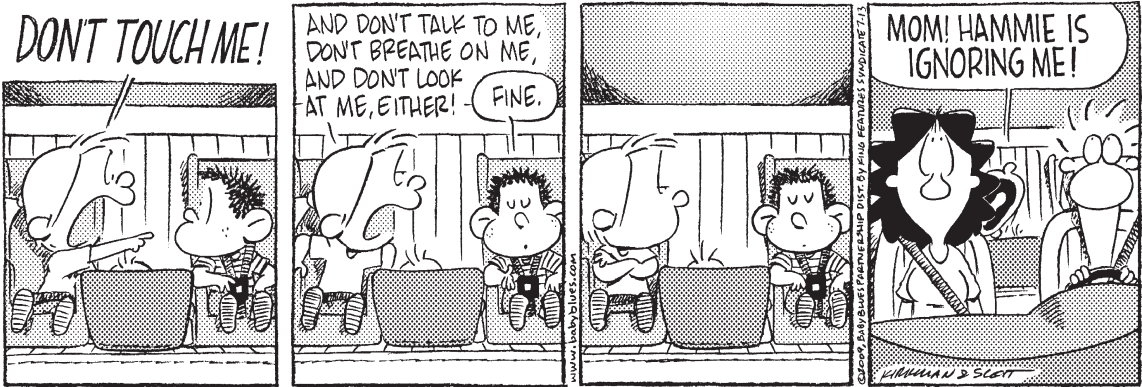
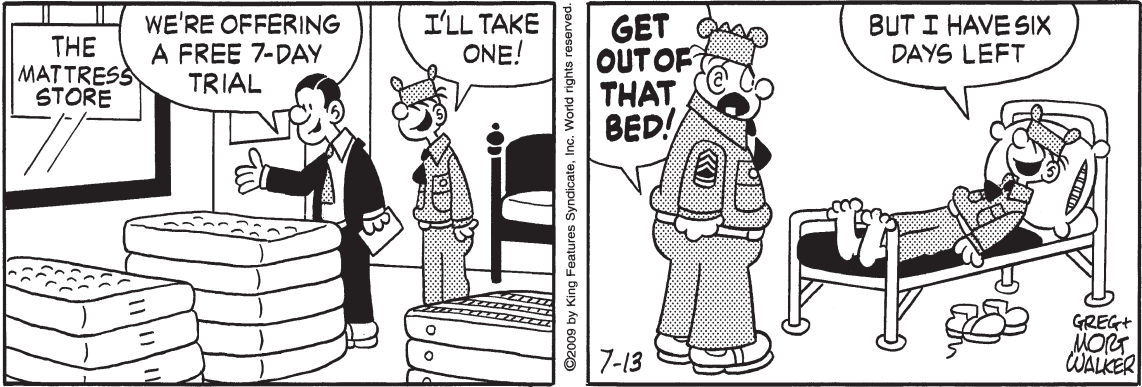


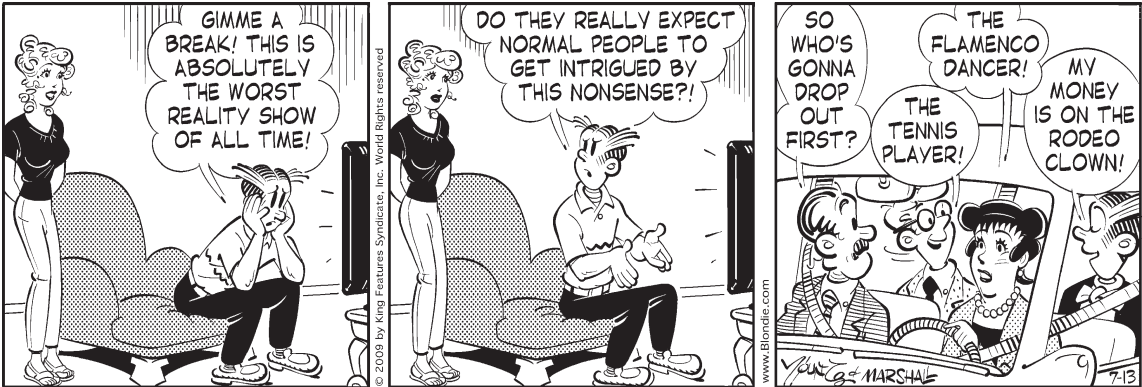
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



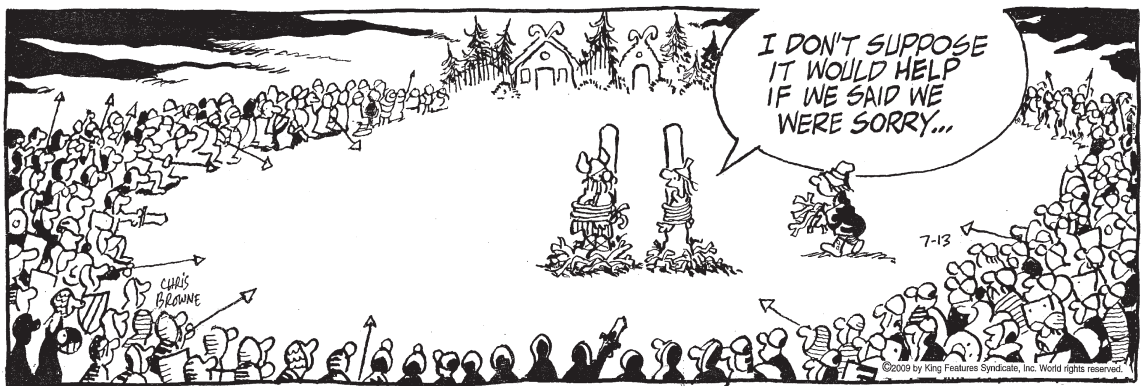
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



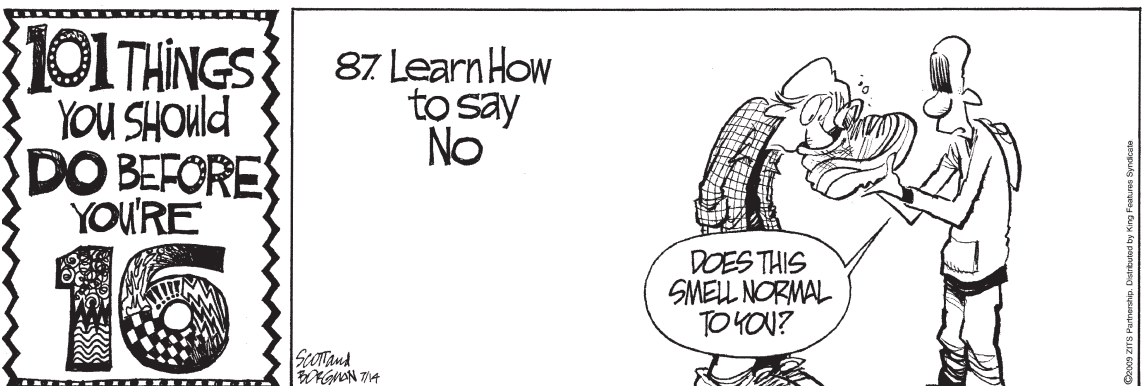
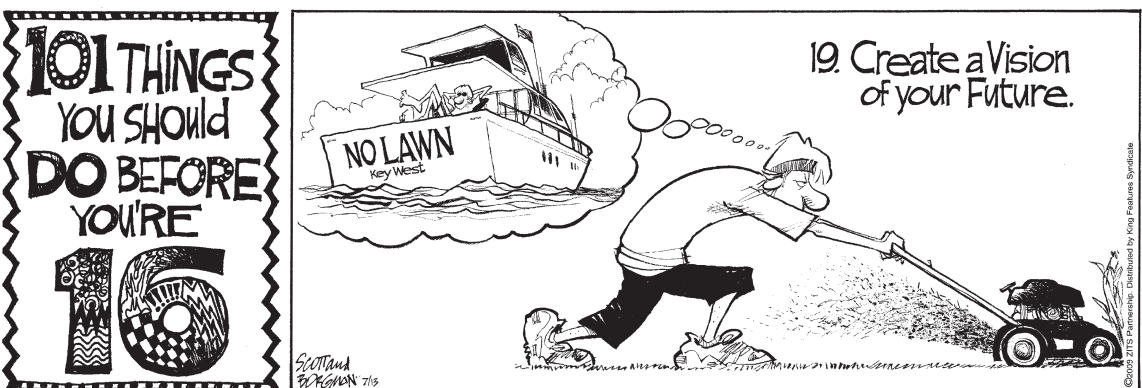
Sally Forth • Greg Howard




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Reader sick of working late

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a bad habit. Every time my boss asks me to stay late and work on a project, I say yes. This may seem like a way to get ahead, but I have gotten nothing out of it. No raise and no job security. I could be fired at any time. I've been doing this for two years, and when I find myself making friends with the cleaning staff, I know I must stop working late. How do I get out of this without making my boss mad and risking my job at such a bad time? – J.M.

Dear J.M.: You certainly seem to have made yourself the “go-to” person when it comes to working past 5. Since you always say yes, your boss has come to rely on you. It's easier for him than to ask anyone else. Once you get labeled as the person willing to stay, it's hard to go back.

Not that it can't be done. If after two years you're still not being recognized for your efforts, it's past time you let your boss know you will no longer be taken advantage of. You don't have to be confrontational but you need to strongly convey your position. Your opening gambit might be to ask for a raise, but in a formal letter detailing the amount of time you put into your job and what you've accomplished. The point is to let your boss know you're serious, and to change his perceptions. There's always a chance he might fire you, but if he's really come to rely on you, he's not going to want to let go of a helping hand.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am getting ready to retire in a Western state. I've settled all my affairs here in the East and bid goodbye to my friends. What I am thinking of doing is changing my whole image. I was always a hard-driving, cutthroat career woman. I had everything money could buy, but never stopped to smell the daisies. Is it too late to become a sort of old hippie type? No one would know me in Phoenix! – C.F.

Dear C.F.: Despite all we tell ourselves, it's really never too late to change. Sometimes it's the healthiest thing we can do. We often hold so dearly to how we perceive ourselves that we are unwilling to try anything new. Ideas can prevent us from having fun when we think we're “not that kind of person.” We feel if we acted in a different way, we would somehow be untrue to ourselves.

That's why we feel freedom when we move to a new place. We leave mental baggage behind as we start a new chapter. It's like the old saying – it's easier to be yourself where nobody knows you. Long-forgotten dreams surface when we're given an opportunity to redefine ourselves. It sounds like you always had a little hippie in you. All you need is to give yourself permission to stop and smell those flowers. You don't even have to make your new image the one you hang on to forever. If you get tired of the granola lifestyle, try something else. Life doesn't need to be nicely divided into three acts. Sometimes adding a few sequels to your story is the best way to live.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 7
♥ A K 10 7 6 5 4
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 6

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

EAST
♠ 9 8
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ 10
♣ K Q 9 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 5 3
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ A J
♣ A J

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♥ 1NT 4NT
2♦ 4♥ Pass 5♦
Pass 5♥ Dbl 5♦
Pass 5♠ Pass 5NT
Pass 6♦ Pass 7♦

Opening lead — two of clubs.

Famous Hand

When this deal occurred at the 1985 world team championship in both the open and women's finals, only one declarer -- Hugh Ross of the U.S. -- succeeded in bidding and making seven spades. The grand slam also was reached at two other tables, but went down both times.

At the table where Ross was declarer, a couple of unusual bids by the opponents provided him some useful clues. The Austrian East's “comic” notrump overcall showed a weak hand with an escape suit (later identified as clubs), while West indicated length in diamonds. This warned Ross against the normal approach of attempting to ruff his diamond loser in dummy, and at the same time suggested an alternative method of play that was virtually certain to succeed.

After winning the club lead, Ross cashed all his trumps and the K-A of diamonds to produce this position:

West
♥ 2
♦ J 9
♣ 5

North
♥ A K 10 7

East
♥ Q 9 8
♣ K

South
♥ J
♦ Q 8
♣ J

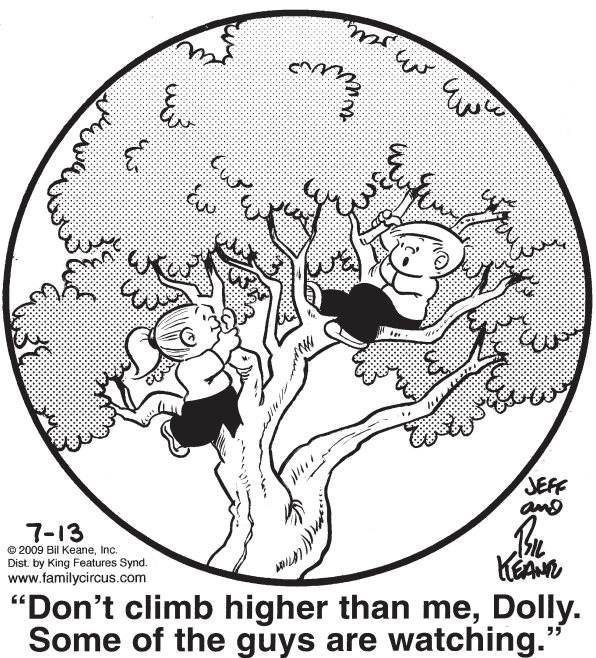
When Ross cashed the diamond queen, East was squeezed. In practice, he discarded his club, so the club jack and A-K of hearts took the last three tricks.

Note that if West had held the heart length, he would have been similarly squeezed, unable to guard both hearts and diamonds.

At the two tables where the slam failed, both declarers won the opening club lead and, having heard no opposing bidding, decided to try for their 13th trick by ruffing a diamond with the ace of spades. This plan was certainly reasonable, but failed when East ruffed the second diamond and cashed a club for down two.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

7/13

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

G D R I Q C D S E J S N P H L I A L
C L P H E C J S N K E S Q C L G D
L P K U , E P Q R P Q K U C I E J L ' C
I A J S N D H I L J M D A I H H I L J M D .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MAKING AN EFFORT TO BREAK HIS WILD CAFFEINE HABIT, THE GOLFER DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO TEA OFF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ocean motion
4 Fulton's power source
9 Winter ailment
12 Writer Buscaglia
13 Cognizant
14 Fleur-de-
15 They get jacked up
17 Exist
18 Umpire's call
19 Heart lines?
21 Vacationers' site
24 Fit of peevishness
25 Biblical verb ending
26 Unfamiliar
28 Hits with the open hand
31 Ella's specialty
33 Shad product
35 Member of the brass (Abbr.)

36 Pitch
38 Tolkien creature
40 Greek vowel
41 Lima's country
43 Very funny joke (Sl.)
45 Scandianavian nation
47 Gorilla
48 Myrna of movies
49 Mountain road feature
54 Rd.
55 Mark above an ò
56 Doctor's charge
57 "Certainly"

58 Watched surreptitiously
59 — for (choose)

DOWN

1 Sprite
2 — canto
3 Squeezing snake
4 Ringed planet
5 Chirp
6 Listener
7 Geometry answers
8 Quarks + anti-quarks
9 Levies based on a single percentage
10 Old Italian money
11 Works with
16 Addition-ally
20 Anger
21 Take ten
22 Engrave
23 Having keen sight
27 Travail
29 Towns-
30 Cicatrix
32 Pigeon-
34 Duel challenge
37 Takes with force
39 Drew from
42 Square
44 Prepared
45 Dispatch
46 Made on a loom
50 Foreman foe
51 E.T.'s craft
52 Agent, for short
53 Trawler gear

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-13

