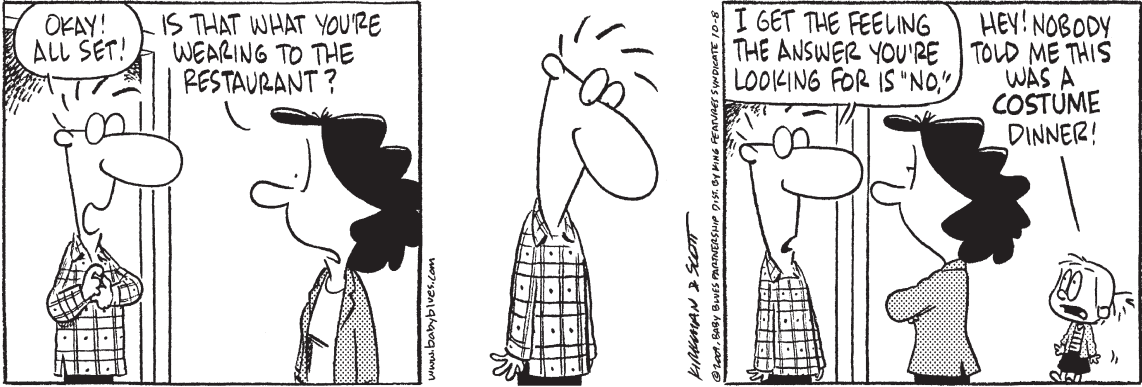
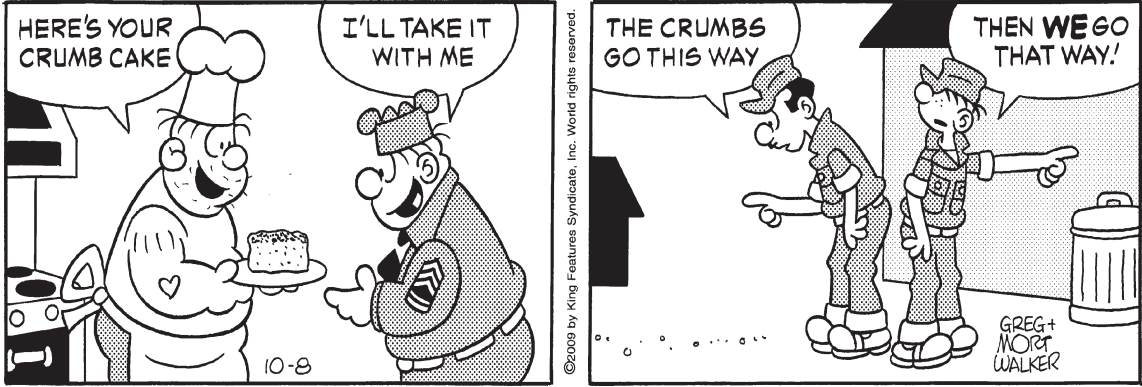


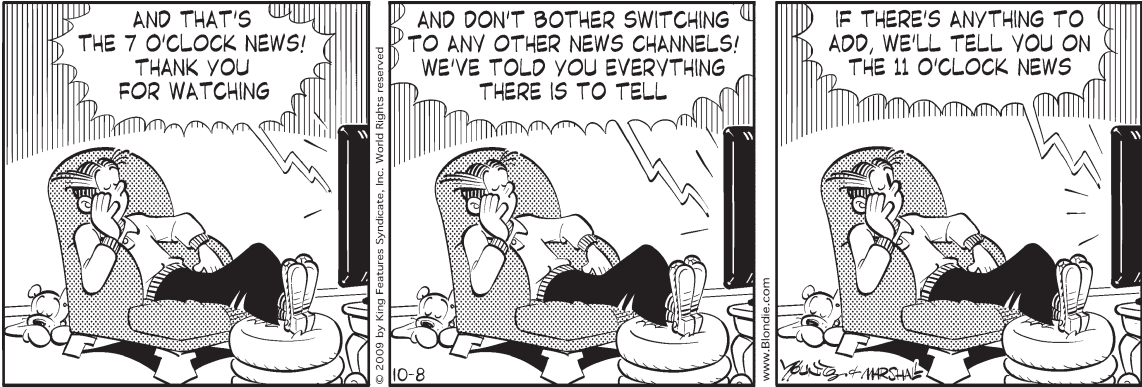
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



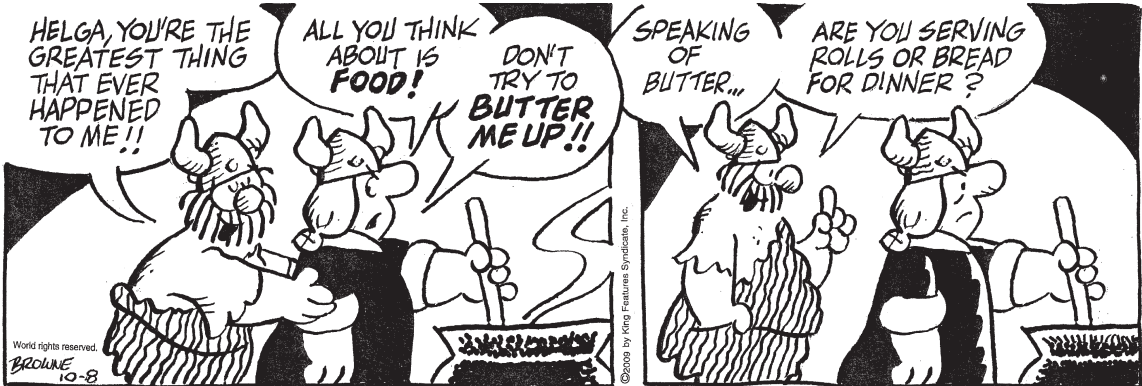
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



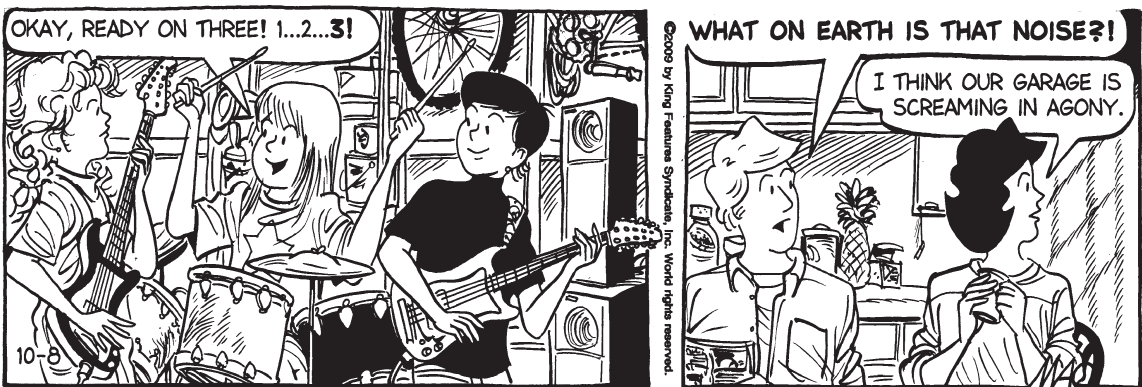
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



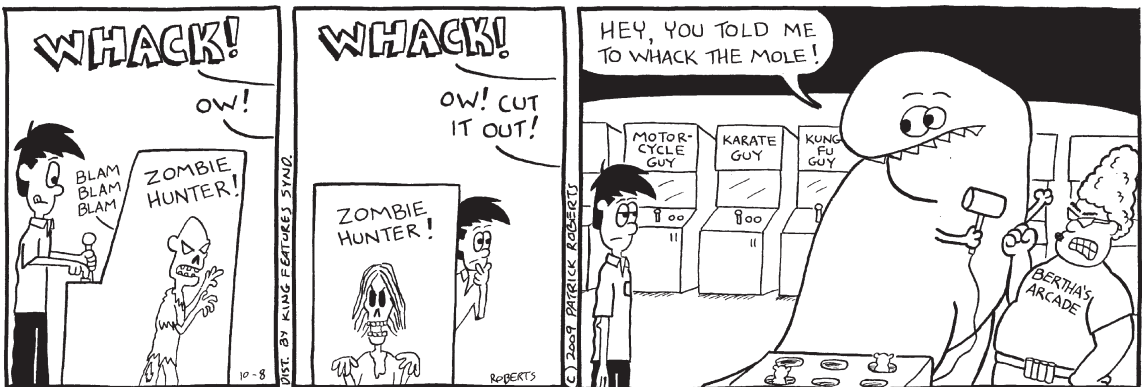
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



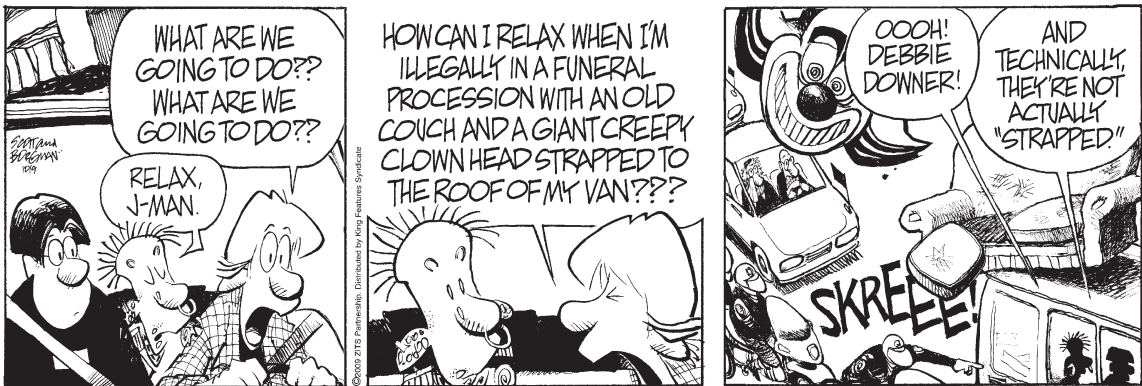
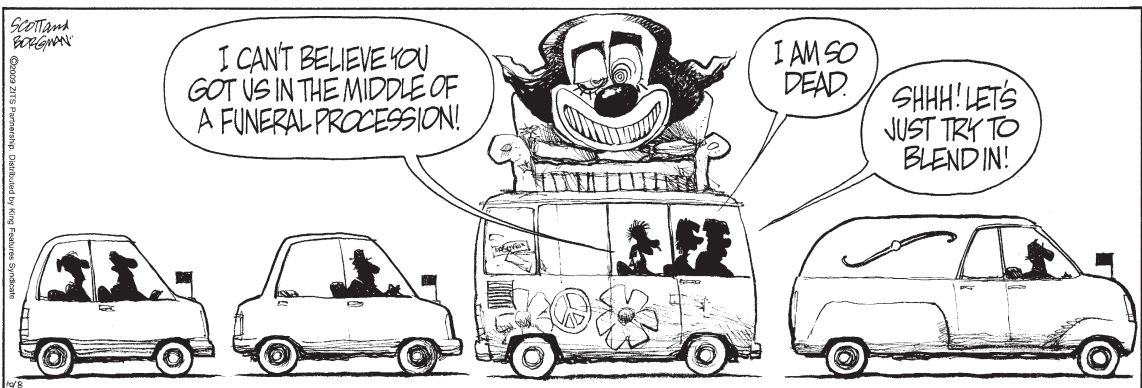
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Family keeps kids separated

Dear Dr. Brothers: We were thrilled when a family with a couple of kids our children's age moved into our subdivision a few months ago. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to make friends because the couple insist the children do not leave their yard – which is fenced in so no one can see into the back yard. I haven't felt comfortable sending my kids there. Frankly, I am wary of introducing myself – are they paranoid? – V.C.

Dear V.C.: I suppose the family could be crazy recluses who would meet your friendly neighborly greetings with a loaded rifle at the door. But I sincerely doubt it! If you will do a bit of nonintrusive investigating, I imagine you will find they may have lived in a different type of neighborhood in the past. They could have left a dangerous situation in which they were accustomed to sheltering their children. I know it is frustrating to you, but they may be waiting for assurance it is safe to let their kids join the others playing!

See if you can find out from the real estate people or the previous owner a little about the new neighbors so you can relax about approaching them. Call on them with a bowl of fruit or information about lawn-care or babysitters that you might like to share; find out what they're thinking. If you have a street party or a school function, include them. Once they see they are living in a safe place, and their kids start feeling at home, you probably will find this cautious period will end. At best, you will end up with some new friends on the adult side, as well.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am concerned about our little boy. He is a 6-year-old kindergartner. Even at this age, it is clear he probably won't be on the high-school basketball team! He's smart, but he tends to be clumsy and uncoordinated. Should I let him be, or try to change it? He is complaining about not having friends on the playground. My husband and I were not athletic either. – A.K.

Dear A.K.: Since you know what he means, you may also have suffered from teasing or being picked last for the team. Perhaps you didn't care, and immersed yourself in nonathletic endeavors. Whatever the case, you owe it to your child to try to help him improve his coordination and the fun that comes with playing actively with friends. That being said, it isn't a mandate to put him on a regimen he will hate and find difficult to master. The idea is to work on motor skills so he can participate, not force him to train like an athlete.

Since you aren't sports-minded, you may have neglected to throw a ball or play active games with your son. It's not too late to start – just get him used to having fun using his body. Find out if he would like to try an individual sport. Perhaps he'd like golf rather than basketball. Or baseball rather than hockey. It can be a good time and a great chance for your son to get control over his body. Don't let him veg out with the computer or television to pass his time. Turn it off, go outside and have some fun.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 3
♥ 9 2
♦ 8 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 6 5

WEST
♠ 5 4
♥ Q 7 5
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ Q 9 8 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 2
♥ K J 10 6 4 3
♦ A 7 9
♣ 10 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 9
♥ A 8
♦ A
♣ A K J 7 4

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

* strong, artificial
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

South Neglects to Shift Gears
Declarer should not become so enamored with a particular line of play that he fails to recognize a safer approach that has developed after the first few tricks have been completed.

For example, consider what happened to South on this deal after he had reached an excellent six-spade contract on the bidding shown. All he needed to have a reasonable play for 12 tricks was to find North with the king of hearts, queen of clubs or shortness in clubs, so he was justified in bidding the slam.

Declarer won the opening diamond lead with the ace and, since a heart loser could not be avoided, focused all his attention on avoiding any club losers. So he cashed the A-K of clubs and led a third club. When West followed with the nine, declarer ruffed with dummy's ten.

Had the clubs divided 3-3, 12 tricks would have become certain. But when East discarded a heart on the third club, the problem in the club suit remained unresolved.

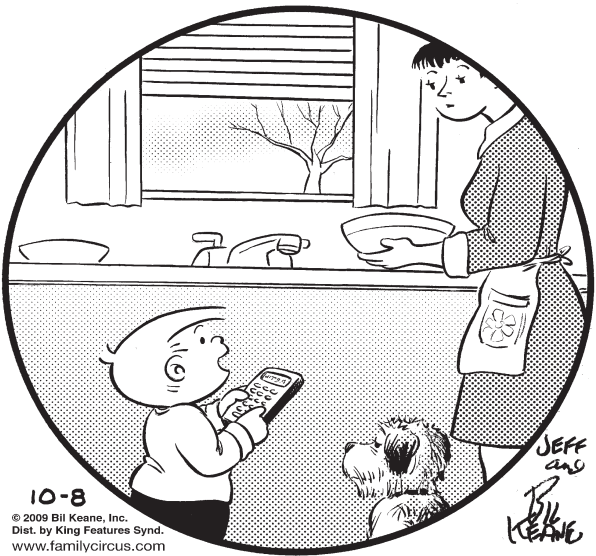
South therefore led a heart to the ace and played a fourth club. After West followed with the queen, declarer ruffed with dummy's seven, hoping East did not have the eight of spades. But East over-ruffed with the eight and cashed the heart king to put the contract down one.

In adopting this method of play, South was guilty of a fatal single-mindedness. So intent was he on ruffing his club losers in dummy that he failed to notice, once the clubs had divided 4-2, that there was a virtually foolproof alternative available.

The critical play came when declarer led the fourth round of clubs. Instead of ruffing with the seven, he should simply have discarded dummy's remaining heart, allowing West's queen of clubs to hold the trick. South would then have been able to ruff his losing heart in dummy and been home free.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Know what? In four thousand, two hundred and six days I can get my driver's license.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

Cryptoquip

CM C MCGN XQ KLQ NLD

IKRBWCGD B DWBGYR BK

ILXRKOCGD, C WCHR KL YBWW

OCX B ERRHCGD ERHCGDRIR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR KIDS' PHYSICIAN IS SUCH A FAST WORKER THAT WE NORMALLY REFER TO HIM AS A SPEED-IATRICIAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Head light
5 Send out invitations
8 Lendl or Boesky
12 Warrior of legend
13 Prompt
14 Judicial garb
15 Secular
16 Gorilla
17 Many Louvre pieces
18 Quick mission
20 Jousting weapons
22 Wade opponent
23 Tall tale
24 Bankruptcy cause
27 Jewelry container, maybe
32 Past
33 End for mob or text
34 Sapporo sash
35 Positions for favorable viewing

DOWN
38 Former mates
39 Total
40 Baltimore newspaper
42 Spur
45 "Survivor" setting, often
49 Laugh-a-minute
50 Smallest prime
52 Chilled
53 Farm fraction
54 Has the where-withal
55 Antitoxins
56 Requirement
57 Time card abbr.
58 Helen's home

1 Robust
2 Open somewhat
3 Den
4 Farm wagon of a sort
5 College life
6 Dine
7 Carina
8 Oddly funny
9 Larynx
10 Competent
11 Capone foe
19 "Just say —"
21 Foreman rival
24 Apply lightly
25 Swelled head
26 Sports-page summary
28 Last (Abbr.)
29 Meetings
30 U.K. award
31 Greek consonants
36 Fit
37 Ambulance worker (Abbr.)
38 Sign up
41 "People" competitor
42 Persia, now
43 Pleasant
44 Engrave, say
46 Maple genus
47 Infamous lyre player
48 Crucial time
51 Series of skirmishes

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 10-8

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		