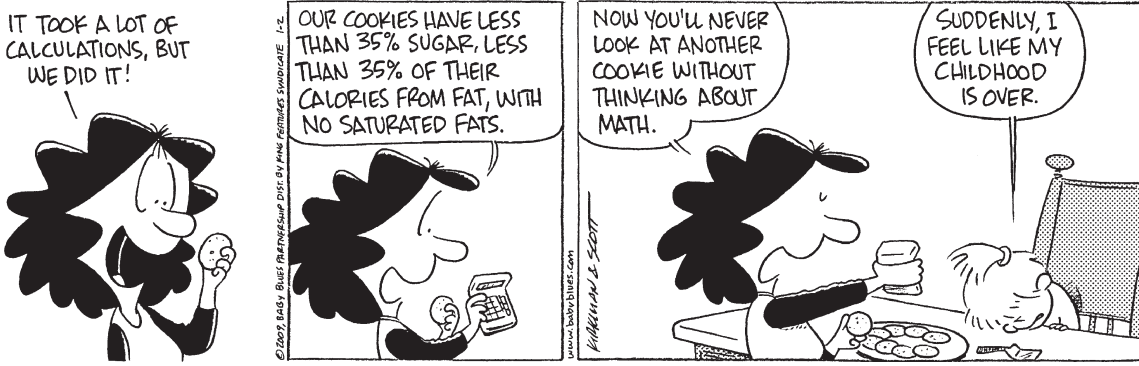
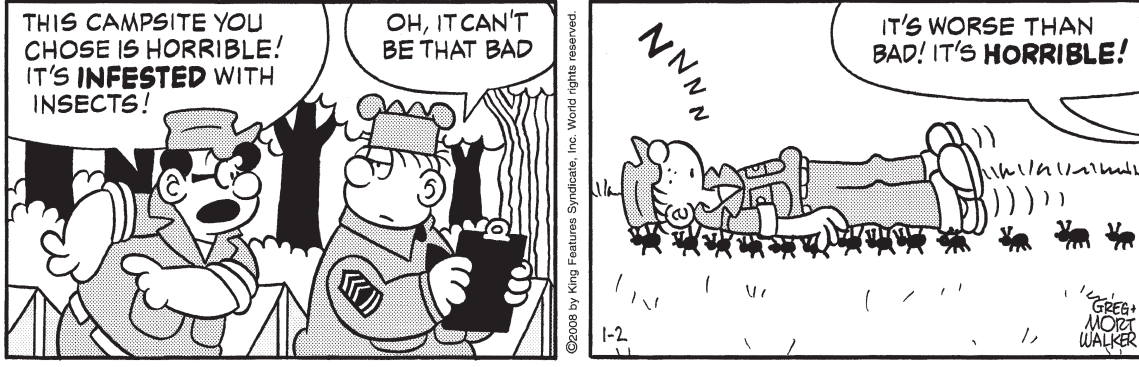


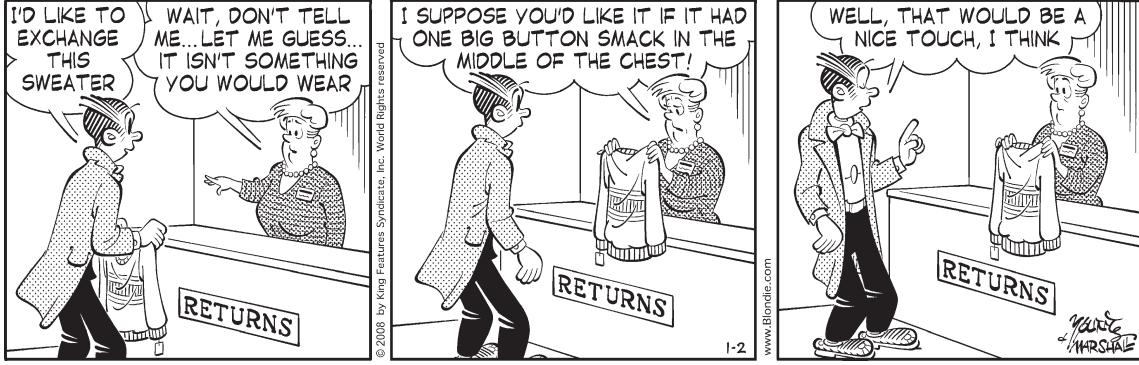
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



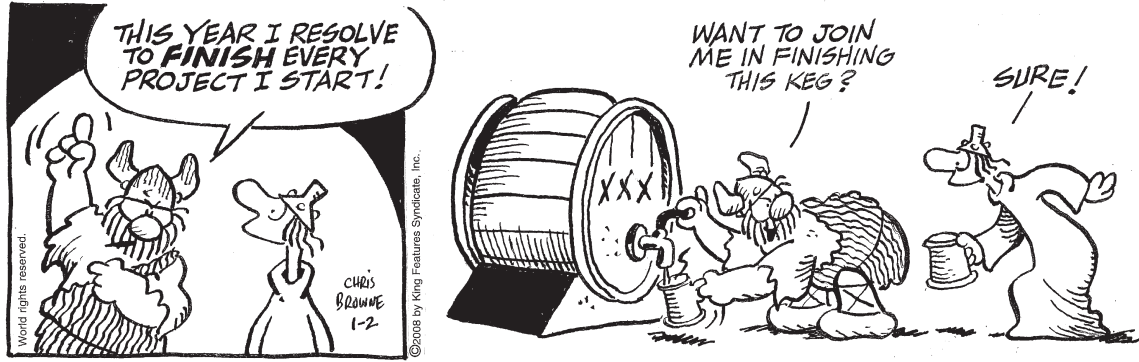
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



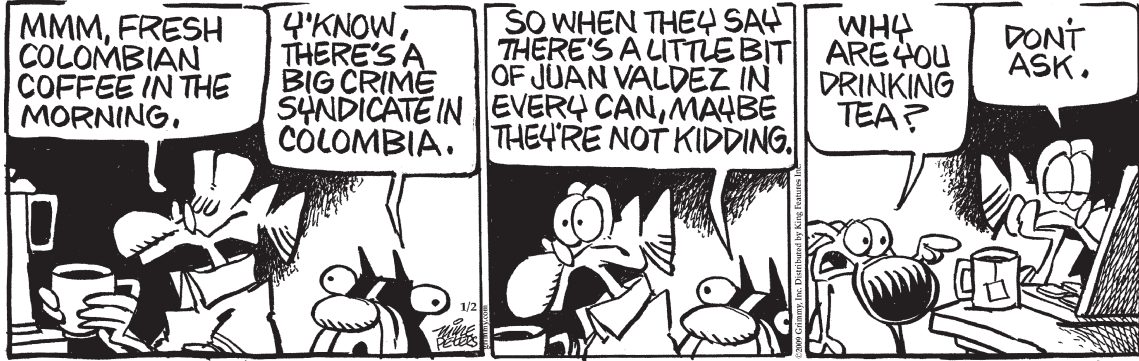
**Blondie** • Chic Young



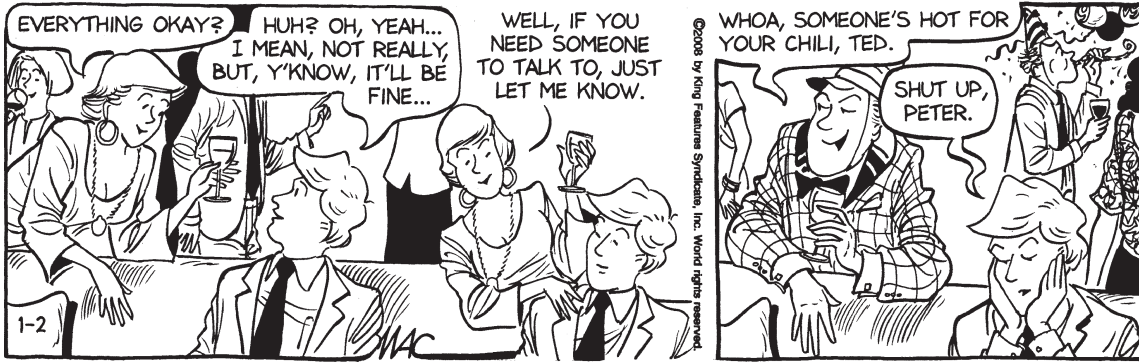
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



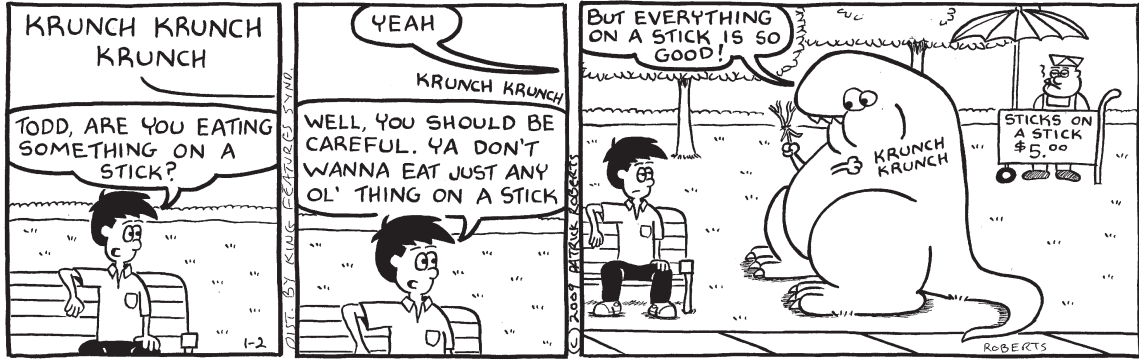
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Tod the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/02

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/30

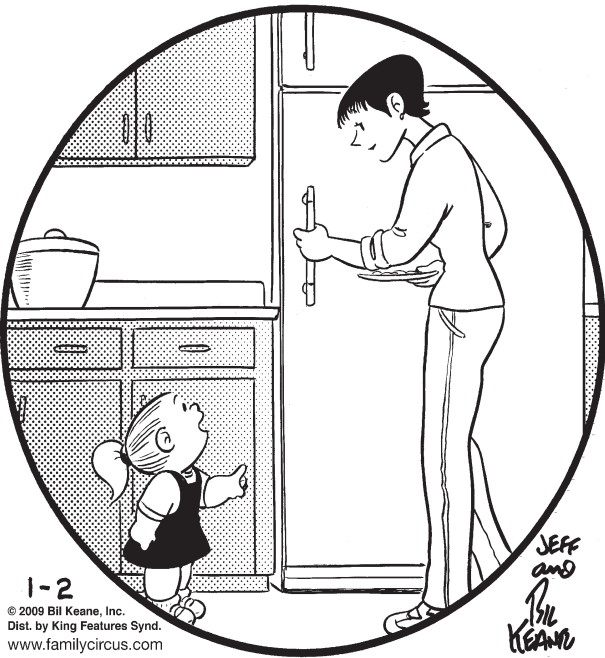
**Bridge**

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Diamonds doubled.  
 West: ♠4, ♠7, ♠QJ8652, ♠QJ1084  
 East: ♠AQ752, ♠65, ♠K1094, ♠AK  
 The bidding has gone:  
 North: 1♥, 4♥, Dble  
 East: Dble, 5♦  
 South: 3♥, Pass  
 West: 4♦, Pass  
 Dble  
 North leads the nine of clubs. How would you play the hand?

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Diamonds, and North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided no worse than 3-1.)  
 West: ♠KJ2, ♠AKQJ85, ♠AQJ6  
 East: ♠A85, ♠10764, ♠1097, ♠K72

Test Your Play  
 1. The bidding clearly indicates that North has the ace of diamonds, and the club lead has all the earmarks of a singleton. If you were to start drawing trumps at trick two, you'd run the risk of North winning with the ace and putting South on lead with a heart to make the killing club return.  
 To try to prevent this from happening, lead the ace of spades at trick two and continue with the queen! Assuming South follows low, which is highly likely, discard your singleton heart on the spade queen. This play costs you nothing, as it merely substitutes a spade loser for a heart loser.  
 North wins the trick but now can't put his partner on lead with a heart, so you get home safe and sound. North's hand probably looks something like:  
 [S] KJ86  
 [H] AK8432  
 [D] A3  
 [C] 9  
 in which case the play of the A-Q of spades is the only way to get home safely.  
 2. By far the best method of play is to attempt a dummy reversal, which, if successful, will make it unnecessary for you to rely on a spade finesse.  
 Ruff the first heart with the jack, lead the five of trumps to the seven, ruff the six of hearts with the queen, lead the eight of trumps to the nine, then ruff the seven of hearts with the king. Next lead a low club to the king, followed by the ten of hearts, ruffed with your last trump, the ace.  
 A low spade to the ace allows you to cash dummy's ten of diamonds, on which you discard the jack of spades. The last four tricks are then taken by you with the king of spades and A-Q-J of clubs. The 13 tricks you score consist of two spades, four clubs and seven -- count them -- trump tricks.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"I'm feelin' very luncy right now, Mommy."

**Crossword**

ACROSS  
 1 Quantities  
 6 Boom times  
 9 Harvest goddess  
 12 Up to  
 13 Enthusiast  
 14 Torched  
 15 Mrs. Gorbachev  
 16 Render untraditionally  
 18 Incision implement  
 20 Leak slowly  
 21 Mueller's org.  
 23 State of India  
 24 Twangy  
 25 Lounge about  
 27 Unfriendly  
 29 EBBs collectively  
 31 Veer  
 35 Excuse  
 37 Stench  
 38 Story-telling brother  
 41 Scarlet times  
 43 Wolfed down  
 44 Carry on  
 45 Breakfast choice  
 47 Put on a pedestal  
 49 Oust  
 52 Round Table address  
 53 La —, Bolivia  
 54 Bakery request  
 55 Plaything  
 56 Raw rock  
 57 Saccharine  
 21 Winter bug  
 22 — relief  
 24 Without delay  
 26 Canine coat  
 28 Wicker-work willow  
 30 Freddy's street  
 32 Become aware of  
 33 Examine  
 34 — out a living  
 36 Pleasant wind  
 38 Mill fodder  
 39 TV's ancestor  
 40 Scrimshaw material  
 42 Gary Cooper role  
 45 Despot  
 46 Declare  
 48 Wall St. debut  
 50 Bee follower  
 51 Potent stick

Solution time: 25 mins.  
 Yesterdays answer 12-31

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			

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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**Cryptoquip**

IFBE US QPHBEC CXEDMBC  
 D JHEC XQ GXUNLMBP  
 FDP CIDPB GFHN, H VDHC  
 "MFDEJV QXP MFB UBUXPS!"  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAVE TO LITERALLY KICK SOMEBODY OUT THE DOOR, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'VE USED BOOT FORCE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals Y