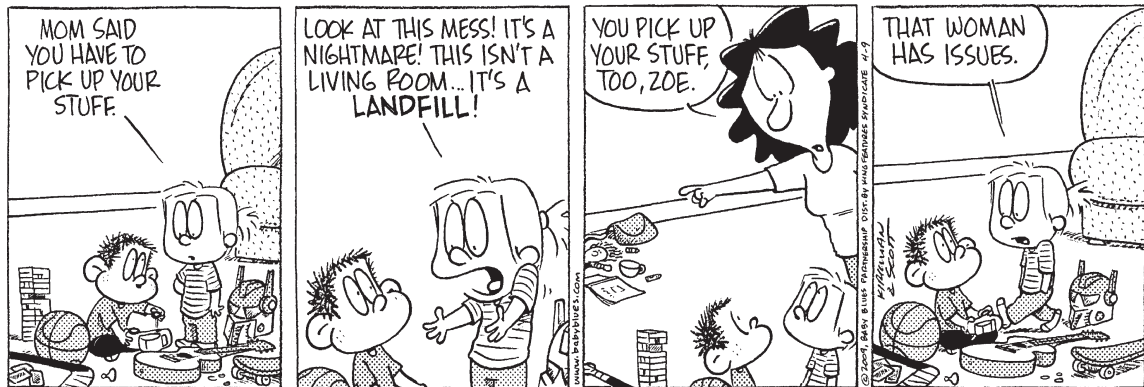
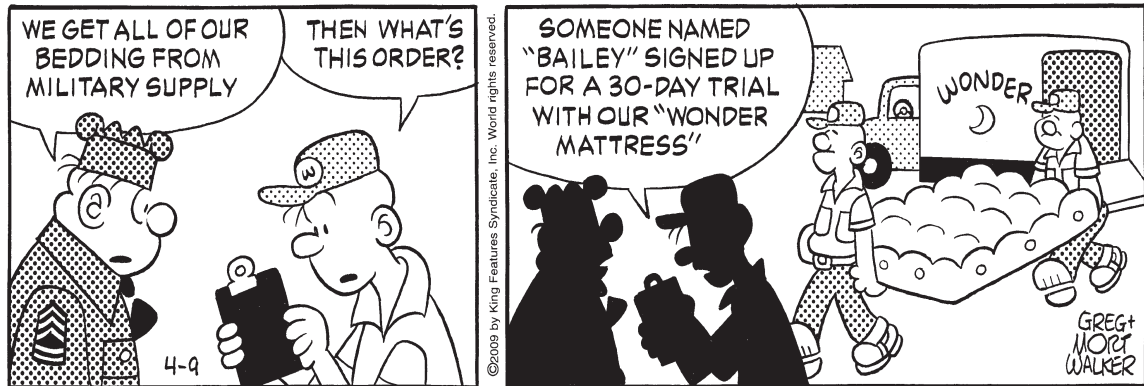


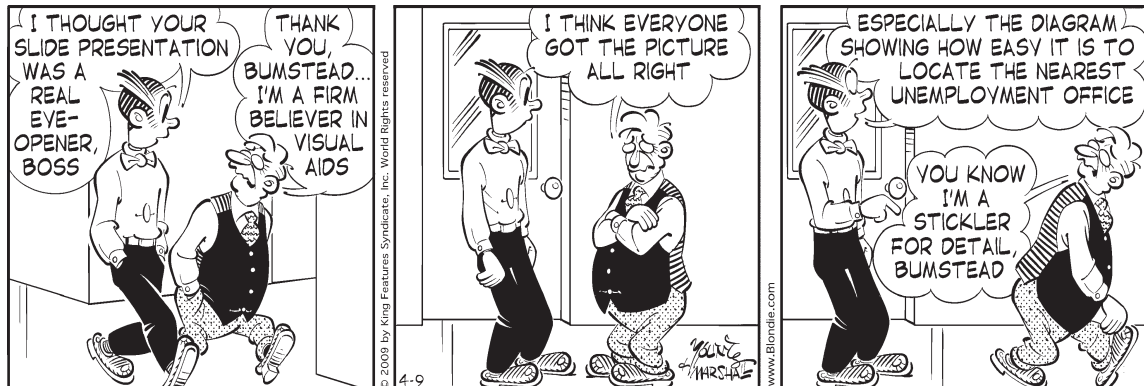
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



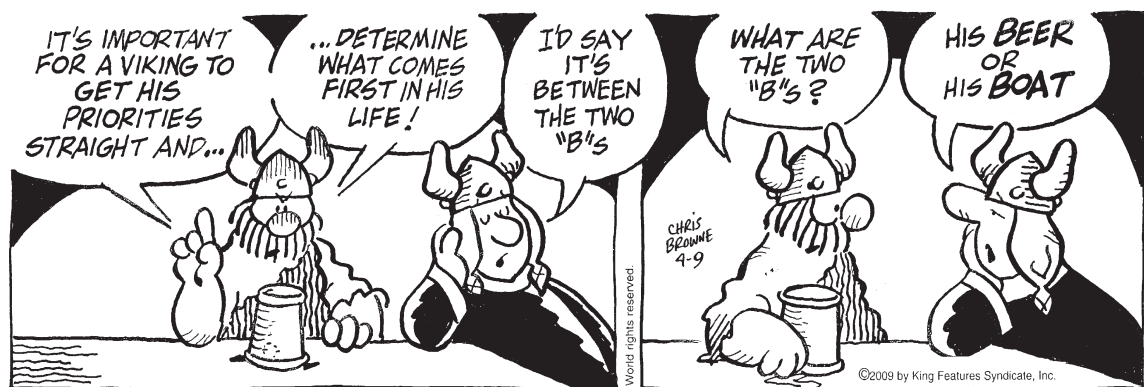
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



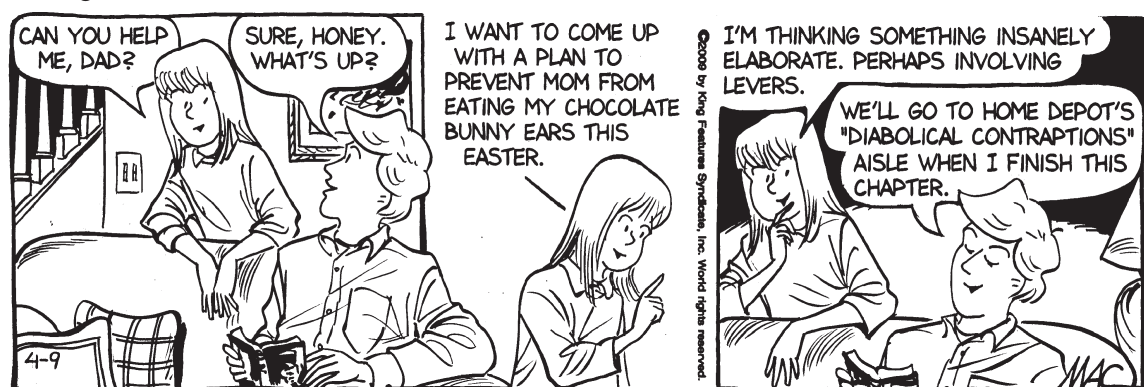
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



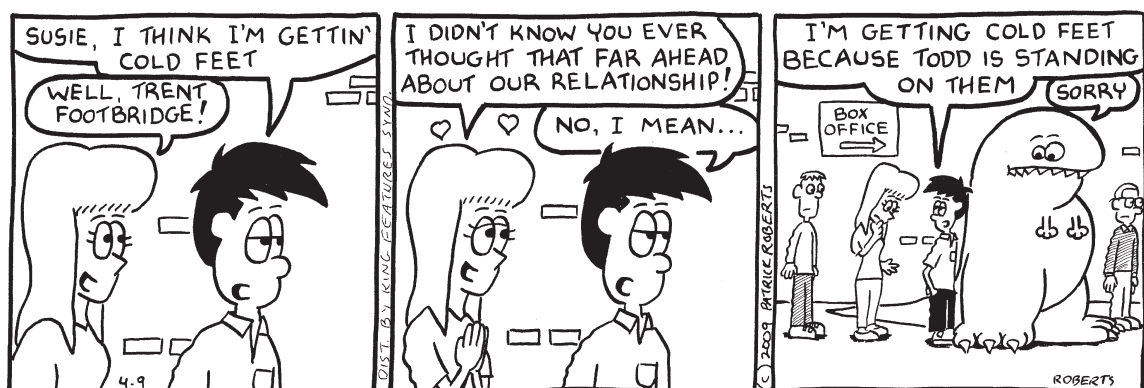
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



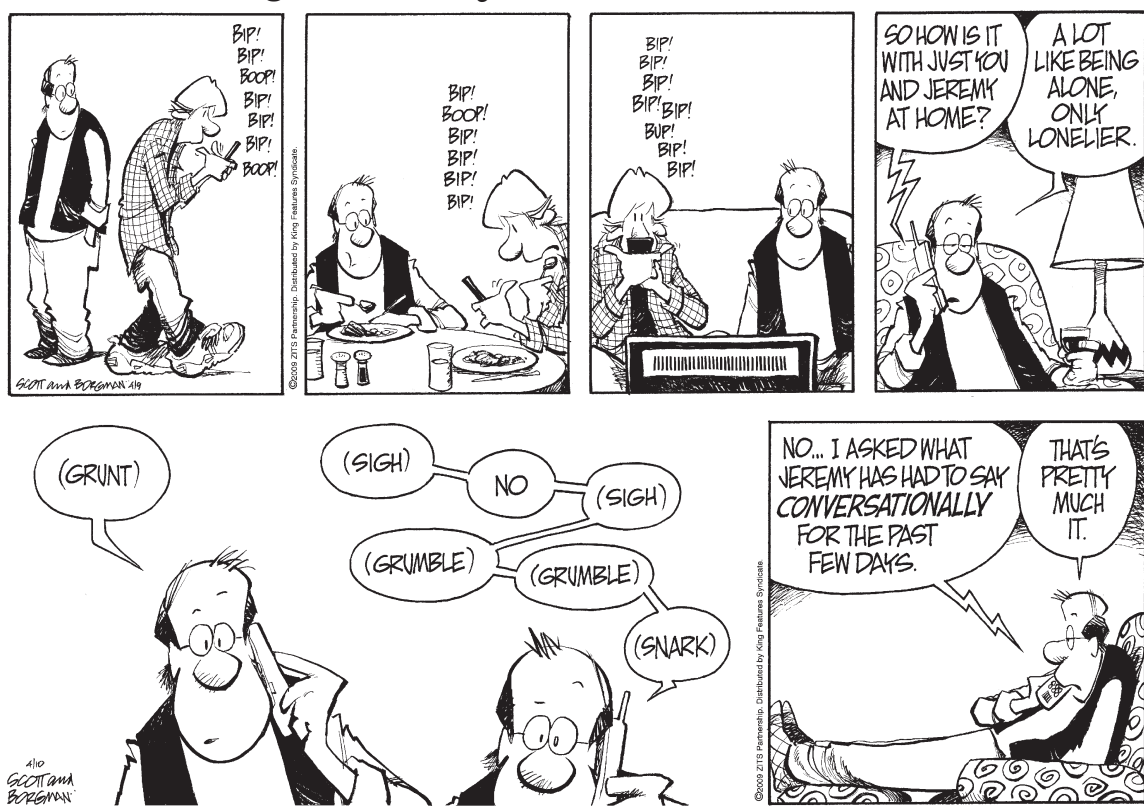
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
School causes child problems

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am worried about my little boy - he is 8 years old and in the third grade. He has never really loved school, but until the past few months he tolerated it pretty well. But now, each morning he drags his feet and whines about not wanting to go to school. It seems the kids make fun of him, and he isn't the type to stand up for himself. Should I homeschool him, or find a small private school with nicer kids? I feel so bad that he's not a social success. - A.O.

Dear A.O.: I don't think you should worry too much about your child's social standing at the moment. It sounds like he is undergoing a much more pervasive feeling of failure when it comes to dealing with whatever teasing he is encountering. And you surely need to see what exactly is making him a victim, so the first order of business would be to talk to his teachers and see what they have noticed. They can't be there every second to shield him. Ask your son who has been mean to him and what they have said.

You know your son better than anyone else, so you already know how to emphasize his strengths and help him build upon them. You can ask the teachers to let you know where he shines, and build upon them. Let him start a hobby, sport or collection that he can share with others who have similar interests. Teach him what to say (or do) when others are unkind. I don't imagine he would have much to gain from being taken out of school or moved to a new one, unless you think "running away" would be therapeutic. If he can make a friend or two, I think you'll see a change in his attitude. Good luck.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am having a very hard time getting along with my horse. He is like a spoiled brat, and always has to have his way. When he sees me get the saddle, he starts nipping me and even tries to kick out at me. I have tried to be nice to him or else to be bossier, but nothing works. I always give up when he misbehaves. Why is he trying to ruin my fun? I am very good to him, but he seems to hate me. - B.H.

Dear B.H.: I can tell that you are very frustrated by your horse. It must be difficult to be a rider who has dreams of her horse being her best friend, and worth all the efforts you put into keeping your horse healthy and happy. When he seems to be wrecking your dreams, you can't help but be resentful. I am sure your attitude is showing in the way you approach your horse.

One of the keys to having a better outcome is to let your horse be a horse. Don't turn him into a bad friend or an ungrateful boyfriend. You will find him more willing to listen to you if you listen to him as well. Spend some time just hanging out in the barn with no demands. Make sure you're not sending mixed signals - try brushing up with some riding lessons.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 9
♥ A K 10 9 3
♦ A K 6 5

WEST
♠ K 10 4
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ 8 5
♣ J 10 8 2

EAST
♠ Q J 9 6 5 2
♥ J 6
♦ Q 9 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 3
♥ K 8 5 4 2
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 3

The bidding:
North East South West
2♦* Pass 2♥ Pass
5NT Pass 6♣ Pass
7♥*
*strong and artificial
Opening lead - jack of clubs.

Oh, Those Computer Deals

Nowadays, nearly all pair events at sectional and higher-rated tournaments use computer-generated hands, which allows the same hands to be played at hundreds of tables. But since the introduction of this practice in 1963, many players have complained that such deals are not "normal" - that is, the distribution of the cards is not in accordance with expected probabilities.

Nothing could be further from the truth, however. In fact, as has been demonstrated in dozens of test trials since the first computer began spewing out hands, the deals generated by its random program are more in keeping with mathematical expectations than those dealt by its less-than-perfect-shuffling human counterparts.

This is not to say, though, that the computer doesn't produce a real doozy every now and then. Today's deal, from a tournament some years ago, provided a challenging test in both the bidding and play.

North's five-notrump bid was the "grand slam force" agreeing on hearts as trump, and asked South to bid seven if he held two of the top three heart honors. In this case, where North knew his partner could not hold two such honors, the bid was designed to find out if South had the king. South's six-club response said that he didn't have two top honors, but he did have the ace or king, and North duly bid the grand slam.

West led a club to dummy's ace, and declarer cashed the heart ace, disclosing the 4-0 trump split. Unfazed, South continued with the club king, discarding a diamond, and then ruffed a club in his hand. A low heart to dummy's nine was followed by the A-K and another diamond, establishing dummy's 10-9 as declarer ruffed with the king.

The ace of spades was next cashed, South discarding dummy's last club, after which declarer led his remaining heart to dummy's ten. The queen of hearts then extracted West's jack, and the grand slam was home.

Oh, those computer deals!
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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"It's a good thing Spider-Man's mother wasn't afraid of insects."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/09

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

CP TKDO PBDPPT BCSSBN XFS
KO MKW CQ SONFSCVW TKD
SNOOCRBT, XKDBM KVN

XFBBCSPDORFBBFRDQN?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT ANY OPHTHALMOLOGIST'S PREFERRED BREAKFAST CEREAL MIGHT BE CORNEA FLAKES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Scratch (out)	DOWN	23 Billy Goats Gruff foe
1 Satan's minions	35 Guy's partner	1 SALT subject	24 Nintendo rival
5 Portion of N.A.	36 Tapestry	2 Actress Sorvino	25 Velvety forest growth
8 Relinquish addition	37 Staff	3 Twosome	26 Writer Silverstein
12 "Arrivederci"	40 Mother of Don Juan	4 Allayed	27 Huron, for one
13 Island souvenir	41 Pollen-producing organ	5 Extreme	28 Like a first draft
14 Graph line	42 Nix a bill	6 Vast expanse	29 Where the action is?
15 Vivacity	43 Pop flavor	7 Blue Angels' performance	30 Didactic paper
16 Pitch	44 Hooter	8 Woody's home	31 "Golly!"
17 Supermarket supply	45 Detail	9 San Francisco newspaper	32 Pismire
18 Constant sufferer	46 Born	10 Delve	33 Travelocity mascot
20 Do laps in the pool	47 Centers	11 Curvy character	34 NYC hockey team, for short
22 Irreligiousness	48 Put together	12 "Indeed"	35 Grimace
26 Pivots	49 Mag. staffers	13 Symbol of intrigue	36 Napo0 leon's exile site
29 Plagiarize	50 "OK"	14 NYC mascot	37 Doggerel
30 "The Matrix" role	51 AVE	15 short	38 Ogdan
31 Round of applause	52 BAH	16 42	39 Energy
32 "Holy mackerell"	53 ZONAL	17 43	40 Greek H
33 Cribbage scorers	54 INGRES	18 44	41 Marry
	55 STONE	19 45	
	56 ASCOT	20 46	
	57 NAY	21 47	
	58 BIKE	22 48	
	59 BIKE	23 49	
	60 ABODE	24 50	
	61 OKAY	25 51	
	62 MAD	26 52	
	63 MOSS	27 53	
	64 QUOIT	28 54	
	65 URSA	29 55	
	66 DAD	30 56	
	67 EKE	31 57	

Yesterday's answer 4-9

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			