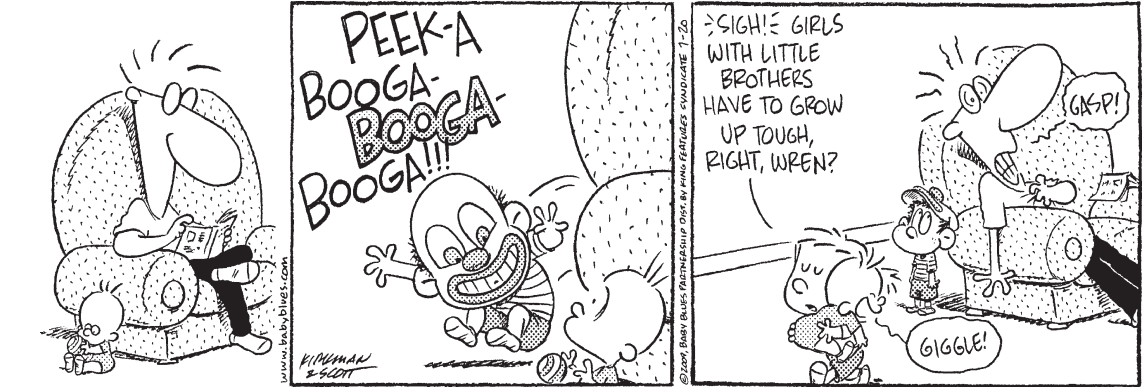


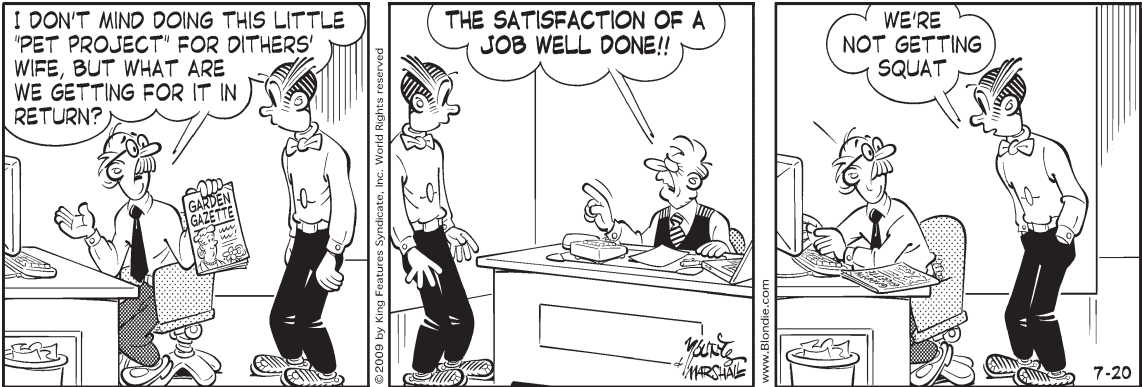
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



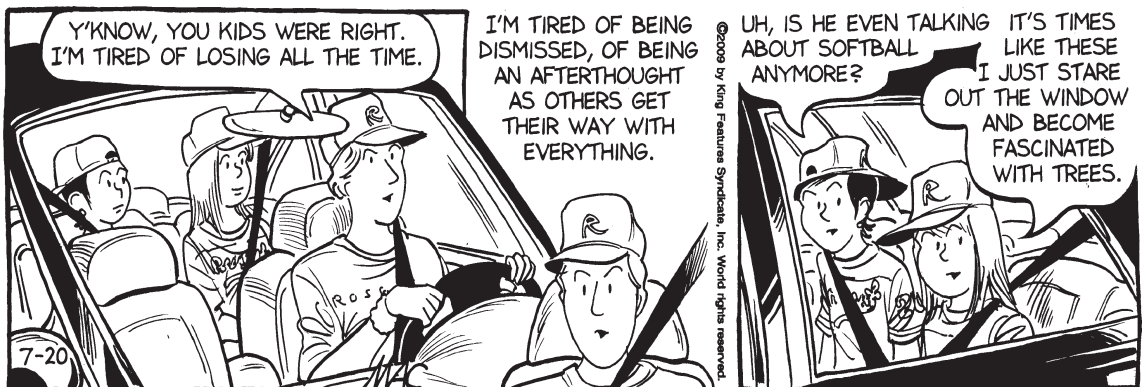
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



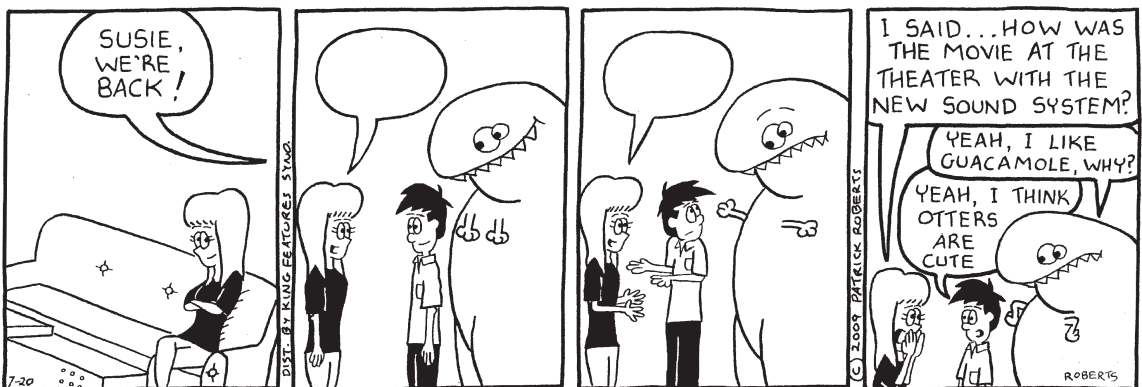
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



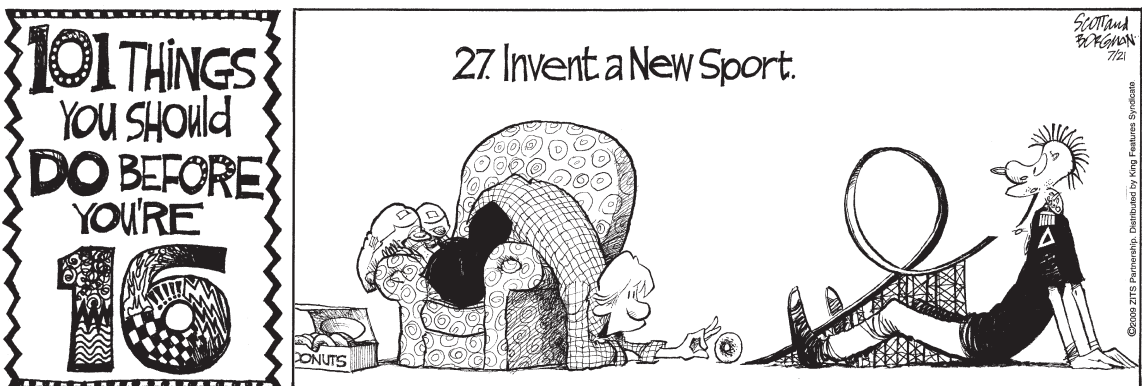
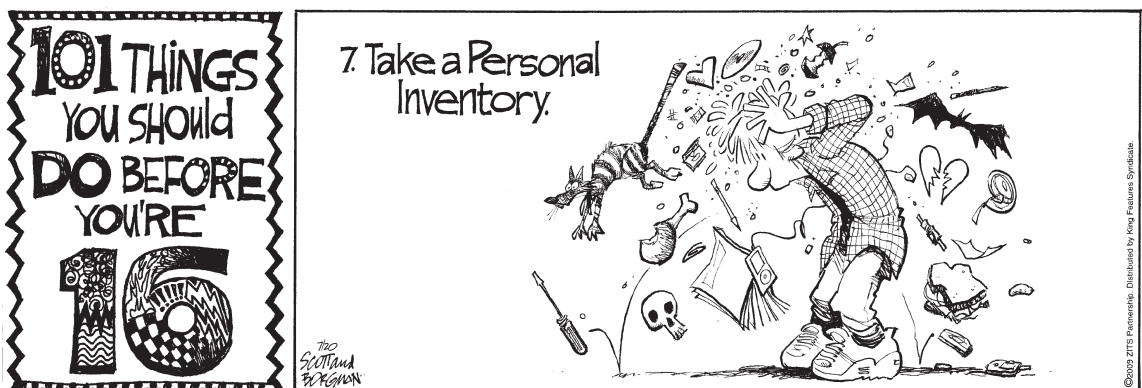
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Perspective
heals jealousy

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've always struggled with jealousy, although I feel I have pretty high self-esteem. It strikes at unreasonable times, like just recently, when one of my cousins got engaged. I'm not particularly close with this cousin, but for some reason I started comparing my failed relationships with her engagement. How can I combat these feelings when they crop up? – B.I.

Dear B.I.: Jealousy is a hard emotion to deal with, because it can, as you well know, strike in even the most unexpected places. You can start by getting more perspective on the situation in question that is making you jealous. You say you were envious of your cousin's engagement, but that successful relationship is only one small part of her life. Your cousin might have a job that is far inferior, or terrible fashion sense. One counterintuitive method of combating jealousy is through praise. Rather than cut down your cousin's engagement, for instance, write an e-mail to this cousin congratulating her. This can help put her in perspective, so you realize that not every part of her is enviable. You also need to remember that one person's success does not detract from your own. You also can try to learn from the object of your jealousy, and improve yourself by imitating that person in some respect. Whatever you do, though, don't lose sight of yourself and what makes you the unique person you are.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've always been the nice girl among my friends, and I'm beginning to realize this image has been holding me back. My best friend has always been assertive and I really admire her for being able to go after the things she wants. I'm realizing that I'm jealous of her, and that I've always wanted to be more like her. What can I do to shed this old image and start being more like my friend? – A.L.

Dear A.L.: It sounds like you admire your friend's assertiveness and perseverance. Whether you have allowed yourself to hide behind the "nice girl" image that you've had, or other people have forced this persona behind, it is certainly time to leave this persona behind. This doesn't mean, though, that you have to stop being a kind person. Unfortunately, many people confuse assertiveness and aggression. You want to learn from your friend how to go after what you want, without losing your ability to be a good friend.

You should begin by taking a look at the reasons you have not been able to learn assertiveness. Have you been holding yourself back, or have other people's expectations kept you from seeking what you truly want? It may be a combination of factors. You can emulate things your friend does, and the more you practice assertiveness, the more natural it will become. You can learn how to express your opinions without fear of being shot down. Other things, like your body language when talking or arguing, can open you up to being taken advantage of, so pay attention to the subtle signals you may be sending unintentionally.

(c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♦ J 10 6 5	♦ A K Q 9 8 3	♦ A K Q 9 8 3	♦ A K 9
♥ K Q	♥ 7 5 4	♥ 7 5 4	♥ Q
♦ K 10	♦ Q	♦ Q	♦ A K 9
♠ Q J 10 7 4	♠ A K 9	♠ A K 9	♠ A K 9

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Dble	1 ♥	Pass
Pass	2 ♣	4 ♣	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	5 ♠	6 ♦	Dble
6 ♥	Dble		

Opening lead — seven of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the 1984 World Team Olympiad in a match between Belgium and the United States. Because of the freakish nature of the South hand -- a 7-6-0-0 distribution occurs only once in 18,000 deals -- it was likely there would be all sorts of fireworks, and that is exactly what happened.

At the first table, where an American pair held the North-South cards, the final contract was five hearts doubled, played by South. Declarer made six after an opening club lead for a score of 750 points.

At the second table, with a Belgian pair now North-South, the bidding went as shown. Philippe Coenraets, in the South position, chose a leisurely approach with his unusual distribution, bidding first one suit and then the other on an unhurried route to six hearts. After East doubled, Paul Soloway, West for the U.S., led a spade, and Coenraets ruffed.

At trick two, declarer played a diamond to dummy's king and returned the ten, ruffed by East, Bobby Goldman. Goldman then shifted to a trump, but declarer was now in full control. He won the heart return in dummy, ruffed a spade and ruffed a low diamond with dummy's last trump. A club was then ruffed, East's last trump was drawn, and South claimed the rest for a score of 1,210 points and a net gain of 460 points for Belgium.

When the play at the second table was over, both defenders were left to contemplate what would have happened had they each chosen a different course of action. For Soloway, the bitter pill to swallow was that if he had led a trump initially, the slam would have gone down one.

For Goldman, it was the realization that he could have let the opponents play the hand in one heart!

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

SWQX EWQ CANQ-DCQOGPXL

WUMGQF HNOFQC ZEOCEZ

DOXGPXL, P DQE WQ SPNN

UHQX O MWQMGPXL OMMUAXE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO WILD MEN ACTED AS THOUGH THEY WERE ROBBING THE COSMETICS COUNTER, BUT IT WAS ONLY A ROUGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Shredded stick?	DOWN	19 Perch
1 Feathery neckpiece	43 Diamond	1 United nations	21 Varnish ingredient
4 Small ammunition	44 Squad	2 Hawaiian island	23 Unruly group
7 Rope	50 Greek vowel	3 Eastern potentate	25 Knitting stitch
11 Felonious flights	53 Dog's hand	4 Wager	26 Jason's ship
13 A billion years	55 Enjoying greatly	5 Prosperous period	27 Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
14 Do as you're told	56 New Zealand bird	6 Pry	28 Oxidation result
15 Buckeye State	57 Time of your life?	7 2003 Civil War movie	29 Aware of
16 Excessively	58 iPod model	8 Kimono closer	30 Stench
17 Not pre-recorded	59 Carolina college	9 Gun the engine	31 Cushion
18 They get in the whey	60 Cover	10 Decorate Easter eggs	35 Sailor
20 Aspic creation	61 Pale	12 Malt-shop setup	38 Calendar abbr.
22 Intention			40 Series of skirmishes
24 South American prairies			42 Pontifical
28 Santa's runway			45 Creche trio
32 Woo			47 Rodents do it
33 Loosen			48 Sicilian volcano
34 Satchel			49 Any time now
36 Incite			50 Mamie's man
37 Corpulent			51 Lubricate
39 On the (discreetly)			52 Pair
			54 Marry

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
28	29	30		31		32			
33				34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		
41				42		43			
		44		45		46		47	48
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60				61	