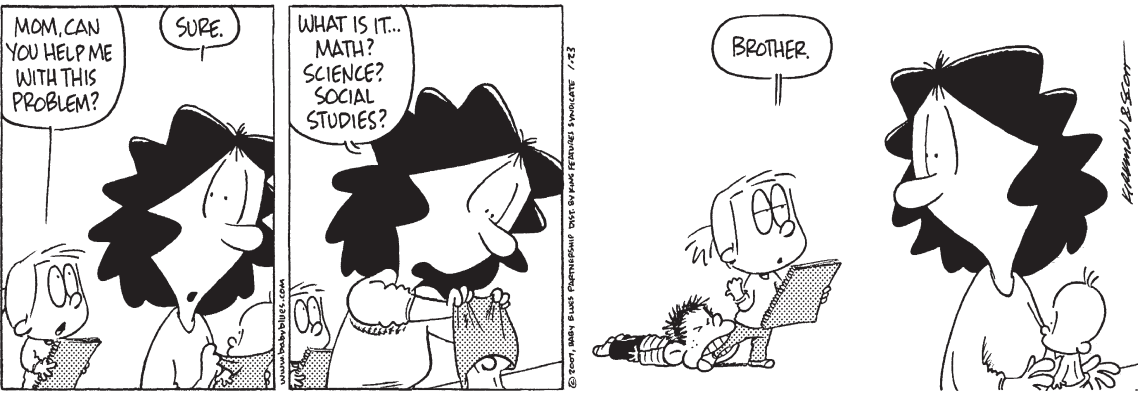
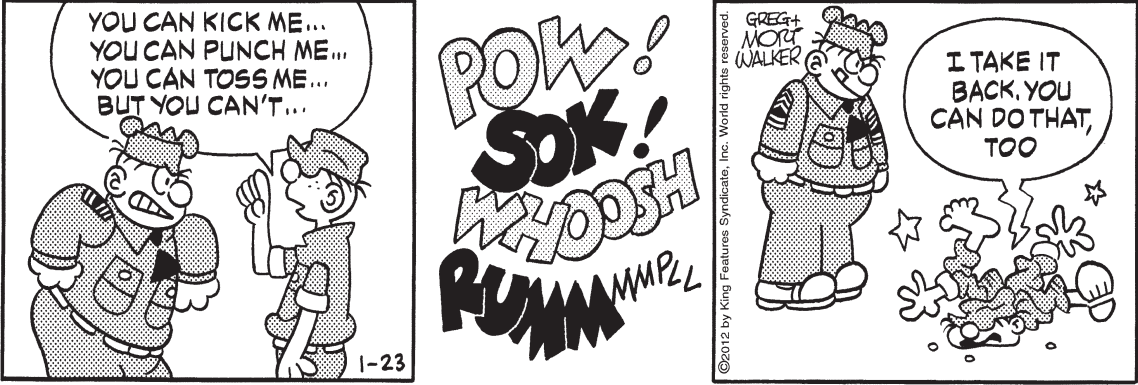


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



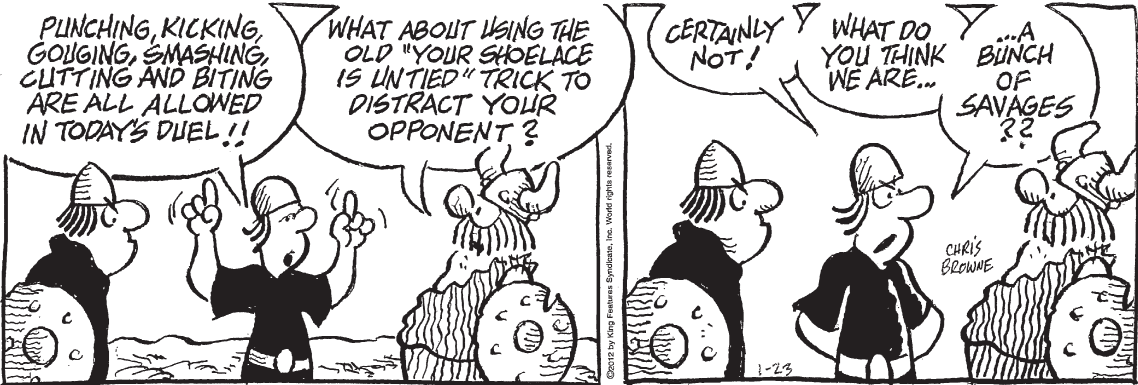
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



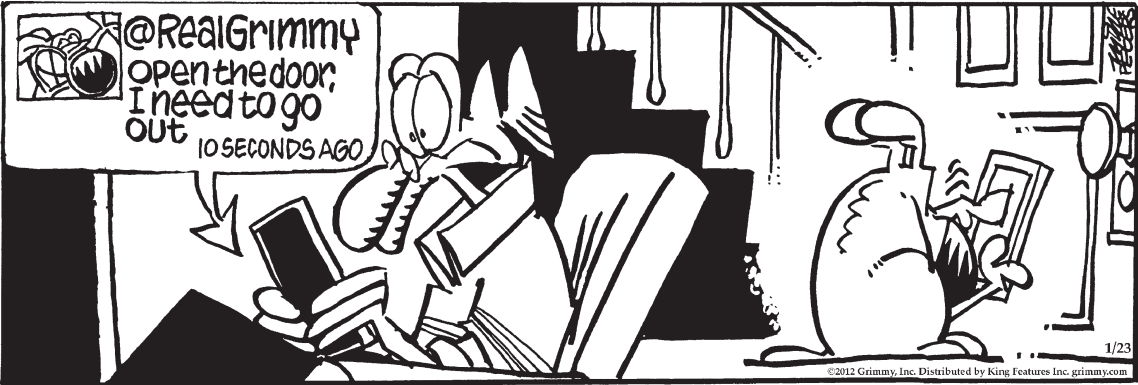
Blondie • Chic Young



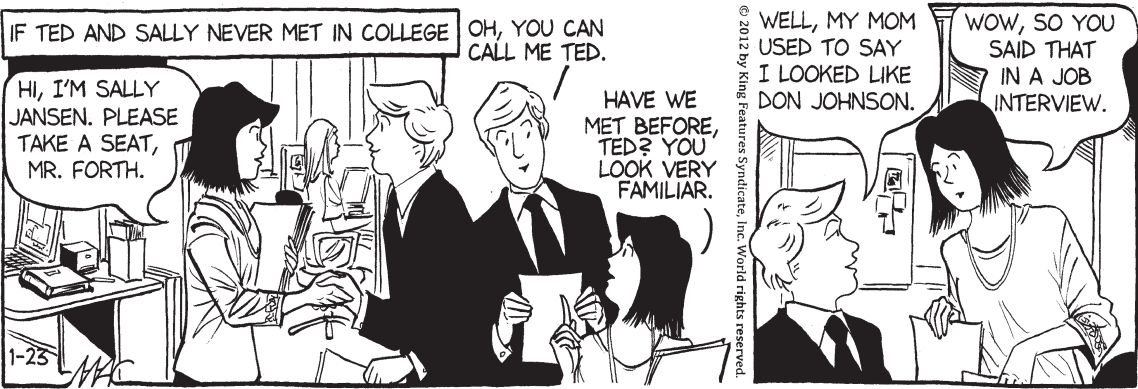
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



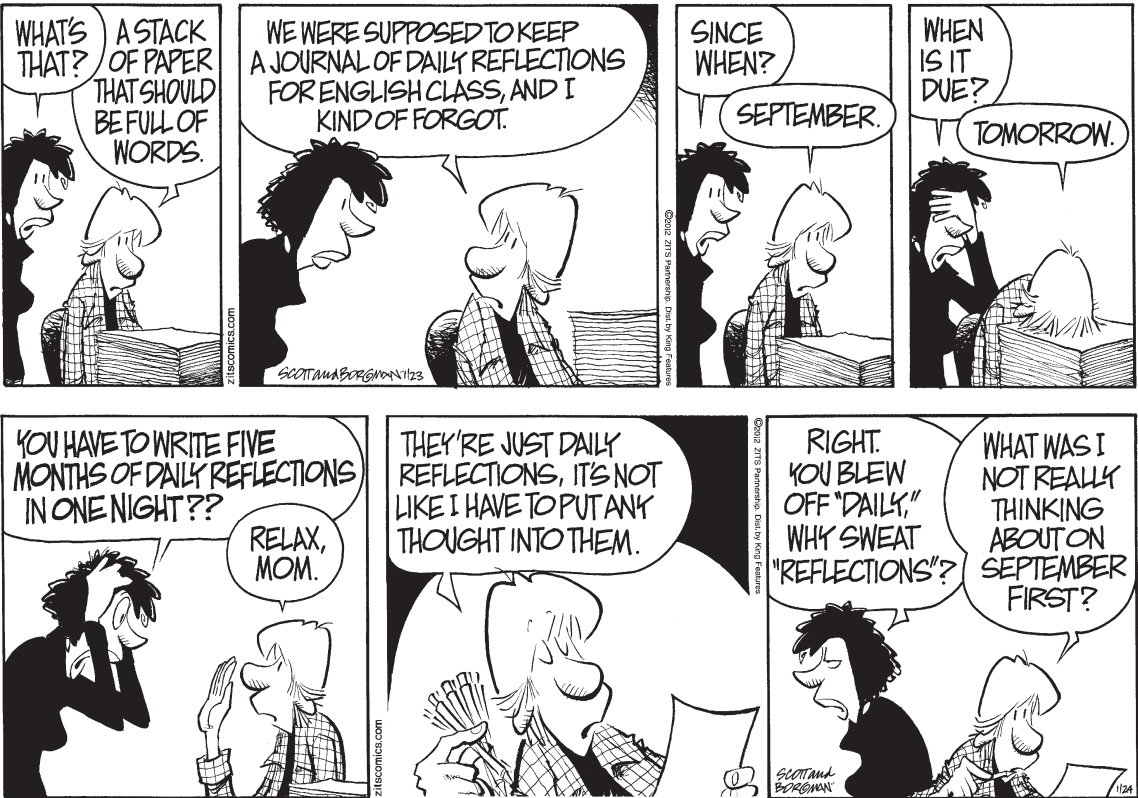
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Women at work don't like him

Dear Dr. Brothers: Where I work, it's half guys and half women. I get along fine with the men, but the ladies all hate me. I don't know why – I am friendly and joke around with them like I do with the guys. But they all give me the cold shoulder. I have to work with them and need to improve how things are going. Can you give me tips to get women co-workers to like me? – L.W.

Dear L.W.: The key to getting women co-workers to like you is to see yourself as others see you and know what is acceptable behavior. If you have no respect for women, or think they are frivolous or to be manipulated or flirted with, you need to acknowledge that and change your behavior. There is no substitute for genuine respect and cooperation, regardless of gender. Perhaps your joking isn't funny – and if it is off-color, it doesn't belong in today's place of business.

As you should know, the threat of sexual harassment hangs over your behavior with women in the workplace. If your jokes are offensive, you are playing with fire. That's the way it is, and if you need to censor yourself, so be it. Focus on your goals in the workplace. You may find your career goals will be unattainable if you get a reputation as a worker who is not businesslike and does not work well with others – and if you need to impress women who are your superiors, the problem will be magnified. So scale back your natural friendliness a bit, and realize your good intentions are being misinterpreted. If you become more serious, mature and businesslike, I think you will see your situation improving.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our family lives in a part of town that is old and charming. I keep a close eye on the kids, but they can't even go two doors down without this old man yelling at them for riding on his grass (they weren't) or making too much noise. He is wrecking raising our kids here. Should I talk to him or call the police on him, or what? My kids are 7 and 9. Thank you. – J.D.

Dear J.D.: Your first priority should be the safety of your children. But your children are at an age where you may no longer consider them in need of constant surveillance. So naturally you are resentful there should be someone in the neighborhood interfering with the children's ability to start being responsible for themselves and making home life more carefree.

It might be a good idea to talk to some of the other neighbors and see if anyone else has the same problem or knows if the elderly man has been any kind of threat. And of course you can consult with the police. He may be suffering from health issues that are making him react poorly to neighborhood kids. Be certain your kids aren't teasing him and understand that they need to give him a wide berth. Perhaps, as an adult, you can befriend him, as he simply may be lonely and frustrated. If you have any real reason to fear him, you will need to stay on top of things and make stricter rules for your kids as they venture out.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 8 4  
♥ A K Q 7 4  
♦ K J 8  
♣ 7

**WEST**  
♠ 7 2  
♥ J 10 9 3  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ K 10 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ 9 5  
♥ 8 6  
♦ Q 9 3 2  
♣ A 9 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 10 6 3  
♥ 5 2  
♦ 7 6 4  
♣ Q J 8

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠  
Pass 4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣  
Opening lead – ten of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

It is certainly not easy to see how declarer went down one in four spades on this deal, which was played in a high-class team-of-four contest staged in Beijing in 1986. Among those participating were three U.S. teams, plus others from Italy, Hong Kong and Canada, as well as many mainland Chinese teams.

There is a time-honored rule that says a player should never underlead an ace on opening lead against a suit contract. But one of the distinguishing marks of the top bridge players is that, given the right setting, this rule or any other rule may be broken if it seems the wise thing to do.

One of the more imaginative advocates of this bold approach is Judi Radin, who held the West cards in this deal from the Beijing tournament. Having listened attentively to the bidding -- North's four-club bid announced a very strong raise in spades and a singleton club -- Radin decided that the best chance to defeat the contract was to try to quickly score as many diamond tricks as possible. And so, she selected the ten of diamonds as her opening lead!

Declarer naturally thought West was leading from a holding including the 10-9 and therefore played the jack from dummy. This lost to the queen, whereupon East (Kathie Wei) made the super return of a low club to West's king.

Continuing the diabolical onslaught, Radin next led the five of diamonds! It's difficult to blame South, who was convinced West had the nine and surely couldn't have the ace, for playing the eight from dummy.

Wei won the diamond with the nine and returned the suit to her partner's ace. As a result, declarer lost the first four tricks to go down one. Perhaps the "never underlead an ace" proviso should be amended to read "well, hardly ever."

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Isn't it GREAT, Daddy? This all started with just one flake!”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 1/23

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

K L Q Y B O U S J I H  
I J N V L S V H Y B L V Y W D X I W W,  
Y U I W Y I Q I N K I  
N S V N S Y M I M K S A W H X Y B  
N K I K I L Q D X I Y O K N N A V N W I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY SLATTED WINDOW COVERINGS ARE SO UTTERLY DULL, THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE CALLED VENETIAN BLANDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Fire residue  
4 Temptresses  
9 Swabbie's tool  
12 Eisenhower nickname  
13 Approximately throw  
14 Flightless bird  
15 Causing unhappiness  
17 Lair  
18 Architect Maya —  
19 Broken-arm aid  
21 With "out," depressed  
24 Grand tale  
25 Historic time  
26 Pooch  
28 Obliterate  
31 Body powder  
33 Pinch  
35 Sleeping  
36 Apportion  
38 Beak

**40** Floral neckwear  
**41** Poet Pound  
**43** Victoria's prince  
**45** Game participant  
**47** Automobile  
**48** High-arc throw  
**49** Worth noting  
**54** Right angle  
**55** Reserved cat  
**56** Zodiac  
**57** Beerlike brew  
**58** Hierarchy levels  
**59** Two fives

**DOWN**

1 Pick a target  
2 Tackle the slopes  
3 Cock and bull?  
4 Miscellaneous  
5 Desert  
6 Unruly group  
7 Throb  
8 Treeless tract  
9 Having a remedy  
10 Portent  
11 Fourth down option  
16 Shade provider

**20** Old Italian money  
**21** Alpha follower  
**22** Caspian feeder  
**23** Up for modification  
**27** Card table call  
**29** Prophet  
**30** Redact  
**32** Snug and warm  
**34** NBC bird  
**37** Quake  
**39** Trumpet noises  
**42** Sports venue  
**44** Lingerie item  
**45** Entreaty  
**46** Lounge around  
**50** 60 sec.  
**51** Sandwich, for short  
**52** Shelter  
**53** A billion years

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

N	O	V	R	A	D	G	A	U	Z
A	L	I	E	V	E	W	I	Z	E
I	D	O	V	A	L	K	Y	R	I
A	I	L	S	T	A	I	N		
D	E	A	D	A	Y	E		E	D
			E	A	R		V	A	L
A	T	A	L	L			B	A	N
V	A	L	L	E	Y		M	A	N
E	G	G	S		U	S	A		D
				G	R	U	N	T	D
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	O
A	R	E	N	A		T	E	A	R
S	K	E	E	T	E	R	R	E	N

**Saturday's answer 1-23**

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					59		