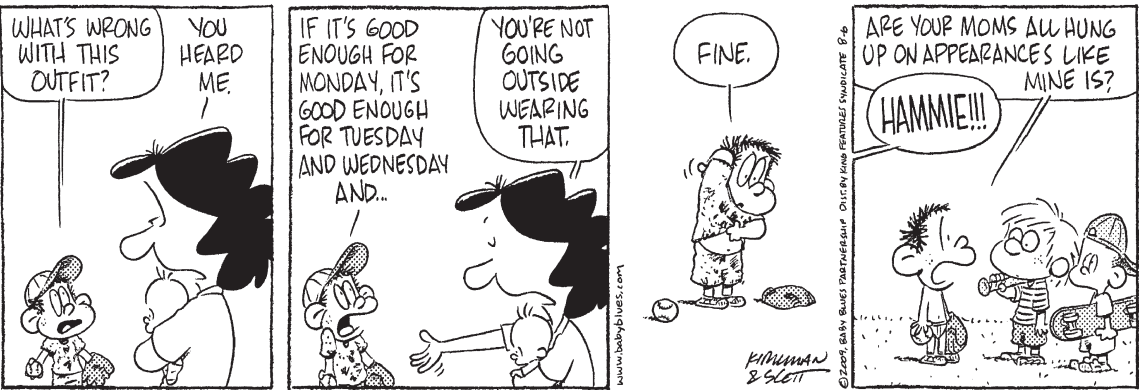


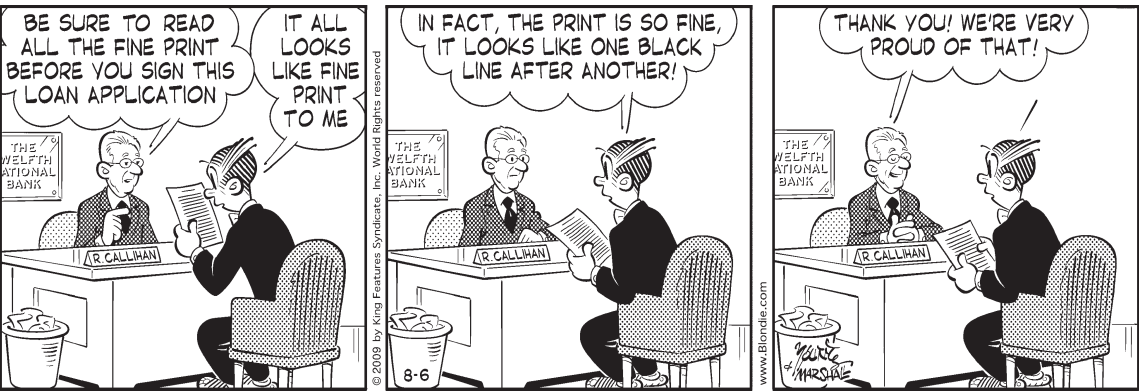
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



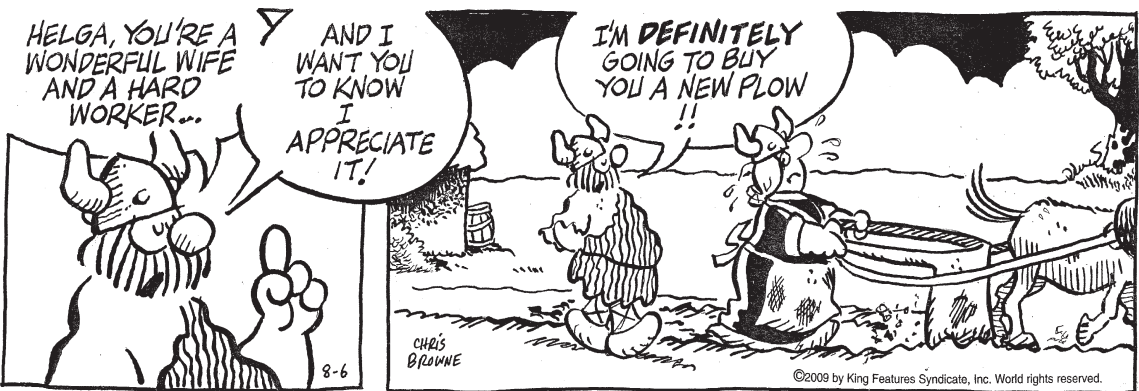
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



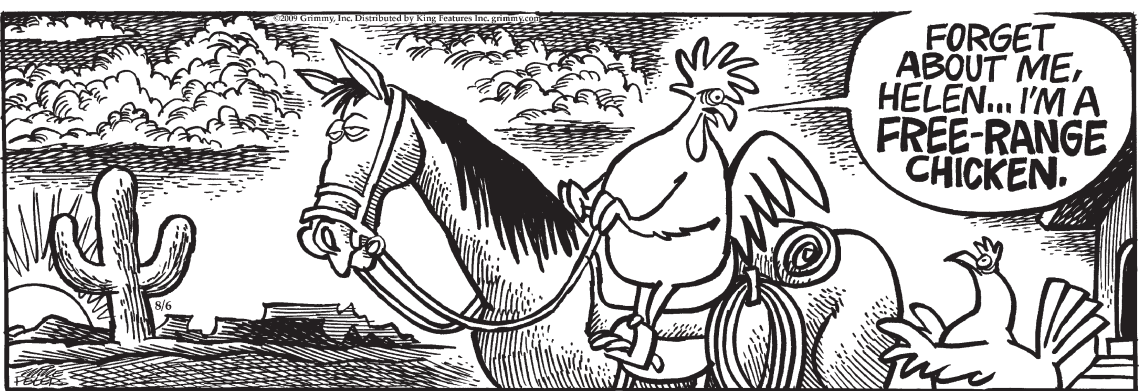
Blondie • Chic Young



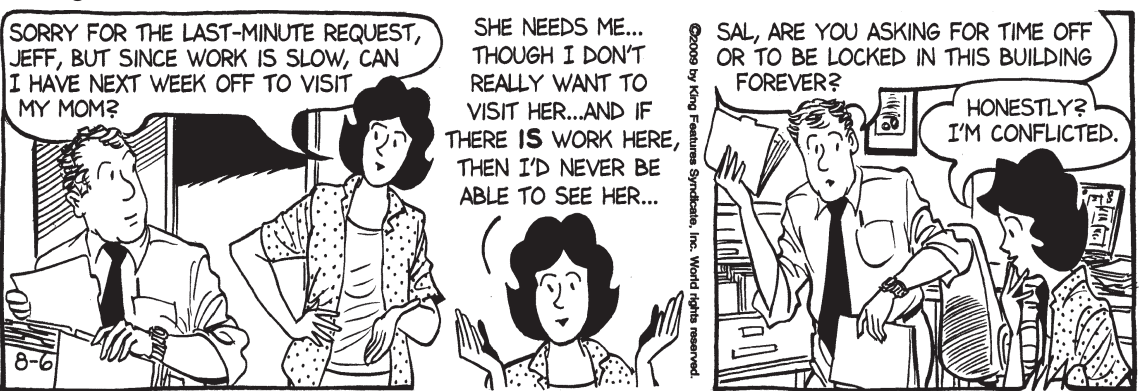
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



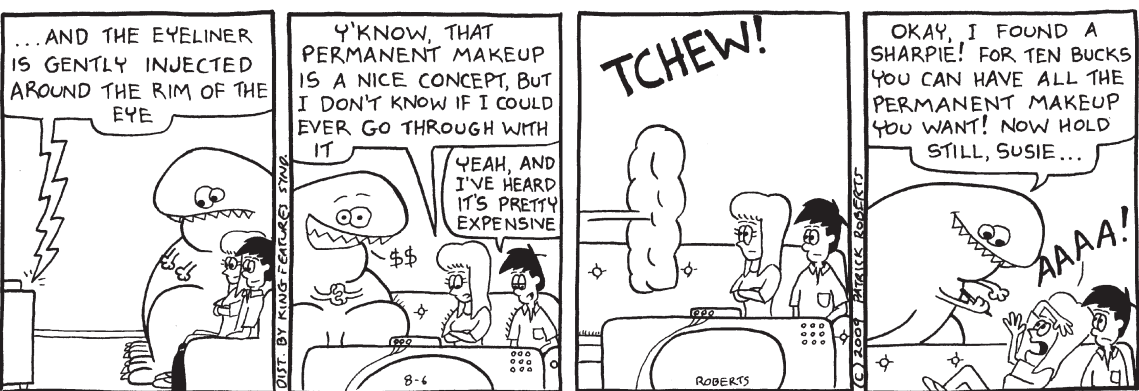
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



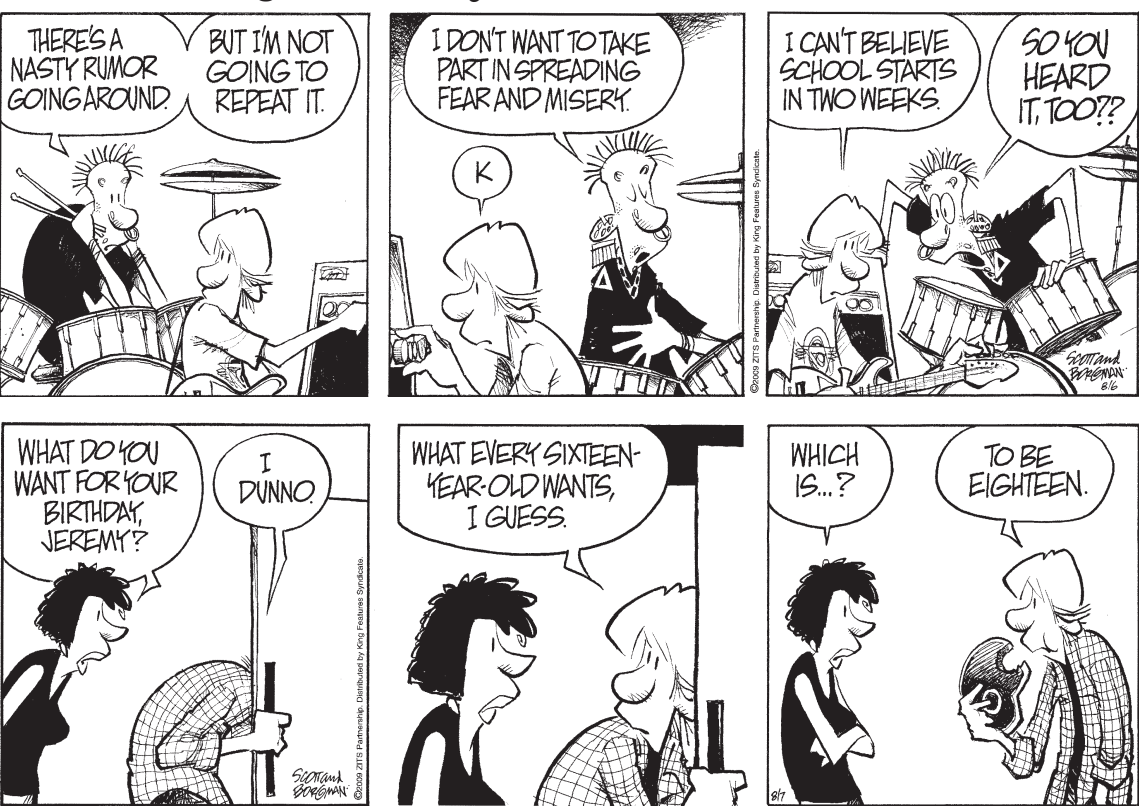
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Thanksgiving not just cooking

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'll admit it. I'm a food snob, a self-proclaimed foodie. I take my kitchen and cooking very seriously, and do not want anything – or anyone – interfering when I'm cooking. My girlfriend's mother will be here this Thanksgiving, and I've been told she wants to make the main course. I really don't want her help. How do I say "No, thanks" without destroying my relationship? – L.N.

Dear L.N.: The holidays are a special time when families gather together to celebrate each other's company. At least, that's the Hallmark version. In reality, gathering during the holiday season can be stressful, with all the planning, personality conflicts and scheduling. Tensions can run pretty high with so much going on, and it's probably best not to add more grease to the fire.

You have to ask yourself what would make for a more pleasant experience – welcoming your girlfriend's mother into the sacred realm of your kitchen, or excluding her from a ritual she's most likely been a part of all her life? Sometimes we have to sacrifice a little to establish good relations with the parents of our significant others, and you may need to bend a bit if you want to make a good impression. You don't want to come across as some kind of snooty food freak. Thanksgiving is not a competition about who is the best chef – the food should take second place to making everyone feel at home. With that in mind, ask her to bring the side dish her daughter is always raving about! Then don't forget to enjoy it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My wife's father is a really nice guy, but he's driving me crazy! It seems like every day when I pull up to my house after a hard day's work, his car is parked in the driveway. I just want to decompress and relax with my wife and kid, but he's always suggesting some new fix-it project we both can work on at the house – and it always has to be done right away! I've humored him for far too long, and I can't take much more! I've been married only three months and fear it's going to get worse. Help! – D.W.

Dear D.W.: Making peace with your spouse's family is an age-old balancing act, especially for newlyweds. On one hand, you want your in-laws to feel like family, welcome to drop by without an invitation; on the other hand, you need quality time with your bride and child. Finding a solution is not always easy, but it's not impossible.

Understand where your new father-in-law is coming from. His baby girl has finally grown up and has a family of her own now, and he doesn't want to feel excluded. He still may want to feel he's providing for his daughter by volunteering to do home-repair projects. Sometimes empty-nest syndrome manifests itself in various ways – feel lucky that you're getting a helping hand while he works through his issues! But it's most certainly aggravating not to have any time to wind down on a daily basis, so talk to your father-in-law about the importance of planning a project. Appeal to the side of him that remembers what it's like to be a newlywed – it's possible he went through the same thing you're experiencing now. You don't have to blow him off; just ask him to call before visiting. The "guy stuff" may be his own awkward way of accepting you into his family.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ K Q 6 3

♥ A 7

♠ A Q 7 3

♣ K 10 2

WEST

♦ J 10 9 4

♥ K 9

♠ 10 9 8 6

♣ J 8 3

EAST

♥ J 6 5 3 2

♦ J 4 2

♠ Q 9 7 5 4

SOUTH

♦ A 8 7 5 2

♥ Q 10 8 4

♠ K 5

♣ A 6

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

3 NT Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Good Management

Bad luck is often a factor in the outcome of a hand, but there are times when bad luck can be overcome by good management.

Here is a typical case. Let's say you're in six spades and West leads a diamond. At first sight, your only loser appears to be a heart, but when you win the diamond with the king and play the ace of trumps, East shows out, and your stock plummets. Seemingly, the slam must now go down one.

But if you have the proper attitude, you start to think in terms of how the hand might be made despite the foul trump break. And if you think hard enough, you come up with the right answer. The slam is not as hopeless as it may appear, because it can still be made if the rest of the cards are favorably placed.

Obviously, there is no way of escaping the trump loser, so you set your sights on avoiding the heart loser. The opposing cards may not be distributed the way you would like them to be, but if you don't buy a ticket, you can't expect to win the raffle. You just have to hope West was dealt the king of hearts and that you can eventually force him to lead from it.

Accordingly, you cash the A-K of clubs and ruff a club. Next you cash the A-Q of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Finally, you cash the K-Q of trumps and exit with dummy's last trump.

West wins and, with only the K-9 of hearts left in his hand, must lead one. It doesn't matter whether he returns the nine or the king -- in either case, you do not lose a heart trick and so make the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/06

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.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Cryptoquip

GCCNPZ JVXJ TYMGJCO IH

ACXMJNHMY-YIILNPZ HCOPG

JIKXD AOIMZVJ AXTL

BXPD HOIPK BCBIONCG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO IDENTICAL LENGTHS OF STRONG CORD WERE TIED TOGETHER, I'D CALL THEM SIAMESE TWINES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Elmer, to Bugs

4 Prison

8 Tiers

12 Gabor or Peron

13 Relaxation

14 Send forth

15 "The island of romance," in song

17 Baseball team

18 Do sums

19 "Rockabye Baby" site

21 Russian wolfhound

24 Tend the lawn

25 Mound stat

26 "Miniver"

28 Cheesy chip

32 Dracula's usual target

34 Conger, e.g.

36 Reclined

37 Clan emblem

39 — -tac-toe

41 Sleuth

42 Ad-dressee

44 Procession

46 Constricting

50 Moment

51 Timber wolf

52 Merchandisers' mailings

56 By word of mouth

57 First victim

58 Bumped into

59 Existed

60 Samples of wordplay

61 Lad

DOWN

1 Year-end abbr.

2 Eventual aves

3 Waterfall

4 Hardly ever

5 — chi

6 "It — Fair"

7 Get more ammo

8 Cancellation's opposite

9 Leave out

10 Drunkard

11 Put one's foot down?

16 Wood-shaping tool

20 A billion years

21 Crooked

22 Sandwich treat

23 Anger

27 Prepared

29 Underground cemetery

30 Wasted no time

31 Erstwhile

33 Peeper's place?

35 Pitcher part

38 Dr. Seuss' "Mr. Brown Can —! Can You?"

40 Cellist Pablo

43 Open a bottle

45 Cath. or Prot.

46 Clear of snow

47 Bygone times

48 Ski lift

49 Movie-dom's "Elephant Boy"

53 Sawbuck

54 Earth (Pref.)

55 Pigs' digs

Solution time: 25 mins.

ASK FARM DAME RUN OGEE ODOR ICE DOGEAT DOG AHEAD TIC BEES LOBBY UNDERDOG MIRE FTE SUPRA RIG OGLE CHILIDOG SHELF SPIN ADO MAGIC DOGPADDLE ODE IRIS DOIN OLD GENE SEPT DYE

Yesterday's answer 8-6

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					60					61		