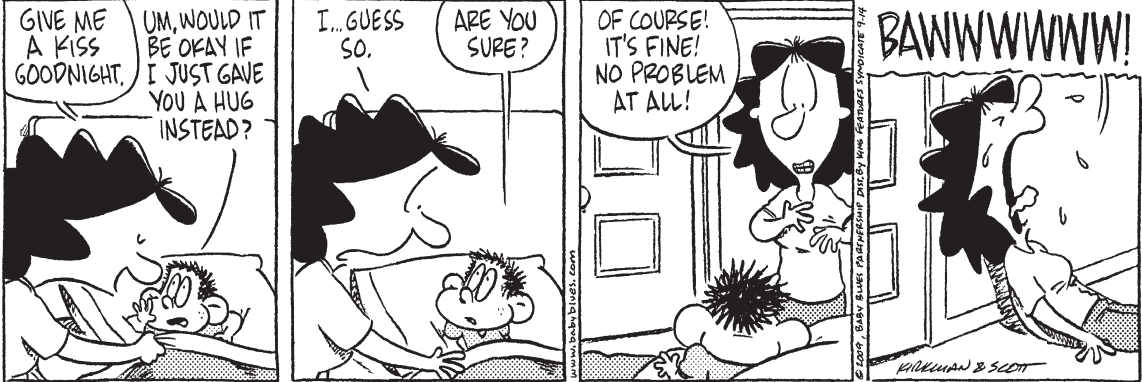
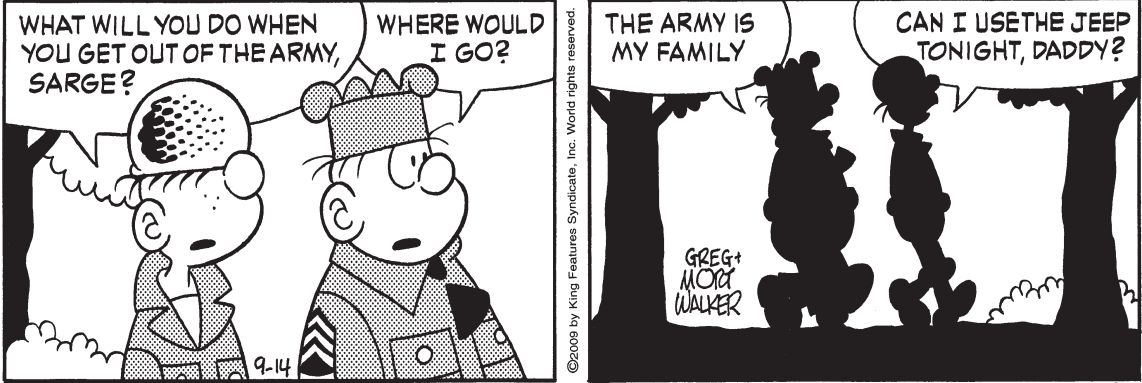


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



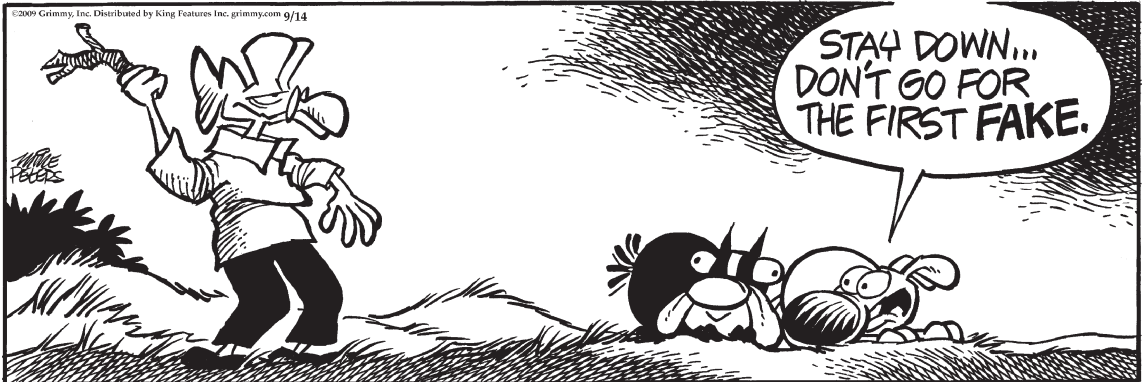
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



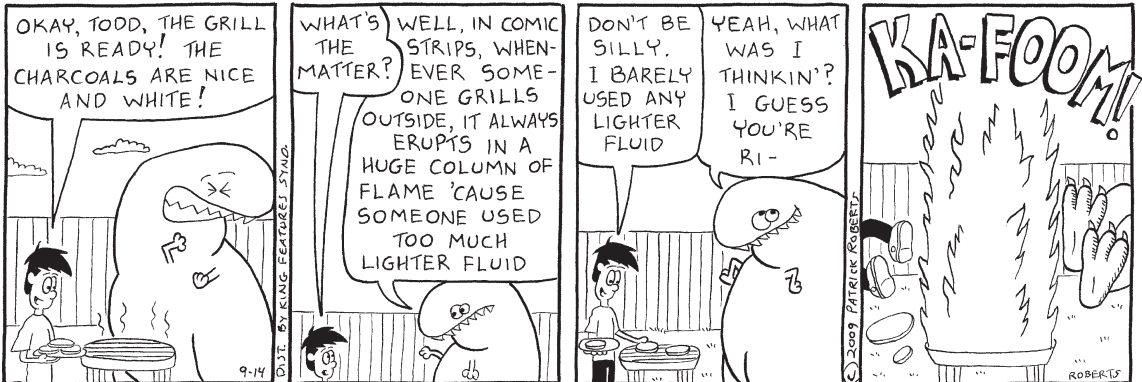
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



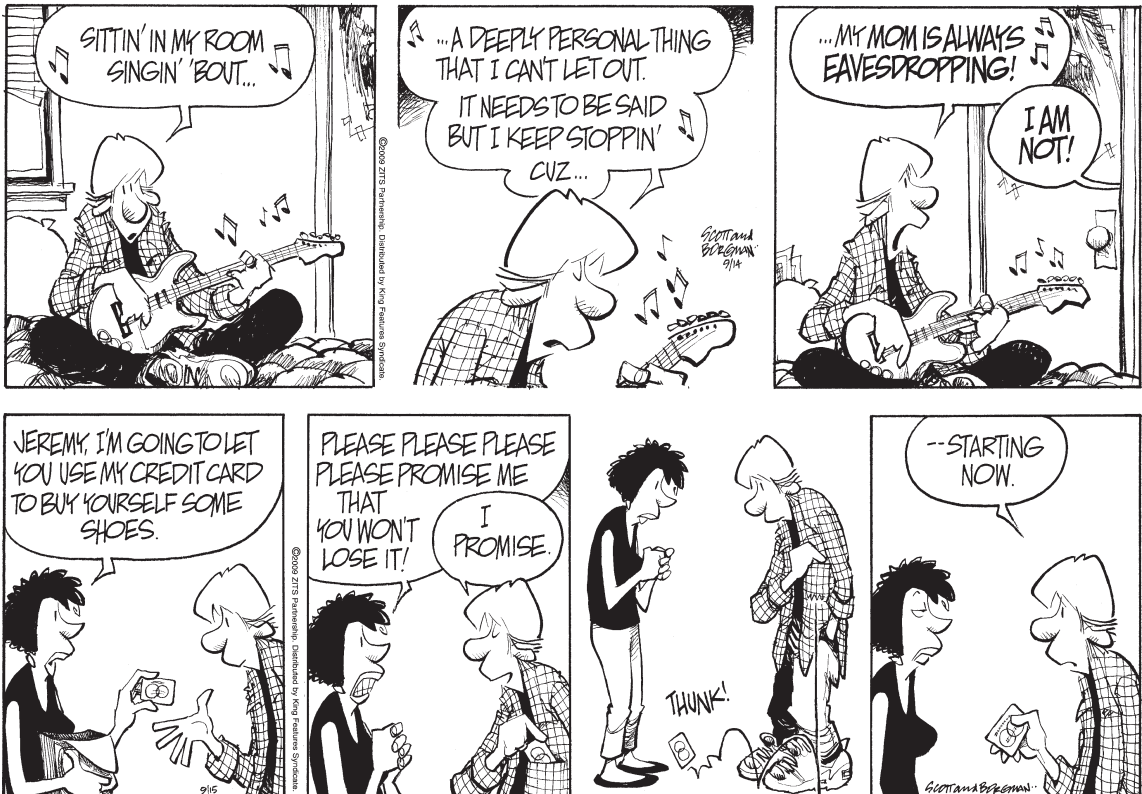
Sally Forth • Greg Howard




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

- Ask Dr. Brothers

Buddy wants job references

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a close friend from high school with whom I've kept in close touch after college. We both have a degree in advertising (from different schools), and both got jobs in agencies in a large city. But he was let go, and he's been bugging me about introductions in my company in case there's an opening. Frankly, I don't want to risk being replaced by my own buddy! Is it wrong to say no, and if not, how do I say it and not sound like a selfish jerk? – C.W.

Dear C.W.: It is nice to be concerned about your friend's welfare, and I don't think you should be so hard on yourself – whatever you decide to do, it doesn't mean you are "selfish." One of the things you learn in business is to take care of yourself and your job security as well as help others – it's called networking, and people find themselves in dilemmas similar to yours all the time. Just because your friend has a problem with his career doesn't mean you have to solve it, or offer up your workplace as the solution – especially if it could put your own job in jeopardy.

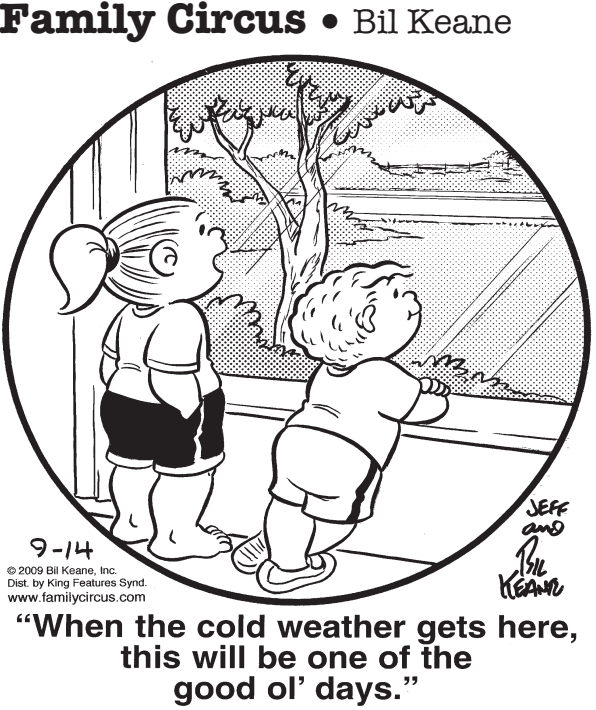
As just one part of your friend's work world, you can help him by encouraging him to use all the social-networking sites out there. He should know what they are. Be honest. If he knows you are concerned about keeping your own job, and he's a friend, he won't think less of you for not throwing him a life preserver. Let him know that you are going to keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities that wouldn't impact your own. It will be hard to think of yourself as a "jerk" if you put some effort toward helping your buddy. But in the end, he's got to do his own thing to land a job. Don't feel responsible for his success.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have met a woman who I'd like to hang out with. She is divorced and raising a young teen. I am having a hard time getting her to do things without her daughter. They are the kind of best-friend mom/daughter types you see out shopping together and sharing secrets. I find it creepy that she doesn't want to confide in women her own age – just her daughter. How do I wedge my way in, here? – J.T.

Dear J.T.: It is nice that you want to befriend this woman and hang out with her – it sounds as though it would be a good thing for both of you, but especially for her. Often when a mother makes her child into her best friend, she doesn't have a lot of adult companionship. This may be fun for the child for a while, but ultimately carry too much adult responsibility. Sometimes children of divorcees become the caretaker of the fragile parent, a burden they never should be asked to carry. This can rob them of their childhood and create resentment or emotional baggage.

So, if you can break into that inner circle, bravo. You need to create some clear-cut "rules" when it comes to attending functions. Make it clear that while her daughter is fun, you'd prefer to do certain things with adults. Show her that she doesn't need to lean on her daughter. Soon she will have the confidence both to separate from her child and to act as a single adult with much to offer.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 9/14

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

YAXY AOWU TXCN LXXXLXT
TESUM NVECSECW GAXLRXWCU
MI LOGA, RUIRTU JUVU
GXTTECW EY X VAECI JECI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID THE TWO MAGNETS START DATING? IT COULD BE BECAUSE THEY HAD A MUTUAL ATTRACTION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Friend
- 4 Vacationing
- 7 Fried-eggs side order
- 11 News-caster
- 13 Winter ailment
- 14 54-Down, to a biologist
- 15 Bullets, etc.
- 16 Pitch
- 17 Abound
- 18 Church council
- 20 Phil Mickelson's game
- 22 High tennis shot
- 24 Cheered (for)
- 28 Remote, unfamiliar territory
- 32 Fret
- 33 Taj Mahal city
- 34 Joan of —
- 36 Color quality

DOWN

- 37 Sports-caster
- 39 Judge
- 41 Spoof
- 43 Thither
- 44 For fear that
- 46 Lecherous
- 50 Quaker
- 53 Exist
- 55 Tittle
- 56 Pig's sound
- 57 Schlep
- 58 Nip
- 59 Duel
- 60 "Family Guy" daughter

Popular article

- 1 Carrots' mates
- 2 Soldiers
- 3 Depict
- 4 Frequently
- 5 Banner
- 6 Uproar
- 7 Running fast
- 8 "Hail!" in old Rome
- 9 Take to court
- 10 "Let me think,"
- 12 1967
- Paul Newman movie

Buck's mate

- 21 De-pressed
- 23 Bikini half
- 25 Jog
- 26 Sea eagle
- 27 Color worker
- 28 Apprehends
- 29 Fairy tale
- 30 Small songbird
- 31 Historic time
- 35 Weep
- 38 Calendar abbr.
- 40 Greet the villain
- 42 Song of praise
- 45 Authentic
- 47 LummoX
- 48 Engrave
- 49 Gather leaves
- 50 Pirouette pivot
- 51 With it
- 52 Inseparable
- 54 Early bird?

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	C	T	O	R	O	F	A	A	F	B
P	R	O	M	O	S	O	P	L	E	A
R	I	P	E	N	T	O	P	C	O	A
I	N	D	E	E	D	H	O	S	T	
A	H	A	O	V	A	H	E	F	T	I
D	A	R	T	A	L	D	E	N		
S	T	Y	R	O	N	O	N	E	T	W
			E	S	S	A	Y	Y	O	D
M	A	Y	B	E	R	E	M	P	S	T
O	D	I	E	D	E	N	I	R	O	
T	O	P	K	N	O	T	D	I	N	A
O	R	E	A	S	H		S	T	Y	L
R	E	S	P	E	A		T	E	M	P

Saturday's answer 9-14

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