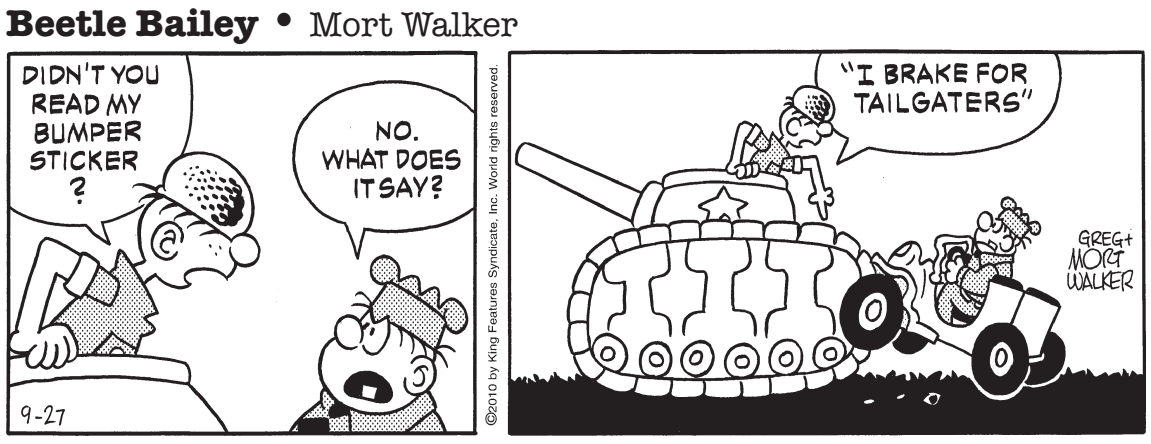
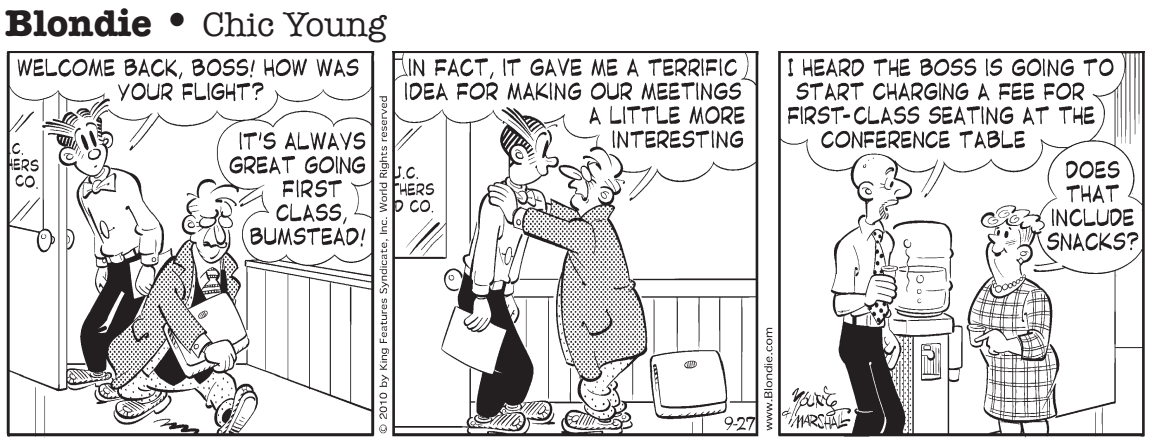
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

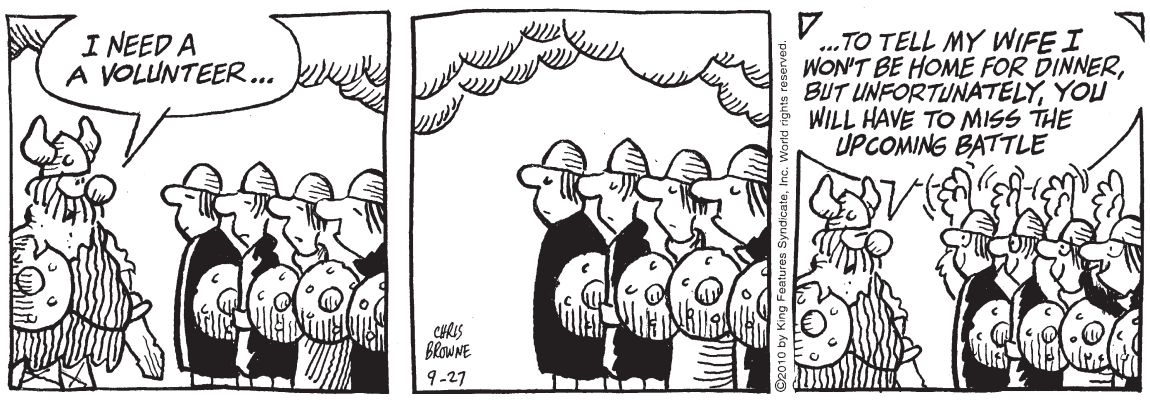
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



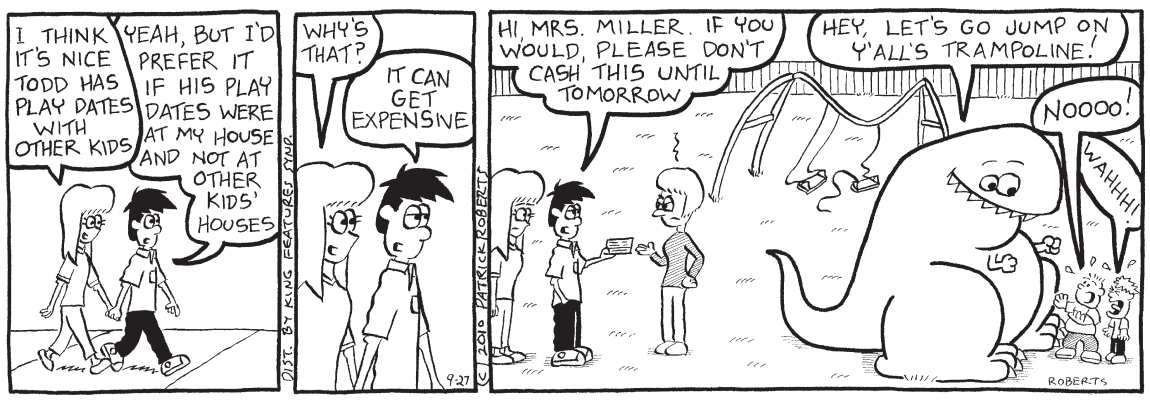
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



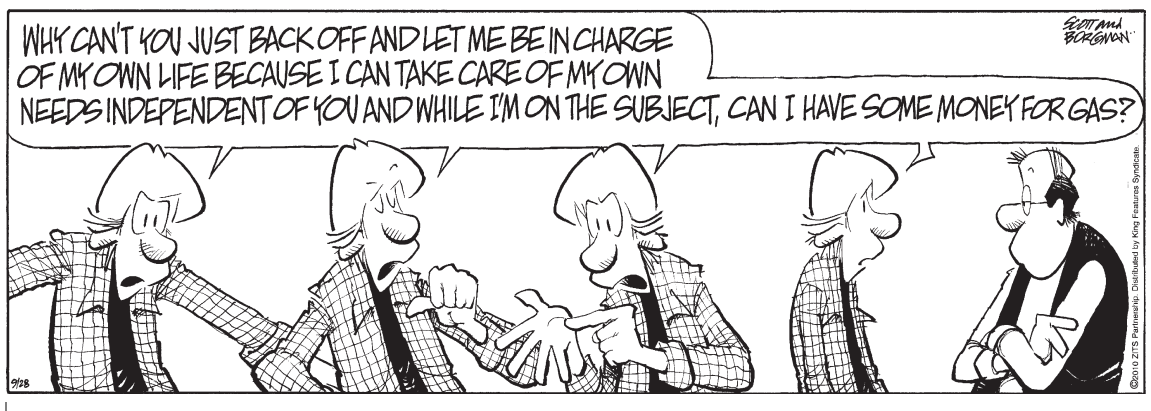
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Wife steals, husband deals

Dear Dr. Brothers: My wife has been working in a department store for a few years. We have to watch our budget, but between her income and mine – I'm a construction foreman – we get by. Anyway, she's been coming home with a lot of stuff from the store she got with her company discount. She tucks in the tags and wears the dresses and then returns them. She says everyone does this. I don't respect this – isn't it stealing? – B.J.

Dear B.J.: I hope you will talk to your wife about this before it gets out of hand. I am sure that at the shop, she has seen and heard all kinds of things. People have been gaming the system for years, but it is mostly unscrupulous customers who wear clothing and return it to stretch a wardrobe. It seems your wife has picked up this bad idea from customers! Or perhaps it is part of the corporate culture – the unofficial one, in which managers look the other way while lower-level people take advantage of the store.

Regardless of where she got the idea, it really isn't OK. Although the company expects losses, there's no reason its employees should help weaken the bottom line. Even if she returns the clothing in great condition, you know she is cheating, and that's a problem. You must let her know how this affects your feelings. I hope that will make her stop before she finds herself out of a job or your respect. Either would be a disaster. But you also need to make her feel special. It doesn't have to cost a thing but could turn things around.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a 24-year-old violin player who is lucky enough to eke out a living playing. I'm the only girl in this band, and we travel constantly. The problem is, the bass player who drives the van always has too much to drink after a show. I'm worried he's going to kill us all, but the other members don't mind! How can I fix this without seeming like a mom? – T.C.

Dear T.C.: This is a difficult problem, because you are part of a family when you're in a band and touring. There's always stuff to work out and personality conflicts to complicate matters, and the fact that you depend on one another for your living means you don't want to take chances on someone getting mad and walking away. So I can see how you are tiptoeing around when it comes to the bass player's behavior.

But come on! It's your life we are talking about! Drinking and driving is never cool, and if you have no support from the other band members, this is a serious problem you basically have to solve on your own. You aren't in a position to take a separate car, but how about talking to your mates (not while anyone is drunk) about sharing the job of designated driver? Everyone would take a turn. If someone doesn't like the idea, he needs to pay another band member to take his place, or make other arrangements. This should be settled outside the tour van while you all are sober. Loss of a license or getting into an accident would mess up the band big time, so get this sorted out right away.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 3
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A 4 2
♣ K J 9 2

WEST
♠ J
♥ A J 10 9
♦ K J 6
♣ Q 7 5 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 6 5 4
♥ 5
♦ Q 9 8 7 5 3
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 2
♥ K 7 4 3 2
♦ 10
♣ A 10 8

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
2 ♥	Dble	3 ♦	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the semifinals of the 1989 Vanderbilt team championship. Both Souths wound up in four hearts doubled, a contract where declarer seems certain to lose three hearts and a spade for down one. However, one of the declarers found a way to get home with 10 tricks.

At the first table, the bidding went as shown. East's two-heart bid showed length in spades and diamonds, after which North leaped aggressively to four hearts.

South won West's jack-of-spades lead with the ace, led a heart to dummy's queen and returned the ten of spades. This was covered by the queen and king and ruffed by West, who shifted to the diamond king. Declarer took the ace, ruffed a diamond and conceded a spade to East's nine. West could not be denied the A-J of trumps, so South finished down one, -200.

At the second table, where Bobby Wolff was declarer, East also showed a spade-diamond two-suiter during the auction. But here Wolff took better advantage of what he had learned from the bidding.

West led a low diamond. Wolff won with the ace, ruffed a diamond, led a heart to the queen and ruffed another diamond. Then, utilizing his knowledge of the opposing distribution, he cashed the ace of clubs and finessed the ten. When East couldn't ruff, another club was led to the jack, and the king was cashed.

Wolff next led a spade to the king, giving him the first nine tricks. He then played the ace of spades, ruffed by West with the ten. Wolff still had the K-7 of hearts (and a spade) at this point, so he could not be prevented from scoring his king of hearts regardless of what West returned.

Making four hearts doubled was worth 790 points. Added to the 200 gained by his teammates at the other table, this gave Wolff's team a 14-IMP pickup on the deal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Daddy knows where we've been by lookin' in the review mirror."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/24

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Cryptoquip

ZYCIJ MEJ HNRCT INRSUJ WJIYWJW MN XOKKH YC ZOCMYOTN, Y OZZRXJ MEJH TNM O IEYUJ KJIJSMYNC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I SIMPLY CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THOSE SUPERB EELS, I THINK I'LL GO BACK FOR MORAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Victories
5 Exist
8 Grate
12 Baldness
14 Always
15 Head of state?
16 Dossier
17 Travail
18 So all can hear
20 Donkeys
23 Intimidates
24 Storage structure
25 Glasses with stems
28 Crone
29 Israel politico Shimon
30 Ram's mate
32 Special boys
34 Throb
35 Unctuous
36 That certain something
37 Tenor Enrico
40 America's uncle
41 Addict
42 A driver tries to hit it
47 Rod attachment
48 Sort of
49 "— and the Tramp"
50 Baseballer's topper
51 Go by bus

DOWN
1 Joker
2 UN agency
3 Oct. follower
4 Gushed forth
5 Dermatologist's case
6 Carnival city
7 Oft-pierced body parts
8 Just say no to
9 Eager
10 Vend
11 Quarry
13 Love god
19 Hooters
20 Blond shade
21 Carpet type
22 Lily variety
23 Hackneyed
25 Based on earth science
26 Abound
27 Trade
29 Omegas' preceders
31 Biblical verb suffix
33 With sullenness
34 Wartime plane
36 Lummoxes
37 Ringlet
38 Between ports
39 Oboe insert
40 Reply to a masher
43 — budget
44 Blackbird
45 1960s hallucinogen
46 Sheltered side

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-25

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			