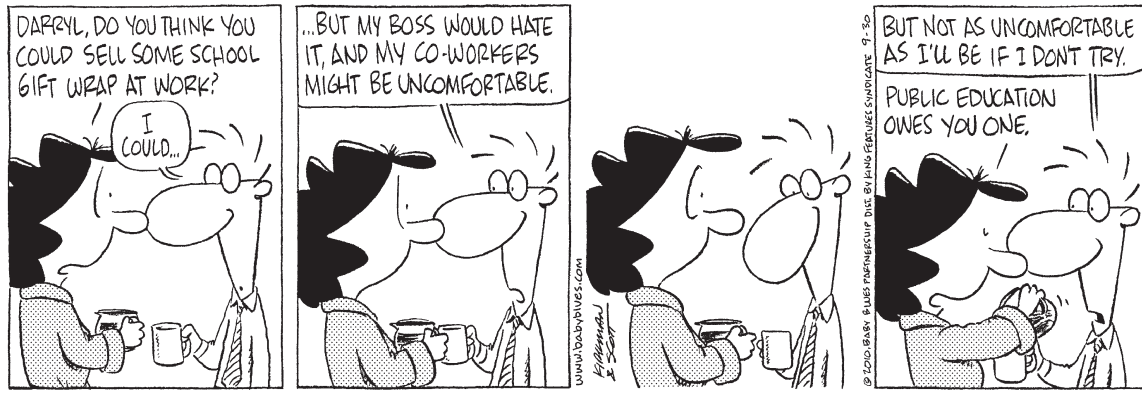
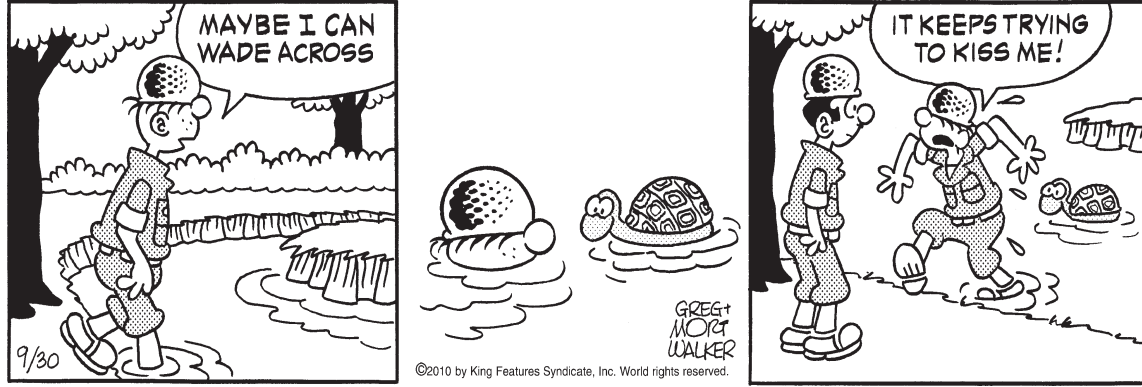


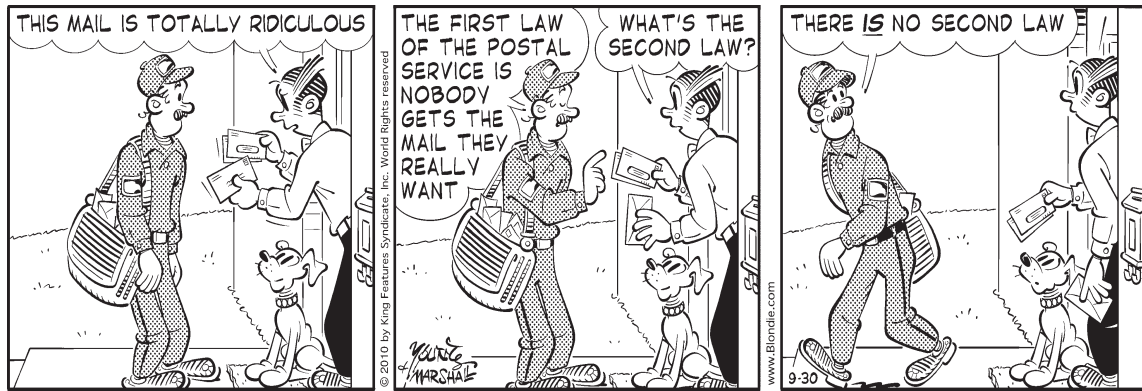
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



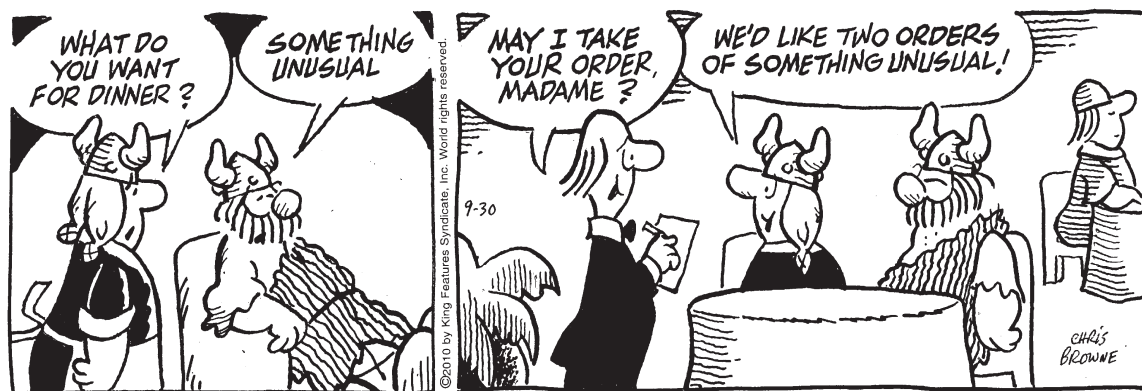
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



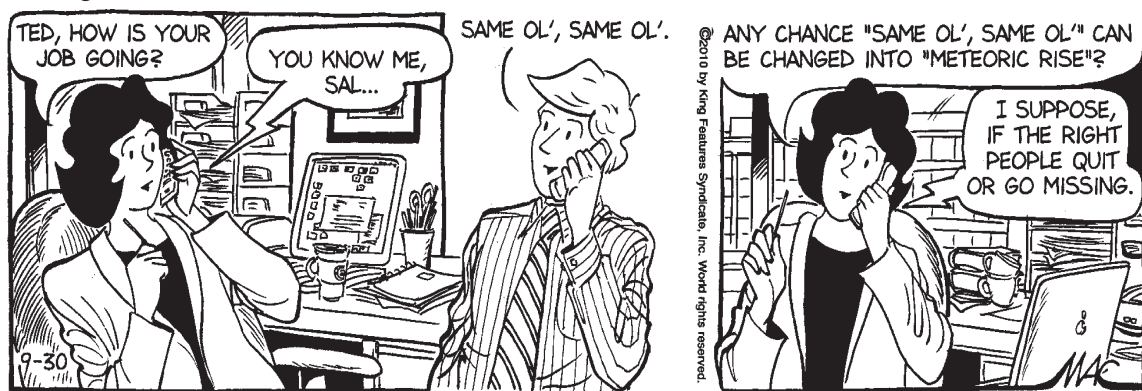
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



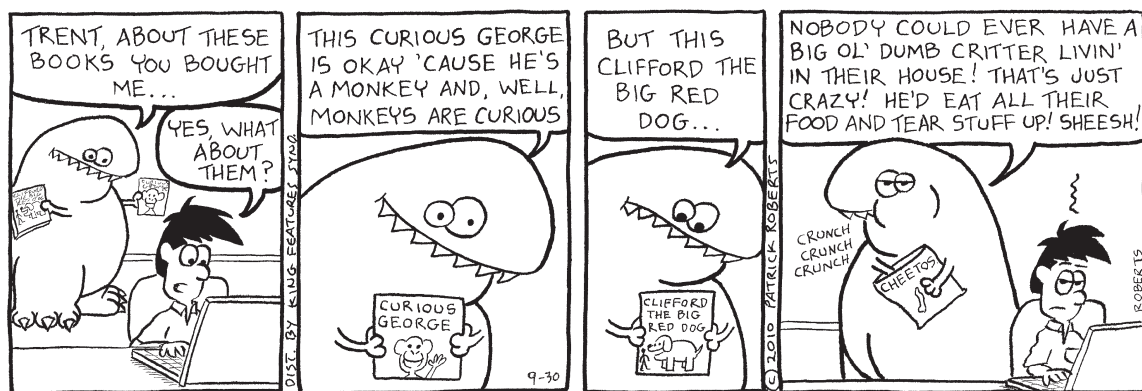
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Time to know about her past

Dear Dr. Brothers: My parents were killed in a car accident when I was 4. Since then – I'm 19 now – I've been raised by my aunt and uncle. Every time I ask about my parents, they change the subject. I don't even know the details of what happened the night they died. Pictures are almost nonexistent. I really would like to find out about them, but it's a real off-limits topic. How can I find out the truth? – H.N.

Dear H.N.: It may be difficult for your aunt and uncle to face the questioning about your parents, and they may have been dreading this for years. Although most foster or adoptive parents have to anticipate children asking about their "real" parents, or going in search of them, this situation is different, and perhaps even more painful. They know you won't be planning meetings or abandoning them for another couple, yet the fact that a sister or brother's death is what brought you together has added an element to a layered drama. Perhaps the trauma has never been far from their minds, or they have never faced it themselves. So bringing it up may be difficult for them.

There also is the possibility they are hiding something, such as some kind of culpability as far as the accident itself goes. You can do some sleuthing on your own via the Internet or public records. You can do some social networking to find friends of your parents from high school or college and talk to them. Don't expect your aunt and uncle to be your only source of information. Their lack of participation doesn't mean you don't have a right to know about your parents, so go for it. There is no reason they should stand in your way, and they even may begin to thaw out.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My sister and I just moved in together. It's not as bad as I thought it would be – we shared a bedroom for 10 years, so I guess we're used to each other. But every time she goes grocery shopping (which we both pay for), she comes back with about four items she bought in the checkout line. She says we need them. "We" don't! She bought \$30 worth of magazines last time! How can I get her to stop? – C.H.

Dear C.H.: Sharing expenses is a challenge for any new household – roommates, apartment dwellers and family members alike. Think about it – you are two different people used to living in the same house and having someone else – your parents – control the purse strings. You may have had an allowance or spending money of your own, but had no means of expressing your own desires and individuality. Now that you are grown up and have moved in together – presumably because you have enough in common to agree on a living space and general lifestyle – you're going to have to figure out how to allocate your resources.

This will mean more than just dividing up the piggy bank into "mine, yours and ours." You are going to have to accommodate each other's sense of style, differing views of money and definitions of wants and needs. It's daunting! And since you are sisters, you can get into some ferocious battles, bringing up all sorts of ugly controversies from years gone by in the family home without the restraint two strangers might feel when discussing problems. But this can be good, too – you can skip all the PC stuff and get down to the business of managing your money.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 10
 ♥ Q 9 7 6 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A 10 4

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
 4NT Pass 5♥ Pass
 5NT Pass 6♥ Pass
 7♥

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Exploratory Analysis

Counting out a hand is often thought of as a laborious process, but it is not really that difficult if you put your mind to it.

Take this case where South is in seven hearts, and his only possible loser is a spade. The grand slam could be made very easily if declarer knew which opponent had the spade queen, since he could then take the spade finesse in the right direction. But since he can't see the queen, declarer should try to assemble all the information he can to assist him in resolving the two-way guess.

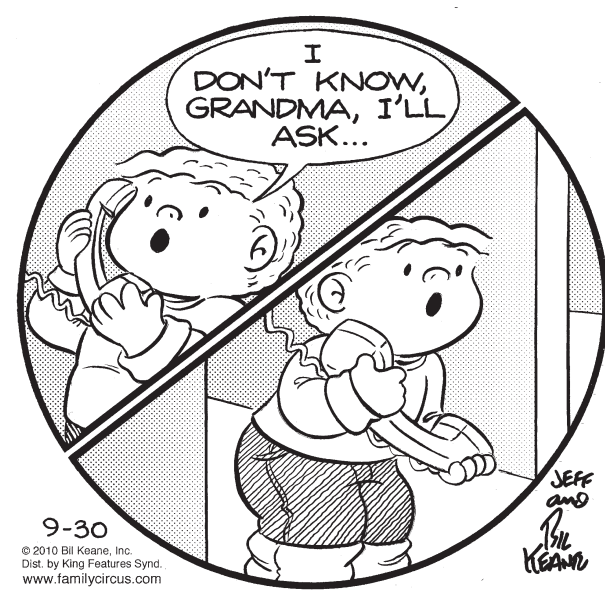
Accordingly, declarer wins the club lead with the ace, draws trumps, then cashes the ace of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. A club to the king is followed by another diamond ruff, a club ruff (on which East shows out) and a third diamond ruff, to which both opponents follow suit.

The primary purpose of all these plays is to force the defenders to reveal their distribution. In the actual case, South learns that West started with precisely one heart, four diamonds and six clubs. This in turn means that West was dealt exactly two spades and East five.

The logical conclusion is that East is much more likely to have the queen of spades than West. So South next leads the jack of spades to the king and finesses the ten on the way back. As it happens, the finesse succeeds, and the grand slam is made.

Of course, declarer is not certain the finesse will win – heavy favorites sometimes lose – but, as is nearly always the case, there is no reason not to follow the percentages.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-30
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 www.familycircus.com

"...Have I been up to anything, Mommy?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/30

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

QHTUVGF ZKTZ TGOJPIO
 DPYMI FHZ ZP NGPE ZPP
 RYDK TJPYZ KVR, ZKH AGTVM

NHCZ T AMPE CUPQVMH.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THOSE PEOPLE ARE AT A HAWAIIAN BOWLING ALLEY, CAN YOU SAY THEY'RE ROLLING IN THE ISLE?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Kennel call
 4 Binges
 8 Unkempt one
 12 Zodiac feline
 13 Out of the storm
 14 Gambling game
 15 Pigskin
 17 2.54 centimeters
 18 Three-man vessel?
 19 Burn sluggishly
 21 Exhibited ennui
 24 Singer DiFranco
 25 Punk-rock subgenre
 26 Tier
 28 Tender
 32 Coastal bird

DOWN

41 Inseparable
 42 Wahine's gift
 44 Pigeon-holed
 46 Pretend to sing
 50 "Go, team!"
 51 Sandwich treat
 52 Explanatory info
 56 "— Free"
 57 Took the shuttle
 58 Torched
 59 Responsibility evidence
 60 Pinnacle
 61 "CSI" evidence

2 Old Olds-mobile
 3 Fancy maneuvering
 4 Talk on and on
 5 Chicken-link
 6 Solidifies
 7 Alabama city
 8 Mountain-top access
 9 Give for a while
 10 Never again?
 11 Physician Niels
 16 Large cask
 20 Yoko of music
 21 Bigfoot's cousin
 22 "So be it"
 23 Pooch
 27 Existed
 29 Sturdy place to stand
 30 Sea eagle
 31 Walter — Army Medical Center
 33 1950s sitcom family
 35 Clear the tables
 38 Susan of "L.A. Law"
 40 Whirlpool
 43 Farther down the page
 45 Scooted
 46 Timber wolf
 47 Press agent?
 48 Indiana city
 49 Hen pen
 53 Praise in verse
 54 Stannum
 55 Greek vowel

Yesterdays answer 9-30

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
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		