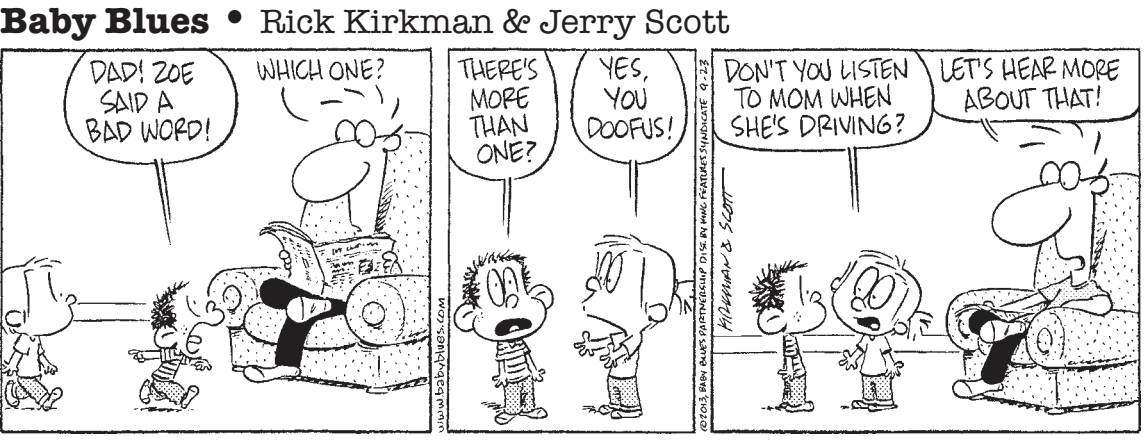
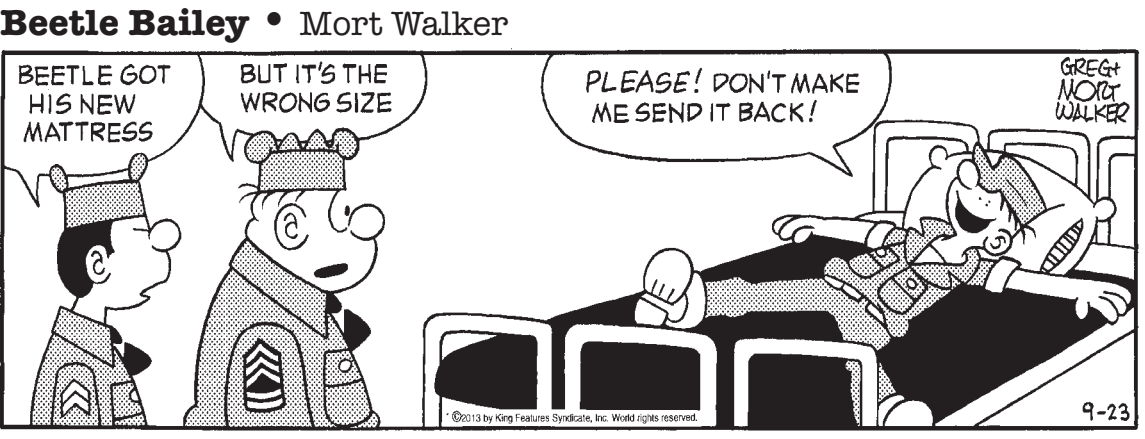
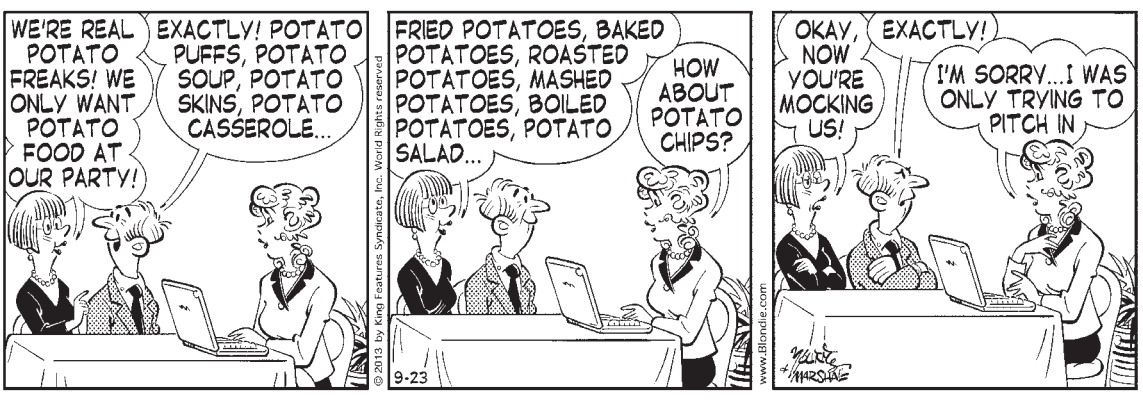
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



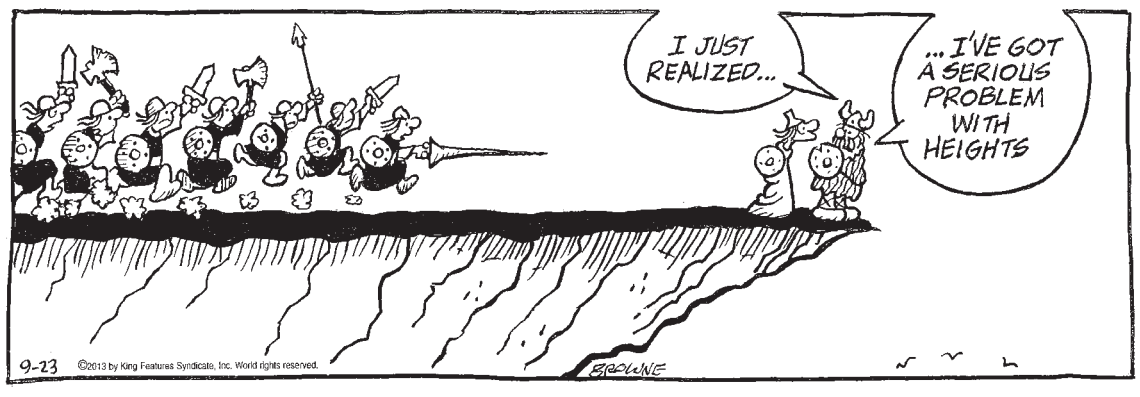
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

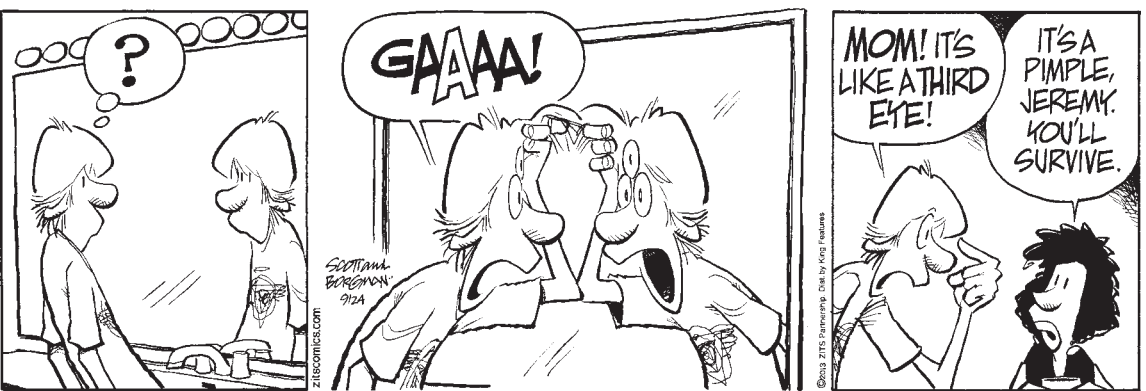


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Autumn vase stresses colors

The colored leaves of autumn have inspired artists for centuries. This Daum Nancy cameo glass vase is decorated with an autumn scene. The 4 3/4-inch-high vase sold at a Du-Mouchelles auction in Detroit for $3,900.

The first day of autumn this year was Sept. 22. It is the day of the autumnal equinox, a term based on the journey of Earth around the sun.

On that date, day and night are each almost 12 hours long. It marks the days when air cools in the north and leaves on trees begin to change colors.

Artists for centuries have pictured colorful fall landscapes. Cameo glass artists often carved decorations from layers of glass made in seasonal colors of orange and red.

A Daum Nancy vase made in France between about 1895 and 1920 pictures a lake scene with birch trees. The rectangular vase auctioned last year for almost $4,000.

Q: Please tell me the value of a Martha Washington sewing cabinet that belonged to my great-grandmother in the 1880s. It has four long legs and three drawers in the front. There is a semicircular storage compartment with a hinged lid on each side. And why is it named after George Washington's wife?

A: Martha Washington (1731-1802) enjoyed knitting and used a similar type of sewing table, without drawers, at Mount Vernon. The style you describe, along with its name, was not introduced until the 1920s. The First Lady's name was used to market the style, which became especially popular during the Depression.

In other words, your great-grandmother's table is not as old as you think it is. But depending on its quality and condition, it could sell for about $200.

Q: When cleaning out a cupboard, I found an Old Plantation wooden cigar box about 7 1/2 inches long and 5 1/2 inches wide. The outside and inside labels picture plantation scenes. There's a 1901 IRS stamp on it. Please tell me something about the box.

A: The value of old wooden cigar boxes varies considerably depending on condition. The Old Plantation brand name dates from around the turn of the 20th century. Some Old Plantation boxes have impressed labels, while others have paper labels. A box with inside and outside paper labels in excellent condition recently auctioned for nearly $500.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 5
♥ A K
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ Q 6 5 3

WEST
♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 3
♦ K 8 7 6 4
♣ 9 8 2

EAST
♠ K Q 9 6
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A J
♣ K J 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 8
♥ Q 10 9 8 5 4
♦ Q 3
♣ A 10

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in an invitational pair tournament in the Netherlands in 1990. The winners were Enri Leufkens and Berry Westra of the Netherlands, who outdistanced a strong multinational field comprising 16 pairs of the world's best players.

When Westra-Leufkens held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. A panel of expert commentators, watching on Vu-Graph, predicted that four hearts would go down one after West led the nine of clubs, since declarer seemed certain to lose a club, a spade and two diamonds.

But Leufkens demonstrated that they were sorely mistaken. He took East's jack of clubs with the ace and immediately returned the club ten. East won with the king and shifted to the A-J of diamonds, allowing the defenders to score their two diamond tricks before South could discard a diamond on the queen of clubs. In the process, however, dummy's 10-9 of diamonds became established.

After taking the diamond king, West shifted to a spade, East's queen losing to the ace. Leufkens now avoided the trap of playing the A-K of trumps and then trying to get rid of his two remaining spades on two of dummy's winners.

Instead, he crossed to the heart ace, cashed the club queen, pitching a spade, and led the diamond ten. East was helpless. If he discarded, Leufkens would discard his last spade, so East ruffed and declarer overruffed. Leufkens then returned to dummy with the heart king -- simultaneously drawing the last two opposing trumps -- and disposed of his last spade on the diamond nine.

Thus, the "unmakable" contract came home, leaving the red-faced panel to partake of a generous portion of humble pie.

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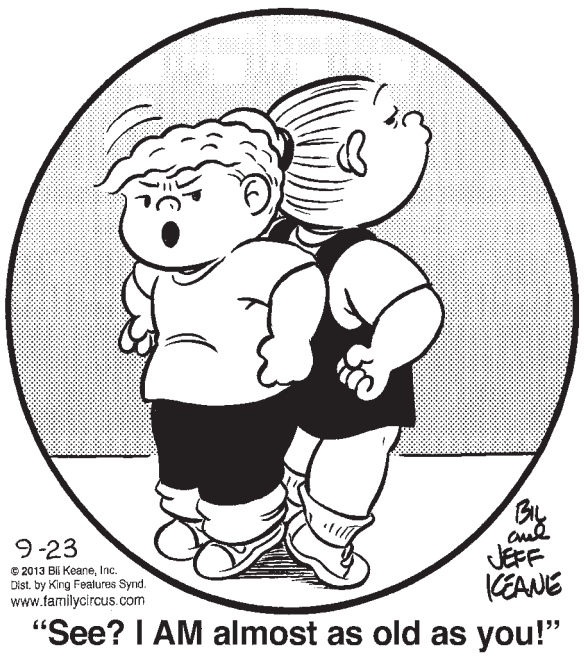
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"See? I AM almost as old as you!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 9/23

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/20

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Cryptoquip

YHTEONH Q NCHZS EDD SXES SQLH YEBSHBQZV CBFROTSN DQJH LER, Q SXQZJ Q KHZS FZ E NKECCQZV NCBHH.

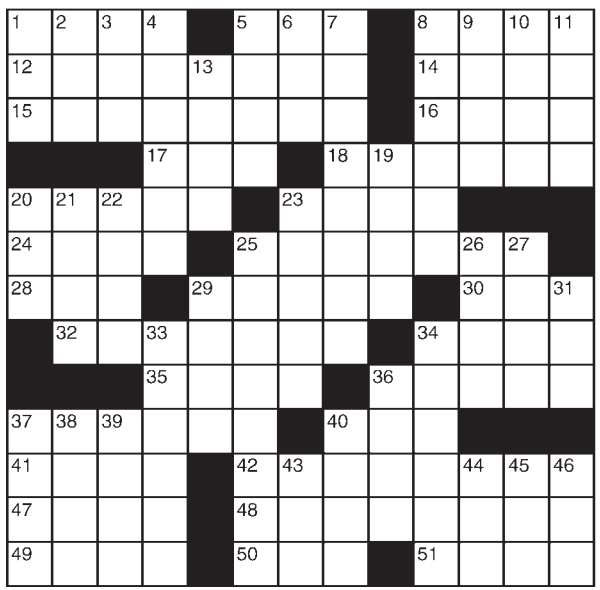
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE AMOROUS KANGAROO BROKE ITS LEG, I SUPPOSE IT HAS BECOME A HOPLESS ROMANTIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Related (to)
5 Opposite of "post-"
8 Rolling stone's lack?
12 Philanthropist's gift
14 World's fair, for short
15 Prudently silent
16 Profound
17 Yon maiden
18 Animal's hindquarter
20 Insulation material
23 Chicago team
24 Previous nights
25 Toss out
28 Atmosphere
29 Tender spots
30 Glass of NPR
32 Strife
34 Run-down area
35 Undergarment, for short
36 Things
37 Throngs
40 Blackbird
41 Chantilly, e.g.
42 Reveal
47 Fairy-tale baddie
48 Boeing's business
49 Existed
50 Verily
51 Shell-less snail

DOWN
1 Do sums
2 Japanese pond carp
3 — and outs
4 Bowl game bowlful, maybe
5 Harbor structure
6 Shad product
7 Gushed with excitement
8 She's had bad hair days
9 Yoked team
10 Detail, briefly
11 Erstwhile frosh
13 "Star —"
19 Basic teachings
20 Mauna —
21 Eager
22 Persian sprite
23 High, wispy clouds
25 Armageddon
26 Anger
27 Tom-tom or snare
29 Con job
31 Mornings (Abbr.)
33 Use caller ID, e.g.
34 They'll make you stand tall
36 Bygone Peruvian
37 Unkempt one
38 Carry on
39 Land measure
40 Largest continent
43 "— been had!"
44 Lubricate
45 Old French coin
46 Brit's lang.

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

Saturday's answer 9-23