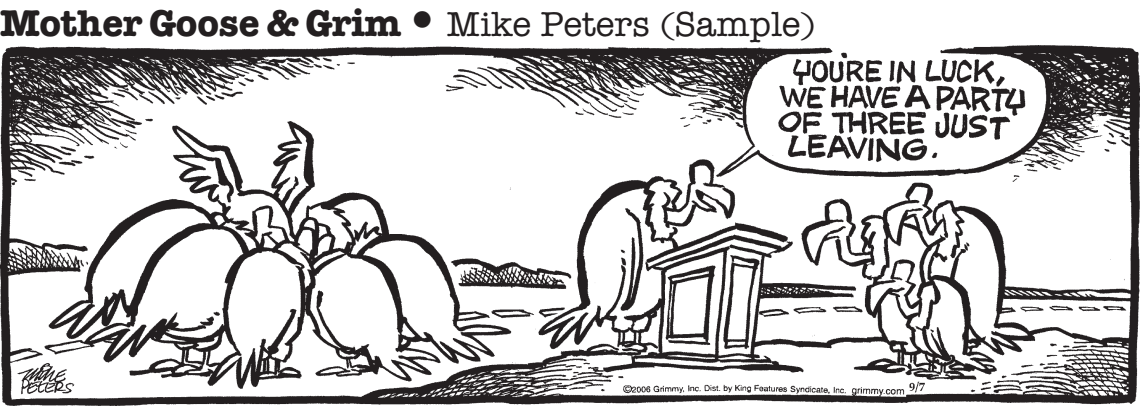
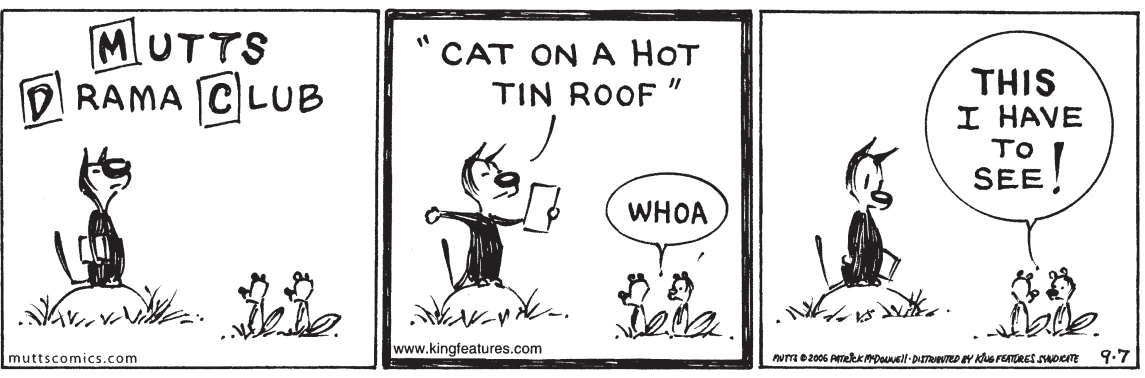
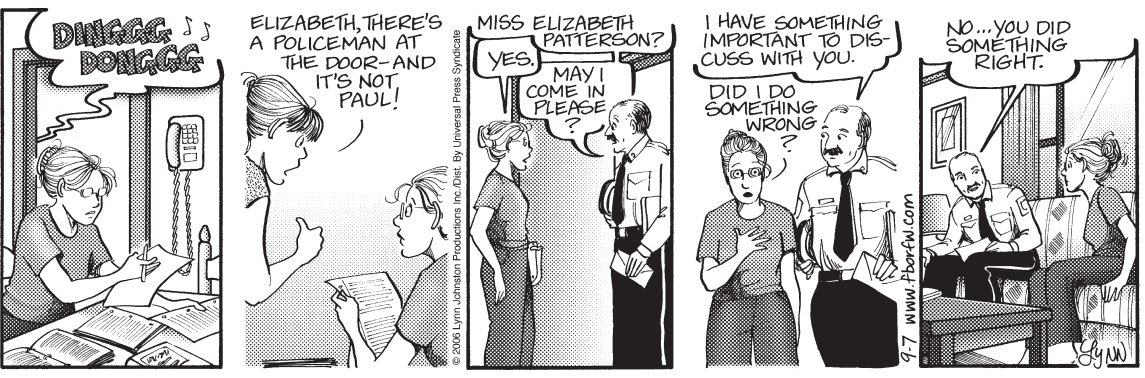
Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)



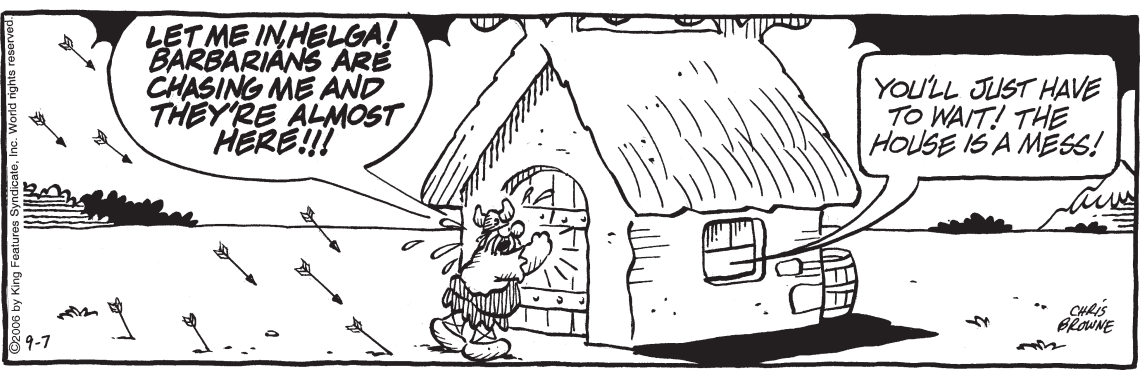
Mutts • Patrick McDonnell



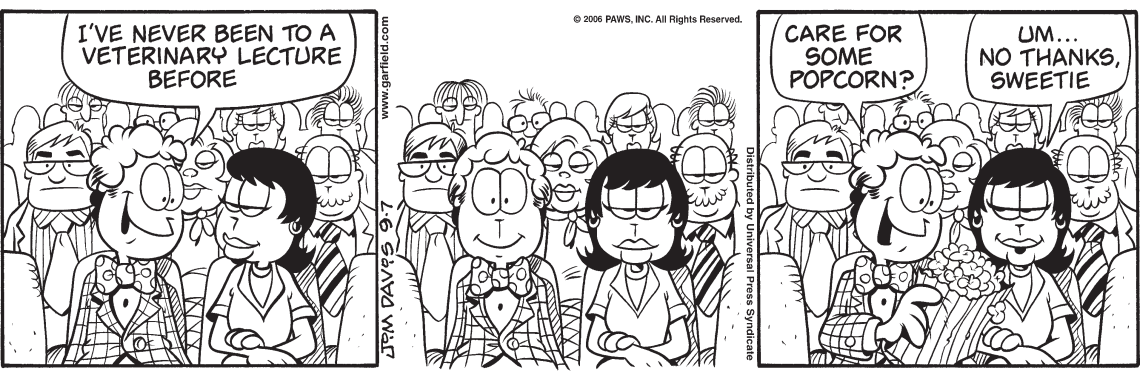
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



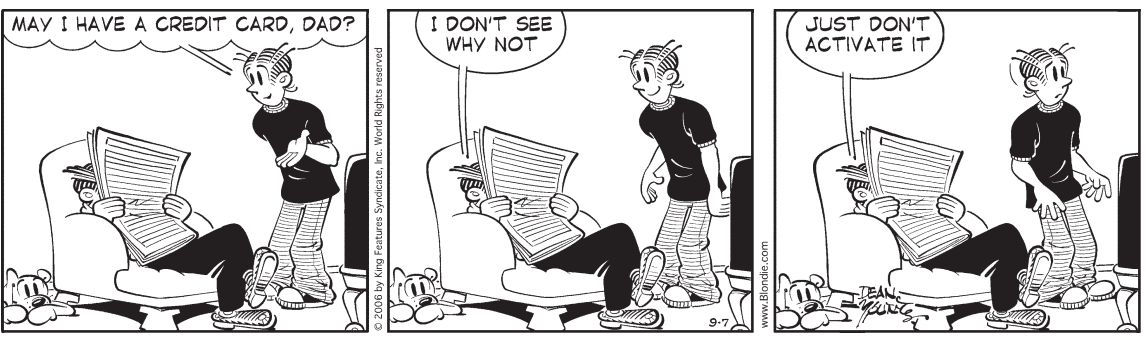
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



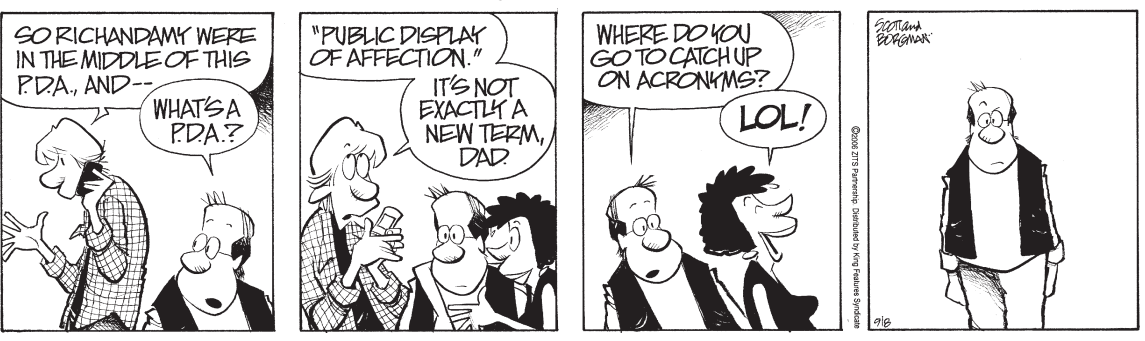
Blondie • Chic Young



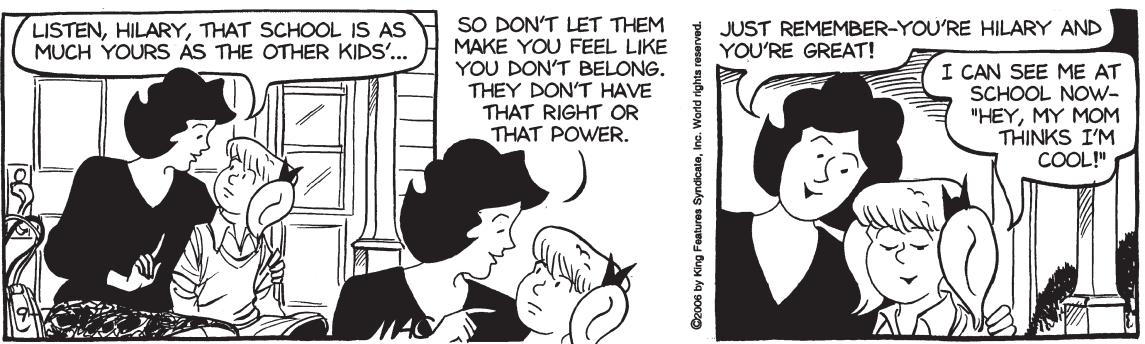
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Grandma spends time complaining

Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 34. My last living grandparent is my grandmother, "Gladys," who is 87. Ever since my grandfather died eight years ago, she has been depressed without showing signs of getting any better.

The only thing that gives Granny Gladys any pleasure is seeing her family — but it's never enough for her.

No matter how often she sees anyone in the family, she tries to make us feel guilty for not spending more time with her.

I moved to another state last year, and whenever Granny Gladys calls she tries to make me feel guilty for moving.

She has no interest in making friends, and if I suggest she join a senior citizens group, she complains that "all old people do is gripe about their aches and pains," and she doesn't want to listen to people complain all day.

But Abby, all my grandmother does is complain about how lonely she is!

How can I ease my guilt about moving to another state?

And how can I help her to be less depressed and stop laying guilt trips on our family?

— WORRIED ABOUT GRANNY, MORRISVILLE, N.C.

DEAR WORRIED ABOUT GRANNY: You appear to be a sweet, caring person, but it should not be your responsibility to lift Granny Gladys out of her eight-year "depression."

Your grandmother appears to be prejudiced against people of her own generation.

Many women are widowed after long marriages and go on to live satisfying lives.

You know as well as I do that older people do a lot more than "gripe about their aches and pains."

As their health permits, they donate time to the community, socialize and keep themselves active and involved.

Your grandmother appears to have chosen to do none of those things.

In fact, she seems to be happy in her misery. So please don't try to change her — because if you succeed, you'll take away what appears to be her favorite topic of conversation.

DEAR ABBY: I am a daughter of two parents who, until recently, have been the best parents a girl could hope for.

I graduated from high school and was accepted into a prestigious college in New York. I attended the school for a year, and my grades — like those of many freshmen — were not exciting.

During the second semester, my father lost his job, and so I finished the semester and dropped out of school. I no longer attend college. I am working part-time now, using the other time to look for a second job.

At family gatherings, my parents continue to say I attend this prestigious school, that I am "doing great" and that I'm almost done with college.

I am not hurt as much as I am ashamed.

Are my parents ashamed of me and my current "non-student" status?

What should I do?

— DENIED IN N.Y.

DEAR DENIED: Your parents may feel ashamed that they haven't been able to pay for your education as they had planned, but I don't think they are in any way ashamed of you.

With one year of college under your belt, it is important that you complete your education.

Because you can no longer depend upon your parents to pay for it, my advice is to pay a visit to the financial aid office of the school you were attending and see what you can work out.

Your local library is also a terrific source of information when researching scholarships for which you might qualify.

Please don't wait any longer to do this.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 4
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ K J 7 6
♣ 7 5 2

WEST
♠ K Q 10 8 5 2
♥ 5
♦ 9 3
♣ A 10 6 4

EAST
♠ 9 7 6 3
♥ 8 2
♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ Q J 9

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K 9 7 6 4
♦ A 5 2
♣ K 8 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — king of spades.

Eliminating the Luck Element

Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads the king of spades. It seems natural to win the spade, draw trumps and lead a diamond to the jack.

If the finesse succeeds, you have 10 sure tricks. But if it fails, you could find yourself in serious trouble and go down if East shifts to a club.

This would be the wrong way to play the hand, however. There is a much safer method of play, and, in fact, it's sure to succeed regardless of how the East-West cards are divided.

The proper approach is to win the spade lead, draw trumps and cash the A-K of diamonds, deliberately rejecting the finesse. You then lead dummy's jack of spades, but instead of ruffing it, you discard the five of diamonds!

West finds himself on lead but helpless. He cannot afford a spade continuation, which would present you with a ruff-and-discard, so he is forced to return either a diamond (if he has one) or a club.

If West has a diamond, he can't lead it without establishing a diamond trick for you in dummy. He also can't lead a club without making your king a trick. So, no matter what he decides to do, West is certain to hand you the contract once you adopt this line of play.

Situations like this occur over and over again, and the trick is to recognize them as they arise. The principle that governs them is always the same: Before pinning all your hopes on the favorable location of a particular card (such as the queen of diamonds or ace of clubs in this deal), you should seek a method of play that either reduces or eliminates the element of luck. Whenever possible, leave nothing to chance.

Cryptoquip

T S Z C H C Z T Z C Q W H C V Z J

L H X Z P H J H C V G L P R J Y U U W Y C Q,

R G N W V M G N R H W W K S H K

H M H C X Z Z V G G V W Z ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME PAINT, ABOUT TO BE APPLIED TO AN OLD RUSTED CAR, SHOUTED "DON'T COAT ME ON THAT!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals O

Family Circus • Bil Keane

"...soccer camp, church camp, music camp, golf camp ..."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Homer's interjection
4 "Planet of the —"
8 100-yard competition
12 Coexist
13 Head Stone?
14 Reed instrument
15 Vexatious problem
17 Collagist's need
18 Florist's qty.
19 Spindle-top spouter
21 "Mikrokosmos" composer
24 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
25 "Sail — Ship of State!"
26 Fresh
28 Reacted to pyrotechnics
32 Uppity one
34 Comprehend
36 "Whip It" group
37 Great Lakes mnemonic
39 Acknowledge applause
41 Intention
42 Actor Stephen
44 Hawk
46 Overpowering peak
50 Moray
51 Rani's wrap
52 Tough thing to fly into
56 Baxter or Bancroft
57 Icicle site
58 Sister
59 "Has 1,001 —"
60 Coaster
61 Greek H

DOWN
1 Doo follower
2 Tramcar load
3 Vertical space
4 Piranha territory
5 Snapshot
6 Reverberate
7 Flying gaggle
8 Red osier, e.g.
9 Competent
10 Quintessence
11 Command to Fido
16 Speck
20 MGM mascot
21 "Poppycock!"
22 Part of A.D.
23 Barrel
27 "Charlotte's —"
29 Banner
30 Satan's specialty
31 Cupola
33 Holly features
35 Surpass
38 Witness
40 Worked with a hoe
43 Inferno residue
45 Morning moisture
46 Jacob's brother
47 Global fleet
48 Sea bird
49 Blue hue
53 "Hail, Caesar!"
54 Eccentric
55 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	O	P		T	A	R	A		H	A	H	A
A	L	L		O	N	U	S		E	G	A	D
R	I	O		P	I	N	K	F	L	O	Y	D
M	O	D	E	M			S	I	P			
			L	O	G	S		N	E	W	E	L
P	I	N	K	S	L	I	P		R	H	E	A
O	N	O		T	O	D	O	S		O	L	D
E	T	N	A		B	L	U	E	J	A	Y	S
T	O	O	L	S		E	R	N	O			
			L	O	W		S	T	I	N	K	
B	L	U	E	B	A	Y	O	U		T	O	E
E	A	S	Y		V	E	R	A		E	V	E
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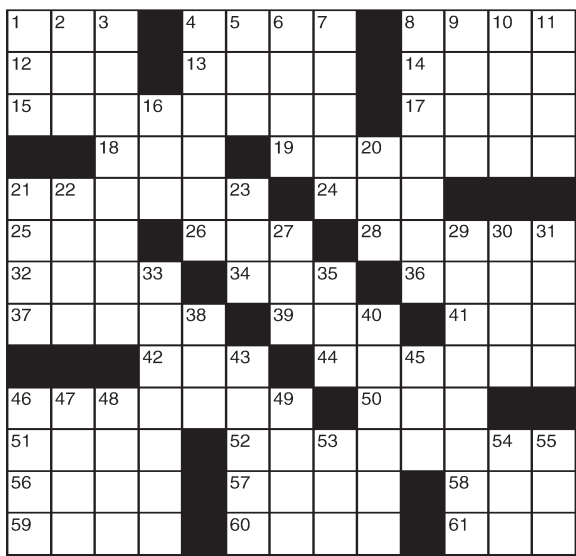
Yesterday's answer 9-7