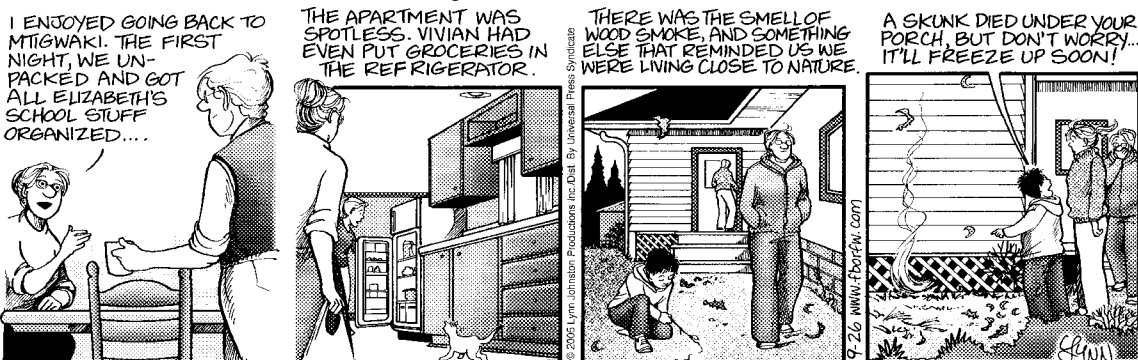
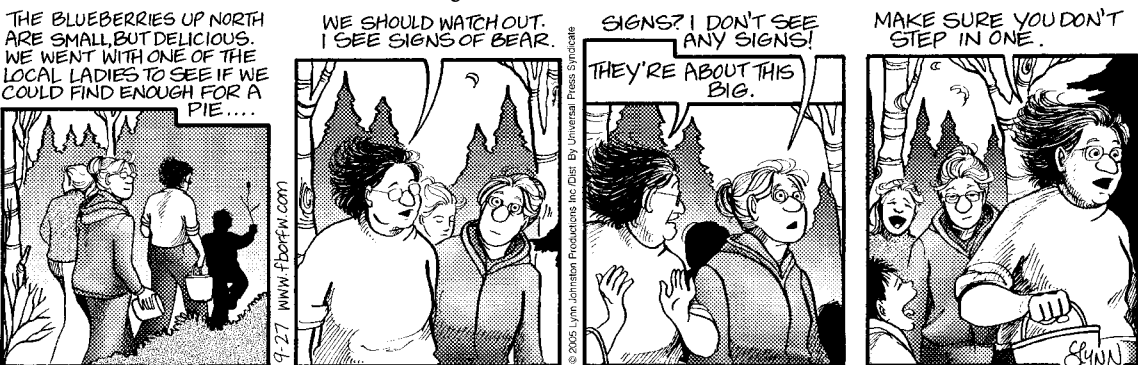


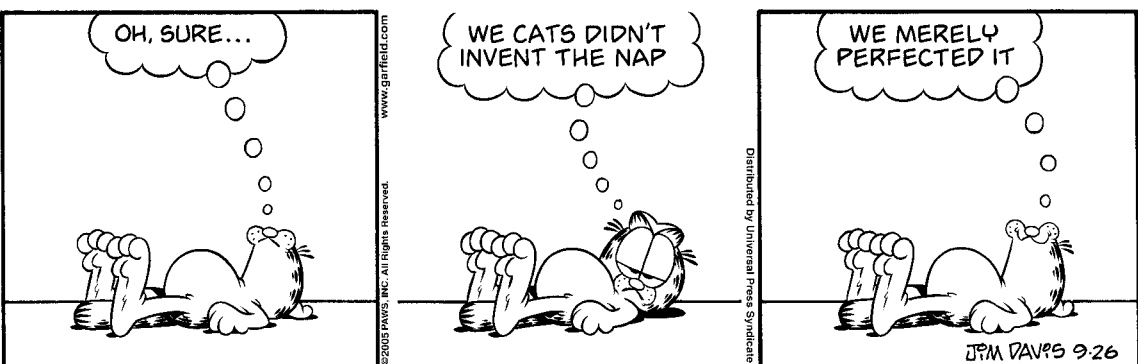
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



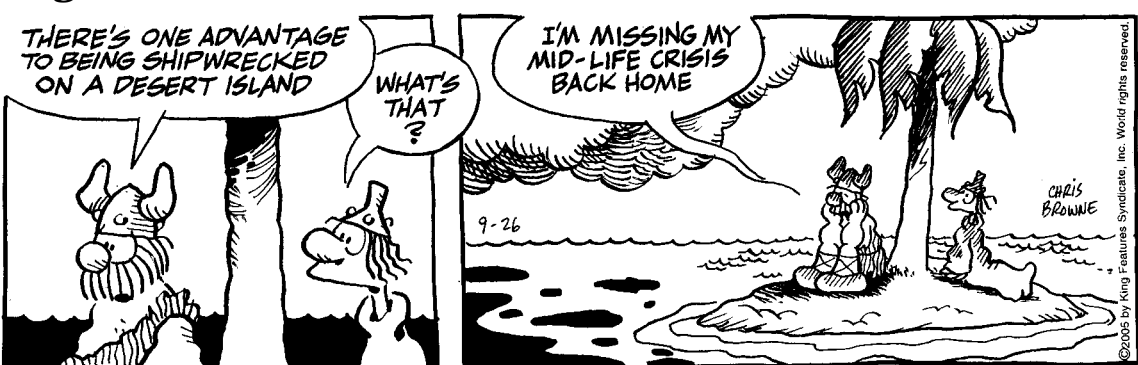
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



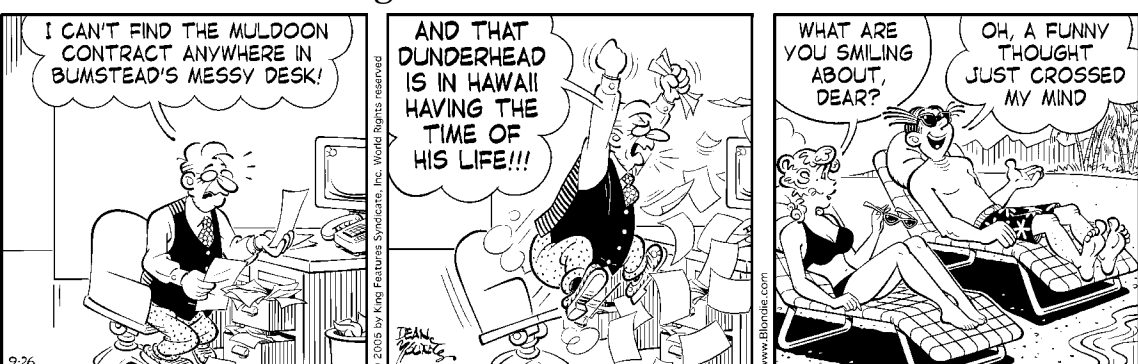
Garfield • Jim Davis



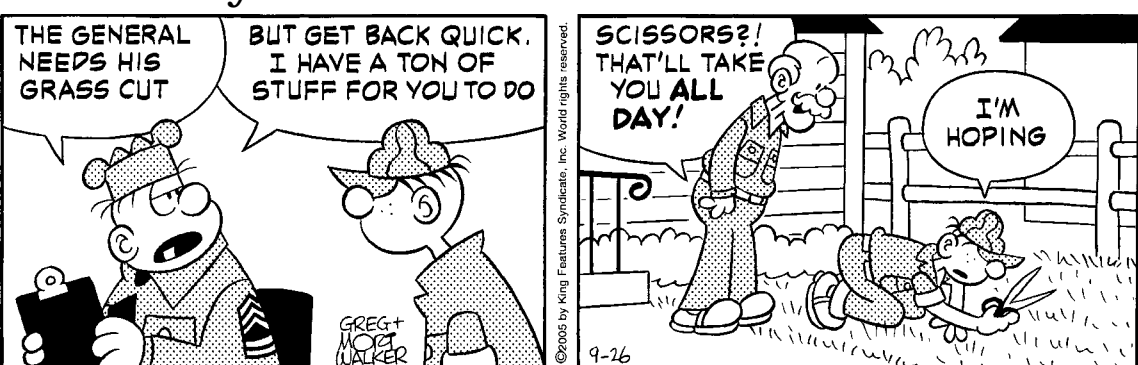
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



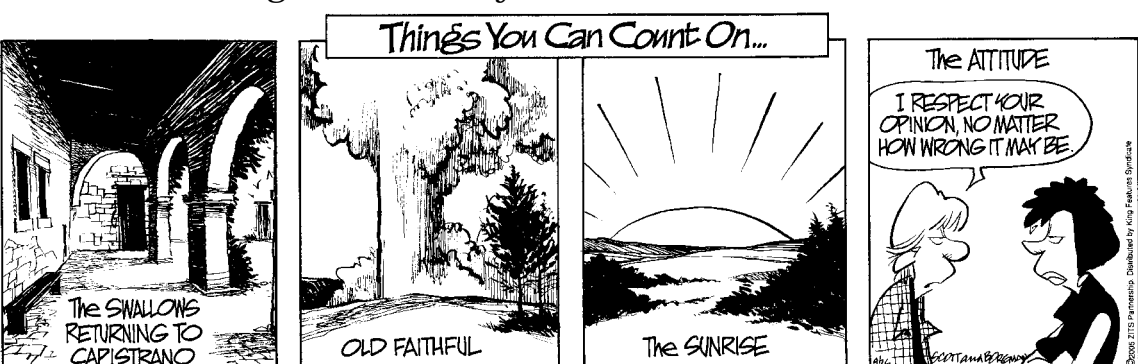
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Direct deposit best for victims

DEAR ABBY: During this difficult time in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, we are doing everything in our power to reach out to those who have been affected. We are working with people to make sure their Social Security money gets to them on time, so they will have one less thing to worry about.



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

The best way to do this is by direct deposit into a bank or credit union account.

A simple action like signing up for direct deposit offers some much-needed peace of mind. Direct deposit is completely predictable. It gives people access to their money wherever they are, whenever they need it. It also means no lost or stolen checks because the payment goes straight into a person's account.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank, as part of our Go Direct campaign, are encouraging all people — whether affected by the hurricane or not — to use direct deposit.

DEAR MR. GREGG: I'm pleased to help you spread this important and timely message. With so many people having been displaced by the recent natural disaster in the Southeast, your Go Direct program will ease considerable logistical problems in getting their money to them. This is a prudent way for all Americans to be prepared in case of a disaster.

To sign up for direct deposit, please call toll-free: (800) 333-1795 (English and Espanol). People are on the phones waiting to help you. For more information, you can also visit www.GoDirect.org.

DEAR ABBY: I am from the South and have lived in Colorado for five years, but I still have a deep

sobriety depend upon your developing friendships with kids who stay clean. You and Stella may be best friends, but right now you're not good for each other.

DEAR ABBY: My co-workers and I got into an interesting discussion today. The topic: What would you do as far as burial is concerned if your spouse passed away and you remarried? Everyone had a different opinion.

I have been married to my husband for 26 years. If something were to happen to him and I remarried, where would I be buried?

I would feel as if I were betraying both husbands if I chose one over the other. What is your opinion, and is there a "correct" answer to this?

DEAR ABBY: For most of this year I have been battling a drug and alcohol addiction. I am only 14, but I have managed to almost completely stop both — but on my bad days I fall right back in.

I would have the strength to stop if it wasn't for my best friend, "Stella." Stella helped me deal with my parents' divorce and a near-suicide attempt. I got her into alcohol. I have tried to stop, but she is always dragging me back into it.

DEAR LOST: One of the keys to staying sober is cutting your ties with people who "enable" you to fall off the wagon. Your health and

DEAR ABBY: There is no one "correct" answer to that question. What is right for one couple may not be right for another. Some widows (and widowers) remarry with the understanding that he or she will be buried with the first spouse.

The logical and primary reason is that this will give the children from the first marriage one place to pay respects to both parents. Also, it's not uncommon for cemetery plots to be purchased years in advance.

However, because you would feel as if you were betraying both of your husbands if you chose to be buried with one over the other, allow me to offer a suggestion: Ask that your remains be cremated and divided equally between both husbands, providing it is all right with whoever survives you.

Bridge

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ 9 8 5 4 3
 ♦ A J 10 9
 ♣ A 9 8 7

WEST
 ♠ J 8 6 5 3
 ♥ K Q J 10
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ K J

EAST
 ♠ K 10 9 7 4 2
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q 10 2

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

The bidding:
 North 1♥ East Pass South 2♦ West Pass
 3♦ Pass 3 NT
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

Famous Hand

Today's deal was published Sept. 24, 1945, in the Glasgow (Scotland) Evening Citizen. It was the first of a series of 8,793 daily columns Albert Benjamin wrote for that newspaper before it folded many years later due to financial troubles.

The deal arose in a team-of-four match. At three of the four tables where it was played, the contract was five diamonds, which made easily. But at the fourth table, where the bidding went as shown, South got to three notrump, and West led the king of hearts. This presented South with a thorny problem, since a natural block in the diamond suit made it unlikely that he could cash six diamond tricks even if the missing diamonds were divided 2-1.

The temptation to lead a low diamond at trick two and finesse the nine is strong, but also very dangerous. True, in the actual case this method of play succeeds, but the fact is that it offers declarer roughly a 50 percent chance for the contract.

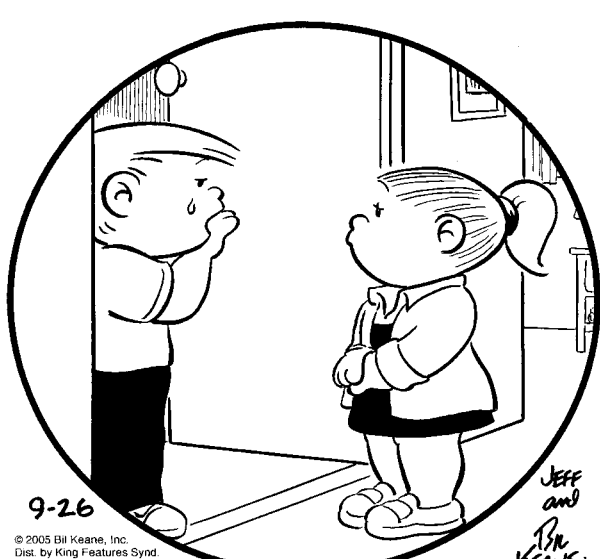
There is a much better line of play available, one that gives declarer better than a 3-to-1 shot to get home safely. South's best play at trick two is to lead the queen of spades and discard the nine of diamonds from dummy!

This play is certain to succeed if the missing diamonds are divided 2-1, which occurs in 78 deals out of 100. The queen-of-spades lead at trick two is therefore clearly the percentage play.

In the actual case, East wins the queen with the king and probably returns a heart. Eventually, declarer plays dummy's ace of diamonds followed by the jack to his king. Then comes the ace of spades, on which dummy's ten of diamonds is discarded, allowing South to cash the 8-7-6-5 of diamonds and make the contract.

Tomorrow: How to go from A to Z.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Crossword

ACROSS

1 Kicked, in a way
 5 "Krazy"
 8 Farm building
 12 Test the waters
 13 Bat stat
 14 Author Wiesel
 15 Elevator man
 16 Praise
 18 Comic bit
 20 Showed leniency
 21 Goldbrick
 23 Comical Conway
 24 Inure
 28 Breach
 31 Feathery accessory
 32 Liberty's handful
 34 Witness
 35 Recedes
 37 Took
 39 Columnist Smith
 41 Uncomplicated
 42 Possibly was
 45 Cronkite's successor

DOWN

1 Noah's passengers
 2 Inauguration recitation
 3 Tend texts
 4 Ball/Amaz production company
 5 Indonesian volcano
 6 Regis and Kelly's network
 7 Spasms, e.g.
 8 Ritzy part of L.A.
 9 Boy who cried wolf, e.g.
 10 Carnival attraction
 11 Requirement
 17 Make up your mind
 19 Expenditure
 22 Impel
 24 Copper head?
 25 Stocky horse
 26 San Francisco carrier
 27 Bergen's dummy
 29 Retainer
 30 Koppel or Kennedy
 33 "— real nowhere man"
 36 Comparison
 38 Constrictor
 40 Londoner's last letter
 42 First king of Israel
 43 Beige
 44 Society newbies
 46 Medal earner
 47 History chapters
 48 Hinge (on)
 50 Siesta

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 9-26

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Cryptoquip

QR DNIT RNTAJT KIXULMP
 EQVJX CLVQMS JWCTL-
 ENMS ULCKX, DNI GNIEP
 GLEE KQA L GEJLM JW.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF AN EATING REGIMEN IS MADE ESPECIALLY FOR ADOLESCENTS, I'D CALL IT A PRO-TEEN DIET.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals L

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
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			