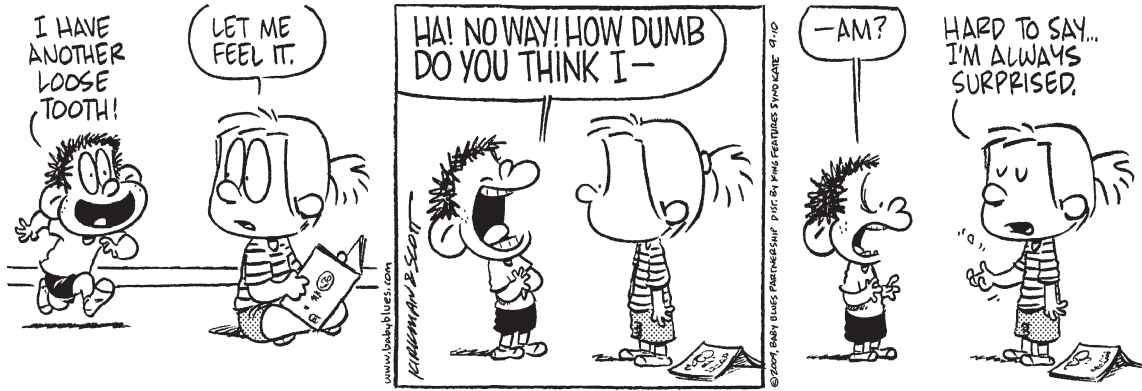
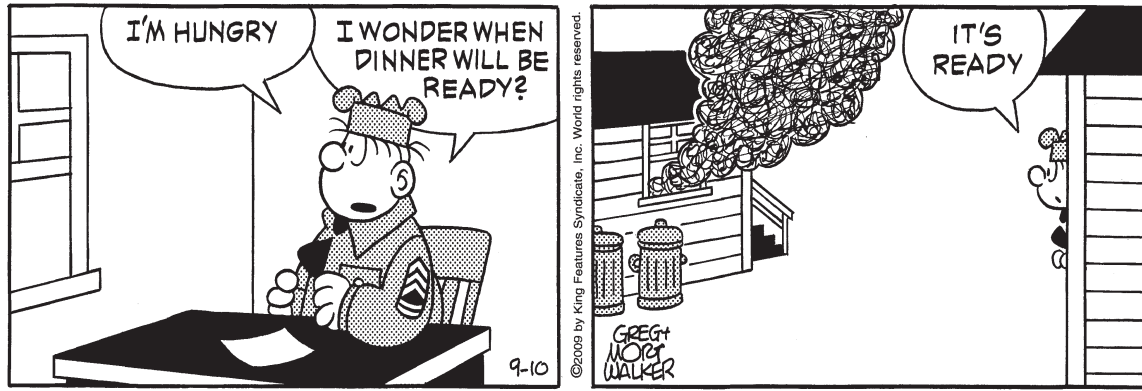


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



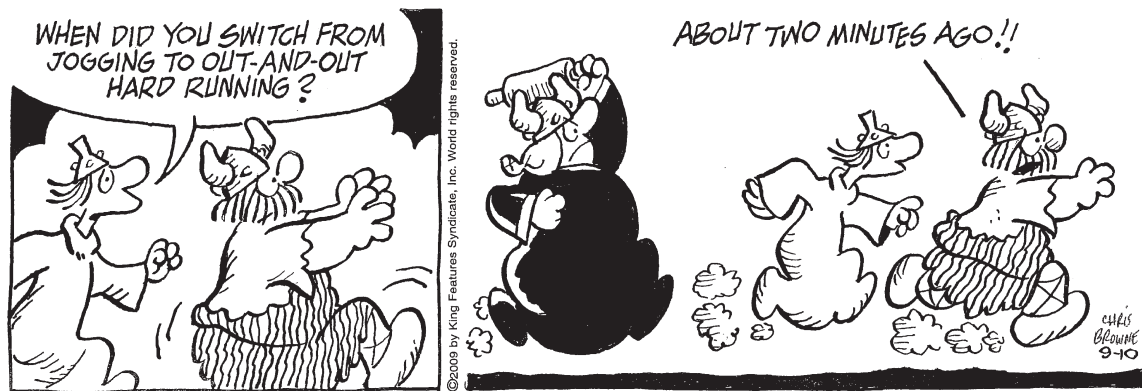
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



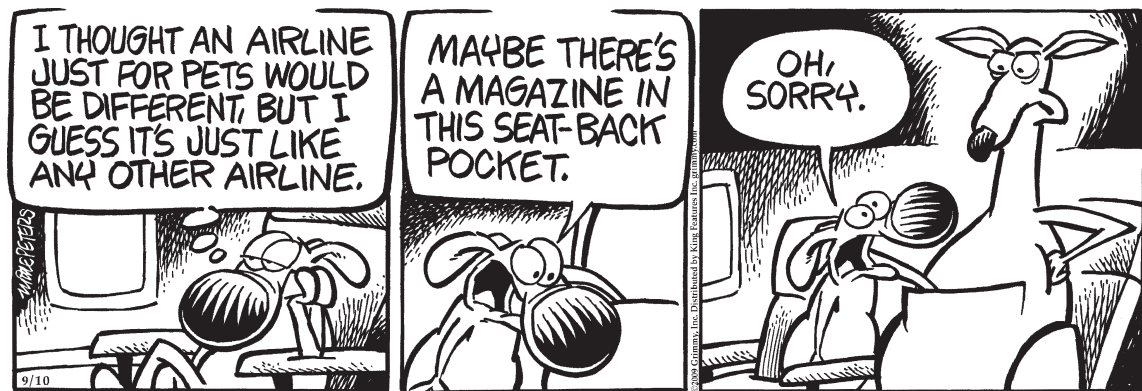
Blondie • Chic Young



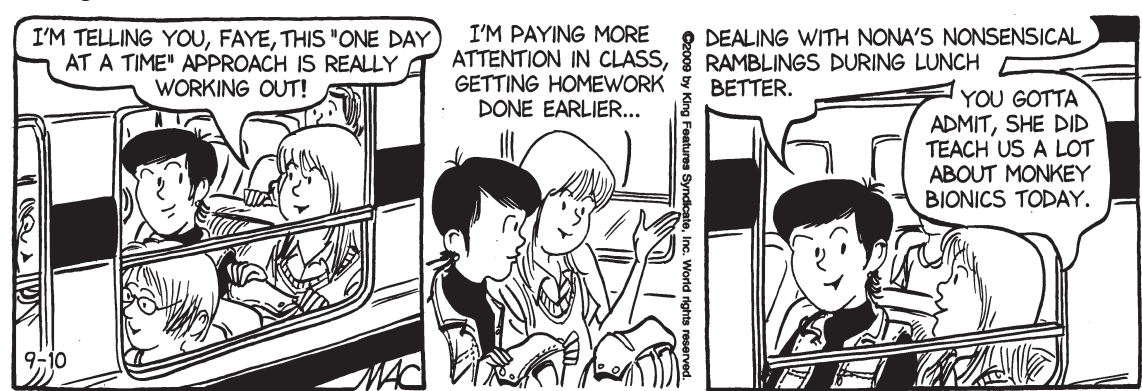
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



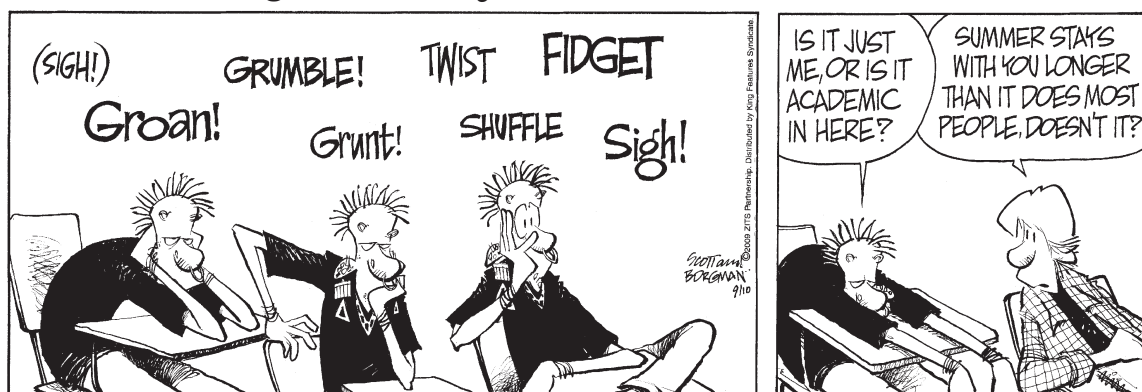
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Husband wants to do stand-up

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband is thinking of changing careers. Normally, I get behind anything he wants to try, but this time he wants to quit his job and become a stand-up comedian. The odds against him making a living at it are high, but the biggest strike against him is that he's not funny! He says he's going to quit his job by the end of the year. How can I talk about it without hurting his feelings – and destroying our savings? – M.I.

Dear M.I.: Envisioning your golden years with an empty bank account and an unfunny hubby is pretty glum. Sounds like you have your work cut out for you. Even though your wedding vows did not specifically outline as much, one way or another, you're going to have to let your husband know he's no Jerry Seinfeld.

You can start by telling him that stand-up comics don't just quit their day jobs and become comedians. Comics usually struggle for years before they get a break. Have him try out his material at a few open-mike nights around town before doing something as extreme as leaving his job. If he's really not funny, the reaction from the audience will no doubt be painful, but it's a lesson that will be well learned. You can have a heart-to-heart talk with him about his "unfunnyness," but it might be better for you to let others be the judge. That way, it won't be just your opinion. In the end, he may realize that making people laugh for a living is serious business. It takes a lot of work and preparation to be a stand-up comedian. You and your husband may look back at all this years from now and share memories of how ill-advised his intentions were – and just laugh.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I got so angry that I had to say something. Before this woman got into her car, she casually flicked her cigarette butt to the curb and was about to drive away. "Excuse me," I yelled to her, "don't you have an ashtray in your car?" The woman gave me a dirty look and told me to mind my own business. My wife was horrified and embarrassed. She tells me I always do stuff like this and that I need to contain myself. I don't see anything wrong with pointing things out to people – is this so wrong? – G.G.

Dear G.G.: Just as no one likes a tattletale, no one really cares to be spontaneously confronted with a wrong-doing. It's commendable that you care about cigarette-butt litter – lots of smokers believe their butts are biodegradable, when in fact they contain plastic filters – but your approach might need some work. Ask yourself: Just what were you trying to prove when you asked the woman if she had an ashtray in her car? Were you trying to shame her while you looked good, or trying to teach her something?

Sometimes when we set out to do good, we must examine our real motives. Are we seriously attempting to effect change, or are we deriding others simply to make ourselves feel better? It's a natural instinct to want to make the world a better place, but assuming a holier-than-thou attitude is both condescending and annoying. It's very off-putting, and often achieves an opposite result. If you truly want to make a change, know that it's not in your power to control everyone, and some people will never change. If it bothers you, simply pick up the cigarette butt yourself and move on. Your wife will appreciate it, too.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 7 6 2
♥ A 8 5 2
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 9 6 4

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

EAST
♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ 10 7
♦ 10 6 3
♣ 10 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ J
♥ Q 6
♦ A K Q J 7 5 2
♣ K 3

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 5♦ Pass Dbtc
Pass Pass 5♦ Pass
Opening lead — king of spades.

That Old Black Magic

When declarer has an unusually long suit to run, he is often able to exert so much pressure on one or both opponents that it results in his gaining an extra trick.

Sometimes the trick falls into declarer's lap because the defenders cannot tell which suits to keep. At other times, the defenders are at declarer's mercy because there is actually no way they can discard successfully.

Here is a case of the latter sort where declarer took full advantage of a favorable lie of the cards. West led the king of spades and continued with the ace.

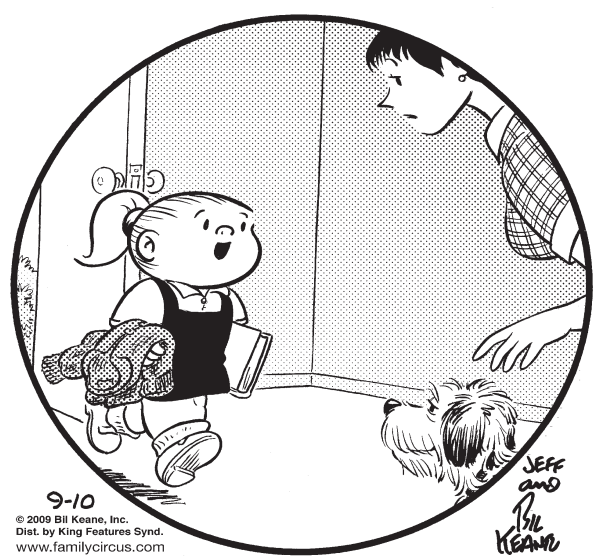
Declarer ruffed, drew three rounds of trumps and led a low club toward dummy. West could not afford to take the ace, which would have handed South the contract immediately, so he followed low.

Declarer won with the queen, ruffed another spade and then ran all his remaining trumps, reducing his hand to the Q-6 of hearts and king of clubs. Dummy's last three cards were the A-8-5 of hearts.

West, in the meantime, had been forced to come down to the K-J of hearts and ace of clubs. South now conceded the king of clubs to West's ace, forcing him to return a heart and thus yield the last two tricks. The only tricks South lost were a spade and a club.

West could have defeated the contract only by leading a low spade at trick one, followed by a heart return by East. West certainly can't be faulted for having failed to find this exotic defense.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Miss McElfresh is very proud of me. We've had three days of school and I haven't missed ONE DAY yet."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

ADCI LNJC JCQKH MCSVOC VL
LN RYHE QDKQ VQ MCLCGSCL
QN ONGGNMC, NIC JVYDQ

OKHH VQ GRLQANGQDE.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY WE HAD LAST YEAR REALLY DISAPPOINTED US. IT WAS A VERY PALTRY POULTRY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Kane's Rosebud, e.g.
5 Decline
8 Kelly or Krupa
12 News-week rival
13 Noon, in a sense
14 Yoked team
15 "Yeah, right!"
16 Army rank (Abbr.)
17 Raced
18 Fancy cake
20 "Star Wars" weapons
22 Pompous one
23 Up to
24 Help in wrongdoing
27 Model
32 Curse
33 Tex- restaurant
34 Tokyo's old name

DOWN
1 Unpartnered
2 Bart's sister
3 Send forth
4 Vanquish
5 "Oops"
6 Story of a lifetime?
7 Check
8 Tabloid topic
9 Made to leave
10 — do-well
11 Remnants
19 Symbol for arsenic
21 \$ dispenser
24 Mimic
25 Carton
26 Lewis or Clark
28 Foreign (Prefix)
29 Outside
30 Tack on
31 Trigger's rider
36 Rockefeller et al.
37 Actor Beatty
38 Go with
41 North-eastern-most st.
42 Questionable
43 Poet Teasdale
44 Verve
46 "Hey, sailor!"
47 Flaccid
48 Run easily
51 Id counterpart

Solution time: 25 mins.

FOLD HAM GROW
AGAR USA RUBE
CLUELESS ATOP
TEDDY SACHET
GEAR GEL
MITE COVE ESC
POT ENDED SIR
HUM DEER ESPY
EGG OBEY
WALLET REVUP
AREA HAIRLESS
DISC ULM IRES
EASE GAS DART

Yesterday's answer 9-10

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			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		