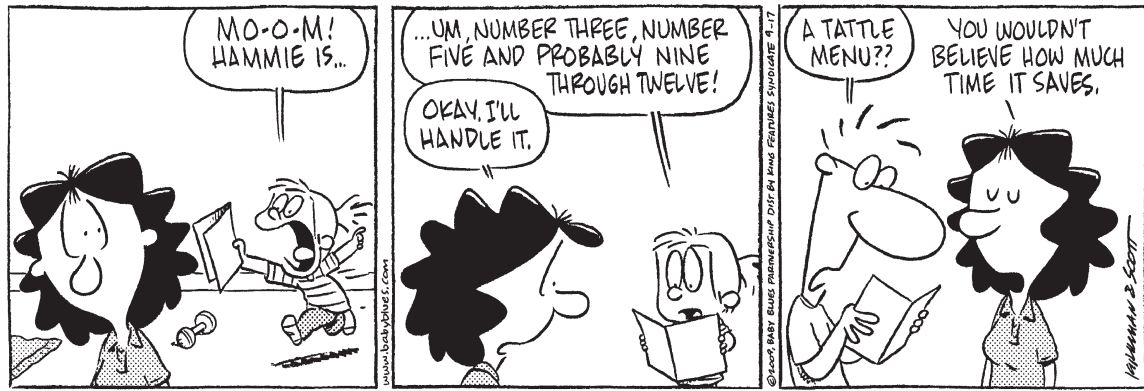
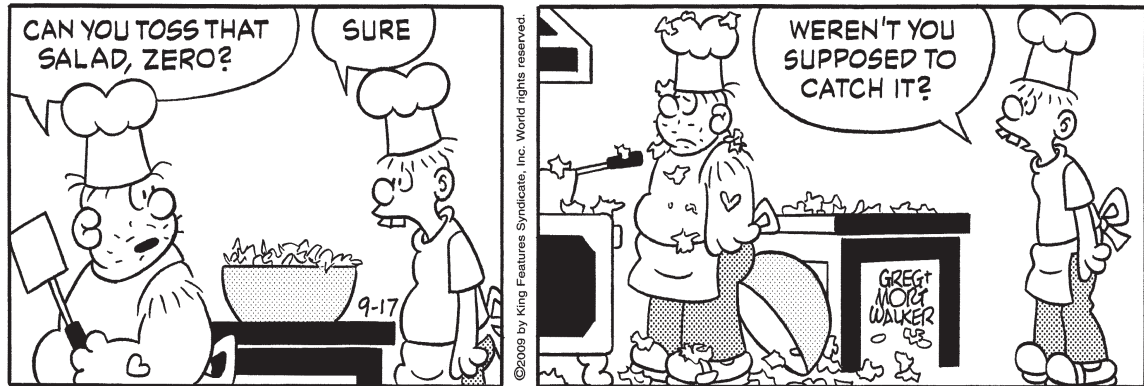


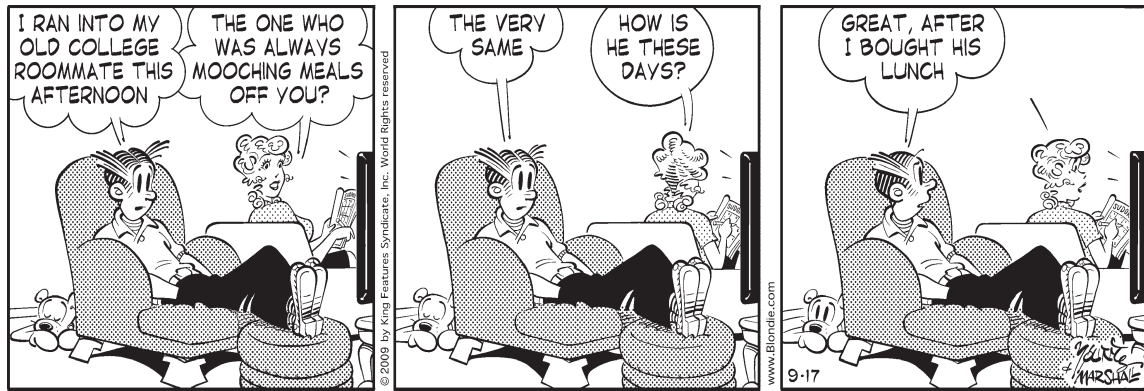
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



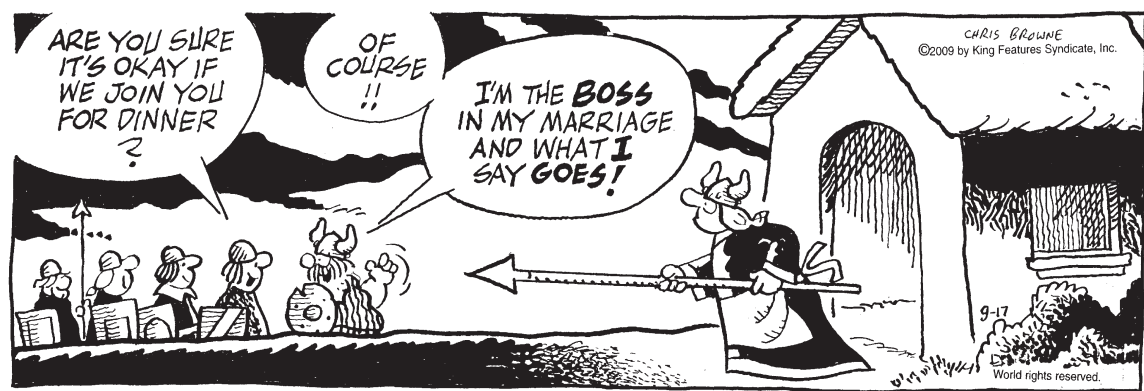
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



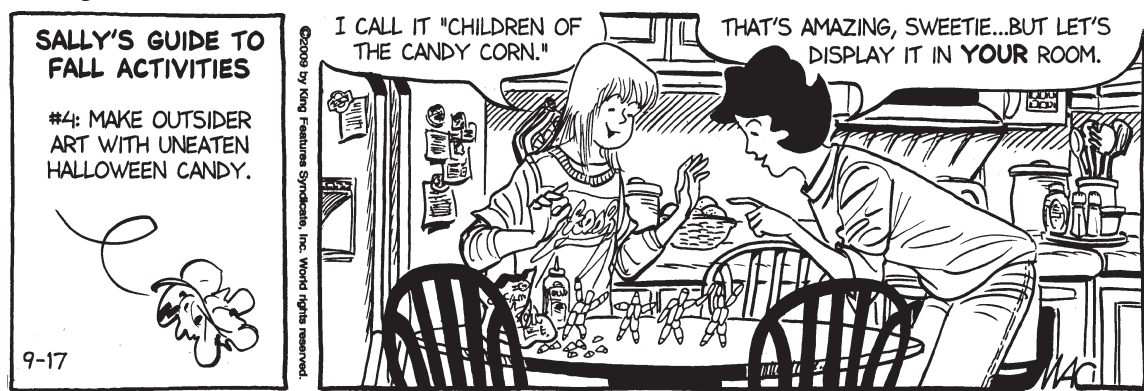
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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
Child balks at sleepovers

Dear Dr. Brothers: I love having a little girl, and have assumed she would go to sleepaway camp at 8 or 9, just like I did. When I talk to other moms, this is what they are planning, too. But she refuses to go to friends' houses for sleepovers, and I am sure she will fight me on the camp idea next summer. I figure I have almost a year to change her mind. What is the best approach to help her get with the program? — M.K.

Dear M.K.: In your letter, a couple of things stand out. The first is that you are confident in your child's ability to enjoy sleepovers and be away from home — because you enjoyed it! The second is that you set a timetable for her milestone activities based on your own schedule and that of other moms. Both of these things come from wanting her to have great experiences, but are not realistic or useful because they relate only to you and your past, and not to the present and your child, who is not the same person you are!

So, if you can acknowledge that your daughter's personality and maturity level have not been your top considerations in planning her life, then I think you can take a new look at her needs. Explore with her just what makes her uncomfortable about spending the night away from home. Let her ease into the idea by "camping" in the family room or backyard with a friend. Take yourself and your timetable out of the picture, and her anxieties may ease. Your goal should be to meet her own timetable, not pressure her with yours.

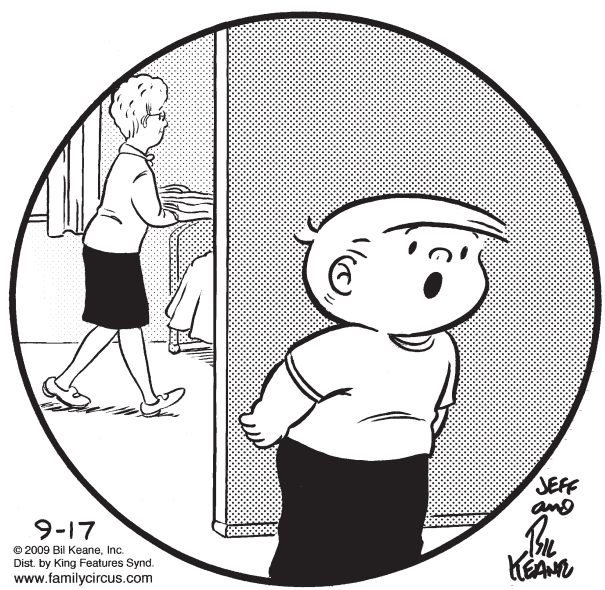
Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a happily married woman and mother of a 12-year-old son. I raised him alone for years, and was happy when a father figure came into his life about six months ago. But he refuses to get to know his new stepfather. He's begging me to send him away to school, and help him find his long-gone father. I find both ideas frightening. His stepdad's feelings are hurt, and I feel terrible. What do I do now? — T.S.

Dear T.S.: As this young man's mother, you need to focus on his feelings right now. His stepfather is an adult and can take care of his own — and his hurt feelings say that he chooses to play the victim instead of supporting efforts to help your son adjust. It's not inappropriate that your son is examining his life. With a new man in the house, he's wondering where he came from and why his dad isn't there for him — and he has rejected your husband as a model.

This man may be a finer fellow than the one you left behind, but it's normal for your son to want to figure things out for himself. If he wants to go away to school, perhaps you can explore one nearby, so you could visit or he could come home as he becomes more comfortable. This urge to leave says he might not have a social circle to keep him home. This is more alarming than rejecting your husband. Put the honeymoon on the back burner while you pay attention to your son and focus on his emotional welfare.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-17
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

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

Cryptoquip

GJSZL ADL YLA QHCCJA
OTRKG BTOS RTAG TK
ELBJALQQHSLHS CQLHB, OL

SHELB DJE YJAH ZTAATSAHJR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WILD WEST LAWMAN EARP IS TRANQUIL WHILE ATTEMPTING SOMETHING, DOES QUIET WYATT TRY IT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 9 6
♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ A 2
♣ 8 3 2

WEST
♠ 8 5 4 3 2
♥ K J 5
♦ 9
♣ Q J 7 6

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

SOUTH
♠ A J 10
♥ Q 10 6
♦ K 8 7 5
♣ A K 9

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — three of spades.

Defensive Card-Reading

A mind is a terrible thing to waste, and the aptness of this expression is often exemplified by what occurs at the bridge table.

Consider the present deal played in a pair championship. West led a spade, and declarer saw at once that his only chance to bring the contract home was to develop a heart trick.

He therefore won the first spade with dummy's queen and led a heart to the ten at trick two, hoping to force the ace or king. But when the ten lost to the jack, South's chances for a ninth trick were greatly diminished.

West then shifted to a low club, East's ten forcing South's king. Declarer's only hope now was to find a 3-3 heart division, so he next led the six of hearts, on which West played the five, dummy the four and East the nine.

East returned a club, declarer's nine losing to the jack, and West continued the suit to South's ace. With fingers crossed, South now tried the queen of hearts, West producing the king and East the ace. West was unable to cash his good club, and dummy's eight of hearts became declarer's ninth trick.

However, South would have gone down, despite the 3-3 heart break, had East paid more attention to the play. He should have realized that when declarer led the heart six from his hand at trick four, West became marked with the king of hearts. Had South held the K-6, he surely would have arranged to lead a heart from dummy rather than from his own hand. East therefore should have won the six with the ace instead of the nine. This would have allowed the defense to score two club tricks instead of one.

There is no doubt that many defenders, given the option of taking the second heart with the nine or the ace, would mechanically win with the nine. But in the given circumstances, a more attentive defender would see the wisdom of winning the trick with the ace.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Emulated
5 Goya's "Duchess of —"
9 URL bit
12 Incite
13 Fly high
14 Sapporo sash
15 26-Down attendee
17 Tear
18 "The Usual Suspects" actor
19 Identifies
21 Fire
22 Memorable mission
24 Feedbag fill
27 Carte lead-in
28 Former larva
31 "A pox upon thee!"
32 Beleaguered spacecraft
33 Turf
34 Envelope feature
- DOWN**
36 "Bleah!" kin
37 "F" heaven's sake!
38 Sign of life
40 —
41 Form
43 Opening remark?
47 The girl
48 26-Down
51 Illustrations
52 Reed instrument
53 Protracted
54 Possibly will
55 Require
- 22 26-Down**
attendee
23 Caprice
24 Askew
25 Have a bug
26 Wonderland event
27 Writer Kingsley
29 "The Raven" man
30 Wood-working tool
35 Young dog
37 Nudge trophy
39 Dealership dud
40 Vast expanse
41 Counterfeit
42 Wife of Zeus
43 Molt
44 Teensy bit
45 Waiter's handout
46 Work measures
49 Honest politician
50 Anonymous John

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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	