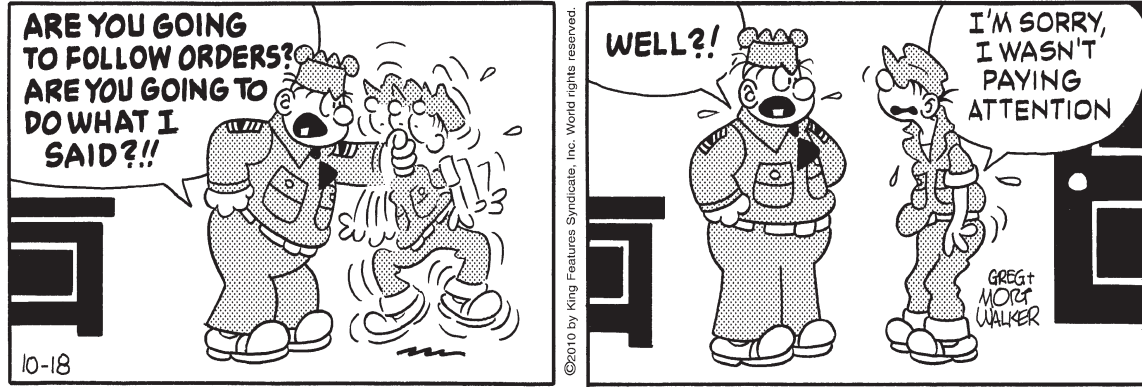


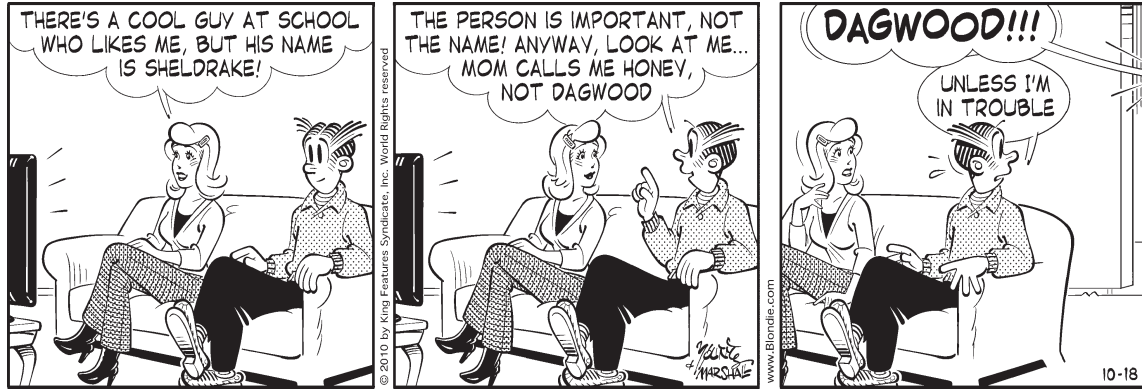
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



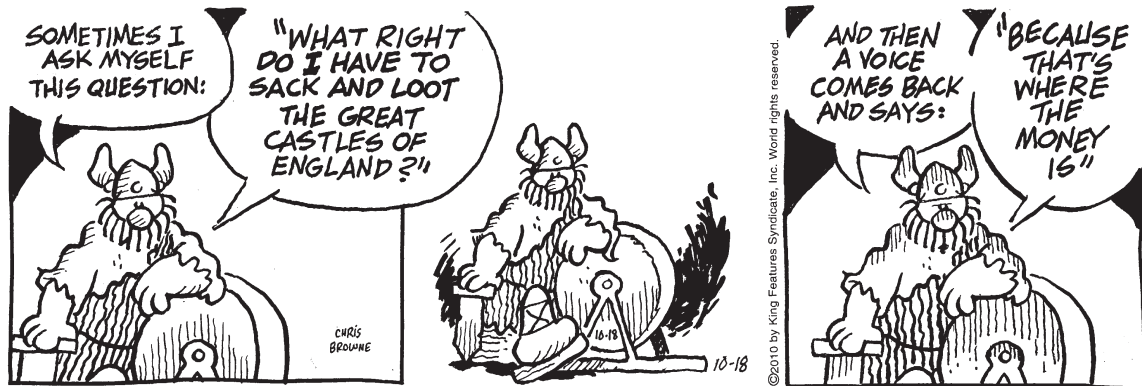
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



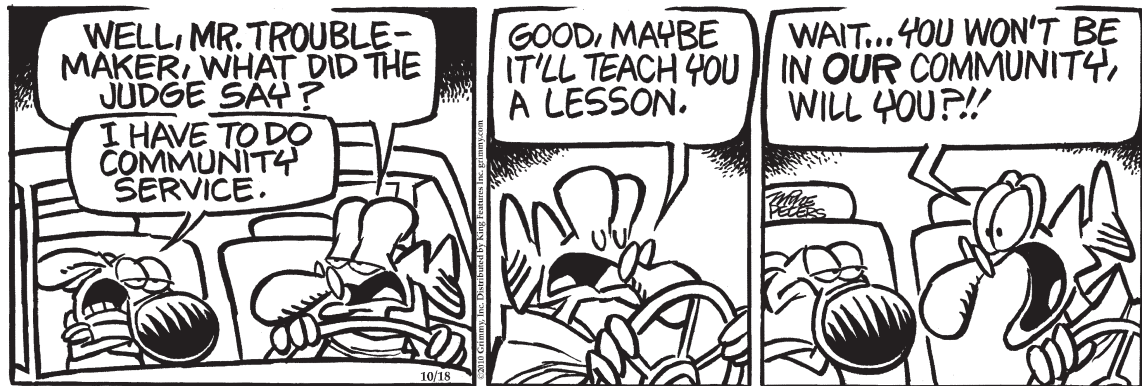
Blondie • Chic Young



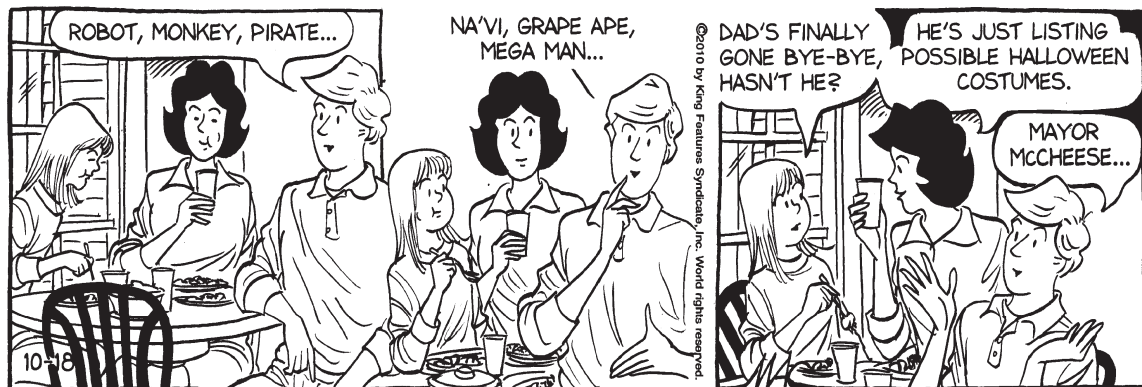
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



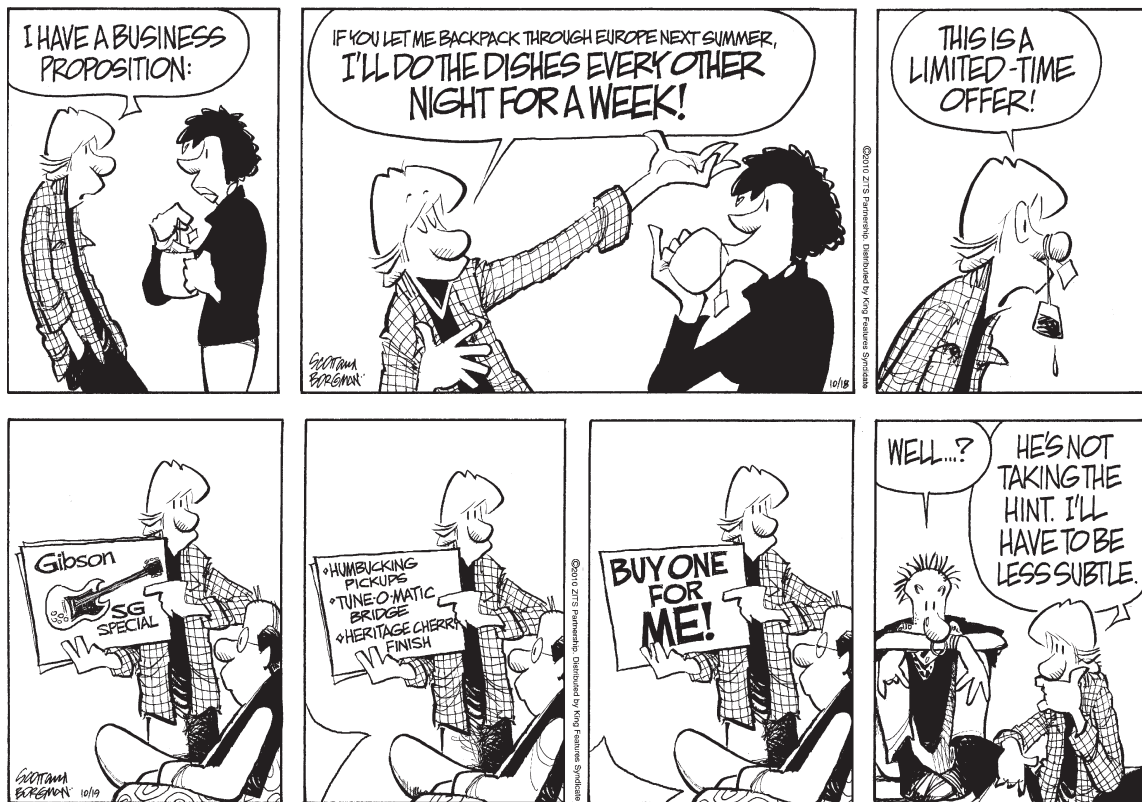
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

He's not bank for whole family

Dear Dr. Brothers: When my husband won a lot of money in the lottery, it was no surprise that family he hadn't heard from in years came out of the woodwork. But now things have settled down, there are still people who expect a monthly stipend - his kids from his first marriage. They treat him like an ATM and are stripping him of savings. How can I help? - F.N.

Dear F.N.: The annals of lottery history are rife with winners who have had to practically go into hiding because of the deluge of requests for money from friends, relatives, organizations and others - each with a sob story. It is understood by these folks that money doesn't bring happiness; in fact, many fairy-tale lottery stories have turned into nightmares, with winners stripped of winnings, dignity and dreams. So there is potential for heartache along with the celebration.

The relationship between your husband and his children probably is one in which he has certain legal obligations in child support and so forth. Now that he has extra money, it is natural for him to want to do more for them - and perhaps this is the first time he can afford extras. Before you intervene, make sure he actually is being taken advantage - what you see may be a reasonable way for him to do more, now that he can. But if he feels he is being taken advantage of, you can be supportive by helping him come up with some tactful yet firm ways to say no.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband recently came back from a weekend with friends in Atlantic City, N.J., and told me he lost thousands of dollars. He has no history of compulsive gambling, and I think he's unlikely to do it again. It got me thinking: He said he would up his wager a little more each time after he lost, thinking the "odds would even out." This sounded so crazy - is this kind of thinking common? - K.E.

Dear K.E.: I believe that thinking is almost a common-sense reaction. Without knowing about odds or sequences of winning versus losing, it would be something the average person who has lost might think to give his brain a quick jolt of hope to counter the disappointment. So, if you say every bet has a 50-50 chance of a win or a loss, the idea that several losses might mean it is time for a win may sound logical - but it just seems that way. Leaving the science to the experts, it might be wise to focus on your husband's sudden willingness to waste money on gambling.

Obviously you believe this was a one-time event. But you might want to take steps to make that more likely. There would be nothing wrong with commiserating while at the same time asking him if it would be better for the two of you to decide together about the disposable money you have. Surely he'd be willing to repurpose those funds for some common investment you can use in the future. That would be a safer bet.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 7 6 3 2
 ♥ 10 8 6 3
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ 7 5

WEST
 ♠ Q J 8 4
 ♥ K J 4 2
 ♦ 10 8 5
 ♣ 8 3

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A 9
 ♥ A Q 9 7 5
 ♦ 7 6 4
 ♣ K Q J

The bidding:
 East South West North
 1 ♣ 1 ♥ 1 NT 2 ♥
 3 ♦ 3 ♥ Dble
 Opening lead — eight of clubs.

Famous Hand

No doubt the most grueling event on the American Contract Bridge League's annual tournament calendar is the three-day Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams. The format is board-a-match, which means that a team can win or lose a board by as little as 10 points, so every trick is critical.

Because stamina is a major factor, most teams have six players, allowing two to rest while the other four play. Traditionally, a disproportionately low number of women take part in the Reisinger, and very few of them make it to the final round.

For these reasons, the accomplishment of Rita Shugart in the 1998 Reisinger is all the more remarkable. Playing on a four-member team comprised of Andy Robson, Geir Helgemo and Tony Forrester, she won the event, becoming the first woman to do so since the legendary Helen Sobel in 1957.

On today's deal from the semifinal, Shugart (East) made the key play to assure the defeat of a doubled contract. She won Robson's club lead with the ace and returned a club.

Declarer took the king, played the A-K of spades and ruffed a spade. South then led the club queen, ruffed low by Robson and overruffed in dummy. Declarer ruffed another spade, then led a diamond to the king, losing to Shugart's ace.

After cashing the diamond jack, Shugart paused for thought. Robson had to have four trumps for his double, had followed to four spades and had shown out on the third club, so his pattern was 4-4-3-2. If she played a third diamond, declarer would ruff in dummy and duck a heart to West, forcing him to lead from the king of hearts into South's A-Q for his eighth and ninth tricks.

To forestall this, she therefore returned a club. This allowed Robson to ruff with the jack and exit with his carefully preserved diamond, assuring that he would score the heart king at the end for a one-trick set.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How do you know? It just started."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

H X E Y D N A U Z E S S X J R

Z L Q N B D Q B T U H D L D U L R D U E

B T D X J M N Y B H, X K U Z R Q H N A

B T D A K D J D P X H H - X E M U J P D Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE VOLLEYBALL OFFICIAL IS DEPRIVED OF SOMETHING, MIGHT A PERSON SAY HE'S BE-REFFED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 17 Spanish hero, with "Ei" |
| 1 Metric measure | 37 Seven-line verse | 1 Over-supply |
| 5 Pouch | 39 Id | 2 Obey |
| 8 Portent | counterpart | reveille |
| 12 Old Italian money | 41 Round bread of India | 3 Vicinity |
| 13 Mentalist | 42 Parka | 4 Wild and crazy |
| Geller | 45 Some hosiery | 5 Just outside the Arctic Circle |
| 14 Inlet | 49 Bedspread | 6 Schedule abbr. |
| 15 Second-hand | 51 "American —" | 7 "Bye!" |
| 16 Wrist adornment | 52 Hastens | 8 Spotted wildcat |
| 18 Member of the service? | 53 Guitar's kin | 9 Potential mountain? |
| 20 Former Houston squad | 54 Mediocre | 10 Always |
| 21 Awe-struck | 55 Blunders | 11 Trawler gear |
| 23 Homer's interjection | 56 Club — | 12 Rue the run |
| 24 Tract | 57 Genealogy chart | 13 Bleak, as a film |
| 28 Fork feature | | 14 Super-model |
| 31 Literary collection | | Heidi |
| 32 Fully filled | | 15 Smell ... |
| 34 Meadow | | 16 ... and its detector |
| 35 Youngster | | 17 — gin fizz |
| | | 18 — out a living |

Solution time: 27 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | E | T | P | R | O | D | Q | U | A | Y |
| I | L | O | R | U | B | E | U | R | G | E |
| Z | E | P | P | E | L | I | N | I | N | O |
| A | V | I | A | T | E | I | N | N | | |
| | N | O | R | Z | E | N | I | T | H | |
| W | E | B | E | R | D | E | W | S | E | E |
| H | I | L | L | R | U | N | B | L | E | W |
| I | R | A | T | E | N | B | L | E | S | S |
| Z | E | B | R | A | S | P | E | I | | |
| T | I | T | I | E | G | G | N | O | G | |
| H | U | N | G | Z | E | R | O | H | O | U |
| O | R | E | O | E | R | I | N | S | R | I |
| P | T | E | R | D | A | L | E | E | S | P |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | 20 | | | | |
| | | | | 21 | | | 22 | | | | |
| 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 | | |