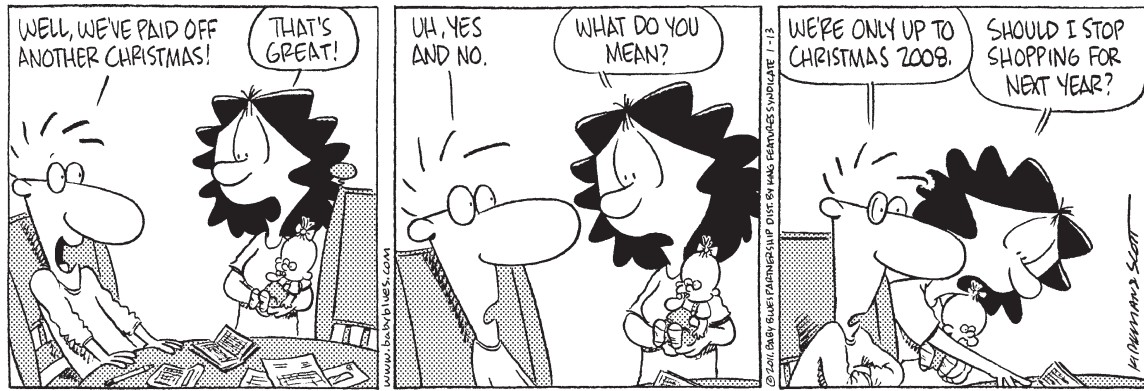


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



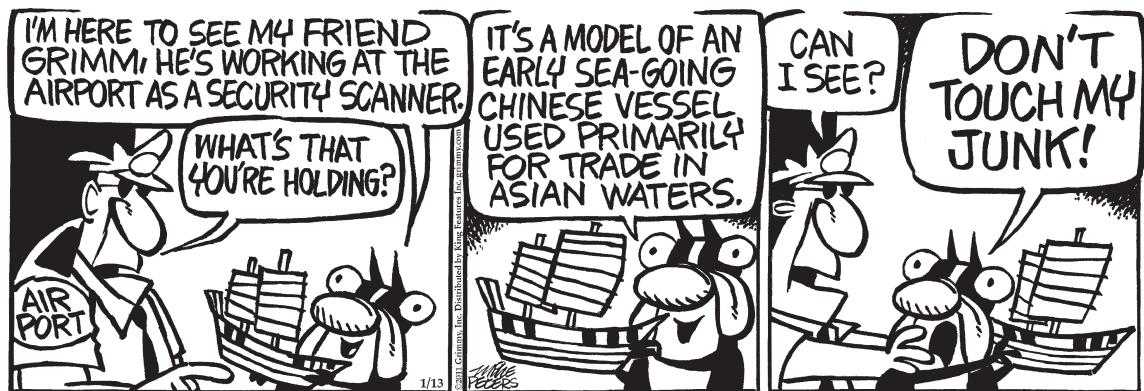
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



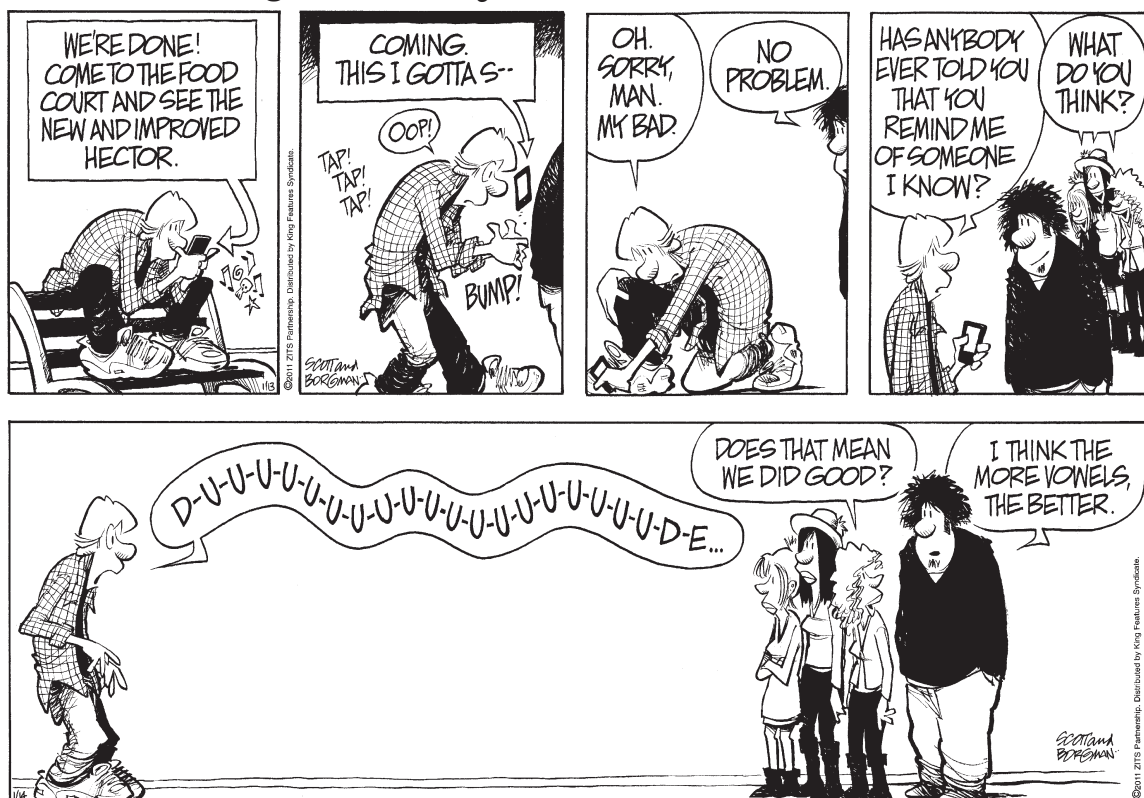
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Intern stays after work hours

Dear Dr. Brothers: My two partners and I may have made a mistake in our small business by offering the job of intern this year. We thought we could get an unpaid go-fer, and that has worked. The problem is that we work very late and the intern is starting to hang around till all hours. Our wives are complaining. This girl is smart and pretty, but doesn't seem to have much of a life outside work. How do we handle all this? — J.D.

Dear J.D.: It was a good idea to get an intern if you have lots to do and not enough people. It sounds like you are stretched pretty thin and can use all the help you can get. If the intern is doing a good job during regular hours — not to mention working for no pay — you picked the right person, and shouldn't beat yourself up too much. But if she's just OK and hanging around making a nuisance of herself, you've got a reason to cut short that internship. That would be the simplest way of dealing with this issue.

If you don't want to do that, you will have to confront her with new rules. She may feel that since she is unpaid, there's no difference between work hours and "overtime." You need to make it clear you are working late because it's your job and you need her to adhere to the hours for which she was hired. If necessary, close at quitting time a couple of nights in a row to help her get in the routine. You need to set boundaries.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a new job as a legal aide where I am not doing anything too thrilling, but I'm learning my way around before I go to law school. The problem is the receptionist. She has decided that she doesn't like me. She talks down to me and treats me like an imbecile. I don't know whether to put her in her place, tell the lawyers or just suffer in silence. It is really getting to me. Any advice? — C.G.

Dear C.G.: There is always something a little dangerous about a new employee, especially if you've been holding down the fort for years and here comes this sharp, smart and maybe even attractive young thing who's ready to take some of your glory — or worse yet, your authority. When you have worked in more offices, you will find it usually is someone at a lower level who has power as "guardian of the door" or other screening ability, who doesn't like to see the boat rocked by new people who challenge the delicate balance.

That said, you have to work with this person, and it would behoove you to get on her better side. She realizes you are preparing to be an attorney, someone she would have to defer to if she doesn't move up the corporate ladder. The best course of action is to be professional, respectful and friendly, and see if her attitude changes. Her act of superiority in talking down to you may be just that — an act. She may be envious of your future. You will meet all kinds of people as you grow your career, so take this and learn from it.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 6 5 4 2
♥ 9 7 6
♦ Q 10 8
♣ Q 5 4

WEST
♦ 10
♥ K J 8 3 2
♦ 9 6 5 3
♣ J 9 8

EAST
♦ 9 8 7
♥ A 7 4
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K 10 6 2

SOUTH
♦ A K Q J 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ A K
♣ A 7 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 2♦* Pass 2♦**
Pass 2♥ Pass 3♣
Pass 4♥ Pass 3♣

* strong, artificial ** waiting
Opening lead — three of hearts.

You Don't Need a Calculator

Let's say you're in four spades, and West leads a heart. East takes the ace and returns the heart seven. Your ten loses to the jack, and West, a first-rate defender, continues with the heart king.

You ruff in dummy, draw three rounds of trumps after finding them divided 3-1, and sooner or later lead a low club toward the queen. Unluckily, East takes the queen with the king and returns a club, and you can't avoid losing another club trick to go down one.

Good defense, you might say, because if West had not led a heart at trick three, you would have finished with 11 tricks instead of nine. Had he played any other suit, you would have scored the rest of the tricks by drawing trumps, cashing the A-K of diamonds, ruffing a heart in dummy and then discarding two clubs on the Q-J of diamonds.

How did West know it was safe to lead the third heart? Because he knew from East's return of the seven at trick two that his partner had not started with the A-Q-7-4. In that case, East would have returned the four, his original fourth-best heart. It was therefore safe for West to continue with a third heart, because East was certain to have started with either the A-7 doubleton or the A-7-4 tripleton.

However, after giving full credit to West for his initial heart lead and subsequent heart continuation, it's time to re-examine your own play. Instead of ruffing West's king of hearts in dummy at trick three (assuming you made that play), it would have been much wiser to discard one of dummy's clubs!

Had you done that, you would have breezed home with 10 tricks. You'd win any return West made next, cash the A-K-Q of trumps and A-K of diamonds, then lead the three of trumps to dummy's six. You could then discard the 7-3 of clubs on the Q-J of diamonds and in that way bring about a satisfying conclusion.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I sure hope it's somebody important."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/13

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.

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

Cryptoquip

KGWF BSPQWFSB WARS SGW

JNND YVSWJ OYMOPMPB

OMYBB, R KNPMQ NVSWF JWWJ

SN SGYS YB DYSG WANQPB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF "WHEEL OF FORTUNE" CO-HOST WHITE EVER CHANGED HOMES, I WOULD CONSIDER HER A MOVING VANNA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals X

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cherished one
5 Pitch
8 Praise to the skies
12 Advantage
13 Hasten
14 Therefore
15 Musicians
16 Peculiar
17 Rue the run
18 Not idling
20 Pulverize
22 January and February
26 Oil of roses
29 Overactor
30 Winery vessel
31 Sense
32 Chop
33 Transcending (Pref.)
34 Prior to
35 Off-tattooed word
36 Chart holder
37 Glazier's item

DOWN

40 Bedouin
41 One of the Royal Family
45 Meditation method
47 Type squares
49 Reverberate
50 Still
51 Asian language
52 Prophet
53 Picnic spot
54 Prune
55 Salver

3 Enthusiastic
4 Non-cancellation
5 Rose's protector
6 Help
7 Beef, e.g.
8 Minimum
9 Sites for public records
10 "Yecch!"
11 Fawn's mama
19 Atmosphere
21 Branch
23 Hit with a dull sound
24 Partner
25 List-ending abbr.

26 Some or Garr
27 Hatcher
28 Adolescent
32 Metallic percussion instrument
33 "She Done Him Wrong" star
35 Extinct bird
36 Conclusion
38 Imbided
39 Man of morals?
42 Big name in desktop computers
43 Comical Caroline
44 "Finding Nemo" fish voiced by Ellen DeGeneres
45 "Uh-huh"
46 Eggs
48 Long March leader

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | W | M | B | A | | | | | | | | | |
| E | R | N | E | L | A | U | R | A | | | | | | |
| A | R | E | N | A | O | P | T | I | C | A | | | | |
| G | R | E | A | T | S | A | L | T | L | A | K | E | | |
| A | S | P | H | A | T | E | S | C | I | A | | | | |
| | | | T | E | C | H | | D | I | R | T | | | |
| | | | S | M | I | R | K | | T | R | E | A | T | |
| | | | P | E | A | S | | N | O | U | N | | | |
| | | | E | G | G | G | R | A | Y | S | S | P | A | |
| | | | N | O | G | R | E | A | T | S | H | A | K | E |
| | | | S | T | E | S | T | A | | D | R | I | N | K |
| | | | E | A | S | E | L | I | C | E | D | | | |
| | | | L | O | S | | | E | S | S | | | | |

Yesterday's answer 1-13

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | |
| 45 | 46 | | | | | 47 | 48 | | 49 | |
| 50 | | | | | | 51 | | | 52 | |
| 53 | | | | | | 54 | | | 55 | |