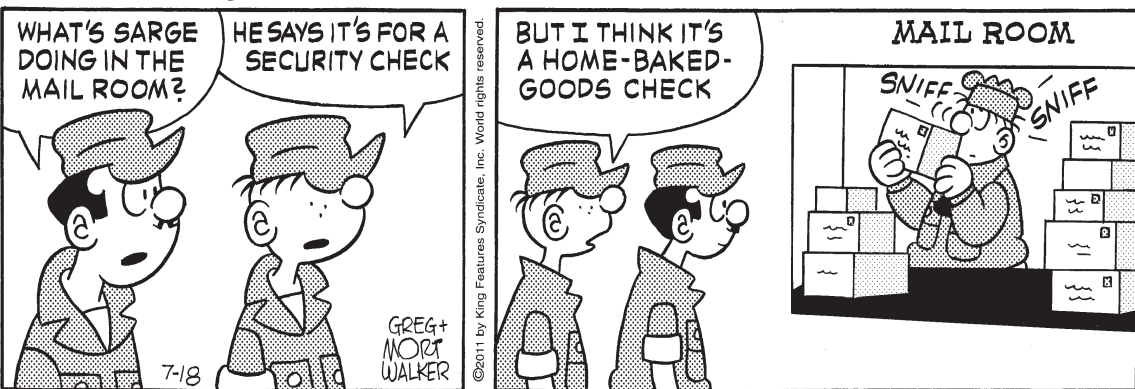


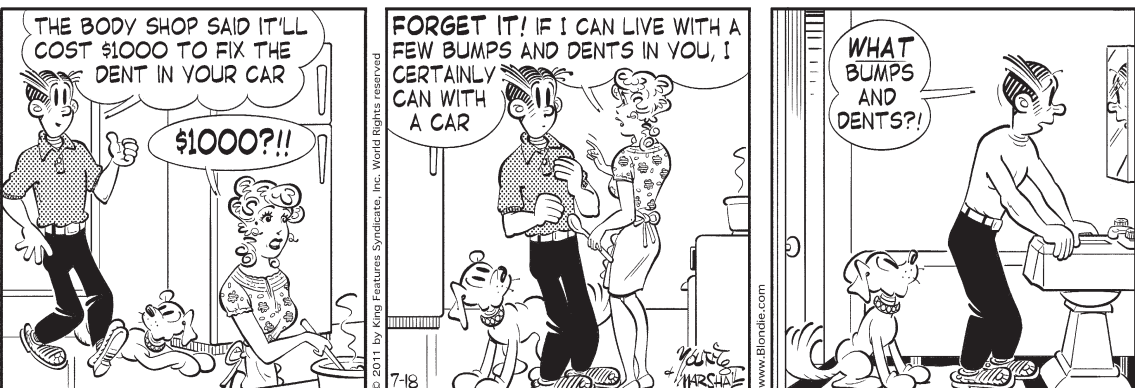
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



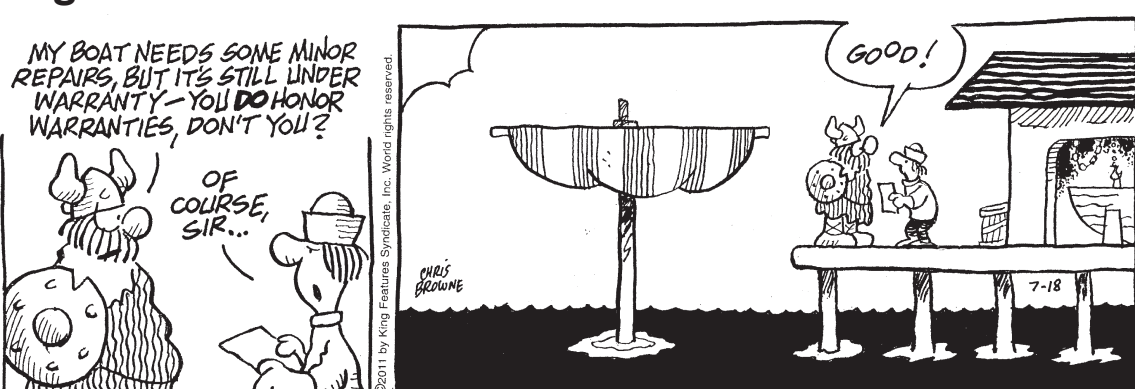
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



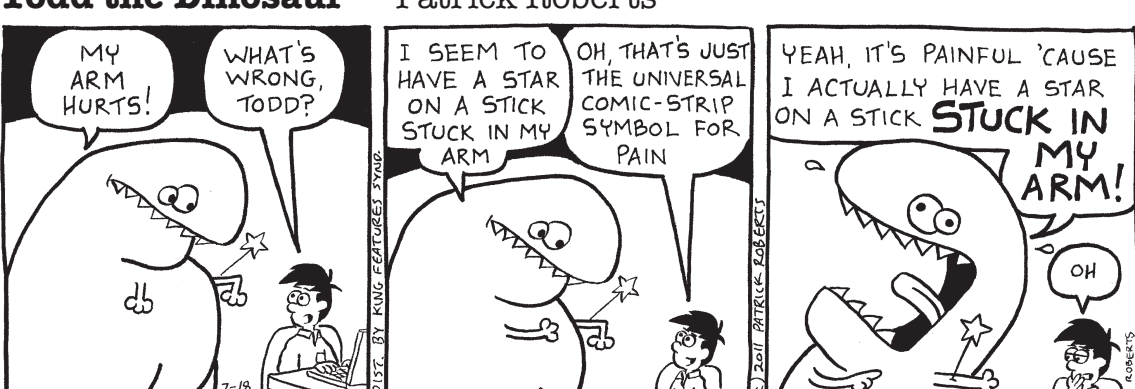
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Leadership relies on perceptions

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have one employee who isn't a strong leader, and I'm worried his division will suffer. Recently he put up some of the best numbers of all of my managers, and when I asked his employees about it, they mentioned that he believes in them even if he's not the strongest leader. Is it possible to motivate your employees by believing in them, or was it just luck that overcame his poor managerial skills? — S.B.

Dear S.B.: How leaders or managers view subordinates or employees can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. If a manager believes his employees are good, hardworking people doing their best for the company, they likely will act this way. In fact, a study in the journal *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* showed that if managers viewed their employees positively, they would treat them well and foster an environment that increases productivity and improves employees' perceptions of relationships in the office and job satisfaction.

If a manager views employees negatively, his other leadership qualities are not as important. He's likely to treat them badly, and badly treated employees are not productive. And managers act on these perceptions — ranking someone higher for a promotion, for example — even if they don't realize they're doing it. So, it sounds like your manager is a better leader than you give him credit for. He has discovered the power of positive perceptions, and your other managers probably could benefit from following his lead.

Dear Dr. Brothers: One of my good friends from childhood passed away recently, and I found myself able to express my feelings toward her and our relationship only in her eulogy, when it was in some ways too late. I don't want to wait to let other friends know how important they are, but I'm uncomfortable being sentimental. How can I express gratitude for my friends? — C.W.

Dear C.W.: It's great you've come to this realization when you still can do something about it. As we get older, we're in a position to express gratitude for lifelong friendships that may have seen their ups and downs. It can be hard when you're getting used to expressing feelings, but with practice it becomes easier. Focus on the good you're doing for friends, but also for yourself. People who are appreciative of what they have and take time to be grateful, are happier than those who take these things for granted.

You may talk yourself out of having these conversations, thinking no one cares or the people you love know how important they are, but don't let excuses derail you. Your words and actions can have a great effect, and taking time to reflect on the contributions others have made can reveal more than you realize. You can make notes about what you'd like to say and bring them with you. This can calm you and make it easier to say things that are important to you and your loved ones.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K Q 4
♥ A 10 8 7 5 4
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ —

WEST
♦ 10 9 8 7
♥ K J 9 6 3
♦ 8 6 3
♠ J

EAST
♦ 6 5
♥ —
♦ K 9 7 4 2
♠ Q 7 6 5 2

SOUTH
♦ A J 3 2
♥ 2
♦ A K
♠ A K 10 9 8 4 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♦
Pass 3 NT Pass 6 ♠

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Famous Hand
This deal is from the 1989 Bermuda Bowl final between Brazil and the United States. It added to the Brazilians' already substantial lead at a time when the Americans were hoping to make a comeback. That hope never materialized, and Brazil went on to capture the world title.

When Mike Lawrence and Kit Woolsey of the U.S. held the North-South cards, they reached six spades as shown. Woolsey's second-round jumpshift — ostensibly showing 19 or more points — understandably caused Lawrence to think of slam. However, Lawrence had an awkward choice after Woolsey rebid three notrump. He finally opted for six spades, even though he knew his partner had only four spades.

Six spades is not an unreasonable contract, but the opening diamond lead — which knocked a vital entry out of declarer's hand — and the uneven divisions of the black suits gave Woolsey no chance.

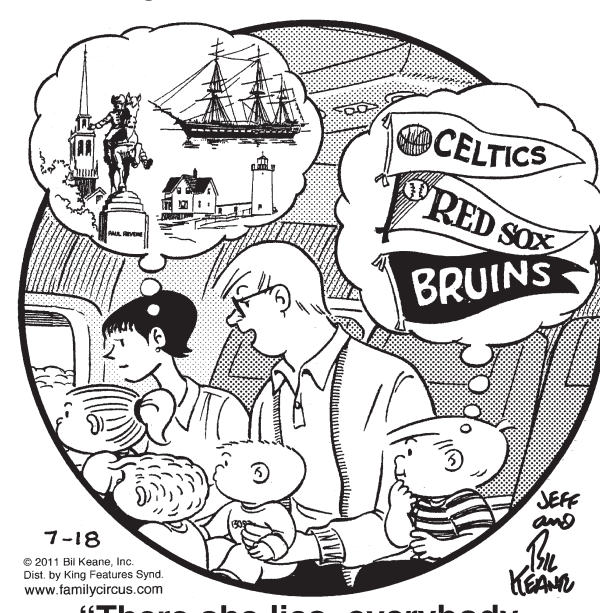
He won the diamond lead with the ace, East following low, and ruffed a club with the queen of spades. The K-A-J of spades came next, but when the suit broke 4-2 and the queen of clubs didn't fall, the hand fell apart, and Woolsey finished down three.

At the other table, where Pedro Branco and Roberto Mello of Brazil were North-South, the bidding went:

East South West North
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♦
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♥
Pass 4 NT Pass 5 NT
Pass 6 ♣

Four notrump was Blackwood, and five notrump showed one ace and a void. With the club jack falling on the first trump lead, Mello had no trouble making six clubs. After conceding a trump to East's queen, the remaining tricks were his, and Brazil gained 14 IMPs on the deal.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"There she lies, everybody ... the City of Boston."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/18

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.

Cryptoquip

GDUE GVIPS XVI FUPP EDB
PVHB NEUZ NEUEB'N SBBM
NBFZBEN EDUE UZB HVE
XBE BQMVNBS? EBQ-UZFUHU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: REFUSING TO WAIT AROUND FOR OUR DAD ANY LONGER, WE PROCEEDED AS PLANNED WITHOUT FATHER DELAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Sweet as apple cider gal of slaloming
4 Go
7 Young bovine
11 Body powder
13 Stashed
14 Culture medium
15 Napoleon's exile isle
16 Right angle
17 Inquisitive
18 Villain
20 Like a balloon
22 24 hours
24 Don, as loafers
28 Where earth meets sky
32 Source of annoyance
33 "Zounds!"
34 Cambridge sch.
36 Speaker's stand
37 Wonderland visitor

DOWN
1 Couple, in a gossip column
2 Evans or Carnegie
3 Actress Jessica
4 That woman
5 Slay
6 Runs in neutral
7 Halloween treat
8 Past
9 — Vegas
10 Saute
12 Allen Funt's TV show
19 Nickname in Red Sox lore

21 Matterhorn, for one
23 Bosc or Bartlett
26 "Metamorphoses" poet
27 Loch — Monster
28 Pile
29 Lascivious look
30 IncurSION
31 Zero
35 Conway or Curry
38 Away from WSW
40 Menagerie
42 "The Apprentice" VIP
45 Birthright barter
47 Columns' crossers
48 On the briny
49 Cattle group
50 Frequently, in verse
51 Sticky stuff
52 Carpet
54 Work unit

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-18

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			59
60						61			62