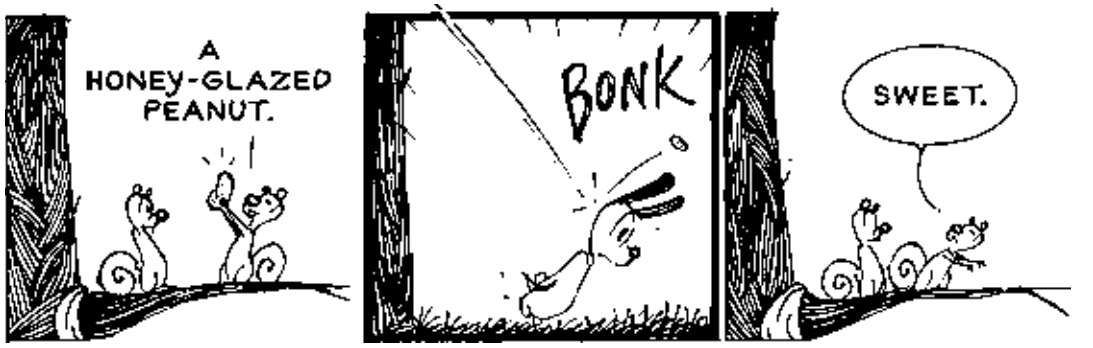


Sherman's Lagoon — By J. P. Toomey



Mutts — By Patrick McDonnell



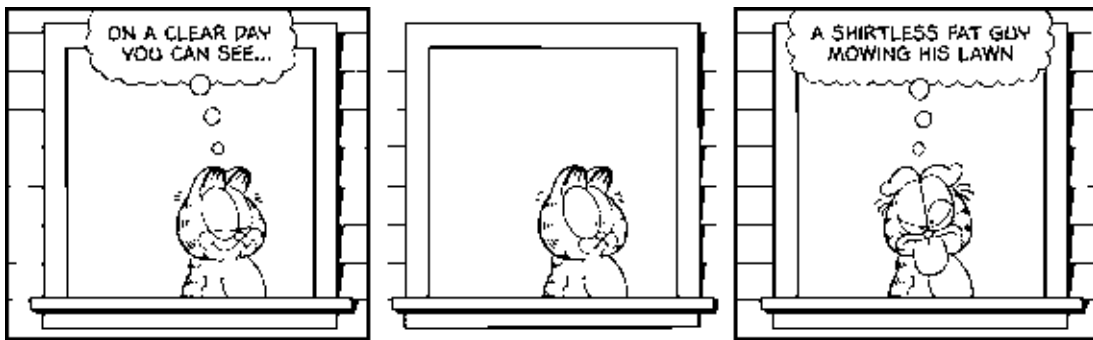
Hagar The Horrible — By Chris Browne



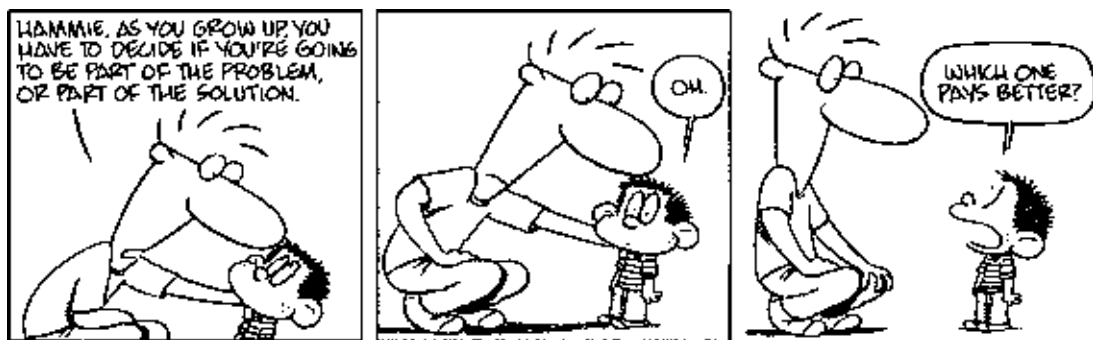
Beetle Bailey — By Mort Walker



Garfield — By Jim Davis



Baby Blues — By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Challenger

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

By Dave Green

DIRECTIONS:
Fill each square with a number, one through nine.
■ Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.
■ Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.
■ Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

								15
	6							25
					8			12
				5				27
3							9	
23	12	11	27	18				

Yesterday's solution

9	8	8	7	31
7	9	8	9	32
8	8	9	9	33
8	9	9	9	34
8	9	9	9	35
32	34	34	34	36

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's 14 Minutes
7 Seconds
Your Working Time ___ Minutes ___ Seconds

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

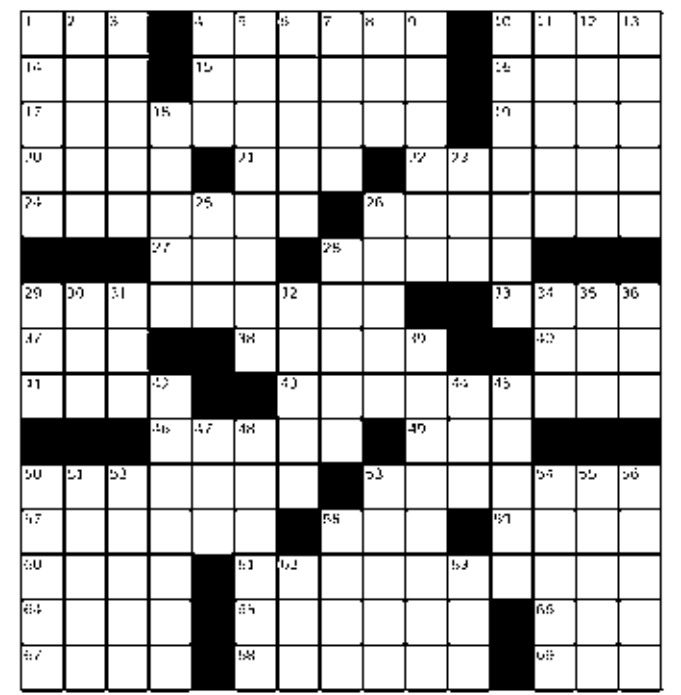
Word by Word

Sight (عين) **Ain**
Out of sight, out of mind
Baeed an ain, baeed an al bal

Numbers بعيد عن العين، بعيد عن البال
6997 Six thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven
799V Setat alaaq wa teso maah wa sabah wa tesoun

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Connections
 - 4 Quick wit
 - 10 Lump
 - 14 French narrative poem
 - 15 Pet name?
 - 16 Bit
 - 17 School bully's demand
 - 19 Dance and drama
 - 20 Figs, always expressed to two decimal places
 - 21 Nasty campaign charges
 - 22 Borrower
 - 24 Produced laugh lines?
 - 26 Sherpas, e.g.
 - 27 Anthem shortening
 - 28 Affliction for Job, in the Bible
 - 29 Tosses
 - 33 Pounds
 - 37 Columbus in N.Y.C. or S.F.
 - 38 Put down
 - 40 Returning in the opposite direction
 - 41 Get tiresome
 - 43 One making waves
 - 46 Transport
 - 49 Jersey delivery?
 - 50 Eight in a V8
 - 53 Sickening
 - 57 Cabinet department
 - 58 Latin diphthongs
 - 59 Russia's ___ Airlines
 - 60 Nabors title role of 1960s TV
 - 61 Prompt ... or a hint to entering five answers in this puzzle
 - 64 "Brave New World" drug
 - 65 Wind-borne
- DOWN**
- 1 Not ready
 - 2 South Pacific island nation that's only 8.1 square miles
 - 3 Place for two tablets?
 - 4 N.T. book after Galatians
 - 5 Crookneck, e.g.
 - 6 Walking tall
 - 7 Source of zest
 - 8 Having four sharps
 - 9 Swift, in music
 - 10 Army terror?
 - 11 2013 Grammy winner for "Royals"
 - 12 Web-footed mammal
 - 13 Army locales
 - 18 Benjamin
 - 23 Poetic conjunction
 - 25 Smallest Can. province
 - 26 Group given stars, maybe
 - 28 Hogwarts professor
 - 29 Jabber
 - 30 Oct. 31, e.g.
 - 31 Samovar contents
 - 32 Boots
 - 34 Cause of some 911 calls
 - 66 Director Lee
 - 67 Leg muscle, informally
 - 68 Challenges for knights
 - 69 For instance



PUZZLE BY JOHN GUZZETTA

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 35 Vehicle that may roll over, for short
- 36 Stipple
- 39 Surgeon's clamp
- 42 Unoriginal work
- 44 "Boy, ___!"
- 45 Petty officer
- 47 Do some forest work
- 48 D.J.'s invitation
- 50 School spirit raiser
- 51 Song title words after "The Woman" and "I Believe"
- 52 Southern city with a woman's name
- 53 Classic fruity sodas
- 54 Certain cetaceans
- 55 Loaf
- 56 Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" e.g.
- 58 Check out
- 62 Payment option that's not always accepted
- 63 Run-



A woman walks with her dog on a catwalk during an animal fashion show to celebrate World Animal Day at a mall in Manila on Oct 4. The day began in Florence, Italy, in 1931 at a convention of ecologists, whose intention was to highlight the plight of endangered species and Oct 4 was chosen as the date because it is the feast day of nature lover Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. (AFP)

odds 'n' ends

KATHMANDU: Dozens of runners donned snow goggles and braved icy temperatures to participate in the world's highest marathon in the foothills of Mount Everest Monday, five months after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal.

The annual Tenzing-Hillary Everest Marathon, which kicked off in 2003, is usually held in May to mark the anniversary of the first conquest of Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary on May 29, 1953.

But organizers postponed this year's race to October after a massive earthquake hit the Himalayan nation in April, killing nearly 8,900 people and triggering an avalanche on Everest base camp that left 18 dead.

"We decided not to cancel the race entirely because we wanted to send a positive message about Nepal to the world and help revive our tourism industry," organizer Shikhar Pandey told AFP.

"Everest represents Nepal. We want to tell the world that Nepal is safe by successfully organising an event like this," he said. (AFP)

ELK GROVE, California: A Napa farmer won a Northern California contest with a record-setting 1,806-pound (820-kg) pumpkin that judges nicknamed "The Flying Saucer" because of its wide and flat shape.

Grower Tim Mathison was one of about 50 big pumpkin farmers to haul their heaviest crops to the annual weigh-in at the Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin & Harvest Festival, the Sacramento Bee reported Sunday.

Most of the pumpkins entered in Saturday's contest were grown in about 90 days, sometimes growing as fast as 30 pounds per day, said Brian Myers, chairman of the California Pumpkin Growers Association. There were about half as many pumpkins entered this year than in previous years, largely due to what farmers said were overly hot and suboptimal growing conditions. (AP)

HONG KONG: A rare drawing of comic book hero Tintin by Belgian cartoonist Hergé will be auctioned in Hong Kong Monday as experts say comic art is becoming as collectible as paintings.

The artwork is an illustration from the cartoonists' "The Blue Lotus" book, published in 1936, which sees Tintin and sidekick Snowy the dog on an adventure in Shanghai.

It is predicted to fetch up to HK\$13 million (\$1.7 million).

Drawn in monochrome, it shows Tintin being pulled along a street in a rickshaw with a policeman looking on.

The drawing is the only original from the book to remain in private hands — the rest are in museums — according to leading French auction house Artcurial, which is holding the sale. (AFP)

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 2
♥ 10 8 5 4 2
♦ A J 8
♣ 10 5

WEST
♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 9 6
♦ Q 10 7 6 3
♣ A K

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

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 6 4 3
♥ 3
♦ K 4
♣ 8 7 6

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 4♠
Opening lead — king of clubs.

continued with the ace, on which Robaudo played the queen! This seemingly extravagant play was a suit-preference signal asking West to lead a heart — the higher-ranking of the two side suits — at trick three.

Jabes did exactly as instructed, but to ensure getting a club return at trick four, she shuffled to the nine of hearts, pretending it was her highest heart.

Robaudo took the ace and returned the jack of clubs, and the contract went down one when West heartlessly ruffed with the nine of trumps.

As if this were not enough misfortune on one deal, the American team suffered a second reversal at the other table, where the bidding, with the U.S. now East-West, went:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	3♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣		

The Italian South led the king of spades and shifted to the king and another diamond! North cashed the A-J to put the contract down one, but the Italians were not yet finished. After South discarded her singleton heart on the third round of diamonds, North returned a heart, and South ruffed to register a two-trick set.

No wonder Italy won the women's title that year!

Tomorrow: The magic number 13.



"DON'T WORRY, JUST GIVE ME HALF YOUR PAY, AND I'LL SAY I BROKE IT."