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Horoscopes by Holiday

By Holiday Mathis

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What you thought would be easy to acquire is much more challenging than anticipated, and that is making you want it all the more. You can use this principle to create demand for what you provide, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The great thing about your many responsibilities is they're yours to prioritize and schedule. Certain people around you are in a rush, but their timing doesn't automatically have to be yours. Go at your own pace.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today, say what you think in as few words as possible and only if the situation really calls for it. Maybe you'll need to stand up for yourself or your people. You can do it in a kind way. When people understand what you need, they'll help.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know what you're good at, but you don't always have the opportunity to do it uninterrupted and repeatedly, which is what it takes to get better. Your chance is coming. Seize it. This is how you'll set yourself apart from the crowd.

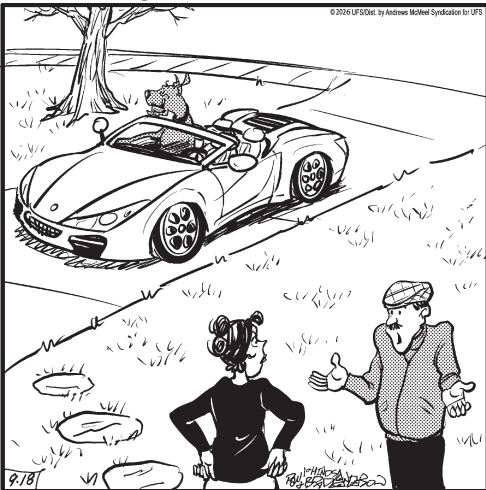
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you want something, it can be hard not to act weird in its presence. Desire can make one self-conscious and overly aware of the dynamics in play. It may help to remind yourself that if you get it or don't get it, you'll be perfectly fine either way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You won't make the deal because you're now beyond needing to. No more holding out your hand for the handshake, the funds or a key. You are the key and the lock, too. You are the fate, and the fate is you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Knowing how to enjoy free time in a satisfying way is a skill many people never develop, and you're not about to let that happen to you. Even before you acquire the free time, it's worth working on the skill in whatever way you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you don't

MARMADUKE®



"But I had to get it. It was the only one Marmaduke liked."

have the luxury of a coach or a cheering squad today, take heart. The results will be your teacher. The greatest lessons of all time have been learned through trial and error. Cheer yourself on!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Catchy passwords, fascinating facts, comforting quotations -- all are useless when you cannot remember them. It's a day to consider your systems for noting, organizing and generally keeping track of things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Compartmentalization is necessary to protect concentration, allow for rest and keep one event from swallowing the whole day. But today, the compartments won't lock, and it's actually a good thing when they spill into each other.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may feel like you're bouncing from one thing to another, but there's actually a common thread -- experimentation. On some level, you know what you want and your intuition is racing ahead, finding ways to get at it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People will care more about the quality of your work than how quickly you finished it. If you can do it fast, maybe don't tell them. It took you a long time to get this good. Consider it a trade secret.

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Goren Bridge

Bob Jones

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IMPROVING YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH		EAST	
♥ 7 6 4 2	♠ Q 7 4	♥ 9 5 3	♠ 6 5 3 2
♦ 9 6 5 2	♣ Q J	♦ 4	♣ K 10 7 5 2
WEST		SOUTH	
♥ 10	♠ A K Q J 8	♥ A K Q J 8	♠ A K
♦ Q J 8 3	♣ 9 6 4 3	♦ A K 10 7	♣ A 8

The bidding:	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
6♠	All pass			

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

North's simple raise to three spades showed some values and not a useless hand. South couldn't think of a way to find out if North had the perfect hand for seven, so he settled for six spades. He won the opening heart lead in hand with the ace and took a moment to plan the play. South started by drawing trumps in

three rounds. He then cashed the king of hearts and the ace of diamonds. When no honor appeared, he continued with the 10 of diamonds. Had the diamonds split 3-2 -- the percentage split -- South would later cash the king of diamonds and lead the seven of diamonds to dummy's nine to discard a club on the queen of hearts. On this lie of the cards, West won with the jack of diamonds but was end-played in three suits. He had to give dummy an entry and the best he could do was to play a heart. South took dummy's queen and discarded a diamond from his hand. A successful club finesse gave him 12 tricks.

Had it been East who had four diamonds, again South would need for East to hold the king of clubs. South's line of play gave him several extra chances. The contract would be cold if the diamonds split normally and he would never need more than a winning club finesse even if the diamonds split poorly. The contract was not guaranteed but South gave it the best chance.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)



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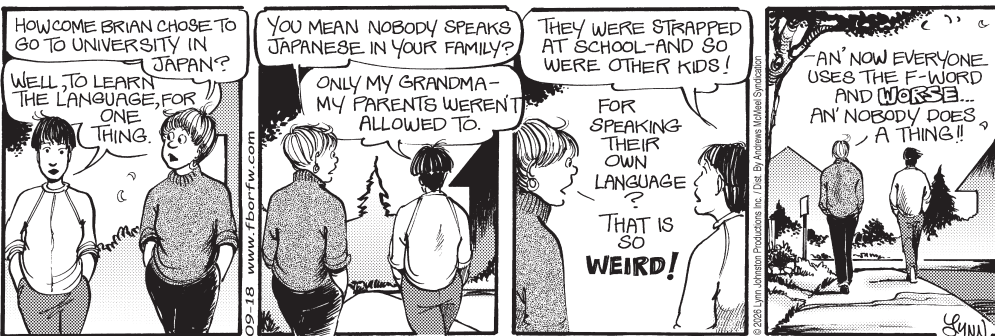
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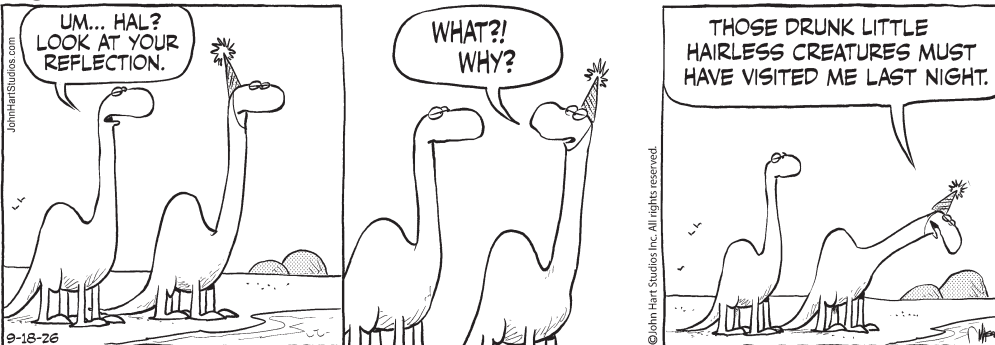
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE®



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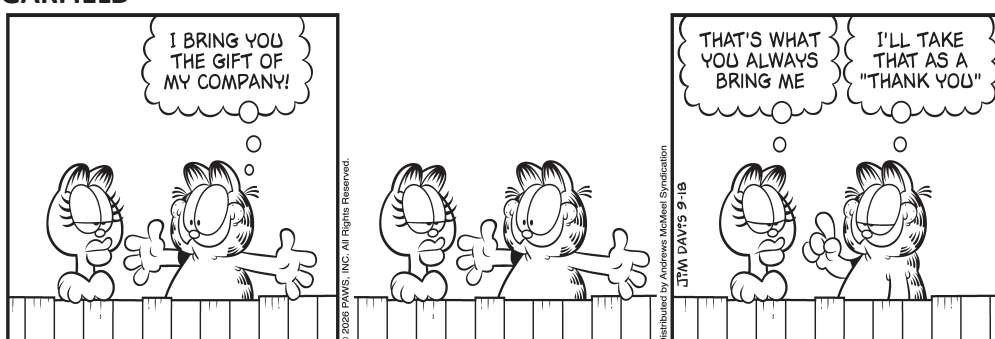
B.C.



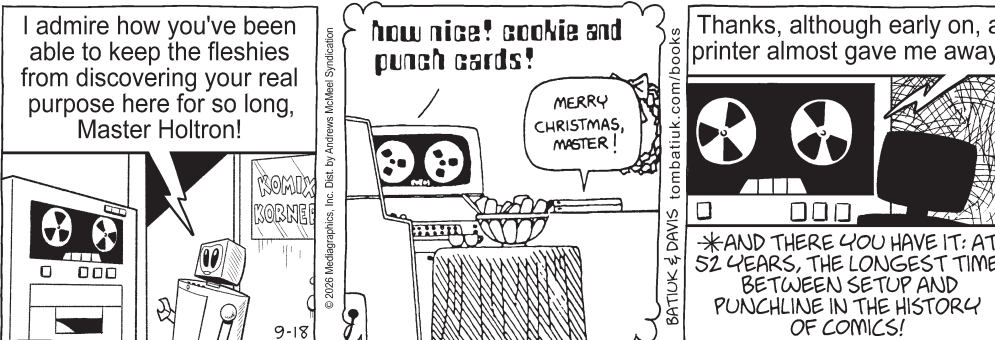
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