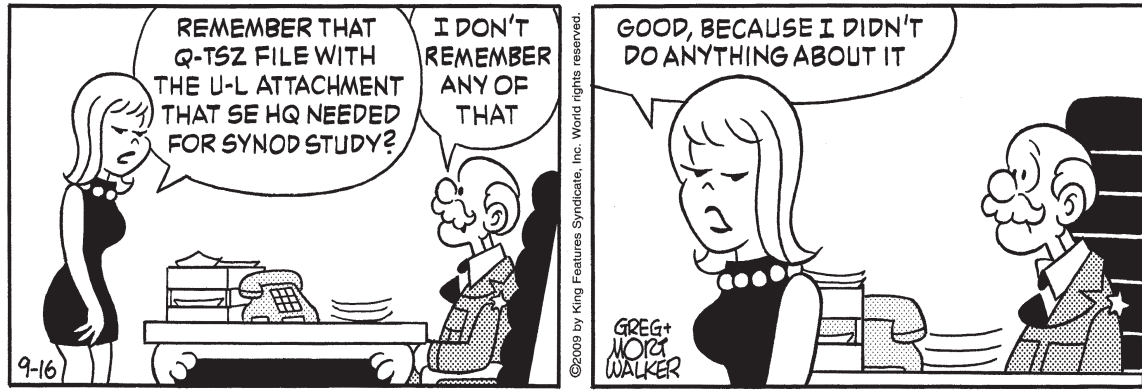


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



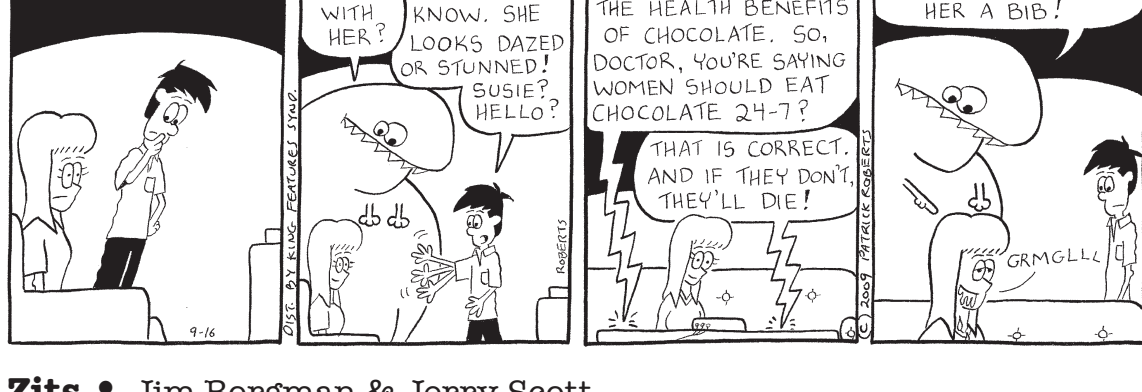
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Mark dates on appliances

Dear Heloise: As we emptied my elderly parent's home in preparation for sale, we discovered that we spent a lot of time researching when appliances, furnace, water heater, etc., were INSTALLED.

Our realtor gave us a great idea that we have incorporated here at home. Take a permanent marker and, in an inconspicuous place, mark the purchase date. No more researching at a later time. — Pam Lucas, Columbus, Ohio

Pam, good hint for my readers! — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

- FAST FACTS**
- Dear Readers: You responded in droves with hints for reusing coffee cans. Here are the best of the best:
 - Hold toilet-paper rolls when camping.
 - A lawn seeder (by punching holes in the bottom).
 - In the garden as wind protection for new plantings and seedlings.
 - To clean paintbrushes.
 - Use in the garage for nuts and bolts.
 - As a piggy bank to store spare change.
 - In the laundry room for items collected from pockets.

And a unique hint for metal coffee cans is to bake homemade bread in them. (Loaves come out round, with a mushroom-shaped top.)

Since we're talking coffee cans, here's a hint from Diana of Colorado Springs, Colo.: "I use the small (11.5-ounce) plastic coffee 'can' as a kitchen-counter compost container. I put eggshells and used coffee grounds in it. Once it is half-full, I mix up the ingredients and crush the egg shells into small pieces. It is a good mixture to fertilize my outdoor flower garden. The container can be used again or thrown away. The label is easy to remove from the container, and it is presentable sitting on the countertop." — Heloise

GREEN HINT

Dear Heloise: I needed more packing peanuts to fill up a box to be mailed and didn't have enough, so I used the next best thing — empty water bottles with the caps on tight did the trick! I just put them around the object I was mailing. They kept the box firm and the gift we were sending intact! — J.A.B., Dryden, Va.

CHEAP SOUP

Dear Heloise: In our household, we always have a soup stock container in the freezer, but in addition to the juices from vegetables, we add broccoli stems and leftover cauliflower, cabbage and celery. These all go in the soup with beans and seasoning, and we call this "garbage soup" — always different and always good, and nothing goes to waste. — Doris G., Fillmore, Calif.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K 7
♥ A 9 4 2
♦ K 10 8 6 3 2
♣ 9

EAST
♠ 5 4
♥ K Q J 10 8 7 5 3
♦ A 9 7
♣ 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 6 3
♥ 4
♦ A Q 8 6 5 3 2
♣ 4

The bidding:
East South West North
4♥ 4♠ 5♥ 5♠
Opening lead — nine of clubs.

A Psychological Ploy

Dear Mr. Becker: A great many people simply don't understand the psychological factors of the game. I know what I'm talking about because I have been playing rubber bridge for years with some friends, and I am far and away the biggest winner in the game.

However, this is not because I play better than the others — as a matter of fact, they all bid and play their cards better than I do.

Where I have a big edge is when it comes to psychology. For instance, the other night I won a 3,300-point rubber — the very first one we played. My partner and I didn't have the cards to win by such an amount, and to be perfectly frank about it, we should actually have lost the rubber.

It was the psychology, though, that did it, and this hand is what got us started. We got to five spades, and West led his singleton club.

I won with the king, noting that with neither opponent able to give the other a club ruff, the contract was now assured. I then led a spade and finessed. West took the king and made a good play by leading a low heart away from his ace in the hope that East could win and return a club.

East got pretty mad when he saw the heart lead because he wanted a club return also. When he played the ten of hearts, I let him win the trick by discarding a diamond.

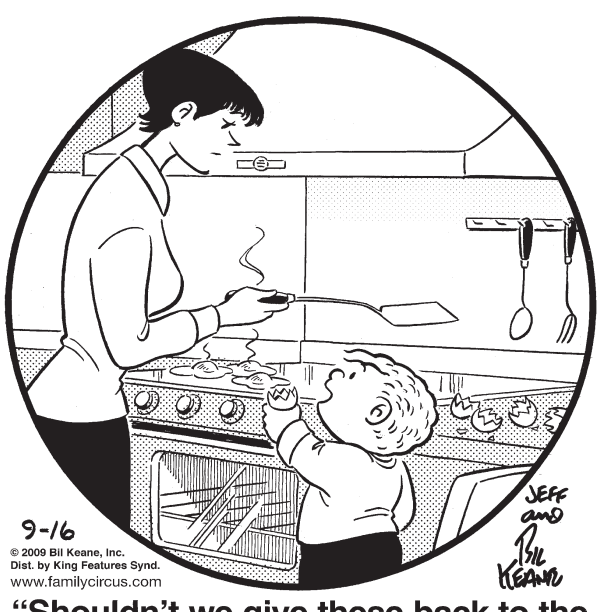
This was the key play of the hand, and if you don't understand why, you are missing the whole point. East laid down the ace of diamonds, which I ruffed, and I then claimed the balance, making five.

You never heard such a ruckus as now took place. East and West accused each other of all kinds of stupidity for failing to return a club. Neither of them had noticed my seven-card club suit.

Their heated exchanges went on for a long time, and from then on they were easy pigeons. Cordially yours, John Dough

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-16
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"Shouldn't we give these back to the chickens so they can recycle them?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

HOWF HYMJ HWNL MCHTCF

WCXS YN LXCFDIYM HOYMW

CLLWTSLYFB NKTWLOYFB,

JKWN DIYWL HZCLL LXZ YL?

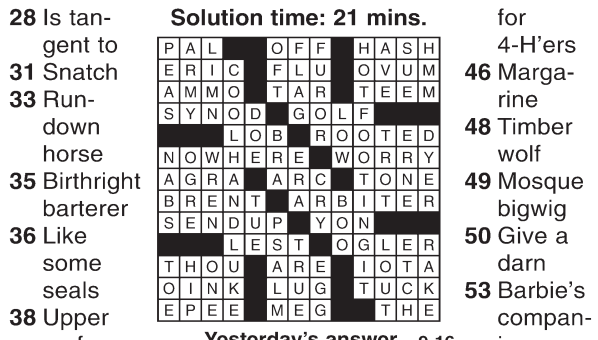
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT HUGE LAND MAMMAL LIKES DRINKING CHAMPAGNE SO MUCH, PEOPLE WERE CALLING IT A RHINO WINO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Guy
 - 5 Society newbie
 - 8 Buckle
 - 12 Alkali neutralizer
 - 13 Eggs
 - 14 October stone
 - 15 Behave ostentatiously
 - 17 Doing
 - 18 Elder
 - 19 Formed into a heap
 - 21 — de plume
 - 22 Icelandic volume
 - 23 Where "Lost" is found
 - 26 Chart
 - 28 Is tangent to
 - 31 Snatch
 - 33 Run-down horse
 - 35 Birthright barterer
 - 36 Like some seals
 - 38 Upper surface
 - 40 Recede
 - 41 Probability
 - 43 Tease
 - 45 July holiday
 - 47 Slanted lettering
 - 51 As well
 - 52 Sooners' home
 - 54 Bobbin carrier
 - 55 Slithery fish
 - 56 Skiers' carrier
 - 57 Gangster's girlfriend
 - 58 "CSI" evidence
 - 59 A handful
 - 2 Rue the run
 - 3 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.
 - 4 Newsman Newman
 - 5 His is an entry-level job
 - 6 Actress Mendes
 - 7 Wash
 - 8 Potential
 - 9 Clapping
 - 10 Assessment
 - 11 Trudge along
 - 16 Explosive sound
 - 20 Greek mountain
 - 1 Part of "E = mc2"
 - 23 Mellow
 - 24 Type of lingerie
 - 25 Baggage-claim structure
 - 27 Vanna's cohort
 - 29 Bill
 - 30 Hero sandwich
 - 32 Sleeping bag, maybe
 - 34 Ape
 - 37 Pesticide letters
 - 39 Pocket bread
 - 42 Furnished with footwear
 - 44 Thai money
 - 45 Locale for 4-H'ers
 - 46 Margarine
 - 48 Timber wolf
 - 49 Mosque
 - 50 Give a darn
 - 53 Barbie's companion

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-16

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
51					52	53				
54					55				56	
57					58				59	