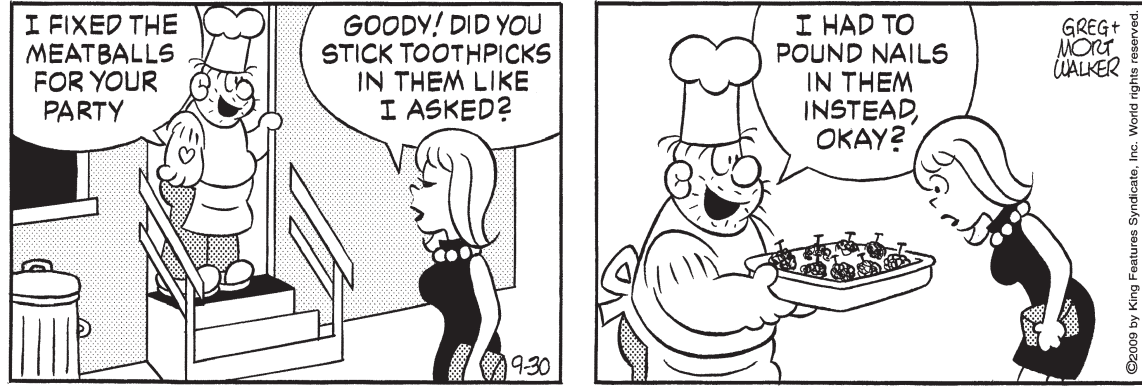


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



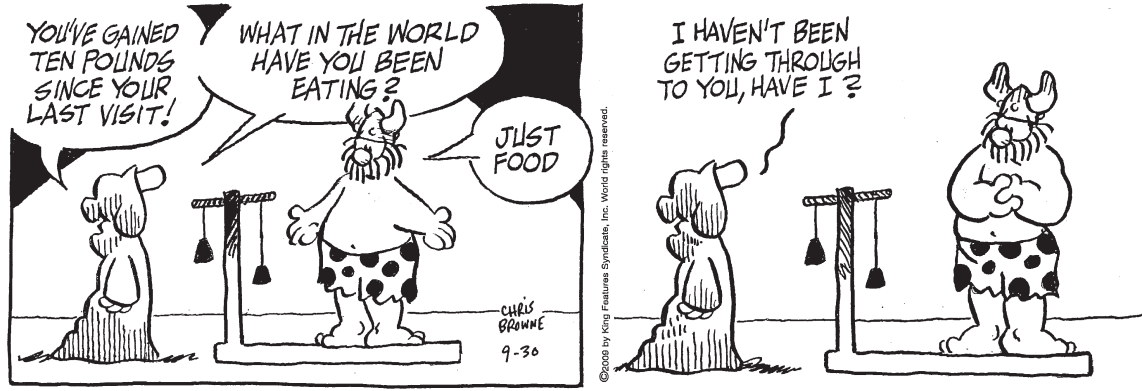
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



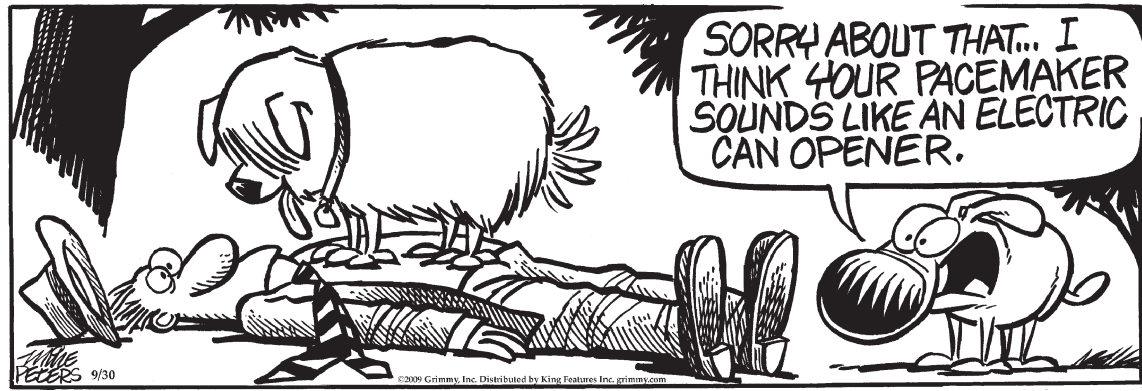
Blondie • Chic Young



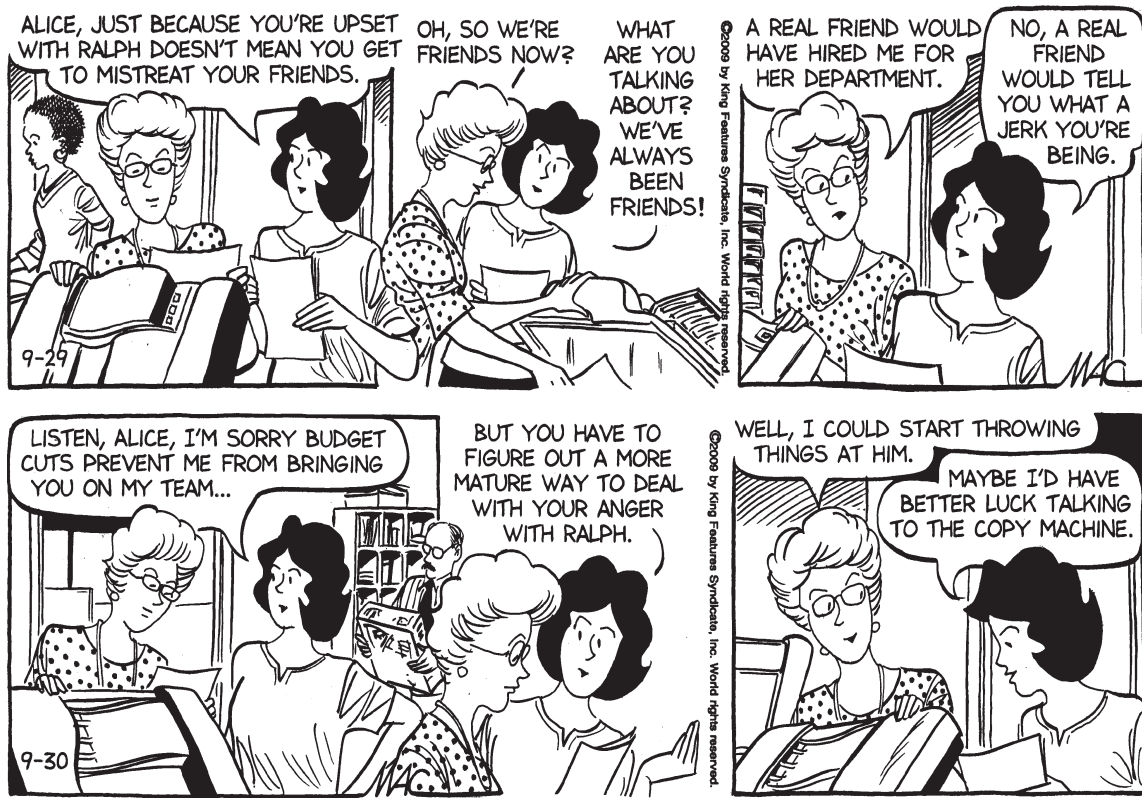
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



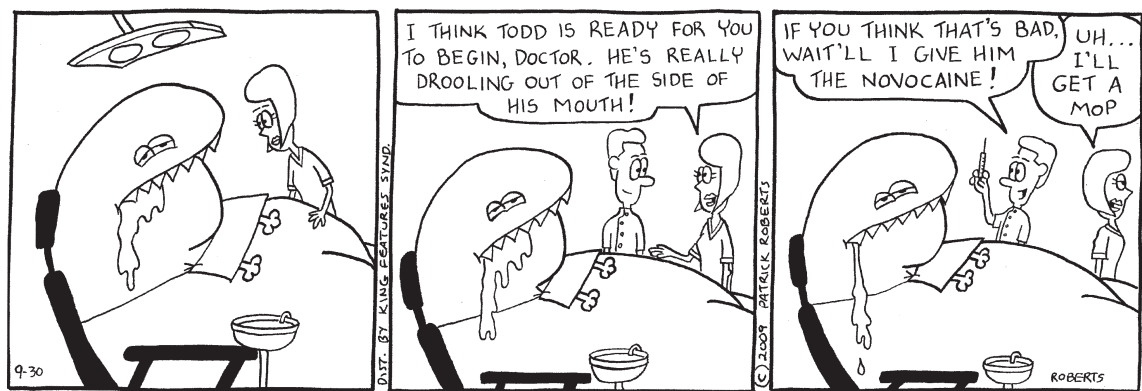
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



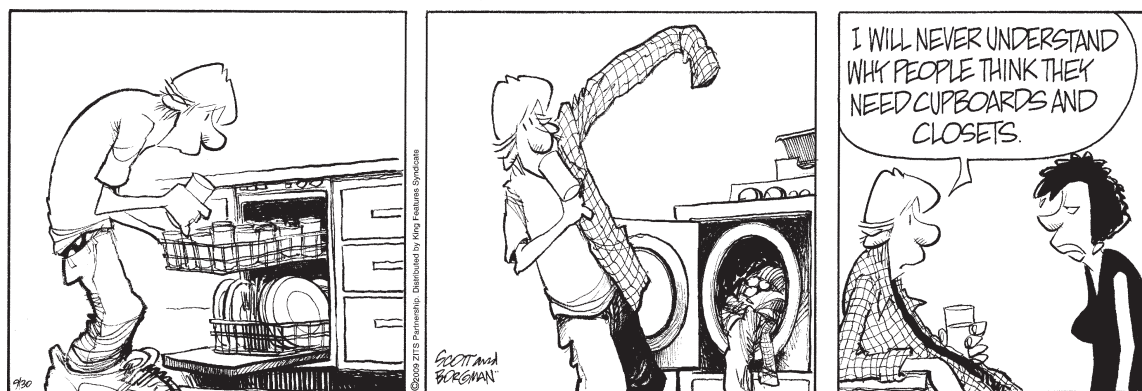
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Keep honey warm, sealed up

Dear Readers: September is NATIONAL HONEY MONTH. If you are a honey fan, here are some sweet hints for you:

- One tablespoon of honey contains approximately 60 calories, depending on the type.
 - Honey is best stored at room temperature.
- There is no need to put it in the fridge, because honey gets granulated if stored there. Expiration or package dates usually are in the two-year range. However, honey can last indefinitely (according to the National Honey Board) when properly stored in a tightly sealed container.

- 100 percent pure honey literally has no ingredients added and comes to the table just as honey bees produced the nectar.
- There are hundreds of varieties of honey, depending on what flowers bees visit. Not only can honey have different flavors, but also different ranges of color. — Heloise

SOAP DISPENSER

Dear Heloise: At my kitchen sink, there is a soap dispenser that came with my faucet. As time went by, it became harder and harder to get any soap out of it. I kept thinking it was out of soap and would try to add more. Finally, I realized it needed water, because the soap had dried up over time. Now I just add water until I feel it needs some more soap, and it works great. — Elaine Boehm, via e-mail

Elaine, I have one, too, and love it. You can go under the sink (use a flashlight) and carefully unscrew the container. You can clean it, refill and put back in. — Heloise

VEGETABLE BROTH

Dear Heloise: When I buy fresh veggies and bring them home to clean, I keep the scraps. I put them all in a pan with some water, a bit of salt and pepper, and make my own vegetable broth. You can then save it by freezing. — Susie, Little Rock, Ark.

A good money-saving hint, too! Cooler temperatures are just about here, and a hot bowl of homemade soup comes to mind. I have delicious ones like Italian Pasta, Chicken Tortilla and Vegetable-Beef in my Heloise's Spectacular Soups. For a copy, just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: Add a small amount of pureed carrots to give soup a sweeter taste, or use celery to add thickness and extra "hidden" veggies. — Heloise

HANDY GRAPEFRUIT SPOON

Dear Heloise: I read about using a spoon to clean out bell peppers. I use a grapefruit spoon. It cleans better and faster than a regular spoon.

Eating a melon with a grapefruit spoon gives you a spoon and a fork to dig into the melon easier and enjoy the juice, too. — Brandi F., Farmington, N.M.

NO TEARS

Dear Heloise: I keep a small fan handy for the counter where I usually chop onions. I direct the flow of air toward the onions while I am chopping, and no more watering eyes. All it takes is the faintest breeze. — Ann N., Saltillo, Miss.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q J 7
♥ A K J 4
♦ K Q J 8
♣ 5 2
WEST
♠ A 9 8 4 3 2
♥ 7 5
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ 6
EAST
♠ 10 6
♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 9 7 4
SOUTH
♠ K 5
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A 7
♣ A K Q 10 8 3
The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — ace of spades.

Time Marches On

Assume you're in six clubs and West leads the A-x of spades, which you win with the king. There seems to be little to the play, but when you cash the A-K of trumps, West shows out, and you must now reconsider your position, since East apparently has a sure trump trick coming.

However, you've been to the wars before and are not quite ready to concede defeat. You may still be able to nullify East's potential trump trick by executing a trump coup.

For this plan to have any chance of success, you must reduce your trump length so that it is the same as East's. Accordingly, you cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding a heart, and play the jack of diamonds, hoping East will have the decency to ruff. But he discards a heart instead, so, in line with your general plan, you ruff the jack of diamonds.

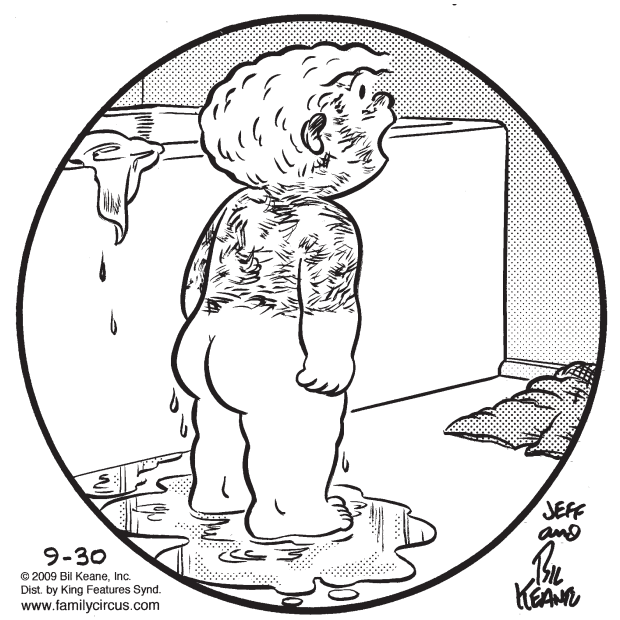
Next you cross to dummy with a heart and fire the queen of spades at East, again hoping he will ruff, but once more he discards a heart. You then ruff the queen of spades and return to dummy with your last heart.

At this point, 11 tricks have been played, and you need to win the last two. Dummy's two remaining cards are the J-4 of hearts, while East has the J-9 of trumps and you have the Q-10. When you lead a heart from dummy, East's apparent trump trick is obliterated, and the slam is home.

Observe that if you try to make the contract without ruffing two of dummy's high-card winners, you will eventually go down against proper defense. The trump reduction process is absolutely essential.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

PYFM TEO WXVWY IEGVT
PNMDZ IEG GFBNLNEOZ
UOGUEZFFZ, N VYNMD TEO'GF
VXDNML X ZBFFU EI IXNVY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS THE FLAT RECEPTACLE BY WHICH A WAITER TRANSPORTS CORNED BEEF DISHES? A HASH TRAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Badly lit
- 4 Burn somewhat
- 8 Commanded
- 12 Literary collection
- 13 Impel
- 14 Shaving cream additive
- 15 Gelid
- 16 Dangerously fast
- 18 Sandbank
- 20 Favorite
- 21 Costa
- 24 Handrail support
- 28 Shortcut to a Web site
- 32 "The Amazing —"
- 33 Heidi's height
- 34 Iroquois' foes
- 36 Dance syllable
- 37 Cabbage recipe
- 39 Depositor's record

DOWN

- 1 Speaker's spot
- 2 Minimal distance
- 3 BLT enhancement
- 4 Glorious
- 5 Screw up
- 6 Census stat
- 7 Harvest
- 8 Witty repartee
- 9 Hearty quaff
- 10 "What's up, —?"
- 11 "A mouse!"
- 17 Barbie's companion
- 19 Noah's craft
- 22 Sugar or starch, for short
- 23 Met expectations?
- 25 Texas city
- 26 Reverberate
- 27 Plumbing problem
- 28 Low voice
- 29 Earthen pot
- 30 October birthstone
- 31 Gambling game
- 35 Moved furtively
- 38 Bit part, maybe
- 40 A couple of cups?
- 42 Conk out
- 45 Recedes
- 47 Perfectly
- 48 Therefore
- 49 Picture of health?
- 50 Buddy
- 51 Gun the engine
- 52 Praise in verse
- 53 The whole enchilada
- 54 Shuffleboard stick

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-30