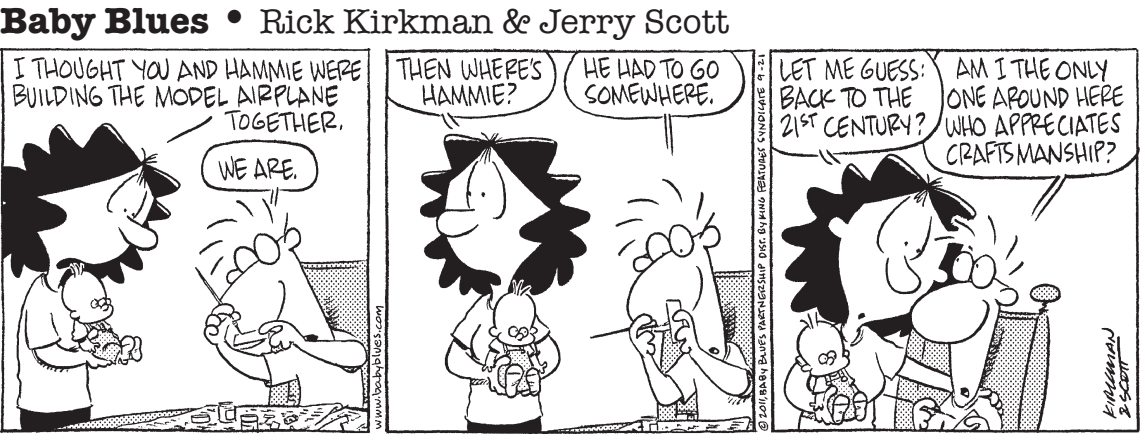
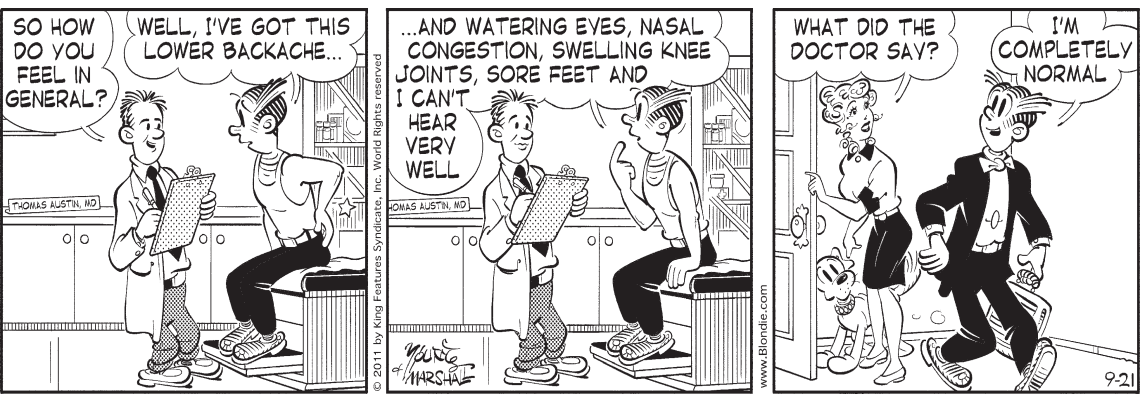
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

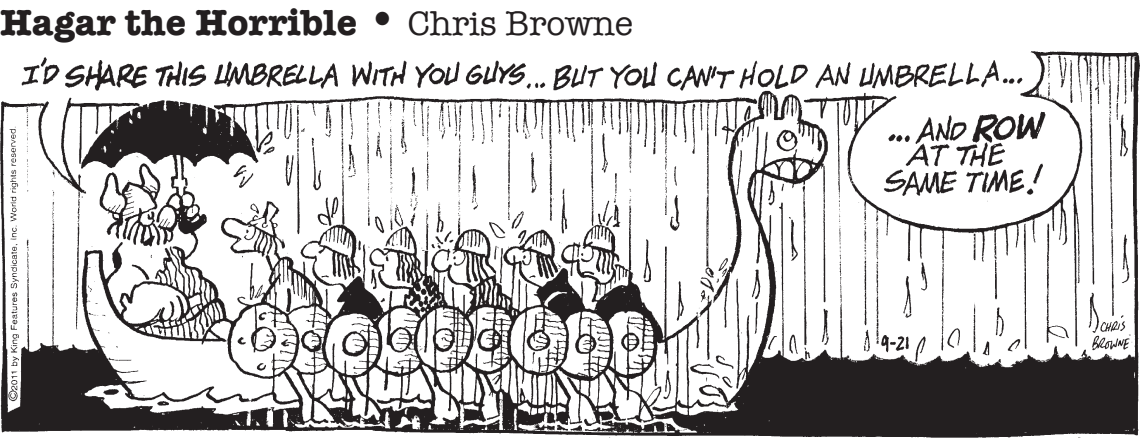


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

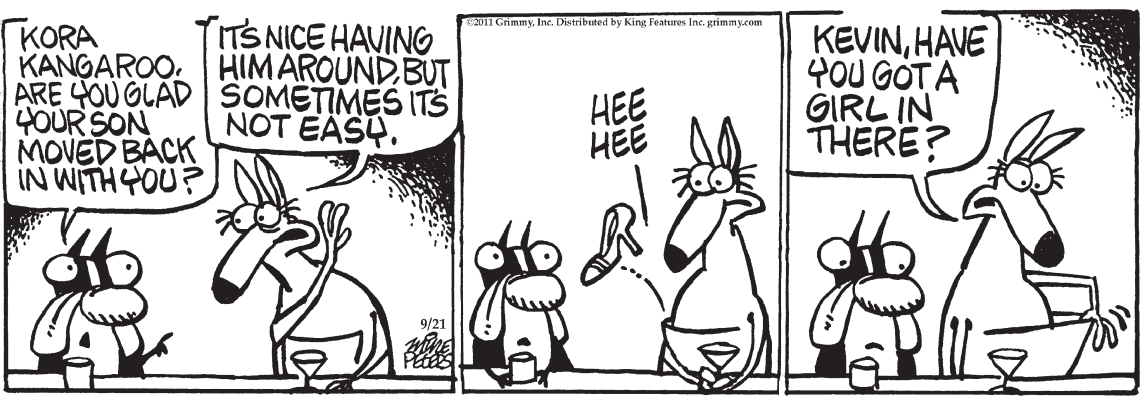
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

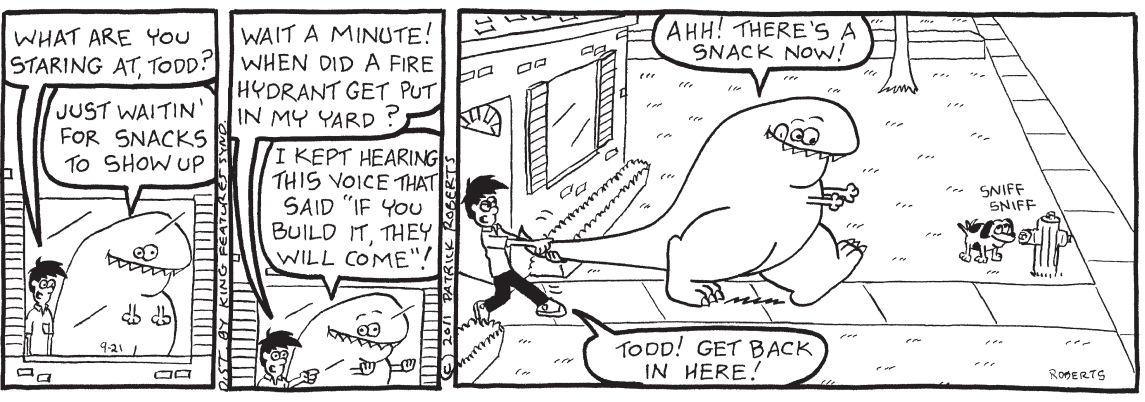


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

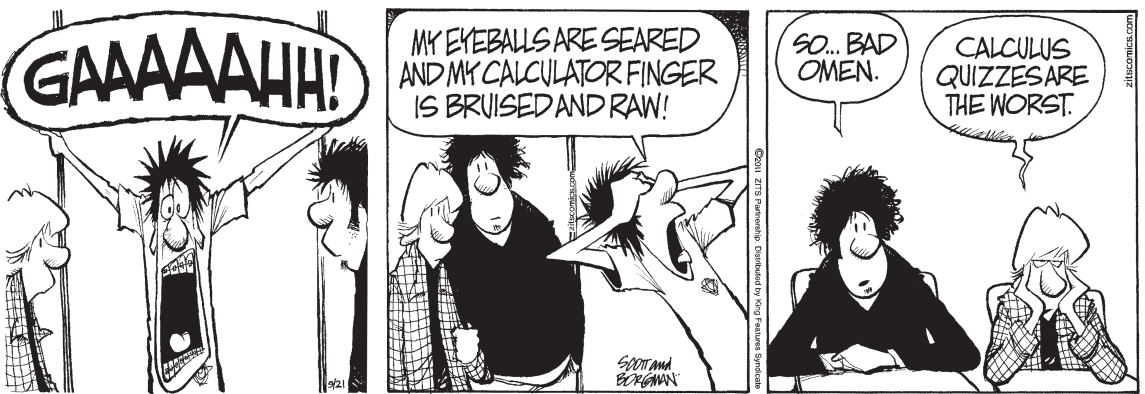


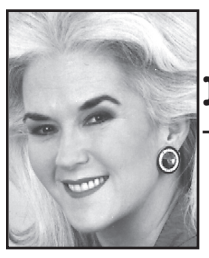
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Cut bagels right for safe morning

Dear Readers: BAGELS are a great breakfast item, but slicing them incorrectly can send you to the emergency room, or at a minimum start your day off wrong!

So, if you want to enjoy this food safely, here is the correct way to cut your bagel: Lay it flat on a cutting surface, with your flattened hand holding down the bagel. Keeping your fingers out of the way, use a sharp, serrated knife (a dull knife is more dangerous) to carefully AND SLOWLY cut halfway through the center of the bagel. Then, STOP slicing, stand the bagel up on its end and finish carefully slicing the rest of the way (you won't slip and cut the palm of your hand). NEVER hold the bagel in your hand while slicing! – Heloise

P.S.: Bagels are tasty any time of the day – just be careful you don't have to take your snack to the ER with you!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

NO SCRATCH

Hi, Heloise: I needed something to separate nonscratch pans and came up with the following: Use clean, old potholders or a sheet of plastic with the separated air pockets. This also will work on glass bowls or large platters. I read your column in The Palm Beach (Fla.) Post. – Carol Parkola, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

CLEAN OR DIRTY?

Dear Heloise: When we had three teenage children in the house, they would always ask if the dishwasher was clean or dirty. Since I rinse off the dishes before I put them in the washer, they couldn't tell. So I came up with this after removing the clean dishes: I put the detergent in the washer and closed the dispenser door. That way, everyone knows the dishes are dirty if the dispenser door is closed and clean if the door is open. I no longer have the problem of someone putting dirty dishes in with the clean ones. – Marilyn, St. John, Ind.

Many readers do this, and it's fine as long as you use your dishwasher daily. If using powder, don't let it sit too long, because high humidity or moisture can cause it to clump and not work as well. – Heloise

NO CLEANUP

Dear Heloise: I have a hint that has helped me, and I would like to share it with your readers: I line my toaster-oven pan with nonstick foil, and it wipes clean. – Mary Jane Howell, via email

Many people line the crumb tray with foil to keep it clean. However, the instruction manuals tell you not to do this because of the danger of overheating. USE CAUTION. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 3
♥ K Q 6 4
♦ K J 7 5
♣ A 2

WEST
♠ J 9 6 2
♥ 7 3
♦ 8 2
♣ J 10 9 7 3

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

SOUTH
♠ A K 4
♥ 9 5 2
♦ A 9 6 3
♣ Q 6 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Similar Is Not the Same

Bridge players tend to become creatures of habit. The bid or play that has worked best in a given situation eventually is applied to all situations where the circumstances appear to be the same.

This, of course, is a dangerous approach. The mark of a fine player is that he does not react automatically to common situations but treats each deal as a brand-new experience.

Take this case where West leads the jack of clubs against three notrump. Declarer plays low from dummy, and East wins with the king and returns a club to dummy's ace.

South leads a diamond to the ace and another to the jack. East wins and returns his last club to declarer's queen. South, in need of a ninth trick, now leads a heart to the king. Fortunately, East has the ace, so South is home with nine tricks – three spades, three diamonds, two clubs and a heart.

However, this is not the full story, since declarer should not make the contract! If East plays the eight of clubs rather than the king at trick one, South goes down one. As soon as East gains the lead, he returns the club king to dummy's ace, and West later scores three club tricks.

How should East know to duck the opening club lead? First, given South's opening bid, dummy's 15 points and East's 10, West is known to be virtually bereft of high cards, so the only real hope is that he has a long club suit.

Next, East should reason that if West has the J-10-9-x of clubs, ducking will yield two club tricks instead of just the king. And if West started with the J-10-9-x-x, it is surely better to duck because the defense can then score three club tricks.

The lone fly in the ointment is that West might have six clubs and South only two, in which case the king play wins. However, this is highly unlikely: Since South could not raise hearts or bid spades, he doesn't figure to have only two clubs. Therefore, ducking at trick one is the right play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"No, I don't think candy would go well with scrambled eggs."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/21

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 9/19

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Cryptoquip

OQG YHC IYWO YSSDBG KEBQDMG FGMO AEIZO. D OQDMA GKIHYTGGW FYUAGC KEMZEHHT EW E HEWO IUGWYUO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PERIODICAL WITH ALL KINDS OF BENEFICIAL INFO ABOUT TRENDY RHINOPLASTY PROCEDURES: "NOSEWEEK."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Suitcase
4 Gear tooth
7 Antitoxins
8 Bake, in a way
10 Curtain material
11 Environment
13 Breakfast choice
16 Historic time
17 Sensational
18 Winter ailment
19 Dilbert's workplace
20 Blood line?
21 Sports-page datum
23 Expositions
25 Greek H's
26 Senate employee
27 Actor Danson
28 Handy
30 Shock and —
33 Quahog
36 Throw off the track
37 Novelist Bret Easton —
38 Zodiac dozen
39 Chimney dust
40 "Married ... With Children" mom
41 James Bond, e.g.

DOWN
1 Legendary catcher
2 Desert-like
3 Casino patron
4 Tex-Mex entree
5 Lubricated
6 Crossword diagram
7 Wound reminder
8 Smug look
9 Illicit cigarette
10 That woman
12 Wrinkly fruits
14 English river
15 Pistol
19 Two, in Tijuana
20 Compete
21 Lieu
22 Core groups
23 Succumb to gravity
24 Eternal
25 Biblical verb suffix
26 Brooklyn-based beer brand
28 Grammarian's concern
29 Addams Family's "hired hand"
30 Metallic blend
31 Be patient
32 Summertime trio?
34 Faucet problem
35 Hoofbeat sound

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	I	M	■	F	E	B	■	E	C	H	O
I	N	C	A	■	L	E	A	■	S	H	A	G
D	O	O	R	■	A	L	B	A	C	O	R	E
I	N	N	I	N	G	■	A	T	H	O	M	E
■	■	■	S	U	P	T	■	E	E	C	■	■
S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	■	W	H	E	T
A	A	H	■	B	L	O	A	T	■	O	R	E
C	H	E	F	■	E	L	S	I	N	O	R	E
■	■	S	U	N	■	L	I	M	O	■	■	■
C	O	T	T	O	N	■	N	E	T	H	E	R
O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E	■	I	O	T	A
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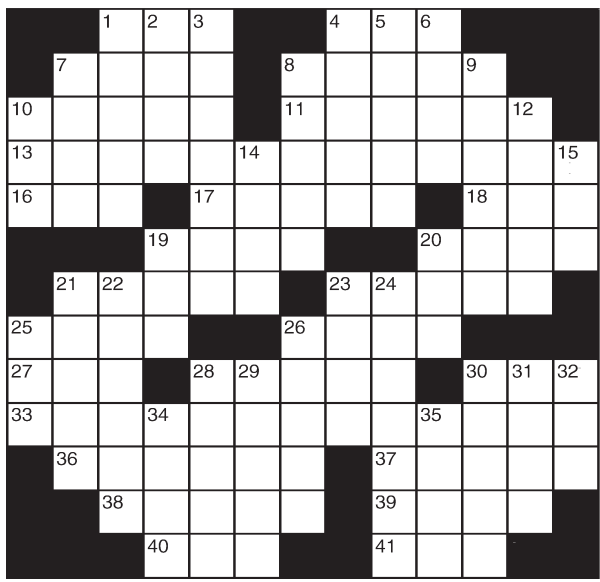
Yesterday's answer 9-21