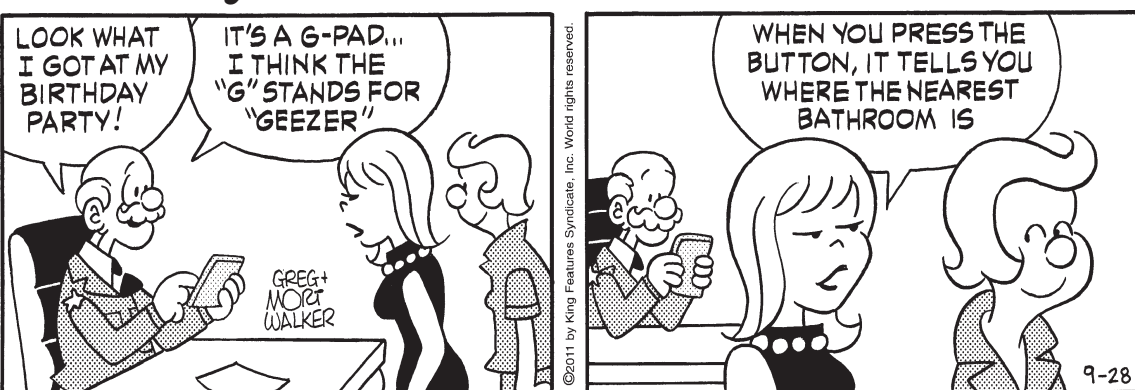


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



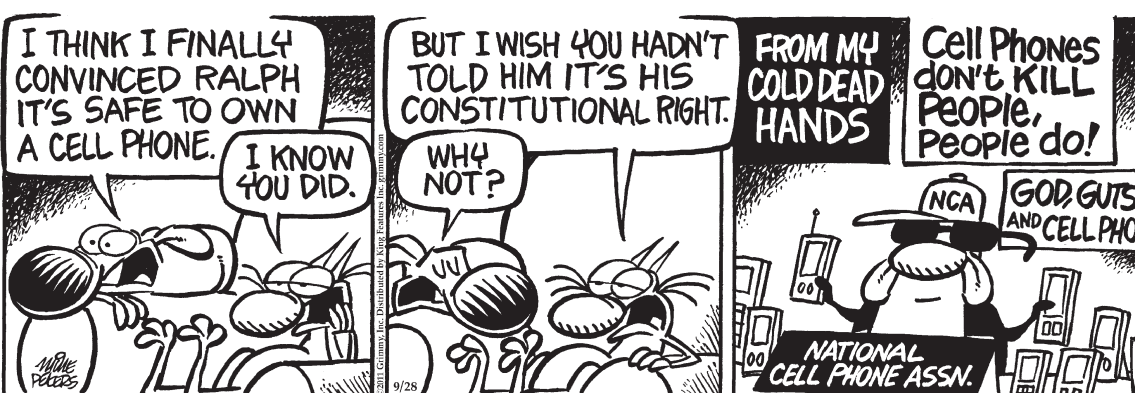
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



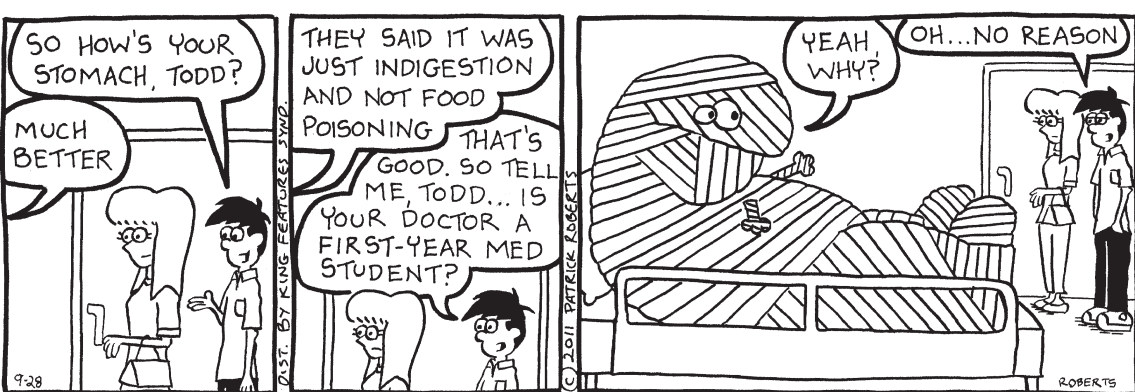
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Tasty blend replaces salt

Dear Heloise: A few years back, you had a recipe for a SALT SUBSTITUTE made up of spices. It was good, but I have lost the recipe. Could you please reprint it? – Judy Penick, Orland, Ind.

I'm happy to reprint this recipe, especially for those who need to be careful of how much salt they eat. You will need:

- 5 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seed

Mix all of the above ingredients. Label an airtight container, and store this spice blend in a cool, dry place away from the stove and light. This will preserve the flavors of all the spices.

I have other seasoning recipes (along with sauces and substitutes) available in my Heloise's Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet. To receive a copy, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (64 cents) envelope to: Heloise/SSS, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. No buttermilk, but you need it for a baked-goods recipe? Try yogurt instead. – Heloise

EASY COOKIES

Dear Heloise: I bake cookies, so during the holidays I decided to mix up several different kinds and keep the dough in the refrigerator, then bake as needed. I don't have to bake the whole recipe. I now keep chocolate-chip and peanut-butter dough in the refrigerator and bake as needed for family or friends. I can bake a dozen or half a dozen; it works quickly when a friend or family drops in. – Helen G., Fort Wayne, Ind.

MONEY- AND FOOD-SAVER

Dear Heloise: Growing up, we were taught not to waste. When buying anything that needs to be freshened, such as parsley, asparagus, collards, spinach bunches, watercress, etc., slice off a bit of the stem, stand it up in water and cover loosely with the plastic bag it came in.

A bunch of parsley can be chopped and spread flat in a plastic freezer bag to use as needed. Freeze the stems in a freezer bag with the stems from kale, collards, celery leaves and leek tops until making soup stock. – Joan in Maryland

KITCHEN RUG

Dear Heloise: After many washings, my kitchen rugs became very dangerous. I had some of the perforated, soft-rubber shelf liner, so I cut pieces a bit shorter and narrower than the rug. The resulting combination turned out to be absolutely non-slip. – Wilson H. in Laredo, Texas

ROASTED PEPPERS

Dear Heloise: Whenever roasting peppers, instructions say to line a pan with foil, roast and then seal in a bag to steam off the skins. I seal the roasted peppers in the foil that is lining the pan (Heloise here: After they are done roasting). – Melody H., via email

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
 South: 1♥, 2♦, 3♦, 4♠
 West: Pass, Pass, Pass, 4♥
 North: Pass, 3♠, 4♠
 East: Pass, Pass
 Opening lead — four of spades.

A Battle for Trump Control

One very common form of defense against a suit contract is to force declarer to ruff in his hand. The primary purpose is to exhaust his trumps in the hope that the defenders can later gain the lead and cash whatever cards they have remaining in their long suit.

The declarer, of course, does all he can to resist this trump-shortening process. When he is blessed with nine or more trumps in the combined hands, he can usually withstand the onslaught.

When he has eight trumps, declarer's position might be tenuous, but when his combined total is only seven, the situation may become downright precarious. This is why a side seldom chooses to play in a suit with only seven trumps, especially when they are divided 4-3 or 5-2.

Observe declarer's problem on this deal. A spade is led and continued, South ruffing the second one. If he now draws all the adverse trumps, he finishes with only nine tricks -- five trumps and four clubs. With all the trumps gone, the defenders score the ace of diamonds and three spades. This result is not surprising, since the chance of the opposing trumps dividing 3-3 is only 36 percent.

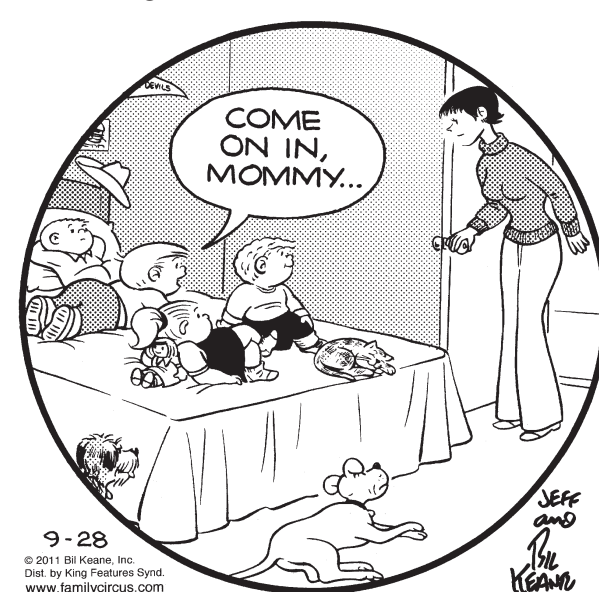
South can protect against the more likely 4-2 trump division (48 percent) by leading the jack of diamonds after ruffing the spade at trick two. If the jack wins, he draws trumps and scampers home with 10 tricks.

If the jack loses to the ace and a spade comes back, South discards a diamond or a club in order to retain four trumps in his hand. The defenders are then kaput, since a spade continuation can be ruffed in dummy.

By adopting this approach, declarer can make the contract whenever the opposing trumps are divided 3-3 or 4-2, about an 84 percent probability.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“...we're just reminiscin' about the good old days.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/28

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.

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

Cryptoquip

S O F X U O F V W F M B W F W U E
 D U E G M P V B X A , U O F S F F G B X A
 U P F F D D N M M F F W F W U O P E N A O
 D O F F P Z E P M F E Z S B Y Y E S .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BOOK ABOUT A KID PLAYING BASEBALL INSIDE A POPULAR YOUTH HANGOUT: "THE CATCHER IN THE Y."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Birthright barterer | 3 Longtime "Mad" cartoonist | 26 Don Juan's mother |
| 1 DNA sharer | 44 Sprite | Dave Dunaway | 27 Actress |
| 4 Venomous vipers | 46 Between-meal munchie | 4 Essentially | 28 Draining reservoir |
| 8 Exploding star | 50 Dangle a carrot | 5 Bashful | 29 Largest of the seven |
| 12 Praise in verse | 55 Hawaiian garland | 6 Vigor | 30 Sawbucks |
| 13 Other people | 56 Help a thief | 7 Harmonization | 31 Prior nights |
| 14 Final notice | 57 Stench | 8 Idea | 35 Chalkboard accessories |
| 15 Supporting | 58 Diner order, briefly | 9 Sapporo sash | 38 Depressed urban area |
| 16 Put under cover | 59 Pedestal part | 10 Namely (Abbr.) | 40 Pistol |
| 18 Pond | 60 Courts | 11 Chowded down | 42 — carte |
| 20 Actor McBride | 61 Brewery product | 17 Resistance measure | 45 Go smoothly |
| 21 Peace-keeping org. | | 19 Black-bird | 47 Actress Jessica |
| 24 Decorator's theme | | 22 Grow weary | 48 Honeycomb compartment |
| 28 Spoof | | 23 Pure air | 49 Prop for Ben Franklin |
| 32 1492 ship | | 25 Polynesian icon | 50 Tiny bit |
| 33 Work with | | | 51 Lawyers' org. |
| 34 Valuable collection | | | 52 Homer's neighbor |
| 36 Door opener | | | 53 Altar affirmative |
| 37 Chinese dynasty | | | 54 Menagerie |
| 39 Fill with | | | |
| 41 Turkish official | | | |

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-28

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	
50	51	52			53	54			55		
56				57					58		
59				60					61		