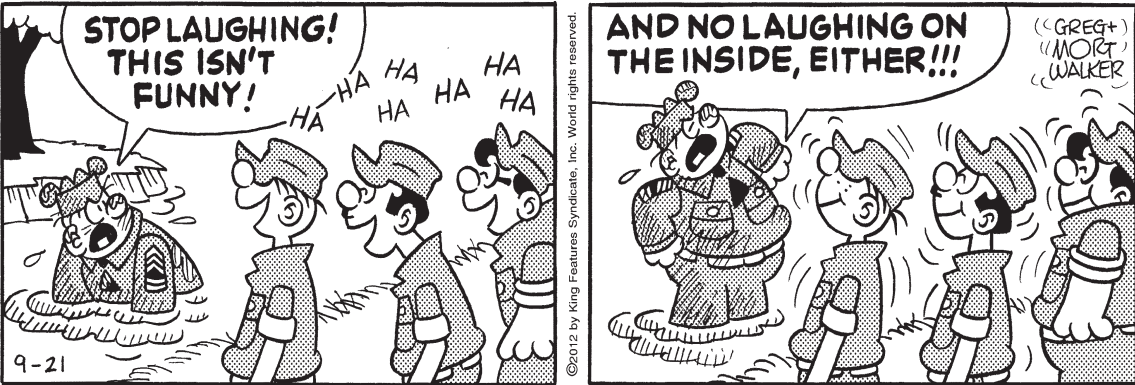


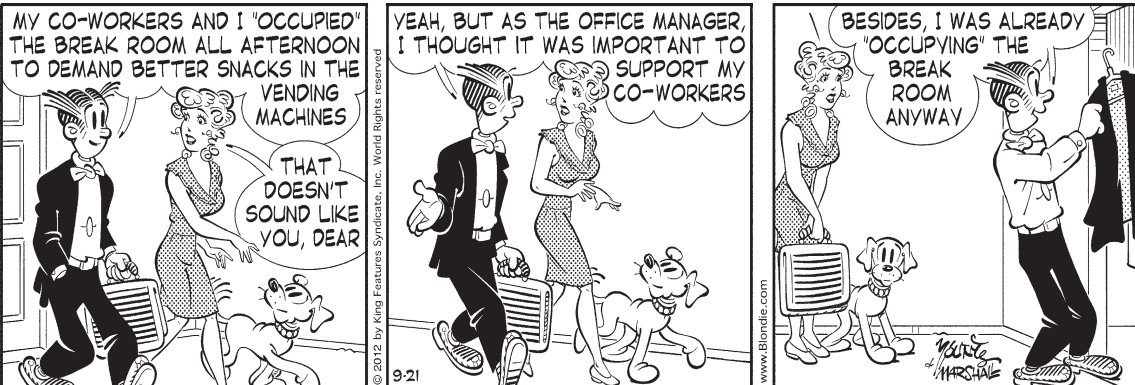
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



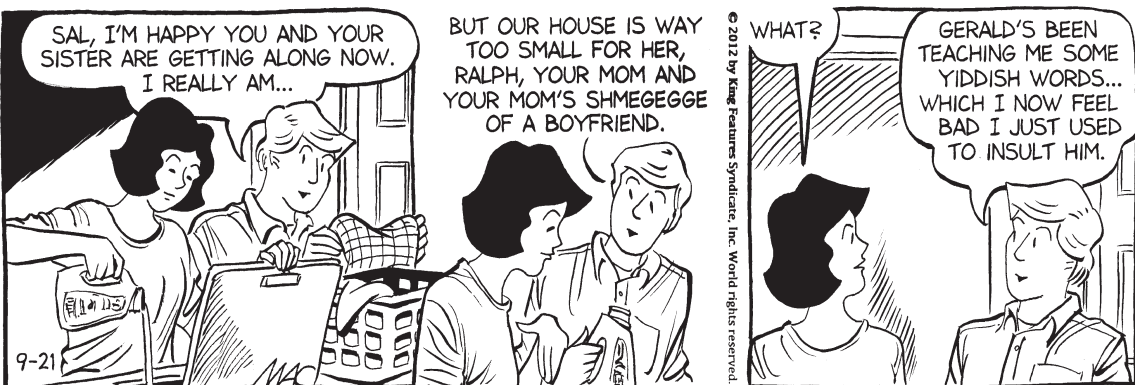
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



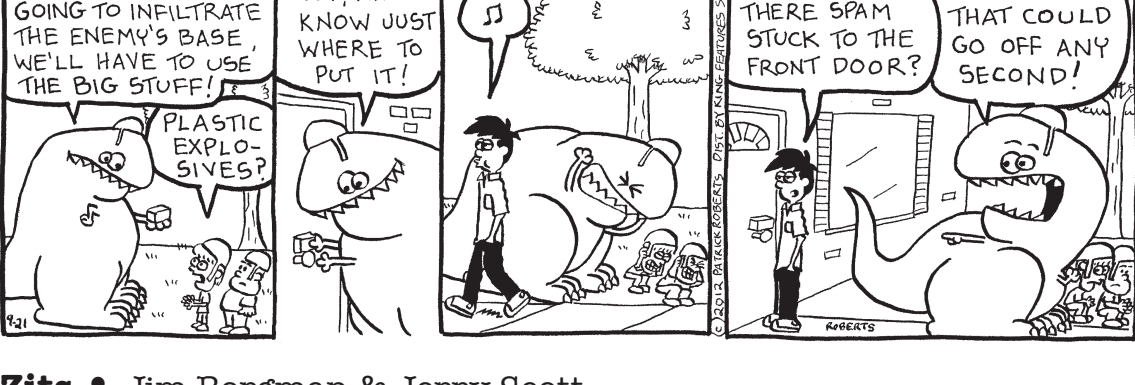
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Think safety in using candles

Dear Readers: Here are some important candle safety hints from the National Candle Association. Take a moment to read these reminders:

Place candles on heat-resistant candleholders large enough to catch wax. Make sure candleholders are on a sturdy surface in a well-ventilated area, but not in the direct path of drafts, etc.

Trim down the wick before burning. It should be 1/4 inch long. Long wicks can cause uneven burning. Do not burn a candle all the way down. Discard when there are two inches of wax left.

Never leave a burning candle unattended. Be sure the candle is completely extinguished before leaving the room or house. — Heloise

P.S.: Candles are lovely to look at and can add a wonderful aroma, but without correct cautions, they can cause a deadly fire!

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When I travel, I program the hotel's phone number into my cellphone. Then it is easily accessible if I need to call to get directions or say I am running late. It also has come in handy when my luggage was misplaced and I needed to give the airport my hotel information. I called the front desk, and the hotel provided the airport with the info needed. — A Reader in Washington

COOKIES FROM CAKE

Dear Heloise: You had a recipe for making cookies from a boxed cake mix. My friend has lost his copy. He is diabetic and wanted to know if this recipe would work with the sugar-free cake mixes. — Connie, via fax

Connie, here you go. This recipe should work with the sugar-free cake mixes, too. Use your favorite flavor cake mix and add 1/4 cup of chopped nuts, raisins or chocolate chips. Here are the basic ingredients:

1 (18.25 ounces) box cake mix
2 eggs
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix only the above ingredients until blended in a mixing bowl. Drop spoonfuls of batter onto a baking sheet (un-greased) about 2 inches apart. Bake for 8-10 minutes. They brown quickly, so watch them carefully. Ovens vary, so place the baking sheet on the middle rack and stand by for the first batch. These quick and easy treats go great with coffee.

Want to know some of my other favorite cake recipes? Order my pamphlet by sending \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cake Recipes, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To easily release a cake from the pan, be sure it's cool, then run a knife around the edges. — Heloise

SECURE SOFTWARE

Dear Heloise: I recently purchased a new printer. It included a CD of software to install on my computer. I taped the CD to the back of the printer. I know where it is if I need it. This can be used with copiers, computers and fax machines. — Katie in Des Moines, Iowa

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Dble	Redble	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ 853 ♥ AJ72 ♦ QJ9 ♣ K84
2. ♠ KJ93 ♥ J6 ♦ AJ942 ♣ K5
3. ♠ 7 ♥ KQ84 ♦ AJ76 ♣ AJ98
4. ♠ J62 ♥ Q5 ♦ KQ53 ♣ K962

Bidding Quiz

1. Two hearts. Your redouble announced 10 or more points, but not necessarily heart support. By bidding two hearts, you show not only your trump fit but also that the redouble was based on minimum values (your one extra point above a minimum redouble is nothing to get excited about). Three hearts would show a slightly stronger hand. Partner should pass two hearts with a dead-minimum opening bid and continue bidding with anything more.

2. Double. If we assume that partner has a normal opening bid -- in which case he will pass your penalty double -- East is apt to wind up with his arm in a sling. He is likely to go down three -- 800 points -- and, in fact, he might go down even more. It would be a mistake to let East off the hook by bidding two diamonds or two notrump at this point; some of the juiciest penalties in bridge are exacted at the one-level.

3. Two spades. Game in hearts is certain, and the spade cuebid is made to alert partner to the possibility of a slam. A jump to three hearts (forcing) would not fully reflect the promise of the hand, so some other bid -- such as two spades (or three spades if you play "splinter" bids) -- is necessary to suggest a slam.

Some might argue that the two-spade cuebid in this sequence promises the ace or a void in spades. However, it is much more flexible to treat this cuebid simply as showing a hand with enormous potential for slam. In the present case, with your strong minor-suit holdings sitting directly over the doubler, plus your excellent trump support and singleton spade, you have ample justification for such a bid.

4. Pass. There is simply no better call available at this stage. You should therefore let East's spade bid roll around to your partner to see what he wants to do. Your pass is 100 percent forcing -- partner is not permitted to pass. If he rebids one notrump or two hearts -- both weak rebids -- you should pass, as you have no extra values. But if he names a new suit or makes a jump-rebid, you will certainly bid again, while if he doubles one spade (for penalties), you will happily pass.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

9/21

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

Cryptoquip

RKZIQ RTZ LHGVU LWSCI

KGJJQMQC RZ HGMC ZM RKGR

SZVU GR RKQ IGFQ FZFQMR

TKGR G VSZT-WMVWCQMVQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE TINY HAIR STRUCTURES ARE ACTING COMPLETELY ABSURD. I SHOULD TELL THEM TO STOP BEING CLIA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 35 Highly-rated | 2 Twilight hour, in a way | 21 Antioxidant berry |
| 1 Rd. | 36 Upper crust | 3 Attractive | 22 Winnie-the-Pooh's creator |
| 4 "Little Women" woman | 37 Tweet name | 4 Major-ette's prop | 23 Enthusiastic, plus |
| 8 Colorless | 40 Elevator | 5 Burnett of CNN | 25 Pork cut |
| 12 Wrestling win | 41 Parliament figure | 6 Can makeup | 26 Impressively direct |
| 13 Met melody | 42 At it | 7 Crone | 27 Spruced up |
| 14 Libertine | 46 First victim | 8 Fantastized | 28 Kelly or Hackman |
| 15 Vindicating | 47 Between jobs | 9 Bellow | 30 Halt |
| 17 Count counter-part | 48 Compete | 10 Emanation | 33 Almost not at all |
| 18 A billion years | 49 Inquisitive | 11 Region | 34 Skirt feature |
| 19 Gold measure | 50 Active sort | 16 Boss | 36 Old anesthetic |
| 20 Heathen | 51 Shade provider | 19 Actress Madeline | 37 Family |
| 22 "Just the facts, —" | DOWN | 1 Spring mo. | 38 Vagrant |
| 24 Low-pH | | | 39 Ticks off |
| 25 Gaffer's responsibility | | | 40 Leer |
| 29 Pale | | | 42 Newton fruit |
| 30 Wise lawgiver | | | 43 Bachelor's last words |
| 31 Born | | | 44 Zero |
| 32 Tabloid event re Elvis | | | 45 Sparkler |
| 34 Check bar codes | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-21

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		