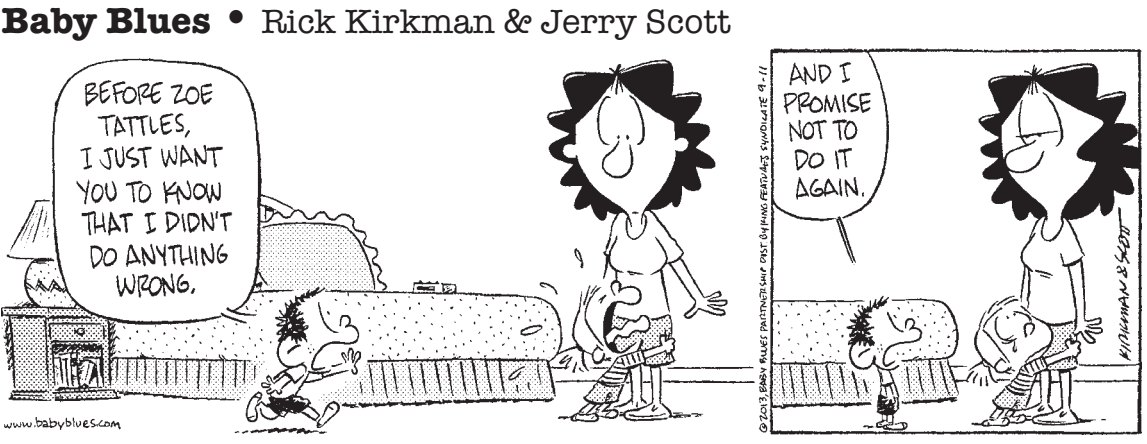
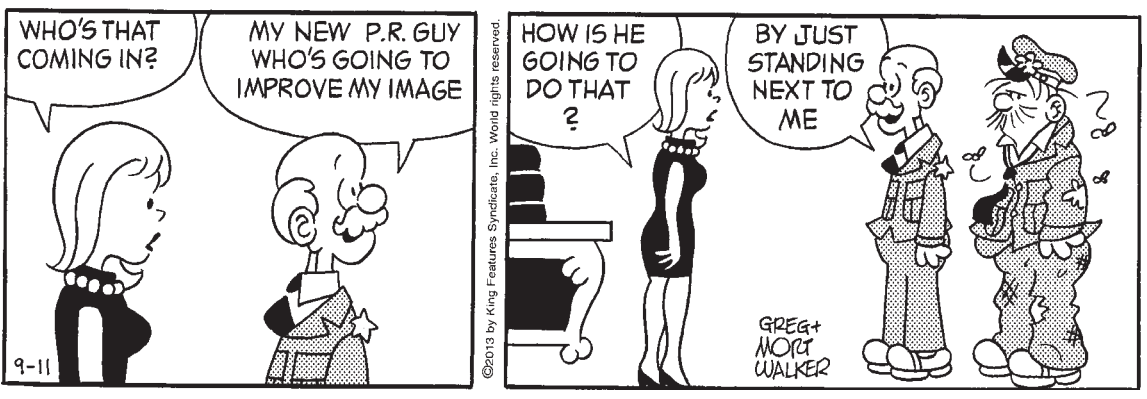
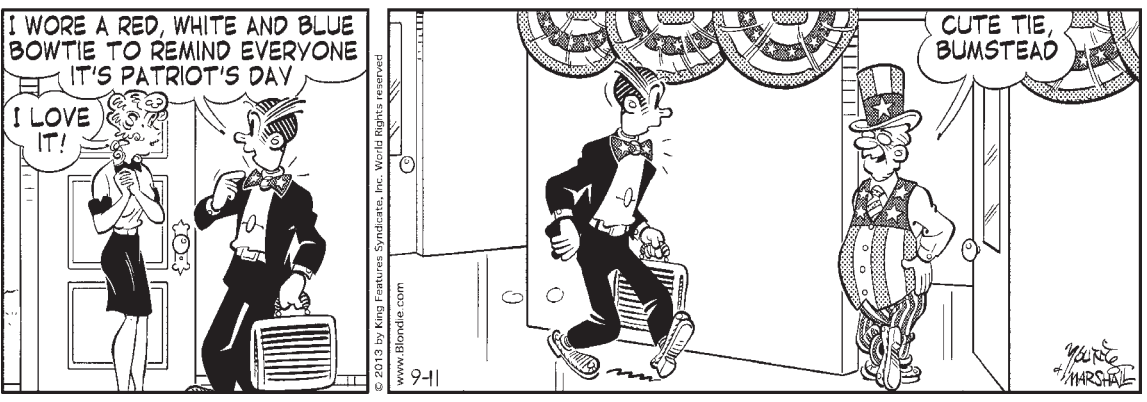
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

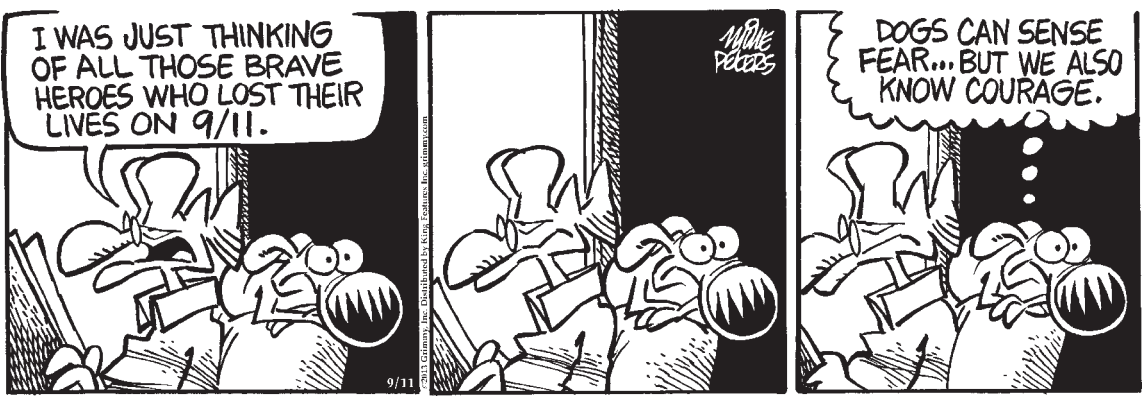


Blondie • Chic Young



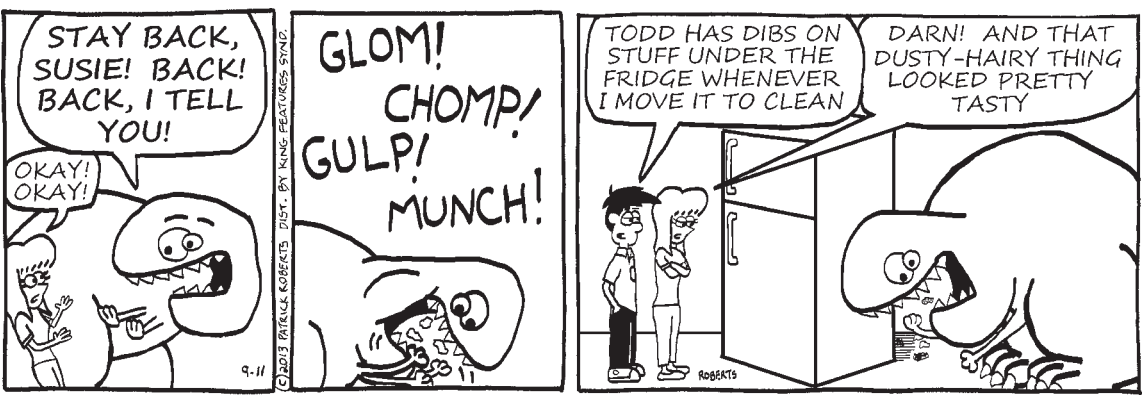
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Chinese beets a family recipe

Dear Heloise: I lost your recipe for Heloise's Chinese beets. I looked for it, but it doesn't seem to be anywhere. – Joan R., via e-mail

It's been years since this family recipe was printed. It's a good time to run it again. Get together the following:

6 cups, or 3 (16 ounces each) cans, sliced or whole beets
1 cup sugar
1 cup vinegar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
24 whole cloves (less if you don't want a strong taste)
3 tablespoons ketchup
3 tablespoons oil (optional)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Salt to taste

Drain the beets. Set aside 1 1/2 cups of the liquid. In a medium saucepan, place the beets and reserved liquid. Then add all the remaining ingredients. Mix well and cook for 3 minutes over medium heat, or until the mixture thickens. Let cool before storing in the refrigerator. Serve as a side dish or in a salad. Want more Heloise's All-Time Favorite Recipes? I've put them in a pamphlet that you can get by sending $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/All-Time, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. These beets can be too tangy for some people's tastes. Adjust the recipe by using fewer cloves, and leave out the vanilla for a different flavor. – Heloise

HEARTY HOMINY

Dear Readers: Do you know what hominy is or how to cook with it?

I recently just "rediscovered" it, and I started wondering. I know it's corn, but ...? It is the center of the corn that is left over after the corn kernel is soaked in a solution to bleach it, then washed.

Hominy can be eaten by itself or added to recipes such as soups, stews and casseroles. I sprinkle some on my salad for a nice addition. – Heloise

MAKING MOLASSES

Dear Heloise: Is blackstrap molasses the same as regular molasses? – Louise S., via e-mail

No, it is not! Molasses comes from the juice of sugar cane or sugar beets. The juice is boiled to remove the sugar crystals. How many times the juices are boiled determines the type of molasses.

Light or regular molasses is made from the first boiling, while dark molasses comes after a second boiling. Blackstrap molasses is what remains after a third boiling, and it has a bitter taste. It's used in slow-cooking recipes, e.g., baked beans or barbecue. – Heloise

SEEDING SQUASH

Dear Heloise: Cleaning out the pulp and seeds when preparing winter squash using a spoon was difficult. I looked in my utensil drawer and chose the larger end of my melon-ball cutter. The insides of the squash come out with very little effort using the melon-ball cutter. Don't turn it; simply pull it along the inside of the squash. The pulp and seeds come out easily. – W.B. in Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 6 3
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ 6
♣ J 7 5

WEST
♠ 9 8 5 2
♥ A 6
♦ A 9 8 3 2
♣ K Q

EAST
♠ K 7 4
♥ 10
♦ K Q 7 5 4
♣ 9 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ J
♥ Q J 9 7 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ A 10 8 4

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Dble	4 ♦	4 ♥

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Cutting the Gordian Knot

In bridge, as in war, interfering with enemy communications can sometimes produce a victory that could not otherwise be attained. In today's deal, which occurred in a national championship, declarer made good use of a communications-breaking play to salvage his contract.

South was Richard Freeman, "Quiz Kids" star of radio two generations ago. West led the king of clubs, and Freeman won with the ace. It was apparent that the only real threat to the contract was the possibility of a club ruff, but instead of leading a trump at trick two to try to eliminate this threat, Freeman led the jack of diamonds!

As a result of this play, the contract could no longer be defeated. The only tricks declarer eventually lost were a heart, a diamond and a club.

Now let's suppose that South had led a trump at trick two, as most declarers in Freeman's shoes probably would have done. In that case, the contract would have gone down one with proper defense.

West would have taken the ace of trumps, cashed the queen of clubs, led a low diamond to East and ruffed East's club return to score the fourth trick for the defense. Furthermore, this series of plays by East-West would not have been hard to find.

West would naturally assume that East, for his four-diamond bid, was likely to have the king of that suit, and East would assume that West's underlead of the ace of diamonds after cashing the queen of clubs at trick three was a clear-cut request for a club return.

The jack-of-diamonds lead at trick two cut a vital link in East-West's line of communications, and in one fell swoop short-circuited the defense.

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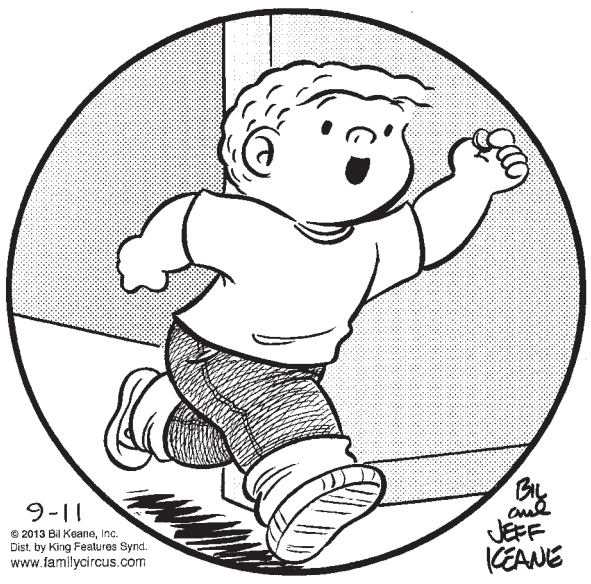
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy! I found the nickel I lost. It was in my pocket!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/11

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

Difficulty Level ★ 9/09

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Cryptoquip

AKF BAYON GQVCGKF ZDVZ VOO QVGO RFKZ VQAKC CDARZR QYRZ CA ZDTAYCD ZDF NFVN OFZZFT AHHGBF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE PRIEST PURCHASED A VERY PRICEY ROBE, ONE COULD CALL IT A VESTMENT INVESTMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Scenery chewers
5 Arg. neighbor
8 On the rocks
12 Labyrinth goal
13 Literary miscellany
14 Peace-keeping org.
15 Church VIP
17 Summertime pest
18 Column support
19 Manly
21 Group of whales
22 Belligerent deity
23 Fix the soundtrack
26 Go here and there
28 1950s Sen. Kefauver
31 Birthright barterer
33 — Mahal
35 Antitoxins
36 Wedding announcement
38 Clothing protector
40 T. follower
41 Capri or Wight
43 Navigator's aid
45 Analyzes ore
47 "Seinfeld" role
51 Dillon or Damon
52 Evil
54 Sheltered
55 Leading lady?
56 Rip
57 Dweeb
58 W's successors?
59 Roadie's load, in part

DOWN
1 Rope fiber
2 Leaf-branch angle
3 Short skirt
4 Hurt
5 Toweling-off site
6 Individual
7 Pupa-to-be
8 Entrance
9 Flour pot?
10 List-ending abbr.
11 Lavish affection (on)
16 Fawn's pop
20 Anger
23 Newcomer to society
24 "Born in the —"
25 Staircase rail
27 Slight touch
29 Preceding
30 Jazz band instrument
32 Still wanting more
34 Literature Nobelist Juan Ramón —
37 Crafty
39 Indonesian islanc
42 Antique car
44 Some bowties
45 "— for All Seasons"
46 Bargain
48 Thing
49 Tide type
50 Blunders
53 "The Holly and the —"

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

Yesterday's answer 9-11

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			