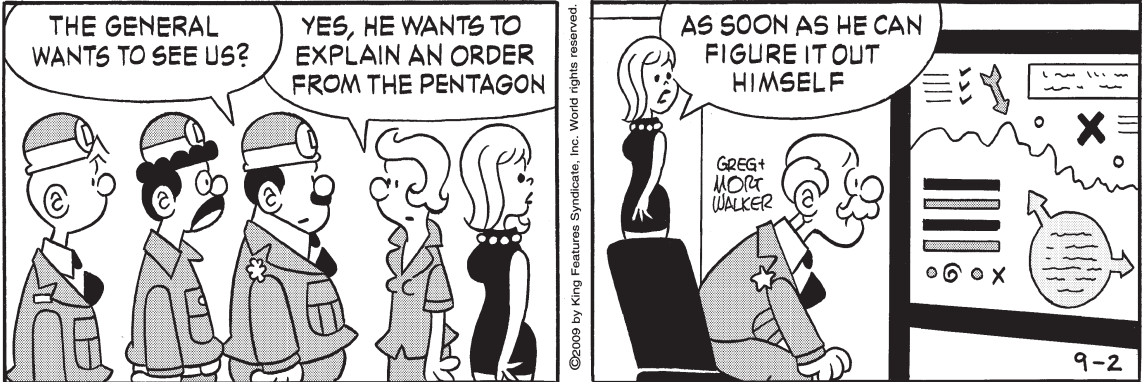


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



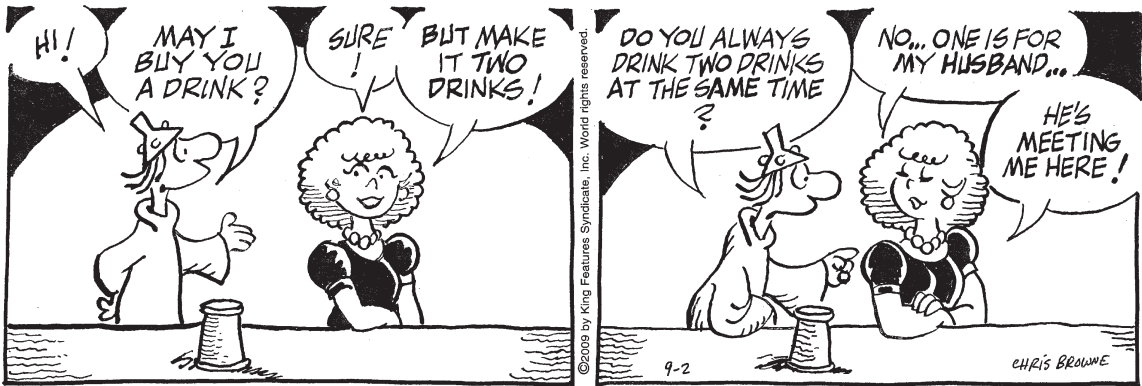
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



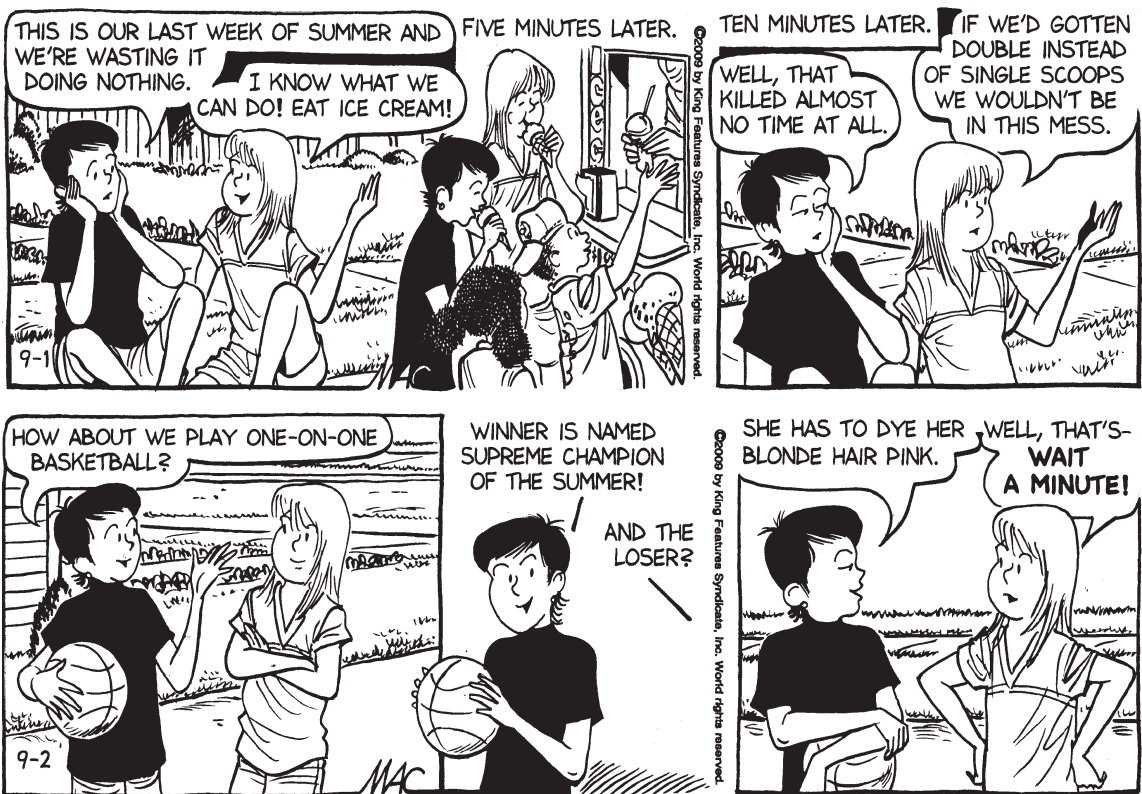
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



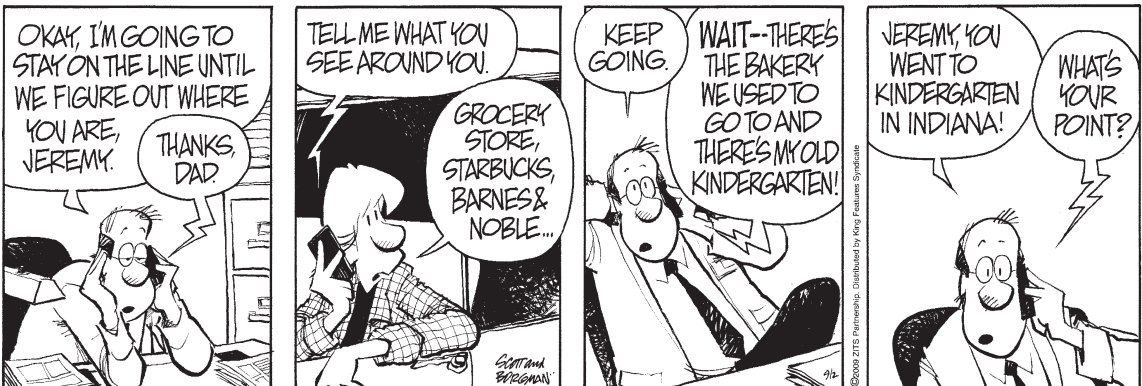
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Does old flour still have power?

Dear Heloise: What makes CAKE FLOUR old? I recently purchased a box and noticed that, like many food products now, it has an expiration date. Before this I had kept my cake flour in the refrigerator until I used it up, which might have been long past the expiration date of two years that this box shows. What will happen if I use out-of-date cake flour? – Stumped in The Woodlands, Texas

It depends on how out of date it is, and the condition the flour is in. A leading flour manufacturer states that out-of-date flour can get bugs or mold, or turn rancid. A sign that you shouldn't use flour is if it smells stale or looks "off." The best way to store flour is in an airtight glass or plastic container, not in the paper bag in which it comes. It will stay fresh this way for six to eight months.

You can freeze cake flour indefinitely, but keep in mind that flour stored for a long time may not yield the same results as a bag of fresh flour. Use a freezer-safe bag or sealed container so the flour won't absorb odors. Before using it, you need to thaw it at room temperature. A few cups will take about 20 minutes to warm up.

Flour can dry out over long periods of time, and this loss of moisture may give you poor results when used for baking. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE

E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

HEALTHY SMOOTHIES

Dear Heloise: I've been making healthy smoothies for breakfast. Many times I just rinse the container with soap and hot water. Imagine my surprise when I took it apart and looked closely at the blender blade. It was awful in the hard-to-reach places. It took a brush, a toothpick, hot water and a good soaking to get it all cleaned up. Now, I take the blender jar apart and clean well after each use. Thank you for the hints you pass along. – J.H. in the middle of Kansas

You are right! A good cleaning is in order every few uses. – Heloise

BURNT FOOD

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint that my mother-in-law taught me. When I burn something on the bottom of a pan (the really black, burnt-on stuff), I add an inch or so of very hot water to it and then sprinkle with powdered dishwasher detergent (stir to dissolve, and don't use on aluminum – Heloise) and let it sit overnight. The black stuff just washes right off. – Jan Curtis, via e-mail

EGG PEELING

Dear Heloise: I discovered an easy and quick way to peel hard-cooked eggs. After boiling them, I run some cool water over them. I then crack the shells and let the eggs sit in the water. After that, the shells just peel right off. I wish I would have discovered this great hint earlier. – Pat L., Farmington, N.M.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 8 3
♥ A K 9 4
♦ 7 6 3
♣ 10 6 5

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

The bidding:
East 1 NT
Pass
Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

The One and Only Chance

In attempting to make the contract, declarer must sometimes play for a lie of the cards that is mathematically less likely than another because the normally favored lie is not possible in the actual circumstances.

Take this case where South reaches four spades as shown and West leads his doubleton diamond. East takes the A-K and returns a diamond, ruffed by West with the four. West then exits with a club, South taking East's nine with the ace.

Declarer has lost the first three tricks, so he must make the rest. This means avoiding a spade loser with the opponents still in possession of the K-J-7.

In isolation, the percentage play at this point would be to cash the ace, hoping the king was singleton in either opponent's hand. This would be superior to leading the queen from dummy, which would win only if West, specifically, had the singleton jack.

But in the actual deal, declarer knows at this stage that neither opponent can hold the singleton king. With only 17 points in the East-West hands combined, East must have the king for his opening one-notrump bid. Therefore, West cannot at this point hold the singleton king.

Furthermore, East cannot have the king singleton, since he would not have opened one notrump with only one spade in his hand.

These deductions leave declarer with only one option -- to play West for the singleton jack. Accordingly, at trick five he crosses to dummy with a heart and leads the spade queen, and East-West's potential trump trick goes up in smoke.

Sometimes percentages must take a back seat to reality.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

9/02

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

EIWQCNI UD FOS VFFWT

ZIQOOD OPXIN BIQZPKH

APUIVPIWIN, P ZIWXFK TI

UCNA EI Q BQAWT SFH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ASKED TO PICK HER PREFERRED APPAREL, THE FEMALE CARTOON MOUSE DECIDED UPON A MINNIE SKIRT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Letter-man's network
 - 4 Stubborn critter
 - 8 Not working
 - 12 Uncooked
 - 13 Holly
 - 14 Perfectly
 - 15 "Born in the —"
 - 16 Track timer
 - 18 Ledger entry
 - 20 Lubricate
 - 21 Support group?
 - 24 Presents
 - 28 Cause clashing
 - 32 Italian farewell
 - 33 Work with
 - 34 Movie cowboy
 - 36 Matter-horn, for one
 - 37 Venetian blind part
 - 39 Li'l Abner's home
 - 41 Serf
- DOWN**
- 43 Slay
 - 44 Scoundrel
 - 46 Youngsters
 - 50 Bigfoot
 - 55 Mined-over
 - 56 Quaker's address
 - 57 Womanizer
 - 58 "A Chorus Line"
 - 59 Harvard's rival
 - 60 Legal wrong
 - 61 Barbie's companion
- 2** Foundation
- 3** Q-tip end
- 4** Strong, cold wind
- 5** Last (Abbr.)
- 6** Writer
- 7** Big fair, for short
- 8** Slanted type
- 9** Speck
- 10** Fond du —, WI
- 11** Biblical verb
- 17** Peruke
- 19** "Big Blue" company
- 22** Slightly
- 23** Seafood selection
- 25** Decree
- 26** Body powder
- 27** Last year's frosh
- 28** Dogsled command
- 29** Capri, e.g.
- 30** Notary's symbol
- 31** "Les Misérables" author
- 35** Disparaging term
- 38** Rotational force
- 40** Whatever amount
- 42** Greek cross
- 45** Small pie
- 47** Eccentric
- 48** Sea eagle
- 49** Spotted
- 50** Pigen
- 51** "Eureka!"
- 52** Scale member
- 53** Addition-ally
- 54** Mongrel

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-2

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			