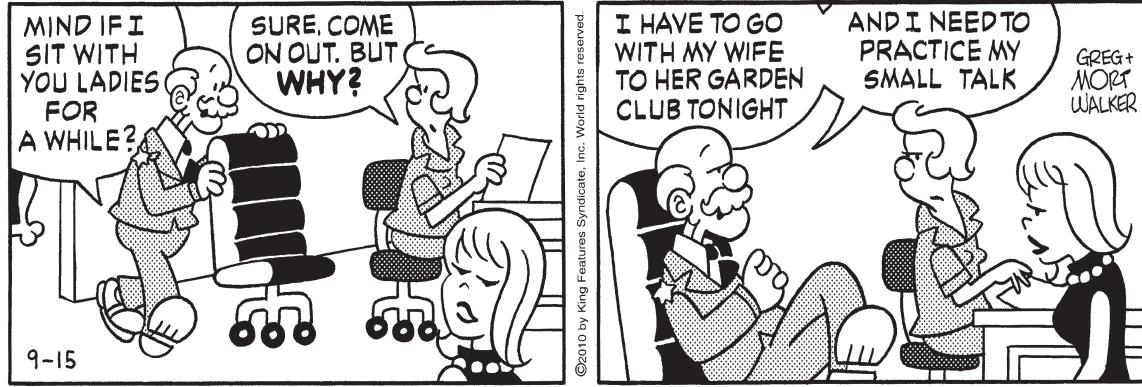


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



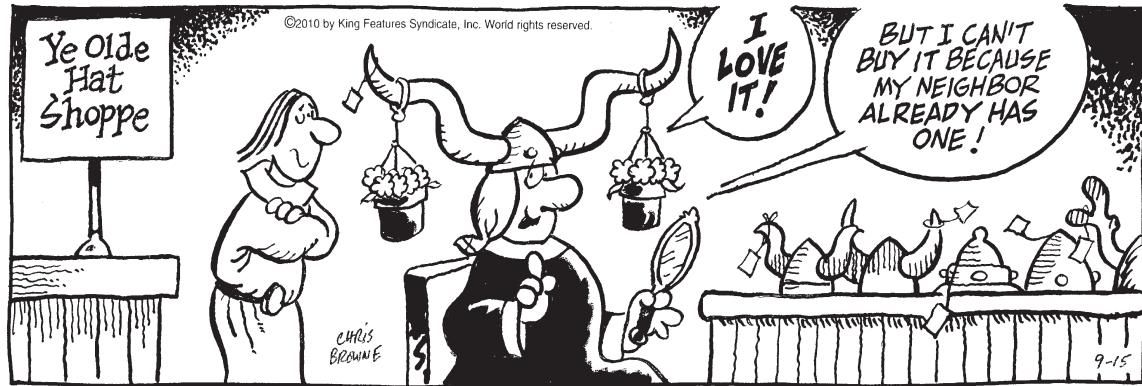
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



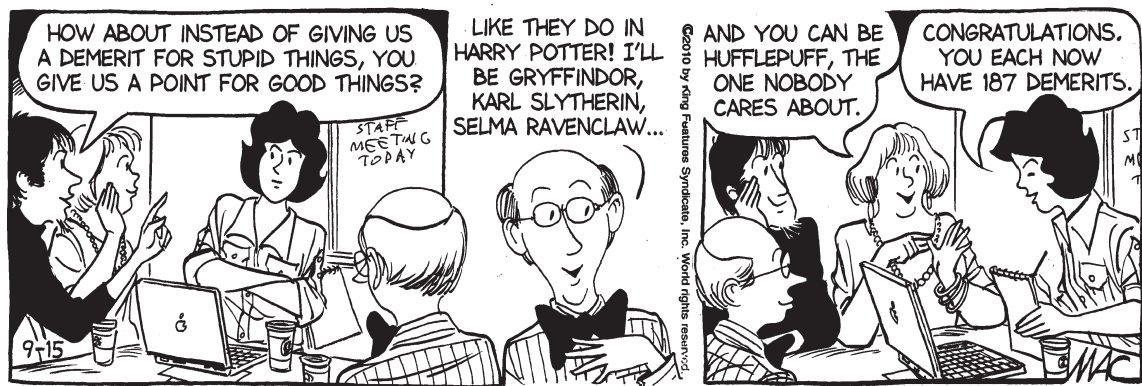
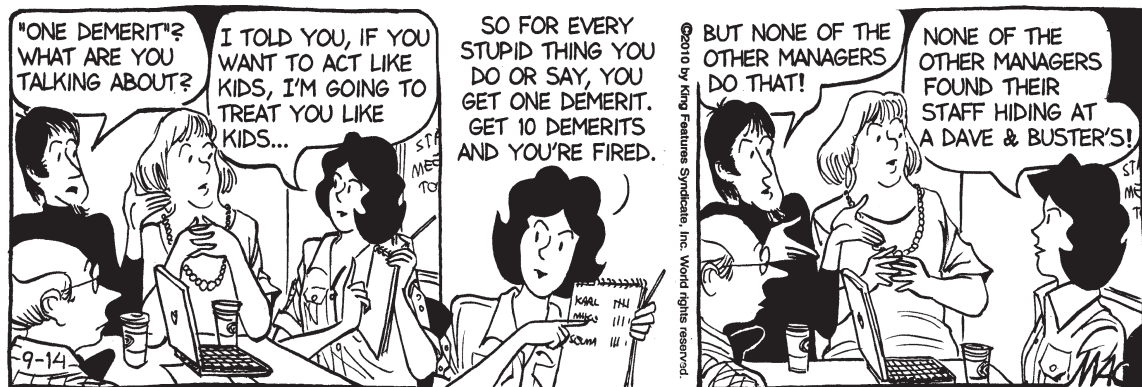
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



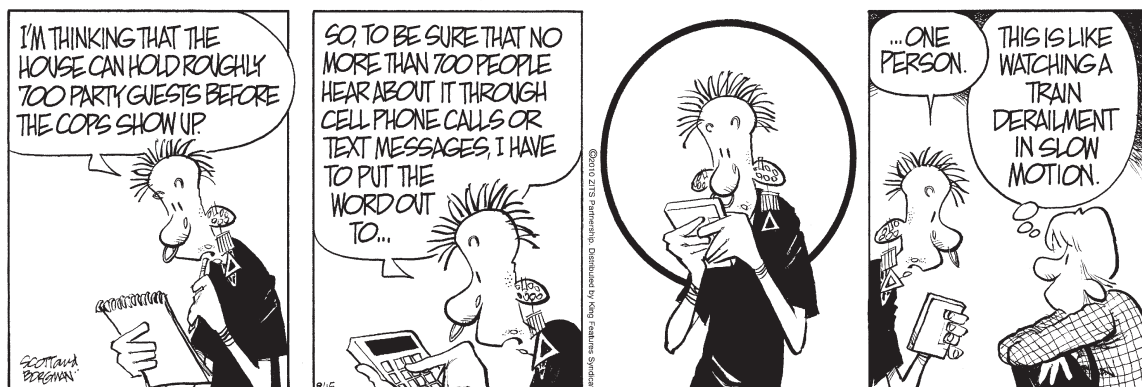
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Salt journeys from sea to table

Dear Readers: Do you know the difference between SEA SALT AND REGULAR TABLE SALT? Can you substitute one for the other? The answers to these "salty" questions are below:

Table salt is mined and contains 99.9 percent sodium chloride, and during processing most minerals and iodine are removed. Iodine and dextrose are added to some brands, which are labeled "iodized." Iodine was added in the late 1920s to help thyroid function and to keep goiters from growing in the general population. You can buy table salt that doesn't have iodine or dextrose added.

Sea salt comes from the sea. Normally, sea salt can be used in place of table salt; however, sea salt isn't standardized, and therefore it may vary in taste and purity. The key "flavor" in all sea salt is sodium chloride.

Salt doesn't expire, but when other items are added (iodine, dextrose, etc.) to table salt, it may shorten the life of the product. Iodized table salt has a shelf life of about five years, under normal conditions, in a dry and cool location.

If you have never tasted sea salt, visit an organic or large grocery store that sells products in bulk. Buy just a small amount (some varieties can be very pricey - I once saw one that was more than \$30 for an ounce!) and give it a try. - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

EASY FIND

Dear Heloise: I have a lovely spice cabinet in my kitchen. Still, I waste a lot of time searching for the right spice. I have found that the small, plastic, tub-shaped containers that lunchmeat comes in work well to hold three to six spices. I then categorize the spices for their use - Italian: parsley, basil, etc.

When I am using a recipe, I just pull out one of the containers, and the spices are all together. Small meatloaf pans also work well.

I read your column in the Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald and continue to learn! Many thanks! - Ann Grummert, via e-mail

TURKEY HINT

Dear Heloise: With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I have a hint to ease the stress of making dinner. Instead of making one 28-pound turkey for your gathering, make two 14-pound birds. The cooking time is shorter, they are easier to lift, and you can carve one and have the other for presentation on the table. - Joan deGarmo, via e-mail

CORN ON THE COB

Dear Heloise: Here's a great hint when removing cooked corn from the cob. I always hold the cob on the inner ring of a Bundt cake pan or spongecake pan. You then can easily cut the kernels off, and they will fall into the pan, making no mess at all. - Chrissy in Indiana

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 8 7 4 3
♥ Q J 7 5
♦ A Q 10 6
♣ K Q
WEST
♠ K Q
♥ 9 8 3 2
♦ K J 7 5
♣ 8 7 3
EAST
♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ —
♦ A 10 8 6 4 3 2
♣ A 2
SOUTH
♠ 5
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ Q 9
♣ K J 9 5 4
The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 4♦ Dble
4NT 5♦ 6♦
Opening lead - king of spades.

The Magnetism of Pragmatism

One might think that in duplicate bridge, where the contestants play exactly the same hands, the results would be the same at most tables. While this may be true when the distribution is relatively flat, almost anything can happen when the distribution is freakish. Consider this deal from the final round of a major team championship.

At the first table, the bidding went as shown. North's four-diamond bid was conventional, indicating heart support and game-going values, plus a singleton or void in diamonds. East's double showed diamond length and strength, and encouraged West to bid five diamonds over South's Blackwood bid. East's pass of six hearts is totally incompressible; he should have bid either six spades to reveal the two-suited nature of his hand or else seven diamonds.

Declarer had no difficulty making six hearts, losing only a spade trick to score 1,430 points.

At the second table, where North-South's teammates held the East-West cards, the bidding followed a completely different path:

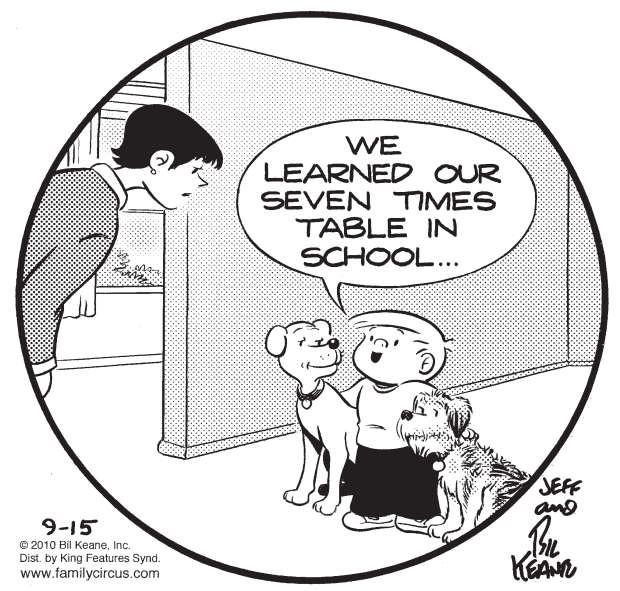
South West North East
1♥ Pass 1♠ 2♦
3♦ 4♥ 4♦
Pass 5♦ Pass Pass
5♥ Pass Pass 6♦
Dble

This time, it was the East-West pair who bid and made a slam, doubled by South. Declarer here also had no difficulty making the contract, so East-West scored 1,540 points to yield a total gain for his team of 2,970 points!

The general rule in competitive auctions at high levels - where it's clear that both sides are bidding on distributional rather than high-card values - is to bid when in doubt. That's what East should have done at the first table, and what South should have done at the second.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-15
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"...now I can tell how old Barfy and Sam are in dog years."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

B P H F K A L H A F H K R L X I W

Z U F ' S C H Z R C H B P R Z P Z A U I

X R S P H X V H Y H V K , Z A T I C W A T

K U W P H ' K A Y S B A L R F H K ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WELL-KNOWN OLD VIDEO GAME FEATURING A GUY PREPARING MANY SUITCASES FOR TRAVEL: PACK-MAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Got older years | 40 Petrol attention | 2 Mentor city | 20 Jointly possessed, perhaps |
| 5 A billion rhyme scheme | 43 Meadow plant of India | 3 Oklahoma duck | 5 Ocean inlet | 23 Shade DiFranco |
| 8 Common scheme | 47 Mean de — | 4 Fake | 6 Man-mouse link | 24 Singer |
| 12 "Clair de —" | 51 Lip | 52 Down-preceder street | 7 Dark period | 25 Pie in the face, for one |
| 13 Lanka | 54 Perfectly in rhyme | 55 Praise | 8 Southern work | 27 Deviate off course |
| 14 Incite | 56 Pealed | 57 Jason's ship | 10 Taj Mahal city | 29 Bikini top |
| 15 You can put a value on it | 57 Jason's ship | 10 Taj Mahal city | 11 Milwaukee product | 30 Egos' counter-parts |
| 17 Angry | 58 Neither mate | 59 BPOE members | 16 Managed, with "out" | 32 In that direction |
| 18 Number-logic puzzle | 59 BPOE members | 16 Managed, with "out" | 33 Acute | 34 More spoiled, as bread |
| 19 Conflict involving actual fighting | 60 Heidi's range | 33 Acute | 42 Minion of Mephistopheles | 37 Links prop |
| 21 Verily | 61 Heidi's range | 42 Minion of Mephistopheles | 44 Violinist | 45 Early software version |
| 22 Veer | 62 Heidi's range | 44 Violinist | 46 Stench | 48 Exam format |
| 23 Owns | 63 Heidi's range | 46 Stench | 49 Sherman, e.g. | 50 Early birds? |
| 26 Parched | 64 Heidi's range | 49 Sherman, e.g. | 53 Kerfuffle | |
| 28 Synagogue VIP | 65 Heidi's range | 53 Kerfuffle | | |
| 31 Monad | 66 Heidi's range | | | |
| 33 Sweet potato | 67 Heidi's range | | | |
| 35 Fat | 68 Heidi's range | | | |
| 36 Black billiard ball | 69 Heidi's range | | | |
| 38 Stir-fry vessel | 70 Heidi's range | | | |

Yesterday's answer 9-15

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
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		