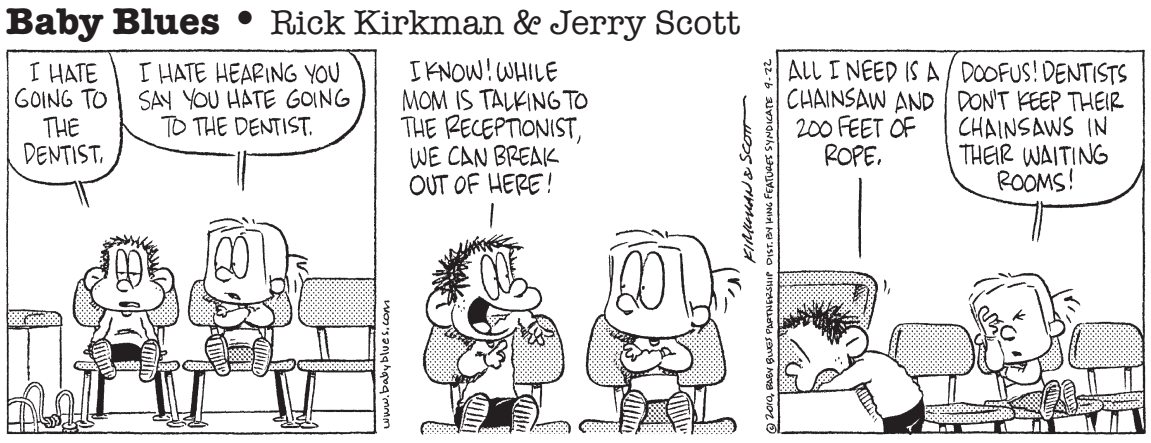
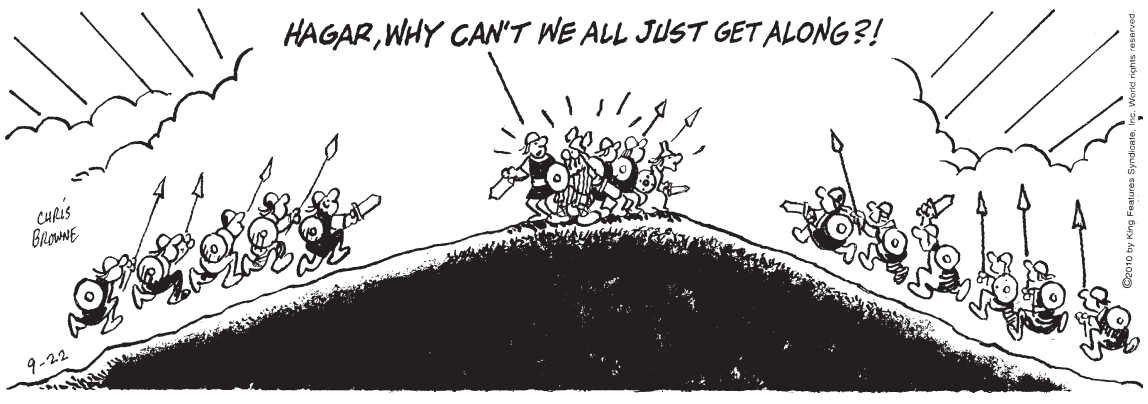
## Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



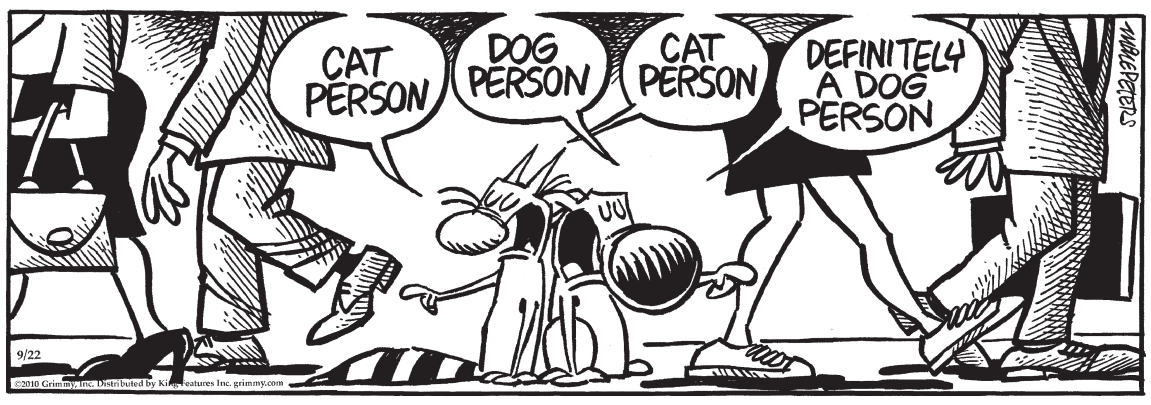

## Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

## Blondie • Chic Young

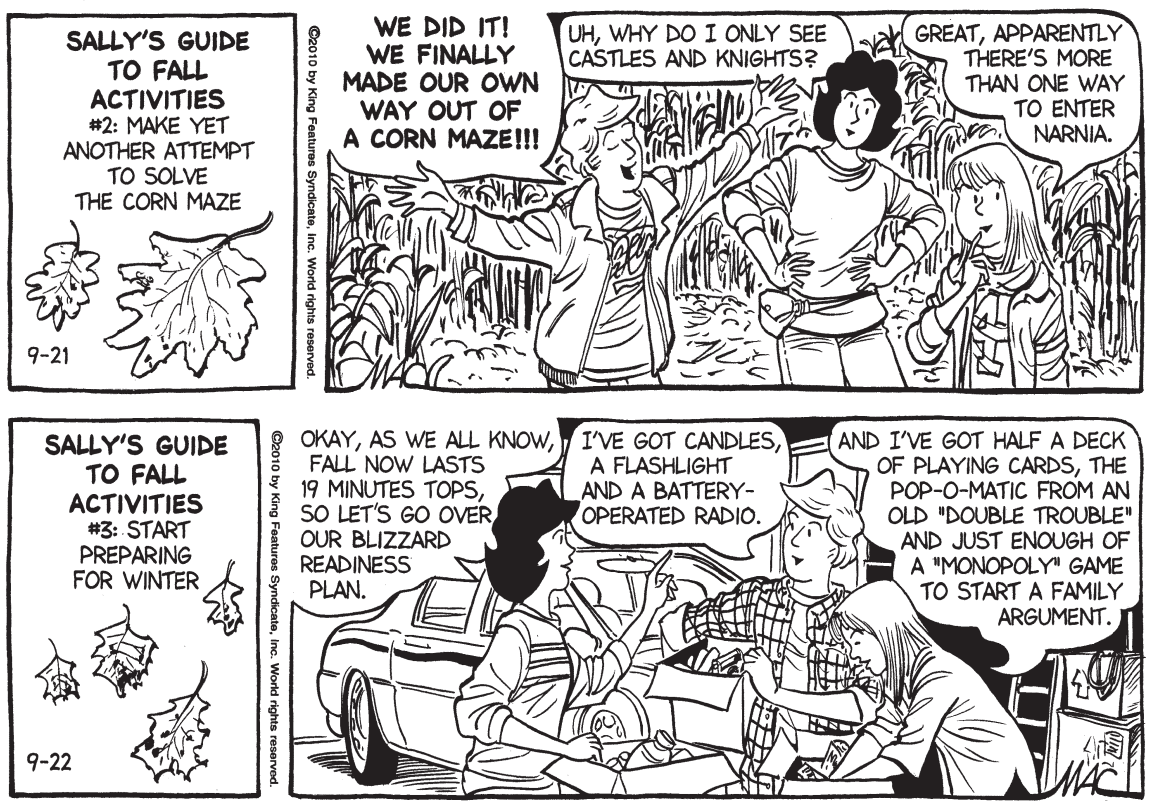
## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne




## Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters




## Sally Forth • Greg Howard




## Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

## Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

## Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

# Honey month celebrates sweet

Dear Readers: Did you know that September is NATIONAL HONEY MONTH? If you like honey as much as I do, here are a few "sweet" honey facts and a delicious, easy-to-do Honey Baked Apple recipe:

• It's best to store honey at room temperature, not in the refrigerator.

• According to the National Honey Board, honey can last indefinitely if stored correctly.

• The source of the nectar determines honey's color.

• The color determines the flavor: Mild flavors are light, and robust flavors are darker.

• There are more than 300 different varieties in the United States alone!

Now, that's a lot of yummy honey to taste, and what fun trying them all!

Here is a tasty and healthy recipe from the National Honey Board:

**HONEY BAKED APPLES**

1/2 cup honey, divided
1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel
Cinnamon to taste
4 baking apples, cored and pared 1/3 way down from the top

Blend 1/4 cup honey with the orange peel and cinnamon, then set aside. Arrange the apples in a 9-inch round or 8-inch square microwave-safe baking dish. Fill the center of each apple with 1 tablespoon honey mixture. Cover with plastic wrap, and make sure to vent the wrap. Microwave on high (100 percent) until almost tender (approximately 2 to 2 1/2 minutes per apple); rotate the dish 1/4 turn halfway through cooking time. Drizzle remaining honey over apples and let stand 2 to 3 minutes before consumption.

I sometimes put red cinnamon candies and a tablespoon of strawberry jam in the middle of the apple. When done, I put one or two in the refrigerator and have a sweet, healthy, treat. – Heloise

**MUSHROOOM SLICING**

Dear Heloise: When I need to slice mushrooms, such as white button or cremini, I save time by using my hard-boiled-egg slicer. This works best with mushrooms that are firm and fresh. Before slicing, I wipe any dirt off with a damp paper towel. – Lorraine H., Basking Ridge, N.J.

**COFFEE CONTAINERS**

Dear Heloise: Here's my hint: Don't toss out the round, plastic, 33-ounce coffee containers. They make handy small buckets for minor cleaning jobs. They're great for storage – anything from birdseed to craft supplies. Fill one with crayons, colored pencils and a pad of paper for keeping little ones occupied. The list can be as long as our imagination! – Dorsee Bernat, Canton, Ohio

**FREEZING BACON**

Dear Heloise: Rita from San Antonio wrote about freezing bacon on a cookie sheet. I put strips of bacon on a cookie sheet, bake them, drain the grease into a container for future use, put the strips in a freezer bag and freeze. Just take out what you need and microwave for a few seconds. Easy, and no mess. – Barbara P., via e-mail

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## Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**
♠ K J 9 7 5 3
♥ A 2
♦ A 6
♣ J 6 4

**WEST**
♠ A 10 8 4 2
♥ J
♦ 5 4
♣ Q 9 8 3 2

**EAST**
♠ Q 6
♥ Q 10 9 8 5 4
♦ 7 2
♣ 10 7 5

**SOUTH**
♠ —
♥ K 7 6 3
♦ K Q J 10 9 8 3
♣ A K

The bidding:

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | 6 ♦ | |

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls**

When there is an entirely safe way to play a hand, you should not allow yourself to be diverted from it by the prospect of making an overtrick via another method of play that jeopardizes the contract. This principle is surely sound, but its application is not always easy. For example, take this deal where many players would go wrong.

West led the jack of hearts. Of course, South had no way of knowing the lead was a singleton, but it didn't take him long to find out. He won the heart with dummy's ace and returned a heart to the king, planning to ruff one or both of his heart losers in dummy. Unfortunately, West ruffed the king and returned a trump. This left South with only one trump in dummy to take care of his two remaining heart losers, so he finished down one.

Now let's see what South did wrong. He had started with 11 sure winners – seven diamonds, two hearts and two clubs – and all he had to do to score a 12th trick was to ruff a heart in dummy.

The trouble with South's line of play was that he allowed one of his 11 winners to be ruffed. This reduced him to 10 sure tricks, and he could no longer make the slam after West returned a trump.

Winning the heart lead with the ace was correct, and continuing with a heart at trick two was also correct. But instead of playing the king of hearts, South should have followed low! This simple play would have preserved the 11 tricks South started with and would have rendered the slam impregnable. His 12th trick would later come from ruffing a heart with dummy's ace.

South could very well have afforded this safety play to ensure the slam, worth 1,670 points (including 100 honors). The most it could have cost him was 20 points.

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## Family Circus • Bil Keane

**"If you read me this bedtime story, I promise to stay awake."**

## Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/22

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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.*

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

Difficulty Level ★ 9/20

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## Cryptoquip

Z J I D  V J I  O I T B S K K Y N D Y K V  Y K  V J Y T K V X  E N T  H  L T Y D G, J I  H A C N K V  H A Z H X K  O T I E I T K  H  L T S C  H D L  B N G I.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** SINCE THE ART PUPIL WAS POSING IN FRONT OF HIS DRAWING CLASS, THAT MADE HIM A MODEL STUDENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals H

## Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**
1 Lobbyists' org.
4 Couric's network
7 FDR's dog
8 Mountain nymph
10 Warble
11 Prop for Bugs Bunny
13 AARP member, probably
16 Favorite
17 Coarse
18 Away from WSW
19 Taleteller
20 Initial stake
21 Word before "beware!"
23 "Be quiet!"
25 Additional
26 Semi-fortnight
27 Khan title
28 Miss America's topper
30 Scarlet
33 Less experienced team
36 Soda-shop treat
37 From that moment on
38 Sings like Ella
39 Egyptian cross
40 Sailor's response
41 What 40-Across means

**DOWN**
1 Emulate Van Gogh
2 "— Ask of You"
3 Heat unit
4 Talk-show host Ferguson
5 Pullman compartment
6 Delhi dress
7 Priceless?
8 Happen
9 Donut-shop purchases
10 Recipe meas.
12 First extra inning
14 Bellow
15 Born
19 Caustic solution
20 Diving bird
21 Counterfeit
22 Seventh planet
23 Antitoxins
24 Usually inadmissible testimony
25 Army rank (Abbr.)
26 "For amber — of grain"
28 Now
29 Angry
30 Skating venues
31 Engrave
32 Color Easter eggs
34 Bygone Peruvian
35 Trigonometry function

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 9-22

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | ■ | 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 | | | ■ | ■ |