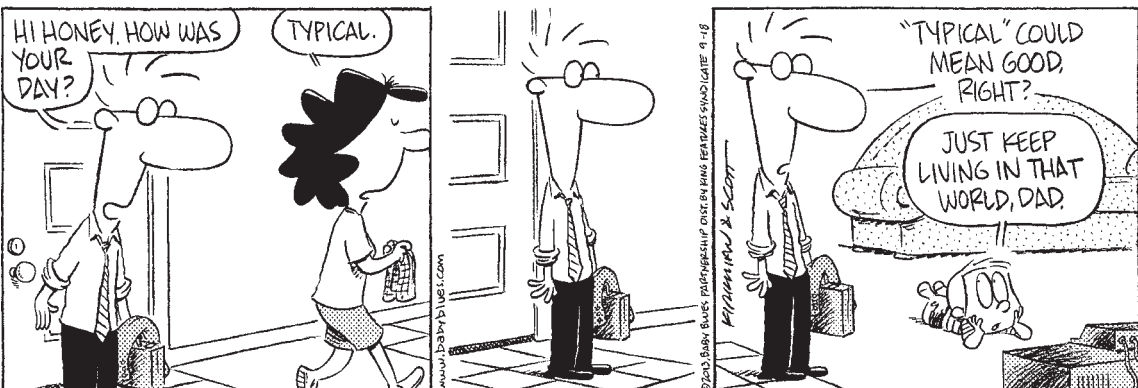


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



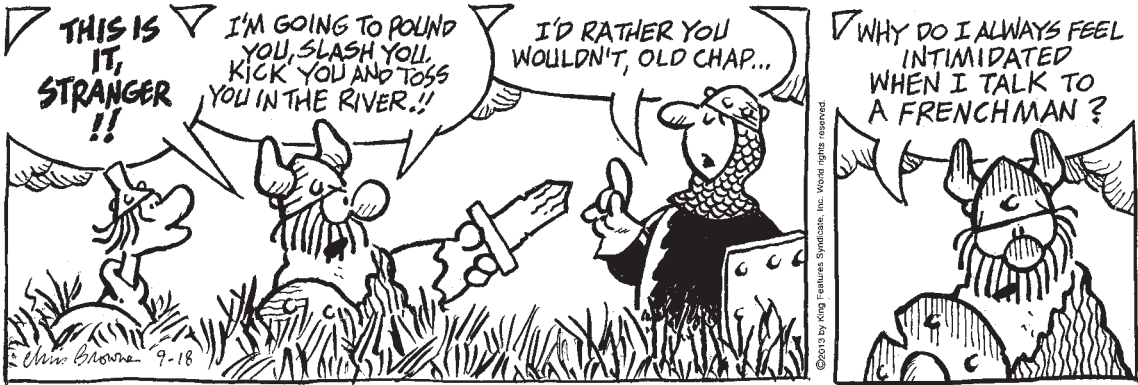
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



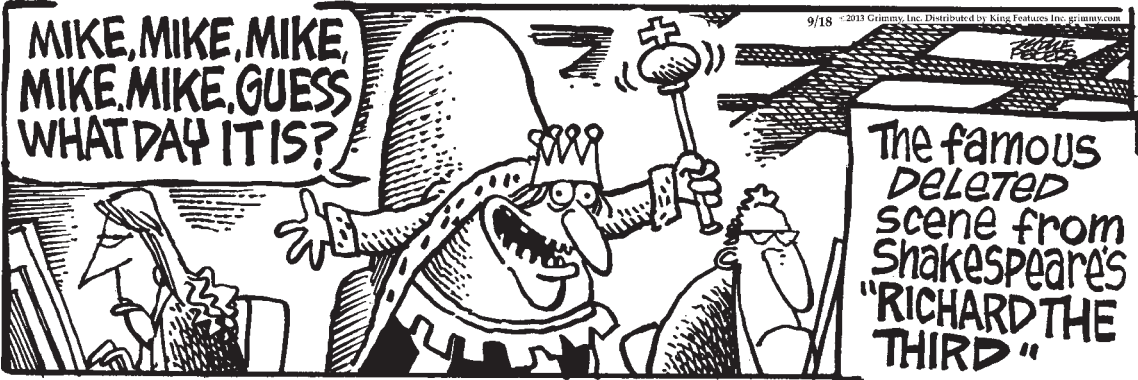
Blondie • Chic Young



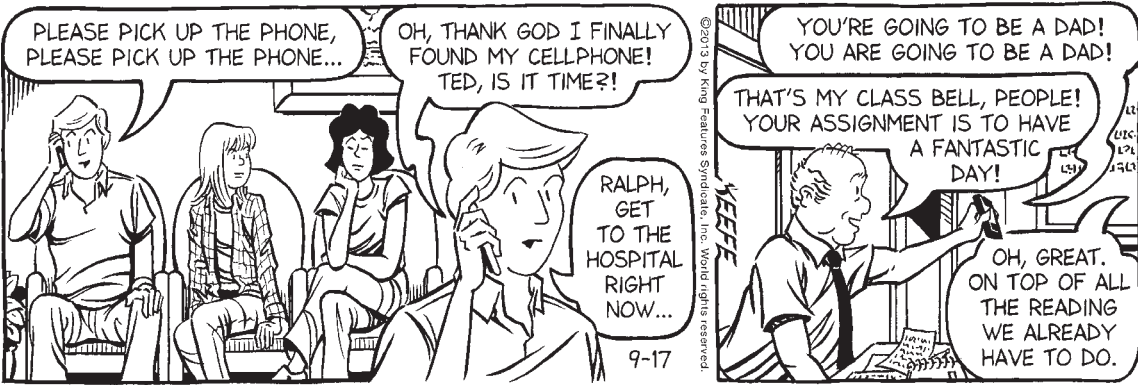
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



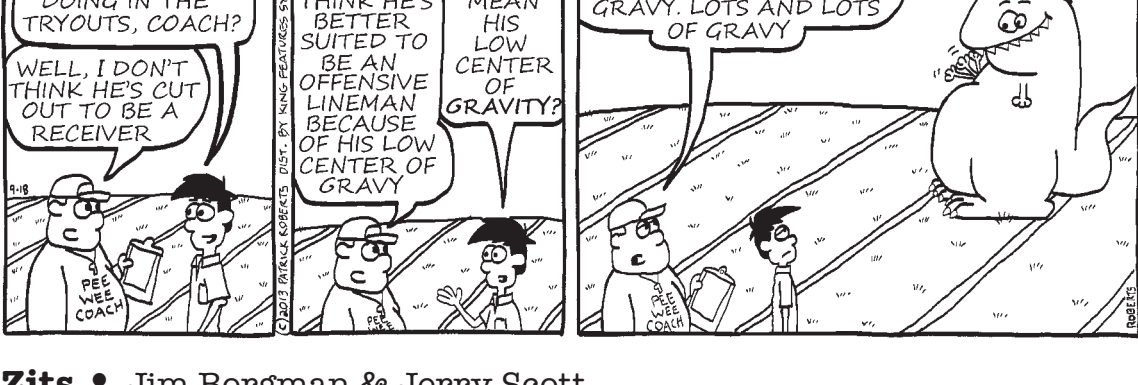
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Cake mix makes quick brownies

Dear Heloise: A recipe for chocolate brownies appeared in your column years ago. Could you please reprint it? – Brenda H., via e-mail

Absolutely! Here is the recipe for Heloise's brownies from a cake mix. These are more cake-like brownies, but they will do in a pinch and with things you usually have on hand. Grab the following ingredients:

- 1 egg
 - 3/4 cup water plus more as needed
 - 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)
 - 1 (18.25 ounces) box devil's-food cake mix
- Preheat the oven to 350 F and grease a 13-by-9-inch pan.

In a large bowl, mix together the egg, water and nuts. Add the cake mix and stir well. The batter will be thick; if it is too thick, add a teaspoonful of water at a time to thin it. Be sure not to overmix. Pour into the pan and smooth the top.

Bake for about 20-25 minutes for chewy brownies. If you like them more of a cake consistency, bake for a few minutes longer. Watch them and test for how "done" you like them. If you like desserts, especially cakes, then order my Heloise Cake Recipes pamphlet by sending \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cakes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Be sure to let the brownies cool before cutting, and use a plastic knife to cut them with little or no sticking! – Heloise

NO EGGSHELLS

Dear Heloise: Some time ago, I think you wrote not to put eggshells down the garbage disposal. Please tell me why, and don't say, "Because I said so!" – John in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Well, John, some experts suggest that a lot of eggshells can damage a disposal, but I personally don't see how. The real point is that in large amounts, they also can clog the drains further down the pipes. This is why you must run a lot of water before, during and after food is put in the disposal. Instead of putting these shells down the sink, try using them as compost. – Heloise

OATMEAL OPTIONS

Dear Heloise: When making cookies that call for oatmeal, what kind is the best – the one-minute oatmeal, or the old-fashioned kind? I read your column every day and thank you for all the hints and advice. – Sharon C. in Houston

You can use either when baking. Both have the same flavor; the only difference is in the appearance of the cookies. Quicker-cooking oatmeal has a finer texture, so the oatmeal will be blended in. When using regular oatmeal, you will be able to see the oats in the cookie. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

| NORTH | | EAST | |
|-------|------------|------|------------|
| ♠ | 9 8 6 2 | ♠ | K Q 10 7 3 |
| ♥ | 5 | ♥ | 8 6 4 |
| ♦ | A 10 9 5 4 | ♦ | J |
| ♣ | 6 4 3 | ♣ | 9 7 5 2 |

The bidding:
West Pass
North 1♥
East Pass
South Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Too Many Enemies

Sometimes a defender might feel that he has three opponents at the table rather than two. In today's deal, from the 1990 Spingold Teams, East misled his partner in both the bidding and the play, and it eventually cost his team a vulnerable game swing.

North's double was "negative," promising four spades. East's jump to three hearts was pre-emptive and supposedly promised at least four hearts. North-South then lurched to a shaky game in diamonds.

Declarer, the late Edgar Kaplan, won the opening club lead and cashed the king of diamonds. After East's jack appeared, Kaplan successfully finessed dummy's nine and then led a heart to the jack, losing to West's queen.

South won the club return, ruffed a heart in dummy, cashed the diamond ace and led a spade toward his hand. When East followed low, Kaplan finessed the jack, which held. Despite this favorable development, declarer was still in trouble, as dummy had only one trump left to cover his two remaining heart losers, and he had a spade loser as well.

Kaplan now led the heart king, hoping to pick up the ace and ten on the trick, but when dummy ruffed West's ace and East followed low, all legitimate hopes for the contract evaporated.

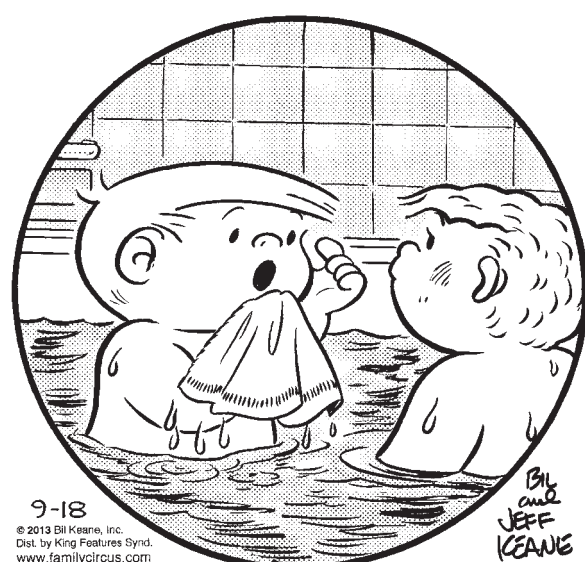
But the crafty Kaplan was not yet completely out of ammunition, and next played the ace and another spade to East's queen. East's two remaining cards were the king of spades and nine of clubs. South had the heart nine and a trump, while West had the club jack and heart ten.

East now made a critical error, returning the king of spades to force South to ruff. This left West in a quandary, since he could not tell whether declarer's last card was a heart or a club. All West had to go on was his partner's earlier raise, promising four hearts. So West discarded the heart ten, and Kaplan's nine scored the last trick.

East, of course, could have spared his partner any problem by returning the club nine at trick 12. West would have had to follow suit as declarer ruffed, and the ten of hearts would then have taken the setting trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

9/18

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

Cryptoquip

CR UDEDHAD B YDERZTBUG

DTJEBCHRZ, H IDPHDAD

BPIBERUD BZT IPJDMHZ MHYF

BCCDZT CFD CJZB-ADUYHCG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE TEENAGER IS SUCH A MARVELOUS DOG TRAINER THAT HIS COLLEGE OPTED TO GIVE HIM A COLLAR-SHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 CEO's deg.
 - 4 Pipe material, for short
 - 7 Angel's instrument
 - 8 Eucalyptus eater
 - 10 PC user's annoyance
 - 11 Diacritical mark
 - 13 Common seasonings
 - 16 Anger
 - 17 Perch
 - 18 "That feels good"
 - 19 — up (admit)
 - 20 Soup at a sushi bar
 - 21 Lizard-like
 - 23 Mall component
- DOWN
- 25 Blue hue
 - 26 Smear
 - 27 Eviscerate
 - 28 Disdain
 - 30 Shock and
 - 33 Simple dressing
 - 36 Antedating
 - 37 Overact
 - 38 Roots used in poi
 - 39 Fuzz
 - 40 Sleep stage
 - 41 Pigpen
 - 1 Syrup choice
 - 15 Pi follower
 - 2 Old Spice alternative
 - 3 Clothing
 - 4 Splendid displays
 - 5 Parking lot attendant
 - 6 Applaud
 - 7 Frost
 - 8 High praise
 - 9 Live-in nanny
 - 10 Sixth after 15-
 - 12 Rib
 - 14 Inquisitive
 - 15 Pi follower
 - 19 JFK watch-dog org.
 - 20 Unruly bunch
 - 21 Small fire-cracker
 - 22 Veal serving
 - 23 Wrap for a rani
 - 24 Holland and Lincoln
 - 25 In olden days
 - 26 Peaceful flock
 - 28 Sleep soundly?
 - 29 Software holder
 - 30 Great pain
 - 31 Electrical measure
 - 32 Prior to
 - 34 Somewhere out there
 - 35 Send forth

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

Yesterday's answer 9-18

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 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 | | | |