

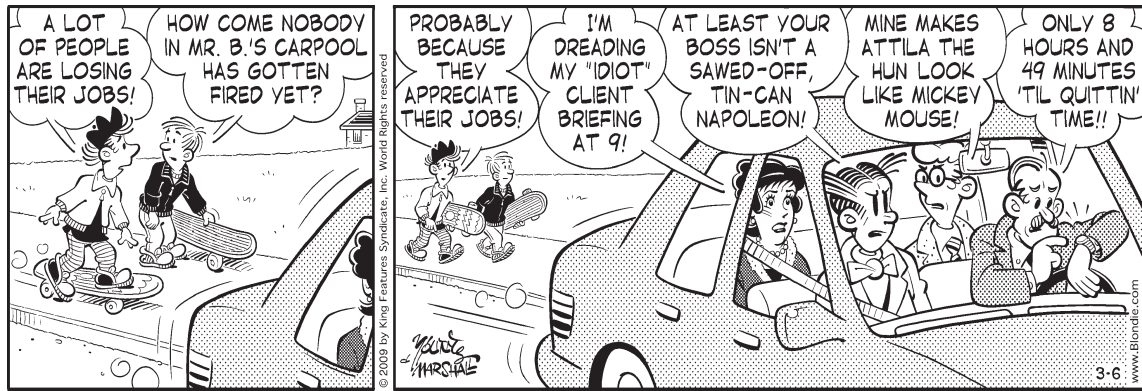
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



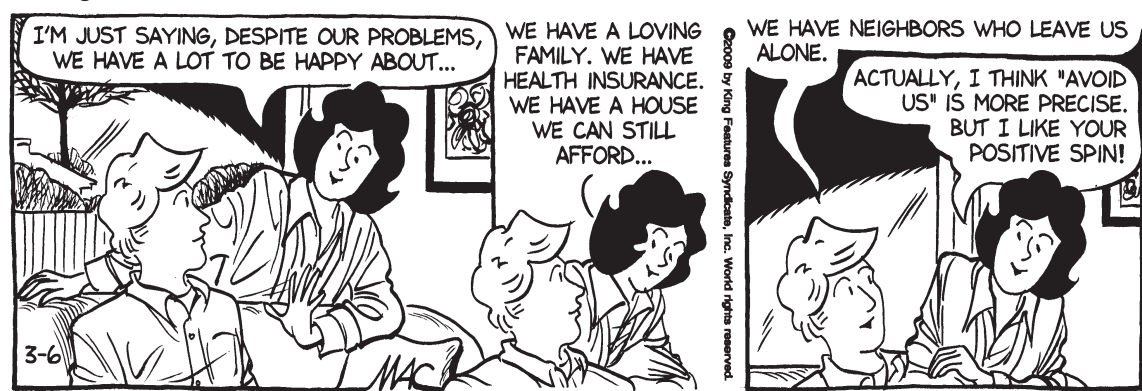
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



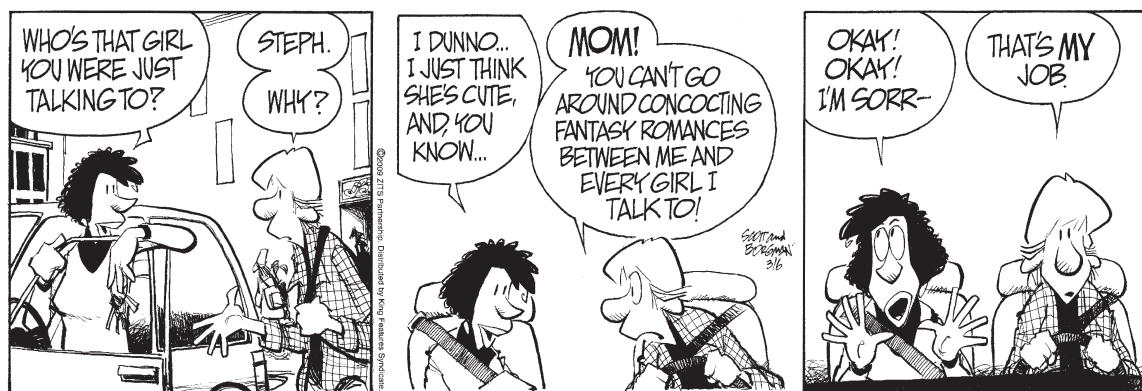
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Relax with simple aromas**

Dear Readers: A wonderful aroma can make a home feel so inviting, and it's so easy to create a relaxing or uplifting mood with just a few drops of ESSENTIAL OIL.

Essential oils are more than just fragrance; they are pure and come from plants, so they share some of the same characteristics. For example:

\* A drop or two of eucalyptus oil can make your shower feel like a spa. Turn on the hot water, put a few drops directly into the spray of water coming out of the shower head, and the eucalyptus scent will mix with the steamy water to relax you. Just don't get it in your eyes!

\* Put a few drops of lavender oil on a dryer sheet or old face cloth, and your laundry will have a fresh, flowery fragrance.

\* Place a drop or two of peppermint oil on a paper towel or tissue and tuck it in your running shoes or work boots to keep them fresh-smelling.

\* Oil of cedar is a great freshener for a pet's bed when placed on the underside of the pillow.

\* Keep a small bottle of lemon oil by the kitchen sink to add a drop on your sponge to wipe the sink after rinsing.

Look for essential oils in the pharmacy section of your favorite store or online. Remember, it takes only a drop or two. — 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  
KEY CHIMES

Dear Heloise: I am writing to suggest one more way to use old keys — make a "key chime." When I was teaching elementary music, I made one for my classroom. The children enjoyed playing it along with the other instruments.

It takes a board about 18 inches long, 3 inches wide and about 1/2 inch thick. Drill small holes along the length of the board about 1 1/2 inches apart. String a piece of fishing line in each hole (different lengths work fine), and tie as many keys down each string as desired, being sure to mix up the sizes. To play, hold the board and tip it from side to side so the keys hit each other, making a lovely musical sound. — Naomi Hembree of Spring, Texas

**DISCARD OLD CREDIT CARDS**

Dear Heloise: We've all heard about the importance of cutting up old credit cards to dispose of them, but I realized that sometimes when I cut them up, I still left the top magnetic strip mostly intact. To solve this problem, I use the edge of the scissors to scratch off the magnetic strip as well as the signature line on the back before cutting it into small pieces. This way, the information is really destroyed. — C.Y. of Oregon

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**1. You are declarer** with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the queen of hearts, on which South plays the king, and you duck. When South returns the eight of hearts, you win with the ace and cash the A-K of diamonds, learning that South started with three to the jack. How would you continue?

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>East</b> |
| ♠ A J 10 9  | ♠ Q 6       |
| ♥ A 3       | ♥ 6 5 4 2   |
| ♦ 10 9 7 6  | ♦ A K Q 5 2 |
| ♣ A K 7     | ♣ 8 3       |

**2. You are declarer** with the West hand at Four Hearts, South having overcalled your partner's opening one-diamond bid with one spade. North leads the queen of spades. How would you play the hand?

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>East</b>  |
| ♠ 9 5 2     | ♠ A 6 4      |
| ♥ K Q 6 4 2 | ♥ J 7 3      |
| ♦ Q J 6 3   | ♦ A K 10 7 4 |
| ♣ A         | ♣ Q 10       |

**Test Your Play**

1. It would be wrong to take a spade finesse at this point, because if it lost to North's king, you would go down one, losing four heart tricks and a spade. A far better plan is to lead a heart from dummy at trick five and discard a diamond! This allows you to eventually score five diamond tricks, which you can't do at this stage because the suit is blocked.

The first two tricks disclosed that North started with at most five hearts, so there is no way you can lose more than four tricks on the suggested line of play.

2. There is a danger of losing an extra trump trick on top of the obvious two spade losers and the trump ace. Your best chance to make the contract lies in winning the spade queen with the ace and returning a low trump from dummy.

Let's assume South follows low and that you win the trump lead with the king, which is very likely in view of the bidding. The correct play now is the queen of trumps. If the trumps are divided 3-2, all your worries are over. South can take the ace of trumps and cash two spade tricks, but you will then have the rest of the tricks.

The key play is the queen of trumps at trick three, rather than leading a low trump to dummy's jack. Leading the queen guards against the possibility that South might have started with something like [S] KJ1083 [H] A8 [D] 92 [C] K854, in which case he would take dummy's jack of trumps with the ace, cash two spade tricks and then lead another spade, promoting North's ten of hearts into the setting trick.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/06

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

XI D JWKZEXJPWPZVS JWWQIPV  
IYVVWH HYQY IVWDFXKR XK  
HDFYQ, X ZPEEWZY NY AXRNF  
LY IVDA - LPWSDKFF.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE SNOOPY HAS ALL FOUR OF HIS LEGS OUTSTRETCHED, I'D SAY HE'S LYING SPREAD-BEAGLE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- "Keep it down!"
- Touch
- Consider
- Sailor's assent
- Clean
- Gumbo ingredient
- Track star, maybe
- Round figure?
- Recluse
- Banjo's kin
- Which-ever
- Discontent time?
- Yuletide punch-bowl fill
- Phone transmission
- Galena, e.g.
- Peregrinate
- Snoop
- Cheshire countenance
- Lemieux milieu
- Fella

**DOWN**

- Cummerbund
- Advertise big-time
- Frau's mate
- Canopy
- Nuts
- Work with
- High-speed road
- Donut-shop order
- out a living
- Screw up
- VIP in
- Rotating part
- Sport
- Lip
- Storefront-sign abbr.
- Spelling or
- Amos
- Green land
- "Monopoly"
- payment
- Suitcase
- Places
- It takes the cake
- Sauté
- Sticklers
- First
- American orbiter
- Jewel
- Type of layered rock
- Diminish gradually
- Lecher's looks
- Leave a good impression?
- Posterior
- Weaponry
- Despondent
- Copper head?
- "Mamma —!"
- Shooter ammo

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-6

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		