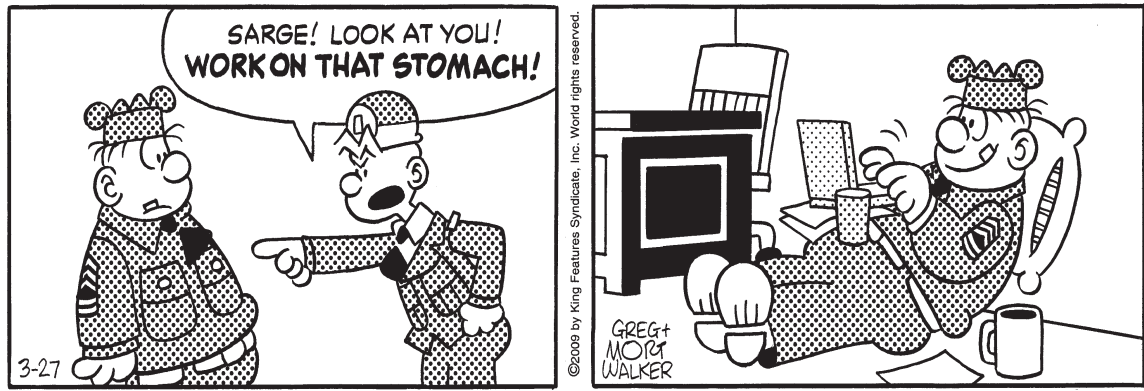


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



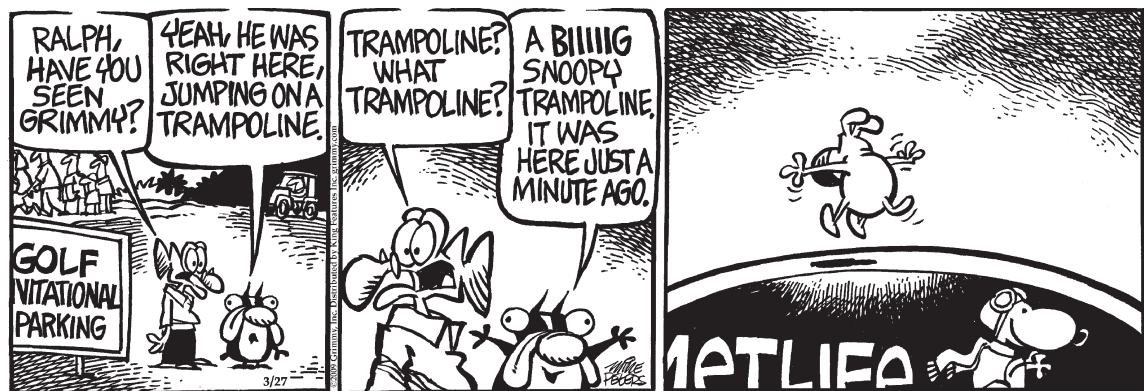
Blondie • Chic Young



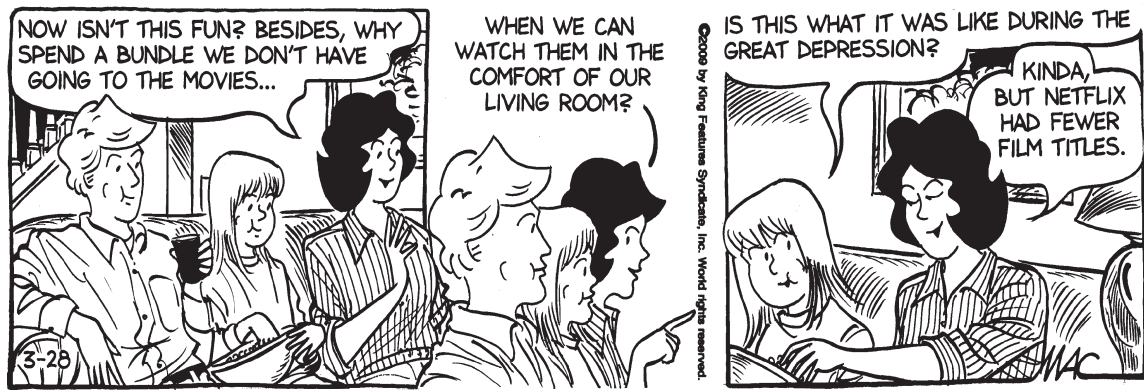
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Scent vinegar for kitchen spray

Dear Heloise: I love your VINEGAR AND WATER KITCHEN SPRAY and use it all the time. But, my husband strongly objects to the vinegar smell. Can you suggest a way to make it smell better? – Pauline Sterin, Harwood, Md.

I sure can, Pauline. Just add a few drops of essential oil to 1/2 cup of white vinegar and 1/2 cup of water, and you'll have your own custom-made, pleasant-smelling kitchen cleaner. My favorite essential oil is lavender, but you can use orange oil, peppermint, eucalyptus or whichever fragrance you prefer. You usually can find essential oils in the pharmacy or health-food section at the store.

Just pour the mixture into a labeled spray bottle and you're ready to clean your countertops (not marble), refrigerator, microwave and other appliances. I have many easy-to-make homemade cleaning solutions that you can have the formulas for by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (59 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cleaners, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. These formulas use products you probably have on hand. Replace all of those expensive store-bought products that might contain harmful chemicals and aren't environmentally friendly. – Heloise

SHOWER-CURTAIN CLEANING

Dear Heloise: When the shower curtain needs to be washed/bleached, unhook the rod and slide it off, rings and all. Everything goes through the wash intact. It's sooo much easier than struggling to unhook each ring. (Metal or decorative rings may rust or break. Use a gentle cycle and put a rubber band around the rings to keep them from banging around. – Heloise)

Another hint: To remember to take my cloth bags to the supermarket and other stores, I clip my shopping list to a bag. – Judy Ingram, Kezar Falls, Maine

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: For those who fear falling in the shower when traveling, buy a roll of skid-free, rubberized shelf liner and cut it as needed to fit the tub. It takes up no room in your suitcase, can be used to cushion things like a camera and can be tossed or reused. – Judy Logan, Lyman, Maine

SUBSTITUTE ROLLING PIN

Dear Heloise: I was baking a pie with my grandson, had prepared the pastry and was letting it rest in the fridge when I realized I had loaned my rolling pin to a neighbor. I pulled out a roll of plastic wrap and used this as a rolling pin. It was sturdy, and when I was finished, I just tore the used plastic wrap off the roll and put it away. – Ann Long, via e-mail

GPS SAFETY

Dear Heloise: We recently had our GPS stolen from our vehicle. I realized that our home address was in the machine for the criminal to see. We now put in an intersection near our home as the home address in the GPS. That way, no one could find out where we live, and we still can get home safely. – Steve, Erie, Pa.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠AKJ73, ♥642, ♦85, ♣AK9

East: ♠Q10862, ♥AQ105, ♦K3, ♣74

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the seven of hearts. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠AJ96, ♥J93, ♦A97, ♣AK8

East: ♠Q105, ♥A64, ♦K543, ♣Q92

Test Your Play

1. On the surface, it might seem that it doesn't matter whether you cover the queen of diamonds with the king or not. But to make sure of the contract, it is better to duck the queen.

Assuming that South has the ace -- certainly a reasonable supposition -- the contract is cold if you let North's queen hold. The trouble with the king play is that South can win with the ace and return a diamond, allowing North to win and shift to a heart. If South then turns up with both the king and jack of hearts, you will eventually lose two hearts and two diamonds and go down one.

But if you duck the diamond, you are safe against any attack. If North continues the suit, you win any return by South, cash the A-K of clubs and ruff a club in dummy, draw trumps, then lead a heart to the ten. Even if South wins with the jack, you have the rest of the tricks against any return.

If instead North shifts to a heart at trick two, you rise with the ace, draw trumps, play the A-K and ruff a club, then lead the king of diamonds. South wins with the ace, but whatever he returns you are home, losing only two diamonds and a heart.

2. You start by assuming that North has the king of spades, since if South has it you will make the contract via a spade finesse. You also assume that North's seven is his fourth-best heart, which means he might have led from K-Q-8-7-x, K-10-8-7-x or Q-10-8-7-x. (With K-Q-10-7-x, he presumably would have led the king.)

The best way of dealing with these three possibilities -- which constitute the only real threat to the contract -- is to go up with the ace at trick one. This play fails in the first case, but succeeds in the other two cases even when North has the spade king.

The reason for rising with the ace is that it blocks the defenders' hearts if South started with the K-x or Q-x, while ducking the opening heart lead permits South to win and return a heart, unblocking the suit.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I think I might've caught global warming."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/27

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

Cryptoquip

MRPAI GI BIEITFICHO
MEBRPVM RPFN FGI TRB KGRHI
FTJRPV MFBRCIM, ANQHC

ONQ MTO GI'M HITEKTHJRPV?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTRESS DUNAWAY DRESSED UP AS ST. NICK LAST YEAR, I SUPPOSE FOLKS CALLED HER SANTA FAYE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Washer phase | 38 Arab bigwig | 1 Half a dance? | 22 Onassis, to pals |
| 6 Yon maiden | 41 "Poetica" | 2 Sweet potato | 24 Commotion |
| 9 Squabble | 43 S.A. nation | 3 Mountain-eer | 26 Bias against the elderly |
| 12 Less infirm | 44 Dumbo's "wings" | 4 Building block name | 28 Preamble |
| 13 Pick a target | 45 For now Snake handler? | 5 Wear down | 30 Mork's home planet |
| 14 Will Smith biopic role | 49 River bend | 6 Talks back to | 32 Room |
| 15 Pedro's pal | 52 Matter-horn, for one | 7 Sword handle | 33 "the ramparts ..." |
| 16 Sleep | 53 GIs' entertainers | 8 Flightless bird | 34 "Family Guy" daughter |
| 18 Unassuming | 54 La Scala show | 9 Shui VIP | 36 Snowman's nose |
| 20 Reed instrument | 55 Allow | 10 Bread spreads | 38 Calyx component |
| 21 "CSI" workplace | 56 Comprehended | 11 Mess behind a desk | 39 Actress Berry |
| 23 Preceding | 57 "Two Women" Oscar winner | 17 Second Obliterate | 40 Blow one's top |
| 24 Off neighborhood | | 19 Restroom, for short | 42 Perry Como prop, often |
| 27 Away from others | | | 45 Mexican money |
| 29 Late August births | | | 46 Big fair, briefly |
| 31 Sarge, e.g. | | | 48 Glitch |
| 35 Upright | | | 50 Tramcar load |
| 37 Quaker pronoun | | | 51 Ashy |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
		18			19				20	
21	22									
25										
29										
38	39	40								
44										
47										
52										
55										