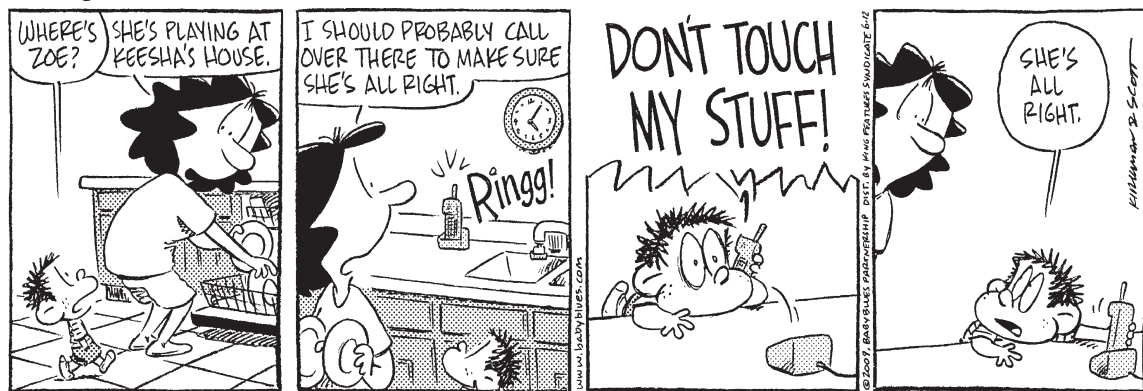


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



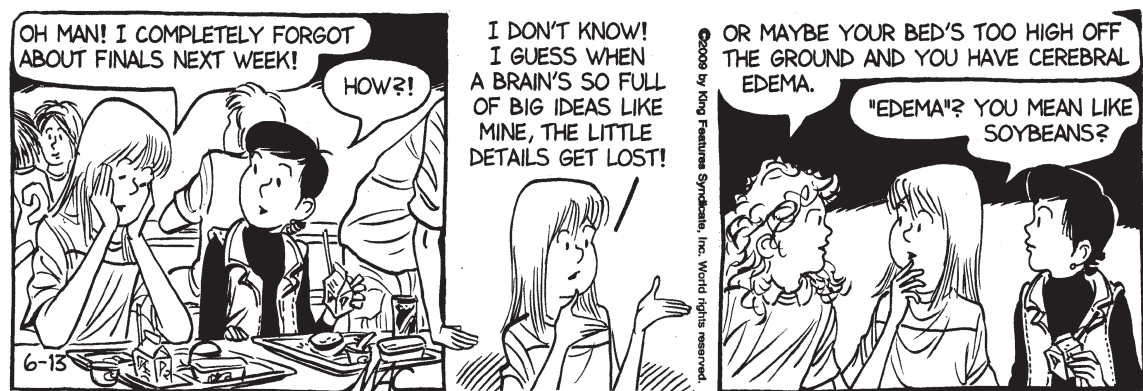
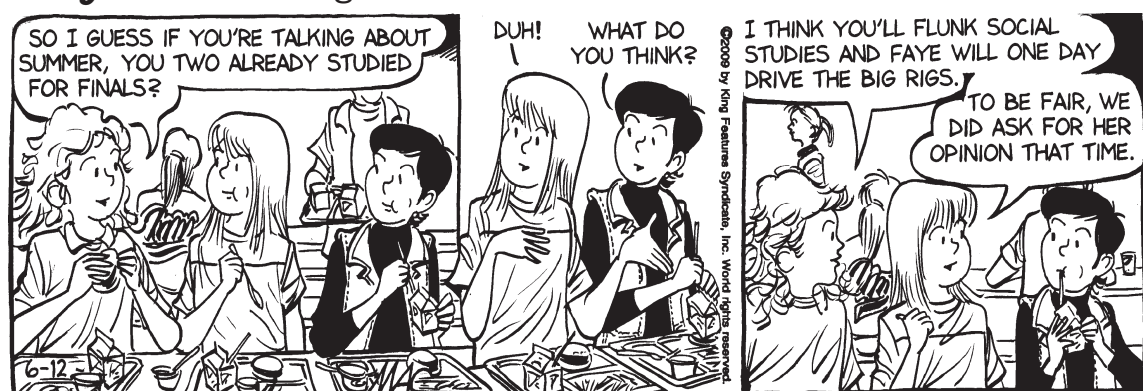
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



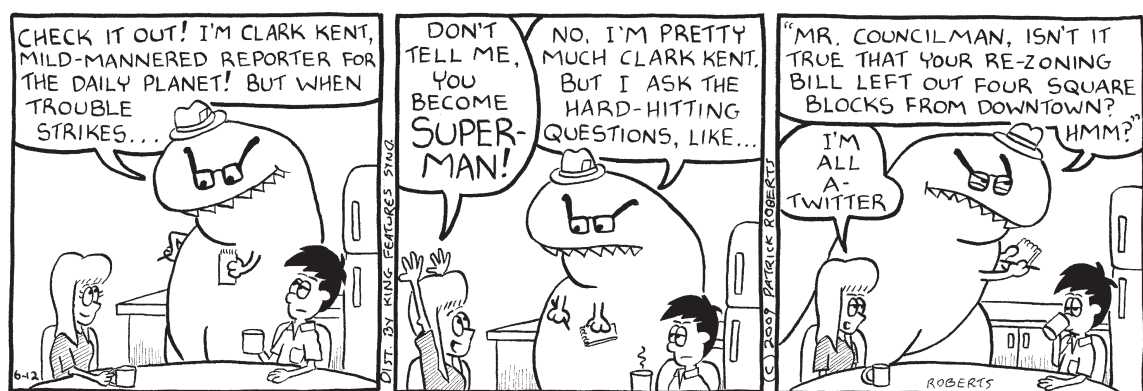
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Fix travel case ahead of time

Dear Heloise: Maybe some of your readers on the road would like this hint. I often travel to destinations where a TRIP TO THE STORE would be inconvenient.

A day or two before a trip, I'll often pack my cosmetics case and toiletries. Then I use only the things I've packed when I shower and dress, even though I'm still at home. The trick is to remember to put things back in the bag instead of in the medicine cabinet. That way, if I've forgotten something, it's easy to grab it off the shelf. Or if I'm running low, I can pick it up at the store in plenty of time.

This can save spending travel time shopping for simple things or paying inflated prices for them in airports. I've also put a note on my packing list reminding me to put my bag of lotions and potions into the checked baggage instead of my carry-on. — Susan, via e-mail

Every "road warrior" has a system, and yours will help others. My hint? A master checklist on the computer saves time and stress! — Heloise

PERMANENT-MARKER REMOVAL
Dear Heloise: If you write on a plastic item (noncloth) with a permanent marker and make a mistake, you can write over it using a dry-erase marker and wipe off/rub with a cloth. It might not be perfect, but hey, it works! You may have to do it letter by letter and rub the dry-erase marker off frequently. — Lori, Gaithersburg, Md.

SINGLE SOCK
Dear Heloise: Did the dryer monster claim yet another sock? Take the remaining sock, turn it inside out and eureka — you have a great dust mitt, and you have saved a little cash! This works best with athletic socks, as they have a fuzzier inside. Happy dusting! — Heidi, Hobe Sound, Fla.

HANDY PVC PIPES
Dear Heloise: Love your column and all the help you've given us! I agree that the toilet-paper cardboard center is a good thing to store extension and electrical-appliance cords in, but I think I have a better idea.

PVC pipe is very inexpensive, you can cut it to fit, it lasts longer, and it certainly looks better. I store all of my cords this way, and I find it very convenient. — Dimple, Anaheim, Calif.

POWER OUTAGE
Dear Heloise: I wanted to add a couple more safety hints on preparing for electricity outages. We keep a large, camping-style lantern in the coat closet on the main floor and one in the hall closet upstairs. We also attached stick-on lights right under the light switch at the top of the basement stairs. When you reach for the light switch, you can press for instant lighting for the stairs. We also have flashlights in the bedside tables. — Martha, Wyoming, Pa.

ELECTRIC-MIXER CAUTION
Dear Heloise: Always unplug the electric mixer before ejecting the beaters. A friend learned the hard way, nearly losing two fingers. — Ruth from Vancouver, Wash.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and open One Heart with this hand:

- ♠ AQ6 ♥ AKJ93 ♦ 10 ♣ J962
- 1. **West doubles**, partner redoubles, and East bids Two Diamonds. What would you bid now?
- 2. **West passes**, your partner jumps to Three Hearts (forcing), and East passes. What would you bid now?
- 3. **West doubles**, your partner redoubles, and East bids One Notrump. What would you bid now?
- 4. **West passes**, your partner jumps to Four Hearts, and East passes. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. Having redoubled (indicating 10 or more high-card points), partner is obligated to act when you pass two diamonds. If he doubles (for penalties), you will pass. If he does something else, you plan to drive to game, as you have extra values for your opening bid.

It would be wrong to bid two hearts over two diamonds, which would indicate a relatively weak defensive hand such as:

- ♠ KJ3 ♥ AQJ972 ♦ 85 ♣ 73
- 2. Three spades. There may be a slam in the offing, so you should not close out the auction by simply bidding four hearts. Partner does not need a superhand for you to have a good play for six hearts. Any of these three hands opposite yours would offer an excellent chance for 12 tricks:
- ♠ KJ72 ♥ Q874 ♦ A93 ♣ A5
- ♠ 3 ♥ Q7642 ♦ AJ6 ♣ KQ43
- ♠ K9 ♥ 87542 ♦ A4 ♣ AQ83

Three spades, indicating first-round control of the suit, shows interest in a slam but does not commit you beyond game. The next move is up to partner; if he bids only four hearts, you will pass.

3. Double. This tells partner that you have extra values. With a minimum you would pass. The double is for penalties and indicates willingness to forgo a potential game in order to extract a penalty. At the same time, you encourage partner to double whatever else the opponents may bid.

4. Pass. Partner's leap to four hearts is strictly pre-emptive; it is based on distribution, not high cards. He might have either of these hands:

- ♠ 10 ♥ Q86542 ♦ Q7 ♣ K853
- ♠ 83 ♥ Q875 ♦ KJ9743 ♣ 7

The 1[H]-4[H] sequence is aimed primarily at keeping the opponents out of the bidding while offering a real possibility of making game opposite many hands partner might hold.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"But I don't know how to play it quiet."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

MV NI NIMHNADZ VMXH JSTD
M W V T M S C A D I D Z N I Z
W L T D N H M I S , K J B L J B X Z W N K

ACJWD NTD WCTDE'W WCTMDEW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSE THERE WAS A LEGAL AGREEMENT ABOUT TYING SOMEBODY UP. WOULD THAT BE A BINDING CONTRACT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hood's weapon
 - 4 Crow's comment
 - 7 "... — finest hour"
 - 12 Mentalist Geller
 - 13 It's all in vein
 - 14 Dirty cop?
 - 15 Silly Putty container
 - 16 Has insomnia
 - 18 Seek restitution
 - 19 Skiers' mecca
 - 20 Six years in the Senate
 - 22 CBS logo
 - 23 Heavy reading
 - 27 A billion years
 - 29 "Humoresque" composer
 - 31 Youngster
 - 34 Quickly
 - 35 Tea varieties
 - 37 "CSI" evidence
 - 38 "So be it"
 - 39 Gorilla
 - 41 "J'accuse" writer
 - 45 Fragment
 - 47 Wrestling win
 - 48 Has insomnia
 - 52 Sort
 - 53 "Farewell, Francisco"
 - 54 Evening hour
 - 55 To the — degree
 - 56 Automaton
 - 57 List-ending abbr.
 - 58 Ar follower
 - 3 Eldrick Woods
 - 4 Pop choice
 - 5 Up
 - 6 Lachrymose
 - 7 Compared to
 - 8 Partner of
 - 32-Down
 - 9 Geological
 - 10 Annoy
 - 11 White alternative
 - 17 Burpee buy
 - 21 Casaba or
 - 23 Crenshaw
 - 23 Birthstone
 - 24 Man-mouse link
 - 25 Buddy
 - 26 — out a living
 - 28 Tribute in verse
 - 30 Moving transport
 - 31 IRS employee
 - 32 See 8-Down
 - 33 White House nickname
 - 36 Go yachting
 - 37 Duplicity
 - 40 Source of irritation
 - 42 Voice a view
 - 43 Cheery melodies
 - 44 Egyptian crosses
 - 45 "Hey, you!"
 - 46 Grand story
 - 48 Jam ingredient?
 - 49 Commotion
 - 50 Pen point
 - 51 Excessive

Yesterday's answer 6-12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13			14				
15			16			17				
18			19							
20			21			22			23	24
			27	28			29	30		
31	32	33						34		
35					36			37		
38					39	40			41	42
					45				46	47
48	49	50	51							52
53						54				55
56						57				58