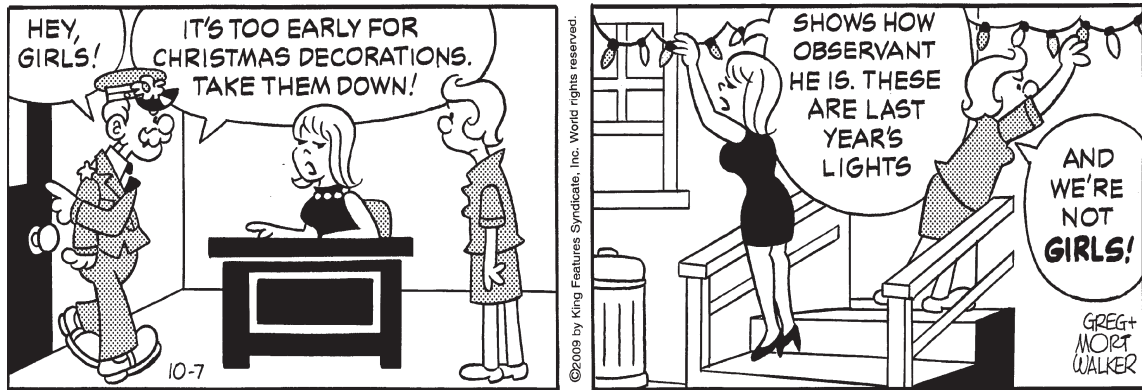


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



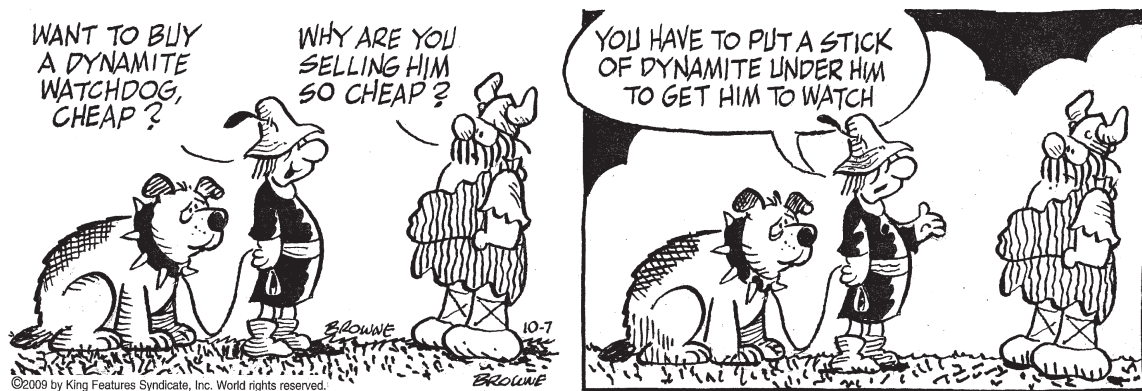
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



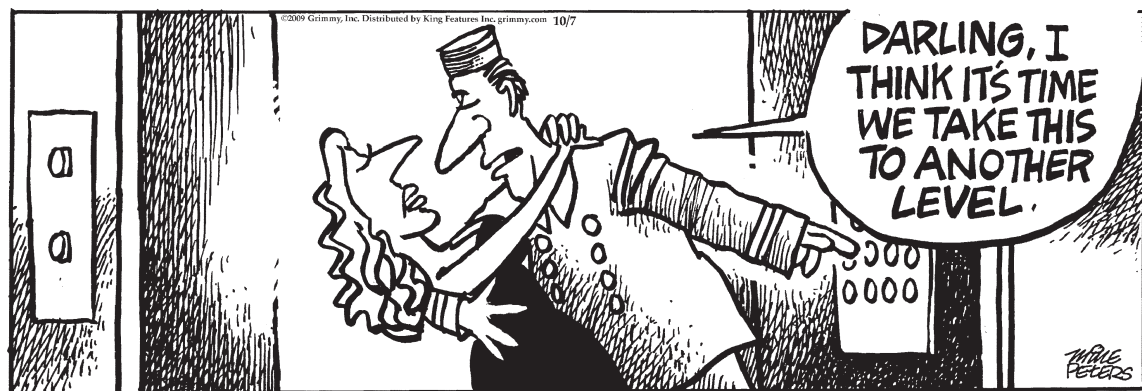
Blondie • Chic Young



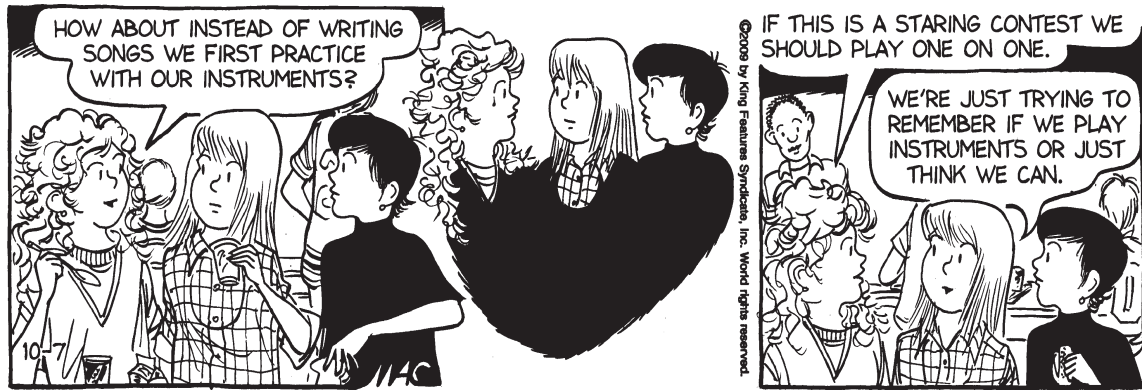
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



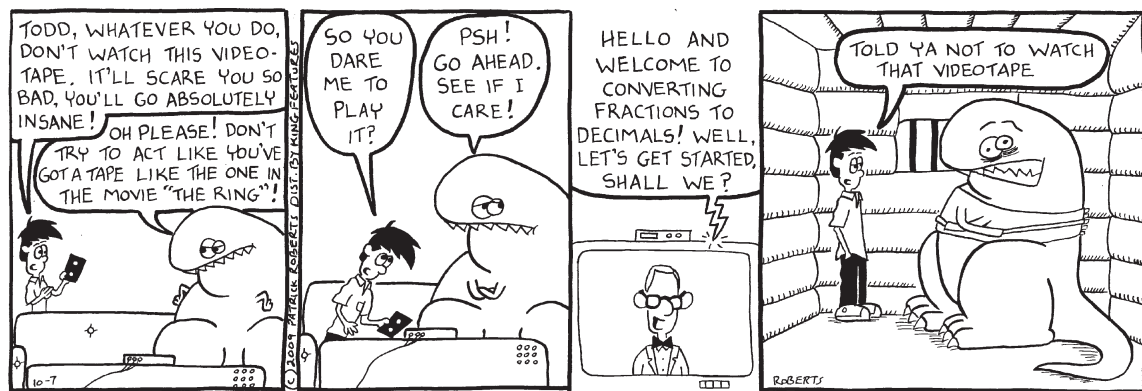
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



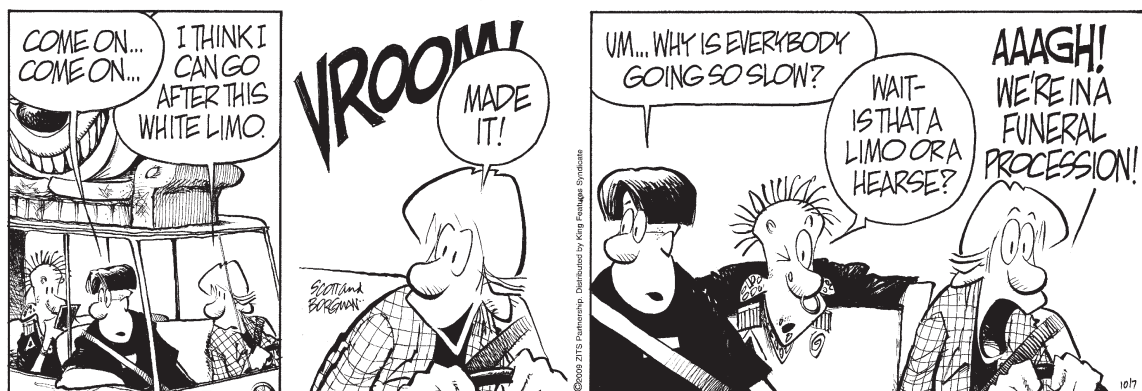
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Storing bananas easy with hints

Dear Readers: STORING BANANAS can be a problem for some people. Is there any way to keep them from going "bad"? Yes, there is:

- If you don't plan to use bananas right away, purchase less-ripe ones or a few of each. Heat and air cause bananas to ripen. They can be stored at room temperature, but the warmer it is, the faster they will ripen up!
- Bananas may be stored in the refrigerator, but the skin turns brown even though the fruit is good. Green bananas will not ripen in the fridge.
- Green bananas may be put in a brown paper bag with an apple in a dry, warm place to ripen. It usually takes a couple of days for ripening.
- Individual bananas may be wrapped tightly in plastic wrap, to keep them fresher longer.
- Bananas also may be frozen. Peel and place them in a self-locking plastic freezer bag. Cut into pieces and freeze. These make delicious and nutritious treats!

Of course, bananas are a good source of potassium! — Heloise

PAN SAUSAGE

Dear Heloise: When I buy the 1-pound roll of sausage, I put it in the freezer until frozen. Then I put it in the refrigerator until I can slice through it with a sharp knife. I remove the wrapper and slice into 12 rounds, place them in a freezer bag and use as needed. — Virginia M., Jasper, Texas

DEVILED EGGS

Dear Heloise: I place deviled-egg yolks and other ingredients in a zippered-top bag and mash all the ingredients together. I snip off the bag corner and squirt the filling into the egg white. — Jane, Indianapolis

ROMAINE LETTUCE

Dear Heloise: To keep romaine fresh and crisp longer, separate the leaves and rinse well. Then blot dry and bunch them back together. Wrap the head in a double layer of paper towel and store in a freezer bag in the crisper. The lettuce will be more crisp than when you brought it home, and last a long time. — Shelly Y., Lakeland, Fla.

BLENDER BLADES

Dear Heloise: I just read the article about how one of your readers cleaned the blades on her blender. I realized how much gunk had accumulated on mine, and I used dental floss to clean in the crevices. It worked like a charm. — J.C. Smith, Winchester, Va.

EASY SQUEEZE

Dear Heloise: I prefer a lengthwise-cut lemon with my drink. I find that holding it with the tines of the fork when squeezing seems to help steady it and keeps the juice from spraying all over. Try it! — An Arkansas Daily Reader, via e-mail

STRAWBERRY HINT

Dear Heloise: While cleaning strawberries, I couldn't find the little gadget to pull the green off. I took a grapefruit knife and cut through the top, and it cleaned it perfectly by even cleaning out the white center. What a timesaver! — Lea A., Fallbrook, Calif.

(c)2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K J 7 4
♥ Q 8 3
♦ 9 5 4 3
♣ K 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 2
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ 8
♣ A J 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 6
♥ A K
♦ J 10 6 2
♣ 9 8 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
1NT Pass 3NT
Opening lead — four of spades.

The Power of Reason

A certain amount of boldness is required of a defender from time to time. The usual reason is the realization that the only way to defeat the contract is to try what would ordinarily be considered a dangerous play.

Take this deal where West led the four of spades against three notrump, declarer winning East's nine with the queen. South could count only eight winners at this point — two spades, two hearts and four diamonds. The only possible source of a ninth was in hearts, so he cashed the A-K, crossed to the ace of diamonds and conceded the ten of hearts to West's queen.

Many defenders would return a spade at this point to establish their suit, hoping to regain the lead later on. But this particular West had been paying close attention to the proceedings and knew that a spade return offered no hope of defeating the contract.

West arrived at this conclusion from two different directions. First, he could see that declarer had nine sure tricks — two spades, three hearts and four diamonds — as soon as he regained the lead.

Second, South had already shown up with the A-Q of spades and A-K of hearts to account for his opening bid, and was also known to hold the jack of diamonds (East had already played his only diamond).

His one-notrump rebid indicated at most 14 points, so he couldn't hold any high cards in clubs. If he did (in which case he had made an error earlier in the bidding), three notrump could not be beaten.

West therefore shifted to the king of clubs, and when the smoke cleared, the contract was down two. Some might call West's play daring, but we would say he had no choice under the circumstances.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"ONE fly?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

MF X QTJY' GKEYTDTHS TY

YFDK H PHYL VMXQB X LKHL

VB SMXUHAAE XBPBX LM

KTU HY H YGBBJ-THLXTDTHS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER A FAMOUS FILM DANCER TOOK UP NEEDLEPOINT, PEOPLE NICKNAMED HIM THREAD ASTAIRE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mosque
5 \$ dispenser
8 Prayer ending
12 Unrivaled
13 Feathery accessory
14 Exceptional
15 Sight-seeing stop
17 Determination
18 Hackneyed
19 Brings forth
21 Differently
24 Moreover
25 Punch's partner
28 Knight's backup
30 Totally dominate
33 From — Z
34 Sired
35 Trouble
36 Kitten's comment
37 Reverberate
38 Recognize

DOWN

39 Born
41 Compared to
43 Unisex top
46 Specter
50 Nano,
51 Birthplace
54 Gentlewoman
55 Rage
56 Grown-up nits
57 Watchful one
58 Gender
59 Ollie's pal
60 Misfortunes
62 Castle protection
64 Detail, briefly
65 Anything but that
67 Pace
68 Old Peruvian
69 Paradise
72 Raw rock
73 Tex- — cuisine

Solution time: 21 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 10-7

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				56		
57				58				59		