

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



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



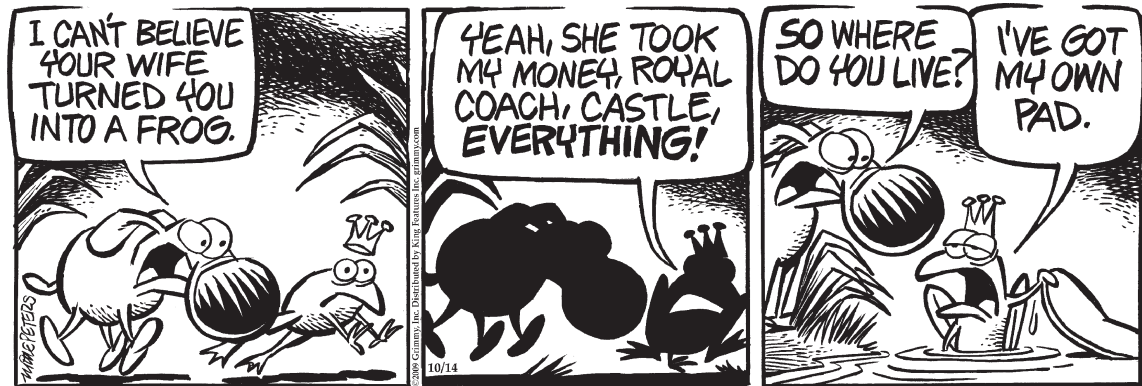
**Blondie** • Chic Young



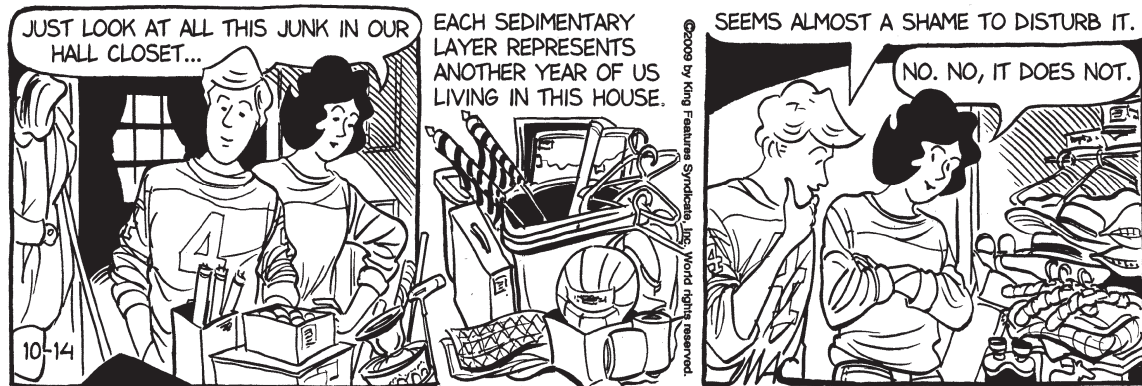
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



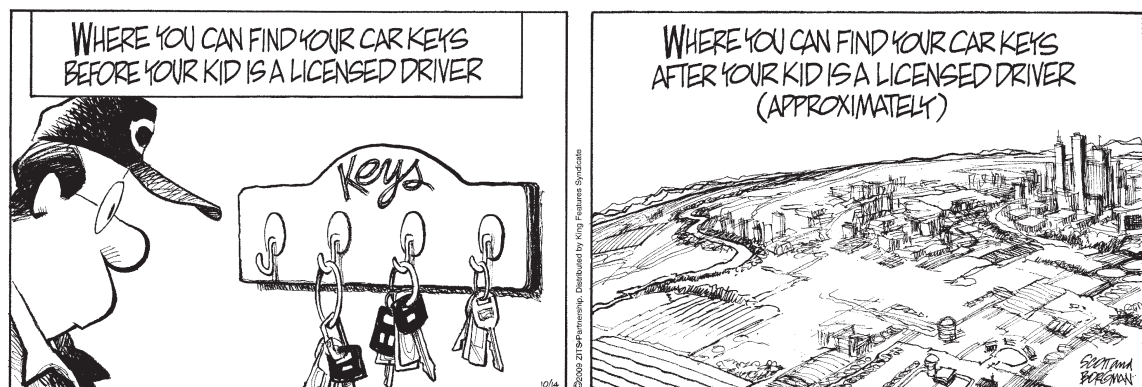
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Use thread to slice cake**

Dear Heloise: Can you tell me some way to CUT A CHEESECAKE without it sticking to the knife? I've tried everything. Your response will be greatly appreciated. - Fae M., Neosho, Mo.  
Yes, I can! The longtime Heloise hint for slicing angel food cake or cheesecake is to use a piece of sewing thread or unflavored dental floss. It really works! Just cut off a strand about 1 foot long and hold it tautly in both hands. Slice it downward and pull through the cake.

The other hint is to clean the blade in cold water, wipe dry and then cut. This helps prevent a sticky buildup. - Heloise

**HONEY-AND-CINNAMON COFFEE**  
Dear Heloise: Another great thing to add to your coffee is honey and cinnamon. It is very good. I have even added a tablespoon of peanut butter to my coffee, and it's yummy! - Virginia Whatts, via e-mail

I thought I was the only one who added a spoonful of peanut butter to hot coffee! - Heloise

**KITCHEN SAFETY**  
Dear Heloise: Just a friendly reminder for cooks to always turn the handles on their pans in. It can prevent children from grabbing them and also anyone close to the stove from brushing up against a handle and spilling the contents on them. - Carolyn S., via e-mail

**TASTY TIDBITS**  
Dear Readers: Many of you have written asking what is the best way to store cheese to keep it from molding. Here are a few hints for keeping cheese fresh:

1. Wrap the cheese in a paper towel that has been sprinkled with white vinegar. Be sure the cheese is completely covered, then store in a self-sealing plastic bag in the refrigerator.
2. Place a few sugar cubes in a plastic bag with the cheese. Seal the bag. The cubes will need to be replaced every few days because they absorb the moisture from the cheese, which is what causes the mold.
3. Cheese may be stored in the freezer. Hard cheeses such as cheddar, Swiss, Parmesan, etc., tend to freeze better than the soft cheeses such as feta, etc.
4. Natural cheese that is wrapped correctly (airtight container) will remain fresh for one or two months in the fridge. - Heloise

**NO STALE CRACKERS**  
Dear Heloise: I noticed the lady's comment about having lots of crackers go stale, which she then threw out. I had that problem for years until a friend recently taught me to store my crackers in the freezer! Haven't had to throw out a cracker since, and I have saved lots of money. - Sharon, via e-mail

**RECIPE PREPARATION**  
Dear Heloise: When preparing a recipe for baking or cooking, I place all the ingredients on the left side of my work area. When an item is used, I put that item on the right side. When I am finished, I haven't forgotten an ingredient, and they are ready to be put away. - Joan T., New Windsor, N.Y.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A J 2  
♥ 10 6 2  
♦ A Q 5 3  
♣ Q 9 4  
**WEST**  
♠ 7 3  
♥ 10 9 5 4  
♦ J 9 8 2  
♣ 8 7 5  
**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 9 6 4  
♥ Q 7  
♦ 10  
♣ K J 10 6 3  
**SOUTH**  
♠ K 8 5  
♥ A K 8 3  
♦ K 7 6 4  
♣ A 2  
The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — two of diamonds.

**Bad Luck Comes in Bunches**  
This is one of those hard-luck hands where you can't help sympathizing with declarer, even though you might not have played his cards exactly the way he did.

West led a diamond, taken by South with the king. Declarer had eight solid tricks and quite a few chances for a ninth. He started by leading a low heart to the jack at trick two. This gave him two chances for an extra heart trick: one if West had the queen, and another if the suit was divided 3-3. But East took the jack of hearts with the queen and returned a heart. When South next played the A-K, he learned the hearts were 4-2.

Declarer now tried a low club to the queen, hoping West had the king. But East took the queen with the king and returned the jack of clubs to South's ace.

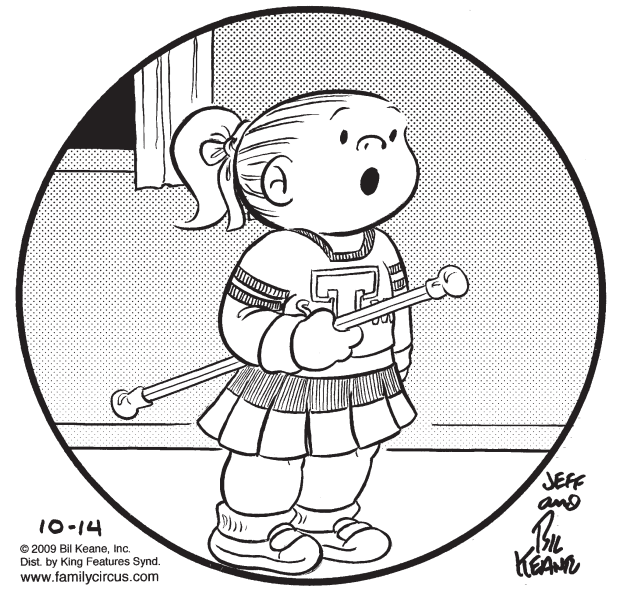
The situation took a further turn for the worse when declarer next led a diamond to the queen, hoping West had led originally from a three-card suit. But East showed out, and South decided that his last remaining chance was to try a spade finesse.

So he led a spade to the king and finessed the jack on the return. East won with the queen and cashed his remaining clubs to put the contract down two. All of which indicates that bad luck comes in bunches, though it's true of course that South could have made the contract easily had he known the queen of hearts was doubleton.

One reasonable but somewhat unusual method of play — without the benefit of a peek at the East-West cards — is to allow East's ten of diamonds to hold the first trick! Assuming West made a normal lead from a four-card suit, East would then be forced to return a spade, a heart or a club, all of which would hand declarer his ninth trick.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

**Cryptoquip**

DHCJ IPMIBSMLMK APTB  
HPJCH RPHHPZBSA ZEP BMN  
QD KBVVLMLK NLAKSCIBN:

"VEB AECLTMK PR VEB VSQB."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I AM A MASTER AT DESCRIBING FLAT STRIPS OF PASTA, COULD I BE A LINGUINE LINGUIST?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals U

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 36 Part of a story 5 Wander about 8 Unembellished 12 Winged 13 Bruins legend 14 Skater's leap 15 "Melancholy Baby" start 17 Wound cover 18 Wailed like a banshee 19 Safe and sound 21 Moreover 22 Sailor's septet 23 Pussy-cat's partner 26 Bill 28 Treat for Tabby 31 Coral structure 33 Addressee 35 BBs and such

**DOWN** 1 Bag 2 Burn aid 3 Ready for action 4 Sports venue 5 Paul Harvey signoff 6 Branch 7 Frock 8 Lash enhancement 9 "Oops" 10 Bring up 11 North Sea feeder 16 Mobile home? 20 Common Mkt.

**23 Sphere** 24 Teensy 25 Bill Withers' biggest hit 27 Slithery squeezer 29 Latin 101 word 30 Calendar abbr. 32 License 34 Better model 37 Apply lightly 39 Bartlett or Bosc 42 Electrical coil 44 Itty-bitty 45 Begged 46 "Gilligan's Island" cast member 48 Actor LaBeouf 49 Mischievous tykes 50 Egg container 53 Corn spike

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

REF	APT	MAMA			
AVOW	LEI	ORES			
NICE	LAM	NIGH			
GLINT	LIME	ROT			
TAR	DRY	ROT			
PALOMAR	STOVE				
TCON	NET	OPEN			
ERASE	DISSIDENT				
DENTAL	NAP				
RUIN	WAGON				
DELI	MOB	ROLE			
AMOK	BUY	ERIE			
DUPE	ONE	END			

Yesterday's answer 10-14

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		