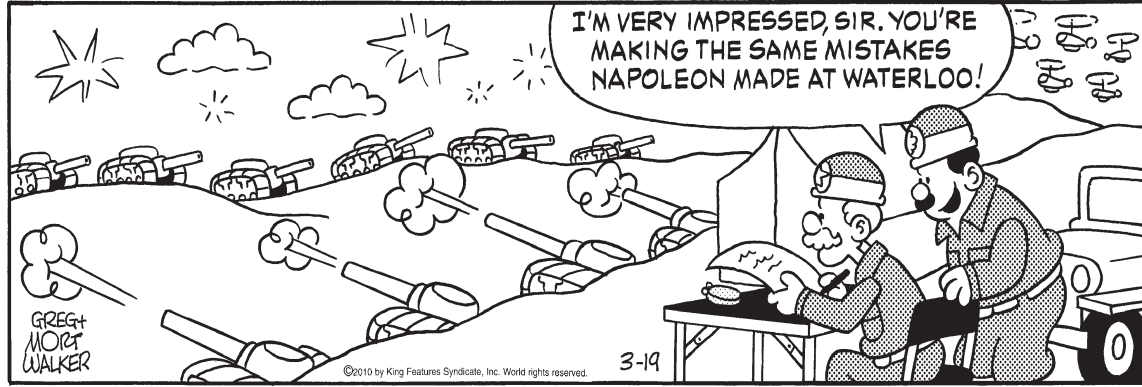


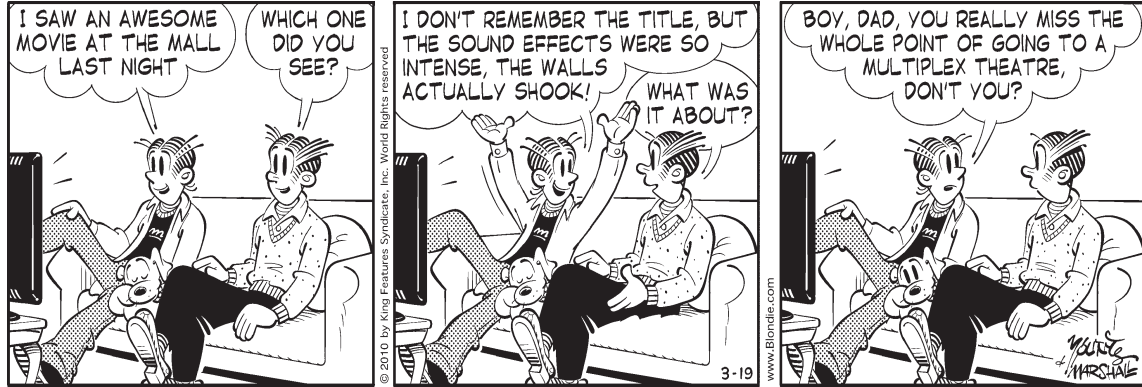
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



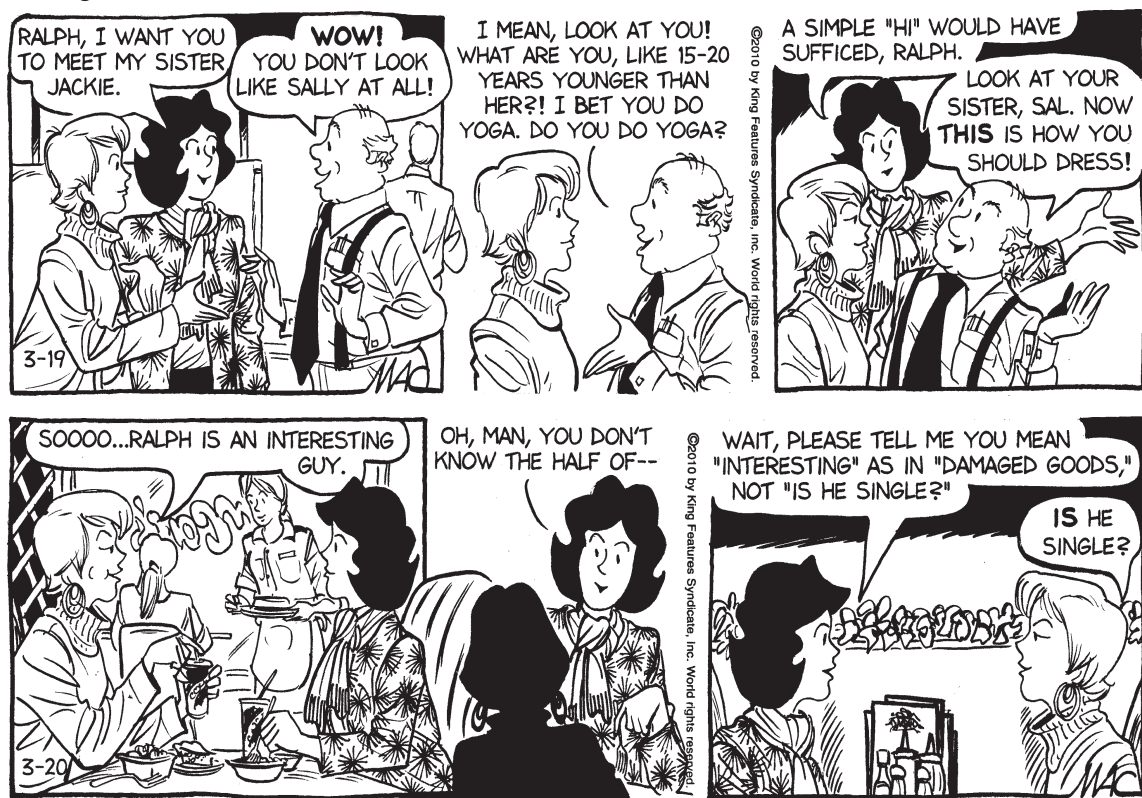
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise
Furniture polish takes sweet oil

Dear Heloise: Would you please tell me what SWEET OIL is, and where do I find it to make your furniture-polish recipe? – Sheila, via e-mail
Happy to! Sweet oil is simply olive oil without any odor or color, and usually is sold in the pharmacy or cosmetics sections of grocery stores or drugstores. This longtime Heloise homemade furniture polish is simple, safe and cheap. Just mix 3 parts sweet oil/olive oil to 1 part vinegar, and voila! You should use this polish only on finished surfaces, not on unfinished wood.

Of course, vinegar is a favorite cleaner of mine, and it works great on chrome faucets. Just spray undiluted vinegar on the surface and let it stand for a few moments, then wipe off. You can find other recipes for how to clean various metals like brass, copper and aluminum in my vinegar pamphlet. Send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Vinegar not only is great for cleaning, but it can help eliminate the smell of cabbage or fish. Just add a bit of vinegar to the cooking water. – Heloise

REFRIGERATOR ORGANIZATION

Dear Heloise: This is my good hint about how not to lose all those small items in the refrigerator. I use a plastic, two-layer spice-rack turntable. I put it on the top shelf, put all the small containers, jars and packages on it, and voila – you can spin it around, and you have everything right before your eyes. I love it! I always enjoy reading your helpful hints in The Washington Post. – Lorraine Price, Williamsburg, Va.

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: As a frequent traveler and a grandparent, I always have my camera with me. I have found that it fits very nicely into a cell-phone case. This is compact, light and adaptable, with options of a wrist strap, belt clip or neither. Much less bulky than a camera case. – Jean Mili, Torrington, Conn.

LADDER HOOKS

Dear Heloise: In the laundry room, nail up a 1-by-6-inch board about 6 feet up, parallel to the floor, and screw in a ladder hook (garage hardware) for every person in the family. These hooks come coated in colored plastic and are perfect for hanging hangers. Hang all hangers in the same direction, and it's a cinch to carry them when full to each person's closet. – Sherry in California

Sherry, how smart! Ladder hooks are sturdy hooks that extend about 6 inches from the wall, and would be perfect for holding lots of hangers. Nice hint! – Heloise

PLASTIC SHOWER CURTAIN

Dear Heloise: Thanks for the advice to clean a plastic shower curtain by placing it in the washer with a couple of white towels. I didn't have any white towels, so I used a light blue and a green one, and they got the job done. -- Doug Johnson, Watson, La.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are declarer in each of the following four situations:
1. **You have** the A-K-10-2 of a suit, and dummy has the Q-3. You need to score four tricks in the suit. You lead dummy's queen and then the three as both opponents follow low. Should you play the ace or the ten to give yourself the best chance for four tricks?
2. **You have** the A-J-4-3-2, and dummy has the K-9. How would you play this combination to give yourself the best chance for four tricks?
3. **You have** the A-K-J-10-9-4-3, and dummy has the singleton deuce. If you need all seven tricks in the suit, should you cash the A-K or finesse the jack?
4. **You have** the A-10-3-2 facing the K-9-4 in dummy. How would you play to give yourself the best chance for three tricks?

Combinations and Percentages

1. If you finesse the ten, you have a 50 percent chance of success. If you cash the A-K instead, hoping to drop the missing jack, you have only a 36 percent chance of making all four tricks. The finesse is therefore the better play.
2. Lead the deuce to dummy's nine. This gives you a 68 percent chance for four tricks. Cashing the king first and then finessing the jack gives you only a 61 percent chance for four tricks. A first-round finesse of the nine is therefore the better play.
If you needed only three tricks in the suit, the best method of play would be the king, followed by a finesse of the jack. This would yield a 94 percent chance of success. It would also be the best way to play if you needed all five tricks in the suit, but the chance of success would be a meager 18 percent.
3. If you finesse the jack, you have a 37 percent chance of scoring seven tricks. If you cash the A-K, hoping to catch the queen, you have only a 33 percent chance of success. The finesse is therefore the better play.
4. Lead the deuce and, if your left-hand opponent follows low, finesse dummy's nine. Assuming that the nine loses to the jack or queen, you plan next to cash the king and then the ace. This gives you a 75 percent chance (including the 36 percent chance of a 3-3 break) of making three tricks.

The suggested approach is slightly better than cashing the A-K first in the hope of catching a singleton or doubleton honor in either opponent's hand, which would yield only a 70 percent chance of success.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



...cept Mommy's came with more curves and things."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/19

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.

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

Cryptoquip

RT EGNCKHWM PMGNT QPCMQ
GKM ZCRYVMWMT EGVVHIS
GYGKW, GIO H PGNM XMZCRM

N M K T X K C S G I - P M G K W M O .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I GIVE YOU SOME CUSTOMIZED TIPS ON BUYING A FORMER CHEVY MODEL, ARE THOSE BLAZER POINTERS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Penny prez
4 Greet the villain
7 Drive away
12 Auto
13 Dadaist
14 Adult insect
15 Storm center
16 Heart of a tennis racket
18 Sinbad's flyer
19 Avis competitor
20 Act like a goat
22 Varnish ingredient
23 Understands
27 Piercing tool
29 "Yay!"
31 Texas mission
34 Headstrong?
35 Universe
37 Menagerie
38 Get a glimpse of
- DOWN**
1 Tart in tone
2 Louisiana marsh
3 Upright
4 Wild party
5 "1984" author
6 Phantom's bailiwick
7 Cracker name
8 911 responder (Abbr.)
9 Political patronage
10 Id counterpart
11 Sodom
17 Engrave
21 Debbie Reynolds role
- 23** Bridezilla's tolerator
24 Detergent brand
25 Highland headgear
26 Timid author
28 Court
30 Roswell sighting
31 Expert
32 Part of UCLA
33 Venomous viper
36 Palm starch
37 Barb
40 Get extra value from
42 Decree
43 Criminal
44 Quiz answer, maybe
45 Tosses in
46 "— she blows!"
48 Scatter seeds
49 Reaction to fireworks
50 Sub-machine gun
51 — U.S. Pat. Off.

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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	