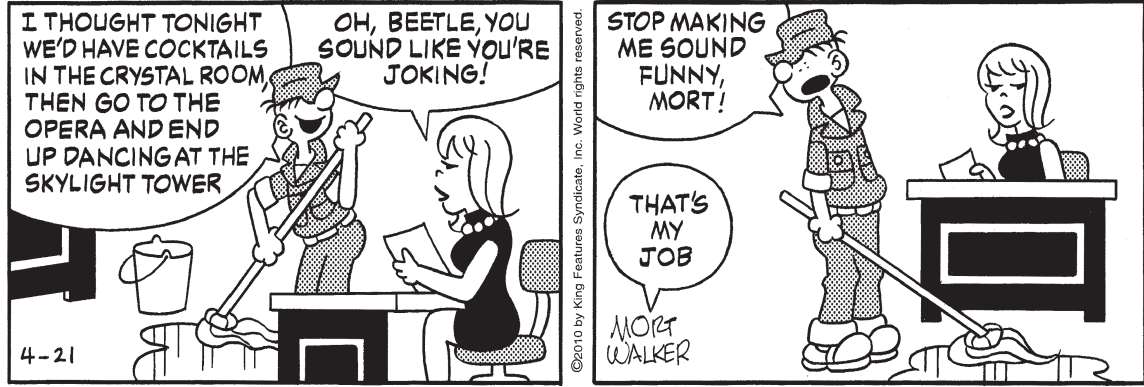


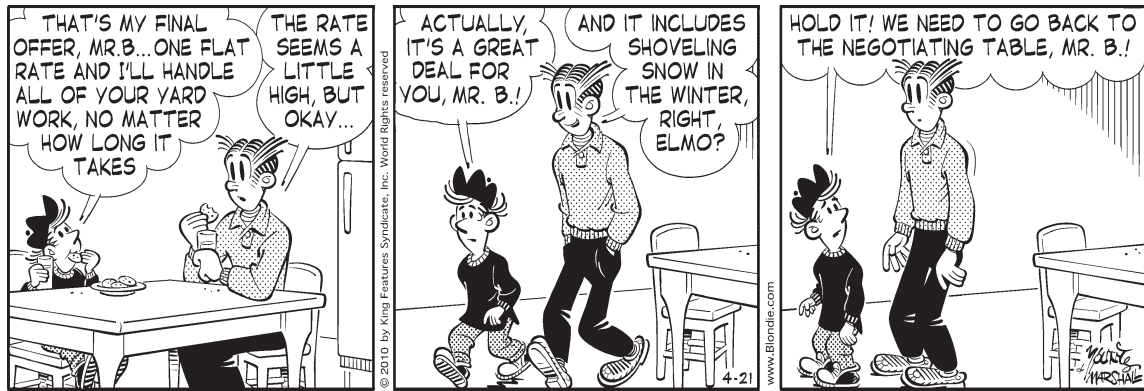
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



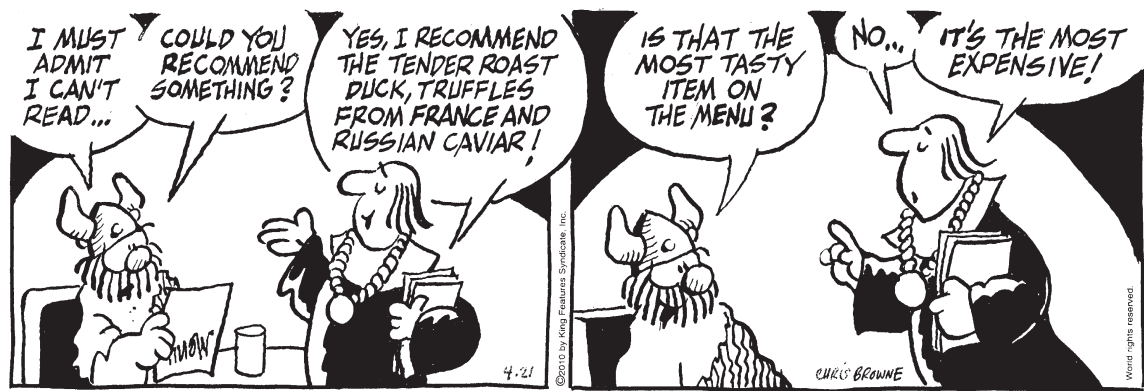
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



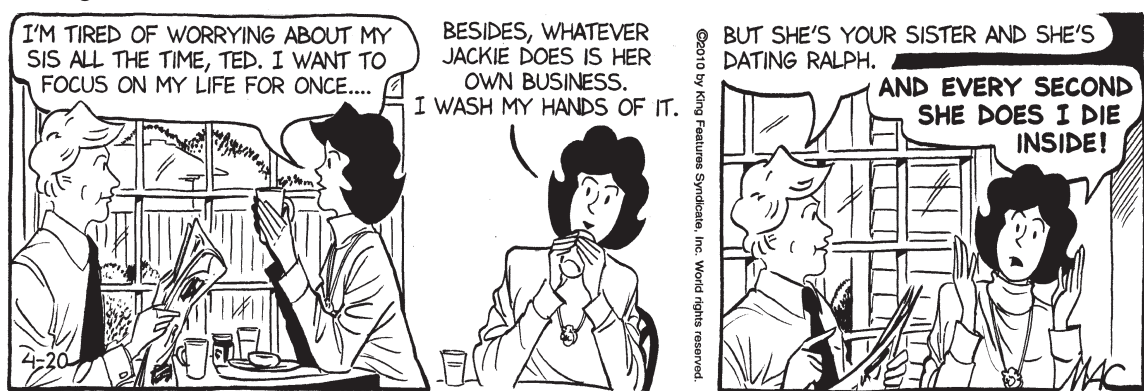
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



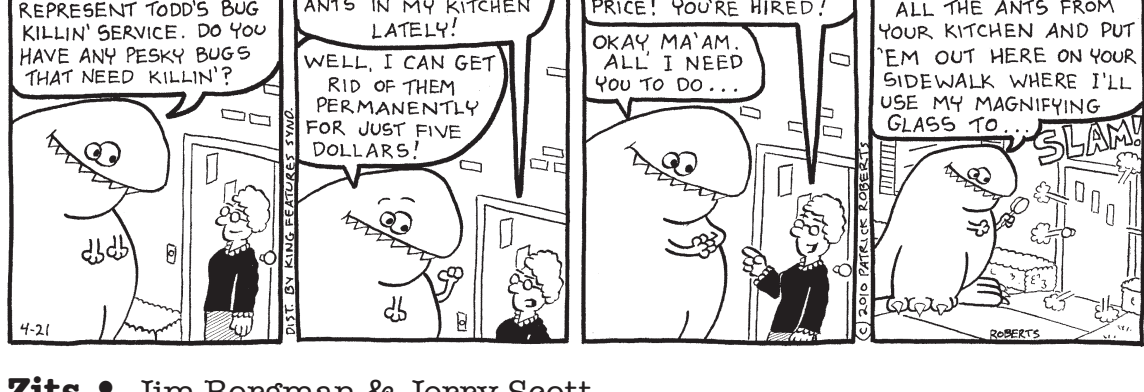
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Check cans for expirations**

Dear Heloise: I was visiting my 95-year-old neighbor, and she mentioned that she had lots of food (canned and dry) left over because we did not have any bad hurricanes this year. She showed me her pantry. I picked up a can and read the EXPIRATION DATE: 2002! I told her she could not use it or even donate it, because it wasn't any good. Upon further checking, half of it was more than five years old! I cleaned out all of the items that were expired.

I can't help but wonder how many elderly people are stocking up on food and not watching expiration dates! Somebody should be checking elderly family and friends and their supply of food, don't you think? — Alice in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Alice, how right you are, and how wonderful to be so neighborly. Here's the "scoop" on safe storage of staples: The United States Department of Agriculture states that canned food that is highly acidic (e.g., grapefruit, pineapple and tomatoes) has a shelf life of one year to 18 months.

Canned meat, fish, poultry and other low-acid foods will keep for two to five years. The ideal storage is in a clean, dry, dark and cool place. — Heloise

**REFRIGERATOR SHELVES**

Dear Heloise: This is in regard to the hint about using glass cutting boards on refrigerator shelves. The tempered glass in our refrigerator broke. I went to my local hardware store and got a piece of acrylic cut to the shelving measurements. It fits perfectly, will never break, is easy to clean and is clear/see-through. PLUS it was way cheaper than a new glass refrigerator shelf. — Kristen Watson, Gorham, Maine

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**TASTY TOAST**

Dear Heloise: Our toaster quit working, so in a pinch I put a slice of bread in my Belgian waffle maker, pressed the lid down and waited. It came out just fine after about two minutes. — Bill in Salem, Ore.

**HANDY COFFEE FILTER**

Dear Heloise: When covering food with a coffee filter in the microwave, if the filter keeps blowing off, just dampen it, and it will stay put! Plus, the moisture can keep your food from drying out. — Martha C., Houston

**RECYCLE AND REUSE**

Dear Heloise: We all get mail in business envelopes. I save these to use for shopping. I write the name of the stores on the outside, with the list of articles to be purchased for each store. Inside the envelope are all of the coupons or sales ads, as applicable. Sure keeps things together, and I don't have to buy memo pads for shopping lists. — Dale Doerr, via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

**A Handy Defensive Device**

Through the years, many conventions have been devised to help the defenders learn about each other's hands. One of these conventions, perhaps not as well known as some of the others, is the trump echo.

Today's hand illustrates the value of this convention. South is in four spades, and West leads his singleton diamond. East wins the trick with the ace and, diagnosing the situation correctly, returns the eight of diamonds, trumped by West with the three of spades.

West shifts to a heart, and South takes East's king with the ace. Declarer crosses to dummy with a club and leads the jack of spades. East puts up the ace, West following with the deuce. East then returns another diamond, which West ruffs with the six, and the contract is defeated.

Simple enough, but without the guiding light furnished by the trump echo, East might not have found the winning defense. The echo — West's play of the three of spades followed later by the deuce — indicated that he started with three trumps. East therefore knew that West could ruff another diamond, so he had nothing to think about.

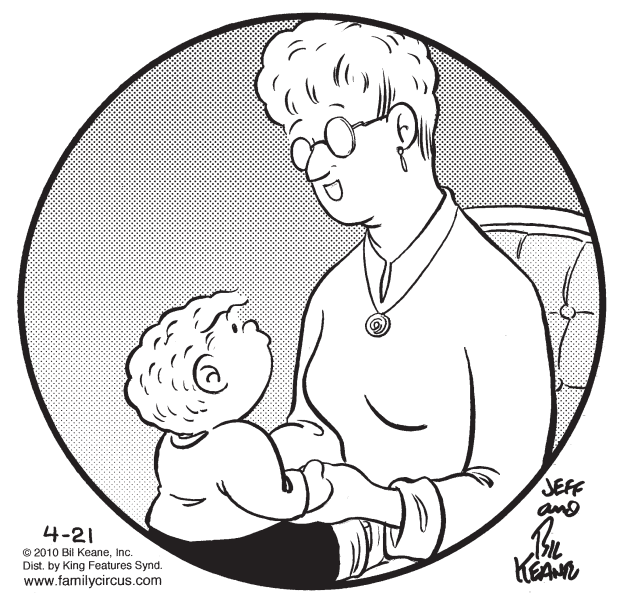
But what if there were no such convention as the trump echo? In that case, East would have had a difficult problem to solve, and he might easily have gone wrong. He would have had to guess whether declarer started with five or six spades.

If South did have six spades originally, a diamond return would be futile, since West would have no more trumps. Then only a heart return, in the hope that West had the queen, would offer any chance of defeating the contract.

Problems of this sort are solved very nicely by the trump echo.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"No, Jeffy, I don't think I've had any adventures since I last saw you."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/21

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

WSRDVZS NTS RCLEVNSG

RHGRVHN ZSSLSY NC TDIS

LDFB IHGVZSZ CF HN, H'Y

ZDB HN'Z D LHRGCWS-RTHE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I INSTRUCT FOLKS ON HOW TO USE A CERTAIN COOKING OIL, I GUESS THAT'S A WESSON LESSON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
1 Water barriers  
5 Foolish one  
8 Pack cargo  
12 Bas-soon's cousin  
13 Leap  
14 Georgetown athlete  
15 Produce  
17 Holly  
18 List of candidates  
19 Breathing hard, maybe  
21 Retain  
24 Goof up  
25 FDR is on it  
28 Verdi opera  
30 Pub order  
33 Important numero  
34 Prejudiced sort  
35 Afternoon social
- DOWN**  
36 Conclusion  
37 A Great Lake  
38 Yogi or Smokey  
39 Long, long time  
41 Verifiable  
43 Earns  
46 Throat ailment  
50 Exam format  
51 Free  
54 Initial chip  
55 Praise in verse  
56 Teen's woe  
57 Require  
58 Witty one
- 20 Radiator offering  
22 Den  
23 1 in 1,000,000?  
25 Payable  
26 Quaint stopover  
27 Preside over  
29 Active one  
31 Grazing area  
32 Audience  
34 Crooked  
38 Backstab  
40 Lubricated  
42 Work with  
43 Haunted house sound  
44 Sea eagle  
45 Unhurried  
47 "The Amazing —"  
48 Italian volcano  
49 Juror, in theory  
52 Greek mountain  
53 Plead

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

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		