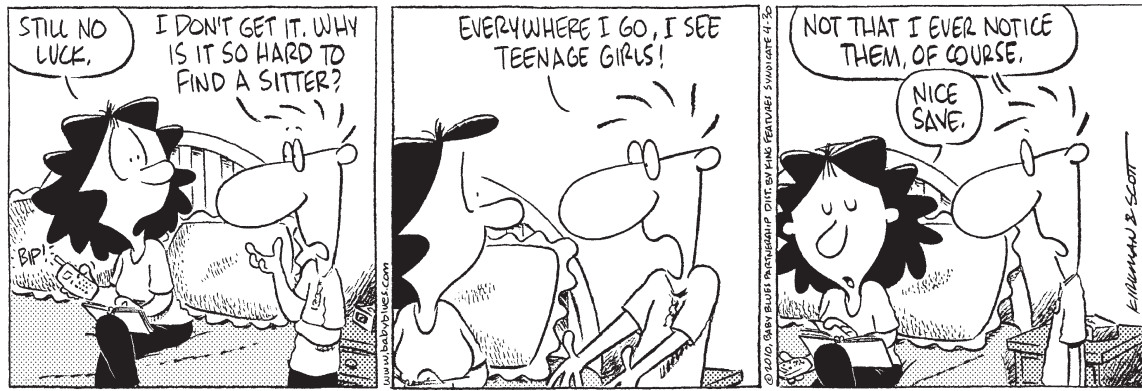


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



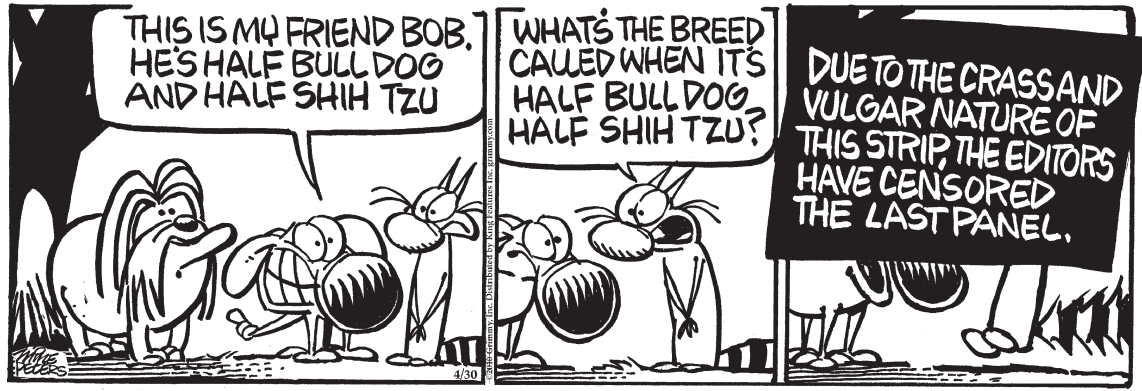
Blondie • Chic Young



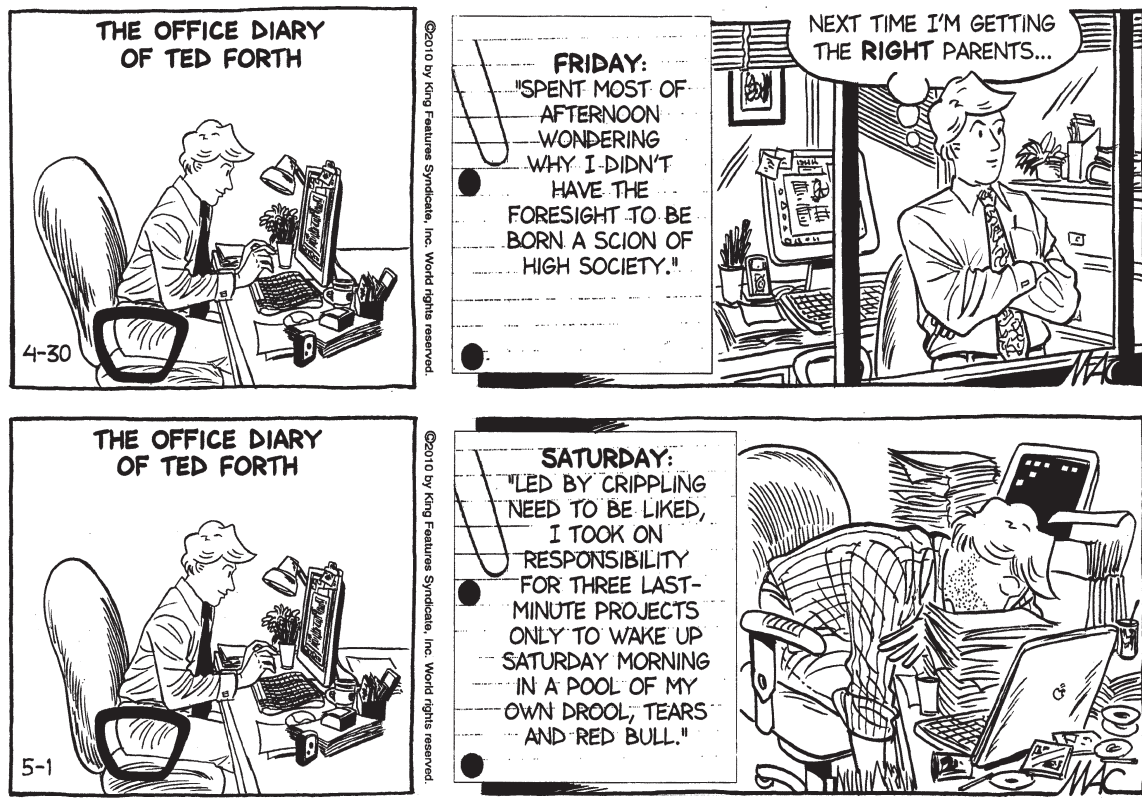
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



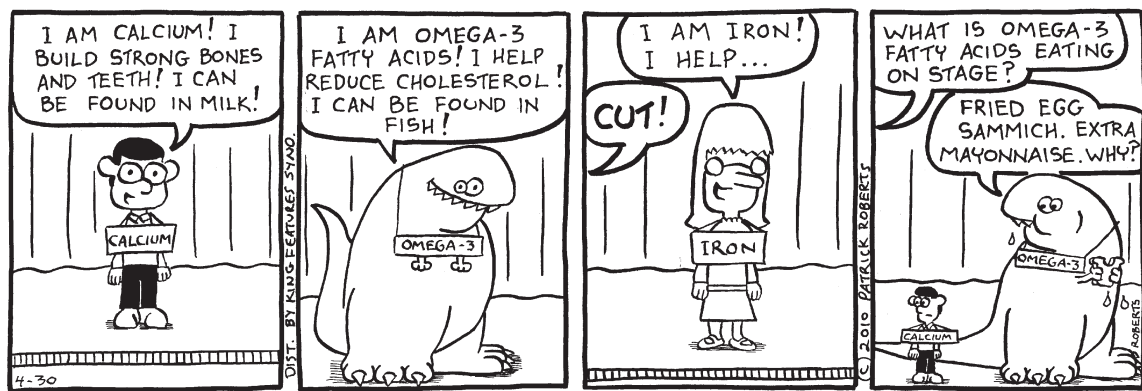
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



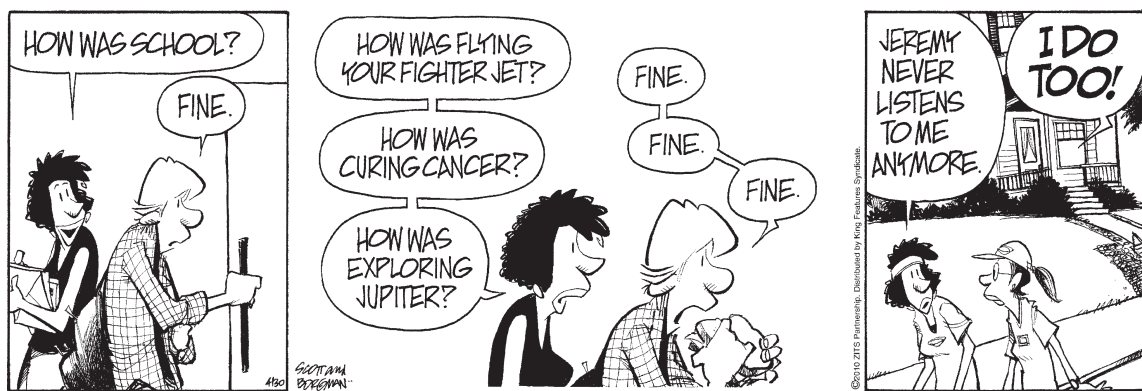
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Old hose helps when tying trees

Dear Heloise: I faithfully read your column, and I like the nifty photo of you in the paper. I also checked out your Web site – neat!

A couple of hints I've learned: When STAKING AND TYING trees and bushes, you can cut old garden hose into short lengths, thread 1/4-inch yellow truck rope through them and put the hose length around the tree to protect the bark.

Here is an old woodworker's trick when a screw has stripped its threads in wood. Drill out a larger hole, depending on the size of the screw (1/8 inch, 3/16 inch, 1/4 inch, etc.) and insert a hardwood dowel with a drop of glue, cutting off the dowel flush with the surface, and, bammo, you can drill the hole anywhere!

Heloise, I've learned lots since reading your column; take care, and all the best! – Bill from Rosamond, Calif.

Bill, Thanks for the kind words and good hints! Readers, visit my Web site, www.Heloise.com, for more money-saving hints. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: In reply to the reader who kept two sets of makeup, one for home and one for travel: When I put on makeup the morning we leave for a trip, I use my travel makeup. That way, I'm sure I didn't forget anything. – Wanda in California

GROCERY-STORE SHOPPING

Dear Heloise: If anyone hates going to the grocery store, it is me. I have always been a list maker, but found myself wandering around from one section to the next. I've started drawing a line from top to bottom and side to side through my grocery list to make four sections. Each corner of the list is a section of the store. When I enter the store, I fold the list on the lines and look only at the section I'm in.

It didn't take long for me to train my family as to which section was which (in the beginning, I labeled them). This simple idea has cut my time in the store in half! – Beth Hill, Hickory, N.C.

PLANT BASKETS

Dear Heloise: When you are unpacking something (box, toys, appliances), slide off (do not cut) the sturdy nylon/plastic bands used to make the boxes tamperproof. These intact loops make great extenders for hanging baskets. The stiffness allows you to slip the loop on the overhead hook. Then you can hang the plant lower, where you want it. – Rose Morgan from Florida and Ohio

DON'T PUT YOUR PURSE DOWN!
Dear Heloise: Your reader warned us about women who put their purses on public bathroom floors, then on the kitchen table. I found a way around this years ago. If I can't hang it on the door (also dangerous due to thieves reaching over and nabbing it), I use the protective seat cover or some tissue on the floor before setting it down. – E.B., Auburn, Calif.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Hearts, and North leads the nine of trumps. How would you play the hand?
West: ♠AK85, ♥AKQJ10, ♦AK, ♣83
East: ♠74, ♥42, ♦852, ♣AKQ765

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the queen of diamonds, on which South plays the seven. How would you play the hand?
West: ♠AK, ♥J874, ♦A962, ♣AQJ
East: ♠QJ3, ♥A65, ♦83, ♣109875

Test Your Play

1. You have a choice between drawing all the adverse trumps and hoping that the missing clubs are divided 3-2, or winning the trump lead and then playing the A-K and another spade, planning to ruff the third spade in dummy. The objection to the latter line of play is that if the opposing spades are divided 5-2 or 6-1, either defender may ruff the second or third spade lead.

This is strictly a matter of percentages. There is a 68 percent chance of the adverse clubs dividing 3-2, but only a 62 percent chance of the spades dividing 4-3. Because the favorable club division is more likely than the favorable spade division, the best approach is to draw trumps and rely on the clubs to break rather than try to ruff a spade in dummy.

2. You can count nine potential tricks: four clubs, three spades, a heart and a diamond. The problem is how to collect them, as both black suits are blocked and you are short of entries to dummy. You might not be able to achieve your goal if the North-South cards are divided unfavorably, but careful play will nevertheless give you an excellent chance for the contract.

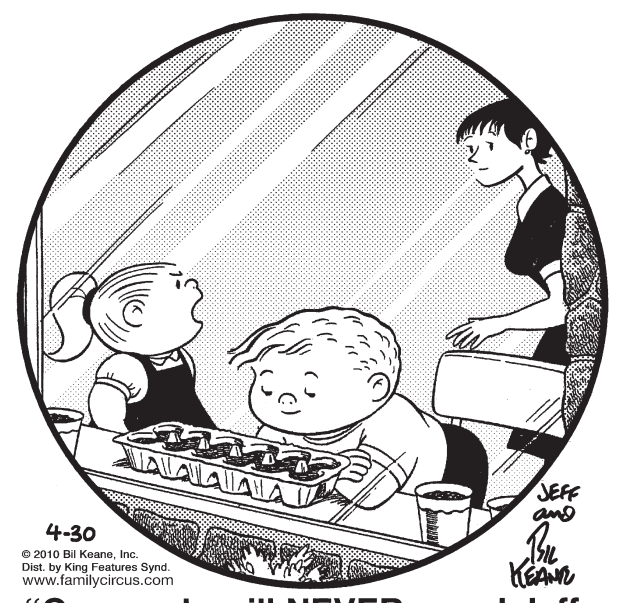
You start by winning the queen of diamonds with the ace, since there is almost no chance that North-South can cash more than three diamond tricks. Furthermore, taking the first trick avoids the possibility that North might shift to a heart and drive out your only entry to dummy's club and spade tricks.

Next you play the A-K of spades and A-Q of clubs. If the club queen loses to the king, your worries are over, because whenever you get to dummy with a heart, you can discard your bothersome jack of clubs on dummy's queen of spades to unblock the club suit. If the club queen holds the trick, you continue with the jack, forcing out the king if the missing clubs are divided 3-2.

Observe that it is vital to cash your A-K of spades early; if you neglect to do so, you might find yourself unable to unblock the clubs later on.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Our seeds will NEVER grow! Jeffy keeps breathing on them.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/30

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QB RBI YIKKBYC RBI ZBIMQ
VEWQ J MBP BV LSBYPY
BIP ZJWQCHEWL JHBIWQ
QIHEWL SJIWPEWL YCJYBW?

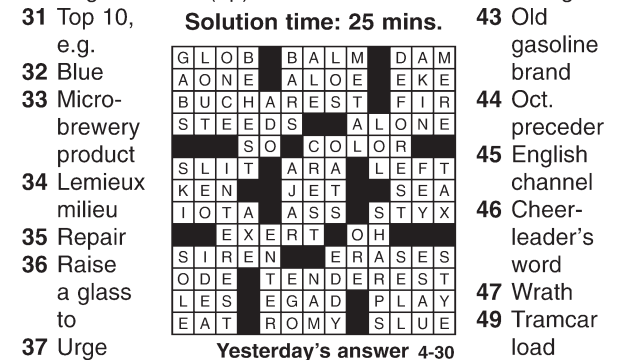
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DIDN'T WANT TO CHANGE TO USING THIS BRAND-NEW BOWLING BALL, BUT I DECIDED TO ROLL WITH IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Resort
4 Practice pugilism
8 Castle's protection
12 Branch
13 Ginormous
14 Con
15 Calm
17 Profound
18 Parodies
19 Actress
21 Remuneration
22 Follow orders
26 TV journalist Catherine
29 A handful
30 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
31 Top 10, e.g.
32 Blue
33 Microbrewery product
34 Lemieux milieu
35 Repair
36 Raise a glass to
37 Urge

DOWN
39 33-Across container
40 Mainlander's memento
41 Mountain ridges
45 Vivacity, to Vivaldi
48 Consist of
50 Lisa's brother
51 Sandwich treat
52 Sixth sense
53 At the home of
54 Night light
55 Speck
1 Bullets and such
4 Ram's-horn trumpet
5 Willow
6 Time of your life?
7 Lessened
8 Sir's counter-part
9 Indivisible
10 Foolhardiness
11 Gratuity
16 Vatican VIPs
20 Do some lawn work
23 Entreaty
24 Falsehoods
25 Mongolian tent
26 Stylish
27 Puerto
28 Detail
29 Office machine
32 Semi-conductor element
33 Big-time mistake
35 Lawyer's due
36 Six-foot sport fish
38 Be over-come with emotion (Sl.)
39 Intaglio's opposite
42 Needing extra innings
43 Old gasoline brand
44 Oct. preceder
45 English channel
46 Cheerleader's word
47 Wrath
49 Tramcar load



Yesterday's answer 4-30

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