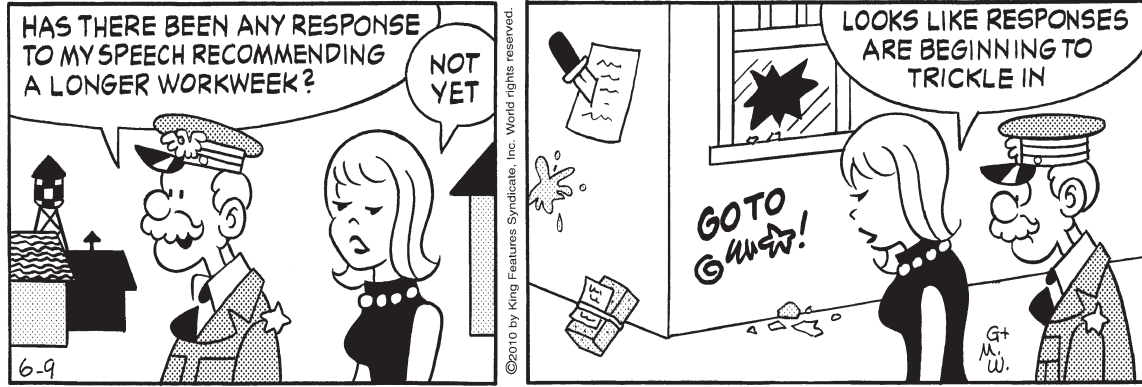


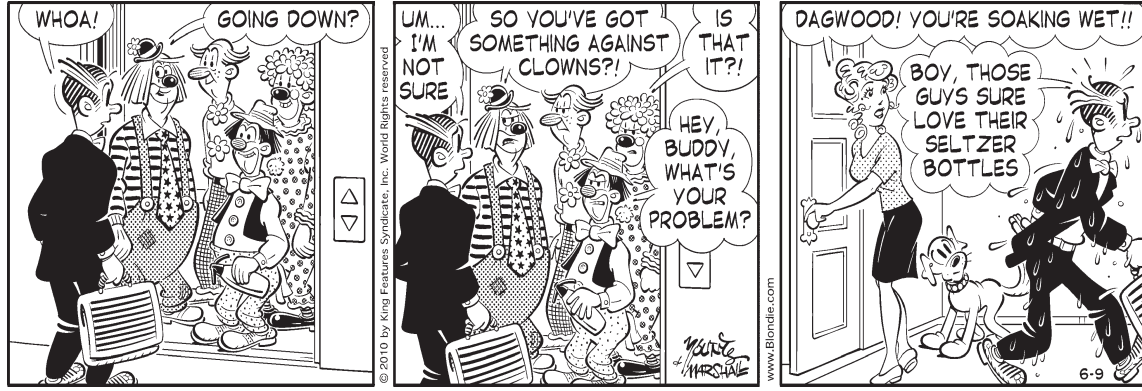
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



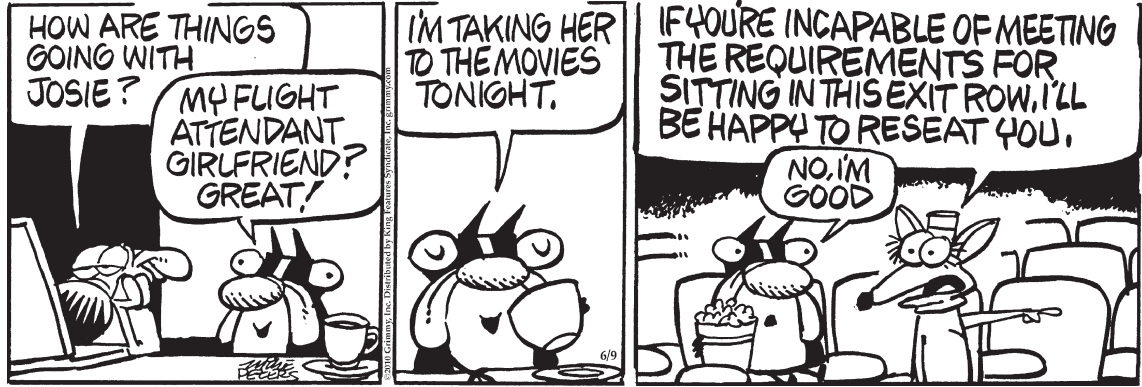
Blondie • Chic Young



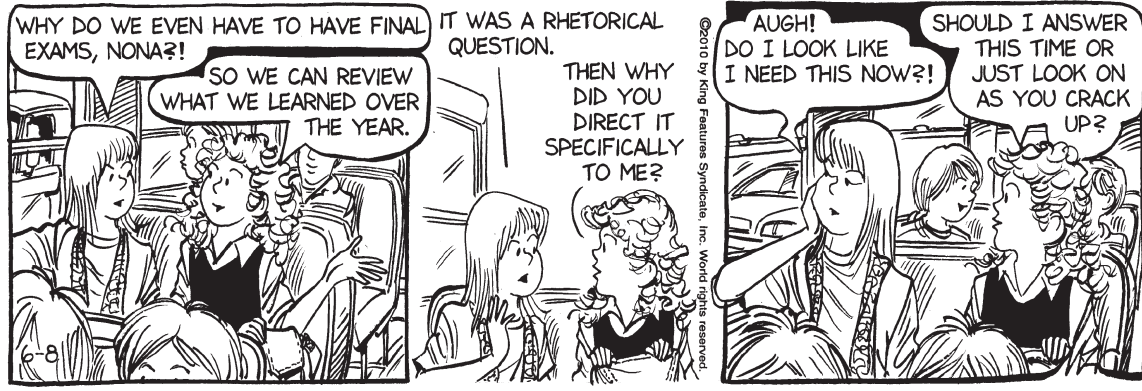
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



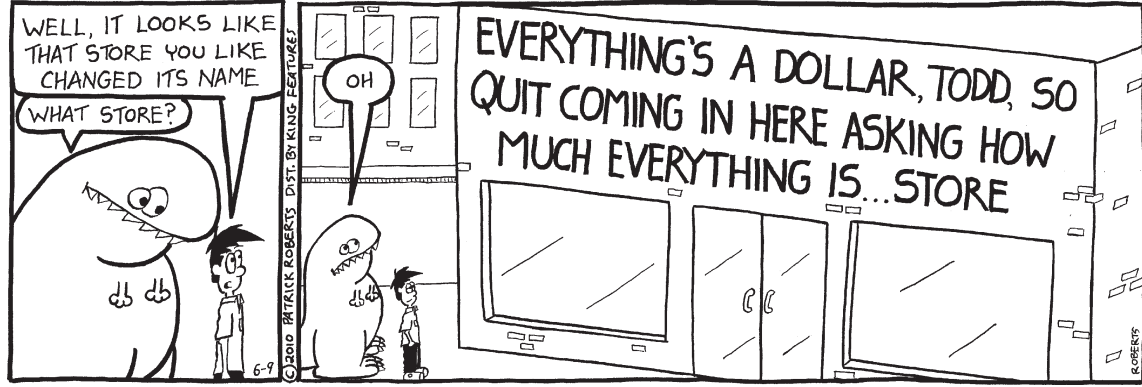
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Quell the smell of burnt popcorn

Dear Heloise: My son BURNED A BAG OF POPCORN in his microwave, and now it smells really bad every time he uses it. Any suggestions to get the smell out? — Lana, via e-mail

Popcorn is a great, quick snack, but burnt? Yuck. Add 1/4 cup of lemon juice, chopped citrus or even orange juice and 1 cup of water to a 4-cup or larger microwave-safe bowl. Place in the microwave and heat on HIGH until the water boils and creates steam.

Leave the bowl in the microwave until it cools off, about 15 to 20 minutes. Then wipe the walls, bottom and top. Sprinkle some baking soda on a damp sponge and scrub down the interior of the microwave for extra freshness. Leave the door open for a while so air can swirl around inside the microwave. Baking soda is one of my favorite cleaners and deodorizers, and it costs only a few pennies every time you use it to clean. Want to know more uses? Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Baking soda is used for cleaning lots of things, and it is also used in cooking. Don't know if baking soda is still active? Pour a small amount of vinegar in a bowl and then add about a spoonful of baking soda. If this mixture fizzes up, then the baking soda is still active and can be used in a recipe. — Heloise

SANDWICH STACKER

Dear Heloise: I have read your column for many years, and I love it. I have a hint that saves time, space and money. We kept losing opened packages of cheese and sandwich meat in the fridge.

I went to a dollar store and bought two plastic shoe boxes, and I labeled one "dairy" and one "meat." They are easy to keep clean, and take up little space because they stack neatly. Using the boxes frees up the drawer that is supposed to be used for dairy for the kids' snack cups and drinks. — Barbara in Great Mills, Md.

SHELF ELF

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint that works well for me and that might help others as well. I have arthritic knees, so it is difficult for me to get down to clean my lower kitchen-cabinet shelves. I purchased some of those square plastic crates, in which I put all the shelf items. When I want to clean the cabinets, I just pull out the crates and wipe down the shelves. Works like a charm! Thank you for your great column. I have learned so much from it! — A Fan in Wyoming

BREAD CRUMBS

Dear Heloise: When I need bread crumbs for a recipe, I use a package of stuffing mix. I put it in a plastic bag or throw it in a food processor, and it's already seasoned. — A Reader, via e-mail

(c)2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 10 5 3
♥ K Q 8 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ J 7

WEST
♠ J 8 2
♥ 10 9 7 6 2
♦ —
♣ K Q 10 9 5

EAST
♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ J 3
♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ A 8 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ A 5
♦ A Q J 5 4 3
♣ 6 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
3♦ Pass 5♦
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Art of Artifice

A bridge table is one of the few places where a swindle can be legally perpetrated. Not only that, but when the scheme succeeds, the perpetrator is often roundly congratulated by his opponents as well as his partner.

Take this case where South failed to make what appears to be an ironclad five-diamond contract. It's not easy to see how he failed to make 11 tricks, but down he went, and we suspect he would have had lots of company.

The play started with West leading the king of clubs. There would have been no story to tell if East had allowed the king to win, but instead he overtook the king with the ace and returned the eight!

These first two plays by East naturally created the impression at the table that he had started with the A-8 doubleton. So West, after taking the trick with the queen, returned the ten of clubs at trick three.

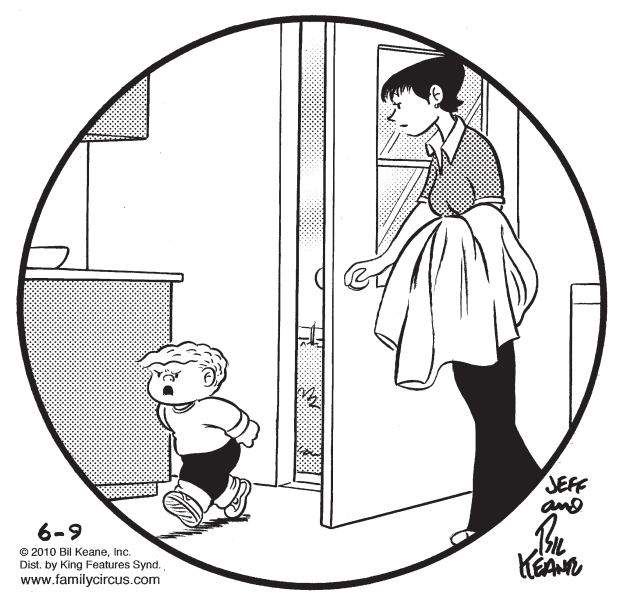
Now put yourself in South's shoes. He felt sure East could ruff the third club, and he had no idea, of course, that the opposing trumps were divided 4-0. So he very understandably ruffed with dummy's king and was surprised to see East follow suit with the deuce.

When declarer next led a diamond to the ace and West showed out, South knew he had been had. Now saddled with an unexpected trump loser, he had to go down one.

Although it might be argued that South should not have fallen victim to East's deception, full credit must be given to East for his well-thought-out scheme. Generally, it's unwise for a defender to fool his partner, but East realized that in this case no harm could come from West thinking he had a doubleton club. And when West dutifully led the third club, declarer fell right into the trap.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

XHEO UIHVB U YUDDSMK

JHVFNM RZH NSLM BH RHDL

BHOMBZMD KHSEO JUDFMEBDC:

"XUEK IC CHVD YUE."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVER SINCE I AVOIDED SLAMMING INTO THAT INFLATABLE BOAT, PEOPLE HAVE CALLED ME A RAFT DODGER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Outdated blades to
 - 4 Wood-pecker's feature
 - 8 Bullets and such
 - 12 Long March leader
 - 13 Hodge-podge
 - 14 Fly high
 - 15 Doctrine
 - 16 Percussion instrument
 - 18 Larceny
 - 20 Atl. counterpart
 - 21 Tress
 - 24 Possibly Greek historian
 - 32 Christmas refrain
 - 33 Previous night
 - 34 Monica of tennis
 - 36 Tibetan bovine
 - 37 Approach
 - 39 Yellow
 - 41 Opening stakes
 - 43 Antitoxins
- DOWN**
- 44 Take blades to
 - 46 Bring out
 - 50 Fan of things foreign
 - 55 Spacecraft compartment
 - 56 "— Rhythm"
 - 57 Tackle texts
 - 58 Strange
 - 59 Aching
 - 60 Troubles
 - 61 Unfavorable vote
 - 19 "Alice" waitress
 - 22 Cereal used in "party mix"
 - 23 Caffeine-rich nuts
 - 25 Toy on a string
 - 26 Suitor
 - 5 Actor Ron
 - 6 Have a bug
 - 7 Former surgeon general
 - 8 Refuse receptacle
 - 9 Cattle call?
 - 10 Fellow
 - 11 Raw rock
 - 17 Singer Tillis
 - 19 "Alice" waitress
 - 22 Cereal used in "party mix"
 - 23 Caffeine-rich nuts
 - 25 Toy on a string
 - 26 Suitor
 - 27 BPOE members
 - 28 TV's "Warrior Princess"
 - 29 Divisible by two
 - 30 Tidy
 - 31 Hawaiian goose
 - 35 Thoroughfares
 - 38 Distant
 - 40 Possessed
 - 42 Bribe
 - 45 "That's a relief!"
 - 47 "Once — a time, ..."
 - 48 Last few notes
 - 49 Vortex
 - 50 Greek consonants
 - 51 Id counterpart
 - 52 Neither mate
 - 53 Altar affirmative
 - 54 Whopper

Solution time: 21 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | J | A | R | R | P | M | W | R | E | N | |
| D | O | L | O | R | O | S | O | E | U | R | O |
| Z | E | P | P | E | L | I | N | A | N | N | E |
| T | H | I | R | D | M | A | N | E | | | |
| W | A | D | S | K | L | A | N | O | L | I | N |
| O | D | E | K | O | R | A | N | C | O | B | |
| J | A | V | E | L | I | N | R | O | U | E | |
| | | O | G | L | E | P | E | N | N | E | |
| W | O | O | D | S | Y | E | O | N | | | |
| H | U | N | K | G | O | S | S | E | L | I | N |
| A | S | E | A | A | W | A | Y | A | G | A | M |
| M | E | S | S | G | N | U | E | X | P | O | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | |