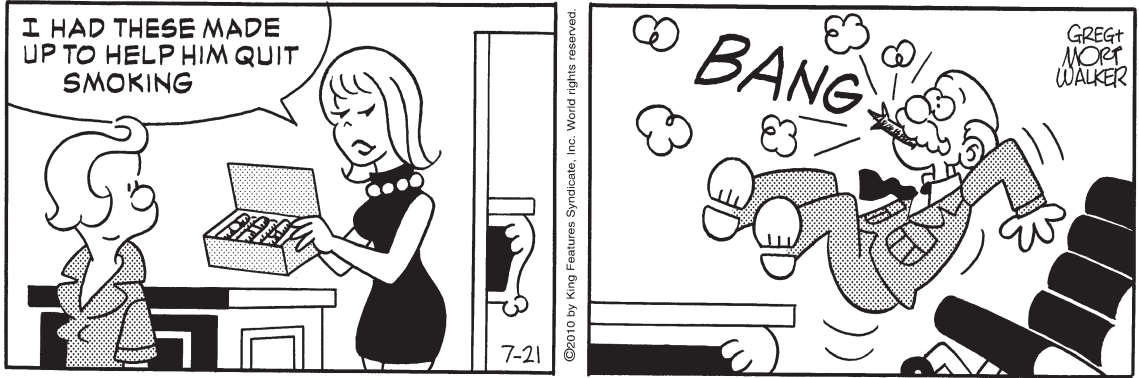


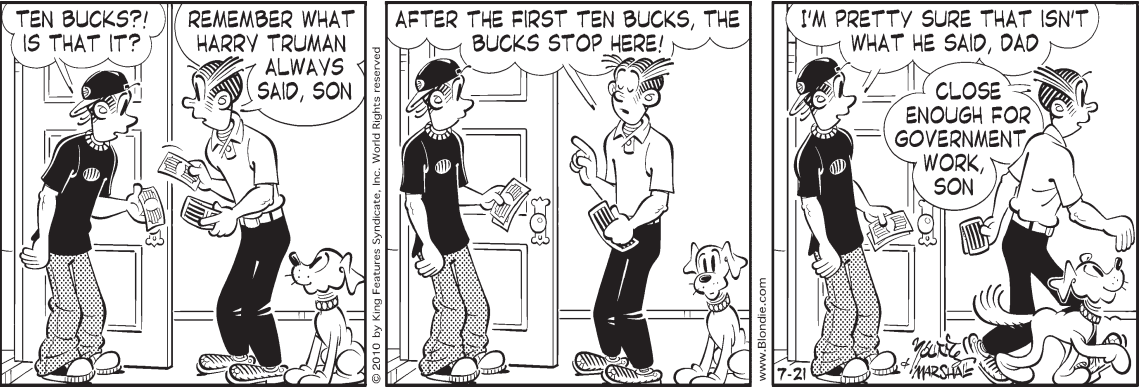
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



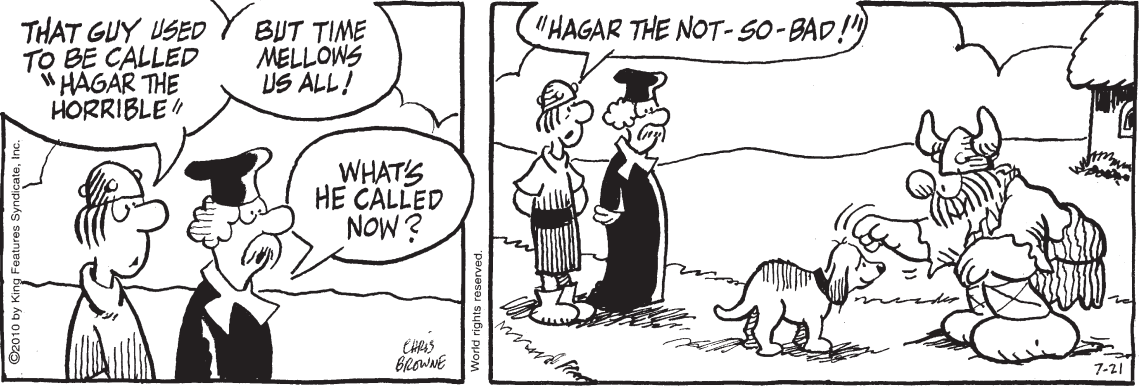
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



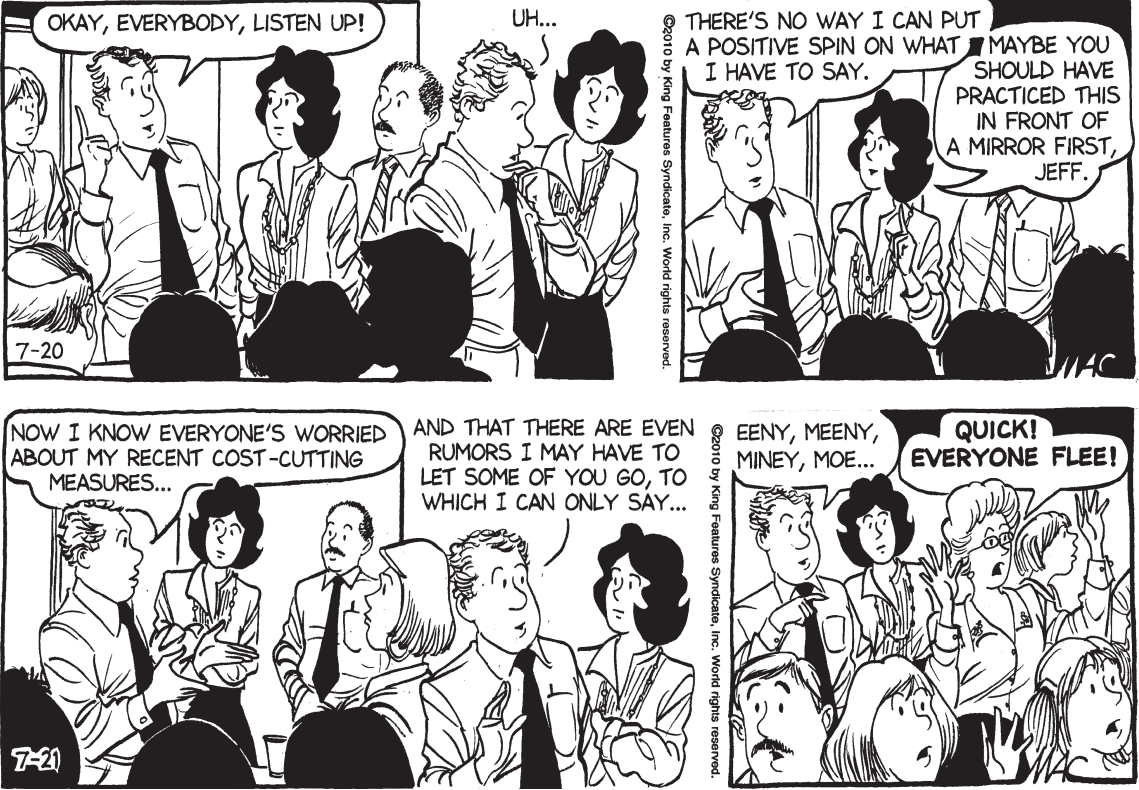
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Replace milk with creamer

Dear Heloise: I was making potato soup and discovered I was OUT OF MILK. I looked around the kitchen for something to replace the milk and saw the powdered coffee creamer. I used about 3/4 cup (more or less), according to how large the pan of soup is. It turned out to be the best potato soup I had ever made. Now I will never use anything else in my potato soup. Hope you like this idea. – Margie in Oklahoma

Sure do! Isn't it nice to substitute and not have to run to the store? Soup usually can be an easy, quick and low-cost meal when you add a salad and bread. Want to try a new soup? I have some wonderful family recipes. For a copy of the six-page pamphlet filled with 15 recipes as well as soup hints, just send \$5 to: Heloise/Soup, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Did you know that adding a small amount of pureed carrots to vegetable soup will give you a sweeter taste and will add some veggies? – Heloise

ICED COFFEE

Good morning, Heloise: I am a great lover of iced coffee, all year long. When I buy one, I save the cup and lid. It is amazing how long you can wash and reuse those items. I even use the small size to give my 5-year-old grandson juice, and he loves it. When they wear out, I put them with the recyclables. – Mary Ellen Harmon, Goshen, Conn.

CHICKEN PREPARATION

Dear Heloise: Here's a hint on how to keep from tearing plastic wrap when pounding chicken or meat: Use a 1-gallon plastic freezer storage bag and cut the two sides, leaving the bottom intact, so three sides are open. Then place the chicken or meat between the two sides and pound away. – Will, via e-mail

LEFTOVER ID

Dear Heloise: After covering leftovers with plastic wrap, I use a marker to write the date and contents on the wrap. No more mystery food in the refrigerator. Draw a smiley face to let the kids know it's OK to eat that food, or a frowny face if you are saving it for a recipe.

Any special cooking instructions also can be included, or a reminder to add other ingredients. – Joan P., Prescott, Ariz.

SWEETENING CANTALOUPE

Dear Heloise: To sweeten cantaloupes that aren't as tasty as we like, we slice whole cantaloupe and place it in a plastic container. We sprinkle on one packet of sweetener, put on the seal-tight lid and gently turn the container to distribute and dissolve the sweetener. We put it in the fridge for a few hours or overnight, and every bite is delicious! – Pat in Texas

STORAGE CONTAINERS

Dear Heloise: When I need to use storage containers in the fridge, I use the square containers I have. They can be stacked nicely on top of each other, and they don't take up as much room as round ones would. – Rita, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A 8 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 4

WEST
♠ 4
♥ K Q J 9 7 3
♦ J 9 4
♣ A Q 7

EAST
♠ J 7 5
♥ 6 4
♦ Q 10 6
♣ 10 9 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 6 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ K
♣ K J 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass Pass
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣
Opening lead — king of hearts.

It's So Easy to Go Wrong

That different players take different views in the same set of circumstances is nowhere demonstrated more vividly than in duplicate bridge, where all the contestants play the same deals. Even though the hands are identical, the bidding and play inevitably vary from table to table, and this in turn produces a wide variety of results.

Today's deal from a duplicate game is a typical example. Some pairs failed to reach a game in spades, and of those who did, less than half made their contract. Since the failure to make 10 tricks was directly attributable to an error in declarer play, it is worthwhile to review it here.

The critical decision comes early. South wins the opening heart lead with the ace, cashes the diamond king, then leads a heart. West wins and returns a third heart, and declarer is now at the crossroads.

At those tables where the contract failed, South ruffed with dummy's ten, East overruffed with the jack, and a club return allowed West to score the A-Q for down one.

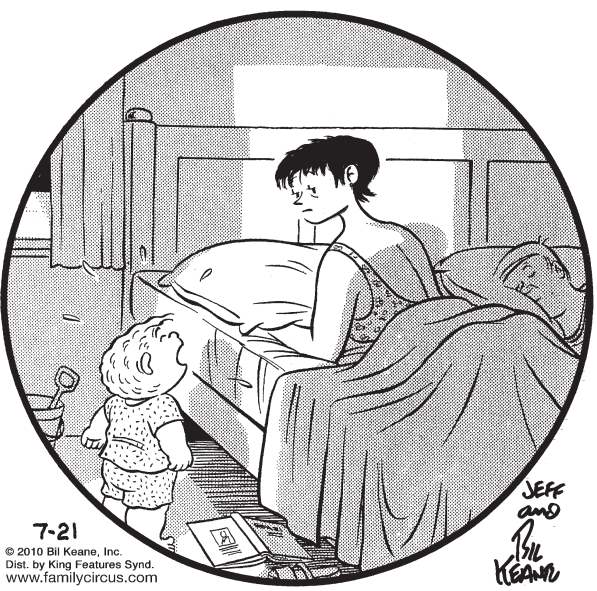
Of course, this method of play would have worked if West had been dealt the jack of spades (or East a third heart), so these declarers were a bit unlucky. But the correct approach does not depend on the element of luck to be successful.

The proper play when West leads the third round of hearts is not to trump at all, but to discard a club from dummy! West wins the trick (it doesn't help for East to trump), but South cannot now be stopped from making the contract.

At this point, he has three clubs in his hand and only one in dummy. Regardless of West's next play, South can concede a club, ruff a club in dummy and discard his last one on the ace of diamonds to bring in his game, losing only two hearts and a club all told.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/21

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

EI H GCYPR WI SWGFX VVYJB

HSF OFSIWSVEYM PRHYKB

KWMFKRFS, E BCOOWBF

KRHK'X GF H ISWPJ PWYPFSK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE ACUTE FEAR OF LOSING YOUR HANDBAG CAUSES YOU TO SWEAT, WOULD THAT BE PURSE-PIRATION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Publi-	DOWN	20 Water
1 Iodine-rich seaweed	cizes broadly	1 New Zealand-er	(French)
5 Apple computer	38 Year-end abbr.	2 Geological times	23 Biblical verb suffix
8 Muscat's land	40 Witness	3 Reply to "Shall we?"	24 "— Neighbor's Wife"
12 Enrages	41 Smell	4 Pre-tender	25 Appealing pastime
13 Blond shade	43 Knock	5 Rubber?	27 Foundation
14 Ill temper	45 Permeate (with)	6 Request	29 Whopper
15 Participate in a lake sport	47 Refer (to)	7 TV police oldie	30 Noshed on
17 — fizz	51 Campus mil. grp.	8 Watch	32 Leads astray
18 Debate topics	52 Top-40 airings	9 Spherical chocolate	34 Siesta shawls
19 Cheated at hide-and-seek	54 Dangling site	10 Lotion additive	37 "May-day!"
21 Conk out	55 Exist	11 Require	39 Tranquil
22 Reddish-brown gem	56 Georgia	16 Check	42 Settle a debt
23 List-ending abbr.	57 Global seven	Solution time: 21 mins.	44 Erstwhile planet
26 Gist	58 "Abso-lutely"		45 Annoys
28 Palatal pendant	59 Sandwich treat		46 Zilch
31 So			48 — friendly
33 In medias —			49 Yahtzee quintet
35 Tend texts			50 Reverberate
			53 Raw rock

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			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			