

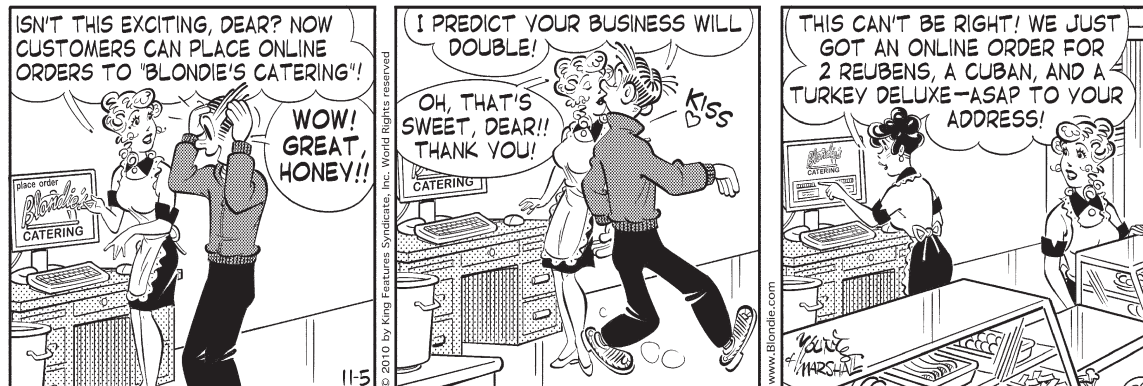
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



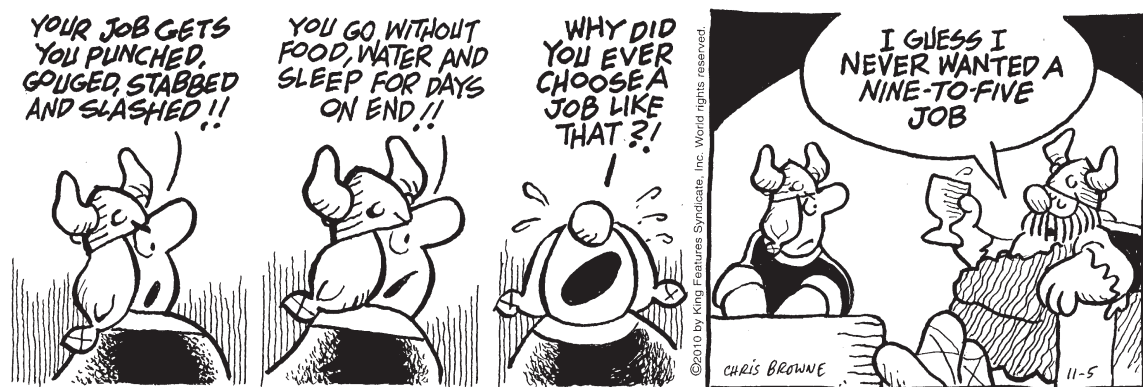
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



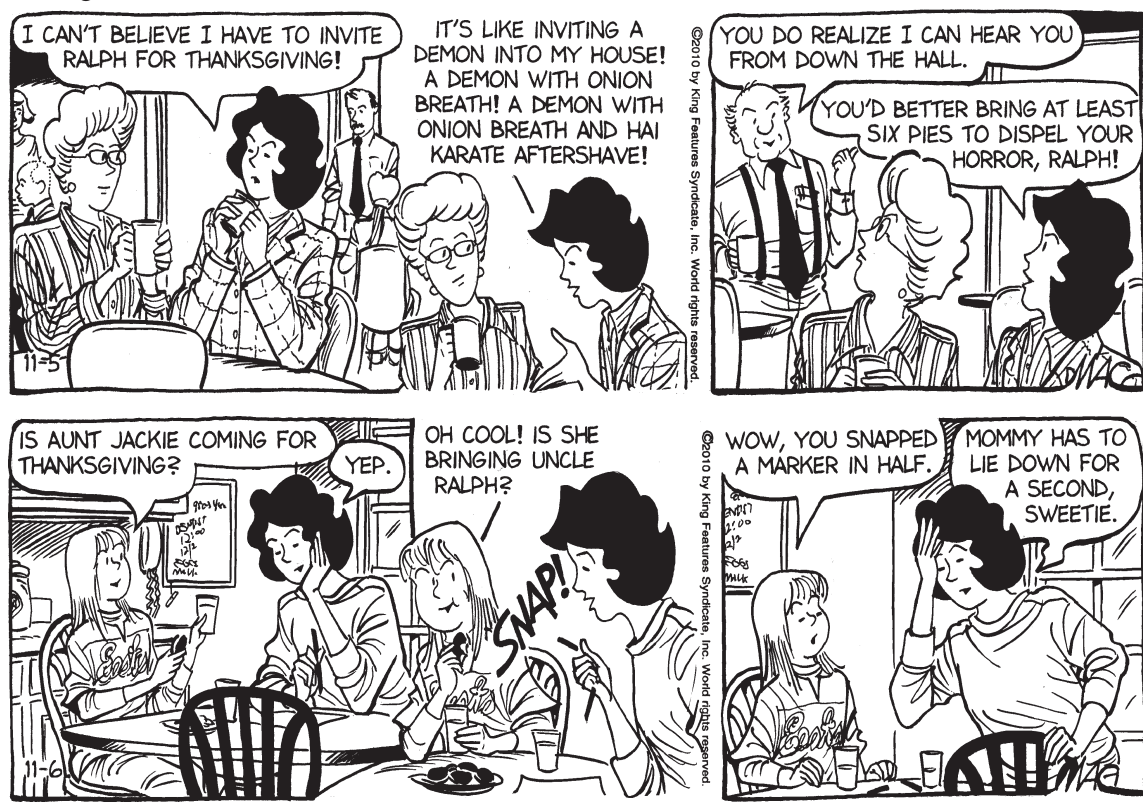
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



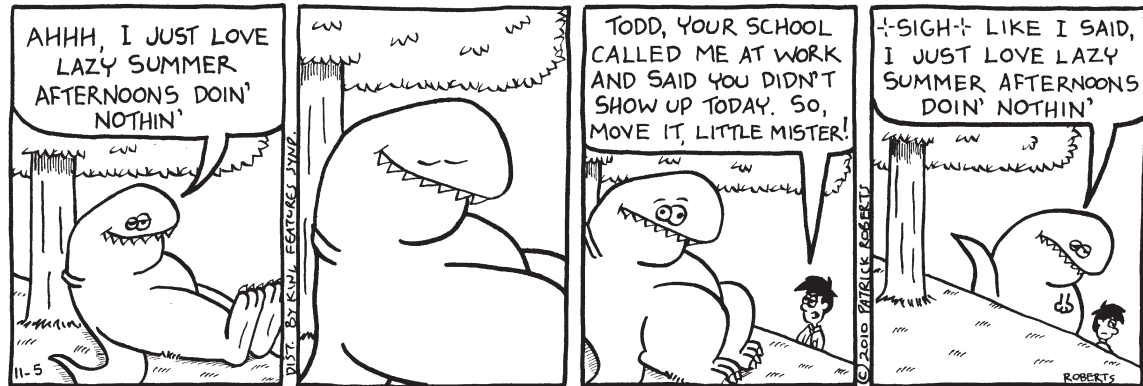
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



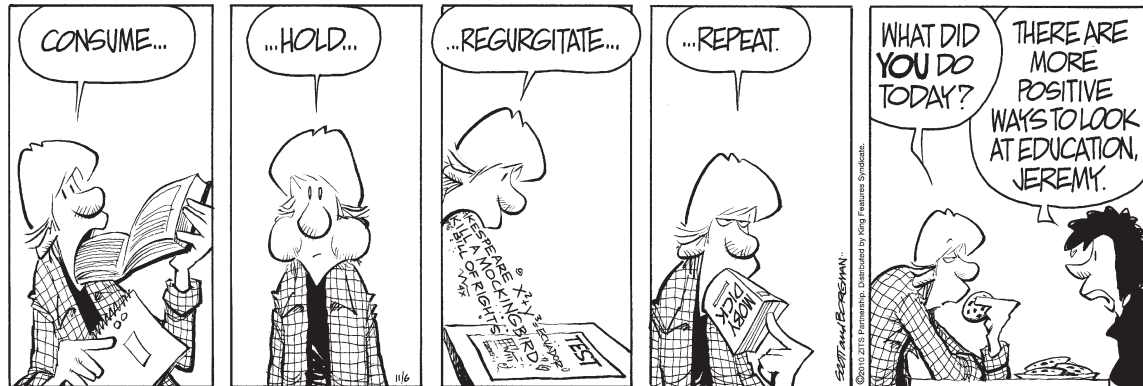
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Watch your step for ladder safety

Dear Readers: With the holiday season around the corner, here are a few tips for LADDER SAFETY when decorating or doing repair work:

- If you are in front of a closed door, make sure you lock it so someone doesn't open the door!
- Read the warning label attached to your ladder for height and weight limits BEFORE you get on it. These are listed for a reason, so please take them into consideration.
- Inspect the rungs of the ladder to make sure they're clean, dry and sturdy.
- Make sure that the ladder is on level, firm ground — loose and wet dirt or gravel is a dangerous surface on which to place a ladder. — Heloise

P.S.: Don't become an emergency-room statistic! Thousands of people end up in the ER every year due to a ladder mishap.

MOVING HINT

Dear Heloise: I thought I would add a moving hint passed down from my mother. We always packed the bedsheets, a towel and washcloth for each person in the top drawer of the dresser. This way, you always know exactly where to find them. It's especially helpful if you're finishing unloading late at night, or are just plain exhausted from moving. — Kristin in Texas

NEWSPAPER BAGS

Dear Heloise: I finally found a use for those slender plastic bags our newspapers are delivered in. They're perfect for sliding a wet umbrella into and keeping you and your things dry in the process. The bags fold up small enough to hide in your purse, the car's glove compartment or even your child's backpack. — Wendee in Arkansas

CORD TWIST-TIE

Dear Heloise: Whenever I open a new product that has cords like an AC power cord, I take the twist-tie that came with the cord and retwist it around the end of the now-free cord. This way, I never have to look for a twist-tie, and it is always the right length. — I.M. in California

MOUTHWASH REFILL

Dear Heloise: My husband has his own small bottle of mouthwash that I refill from a large money-saving size. I removed the small bottle's and put on a "pull type" spout from a bottle of water. — Barbara May, Martinsburg, W.Va.

BE THRIFTY

Dear Heloise: Here is an idea to be thrifty and recycle. Instead of signing greeting cards, put your words on paper and insert in the card. The card can be used over! — A Reader, via e-mail

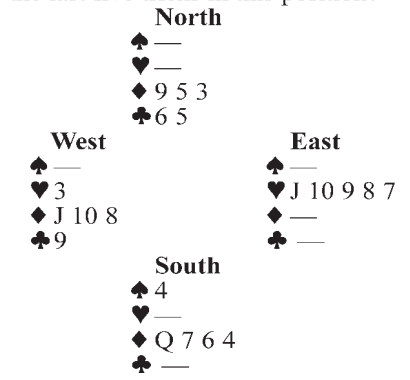
SAFETY CHECK

Dear Heloise: When parking in a space facing an office building or shop with a reflective window, I use the opportunity to do a quick visual check of my car's blinkers and lights, etc. Occasionally I can check my rear brake lights and blinkers this way as well. — Anna, via e-mail
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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. Many players think that if declarer were allowed to see all four hands, he would always score the maximum number of tricks possible. However, there are cases where declarer would find such a task difficult, and here is one of them.

You are South, diamonds are trumps, and East leads the jack of hearts. How would you score four of the last five tricks in this position?



Test Your Play

Answer to No. 1: Ruff the heart jack with the four and overruff it with dummy's five. Then trump a club with the six and lead the four of spades.

West's remaining three cards are the J-10-8 of trumps. If he ruffs with the eight, you overruff with the nine. If he ruffs with the ten, you discard dummy's last club and again have West over a barrel. Either way, your mission is accomplished.

2. You are South, declarer at Seven Spades, and have no losers in hearts, diamonds or clubs. Your only problem is that you have the K-J-9-8-6-5 of trumps facing dummy's A-10-7. When you lead the five of trumps to the ace, West produces the deuce and East the three. When you next lead dummy's ten, East produces the four. Do you play the king or finesse?

Answer to No. 2: In the absence of any clues indicating otherwise, you should play the king. With the opponents holding Q-x-x-x in the suit, East will be dealt x-x in 20.35 deals out of 100 and Q-x-x in 18.65 deals out of 100.

The proper percentage play, therefore, is to go up with the king because it is slightly more likely to be the winning play. This is simply another way of expressing the oft-quoted adage "eight ever, nine never."

However, as noted above, the theoretical advantage of playing to drop the queen rather than finesse is only very slight. Almost any clue that might indicate that West is somewhat more likely to have been dealt a singleton than a doubleton should induce you to finesse rather than play for the queen to fall.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"The year 1988 is in this HISTORY book!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/05

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

Cryptoquip

RFDKH F LKZOLSSE UFHCHT
LSS ZXGRH THSHVLZHR
UGZFDV "EHR," F CGOST
RLE F CLR LD LEH-CFZDHR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FORMER SENATOR BOB SUPPORTS SOMEBODY FINANCIALLY, COULD YOU SAY THAT PERSON IS ON THE DOLE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Notes from the boss
6 Couric's employer
9 Vacationing
12 Open-mouthed
13 Exist
14 Clay, after 1964
15 Lost cause
16 Dugong's cousin
18 One
20 Approach
21 Jewel
23 Backing
24 Low singer
25 Satan's forte
27 Twangy
29 Most updated
31 Beta-carotene, e.g.
35 Hacienda brick
37 Ready for action
38 People
41 Eggs
43 Gist
44 One of HOMES

DOWN

2 Id counter-part
3 Set free
4 Admitting customer's lack
5 Helvetica
6 Movie lot necessity
7 Actor Pitt
8 Sun Yat-
9 Author Joyce Carol
10 Dog bane?
11 1980s
12 Pontiac model
17 Not digital
19 Scout master?

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-5

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				