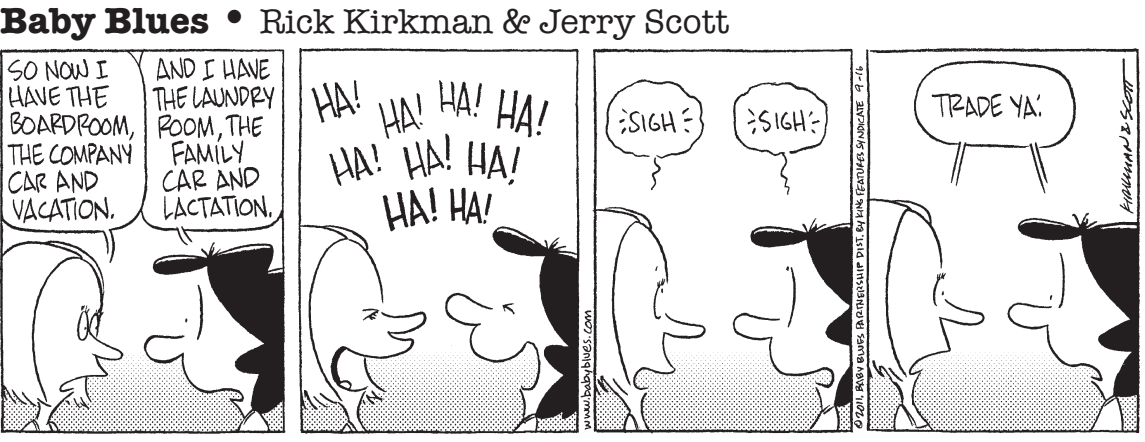
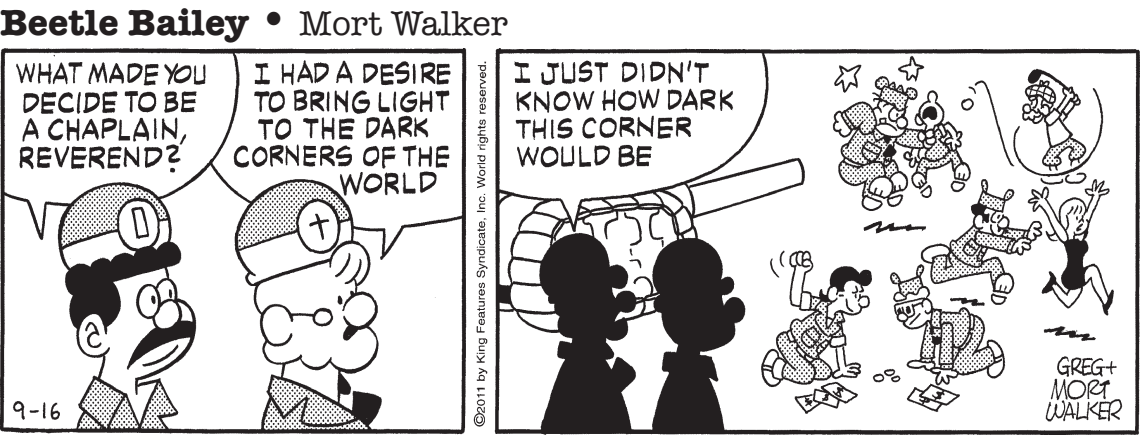
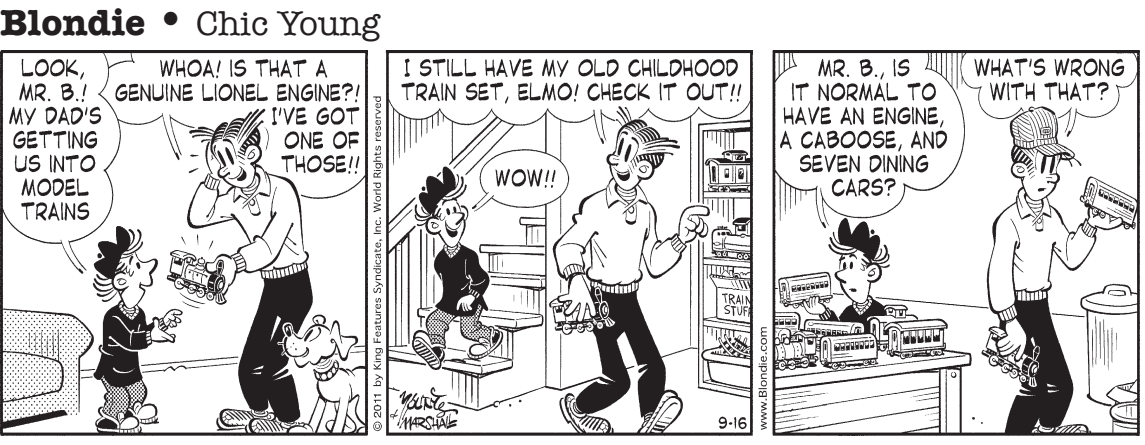
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young

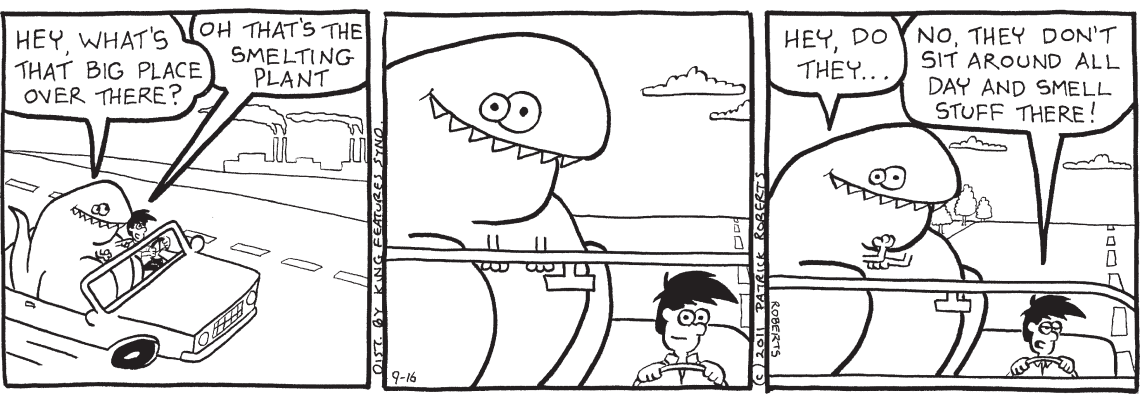


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

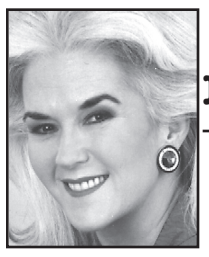
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Keep quiet in business time

Dear Heloise: I have a family member who operates his BUSINESS OUT OF THE HOUSE, and he needs quiet time. I have learned a few ways to help with that:

• Put a hot pad or dish towel on the table before setting down a plate.

• Use a plastic spoon to stir with, rather than a metal spoon.

• Keep a pitcher of water to use if the faucet makes noise.

• Turn the doorknob all the way before opening or closing a door.

• Put water in a glass before adding ice cubes.

These are a few things I have found that help. If you know of others, I would like to know. – Nelda, Beaumont, Texas

Nelda, as someone who works at home, I appreciate these hints. Readers, how do you keep things quiet around the house? Send your suggestions to: Heloise/Quiet, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000; email to: Heloise(at) Heloise.com; or fax to: 210-HELOISE (435-6473). And with school starting back up, students need quiet time at home, too! – Heloise

CUSTOMIZED PENDANT

Dear Heloise: A beautiful and inexpensive customized pendant can be created by adding a clip-on earring to a sturdy chain necklace. Choose the length of chain that would complement your clothing. Simply select a large clip-on earring and snap it on the chain. The large, round earrings worn in the 1980s work the best, but smaller ones can provide a great look as well!

Shopping at thrift and antique shops can provide an affordable array of earrings that can be used for any occasion! – Rose in New Jersey

EASY TEE

Dear Heloise: Recently, my dog had a mass removed from his back. The veterinarian advised me to keep a T-shirt on him to protect the incision. My T-shirts were too big, and the sleeves were cumbersome.

My solution was to buy boys' sleeveless undershirts. I cut a small portion off the back of the neckline to give some slack to the arm holes, but the shirts fit snugly around the tummy and are high enough they stay dry. – Susan via email

Very ingenious! I bet your dog looked cute. – Heloise

BRUSH UP

Dear Heloise: I keep three brushes (a toothbrush, a vegetable brush and a baby-bottle brush) in the silverware keeper in my dishwasher after using them. This keeps them clean and sanitized for the next use. – Hazel in Arkansas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are West, defending against Four Hearts after this sequence of bids:

South	West	North	East
2 ♥ *	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

* strong

You lead the ace of diamonds, on which East plays the four and South the king. How would you defend the hand?

NORTH
♠ A K Q 7 5
♥ 7 4
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 8 4

WEST
♠ 6 4
♥ K 10
♦ A J 10 3 2
♣ A J 9 6

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Notrump. North leads his fourth-best heart, the three. How would you play the hand?

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

* * *

Test Your Play

1. It is obvious from the bidding, and from seeing dummy, that you have no chance to stop the contract unless declarer is void of spades. Acting on this assumption, you should therefore lead the ten of hearts at trick two! Your only real hope to defeat the contract is that this extraordinary play will prevent South from reaching dummy to make use of the A-K-Q of spades.

As it happens, this play strikes gold. Not surprisingly, South has:

♠ —
♥ A Q J 9 8 3 2
♦ K Q
♣ K Q 10 5

and your trump shift (and subsequent trump continuation) sinks the contract. Had you continued with a diamond, declarer would win with the queen, lead the king of clubs and make the contract, losing only a trump, a diamond and a club after gaining entry to dummy with a third-round club ruff. The trump lead at trick two appears suicidal, but actually offers the best chance to defeat the contract.

2. Win the heart lead with the queen and continue with the A-K-J, discarding two clubs from dummy. Then play a club and finesse the nine. If South wins with either the queen or king, he is endplayed in three suits and must hand you your 12th trick regardless of which suit he returns. This approach makes the contract a 100 percent certainty. Any other line of play might offer a high probability of success, but you might get unlucky and go down.

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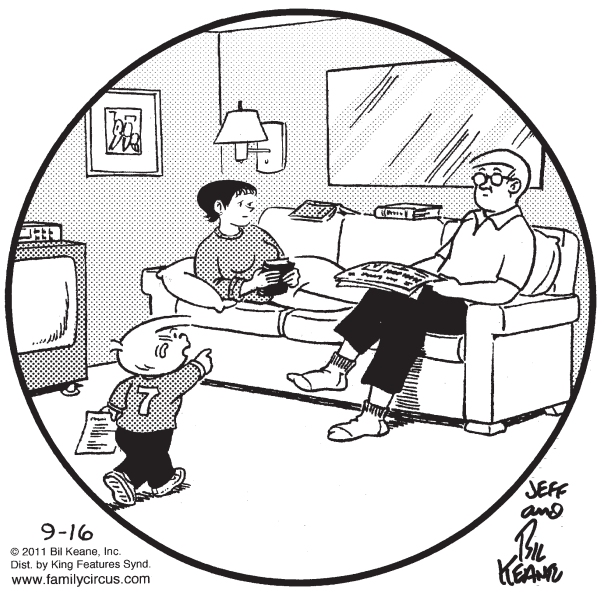
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I've got a problem. Whose turn is it to handle it?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/16

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/15

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Cryptoquip

XM C PHLFJ HM VPHKKJLV LTVPJV DH HZJ KCLDXOTYCL VKHD XZ C QCYY, XV DPCD C FJKCLDQJZD VDHLQ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HE WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE GREATEST THUGS. HE'S DEFINITELY THE TOUGH OF LEGEND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Style of jazz
4 Crimson Tide school, for short
8 Drawn-out story
12 Commotion
13 Satan's specialty
14 Pre-diploma hurdle
15 Attendance check
17 Slithery swimmers
18 Snaps
19 Firmament
21 Nevertheless
22 "Toddlers and —"
26 Duel tool
29 Toast topping
30 Right angle
31 Exceeding
32 Series of skirmishes
33 Arizona city
34 Healthy
35 Sharp turn
36 Man of morals?
37 Embodiment
39 Toss in
40 Mimic
41 Old 21-shilling coin
45 Coquettish one
48 Long-distance communication
50 Canal zone?
51 Greatly
52 Poorly lit
53 Spiders' spinnings
54 Church furniture
55 Motorists' org.

DOWN
1 Zinger
2 Stench
3 Staff
4 Boris of tennis
5 "Halt!" at sea
6 Wire measure
7 Outstanding athlete
8 "Bye"
9 Chopper
10 Cowboy's sweetie
11 Early hrs.
16 Tier
20 Novak or Basinger
23 Roger of "Cheers"
24 Additionally
25 Rebuff a masher
26 Couch
27 Tel —
28 Second letter
29 Binge
32 Bug, in a way
33 Doctor
35 Tase, maybe
36 Grown-ups
38 One of Franklin's certainties
39 Radiant
42 Zilch (Sp.)
43 Director Kazan
44 — mater
45 Small gull
46 Anger
47 Penpoint
49 Bullring bravo

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-16

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		