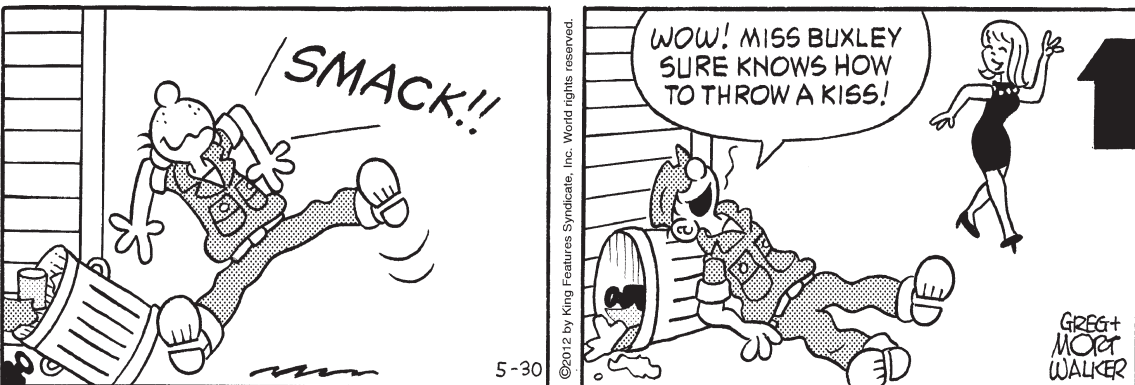


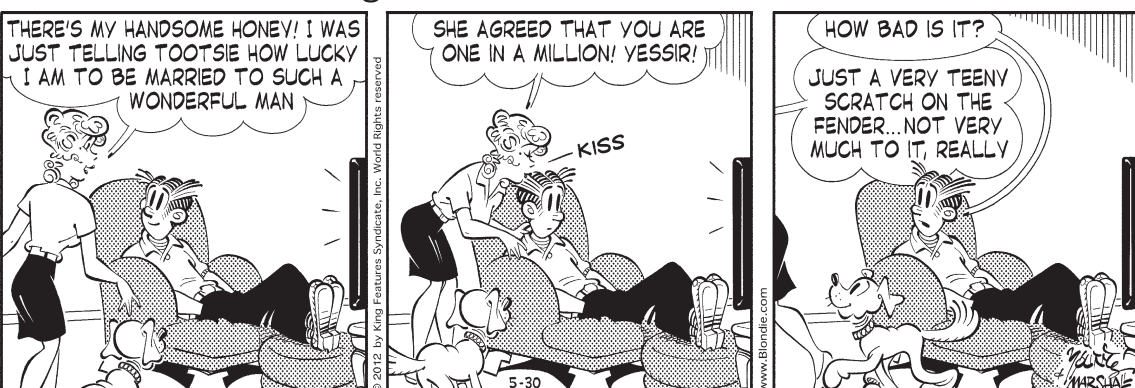
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



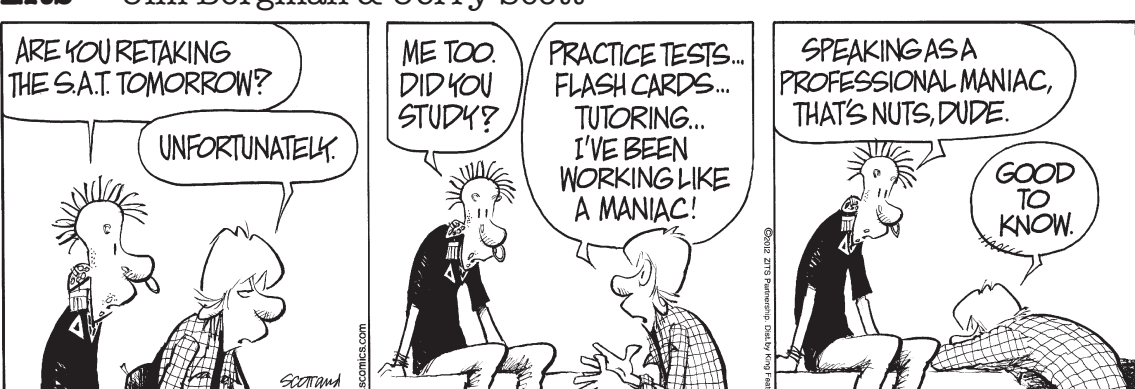
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Little tricks help in kitchen

Dear Heloise: I use clear glass measuring cups. It is a bother to bend over to check the level of liquids that I need to measure, especially if using a heavy bottle of vegetable oil or a half-gallon of milk. Also, I have a problem with measuring cups that have metric on one side and standard on the other side. I just turn the cup so the standard measurement is opposite of me. That way, I can easily tell when I get to the level I need as I look into the cup. It's easy to adjust when you do a final eye check on the level.

Another hint: When I bake cake or brownies, I put the eggs, water and oil into the mixing bowl first and mix them well. Then I add the dry mix. It blends better this way. — Patty S., Irvine, Calif.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

MICROWAVING POTATOES
Dear Readers: Before placing a potato in the microwave, don't forget to pierce it with a fork, as suggested by most recipes, to let the steam out and keep the potato from exploding! I pierce the potato with a knife or an ice pick several times to make sure that steam escapes and the potato has room to expand while cooking, and it turns out "dry" and flaky. — Heloise

SMOOTH CEREAL BARS
Dear Heloise: My family loves the treats made with rice cereal and marshmallows. However, my oldest daughter decided to surprise us by making them herself, but she didn't know to smooth them out to finish them. (I use a spatula coated with butter.) As I was explaining this, she saw the meat-tenderizing utensil drying in the drainer and suggested using the flat side coated with butter. It works well; you just need to be gentle and careful not to crush the cereal. — Karen D., Cleveland

TURNIP TOPS
Dear Heloise: I have a nice, small crop of turnips in my garden. Sometimes I like to pull just one turnip to eat raw, but I also like the greens. In order to save the tops until I have enough for a "mess" (Heloise here: "Mess" refers to the portion size, or how much you are making), I cut just enough off the top of the root to hold the greens together, then place it in some water. The leaves stay fresh for days. — Doug J., Denham Springs, La.

HOMEMADE COOKIES
Dear Heloise: A quick hint to help keep homemade cookies soft: Place a piece of white bread on the plate underneath the cookies and cover as planned. It keeps the cookies soft. — Danita in Gaithersburg, Md.

Love this old standby hint! Just be sure to "cover" so no moisture escapes. — Heloise

EASY CLEANUP
Dear Heloise: When I peel vegetables or anything messy like that, I put newspaper in the sink. When I'm finished, I can wrap it up and throw it away. This way, there's no mess to clean up. — Glenda L. in Louisiana

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer, vulnerable.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 5 3
♥ K J
♦ K Q J 9
♣ Q J 10 4

WEST
♠ K Q 9 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ 7 2
♣ 9 5 3 2

EAST
♠ A 8 6 2
♥ 8 7 5 4
♦ A 6 4
♣ 8 7

SOUTH
♠ J
♥ A Q 10 9 2
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ A K 6

The bidding:
South 1♥ Pass West 2♦ Pass East 3♥ Pass North 4♥ Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

A Precautionary Measure
It is normal for suits not to break as well as declarer would like them to. However, there are many countermeasures a declarer can employ to overcome an unfavorable division in a key suit, so a substantial part of his thinking should be devoted to seeking a solution to such a problem.

Consider this deal where West leads the king of spades against four hearts and continues with a low spade to East's ace. Declarer ruffs, and, whether or not he is aware of it, he is now at the critical point of the play.

Let's say he decides to draw trumps at this stage, as many players would do. Because of the 4-2 trump division, South is forced to exhaust his remaining trumps in the process.

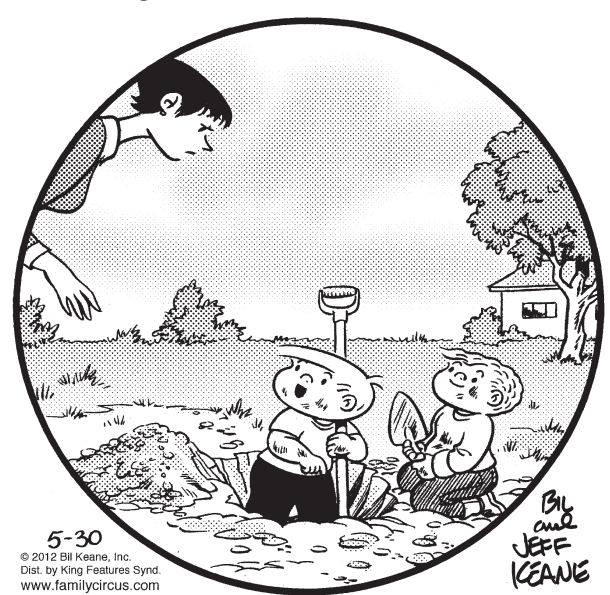
The best declarer can do after this is to cash his four club tricks and lead a diamond. This gets him nowhere when East takes his ace of diamonds and returns a spade, whereupon West cashes two spade tricks to put the contract down one.

But if declarer appreciates at the outset that -- in accordance with percentages -- the opponents' trumps are more likely to be divided 4-2 (48 percent) than 3-3 (36 percent), he makes the contract simply by leading a diamond to the jack at trick three. If East ducks the jack, declarer draws trumps and cashes his clubs to secure 10 tricks.

So let's assume East wins the diamond and returns a spade. In that case, South discards a diamond in order to guard against a 4-2 trump division. West wins the spade with the queen -- it is the third trick for the defense -- but is then helpless. If he leads another spade, it can be ruffed in dummy, while any other return also gives South the rest of the tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/30

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.

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

Cryptoquip

HPXZ LO ICIO LWNN ICUSXV
MNG "JRRVIOX" MZ NPX
MNCAMCZ ACZJWCJX, M
UXBSRZ MN HCG C YWYYO BMCR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I'M EMPLOYED AS A SECURITY GUARD, YOU MIGHT SAY I HAVE A SENTRY-LEVEL POSITION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pal of Snow White
4 Upper limit
7 Lass
8 West Coast st.
10 Stands
11 Vinegary
13 Subjective rulings
16 Agent
17 Foundation
18 Once around the track
19 Tops
20 Bart's sister
21 Wear
23 Principal pipes
25 Reverbate
26 "My bad"
27 Attempt
28 Surpass
30 Old French coin
33 Is in control

DOWN

4 Woes for Wile E. Coyote
5 Baldwin and Guinness
6 Pocket bread
7 Rise
8 "Art able to," in days of yore
9 Temp
10 Sleep-wear, briefly
12 Curriculum component
14 Right on the map?
15 Masseur's workplace
19 Greet the villain
20 Fleur-de-de- —
21 Throw away
22 Flaky pastry
23 Fashion dough
24 Last Supper figure
25 List-ending abbr.
26 Different
28 Town at the mouth of the Tiber
29 Say
30 Not intoxicated
31 Elevator man
32 Location of Anytown?
34 Final
35 Informal greeting

Yesterday's answer 5-30

	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	