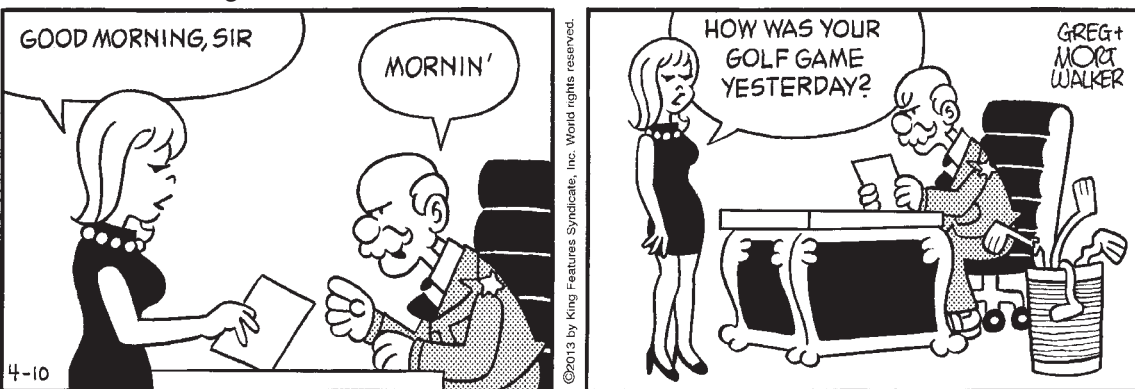


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



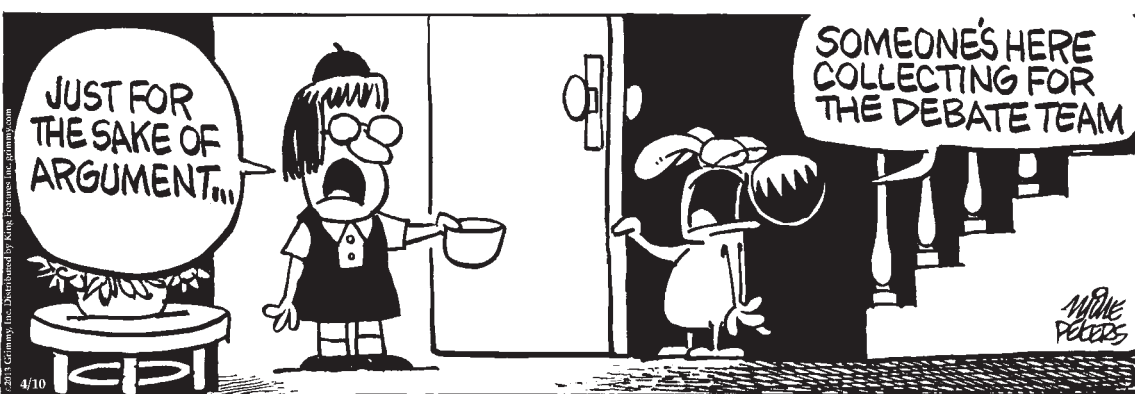
Blondie • Chic Young



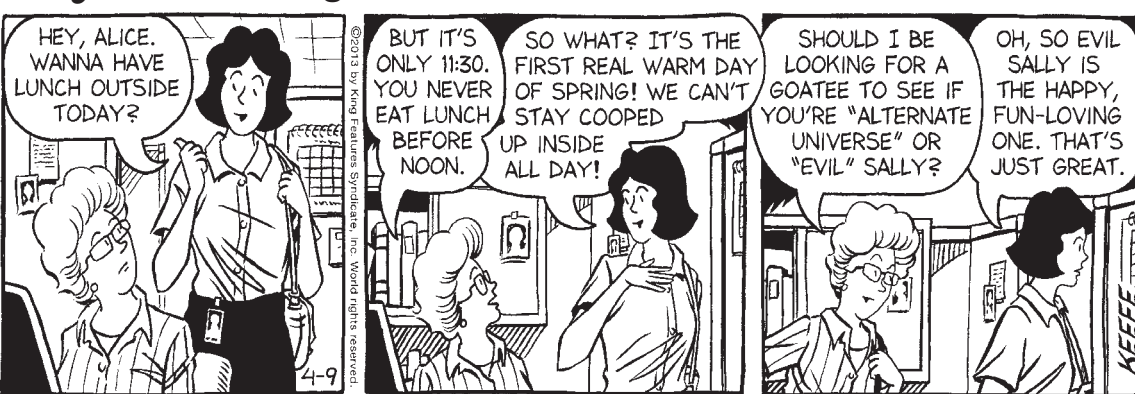
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Waxy cucumber helps in shipping

Dear Heloise: I love cucumbers, but have always wondered what the waxy coating is that is put on them, and why is it there? – Doug G., via e-mail

Doug, I love cucumbers, too, and probably eat two to three a week. According to the Food and Drug Administration, many vegetables grow their own natural waxlike coating. However, this comes off after harvesting and cleaning. A wax coating is applied (which meets FDA food-additive regulations) to help retain moisture during transportation. The wax used is the smallest amount possible; only a drop or two on each piece of produce, so it's not much at all.

The wax keeps mold from growing, prevents shrinkage, minimizes bruising and enhances the overall appearance. The wax doesn't wash off with water and normal scrubbing. If you prefer not to eat the wax, just peel the skin before eating, but know that it is safe to eat and not harmful. Plus, that's where most of the nutrients are. If the skin is a little tough, score it with a fork, and it will be healthy to eat and easy to chew. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

FRESH AVOCADO

Dear Heloise: I enjoy eating avocados with salads, sandwiches, etc., but my husband does not eat them. I can't eat an entire avocado by myself, so I kept trying different ways to keep one fresh after cutting a section away from the seed.

My husband came up with a great hint: Do not peel the uncut portion of avocado that you are trying to save. Fill a small spray bottle with lime juice. After you slice a portion of the avocado, spray the cut area with the lime juice and store in a small dish with a lid for future use. The avocado will keep fresh for days, without turning the dark-brown yucky color, and the taste isn't changed by the lime juice. – Linda in Tyler, Texas

BUTTER STORAGE

Dear Heloise: I like soft butter when making toast. Is it safe to keep butter on the counter, or must it be refrigerated? – Nancy P. in New Jersey

Well, Nancy, you can keep butter at room temperature for a short period of time, but long term, be sure to refrigerate.

Especially when on sale, buy some extra butter and store it in the freezer, but be sure to first wrap it in foil or freezer-safe bags. In the refrigerator, be sure to keep the butter tightly wrapped or in a covered dish to prevent it from collecting odors from other foods. – Heloise

FREEZING BREAD

Dear Heloise: I like to buy fresh bread from the bakery because I like larger slices. I slice the bread myself and put it in the freezer. However, when I just wanted two slices, the bread was all frozen and would not separate.

So, I put a piece of wax paper between every two slices, and the problem was solved. The wax paper made it easy to remove only two slices at a time. – Sam G. in California

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦K Q 9 3
♥A 7 4
♠6 3
♣A J 7 5

WEST
♦8 4
♥J 10 9
♠K 8 7 2
♣10 9 6 3

EAST
♦7 6
♥K Q 5 2
♠J 10 5 4
♣Q 8

SOUTH
♦A J 10 5 2
♥8 6 3
♠A Q
♣K 4 2

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

The Best Method of Play

Playing a bridge hand is like running an obstacle course — you must keep an eye out for hazards and traps you may encounter along the way. Take this deal where West leads a heart against four spades.

It is often right to duck with this holding, hoping to disrupt enemy communications, but here there is a danger that East will win the trick and switch to a diamond. This could turn out badly if the diamond finesse lost and a later club finesse also failed.

It is better to take the ace of hearts and draw two rounds of trumps, after which it might seem proper to play the king and another club and finesse the jack. This would give you several good chances for the contract. You would come home a winner if West had the queen and, even if he didn't, if the suit divided 3-3.

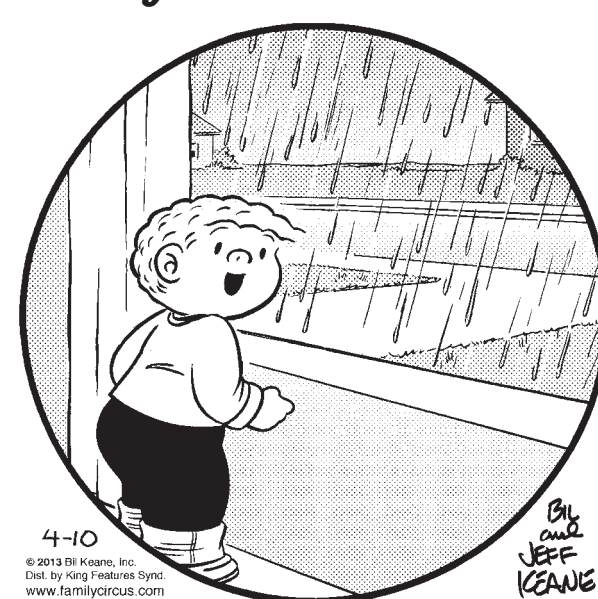
Despite its high promise, this method of play would fail in the actual deal. However, a slightly different way of handling the clubs would land the contract.

To improve your chances, you should forgo the club finesse by cashing the ace and king of clubs in that order, planning next to lead a club toward the jack. This line of play assures the contract not only when West has the queen or when the clubs break 3-3, but also when East has the doubleton queen.

In the actual case, the play of the A-K fells East's doubleton queen and makes the contract. Note also that by adopting this approach, South does not at any point relinquish his chance to fall back on the diamond finesse, if that turns out to be necessary.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-10

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"How 'bout I skip my bath tonight and just go run around outside?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

4/10

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

Cryptoquip

SB M GTEWJMNDJG OGMWGDH

MUTEG GCT RTEWO UDBTWD

JTTJ, S CTEAH FMAA

GRMG M GDJJSOR NMGR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MUSEUM'S TOUR GUIDE ISN'T WELL-INFORMED ENOUGH. I REALLY WISH THEY'D FIND A DECENT DOCENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "30 Rock" role
 - 4 Dressed fruit
 - 12 Raw rock
 - 13 Bigfoot's cousin
 - 14 Bellow
 - 15 Slight touch
 - 16 Ski resort in the Poconos
 - 18 Same
 - 20 Vast expanse
 - 21 Comfy footwear, for short
 - 24 Make into law
 - 28 Group of submarines
 - 32 Continental coin
 - 33 Alias abbr.
 - 34 Decelebrates
 - 36 Kanga's kid
 - 37 Deposited
 - 39 Pancake
 - 41 Hammerstein's contribution
- DOWN**
- 1 Source of wealth
 - 2 Mid-eastern nation
 - 3 Ox of India
 - 4 One-eyed beast
 - 5 Grazing ground
 - 6 24-hr. money provider
 - 7 Conks out
 - 8 Suave
 - 9 — long way
 - 10 Varnish ingredient
 - 11 Annoy
 - 17 Appomat-tox loser
 - 19 Bowling alley inits.
 - 22 A little lower?
 - 23 Berate
 - 25 Emanation
 - 26 Gator's cousin
 - 27 Snatched
 - 28 Partition
 - 29 Fine
 - 30 Hide-away
 - 31 "The Bridge on the River —"
 - 8 Suave
 - 9 — long way
 - 10 Varnish ingredient
 - 11 Annoy
 - 17 Appomat-tox loser
 - 19 Bowling alley inits.
 - 22 A little lower?
 - 23 Berate
 - 35 House VIP
 - 38 In a pleasant way
 - 40 Moonshine container
 - 42 Automobile
 - 45 "Hey, you!"
 - 47 On the rocks
 - 48 Memorandum
 - 49 Eat away (at)
 - 50 With it
 - 51 Big bother
 - 52 Encyc. portion
 - 53 Foreman foe
 - 54 Prompt

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

Yesterday's answer 4-10

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				
56				57						58	
59					60					61	