

**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



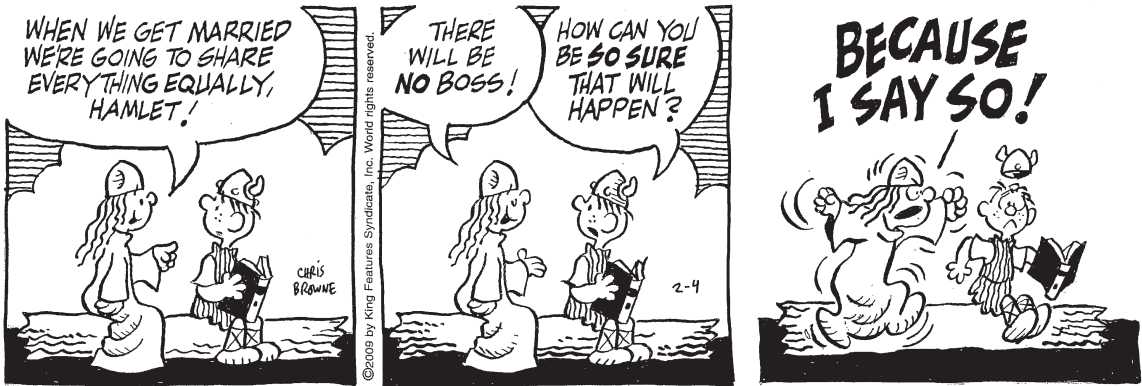
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



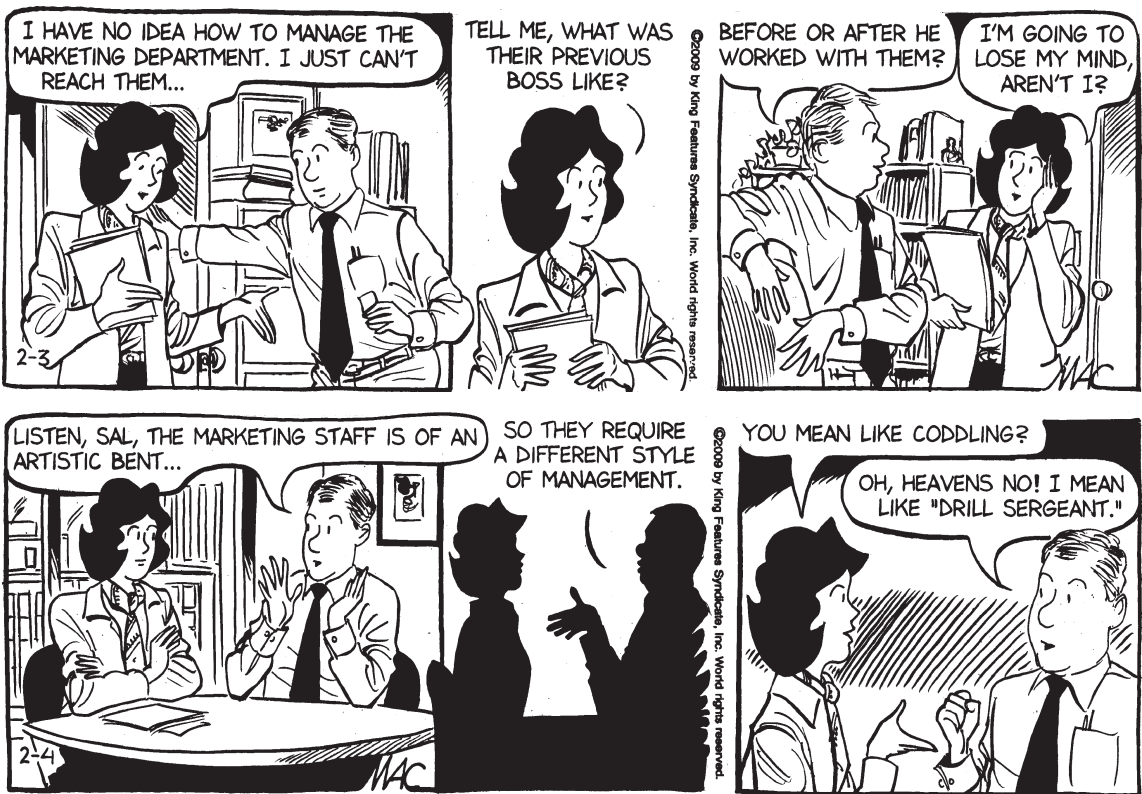
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



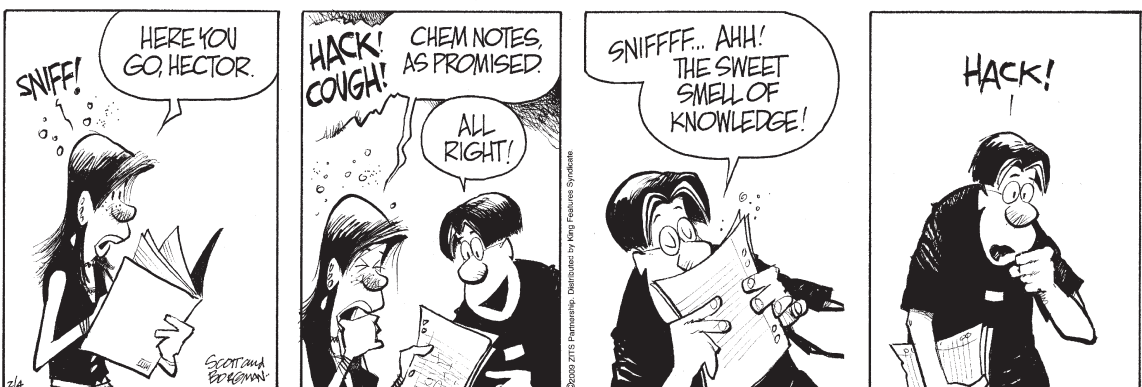
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Keep your raisins plump**

Dear Heloise: Do you know of a way to keep RAISINS PLUMP while storing them? Mine always seem to clump together after a month or two. – Deanna, Temple, Texas

Sure do, and it's as easy as hot water! Pour some hot water in a bowl that you have put the dried-out raisins in and let sit for just five minutes or so (longer is not better). They should plump right up. Raisins can be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. Just place them in a self-sealing (or freezer) bag to keep them ready for use. – Heloise

**HINT SHARING**

Dear Heloise: I make use of many of your hints and share them with others. I have a couple of hints I'd like to share:

\* I have a flavor hint for coffee lovers, as long as there are no nut allergies. Take the "crumbs" from a bag of (unsalted – Heloise) nuts (ones used for baking, like walnuts, pecans, almonds, etc.) and put them with the ground coffee before brewing in a drip coffee maker. Adjust to taste.

\* When berries are in season, they often come in containers with a mesh covering that has elastic around the edge. I use it to hold lids of plastic containers. It keeps them together, visible and easy to get at.

– Sandra from Newark, N.Y.

Speaking of coffee, here is a hint from Dawn Wickum of Seneca Falls, N.Y. She says: "I enjoy my coffee sweet and quick in the morning. So, I use sweetened condensed milk. After opening the can, I put it in ice trays and keep in the freezer. Now my coffee is sweet and cooled down." If you like special or flavored coffee recipes that are easy and cheap to make, just send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (59 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. For the price of a specialty store-bought coffee, you can have your own homemade, delicious cappuccino or latte flavored with chocolate or cinnamon. FYI: If adding milk cools down your cup too fast, put the milk in the cup first and microwave for 30 seconds or so before adding the coffee. – Heloise

**DISH ALERT**

Dear Heloise: I received a set of dishes from a high-end specialty store. While the dinner plates were perfect -- they were dishwasher- and microwave- safe -- they were too large for my dishwasher. Regardless of adjustments, they prevented the upper spinning sprayer from rotating and cleaning properly.

I kept them because they were a gift from my husband and children, and now I wash the dinner plates by hand when we use them, but I hope my letter alerts gift givers before they make an expensive purchase. – Gloria, via e-mail

**ONION CHOPPING**

Dear Heloise: Whenever I make hot sauce, I make several pints. When I am done chopping the onions, tears are streaming down my face. One day I wore my kids' swim goggles, and no more tears! – Debbie Merkel, Sunnyvale, Texas

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**Bridge • Steve Becker**

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 4 2  
♥ A Q 10 6 3  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ 9 3

**WEST**  
♠ J 7 3  
♥ K 8  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ Q 10 8 5 2

**EAST**  
♠ Q 8 6 5  
♥ 9 7 5 2  
♦ Q 9  
♣ J 6 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 10  
♥ J 4  
♦ A J 8 6 3  
♣ A K 7

The bidding:  
South   West   North   East  
1 ♦   Pass   1 ♥   Pass  
3 NT  
Opening lead — five of clubs.

**To Cover or Not to Cover**

When a defender should cover an honor with an honor is a question that cannot be resolved by a universal general rule. The trouble is that while it's usually best to cover an honor with an honor when declarer seems about to finesse, there are times when a defender shouldn't do so.

Actually, the governing principle is to cover when it is advantageous and not cover when it is disadvantageous. Admittedly, this doesn't help much, since the final decision rests on the defender's judgment, but it's about as good a rule as can be formulated.

Take this case where West leads a club, taken by South with the king, and South returns the jack of hearts. Should West cover with the king?

There can be no doubt that the answer is yes. To confirm this, let's suppose West ducks the jack. Declarer finesesses and leads another heart. West is forced to play the king, and declarer collects five heart tricks and makes four notrump.

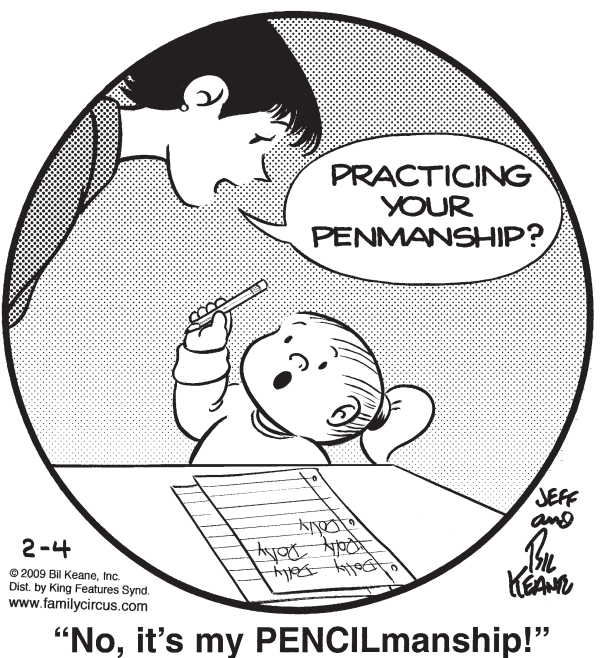
Now suppose West covers the jack with the king. Let's assume declarer wins with the ace and cashes the Q-10, hoping for a 3-3 division. When this does not materialize, South scores only three heart tricks and goes down one. This is due to West's covering the jack, which promotes East's nine into a stopper.

West covers because his king is valueless if he ducks, but serves a useful purpose if East has any four hearts. West can therefore gain something by covering, but he cannot lose.

Observe that if West covers the jack, South has a countermeasure available. He allows West's king to hold the trick, and thus makes four heart tricks and the contract. Declarer should not pin his hopes entirely on a 3-3 heart break, but should instead guard against a 4-2 division by conceding a trick to the king.

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**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



**Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green**

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/24

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Cryptoquip**

UPVD EIYTC XIY EVTT V BYLLX-  
WQHOOKC BSYHD UHDP VO  
YOY WYV TTX DH OX

VRRKVSVOEK? V RKKUKK OHUH.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEATLES HIT ABOUT A STREET ON WHICH PEOPLE CONGREGATE AND CREATE PLAYS ON WORDS: "PUNNY LANE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

**Crossword • Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

1 Pronto, on a memo  
5 Section of L.A.?  
8 Fashion  
12 — fide (in bad faith)  
13 Des-cartes' conclusion  
14 Out there some-place  
15 Drilling site  
17 Small salamanders  
18 A big-screen Batman  
19 Tenant  
21 Mimic  
22 Riga resident  
23 Bachelor's last utterance  
26 Doctrine  
28 Velveeta maker  
31 Pompom  
33 Drunkard  
35 Fairy tale baddie

**36** Parlor furniture  
**38** Fella  
**40** Storm center  
41 Vail gear  
43 Greek conso-nants  
45 Garment with something to say?  
47 Realm  
51 Extended period?  
52 Illegal football plays  
54 Urban pall  
55 Barack : Michelle :: Herbert : —  
56 Bound

**57** DIY buys  
58 Wriggly one  
59 Kenny Rogers song

**10** Social engage-ment  
**11** Gaelic tribe  
**16** Arizona  
**20** "A mouse!"  
**23** —  
**1** Out of control  
**2** Secure  
**3** —  
**4** Trattoria offering  
**5** Cub's mama  
**6** Scull tool  
**7** Olfactory stimulus  
**8** Baton waver  
**9** In the wings

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 2-4

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					58				59			