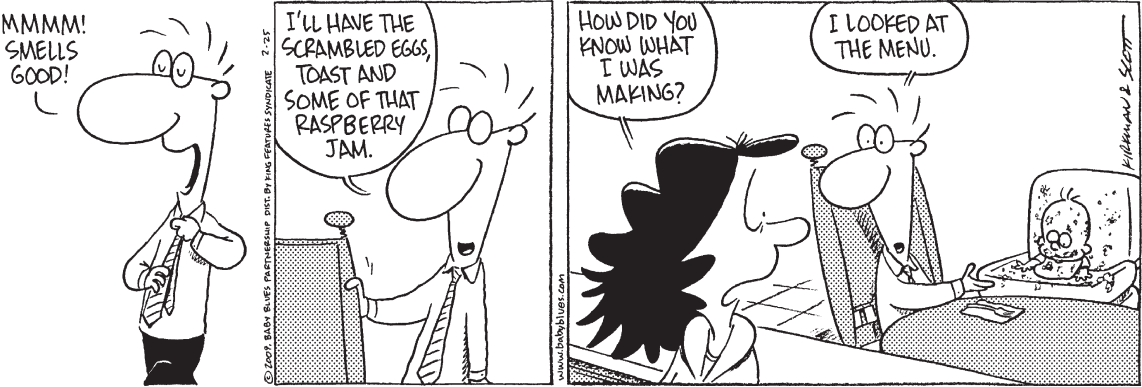
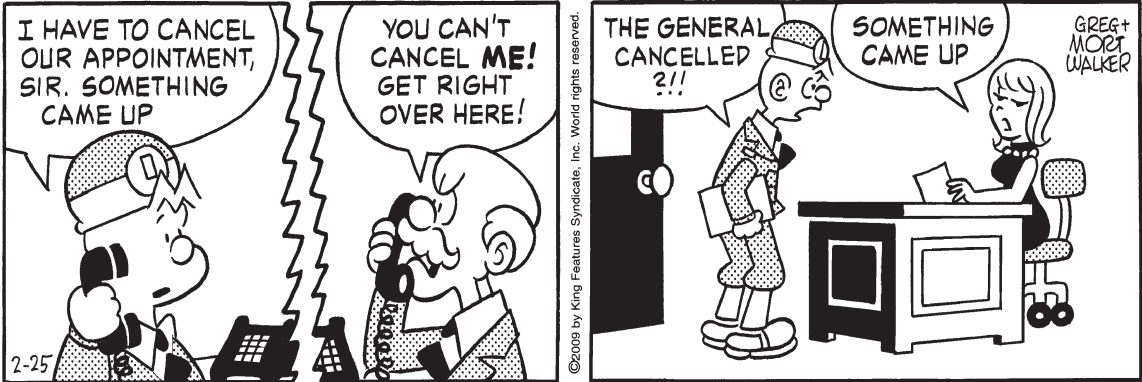


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



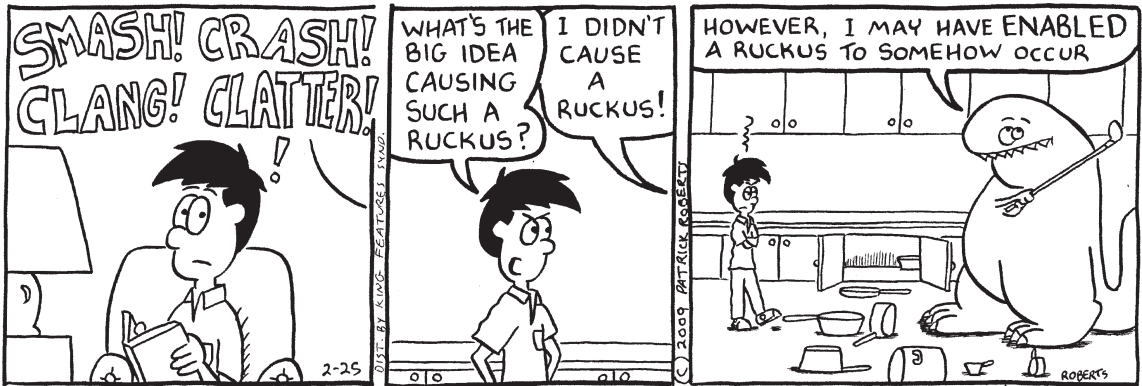
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Use wax paper on cookie dough

Dear Heloise: Every year, I make more than 1,000 cookies to send to friends and family. One of the favorites is a 70-year-old recipe for jelly-center thumbprint cookies. The most tricky and time consuming part is smashing the balls of COOKIE DOUGH into flat rounds. It's messy too, having to flour the glass just about every other cookie. This year, I decided to use my trusty old friend, waxed paper. I rolled the 1-inch balls and set them out on the cookie sheet, then covered the whole thing with one sheet of waxed paper. I put my glass on top and pushed down on one, then the next and the next, until the whole sheet was done. It saved so much time, and I was able to use the same sheet of waxed paper for all the cookie sheets!

I also save a lot of time washing up by using parchment paper to cover all of my cookie sheets. The cookies don't stick, and I can throw them away if anything gets too messy. Again, they can be used for several batches, and I have to wash cookie sheets only at the end of each day.

I read your column in The Washington Post and have learned a lot! – Cookie Mama from Bethesda, Md.

You bake a lot of cookies! We love your time-saving hint to speed up the baking process! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com  
ICE-CREAM CONE

Dear Heloise: My grandkids love kid-size ice-cream cones. They can be messy with melting ice cream. I put a strawberry or other piece of fruit in the bottom and use thick, flavored yogurt instead of ice cream. The children love to add a few mini marshmallows or candy to the yogurt for an eating surprise. – Skeeter Gurzick, Omaha, Neb.

SAUCY SAVINGS

Dear Heloise: I like to save the dipping sauces (unopened) that they give you when you go to a fast-food restaurant. When I make sandwiches for my family's lunch, I spread a small amount of these on the sandwich (instead of mustard or mayo). It's something different, and it livens up a sandwich.

Also, when I make chicken on the grill, I use these sauces at the end instead of barbecue sauce (I like the sweet and sour best). It's tasty and free. – Debbie J. in Pennsylvania

BAY LEAVES

Dear Heloise: When adding bay leaves to soups, stews, etc., count how many leaves you are adding. Then count them upon completing the cooking. – Jersey Jo in New Jersey

TONG STORAGE

Dear Heloise: Put stainless kitchen tongs in a paper-towel cardboard tube. I have done it for years – no mess in the drawer. – Joan Tomajko, New Windsor, N.Y.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ A 10 6  
♥ K 5 3  
♦ K 10 7  
♣ A 9 8 4  
WEST  
♠ K J 9 7  
♥ Q 10 8  
♦ 8 4  
♣ Q J 10 2  
EAST  
♠ Q 4  
♥ J 4  
♦ 9 6 5 3 2  
♣ K 7 5 3  
SOUTH  
♠ 8 5 3 2  
♥ A 9 7 6 2  
♦ A Q J  
♣ 6

The bidding:  
North 1 ♠ East Pass South 2 ♥ West Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

The Battle for Trump Control

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads a club. How should you play the hand?

You start by assuming that the opponents' hearts are divided 3-2, partly because they are likely to be and partly because it's hard to see how the contract can be made if they're not.

With the hearts 3-2, you can count nine tricks – four hearts, three diamonds and the two black aces. A 3-3 spade break would eventually enable you to develop a 10th trick in spades, but a 3-3 break is only a 36 percent chance.

However, there is a line of play available that does not depend on how the spades break, and it should be adopted. It involves boosting your heart winners from four tricks to five, and you do this by means of a dummy reversal. Nothing can go wrong, so long as the hearts are 3-2.

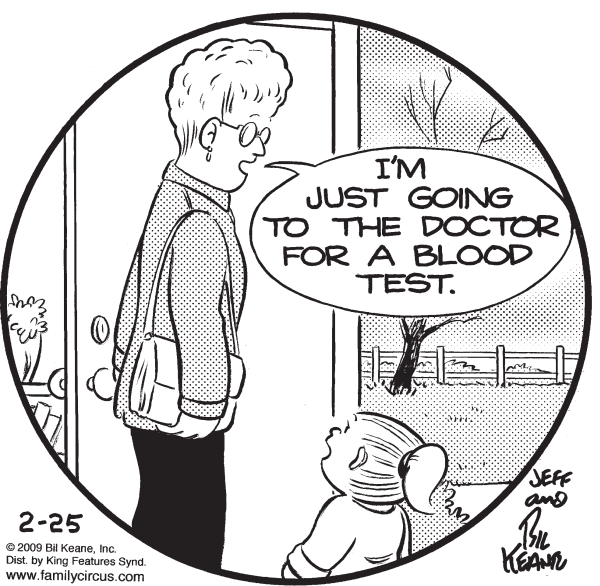
You begin by taking the club ace and ruffing a club at trick two. Then, after cashing the A-K of trumps, you ruff another club, enter dummy with a diamond and ruff dummy's last club.

As a result of these maneuvers, you have no more trumps in your hand, while dummy still has one. But more importantly, in the course of your travels back and forth, you have won the first seven tricks – and you still have three more coming in the form of the A-Q of diamonds and ace of spades. Come what may, you are sure to make the contract by simply playing your high cards. If one of your winners happens to get ruffed with the missing high trump, then dummy's last trump will score the 10th trick.

By ruffing dummy's club losers in your hand – which is the reverse of the usual procedure you eliminate entirely the danger of an unfriendly spade division.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Oh! I hope you studied for it, Grandma.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/25

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

VAGZ E NGWYECZ KCXCYEWH

DOOCNGW CJ BCJNCIXCZGB,

VDPXB HDP NEXX YAEY

NDWIDWEX IPZCJAKGZY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A NATIVE AMERICAN LEADER BECAME A COP, HIS BUDDIES HAVE DUBBED HIM THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- |                         |                           |                            |                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS                  | 41 Clinton opponent       | DOWN                       | 20 Sentry's command      |
| 1 D.C. types, for short | 43 Onesie, e.g.           | 1 Ahab portrayer           | 22 Succotash             |
| 5 Intention             | 46 Borgnine autobiography | 2 The yoke's on them       | 23 Duck ingredient       |
| 8 Resistance measures   | 50 Shaving cream          | 3 Old Italian money        | 25 Poke quaff            |
| 12 Egress               | 51 Silver-white element   | 4 Wonder or Nicks          | 26 Hearty quaff          |
| 13 "CSI" evidence       | 54 Sawyer's pal           | 5 Commotion                | 27 Post-breakup payment  |
| 14 Tide type            | 55 Intimide               | 6 B&B                      | 29 Car                   |
| 15 Rite                 | 56 Basilica section       | 7 Baseball's "Say Hey Kid" | 31 Height of fashion?    |
| 17 Chills and fever     | 57 Santa's sackful        | 8 Where the elated walk    | 32 Possess               |
| 18 Varlet               | 58 Id counter-part        | 9 Domination               | 34 Melody                |
| 19 Cop's badge          | 59 Profits                | 10 Manhandle               | 38 Lily Munster's hubby  |
| 21 Erstwhile Peruvian   |                           | 11 Hurried                 | 40 Some golf tournaments |
| 24 Branch               |                           | 16 Chaps                   | 42 Floral neckwear       |
| 25 Make fun of          |                           |                            | 43 Transport for         |
| 28 Ellipse              |                           |                            | 54-Across                |
| 30 Discoverer's cry     |                           |                            | 44 Medley                |
| 33 Chicken-king link    |                           |                            | 45 Fight the clock       |
| 34 Rainbow fish         |                           |                            | 47 "Unh-unh"             |
| 35 Just out             |                           |                            | 48 "Meet Me — Louis"     |
| 36 — canto              |                           |                            | 49 Spuds' buds           |
| 37 Individual           |                           |                            | 52 Yuletide beverage     |
| 38 Choir's rendition    |                           |                            | 53 Pair                  |
| 39 Charged bit          |                           |                            |                          |

Solution time: 21 mins.

ONE	PIPES	THE
FOR	AMORT	ROW
TRANSPIRE	APE	
USA	OPENER	
COTTON	RODS	
ORR	NEW	NAVAL
REAP	LAW	MAXI
NONOS	DOT	ALL
SUMS	MOTLEY	
TACTIC	ARI	
ACE	TRANSLATE	
URN	HELLO	LEA
TED	SWAYS	PAT

Yesterday's answer 2-25

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				