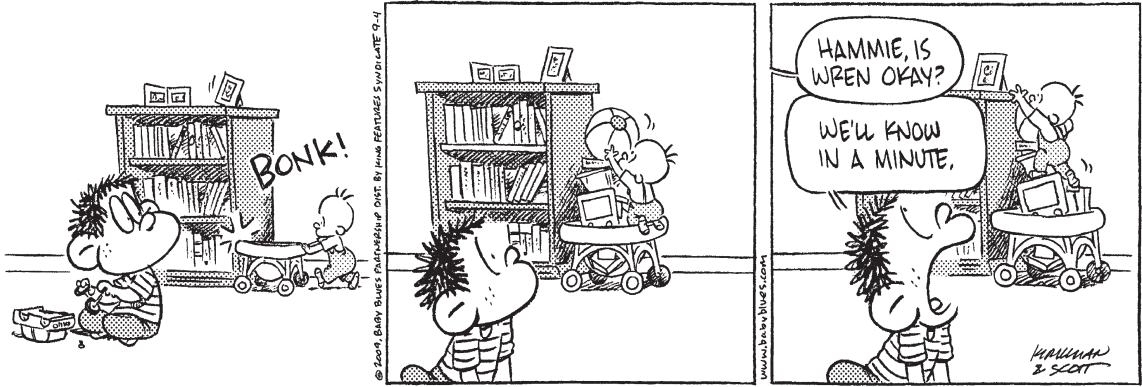
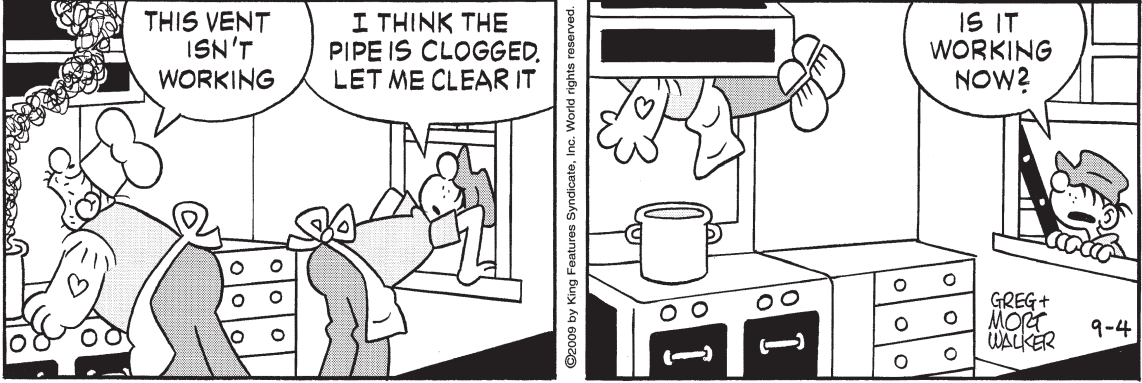


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



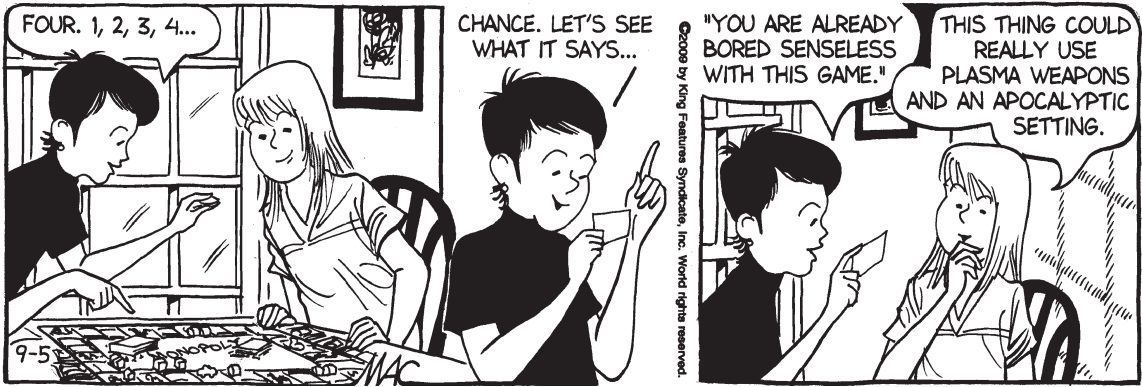
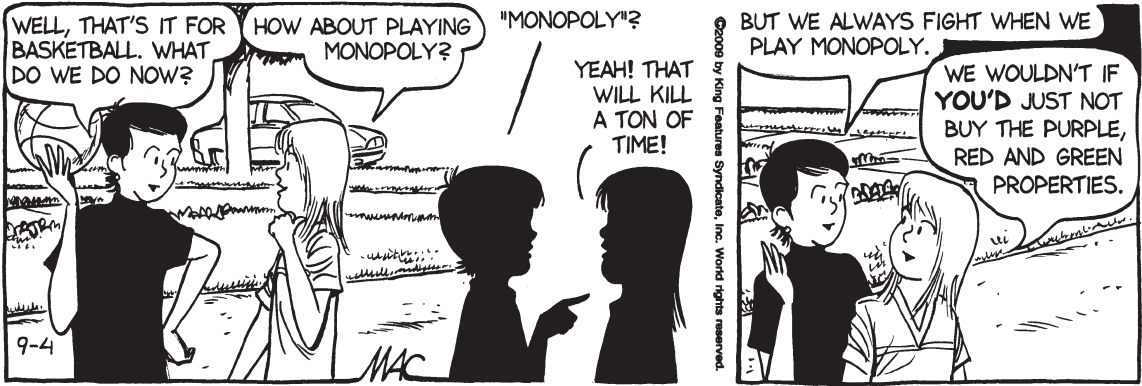
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



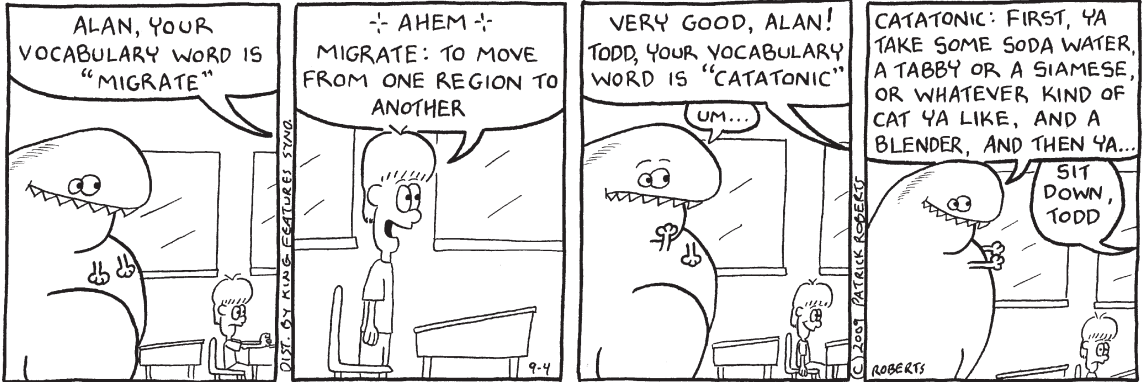
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Cleaning blinds an easy process

Dear Heloise: We are a military family currently stationed in San Antonio and living in a home with 2-inch FAUX WOOD BLINDS that SO badly are in need of a good cleaning. I am not keen on taking them down. I was wondering if you had any ideas or a solution to cleaning these while still hanging. – Jenny M., via e-mail

Jenny, faux wood blinds actually are easier to clean than real wood or vinyl blinds. Here are a few hints for weekly and deep cleaning:

- Faux wood blinds can get wet without warping, unlike real wood blinds! Mix up a solution of mild liquid soap and warm water. Use a microfiber cloth and dip in the solution, wring out, then wipe up and down and side to side.
- Turn blinds and clean in one direction, then change and clean in the other direction.

A reminder: October is National Window Covering Safety Month! According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, “more than 200 infants and young children have died from accidentally strangling in window cords” since 1990. Send for a free kit on retrofitting older string-style or “loop” blinds to the newer wand style. Just call the Window Covering Safety Council’s toll-free line at (800) 506-4636 to order yours today! We all should do our part to make our homes as safe as possible. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Luggage tags should include your name and cell-phone number (harder to reverse-search). Another option is to include your name and the phone number of the hotel where you are staying. – Natalie, via e-mail

NO ANTS!

Dear Heloise: My husband and I have been having ant problems lately in our kitchen, making a trail from the window to the pantry. We don’t want to use poison because we have two kitties that would definitely get into it.

We found that vinegar does the trick. We just dipped a cotton ball in vinegar and swabbed the areas the ants would go. We haven’t had an ant since. The bonus is that it’s nontoxic to us and our kitties. – Gretchen Kennedy, Chantilly, Va.

Yes, wiping the ant trail with vinegar will help “erase” their scent. Vinegar is an item that has zillions of money-saving uses around the house. Don’t know what it can be used for? Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, Box 795001, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5001 to receive a copy of my six-page Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More that will save you so much money! You can use vinegar to clean chrome fixtures, clay pots and glass, and as a drain cleaner. – Heloise

DECANTER CLEANING

Dear Heloise: To clean a vase/decanter, fill it with water and drop in a couple of denture-cleaning tablets overnight. My dentist told me this years ago. – Sara W., Honokowai, Maui, Hawaii

(c)2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	?

What do you bid with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠ QJ93 ♥ AJ ♦ Q105 ♣ K965
2. ♠ 84 ♥ K10763 ♦ KJ5 ♣ QJ2
3. ♠ 3 ♥ 74 ♦ K965 ♣ AK8743
4. ♠ AQ73 ♥ KJ96 ♦ 6 ♣ 9864

Bidding Quiz

1. Three notrump. Partner’s two-diamond overall shows a strong diamond suit and roughly the equivalent of an opening bid. Facing such a hand, your 13 high-card points and good intermediates should give you a very good play for three notrump. Although partner may act over an invitational two-notrump bid, you should not give him a chance to pass when you have such excellent prospects for game.

2. Three diamonds. The most likely game, if there is a game, is in notrump. Obviously, partner must be concerned about the gaps in his diamond suit, since he is lacking the K-J. The raise in diamonds may be enough to encourage him to bid three notrump if he has spades stopped.

It is more important to show your diamond support than it is to bid your weak heart suit. A two-heart bid would not identify the diamond fit. There is also an inference that partner is not interested in hearts since he did not make a takeout double of one spade.

3. Five diamonds. A dual purpose is served by jumping directly to game. First, there’s the strong likelihood that partner won’t lose three tricks in five diamonds. Partner may, of course, have the wrong hand and go down, but the possibility of this is not enough to outweigh the probability that 11 tricks will be made.

A second factor is that the opponents may have a good heart fit they have not yet discovered, and they are not likely to start looking for it at the 11-trick level.

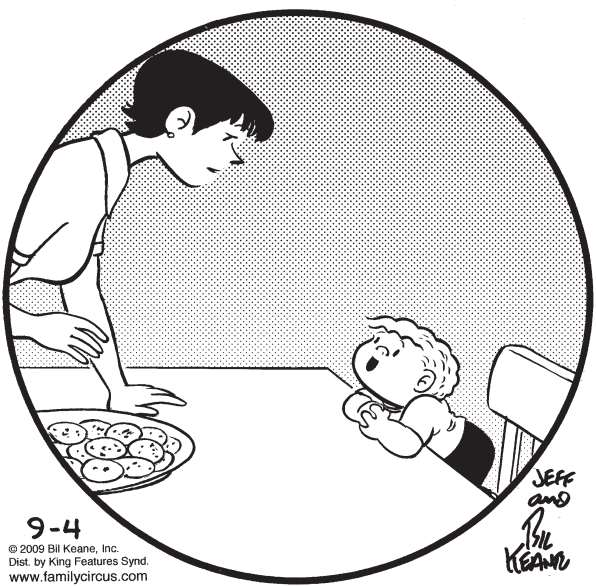
4. Pass. This is a typical situation where many players feel compelled to take action either to improve their chances of making a partscore elsewhere, or to satisfy game ambitions.

There is a relatively poor chance that any steps taken other than a pass will improve matters. Although you have 10 high-card points, the overall value of your hand is impaired by the lack of a fit with partner’s diamonds.

Since game is highly unlikely, a two-heart or two-notrump bid is more apt to make matters worse than better.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

UERYE OCQGS D CDDARYCZNF

HN INS ZERLQ C PLNV

UNSAH ONPZ ARQGAI VG

SPRLW? ERWEVFNU DGLYRA.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: AFTER CHOPPING WOOD FOR HOURS THIS AFTERNOON, WE ALL ENDED UP WITH A SPLITTING HEADACHE.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: S equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bake sale org.
4 List-ending abbr.
7 Animal
12 Sleep phenom
13 Bill’s partner
14 White-collared thrush (Var.)
15 Sphere
16 Quasimodo, notably
18 Tramcar contents
19 Sequence
20 Mac-Donald’s place
22 Ages and ages
23 Hardy cabbage
27 Help
29 Penn pal
31 Be a gold-brick
34 Material for blue shoes
35 Addicted

DOWN
1 Evidence
2 Earth
3 Cautionary color
4 Reverberate
5 Went sight-seeing
6 Individually owned apartment
7 Physicist
8 Niels
9 — Today
10 Sleuth
11 Antlered animal
17 Minimal change
21 Report card data
23 Likely
37 Longings
38 Sinbad’s bird
41 Fly fast
45 Spanish appetizers
47 Weep
48 Car style
52 Bill
53 Open-mouthed
54 Golfer’s concern
55 Greek vowel
56 Sir’s counterpart
57 Horror film with four sequels
58 Sen. Kennedy

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday’s answer 9-4

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		