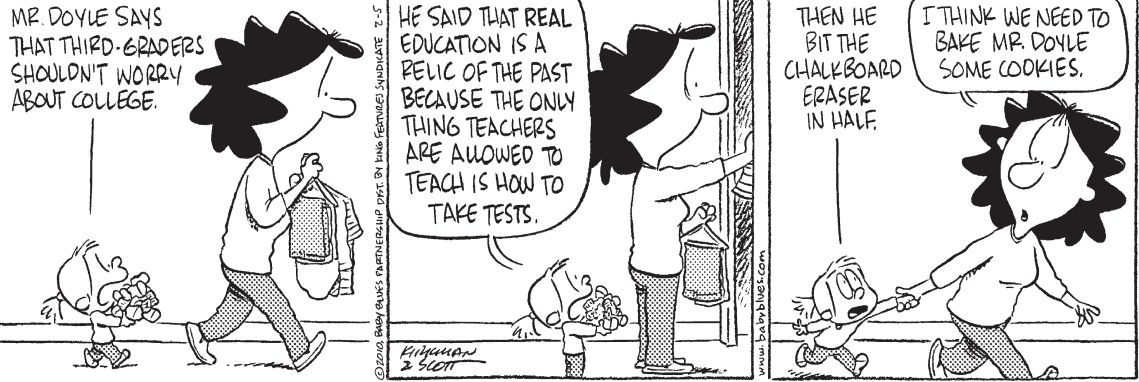
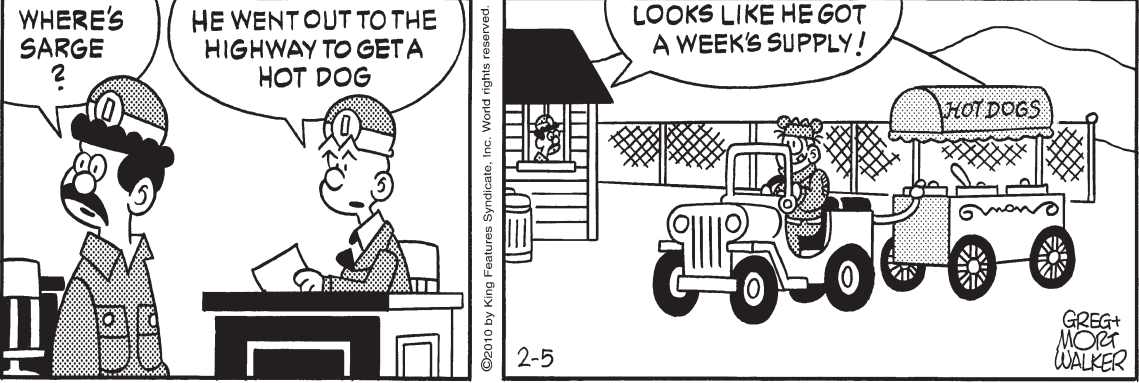


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



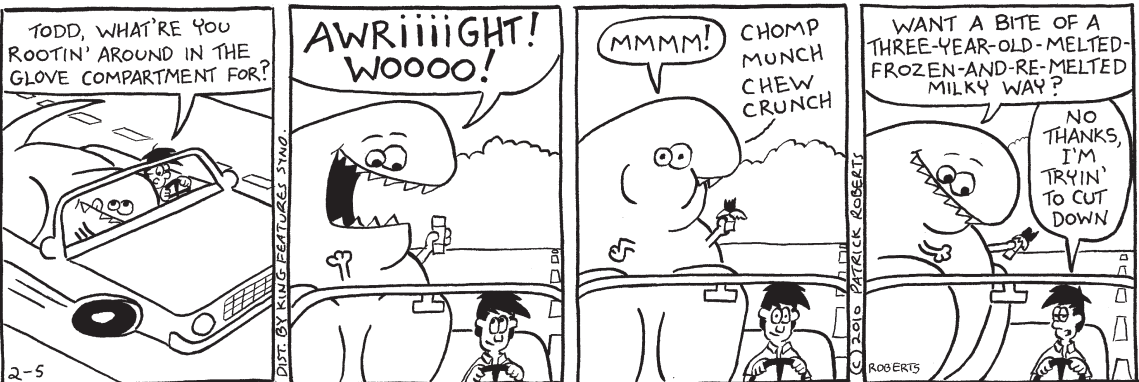
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Carpet dents easy to get out

Dear Heloise: Here is my question: We recently moved our den furniture, and now the CARPET HAS LARGE INDENTATIONS that won't disappear. Is there any way to remove these carpet? Thank you. – B.T.P., via e-mail

There are several hints to try to remove what we call “fur-dents.” Fill a spray bottle with hot tap water and spritz on the dents till they are pretty damp. Use your hair dryer to blow hot air over the area, and fluff with your fingers. It may take several times. You also can place an ice cube in the spot and let it slowly melt. Fluff with your fingers every so often. A clothes steamer or steam iron may loosen up the fibers, but DO NOT touch the iron to the carpet! Hope these hints help. – Heloise

KING-SIZE BEDSHEET

Dear Heloise: The sheet for our king-size bed always seemed a bit narrow, or my husband hogged too much of it. After we moved to a town-house, I had a good supply of twin sheets. So I sewed two of them together after cutting 10-12 inches off each. The center seam doesn't bother us, and now the sheet hangs over each side in an ample amount. – B. Palm, via e-mail

MICROWAVE CLEANING

Dear Heloise: Do you have dried spatters inside your microwave? Boil half a cup of water in a microwave-safe bowl for a few minutes inside the microwave. Let stand (until cool – Heloise). Wipe the interior with a damp paper towel. The job is done easily and quickly. Best wishes. – Ruthann Irving, Mattoon, Ill.

Ruthann, great green hint! No harsh chemicals. Just be careful when handling the bowl, because the water will be HOT. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I use the plastic (zipper) bags that bedsheets come in to pack my spillable items when traveling – such things as liquid soap, alcohol, shaving cream, shampoo and conditioner.

I also pack medicine and other toiletry items in these bags, because they are easy to locate. – Annie Allen, Town Creek, Ala.

OLD SEAM RIPPER

Dear Heloise: I had an old seam ripper that had lost its sharpness and couldn't be used for my sewing projects anymore. Instead of tossing it, I put it in my kitchen. The seam ripper works great for removing labels from cans and containers that go into the recycling bin for weekly pickup. It's also a lot safer to use the seam ripper than a pair of scissors or a sharp knife. – Robin in Nebraska

RECIPE KEEPERS

Dear Heloise: I cut out Heloise hints and recipes from the paper, and I glue them into a cheap spiral notebook. I don't lose them, and I know where to look when I'm ready to use them. If they're a “keeper,” then I can add them to my favorite cookbook. – Karen in Mississippi

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Assume you're East and that South opens Four Spades, which everyone passes.

North

♠ A 10
♦ K Q J 10 8 5
♣ 9 8 7 6 3

East

♠ Q 5 3
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ A 9 6 4
♣ A 5

Partner leads the king of clubs. You overtake with the ace and return the five to West's ten, declarer following low. Your partner then leads the queen of clubs, ruffed by declarer as you discard a diamond. South now plays the A-K of spades, West following low to both, and next leads the jack of spades, on which West discards the diamond deuce. After you win with the queen, your side's third trick, what would you play next? (Assume your partner is a first-rate defender.)

Test Your Defensive Play

It is known that declarer started with exactly eight spades and two clubs, so your only problem is to contend with the possible distributions of South's three red cards. You dismiss the possibility that South has the K-Q-x of hearts, because the contract cannot be defeated in that case. You also ignore those cases where South has two hearts and a diamond or two diamonds and a heart (or even all three diamonds), because the contract will fail whether you cash the ace of diamonds at this point or return a heart instead.

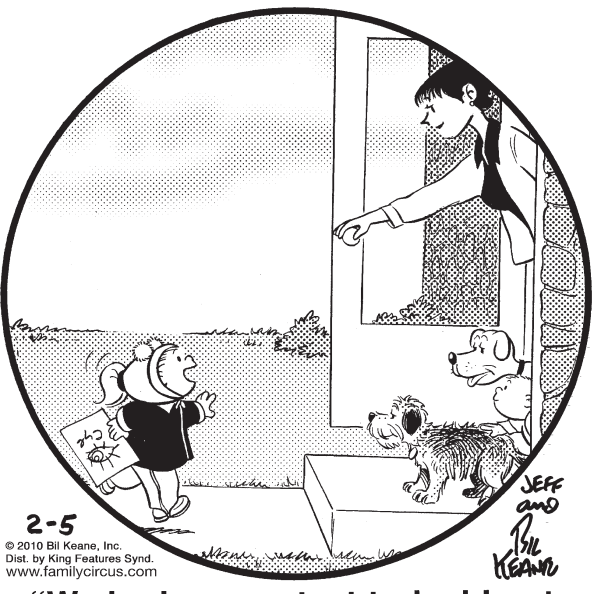
The only case that matters, therefore, is when declarer has three hearts (not including the K-Q) and no diamonds, so all your thoughts should be focused on this one possibility. A diamond return in that case would hand declarer the contract, so you should conclude that a heart return is the only correct play.

But which heart should you lead? It would be fatal if you led a low one and it turned out that South had the K-9-x. After playing low from his hand, he would take your partner's queen with the ace and then finesse against your jack, thus obliterating your side's potential heart trick. It would also prove fatal to lead a low heart if South had Q-9-x and played low from his hand.

The only play that caters to all cases where the contract can be defeated is to lead the jack of hearts! This succeeds whenever your partner has the Q-x-x-x of hearts and also when he has K-x-x-x and does not cover when South plays the queen on your jack. It would not be difficult for him to duck the queen because, as we said at the start, he is a very good player. He knows almost as much about declarer's hand as you do, and he can therefore be expected to do the right thing.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

RDPUN Z WPZIO PMZW

IRNEZBJ OBZDU ZBPH PMU

YXLYOZB, AHX LZJMP WRA

Z'CC MREU R JHNUT JHXNT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A WORM FINDS ITSELF ENCLOSED IN A FUZZY FRUIT, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY IT'S IMPEACHED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Mas-seur's workplace
- 4 "Just Dance" singer Lady —
- 8 Crazy
- 12 Scepter topper
- 13 "Zounds!"
- 14 Stench
- 15 Ship-repair site
- 17 Wilder or Hackman
- 18 Help
- 19 Inventor Whitney
- 21 Appomat-tox surren-derer
- 22 Caseload
- 26 Barber-shop item
- 29 Cocoa holder
- 30 "What'd you say?"
- 31 Black birds
- 32 "Great Expectations" lad
- 33 Poi base
- 34 B&B
- 35 Car wash option

DOWN

- 2 Paid players
- 3 Basic education
- 4 Old Faithful, e.g.
- 5 Playing marble
- 6 Needle-fish
- 7 Made sense
- 8 Spock's specialty
- 9 Praise in verse
- 10 Anti
- 11 Raw rock
- 16 Narcs' measures
- 20 Journal
- 23 Tatar chief
- 24 Modern-day coin
- 1 Pop

25 Son of

- 26 Foray
- 27 Domini
- 28 Galvaniz-ing
- 29 Blend
- 32 Process-ions
- 33 Clan emblem
- 35 Stir-fry need
- 36 Break-room supply
- 38 Fortune-teller's deck
- 39 Making all the stops
- 42 Strike from the text
- 43 Summer-time pest
- 44 Make a good impres-sion?
- 45 Pale
- 46 Shade
- 47 "— a Wonderful Life"
- 49 Man-mouse link

OFFS	CORA	FEE
ALOE	AVER	IDS
FIRST	BASE	RIP
SPEARS	NASTY	
	MY	DEALT
BILE	VIA	BAAS
BRA	EAR	ILK
CASE	INN	IDLY
	TRALA	AN
FOCAL	ASSORT	
AHA	LAST	STRAW
NIL	OLIO	EZIO
SOL	WARP	PODS

Yesterday's answer 2-5

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	