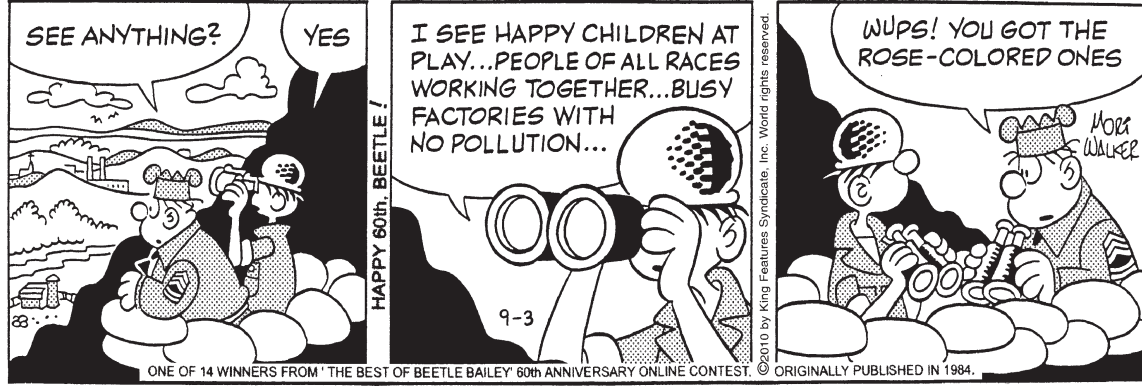


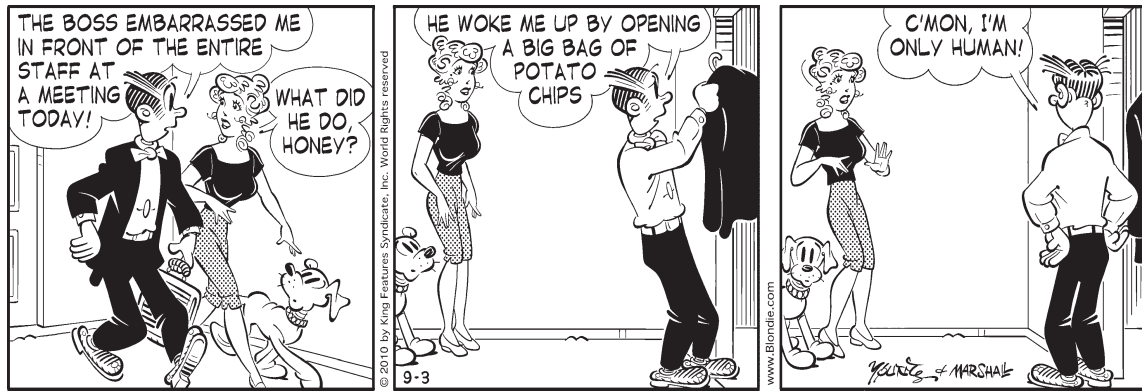
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



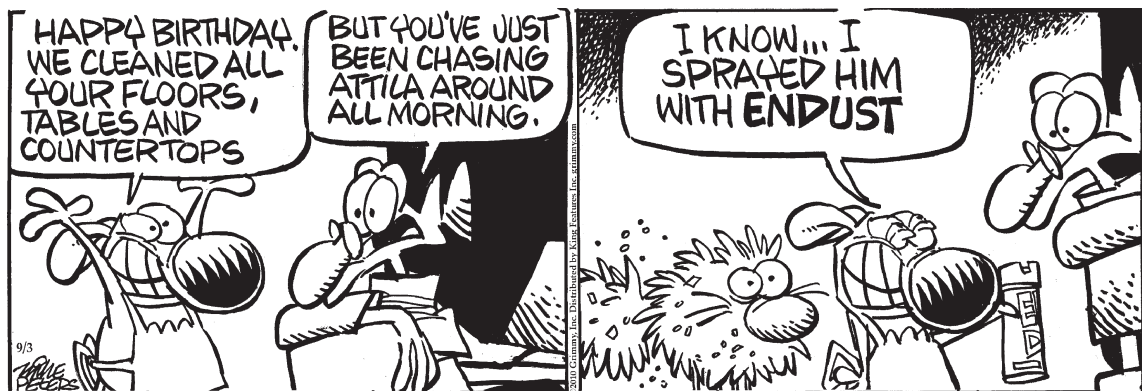
**Blondie** • Chic Young



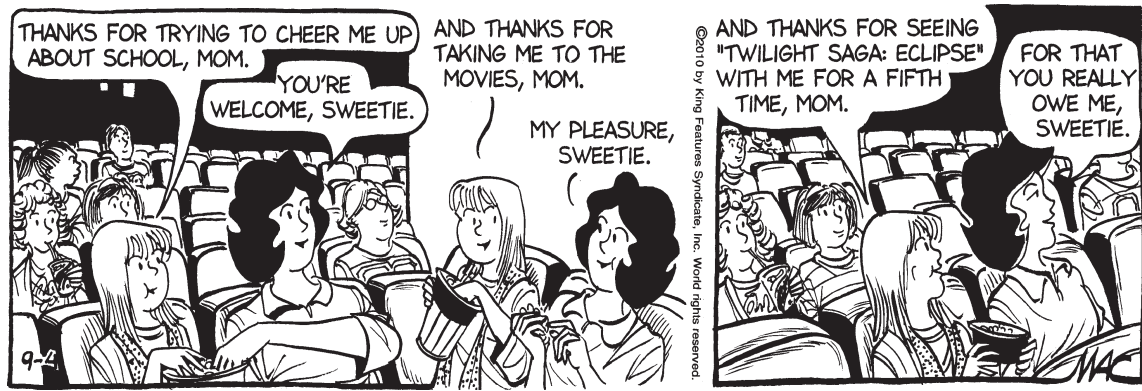
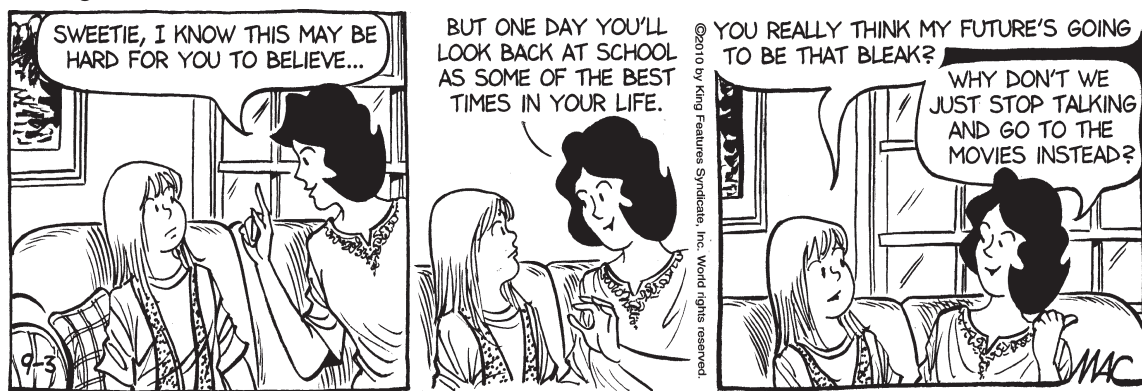
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Follow policies when child flies**

Dear Readers: Do you need to send a CHILD ALONE ON A TRIP by commercial airline? Airlines have procedures that must be followed, and most policies are similar, but you should check with the specific airline you are using.

An unaccompanied minor may range from 5 to 17 years old. There usually is an additional fee. If the child is flying alone, let the airline know when making the reservation.

The Transportation Security Administration will provide an escort pass, which allows you to take your child right to the gate. You must stay at the gate until take off, in case there is a problem.

A person you designate will be allowed to pick up the child from the airline representative or flight attendant at the gate upon arrival. When making the reservation, provide the name, address and phone number of the person who is picking up your child. Be sure that person has a government-issued identification and a current photo ID. The airline will hand off the child only to that predesignated person.

Make sure the child has, a cell phone or calling card for an emergency. Check the weather several times before heading to the airport. The airlines book unaccompanied minors on early flights, in case there are weather-related or other delays.

Before booking a flight for an unaccompanied minor, check the airline's and airport's websites, or call with any questions. — Heloise

**SHOWER-CURTAIN REPAIR**

Dear Heloise: If the holes at the top of a plastic shower curtain rip open, I cut the good part of the plastic shower curtain into a gigantic square or rectangle and use the sheet of plastic as a colorful tablecloth on one of my outdoor patio tables. — Christie Adams, Honolulu

Aloha to my readers in Hawaii! Glad to be back "visiting" Oahu! Mahalo. — Heloise

**WATER SAVER**

Dear Heloise: We have a large, plastic, inflatable kiddie pool in the driveway. I always felt guilty when changing the water because it would run down the street, wasting water.

I took a small, portable sump pump (we have one in the garage) and hooked a hose to it, put it in the pool and plugged it in. Now I can divert the water for watering the garden, flower beds and young trees. It's saving a precious resource, and no more guilt. — Tracey in Minnesota

**SILVERWARE DRAWER**

Dear Heloise: Here's how I keep silverware divider boxes from moving in the drawer. Measure a cardboard paper-towel tube and cut to the right length. Place between the back wall of the drawer and the back edge of the box. It is working perfectly. — Don Olson, Omaha, Neb.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the queen of hearts followed by the jack. You play low twice from dummy as South contributes the six and four. How would you play the hand?

**WEST**  
 ♠ A K 5  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ A K 10 6 2  
 ♣ A K 10 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ 9 7 4 3  
 ♥ K 8 5 2  
 ♦ Q J 9  
 ♣ Q J

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Diamonds doubled, the bidding having gone:

**North** 1♠  
**East** Pass  
**South** 4♣  
**West** 5♦

Dble Pass Pass Pass

North leads the king of spades, which you ruff. When you lead the ace of diamonds, South discards a spade. How would you play the hand?

**WEST**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ A K Q 10 7 4 3  
 ♣ A K Q 6 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 6 5 4  
 ♥ 9 8 7 3 2  
 ♦ 5 2  
 ♣ 9 3

**Test Your Play**

1. The best way to avoid a spade loser is to try for a dummy reversal. Ruff the second heart with the king of diamonds and cash the J-9 of trumps.

If the adverse trumps are divided 3-2, ruff the eight of hearts (assume the ace does not fall). Then lead a club to dummy's jack and ruff the heart king with your last trump. Now lead a club to the queen and cash the queen of trumps, discarding your spade loser, and the rest of the tricks are yours.

All told, you score six trump tricks (dummy's Q-J-9 and the three heart ruffs in your hand), two spades and four clubs. This type of play is called "dummy reversal" because declarer reverses the usual procedure of ruffing losers in dummy and instead ruffs dummy's losers in his hand.

2. The correct lead at trick three is the ten of hearts! This seemingly aimless play offers the best chance for the contract, since the North hand probably looks something like:

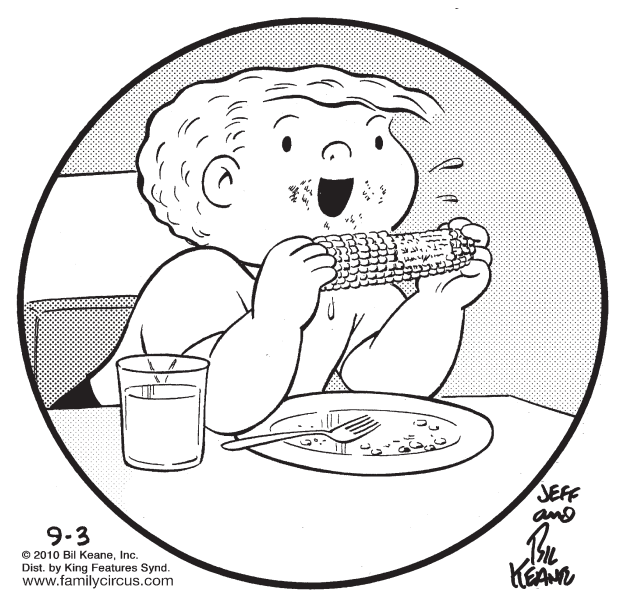
♠ A K J 9 2  
 ♥ K J  
 ♦ J 9 8 6  
 ♣ J 4

If you don't lead the ten of hearts and instead play the A-K of clubs, planning next to ruff a low club in dummy, North can defeat you by trumping the third club, leading the heart jack to his partner's ace and trumping a club return by South.

The purpose of the early heart play is to remove South's heart entry prematurely and thus assure the contract even if North has only a doubleton club. If you make the heart play at trick three, the only tricks you can lose — assuming North has a hand similar to the one shown — are a heart and a diamond.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Corn tastes best when it's on these rollers."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 9/03

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

G K O V O F V S O S C T C D Z P R U P X O D G

G F P X G F W P D R E C D Z O W U C N

N C Z K G S F T O G F A O X P S S O R

D P A F W E ' D O C Z K A F W E .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG WEEKEND SKIT SHOW HOSTED BY CELEBRATED ADVENTURE NOVELIST CUSSLER: "SATURDAY NIGHT CLIVE"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Likely
  - 4 Literary collection
  - 7 Like a snake's eyes
  - 12 Bud's buddy
  - 13 Once around
  - 14 Political debate subject
  - 15 Under the weather
  - 16 Chinese leader, 1911-12
  - 18 — relief
  - 19 Curved moldings
  - 20 Baghdad's land
  - 22 Actor Linden
  - 23 Hardy cabbage
  - 27 Last (Abbr.)
  - 29 Take a parking space
  - 31 Bewildered
  - 34 Napped leather
- DOWN**
- 2 Excuse
  - 1 — opposite
  - 47 "The way"
  - 48 Drummer with The Who
  - 52 Cologne label word
  - 53 Bert's roomie
  - 54 Lennon's lady
  - 55 Performance
  - 17 Shrill cry
  - 21 Line
  - 23 Hardly graceful one
  - 24 Pub order
  - 25 Cover suffix
  - 26 Chemical
  - 28 Young bloke
  - 30 Work with
  - 31 Sternward
  - 32 Stab city
  - 33 Fool
  - 36 Pond gunk
  - 37 Karl or Moses of basketball
  - 40 Irrefutable evidence
  - 42 Top players
  - 43 Civil rights org.
  - 44 Adolescence
  - 45 "That was close!"
  - 46 Winter forecast
  - 48 Mauna
  - 49 Work unit
  - 50 B&B
  - 51 Cravat

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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		