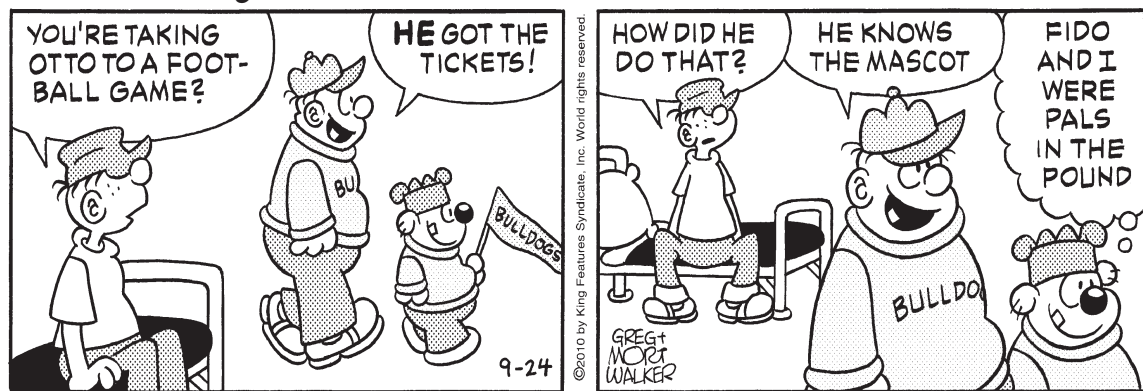


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



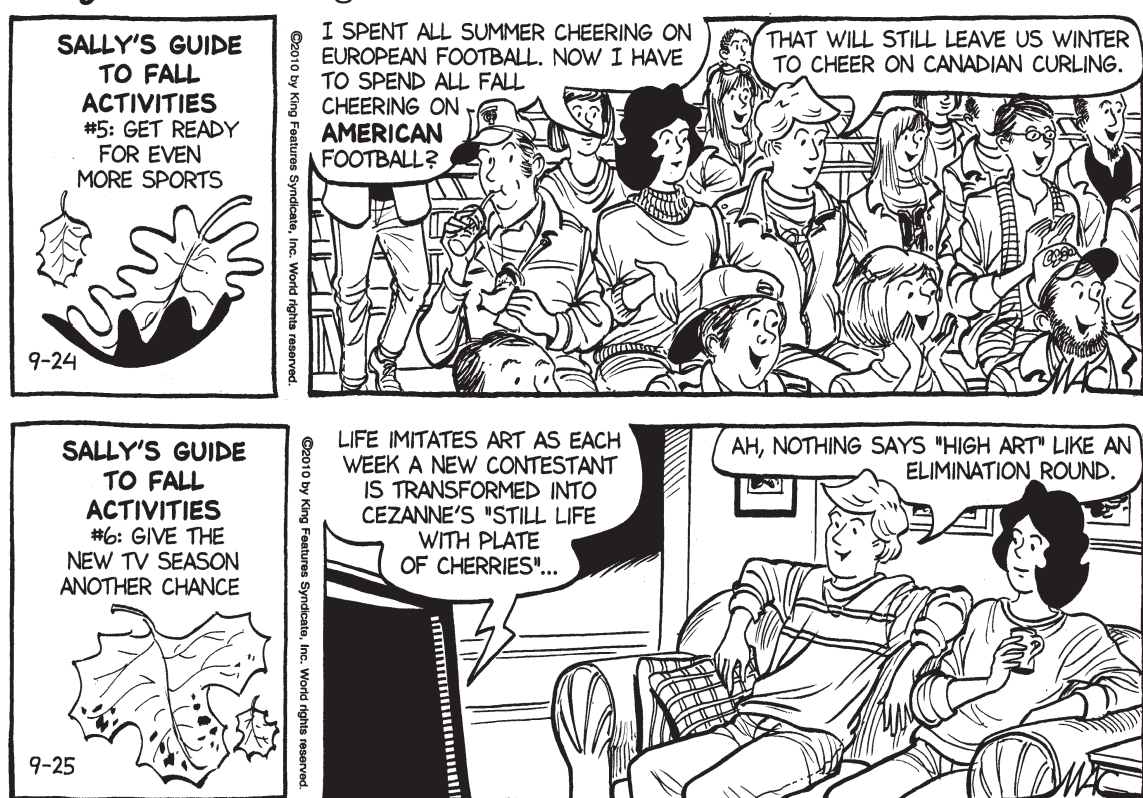
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



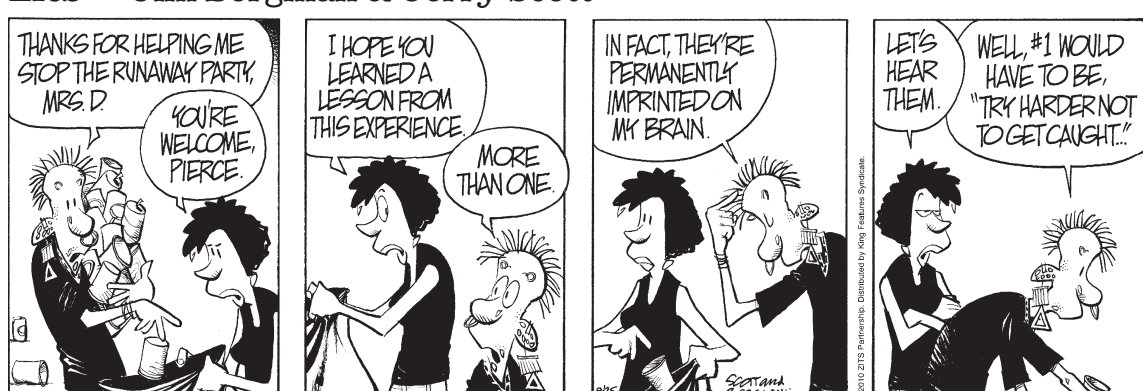
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Get all cords in one accord**

Dear Heloise: I'm sure most of your readers have a JUMBLE OF WIRES AND CORDS behind the entertainment center or TV. The cable box, DVD player and gaming units all plug in back there. I got tired of trying to figure out which wire went to which unit, so I labeled each cord with a piece of masking tape. No more fishing for the correct cord! — L.G. in Texas

Brilliant! That tangle of cords can really be a mess. Thanks for writing. — Heloise

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: Carry a small bath towel with you on an airplane. It serves many functions: napkin, lap blanket, wrap for small items, cover for headrest and seat cover. So functional! — Sharon in Indiana

**FALL PLANTING**

Dear Readers: Here are some fall planting hints:

- What vegetables would you like to grow? Tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes and spinach all flourish in the fall.
- In general, "seedy" vegetables like squash and tomato need full sun, and "shady" (root) vegetables, such as potatoes, lettuce and beets, will do well in partial shade.
- Check with your Cooperative Extension Service about details for your area. — Heloise

**EASY ID**

Dear Heloise: Recently, when I was installing a garbage disposal, I had a brainstorm: Why not label each outlet in the house with the number that controls it at the main power box? Mine is in my garage and is a pain to get to in the summer. It makes it convenient and removes guesswork when the power needs to be shut off in one area. — Renee Schooler, via e-mail

**PHONE FRIENDS**

Dear Heloise: I play dice games, cards and other games with different groups of women. I use a separate address book for each group, and enter their phone numbers, etc., under their FIRST names instead of their last. It saves time (because I cannot always think of their last names) when I need to call one or more of them. — Leona in Kansas

**GREEN HINT**

Dear Heloise: My hint involves recycling manila filing folders: When one is not needed, I hesitate to throw it away because the folder usually is still in good shape. However, if the tab is labeled with a pen, it is more difficult to reuse.

I use removable tape, found in office-supply stores. Instead of writing on the folder tab, I place a strip of tape on the tab and write on it.

When the file is ready to be repurposed, all I have to do is remove the tape, and voila! I have a new folder. — Veronica Escobedo, San Antonio

**PILLOWCASE**

Dear Heloise: To easily put on a pillowcase, slip your arm into an inside-out pillowcase like a sleeve — arm to one side of the case. Now grasp the end of the pillow and fold the case over it, right side out. — Tanya in New York

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads a trump, South following suit. How would you play the hand?

**WEST**  
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 4 2  
♥ 6 3  
♦ —  
♣ A Q 9

**EAST**  
♠ A 9 7  
♥ A K J 5 2  
♦ Q 7  
♣ 6 5 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand?

**WEST**  
♠ K 8 4  
♥ —  
♦ J 10 6  
♣ A Q 7 6 5 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ A Q 9  
♥ Q 10 6 3 2  
♦ A Q 5  
♣ 10 3

**Test Your Play**

1. This is one of those cases where you're sure to make the contract by playing your cards correctly. Win the trump lead in dummy, ruff a diamond, play a heart to dummy's king and ruff the queen of diamonds. Then lead a heart to the ace and return a club from dummy.

If South follows low, finesse the nine. North probably wins with the ten or jack, but whatever he returns, you are sure to make the slam. If he returns a club, or gives you a ruff-and-discard by leading a diamond, you have the rest of the tricks. Also, North cannot return a heart (if he has one at this point) without establishing at least one of dummy's hearts as a trick.

Finally, if South produces the club ten or jack on your club lead from dummy at trick six, you cover with the queen to create the same ending.

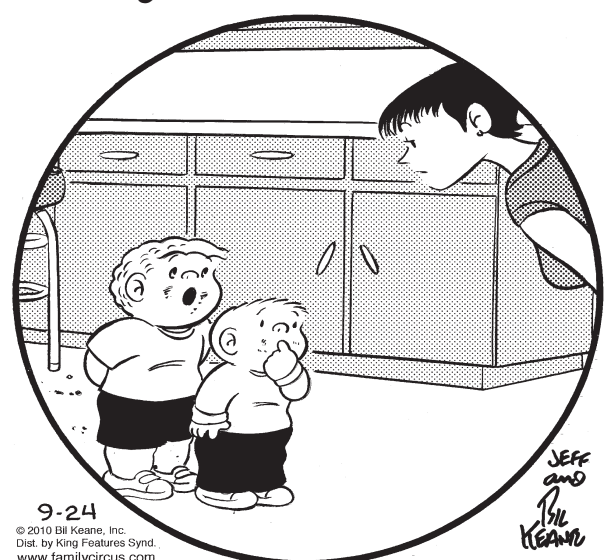
2. Ruff the heart and lead a low diamond to dummy's queen. If the finesse loses to South's king, your only chance for the slam is to find South with the doubleton king of clubs. You take a trump finesse as soon as possible and hope for the best.

If the diamond finesse at trick two wins, indicating that North has the king, lead a low trump to your ace at trick three! If the jack or king of trumps appears on this trick, you're sure to make the slam, since your only possible loser would be a trump trick. If both defenders play low on the ace of clubs, return to dummy with a spade and lead the ten of clubs. If South follows suit, you're home safe and sound.

Note that once the diamond finesse wins at trick two, it becomes better to play a trump to your ace than to try a trump finesse, since this guards against the singleton king in the North hand. With a slam at stake, the safety play of the ace gives you the maximum chance for the contract.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Member those chocolate peanuts you hid on the top shelf behind the soup cans? I think PJ found them."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 9/24

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

OAMVBKA E KEDNZG MZY'P  
LAP AYQBLU QX PUQKA  
KBNACO AAZK, E PUEYJ  
E'ZZ LQ OVMJ XQC DQCVG.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CANDIDATE REMOVED HIMSELF FROM THE BALLOT. I BELIEVE THAT'S CALLED A DE-NOMINATION.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Doo follower  
4 Gift-tag word  
8 Highway access  
12 Have bills  
13 Hawk-eyes' home  
14 Satanic  
15 Promonary  
17 Part of N.B.  
18 Accomplishment  
19 Heart line?  
20 Grinder  
22 Dos cubed  
24 "Metamorphoses" poet  
25 Blended beverage  
29 Author Deighton  
30 Mimic's forte  
31 Conclude  
32 Equestrian showmanship  
34 Senate staffer

**DOWN**

1 Homer's interjection  
2 Shock partner  
3 Banner  
4 Taxpayer, in April  
5 Fork choice  
6 Possessive  
7 Insane  
8 Start  
9 State with conviction  
10 Mouthwash flavor  
11 Entreaty  
16 Out of cereal  
19 "Hi, sailor!"  
20 Shape  
21 Finished  
22 Last letter  
23 Heart  
25 Mast  
26 Wrestling hold  
27 Playwright William  
28 Paradise  
30 Inquires  
33 14-line verse  
34 Wharf  
36 Pal  
37 "West Side Story" gang  
38 Count counterpart  
39 Vicinity  
40 Go belly-up  
42 Possessed  
43 Flightless bird  
44 Overseas agreement?  
45 Tex.—cuisine

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 9-24