

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



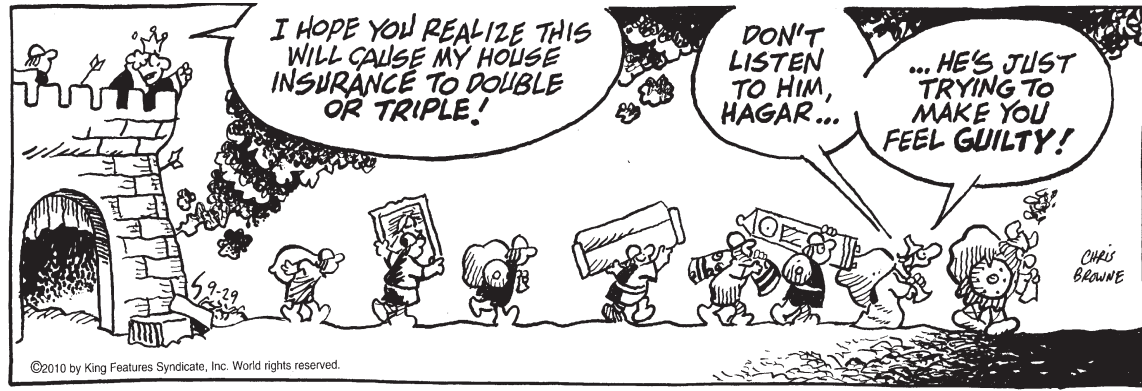
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



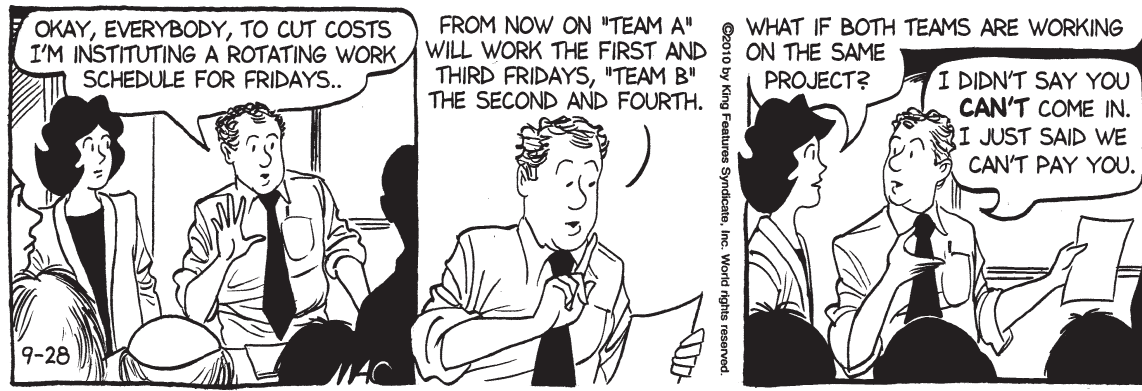
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



**Carrots worth weight in orange**

Dear Readers: Cabbie (our mini schnauzer) and I love FRESH CARROTS as snacks! An average-size carrot has about 35-48 calories per 100 grams, so they are healthy for both of us! Carrots are excellent for eye health, among many traits, and it's because an average carrot has two and a half times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A.

But did you know that cooking carrots releases more vitamin A (beta carotene) than consuming them raw? I didn't! And juicing a raw carrot makes a vitamin-packed drink, too.

Carrots are orange, typically, but around the world, they can be red, yellow, white and even purple! Texas A&M University has a maroon one, the BetaSweet. The school's colors are maroon and white, so of course it developed a maroon carrot!

How best to store carrots? The vegetable drawer of the refrigerator is the place. Remove the leafy tops if there are any, but don't cut into the flesh itself, according to our experts, and keep them in a plastic bag. Separate carrots from other fruits and vegetables, such as apples.

And baby carrots? Are they a special miniature variety of carrot? Nope. They are regular carrots that are cut down to about 2 inches long, scrubbed, peeled and polished. — Heloise

**FRESH COFFEE**

Dear Heloise: To keep brewed coffee fresh-tasting, always put a pinch of salt in the coffee before brewing (my mother's recipe). It will never have a bitter taste. You can leave it out or put it in the refrigerator. — Hylda Wilson, Jacksonville, Fla.

An old hint that many people do, but today's coffee is processed differently, so there usually is not a bitter taste, unless the coffee is left to sit too long. — Heloise

**NO LUNCHMEAT? NO PROBLEM**

Dear Heloise: Ever go to make your kids' lunch and find you've run out of lunchmeat? A good substitute for baloney is packaged hot dogs, most of which are precooked. Simply thin-slice lengthwise and place on your favorite sandwich bread, add your favorite condiments, and they'll never know the difference. — Will in California

**DECORATIVE TINS**

Dear Heloise: I have a great hint for using decorative tins for baked goods/candy, etc. I use a coffee filter to line the bottom of the tin. Do not cut the filter. If it extends up the sides of the tin, that is fine. It gives a more professional look to have a paper liner rather than just seeing the bottom of the tin. Makes a better presentation. — Mary Lou in Pennsylvania

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 10 8 5 2  
♥ 10  
♦ J 10 4  
♣ 7 6 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ A J 7  
♥ 8 4 3 2  
♦ 2  
♣ K Q J 10 4

**EAST**  
♠ K 9 6 4 3  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ K 9 3  
♣ 9 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ —  
♥ K Q J 9 5  
♦ A Q 8 7 6 5  
♣ A 8

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♣ Pass  
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠  
Pass 4 ♥ Pass 5 ♠

Opening lead — king of clubs.

**Zia Magic**

Today's deal was reported by Roger Allen, a high-school math teacher from Toronto. Allen had kibitzed Zia Mahmood at a match in the 1998 Vanderbilt Teams and felt it was his journalistic duty to make sure that what he saw reached "the light of day in the bridge press."

Aside from his general brilliance in all aspects of the game, Zia is particularly noted for his ability to create a subterfuge that diverts an opponent from the winning course of play. Such was the case in this deal.

Zia was East and remarkably remained silent during the auction, which ended with South in five diamonds. West led the club king, taken by declarer with the ace.

South then led a heart to dummy's ten and Zia's ace. At this point most mortals would return their remaining club to partner's ten, after which declarer would make the contract by eventually ruffing one of his hearts in dummy in order to take the winning diamond finesse.

But Zia foresaw this scenario and devised a plan to deflect declarer from the winning path. So at trick three, instead of returning a club, he shifted to a low spade!

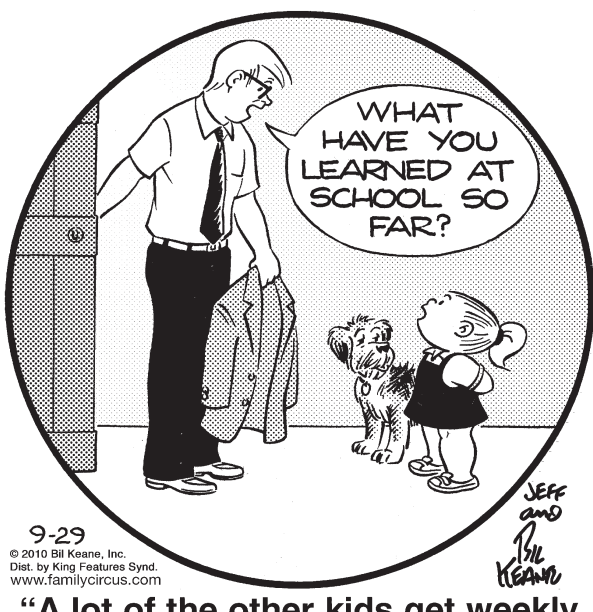
The spade return convinced declarer that Zia had started with only one club, in which case the contract might be made without risking a diamond finesse. If Zia started with one club, there was an excellent chance he had four hearts, which in turn meant dummy's remaining clubs could be discarded on high hearts.

So after ruffing the spade, South cashed the ace of diamonds and then played three top hearts, discarding dummy's clubs. But Zia ruffed the fourth heart and cashed the king to set the contract.

Declarer's line of play would have succeeded had either opponent started with the singleton king of diamonds, the K-x of diamonds and three hearts, or the K-x-x of diamonds and four hearts. Whether he should have chosen this approach is open to question, but one thing is certain: If Zia hadn't given him a little bit of rope by returning a spade at trick three, declarer would never have hanged himself.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



9-29  
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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

XYUVRWY AJSWY CYSCGY VZY  
VA V JVNHHVQ XSNGHQK  
VGGYL, UVQ LSR WVL AJYL'ZY  
ZSGGHQK HQ AJY HWGY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE YOUNG COUPLE DECIDED TO MARRY IN SANTIAGO, I ASSUME THEY GOT A CHILE RECEPTION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Honest politician  
4 Spring  
8 Unrivaled  
12 Water barrier  
13 Frizzy coiffure  
14 State with certainty  
15 Sapporo  
16 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical  
18 John's 2008 running mate  
20 Vast expanse  
21 Salon request  
24 Wept  
28 Accesses to greens  
32 Busy with  
33 Curved path  
34 Struck, old-style  
36 Pool stick  
37 Maintain  
39 Don't cheat  
41 Simplifies  
43 "Soprano" actress de Matteo

**DOWN**

1 Commotions  
2 Rum cake  
3 Eastern potentate  
4 Kidney-shaped nuts  
5 Frequently  
6 Playwright  
7 Many  
8 Jungle  
9 Eggs  
10 Mainlander's memento  
11 Mess up  
17 Common Mkt.  
19 Taxpayer's mo.  
22 Freeway access  
23 "— Kentucky Home"  
25 Erstwhile Peruvian  
26 Needle case  
27 Active one  
28 Counterfeit  
29 Vicinity  
30 Summer desserts  
31 Celeb  
35 Holes for shoelaces  
38 Fuel for a Bentley  
40 Actress Wray  
42 Sauce source  
45 Sgt. Snorkel's dog  
47 Press  
48 Baseball team  
49 Suitable  
50 Watch chain  
51 Carte lead-in  
52 Midafternoon, on a sundial  
53 Piercing tool  
54 Cover

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

WINS ARE RASP  
ALOPECIA EVER  
GOVERNOR FILE  
WOE LOUDLY  
ASSES COWS  
SHED GOBLETS  
HAG PERSES EWE  
GODSONS BEAT  
OTILY OOMPH  
CARUSO SAM  
USER GOLFBALL  
REEL IN ASSENSE  
LADY CAP RIDE

Yesterday's answer 9-29