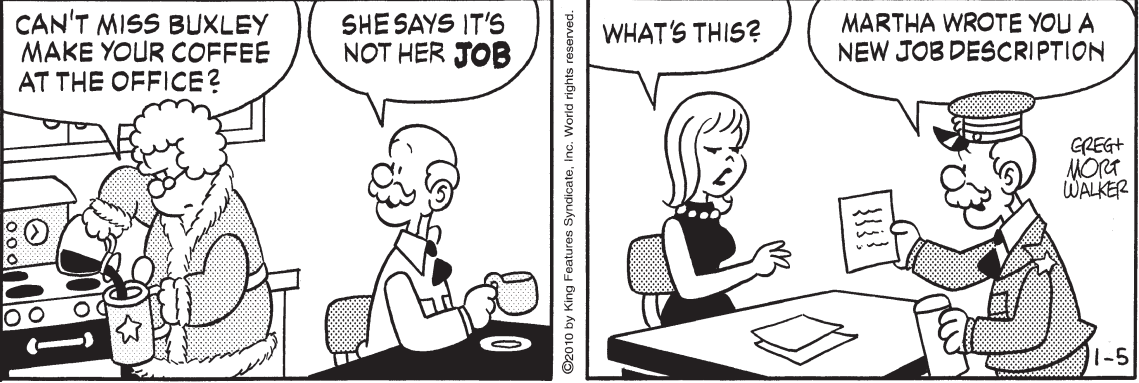


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



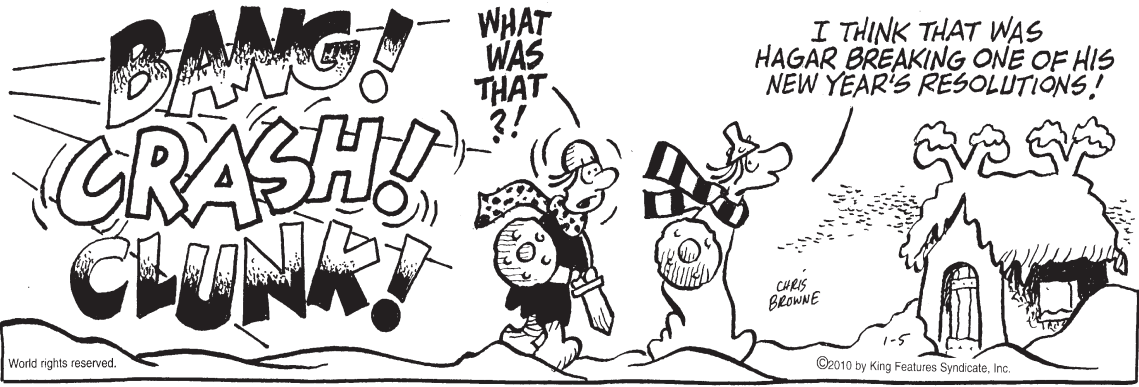
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



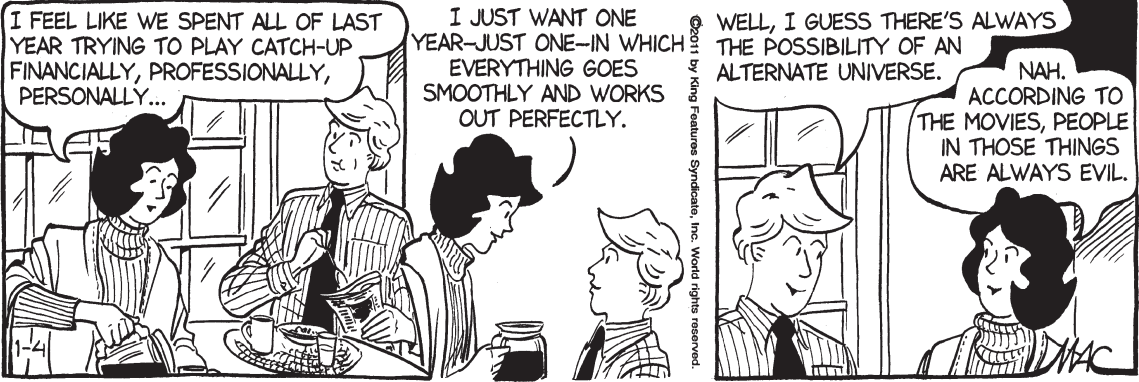
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



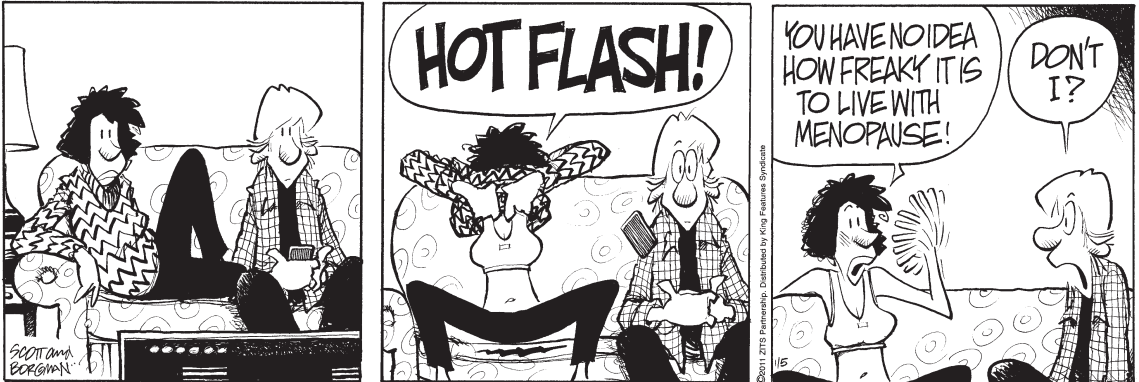
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Planning helps to cook for one

Dear Heloise: After many years of cooking for my family, I am finding it difficult to COOK FOR JUST ONE PERSON. I know this is a common concern for other single people, too. The food industry is not really geared toward one person. I throw away lots of food that just goes bad even though I try to freeze portions and share with friends. What about doing some hints on keeping crackers fresh, etc.? – Lou W. in San Antonio

Lou, I understand your situation. When you find individual portions, they can be pricey. Here are some hints for keeping food fresh:

- Store crackers in tall, round potato-chip cans. And here's a hint from my mother, the original Heloise: Keep crackers in the freezer after putting them in a freezer bag.
- Label, label, label, and date everything! Mark each item in the freezer.
- Did you know that canned and frozen vegetables may be better nutritionally and less expensive than fresh produce? Think about peas, green beans or broccoli. They are picked; they may sit on a truck, then in a warehouse, then in the bin at the supermarket. Many frozen or canned veggies are picked and packaged right away.
- Keep an inventory of what's in your refrigerator and freezer. You'll use leftovers on that half-serving of meat before it goes south! – Heloise

KITCHEN TOWEL

Dear Heloise: I keep a kitchen towel on my oven door handle, and I constantly have to bend down to pick it up after I bump against it. I cut a small, 3-inch-wide strip of nonstick drawer liner long enough to wrap around the middle of the handle a couple of times, and I fastened it with tape. This keeps the towel off the floor, which is more sanitary. – Janice Moses, via e-mail

AVOCADO BROWNING

Dear Heloise: My suggestion for any avocado dish (to prevent the avocado from browning – Heloise) is to simply add 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of citric-acid crystals or a teaspoon of lemon or lime juice to the dish. The citric acid will allow the guacamole to retain its color. This also works well with peeled, uncooked potatoes left out of water. – A Reader, via e-mail

And apples, also! – Heloise

FROZEN BISCUITS

Dear Heloise: I have never liked biscuits after they have been frozen, but I don't want to throw away food. One day I decided to try something to improve them. I boiled a pot of water and put my splatter screen over the boiling water. I split the biscuits and laid them on the splatter screen for about 10 seconds, turned them over and did the other side. They came out great. The steam added moisture so the biscuits weren't crumbling, and they came out hot! – Lois P., via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 5
♥ J 7 2
♦ Q 10 9 8 5 3
♣ 6

WEST

♠ K 9 3
♥ 10 9 8 5 3
♦ A K
♣ J 7 2

EAST

♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 7 6 2
♣ Q 9 8 4

SOUTH

♠ J 8 4
♥ A K Q
♦ J 4
♣ A K 10 5 3

The bidding:

1 ♠ South Pass 1 ♠ North Pass
2 NT South Pass 3 NT North Pass

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

The Gordian Knot

The defenders' primary goal is to defeat the contract. In planning the defense, therefore, a defender should automatically reject any lie of the cards that does not allow him to achieve that objective, while at the same time seeking one that will.

Consider this case where South arrived at three notrump on the bidding shown. His jump to two notrump without a genuine spade stopper was somewhat irregular, but no better bid was available.

Declarer took the heart lead with the queen – East playing the discouraging four – and led the jack of diamonds. West won, East following with the deuce, and was faced with the problem of what to do next. Had he continued with a heart, South would have had no trouble scoring 10 tricks.

But West instead shifted to the king of spades, after which declarer could no longer make the contract. This extraordinary play – no other return could have stopped South from getting home safely – had a sound basis. Its purpose was to cut declarer off from dummy's long diamonds, and it succeeded admirably. Whether South won the king with the ace or ducked it (in which case West would continue spades), there would be no entry available later to cash the diamonds.

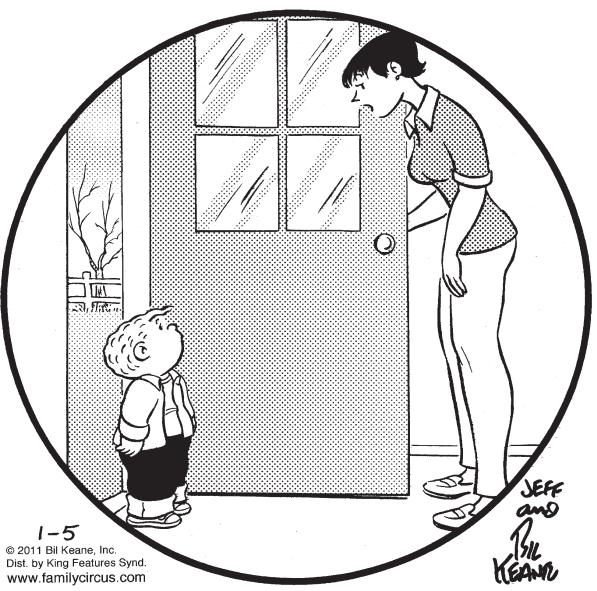
Two important ingredients went into finding the winning defense.

First, East's play of the deuce on the first diamond indicated that he had an odd number of cards in the suit – most likely three (and declarer, therefore, with two). Had East held a doubleton, he would have played his higher diamond first to show an even number of diamonds.

Second, the king-of-spades lead was made in the hope that East had the queen (or South the queen doubleton). Unlikely as this was, West could make no other assumption because to do so would have amounted to a concession of the contract. West therefore did what had to be done to achieve his objective and was well-rewarded for his effort.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

1/0/5

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

HF GQCLAT QZZBDW TVJBQF

MUDL V XTDW AUCA ZIYCLVJ

YCIWDLVLY HXQJU. VA'T

LZA MZIAU ID-GDCAVLY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I CAN GIVE A PROVABLE PROPHECY ABOUT ANYONE'S OUTER EAR. YOU MIGHT SAY I'M AN AURICLE ORACLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dresses in
5 Navy rank (Abbr.)
8 Early birds?
12 Colorful fish
13 Deteriorate
14 Chick's sound
15 Prepare
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Cleans the cookware
19 Not as small
21 Wildebeest
22 Therefore
23 Joke
26 Historic time
28 Weapon in "Psycho"
31 Individuals
33 North Pole employee
35 Concludes
36 Annie of "Designing Women"

DOWN

1 Canines
2 Oil cartel
3 Brussels-based org.
4 Unspoken "I don't know"
5 Rubout
6 Affirmative action?
7 Fashion
8 Fancy centerpiece
9 Move on
10 Siskel or Kelly
11 Mast
16 Sea eagle
20 Noah's boat
23 Bush league?
24 "I'll take that as —"
25 Advance
27 Will Smith biopic
29 Rx safety grp.
30 Kreskin's claim
32 Stanza
34 Above all others
37 Round Table address
39 Title
42 "La Toilette" artist
44 Hose material
45 Open somewhat
46 Big rig
48 Oliver Twist's request
49 "Meet Me — Louis"
50 Hollywood clashers
53 Wapiti

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-5

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				56			
57					58				59			