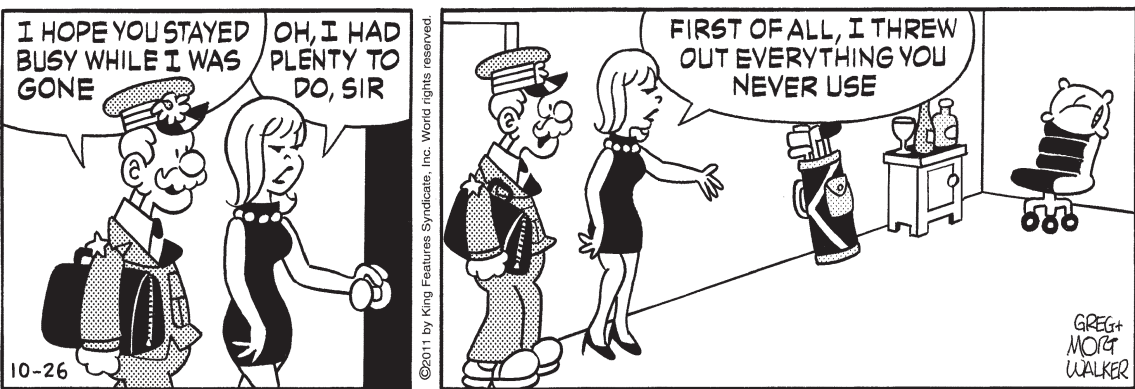


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



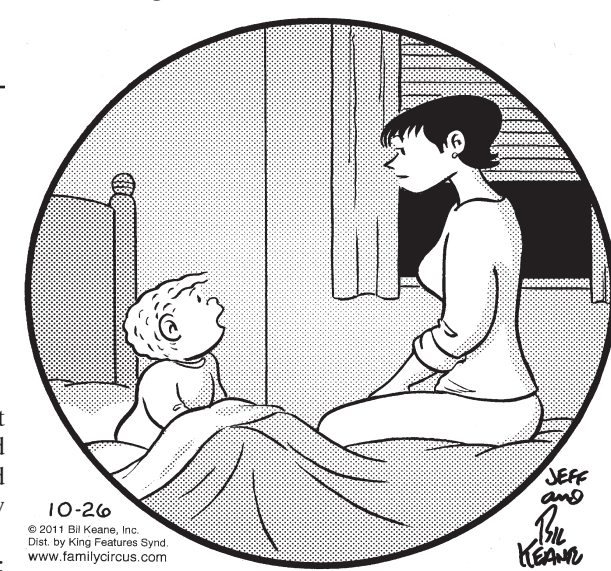
**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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 "Why's it never 'tomorrow,' Mommy? Every time I wake up it's 'today' again."

**Heloise**  
 • Hints from Heloise  
**Banana hints come in a bunch**

Dear Readers: We printed an article about STORING BANANAS and asked readers to send in their hints about favorite ways to buy, store and use bananas that are too ripe. Here are just a few reader responses:

- Renee W. in Westlake Village, Calif., says: "Instead of buying a large bunch of bananas at the same state of ripeness, I split the bunches. I have a couple close to ripe, a few semi-green and a couple pretty green, so I get perfectly ripe bananas spread out over several days."
- Marie Bishop in Oxnard, Calif., says, "My favorite way to use too-ripe bananas is to give them to my horse as treats."
- Debbie in Statesville, N.C., says: "Take the bananas that are too ripe, peel and smash with the back of a fork until smooth. Sandwich between graham crackers, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate an hour or two. The graham crackers soak up the bananas, and they taste just like pieces of banana cake."
- Linda, via email, says: "Spread a well-ripened banana on a toasted English muffin in place of butter. Or, slice bananas on top of vanilla ice cream and drizzle with heated hot-fudge sauce. Yummy!"
- Agnes Miller of Marshall, Ill., says: "My local grocer places a table of bags filled with overripe bananas and reduces the price. I purchase however many bags I wish, mash the bananas with a fork and put pre-measured amounts in freezer bags to use for favorite recipes."
- Mildred A. of Staten Island, N.Y., says: "I peel bananas and put them in the freezer. Then I dip them in melted chocolate. Yum!"

Thanks so much to all the readers who took the time to drop us a line and share their hints. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**  
 Heloise  
 P.O. Box 795000  
 San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
 Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**BAGGED ESSENTIALS**  
 Dear Heloise: My husband and I frequently stay at condos when we travel so we can cook in. My hint is to prepare a large gallon zipper bag with essentials so I don't have to buy them once I arrive. I include a few plastic utensils, napkins, a small shaker of salt and pepper, a small bottle of olive oil, a few extra sandwich baggies, small zipper bags (like those found in craft stores for beads, etc.) with my favorite spice mixes, and perhaps three to four tea bags (for hot or iced tea). I bring this "essentials pack" on almost every trip, and it's been a lifesaver! — Kathy from Camarillo, Calif.

**RECIPE ORGANIZATION**  
 Dear Heloise: Long ago, I filled my recipe box. Eureka, I've found the perfect solution to filing and organizing my hundreds of recipes: a 20-pocket, soft-sided portable case with tabs, handle and latch. It allows me to file with some detail while securing the recipes from spilling out, and it provides ease in transporting and storing. Now when I clip from the paper, magazine or computer printouts, there is plenty of space to store them. — Judy Allen, via email  
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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
 North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ K 9 2  
 ♦ Q 10  
 ♣ A K 8 7 5 4 3

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

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 7  
 ♥ A 8 7 6 3  
 ♦ J 7 2  
 ♣ J 9 6

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

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass 3 — Pass 4 —  
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**The Killing Shift**  
 Today's hand poses an interesting defensive problem. West was on lead against four spades and started out by cashing the K-A of diamonds. When East did not play high-low to show a doubleton, West correctly concluded that his partner had the only missing diamond, which meant there could be no advantage to leading still another diamond.  
 However, this left West with the problem of which suit to play next. Eventually, he shifted to the four of hearts, hoping his partner held the A-J. This did not work out well when declarer played low from dummy. East won the trick with the ace, and South easily made the rest of the tricks.  
 West would have stopped the contract had he shifted to his singleton club at trick three, which would have made it impossible for South to score 10 tricks. If declarer won the club in his hand and led a trump to dummy's queen, he would have no safe way to return to his hand to draw trumps. Nor would he be any better off if he won the first club in dummy.  
 That this is the case should not be difficult for West to see. Assuming only the strong probability that East has the ace of hearts, West should realize that if he shifts to his singleton club, declarer will not be able to overcome his inability to get back and forth to draw trumps.  
 In fact, if South wins the club return in his hand, which is the normal thing to do, he has to play the A-K and another trump to hold himself to down one. If he tries some other approach in an effort to make the contract, he might easily wind up down two.  
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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/26

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.

**Cryptoquip**

LA XQ XEHSY NJXZP X  
 "PHXY HYDB" QXILFXHSY, L  
 YDEBSQ ZSV WLF GH PXZ GD  
 FLIDP X PVJV NDYASYWXQED.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE STRANGE SOUNDS MY CAT PRODUCES ARE PRETTY ENTERTAINING. I WOULD CALL THEM MEWS THAT AMUSE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals Y

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1	1980s TV alien	43	Ballet frill	3	Greek cheese	27	Lairs Master-stroke
4	Vegan's no-no	46	Emperor's proclamation	5	Blunder	29	"Do — others..."
8	Kane's Rosebud	50	Rebates of a sort	7	Burg	30	Blue hue
12	Singer David Allan	55	Triumphed	8	Mideastern greeting	31	In — (as found)
13	Therefore	56	Actress Falco	9	Fond du —, WI	35	Less quick-witted
14	Head light?	57	Gratis	10	Wapiti	38	Merchant
15	— for tat	58	Informal Valentine word	11	Two, in Tijuana	40	Diving bird
16	Disadvantages	59	Bleak, as literature	17	Crib	42	Steal from
18	Big glitch	60	Fly high	19	White lie	45	Lummockes
20	Zero	61	Agent	22	Galatea's love	47	Piercing tools
21	"Handsome — does"			23	Form of trap-shooting	48	First course, often
24	Wanderer			25	Uncategorized (Abbr.)	49	Green-eyed monster
28	Reductions			26	Out of control	50	Barbie's companion
32	Marceau's specialty					51	Bachelor's last utterance
33	Individual					52	XVII sextupled
34	Farm refrain?					53	— -Magnon
36	Junior					54	One of the Maunas
37	Western state						
39	Reversals						
41	On top of the world?						

**DOWN**

1 Gospels follower  
 2 Pork cut

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 10-26

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						60			61		