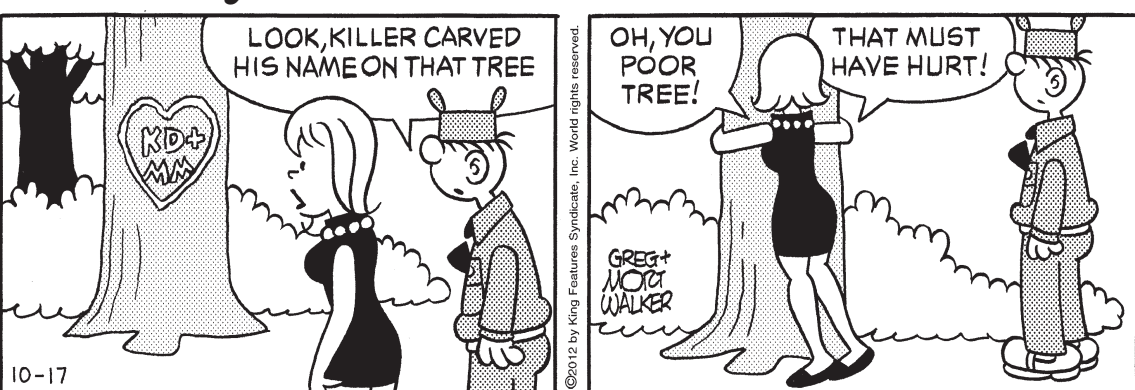


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**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

**Not safe to keep cans in garages**

Dear Heloise: Is it safe to store canned foods in my garage? This past summer, the heat rose to 95 degrees F and higher in our area. Does heat affect the contents? I am very concerned. – Kay N. in California

Kay, although many people store canned foods in a garage, it is not safe to store cans in the garage, over a stove, under a sink, in a basement or in an outside shed. The United States Department of Agriculture states that canned foods should be stored in a cool, dry place with no extremes of high or low (freezing) temperatures. Any drastic changes in temperature can affect the can and the food itself. Try to keep all canned foods at or below 70 degrees F. – Heloise

**CONDIMENT RESPONSES**

Dear Readers: In a recent column, we asked readers for wacky condiment combinations they create. Here are some of the responses:

- Barbara G. in Pennsylvania wrote: "Ketchup + mayo + pickle relish = Russian dressing."
- JoAnn B. in Nebraska wrote: "Salad dressing (Heloise here: product that is like mayonnaise) + ketchup = secret burger sauce."
- Lise, via e-mail, said: "Ketchup + horseradish sauce = cocktail sauce. For a spicier mix, add crushed red pepper to taste."
- Monica L. wrote: "Salad dressing + ketchup + relish = Thousand Island dressing." – Heloise

**COOKIE CARVINGS**

Dear Readers: Fall is a season with tons of fun activities for you and your family. But pumpkin carving, while it's a classic, isn't always safe.

Gut the pumpkin while the kids pick out a few metal cookie cutters. Allow them to press the cookie cutter into the pumpkin. Then, using a rubber mallet, tap until it is completely pressed in. Leaving the cookie cutter there, carve around it with a knife, removing the metal and the unwanted piece of pumpkin together. You can continue adding character to your pumpkin until your family is happy. Add a battery-operated tea light and enjoy! – Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**HOMEMADE TOMATO JUICE**

Dear Heloise: Do you have a recipe for making your own tomato juice? I think you need tomato paste. – Lynn W. in New Jersey

Yes, just mix three parts cold water with one part tomato paste (you will want to make adjustments for your own taste). Place the ingredients in a blender until smooth, then add salt and pepper to taste.

Once you have the base to your liking, try adding other vegetables or your favorite salsa. Be creative. This is very inexpensive to make, but you can get some terrific flavors by adding different ingredients that you enjoy. – Heloise

**RECLOSABLE PACKETS**

Dear Heloise: I buy dried fruit in the small, sturdy, reclosable packets. Being reclosable, they're great for olives, pickles and carrot sticks, or crackers and cookies in a brown-bag lunch or lunchbox. The bags can be tossed after one use or washed out and reused many times. – Pam R., via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South declarer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

**WEST**  
♠ 2  
♥ K 9 6 3  
♦ A J 10 4  
♣ 9 8 7 5

**EAST**  
♠ 9 4  
♥ Q J 2  
♦ Q 9 8 6 5  
♣ K 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 10 8 7  
♥ A 8 4  
♦ K 2  
♣ A 6

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

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

**No Doubt About It**

Assume you're in four spades and West leads the nine of clubs. How should you proceed? If you're an impulsive player, you cover the nine of clubs with the ten, East follows low, and regardless of what you do from this point on, you eventually lose two hearts and two diamonds to finish down one.

But if you're a more cautious type, you make the contract. You play low from dummy on the club lead, take the nine with the ace, cash the A-Q of trumps and then return a club to dummy's ten to force out the king.

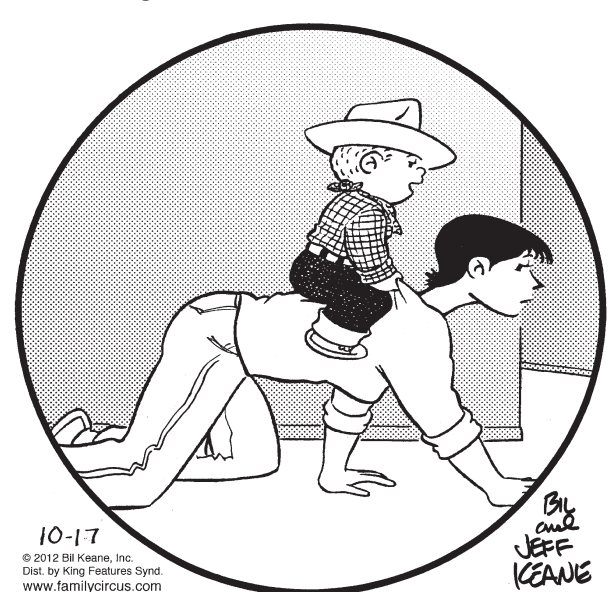
This method of play guarantees the contract regardless of how the adverse cards are divided, as it assures you of scoring six spades, three clubs and the ace of hearts. At worst East-West score a club and two diamonds, since your two heart losers can be discarded on dummy's clubs.

The big test comes at trick one, when you must resist the impulse to cover the nine of clubs with the ten. This would avert a club loser, but it would leave you with four potential losers in two other suits.

The hand dramatically illustrates the vital importance of planning the play before making any move from either hand at trick one. That is the time when most contracts are won or lost, and that is the time when a little extra thought can produce substantial dividends.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"C'mon, Mommy. Don't be such a good horse. Try to buck me off!"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/17

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

**Cryptoquip**

UWOTF CKBC ZN ADDQK

JWRWMEWR B EWMN RAWQOBY

ZWBCN CMWBC, O CKOTS O'YY

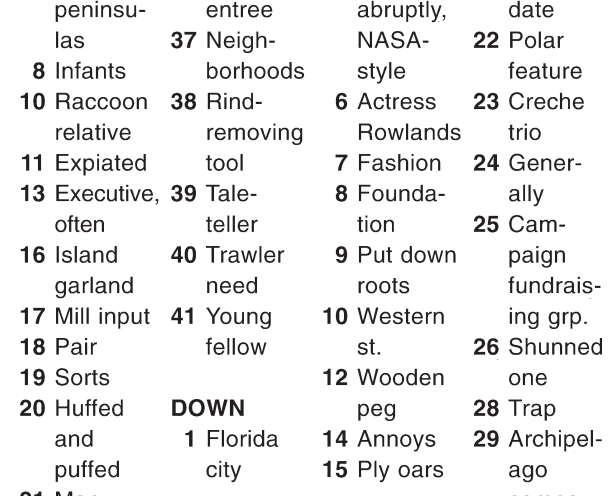
FOEW KOZ B JDF UMORSWC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARTIST WHO LOVED PAINTING SURREALISTIC PICTURES OF COLORFUL GARDEN FLOWERS: SALVADOR DAHLIA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 More, to Manuel
  - 4 Humorous one
  - 7 St. consisting of two peninsulas
  - 8 Infants
  - 10 Raccoon relative
  - 11 Expriated
  - 13 Executive, often
  - 16 Island garland
  - 17 Mill input
  - 18 Pair
  - 19 Sorts
  - 20 Huffed and puffed
  - 21 Many Christmas trees
  - 23 Porto-bello alternative
  - 25 Actor Gregory
  - 26 Volcanic outflow
- DOWN**
- 2 Start of a play
  - 3 Roof component
  - 4 Bulb measures
  - 5 End abruptly, NASA-style
  - 6 Actress Rowlands
  - 7 Fashion trio
  - 8 Foundation
  - 9 Put down roots
  - 10 Western st.
  - 12 Wooden peg
  - 14 Annoys city
  - 15 Ply oars
  - 19 Squid squirt
  - 20 Underwear with underwire
  - 21 1990s presidential candidate
  - 22 Polar feature
  - 23 Creche
  - 24 Generally
  - 25 Campaign fundraising group
  - 26 Shunned one
  - 28 Trap
  - 29 Archipelago component
  - 30 Lieu
  - 31 Frost parts (Abbr.)
  - 34 Muscat's land
  - 35 Met melody



Yesterday's answer 10-17

