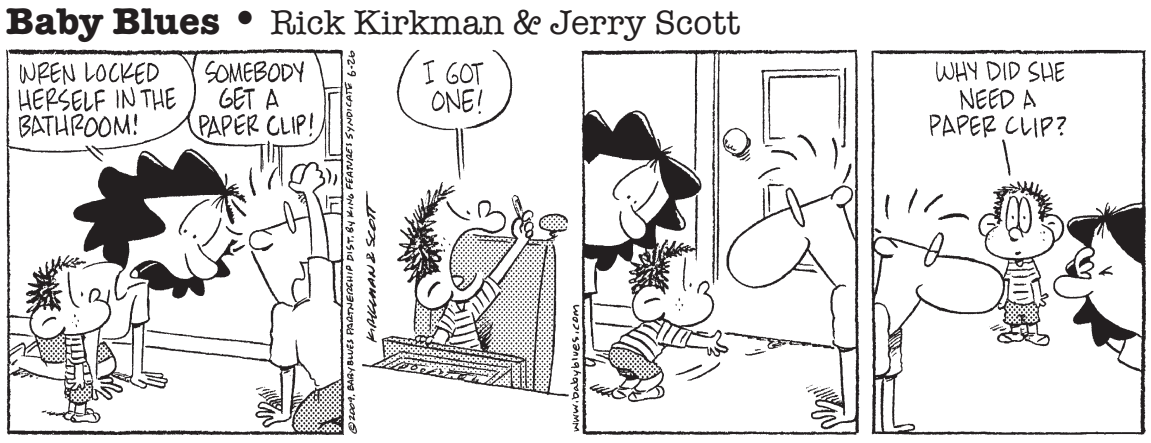
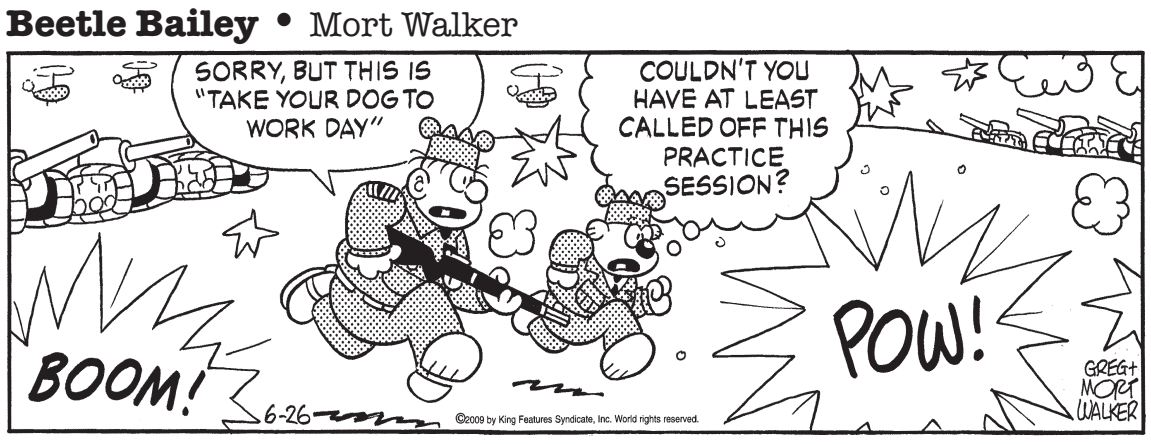
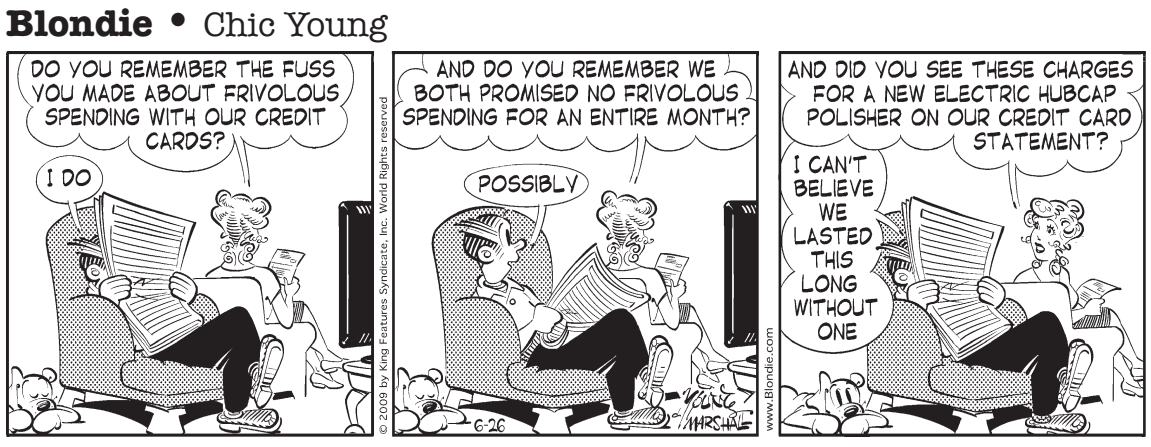
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

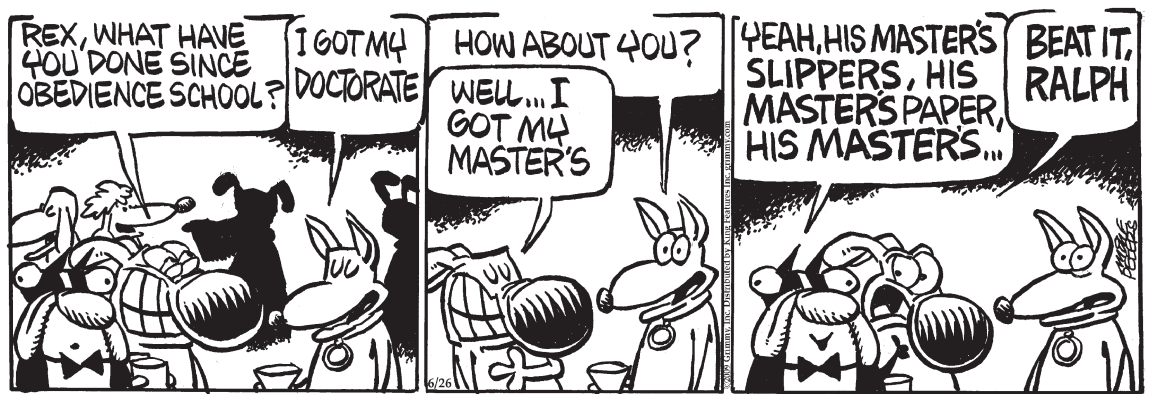


Blondie • Chic Young

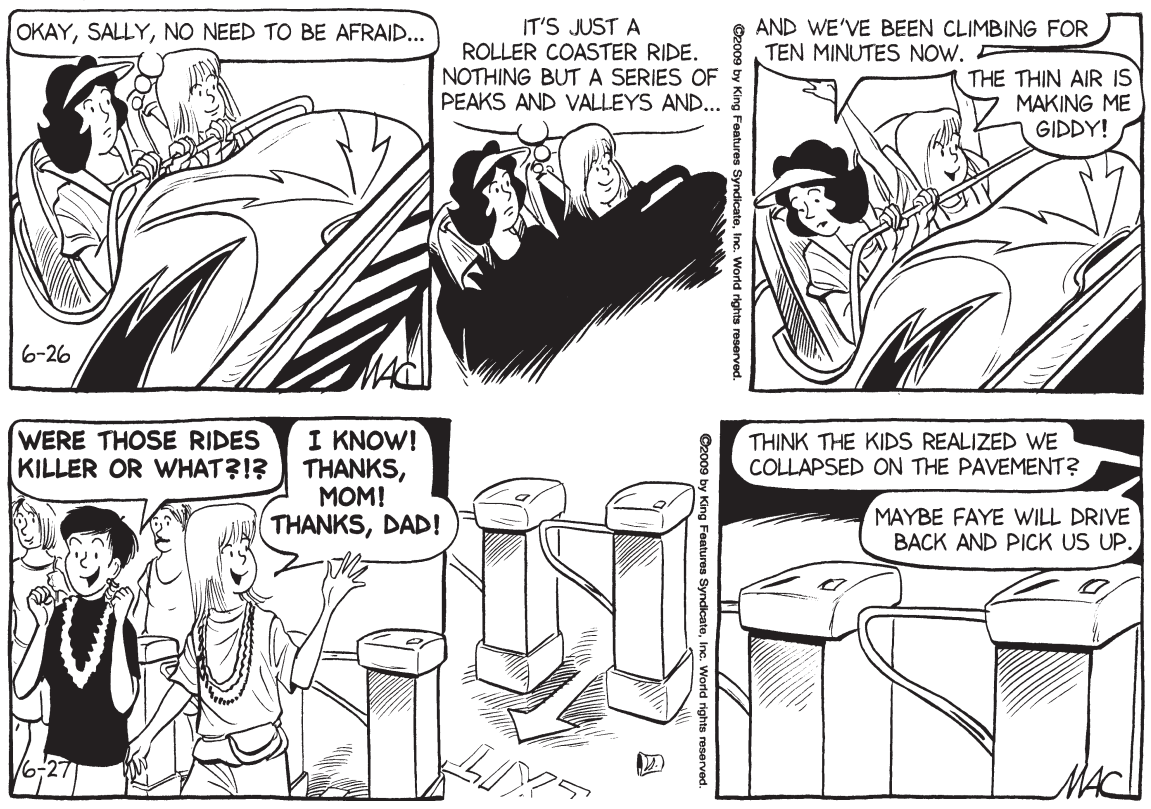


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

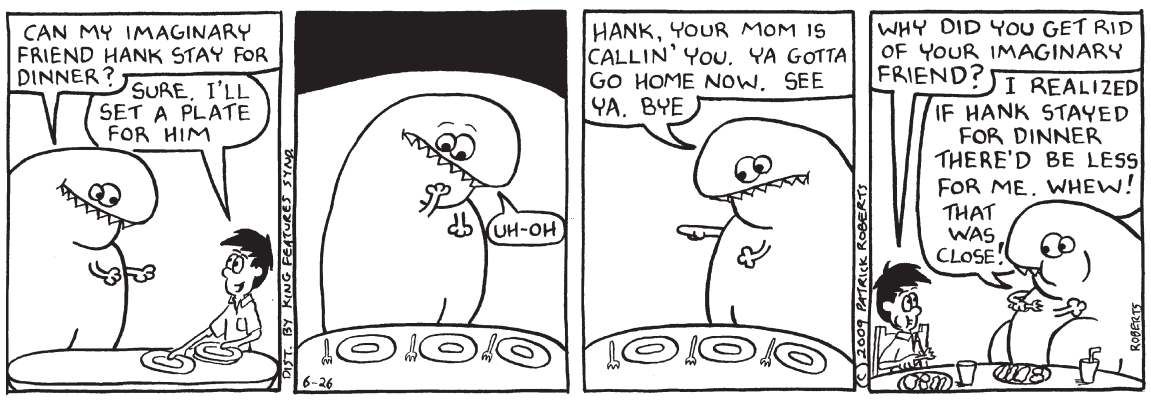
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



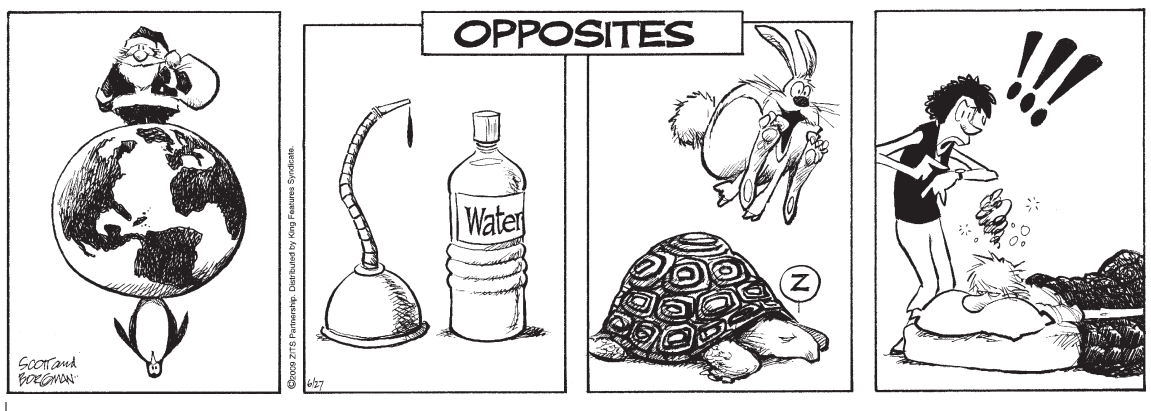
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Test paint on poster board

Dear Heloise: When I'm ready to try a new color on my wall, I never paint it directly on the wall. I buy the smallest amount of the color I want and paint it on a foam POSTER BOARD. I can then use pushpins to put it up where I want to try it and see how it looks. If it's not the right shade or color, I don't have a splotch of paint on the wall. – Kathy Beery, Harrisonburg, Va.

Kathy, love your hint. This also is an easy way to see how the color looks in daylight, at dusk, with the lights on, etc. The color may not be an exact match, but it's pretty close. – Heloise

NO HAIR SPRAY

Dear Heloise: I have a painted black chest in my bathroom, and drops of overspray from my hair spray have gotten on it. I tried to wash it off with mild soap and water, but it doesn't work. I'm afraid to use an abrasive cleaner because it might remove or scratch the surface. Do you think I could use mineral spirits? If not, what can I use? – Vickie I., Westerville, Ohio

I'm afraid that mineral spirits (paint thinner) may take the paint off and ruin the finish. Try this instead: Put rubbing alcohol on a terry or microfiber towel and test on a concealed area first to be sure the surface isn't damaged. Work on a small area at a time – it might take a bit of elbow grease. When you have gone over all the spots, clean any residue left with another clean, damp cotton cloth. This should get the job done. – Heloise

BOXING UP BOOKS

Dear Heloise: This is in response to the reader who wrote in about proper boxing of books. In any of the lower states, cardboard boxes are not good storage for any item, as they can house cockroaches, silverfish and other household pests.

A plastic storage bin with an airtight lid will not only keep out pests, but also keep books from being exposed to air, water and other elements. When moving and using cardboard boxes, always leave the boxes outside while you unpack. Take individual items out of the box before bringing it into a new home.

It is a good idea to treat a house for insects before moving. – Jill Curtis, Punta Gorda, Fla.

I love how you refer to the "lower states." Many of us who live in the South know about cockroaches! In Texas, we have some that you can put a saddle on! – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I love wearing a little perfume, but it's not practical to pack perfume bottles in luggage when traveling. Instead, I save pages from magazines that include samples of perfume. They lie flat, don't leak, won't break, and I get to sample new fragrances! – Karen H., Roseville, Calif.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 NT	Pass	?

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ J97643 ♥ 872 ♦ 6 ♣ J54
2. ♠ KJ982 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 84 ♣ K73
3. ♠ 83 ♥ A9 ♦ 762 ♣ KQ9842
4. ♠ QJ95 ♥ KJ83 ♦ 10 ♣ KJ75

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Two spades. Partner's notrump bid indicates 15 to 18 points, notrump distribution and one or more diamond stoppers. But even though your partner has stated a preference to play the hand in notrump, you should not be willing to do so. With 6-3-3-1 distribution and only two high-card points, you're far more likely to do better in spades.

Indeed, the chances are that your partner will go down two or three tricks in one notrump, while it's about even money that you can make eight tricks with spades as trump. This is because in notrump, your spades may prove worthless, while if they are trump, they're likely to produce four or five tricks.

In the sequence given, two spades is uniformly regarded as a weakness bid. In effect, you are saying that you think two spades is a safer contract than one notrump, and partner is strongly urged to pass.

2. Three spades. With 10 high-card points opposite partner's 15 to 18, you know there's a game in the offing, and you should let partner in on the good news by jumping to three spades. Partner will raise to four spades with three-card or better support, and retreat to three notrump with a doubleton, after which you will retire from the auction.

3. Three notrump. Nine tricks in notrump are much more likely than 11 tricks in clubs, and you should therefore raise one notrump to three. It would be tactically wrong to bid three clubs. While that bid would be forcing, it also would be pointless. There can be no advantage in telling the enemy the type of hand you have when it does not help your side get to the right contract.

4. Two diamonds. With 11 high-card points, you must, of course, think in terms of game, but a notrump contract is not very appealing with 4-4-4-1 distribution. Indeed, if partner has four cards in either major, game in that suit is almost surely your best spot.

The best way of discovering whether partner has either four spades or four hearts is by cue-bidding West's suit. You intend to raise partner directly to four of a major if he bids either of them, and to raise to three notrump if he rebids two notrump.

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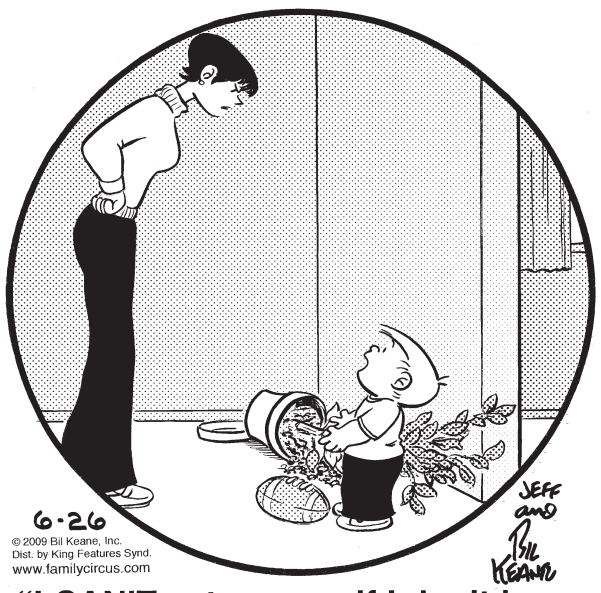
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I CAN'T act my age if I don't know how my age is s'posed to act."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/26

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/25

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Cryptoquip

IUPD LCV IDUSX FID GDTDZXUSL JFCSL UHCVF FID FAC HDDS HSDADSJ OZ GCPD? OF IUX U ICRRL DZXOZT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE HAVE THIS FLORIST SHOP IN OUR TOWN WITH A VERY NARROW SPECIALTY. IT HAS A CROCUS FOCUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Totally dominate
4 Right on the map?
8 Liking a lot
12 Shooter ammo
13 Jubilation
14 Disposition
15 Where salmon go to spawn
17 Motivate
18 Gazing one
19 Chart format
21 "Guinness Book" suffix
22 Transmission to a spacecraft
26 Rural buildings
29 "No seats"
30 Dress in
31 Supplemented, with "out"
32 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
33 — gin fizz
34 Dead heat
35 Happiness
36 Public squabble
37 "You betcha!"
39 Spring mo.
40 Smokestack output
41 Shamelessly bold
45 Dixieland music
48 Entry on a team's schedule
50 Bassoon's cousin
51 Wine's aroma
52 Yank
53 Implement
54 Active one
55 Early bird?

DOWN
1 Piece of work
2 Sobbed
3 Houston acronym
4 Exit
5 On the qui vive
6 Poseidon's realm
7 Deep-fried recipe
8 Urge
9 Neither mate
10 As well
11 Peculiar
16 Pollster's find
20 Wall St. debut
23 Between jobs
24 Lunchtime, often
25 Banjo supporter
26 — carotene
27 In the same family
28 50-Across need
29 Agent
32 Rancher
33 Raw-boned person
35 Alcott book, "— Boys"
36 More agile
38 The Baxters' maid
39 Humiliate
42 Fill till full
43 Complacent
44 Safecracker
45 Least bit
46 Blood-group letters
47 Menagerie
49 Court

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-26

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		