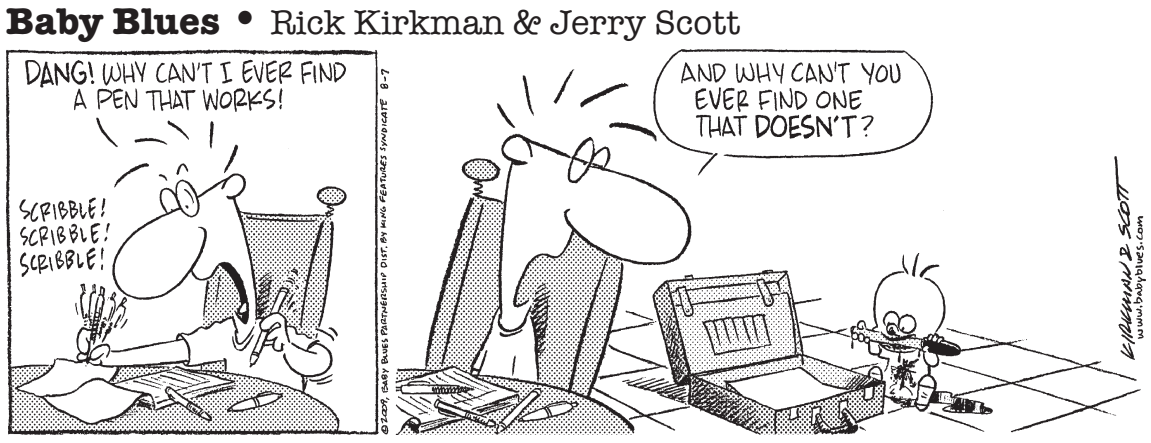
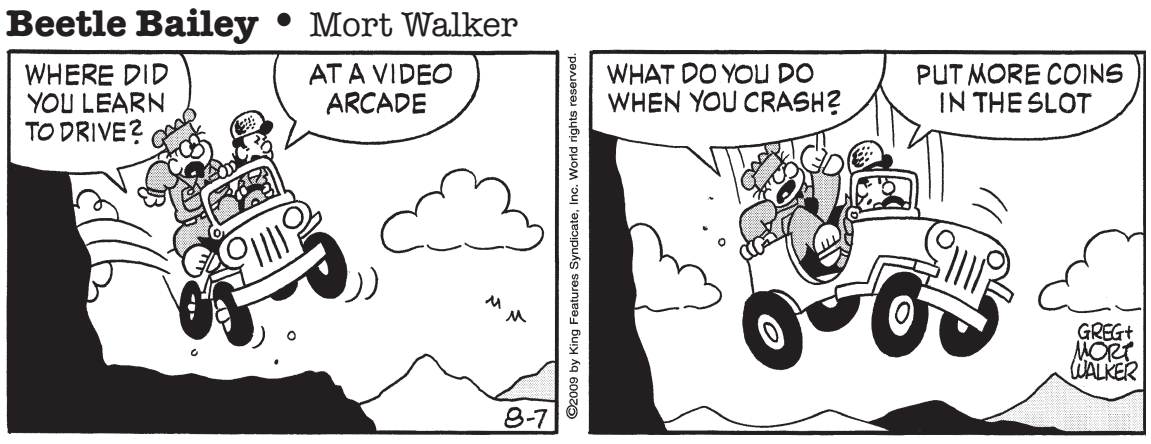
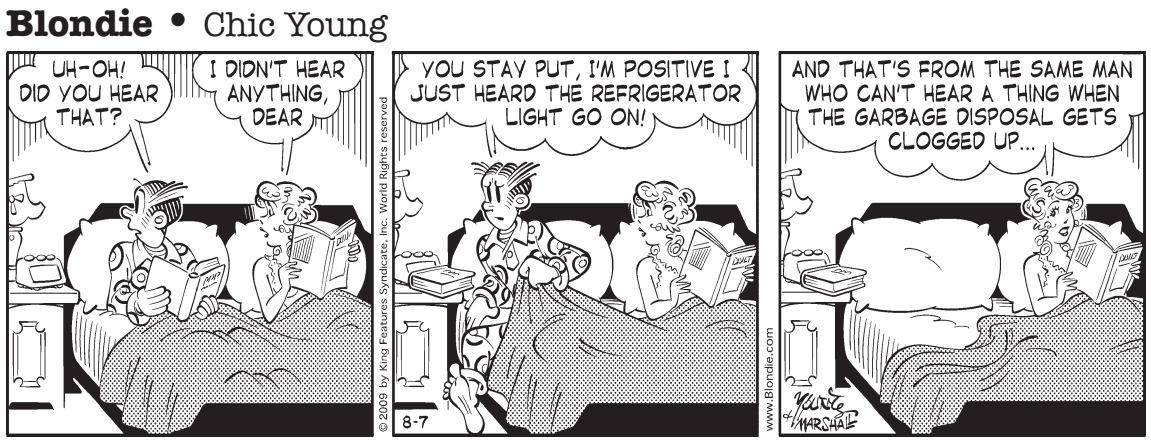
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

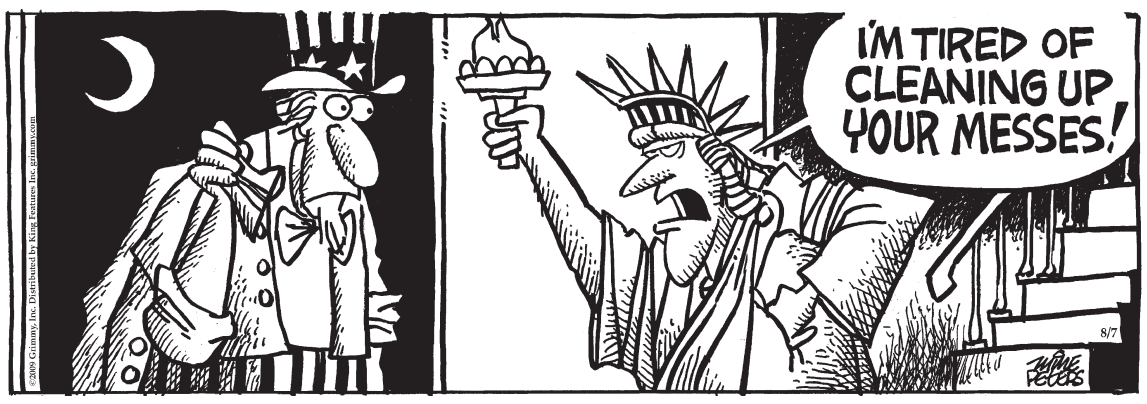


Blondie • Chic Young

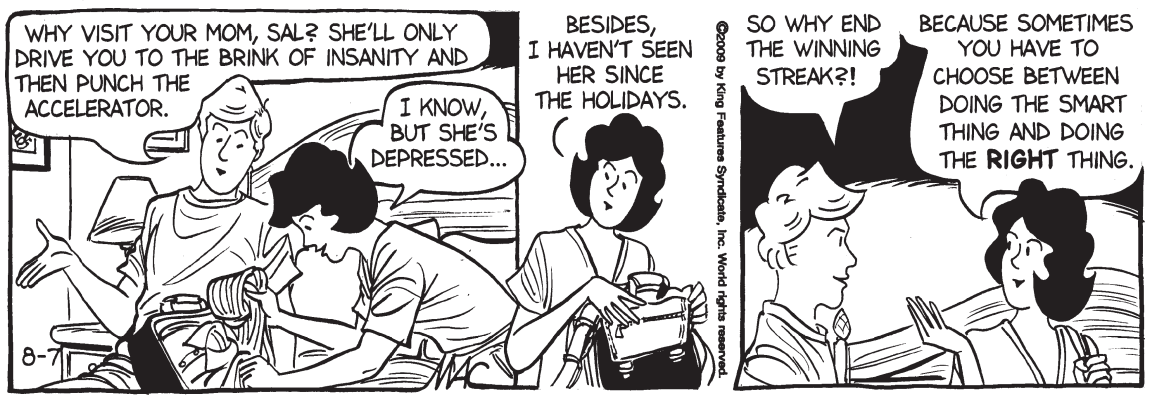


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

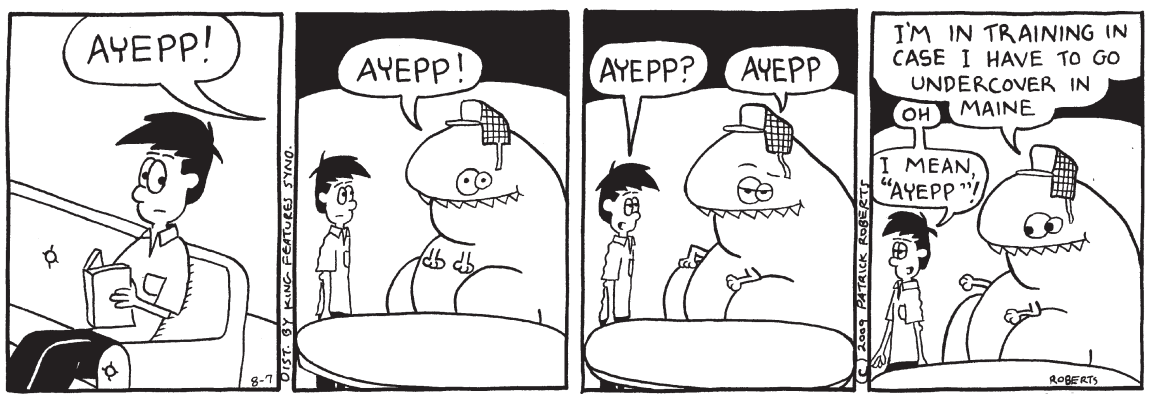
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



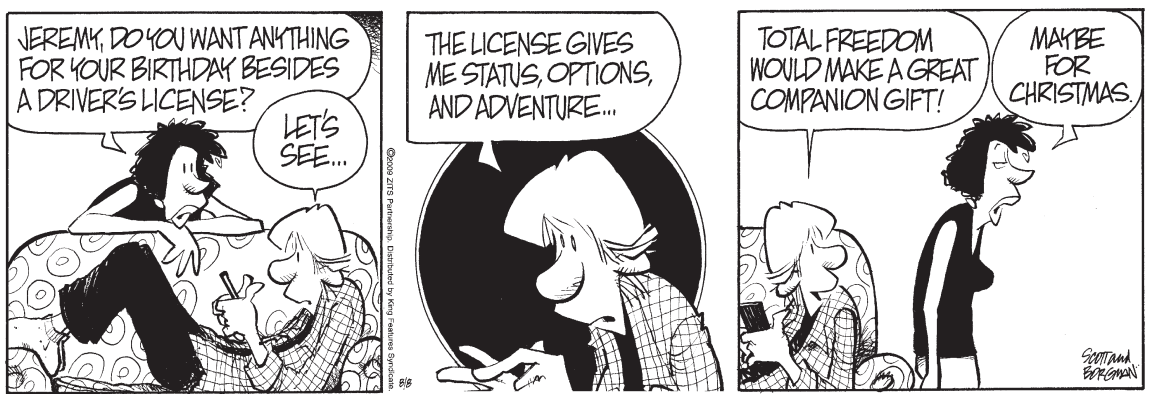
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Cleaning task is monumental job

Dear Heloise: Several years ago, I saw an article in the newspaper where you told us how to CLEAN A MONUMENT in the cemetery. I didn't cut it out and don't remember what it was. -- Virginia Fulks, Snyder, Texas

First, do no harm! In this case, "less is more," and while it might not sound like much of a "hint," first try only plain water and a microfiber cloth, terry towel or soft sponge.

You don't want to damage a stone that's been there for a long time, and keep in mind that gravestones are made of very different substances. Bronze, marble and limestone all require different cleaning methods.

Three steps to remember when you're cleaning a gravestone:

1) Pre-wet the surface before you begin.

2) Start from the bottom and work up to prevent the dirty water from further staining the marker.

3) Keep the stone very wet as you work and RINSE EXTREMELY WELL.

Cleaning tombstones can be very tricky, so you should always call a professional monument-cleaning company if the task looks too hard, or the stones are very old or crumbly. Remember that simply using water and a cloth might do the trick. -- Heloise

P.S.: If there is no running water available, be sure to take several buckets and lots of water!

Here are two good hints from Sandra, via fax:

HANDY PLASTIC LID

Use a plastic lid from a coffee container, etc., under a bottle of cooking oil to prevent drips on storage or pantry shelves.

FLAVORED CREAMERS

Use flavored liquid creamers on hot oatmeal cereal. Experiment! Mmmm!

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I remember to repack the night light I use in motel rooms by carrying it in a small box, which I leave on the table with my wallet, etc. When I am ready to leave the room, I see the box and retrieve the night light from the vanity. -- Ray D. Quisenberry, Franklin, Tenn.

GIFT TAGS

Dear Heloise: When I give a gift to someone and think it might need to be returned (especially with clothes), I cover up the price with narrow sticky notes that come in a dispenser, sort of like tape. I don't have to cut the price tag off. I just peel off the note and make my return. It makes it easier on the store, too. -- Judy Martin, San Antonio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

East	South	West	North
1 ♣	Dble	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	?		

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ AKJ5 ♥ Q63 ♦ AJ4 ♣ 952
2. ♠ Q84 ♥ KQ72 ♦ AQJ93 ♣ 6
3. ♠ AQ93 ♥ Q5 ♦ AJ84 ♣ AJ9
4. ♠ AK1064 ♥ KJ92 ♦ KJ9 ♣ 9
5. ♠ AK5 ♥ AQ94 ♦ KQJ82 ♣ 2

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. A takeout double shows the values for an opening bid, but the range of strength may extend from roughly 13 points to more than 20. Also, distributional features may range from poor, as in this hand, to very good, as in some of the succeeding hands.

The doubler has an obligation to identify the nature of his hand after partner responds to the double. With minimum values -- 13 to 15 points -- he passes if partner has made a non-jump response. With this hand, therefore, South should not bid again. If he were to continue bidding, he would be implying values in excess of a minimum double.

2. Two hearts. The player who responds to the double (in this case, North) may have a very weak hand, since he is merely obeying partner's command that he bid. The doubler therefore has to tread gingerly when deciding what to do next.

Here, South can afford to bid two hearts, not on the basis of his high cards, which are close to minimum, but on the basis of his distribution, which is reasonably good. The four trumps and the singleton club, as well as the strong diamond suit, are trick-taking features that pull the hand out of the minimum class and justify a further bid. The single raise is mildly invitational and shows 16-18 points (including distribution).

3. One notrump. This rebid indicates the high-card values and distribution for an opening notrump bid, plus at least one stopper in the opening bidder's suit.

4. Three hearts. Here you have only 15 high-card points, but the chances of making game with this hand are far better than those in the preceding 18-point hand.

The way to gauge such hands is not by point count but by the probable number of winning tricks. Thus, if partner has as little as five hearts to the queen and the queen of diamonds, there is an excellent prospect of making four hearts. The three-heart bid (highly invitational) asks partner to carry on to game with values of this sort.

5. Four hearts. Here, the chance of making 10 tricks is so good that you bid the game yourself without running the risk of partner's passing a lesser bid. If partner has nothing but five hearts to the jack, there is a reasonable chance of making 10 tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Barfy's never had so many trees to choose from."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/07

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/06

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Cryptoquip

YGDI JGD JYT WRBKMKRIH WDJ, JGDX YDQD UDSKIKJDFX MTIAKIMDU KJ YRH FTAD RJ SKQHJ HFDKBGJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SEEING THAT CLUSTER OF BEAUTIFUL-LOOKING FERNS TODAY BROUGHT BACK MANY FROND MEMORIES.

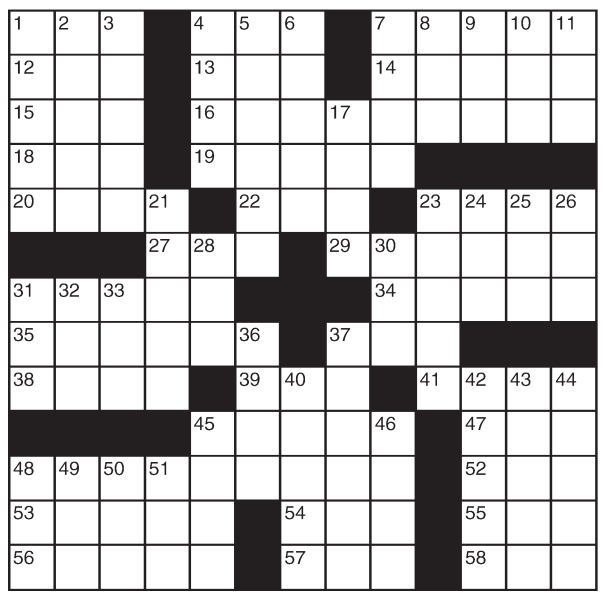
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Existed
4 Brooks or Gibson
7 Goodyear craft
12 "Hail!"
13 Dander
14 More commonplace
15 Perch
16 Christmas treat
18 Vanna's cohort
19 Oriental
20 Uppity one
22 Conclusion
23 Nitwit
27 "Awesome!"
29 Sterne's Tristram
31 Massenet opera
34 Battery terminal
35 Snifter contents
37 Plant bristle
38 Pinnacle
39 Recede
41 Without help
45 Skating competition
47 "Wham!"
48 New Jersey peninsula
52 Midafternoon hour
53 "... bombs bursting —"
54 Clavell's "— -Pan"
55 Coffee vessel
56 Check word
57 Toss in
58 "Family Guy" daughter

DOWN
1 Nasty stingers
2 Birdlike
3 Squabble
4 Isinglass
5 Off the board
6 Red Square notable
7 — Mawr
8 Varnish ingredient
9 401(k) alternative
10 Chaps
11 Grand-—, N.S.
17 Mid-June honorees
21 NYC borough
23 Wedding announcement
24 Lennon's lady
25 Peculiar
26 "See ya"
28 Moreover
30 Hem's partner
31 Biz deg.
32 Big name in Dadaism
33 Dundee denial
36 "Why not?"
37 Overseas
40 Flora and fauna
42 Poppy derivative
43 France's longest river
44 Due (to)
45 Combustible heap
46 Pallet
48 Try the tea
49 Literary collection
50 Unfavorable vote
51 Conk out

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-7