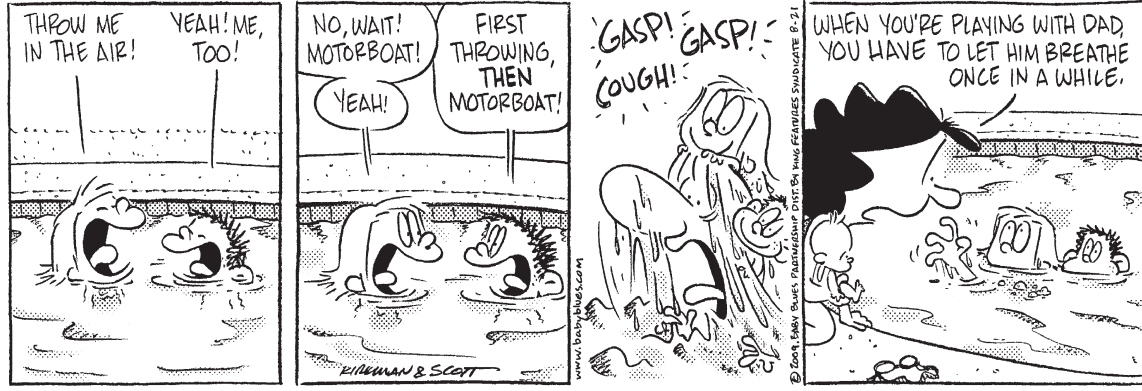
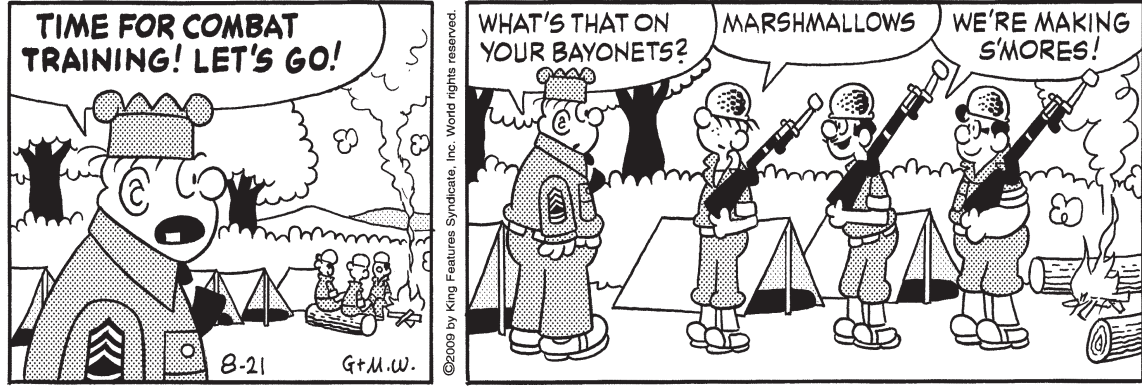


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



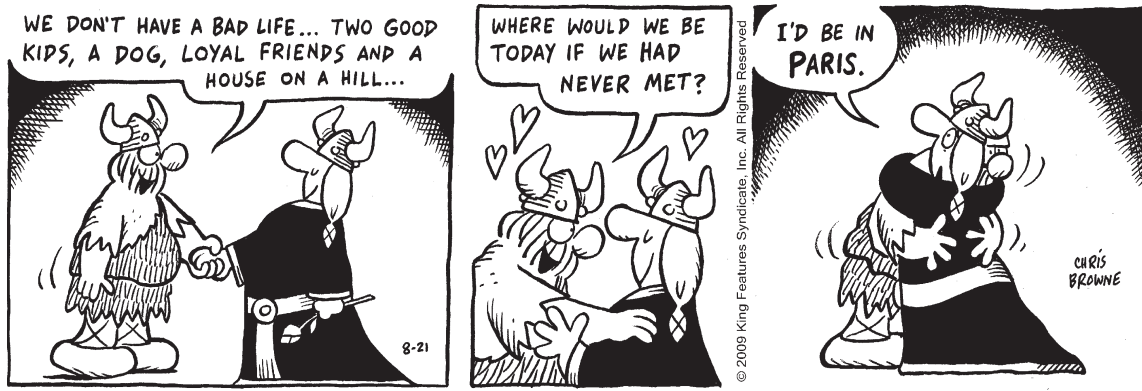
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



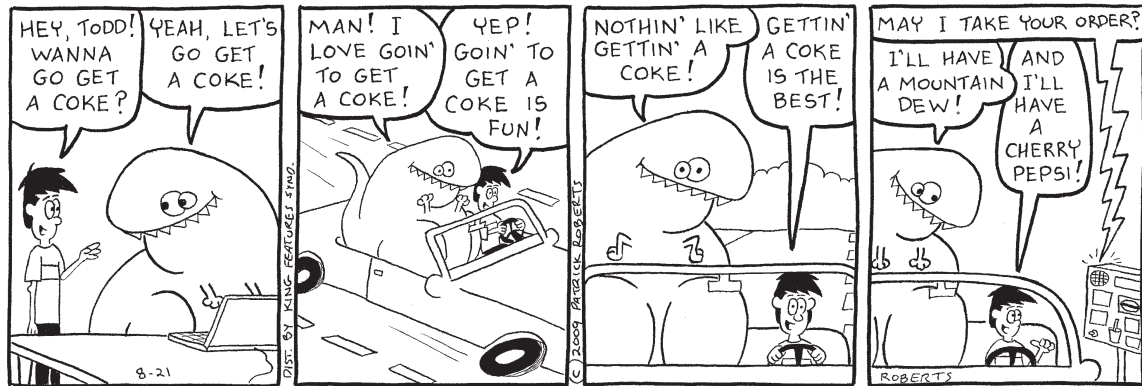
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Keep opener to garage secure

Dear Heloise: I just read your article on GARAGE-DOOR OPENERS. As a suggestion, do not leave your garage-door opener locked in your car while it's in your driveway.

Thieves can simply break the car window, take the garage-door opener, then access your house through the garage. They close the garage door, and no one is the wiser. They can get into your home even if the door from the garage to the house is locked (most people store power tools in the garage that make it easy for a thief to get in — skill saw, etc.). Then they can take their time in the house, load up the car (that's parked in the garage), open the garage door and leave with your possessions.

If your garage door is compatible with a key fob opener, attach the opener to your car keys and you'll always take your garage-door opener in the house with you when you get out of your car.

My husband learned this at a brief when he was stationed at Randolph Air Force Base, and I've passed this information along to everyone I know. — Julie, Omaha, Neb.

Good point, Julie, and a security hint we all should be aware of. While we are talking about garages and security, if your garage door faces a public street, leaving it open is like advertising to thieves what's available to steal! — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I always use the 2.5-gallon jumbo plastic disposable bags with zip closures when packing for travel. Underwear in one, sleepwear in another, etc. Reuse them for dirty clothes and wet bathing suits on the return trip.

On a recent trip, I discovered another use. I had forgotten to pack a shower cap. I took the clothes out of bag, put it on like a shower cap and zipped it tight. It actually worked better and was more watertight (no wet elastic band) than a shower cap. — Carole T., Bellevue, Neb.

KITCHEN SPONGES

Dear Heloise: Another way to guarantee fresh-smelling and germ-free kitchen sponges: Wash the sponge before doing dishes, and place it in the microwave for 30 to 40 seconds. This will kill all the bacteria on the sponge and will keep it fresh. — Stay-at-Home Dad, via e-mail

Many people do this, but there are some things you need to know. We checked with sponge manufacturers, and here is what they had to say about sanitizing and cleaning a sponge. If you boil sponges in water for at least five to 10 minutes, that will sanitize them. The sponges can be put on the top rack of the dishwasher (use a regular heat cycle and secure the sponges so they can't float around the dishwasher). NOTE: Microwaving a sponge could be a potential fire hazard. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Assume you, South, are declarer in a notrump contract, that you have plenty of entries to both hands in the side suits, and that to make your contract you must win five tricks in each of the following three combinations:

- North: K Q 9 2
South: A 10 5 4 3
- North: A 6
South: Q 10 8 7 4 3 2
- North: Q 10
South: A K 8 7 4 3

How would you proceed in each case?

Also, how would you play each of the next three combinations to assure four tricks?

- North: J 7 6
South: A 9 5 4 3 2
- North: A 10 7 5 3
South: Q 8 6 4 2
- North: J 10 8
South: A K 6 5 2

Test Your Play

1. The only danger is that one opponent has J-8-7-6. To guard against this possibility, cash dummy's queen. If either defender shows out, take the marked finesse against his partner to score all five tricks.

2. Lead the deuce toward dummy. If West follows with the five, play the six. This assures at least five tricks. If West plays the nine, jack or king on the deuce, or if West shows out, win with the ace and return the six to attain your goal.

3. Lead the three and, if West follows low, finesse the ten. If West shows out on the three, go up with the queen and return the ten through East's remaining J-9-6-5 to guarantee five tricks.

4. The lone threat is that one defender has K-Q-10-8. Lead the deuce, and if West has all four missing cards, he can do no better than win with the queen. You later lead the three toward the J-7 to assure four tricks in the suit. If East has K-Q-10-8, he wins dummy's jack with the queen but later scores only one additional trick with the K-10-8 after you twice lead the suit from dummy toward your A-9-5-4-3.

5. Lead the deuce and, if West plays the nine, finesse the ten. If West shows out on the deuce, play the ace and return the three toward your hand.

6. The only danger is that one defender has Q-9-7-4-3. To cater to this possibility, lead dummy's jack. If East has all five cards, he cannot stop you from making four tricks in the suit, whether he covers the jack or not. If West has all five missing cards, he is equally helpless, whether he takes his queen or not.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-21
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"I'm movin' to the non-smoking section."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/21

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QIU QIXUU YXZIYUMEMLRQR
TUXU YNMDQ QM UYQ Y WUYE
QMLUQIUX TIUO RMWUNMCP

RDCCUOEP ZXKUC "CKL KO!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A FEW FOLKS ARE STILL CLAIMING THAT THE CONGA DRUM IS NOT BROKEN, BUT I WOULDN'T BEAT ON IT!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Explanation request
 - Incite
 - Spring occurrence
 - Latin 101 word
 - Tom Joad type
 - Franc replacement
 - Indoor sport
 - Marvel Comics mutants
 - With craft
 - Afternoon social
 - "Miserables"
 - GM communications device
 - Refine metal
 - Auction action
 - Shock partner
 - Viscous
 - Accomplished
 - gin fizz
- DOWN**
- Story
 - MPs' quarry
 - That's a laugh
 - Sharif or Khayyam
 - Refuses to
 - Wine glass
 - Approves
 - Have a bug
 - Shoulder muscle
 - Michener filer
 - Drone
 - Exist
 - Tri-umphed
 - Hum-dinger
 - Tackle's playmate
 - Beach blanket
 - Unanimously
 - Guy
 - Entreaty
 - Coin aperture
 - Expert
 - Eggs
 - Raw rock
- Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 8-21

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		
45	46	47				48	49				
50						51				52	
53						54					55