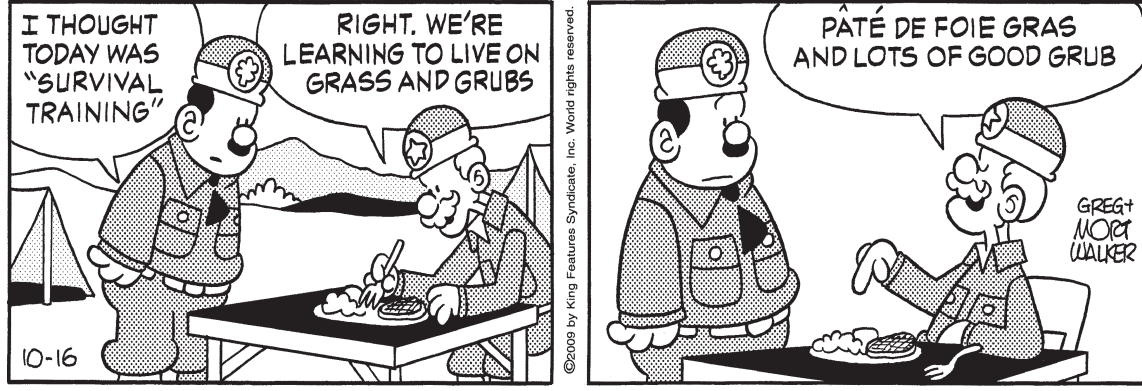


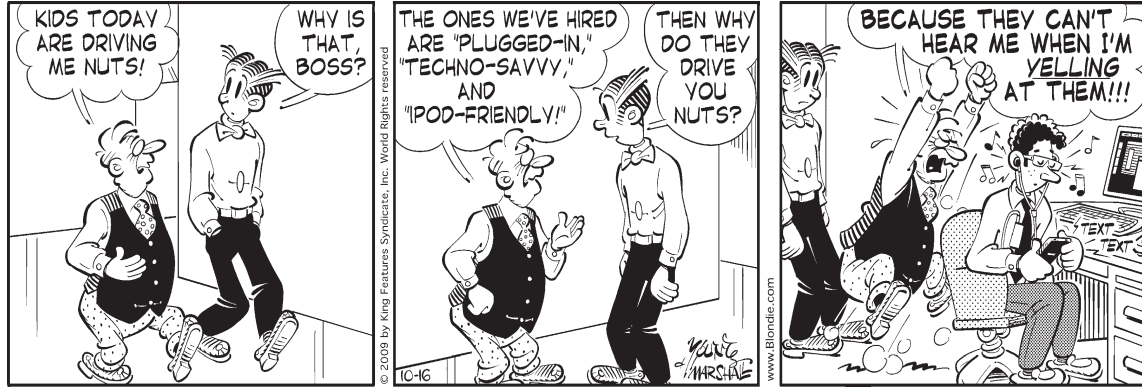
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



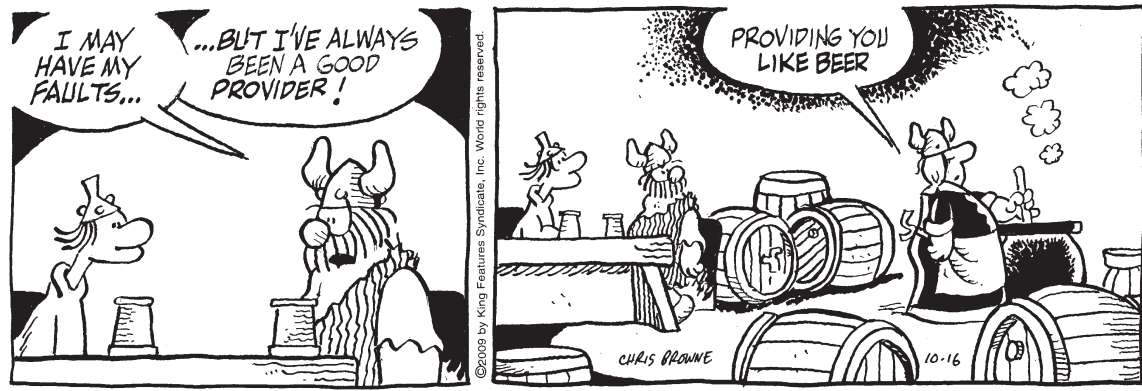
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



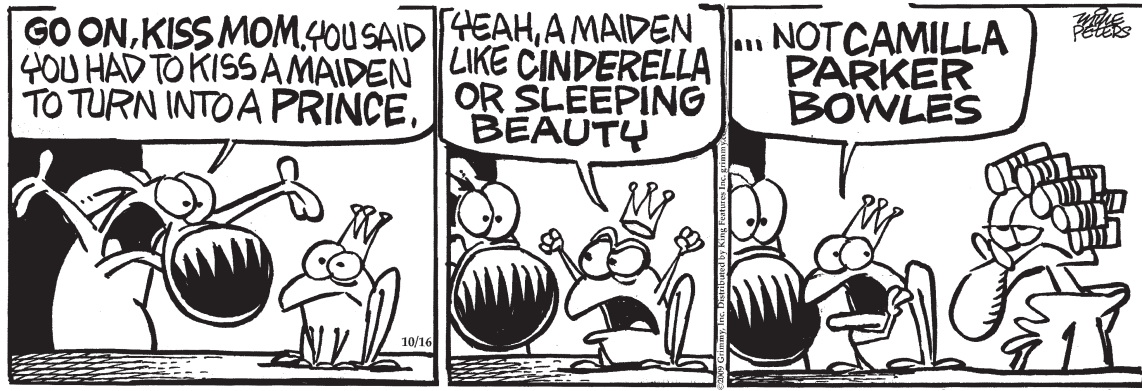
Blondie • Chic Young



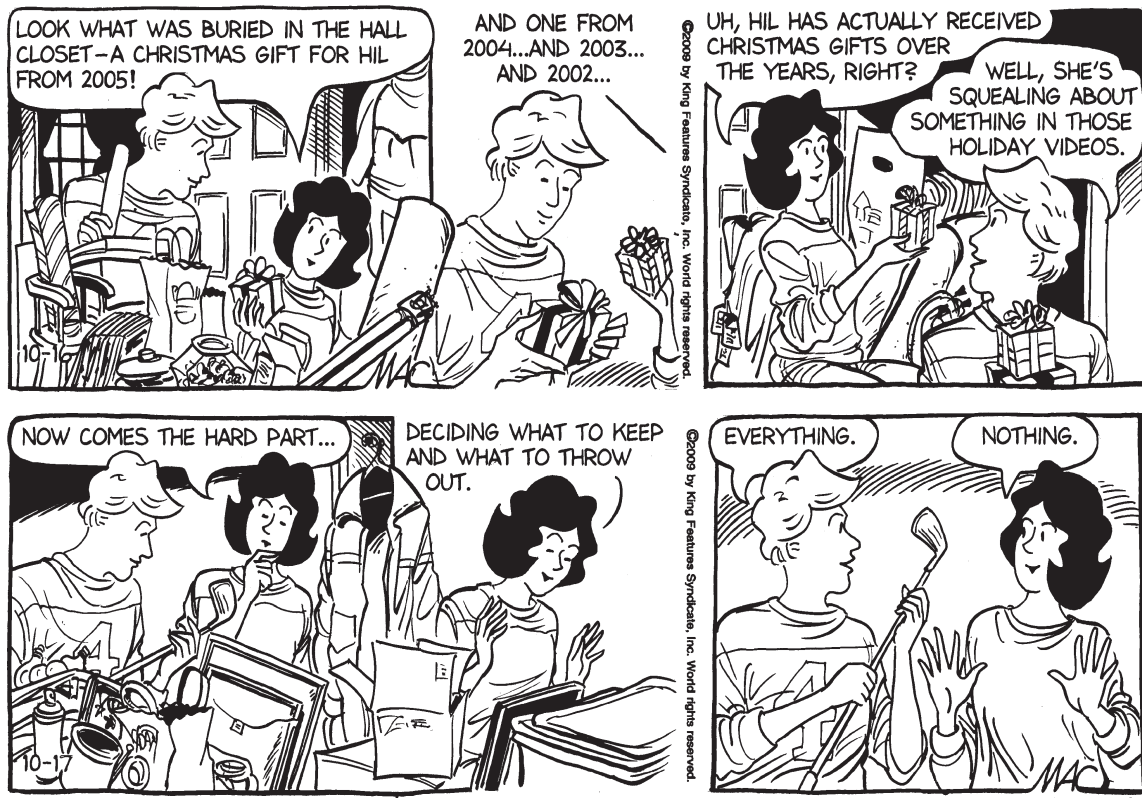
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



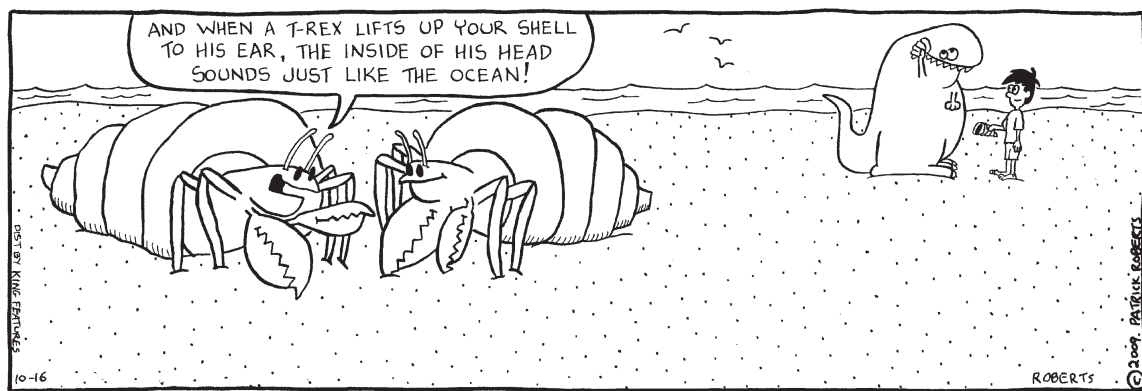
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



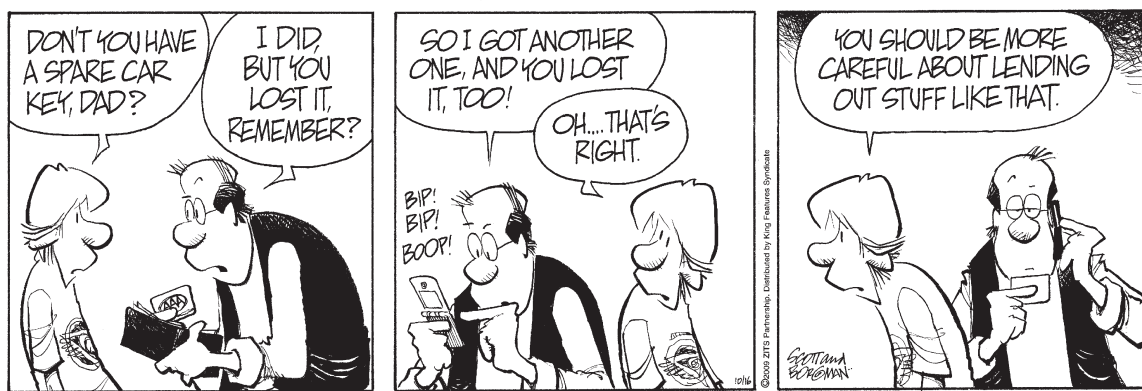
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Cleaner came from the fridge

Dear Heloise: I change the BAKING-SODA FRIDGE BOXES regularly and keep one every other month to use as a multipurpose cleaner. I usually empty it into one of those plastic spice jars. I keep one under the kitchen sink and find that it cleans my stainless-steel sink better than anything else, as it takes away the oiliness and grime left over. Sometimes I mix it with dish-washing liquid when we've had greasy food. — Roma, Edison, N.J.

Roma, baking soda is one of my absolute favorite environmentally safe products to use instead of expensive cleaners. For a multitude of money-saving hints using baking soda, order my six-page Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes pamphlet by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. When baking soda is made into a paste for cleaning, it won't scratch most surfaces and is perfect for cleaning sinks and tubs. — Heloise

HOME SAFETY

Dear Readers: Many accidents happen in the home. So, let's talk about home safety. Did you know that slips and falls account for an estimated one-third of injuries among the elderly? So here some hints to keep you safe:

- Ensure that the top and bottom of staircases are well-lit.
- Illuminate dark hallways, especially near bathrooms.
- Use nonskid rugs on slippery flooring, such as linoleum.
- Mop up spills immediately.
- Tighten any loose handrails on stairs, lofts, walkways and balconies. — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Pillboxes are great for taking jewelry on trips. Each compartment takes one set of earrings, and necklaces fit without getting tangled. Since pillboxes come in all sizes, larger compartments can accommodate larger jewelry. — Carol Huggard, Plantation, Fla.

SPIDER WEBS

Dear Heloise: How do I get sticky spider webs off the shingle siding of the house? It really looks awful all around the front door. Thanks for all you do. — Jeanne, via e-mail

Cobwebs are sticky and icky! Try this: Use a long-handled broom that has been draped in a damp paper towel or old pantyhose. — Heloise

PLANT WATERING

Dear Readers: When I am watering my African violets and other houseplants, here's how I remember the last day they were watered. I keep a stack of index cards with the days of the week marked and place the appropriate card in those tall, plastic card holders you get with flower deliveries. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Your partner bids One Diamond. What would you respond with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ J763 ♥ AQ5 ♦ 83 ♣ Q842
2. ♠ KJ8 ♥ AJ9 ♦ Q64 ♣ AJ76
3. ♠ K74 ♥ AQ96 ♦ 10 ♣ AJ872
4. ♠ Q852 ♥ 7 ♦ Q10743 ♣ KQJ
5. ♠ K96 ♥ AK8 ♦ Q865 ♣ AK5

Bidding Quiz

1. One spade. Some players might respond one notrump under the misconception that the spade suit is too weak to bid. This would be a faulty approach, because it would ignore one of the cardinal aims of the bidding process -- to try to find an eight-card major-suit fit.

If partner has any four spades, the suit becomes playable but might well remain undiscovered after a one-notrump response. In many cases, bypassing the spade response will result in reaching an inferior notrump or minor-suit contract instead of the more desirable spade contract.

2. Three notrump. This response indicates 16 or 17 points, notrump distribution (usually 4-3-3-3) and stoppers in the unbid suits. It differs from a two-notrump response (13 to 15) only in point count.

3. Two clubs. It would be a mistake to make the cheaper response of one heart with a strong hand that offers a certain game and a potential slam -- possibly in clubs. In such cases, you should start by bidding your longest suit first to give yourself the best chance of winding up in the most desirable contract. You plan to bid hearts next and in that way notify partner that you have only four hearts and a longer club suit. If you respond initially with one heart and later bid clubs, there is no way partner can know your longer suit is clubs.

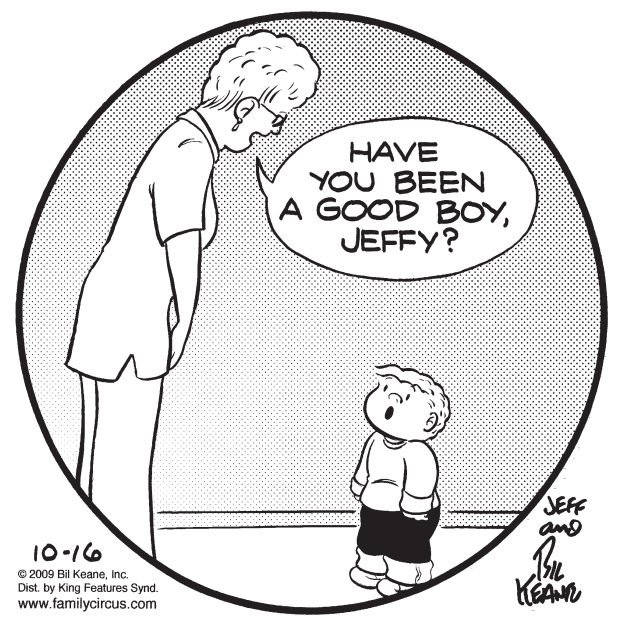
4. One spade. Your hand is too weak for three diamonds (forcing) and too strong for two diamonds. As usual when you are midway between a single and double raise, you bid a side suit before showing support for partner's suit. Besides, partner may well have four spades, in which case spades would be the preferred contract, particularly with a potential game in the offing.

5. Three clubs. The jump-shift shows at least 17 points and announces interest in a slam. With 19 points, your hand is much too good for a leap to three notrump, as partner is not obliged to bid over that response.

It is unusual to jump-shift in a three-card suit, but here there is no better alternative. Note that the jump-shift is made in clubs, not hearts, since partner will tend to support a major suit far more readily than a minor.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/16

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.

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

Cryptoquip

UI U FHYH VIIHYHJ E QUT
HOVWTX ZERZH VI RVAHZXUOT,
U RWSSVRH ZXEZ FVWBJ

QH EO EASBH REASBH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A BUNCH OF BACHELOR BUDDIES IN THE ROOFING BUSINESS DECIDED TO GO TO THE LOCAL SHINGLES BAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hasty escape
 - 4 Lend a hand
 - 8 Give up
 - 12 Berlin's "What'll --?"
 - 13 Eye layer
 - 14 Busy with attire
 - 15 Sarsaparilla concoction
 - 17 Being, to Brutus
 - 18 Aft
 - 19 Puncturing tool
 - 21 Perch
 - 22 Goon
 - 26 De-ices, in a way
 - 29 Visibility hindrance
 - 30 Through
 - 31 Sculpture medium
 - 32 Give the axe
 - 33 Suitably
 - 34 \$ dispenser
 - 35 Blend
 - 36 Imposing residence
 - 37 Additionally
- DOWN**
- 2 Big fusses
 - 3 Academic range
 - 4 Exaggerated pride
 - 5 Occurrence
 - 6 Shelter
 - 7 Ideal
 - 8 Pacify
 - 9 Boom times
 - 10 "Monty Python" intro
 - 11 Pirouette pivot
 - 16 Irritable
 - 20 Witty one
 - 23 It takes the cake
 - 24 Massage supplies
 - 25 Story
 - 26 "Begone!"
 - 27 Saxophone range
 - 28 Symbol of gentleness
 - 29 Phone transmission
 - 32 National
 - 33 Salary
 - 35 Cattle call
 - 36 Constant sufferer
 - 38 Big name in daytime TV
 - 39 Franklin, for one
 - 42 Reagan successor
 - 43 Stead
 - 44 Leave a lasting impression
 - 45 Uncultured
 - 46 — Today
 - 47 Towel designation
 - 49 "A Chorus Line" song

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-16

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	
50						51			52	
53						54			55	