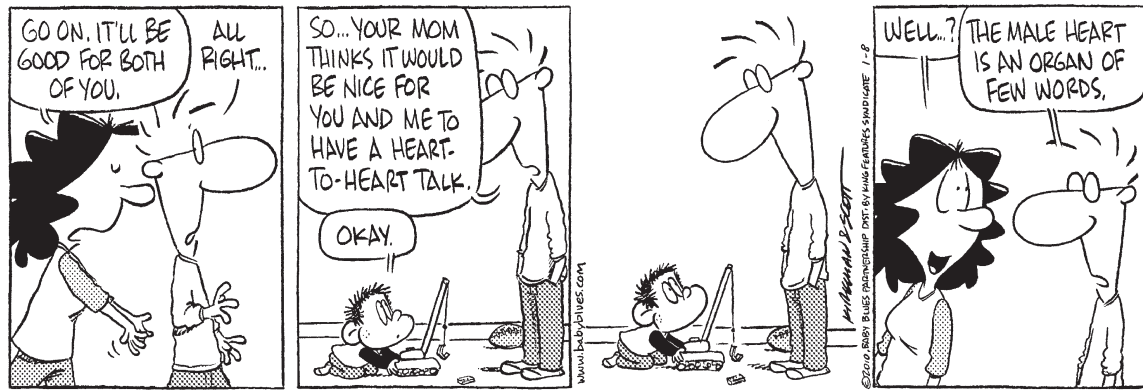


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



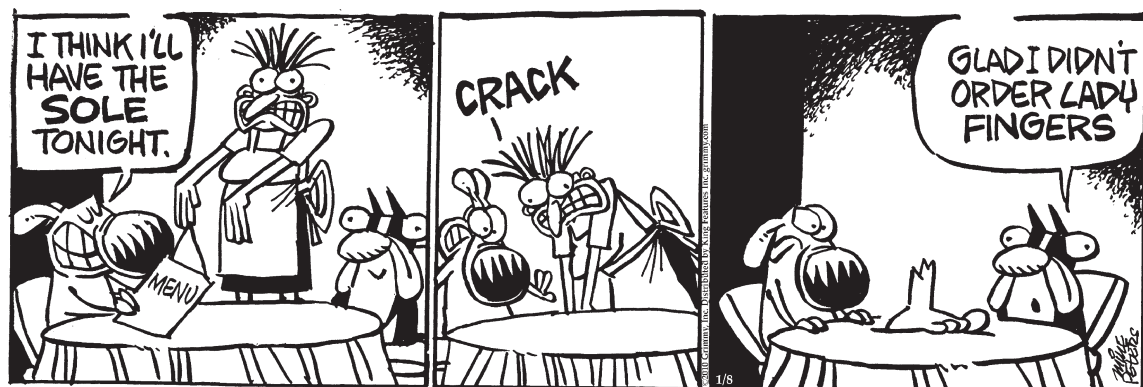
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



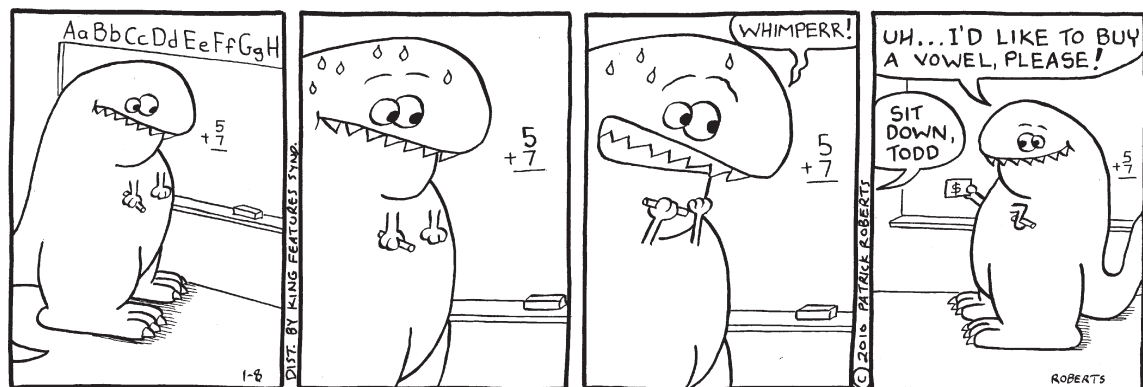
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Shower curtain washing is easy

Dear Heloise: Please, I need your recipe for washing a CLEAR-VINYL SHOWER CURTAIN – I'm desperate! Thanks. – Penny Brittle, The Plains, Va.

Penny, cleaning a clear-vinyl or plastic shower curtain is so easy! Just pop it in the washer, using hot water and the correct amounts of detergent and chlorine bleach. But here's the important part: Add to the load several white terry bath towels, to provide some scrubbing action. You can dry the curtain in the dryer for a few minutes, or just re-hang to dry. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: People use all types of items to identify their luggage, including ribbons and yarn bows (which all might come off). Here is a sure marker: Purchase, for about \$1, fabric paint, and paint large initials on the outside of the suitcase. I purchased bright-orange and yellow for my dark luggage, and bingo – when it comes off the luggage turntable, it is easy to spot. Of course, an artistic person can draw a pretty picture. – Marianne Z., Naples, Fla.

HANDY HELPER

Dear Heloise: I broke my wrist and came home with a cast that went from my knuckles to just below my armpit. I live alone and had to find ways to take care of myself one-handed.

Preparing to take a shower was exhausting. I found a long, narrow plastic bag (like the paper-boy uses) that was long enough to cover the cast with about 3 or 4 inches to spare. Taping it in place was impossible, but a hair scrunchy worked great. I put the bag over my arm and pulled a scrunchy over the cast to hold the bag tight above the cast. Then I slid another one over the cast to hold the open end of the bag down flat against the cast. The bag could be wiped with a towel and removed easily with one hand. Hang it to dry, and the same bag can be used over and over. – Catherine in California

SAVE MONEY

Dear Heloise: When I buy any liquid in a bottle that has a seal on it, I just punch a couple of holes in the seal and leave the seal in place. I can control the flow better, and I'm not wasting any because I poured too much. – Val E., Fort Wayne, Ind.

EASY TOTE

Dear Heloise: Wheelbarrows are often big and cumbersome to use for yardwork – all that pushing around. A cheaper and easier method is to use a plastic toboggan. You can put a long pull rope on the front of it, load it up with leaves or branches, and it glides across the lawn. This takes much less effort and is easy to store. – Gloria from Iowa

KEEP MOIST

Dear Heloise: To keep antibacterial premoistened wipes from drying out, I make sure the containers are sealed properly and store them upside down. It helps a great deal. – Karen, via e-mail (c)2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:
 ♠A74 ♥KJ83 ♦7 ♣AQ962
 1. Your left-hand opponent bids One Notrump (15 to 17 points), your partner passes, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Diamonds (natural). What would you bid now?
 2. You bid One Club, and your partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?
 3. You bid One Club, your left-hand opponent bids Three Diamonds, your partner bids Three Hearts, and your right-hand opponent passes. What would you bid now?
 4. Your right-hand opponent bids One Diamond, which you double, and your partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Double. Assuming that two diamonds is a sign-off bid showing zero to seven high-card points and asking the opening bidder to pass, a double for takeout is obviously best. There is, of course, an element of risk in doubling two diamonds, but, even so, the fact remains that it is more risky to pass.

It would be a mistake to let the opponents walk off with a partscore – which they seem likely to make – when there is a good chance that your side also can make a partscore. Counting the hidden value of a partscore, you lose at least 300 points every time you let the opponents make one when you can make one of your own. Losses of this sort cannot be justified by pleading safety.

2. Three hearts. You have only 14 points in high cards, but because of the heart fit and singleton diamond, your hand is worth about 17 points. If one of your low hearts were a diamond, you would have the values for a raise to two hearts, but the singleton diamond and fourth heart raise the value of your hand tremendously.

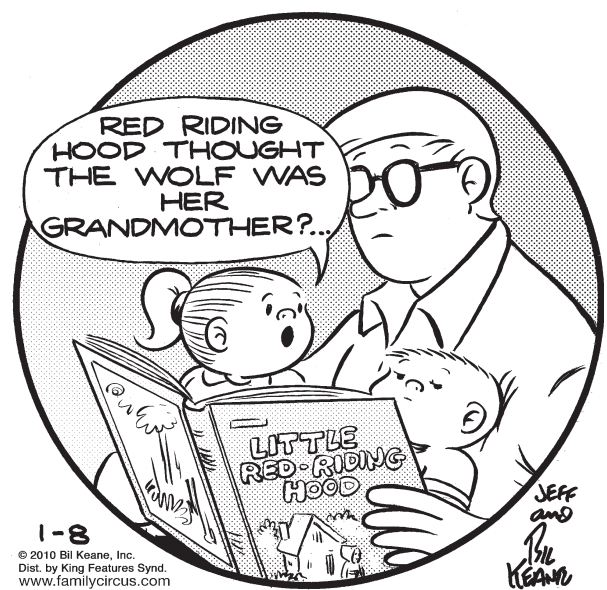
Partner is not required to bid over three hearts, but if he has more than seven points, he should carry on to game.

3. Four diamonds. There is a chance for slam, and you would not be showing your full values if you simply bid four hearts. Generally, a cuebid shows the ace or a void in the opponent's suit, but in this case you can afford to lie a little because the situation calls for a strong bid of some sort, and there is no better one available.

4. Two hearts. That is all your hand is worth opposite a forced response. Partner may have a terrible hand, and you should make allowance for this possibility.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/08

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

Cryptoquip

QTZSG T UDTZB KJCTSNNKF

NHJXU VDTSD DGAHQ UJ

SJJB VTUD, FJX SJXKP SNKK

TU QGNQJZTZC AGNQJZTZC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU RELEASE A TUBE OF SOOTHING SALVE OVER A GUY, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE DROPPED A BALM ON HIM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plaything
 - 4 Motion picture
 - 8 Bachelor's lack
 - 12 Praise in verse
 - 13 Vicinity
 - 14 Thoroughfare
 - 15 Celebrate excessively
 - 17 Pismires
 - 18 Source
 - 19 Fore opposite
 - 21 Type measures
 - 22 What Dorothy wanted to do
 - 26 "M*A*S*H" venue
 - 29 Plead
 - 30 Purchase
 - 31 Enrages
 - 32 Deity
 - 33 Location
 - 34 Actor
 - 35 Simonize
 - 36 Chose
 - 37 Rehash
 - 39 Chowd down
- DOWN**
- 40 Mrs. McKinley
 - 41 Reaping implement
 - 45 Bend
 - 48 Deteriorate
 - 50 Zero, at Wimbledon
 - 51 Some of the flock
 - 52 Cribbage scorer
 - 53 The yoke's on them
 - 54 Withered
 - 55 Eisenhower
 - 1 Bloodhound's clue
 - 23 Last writes?
 - 3 Bigfoot's cousin
 - 4 Last to marry
 - 25 Kept tabs on
 - 5 "Reversal of Fortune"
 - 26 Chess piece
 - 27 Sandwich star
 - 6 "Ben-Hur" author
 - 28 Start from scratch
 - 29 Carton
 - 7 Ran
 - 32 Closed carpports
 - 8 Rage
 - 9 Charged bit
 - 33 Glasses, for short
 - 10 Corpulent
 - 35 Marry
 - 11 McMahon and Sullivan
 - 36 Futile
 - 38 Prancer's companion
 - 16 Curved moldings
 - 39 Michaelmas daisy
 - 42 French military cap
 - 43 Welsh emblem
 - 44 Advantage
 - 45 Showman Ziegfeld
 - 46 Cold fish?
 - 47 Night before
 - 49 Have bills

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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	