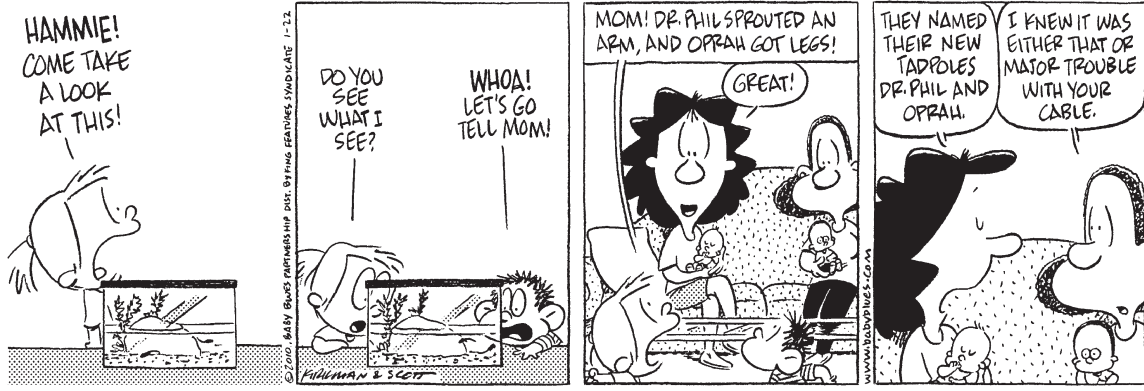
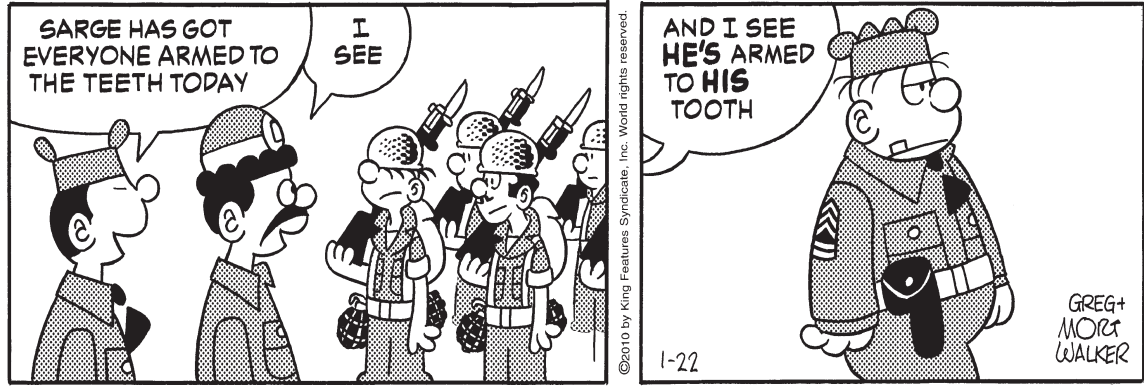


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



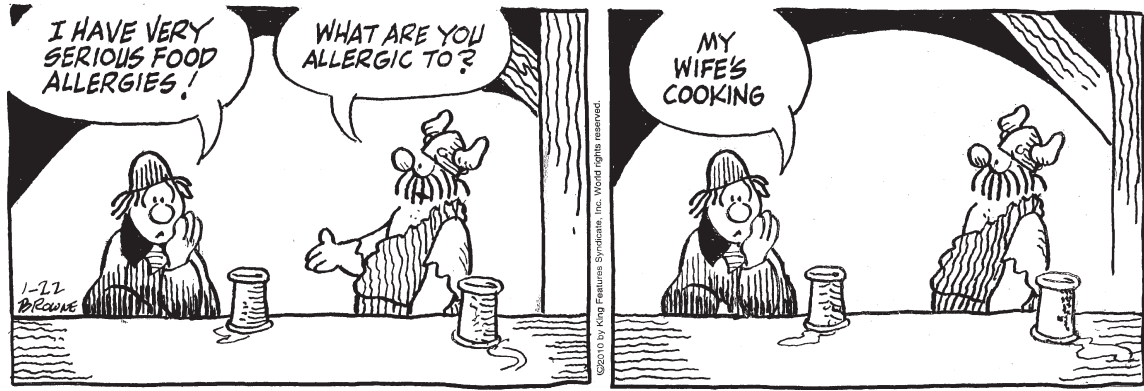
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



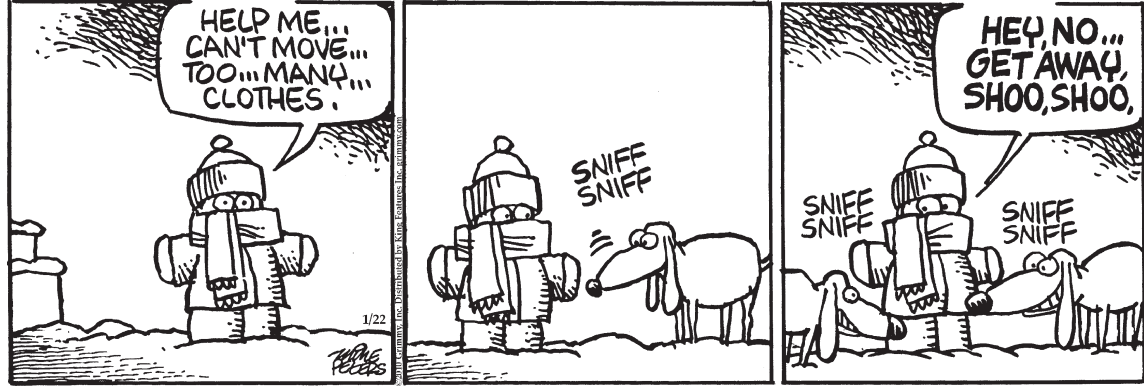
Blondie • Chic Young



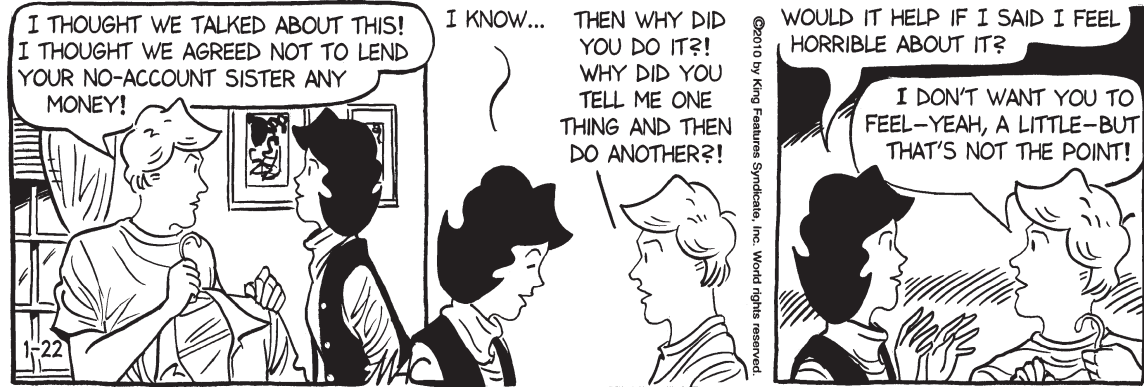
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



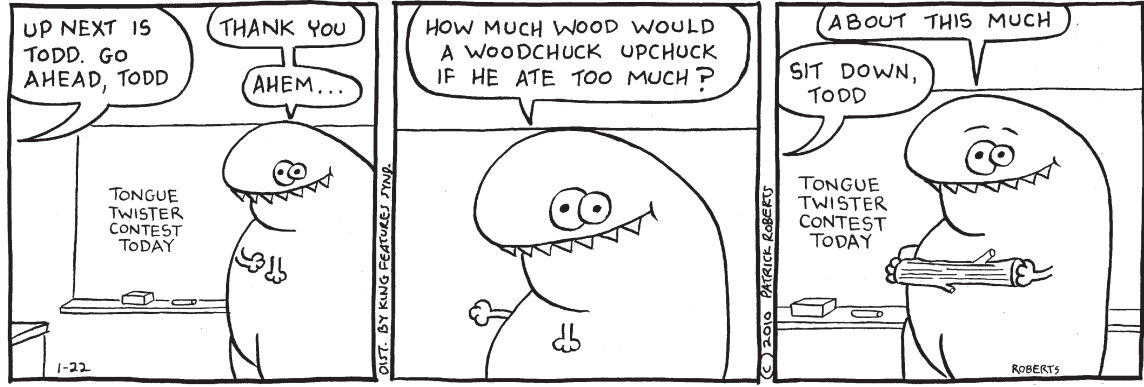
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



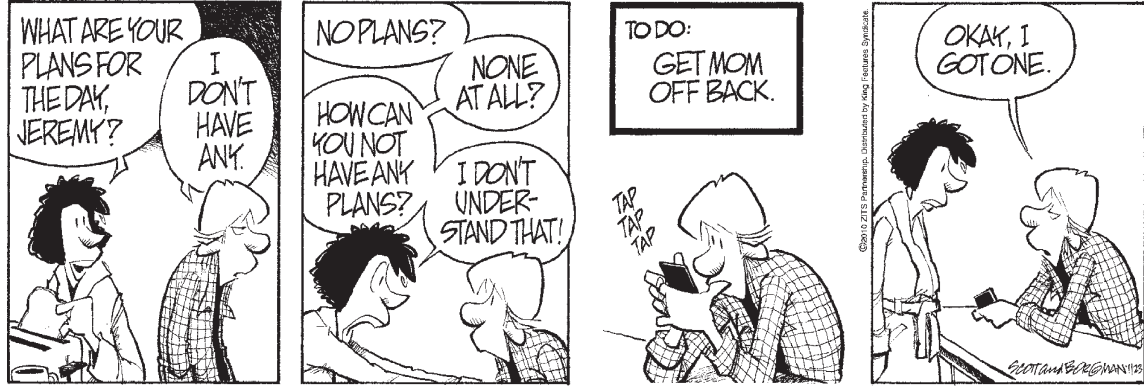
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Winterizing cuts heat bills

Dear Readers: Here are some hints to help WINTERIZE YOUR HOME and save on heating bills, plus prevent expensive winter-related damage. Check the following areas:

- Examine all doors and windows for leaks. Replace old weatherstripping, or caulk where needed.
- Check the roof for loose shingles, and the flashing around the chimney and dormers.
- Inspect the outside of your home for cracks or areas that need repairs. You want the exterior to be secure from freezing and thawing damage.
- Review the insulation in your attic. Do you have enough?
- Bring in a service professional to clean and inspect your heating system. This is a must! It is vital to be sure heating units run in a safe manner.
- Get the chimney cleaned and checked out. Keep the damper closed when you are not using the fireplace to keep warm air in and cold air out.

—Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

FIRE PREVENTION

Dear Heloise: Since my dryer is just off my kitchen, when I vacuum, I take the lint filter out and vacuum it and then use my under-the-fridge attachment to get under the dryer. I have a duster that has a long handle to reach under and get the dust and lint out, and then I just vacuum it up. Plus the duster is great for reaching those socks, etc., that fall between or behind the washer or dryer. You can find the flat dusters and the fridge attachment in most home catalogs. —A Montana Reader, via e-mail

A great hint to prevent a home fire, too! —Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: My son left for college and traveled by plane. I didn't feel comfortable without his luggage being locked because of theft, but I knew that for security reasons, it might be checked. My son put a metal key ring through the two zippers. It worked great. —Cheryl, via e-mail

PRESSURIZED AIR

Dear Heloise: I read about dusting with a can of pressurized air. I have been dusting curtains, silk flowers, pleated lampshades and such for years. I use my hair dryer set on "cool and high." It works great and at no extra cost. —Eileen, Kermit, Texas

UTENSIL-DRAWER ORGANIZATION

Dear Heloise: I had a hard time finding a utensil to stir with while cooking (yes, this guy does a lot of the cooking around here) because everything was shoved into a drawer. Nobody ever said that you had to put the utensils in the drawer with the handle facing the front. I put ours in backward so the head of the spoons, spatulas, etc., are to the front of the drawer and can be easily seen. —Chuck S., Cortland, Ohio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Your right-hand opponent deals and opens Four Hearts, neither side vulnerable. What, if anything, would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠AQJ94 ♥8 ♦K5 ♣J10752
2. ♠AK83 ♥— ♦KQJ10 ♣QJ1063
3. ♠A95 ♥QJ98 ♦763 ♣KQ7
4. ♠K7 ♥— ♦AKJ8 ♣AKQJ984

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. The primary objective of a pre-emptive bid is to make it difficult for the opponents to enter the bidding safely and accurately, and that is what has happened to you here.

After your opponent's opening four-heart bid, there is certainly a temptation to bid four spades. If you are by nature fearless, you bid four spades and hope the roof doesn't cave in on you. But if you are more cautious by nature, you pass and hope partner has the proper values to enter the fray in one way or another.

Actually, if you were to take a poll of the several hundred 10-best players in the world, probably 60 percent of them would pass, while a respectable 40 percent would step into the unknown by bidding four spades.

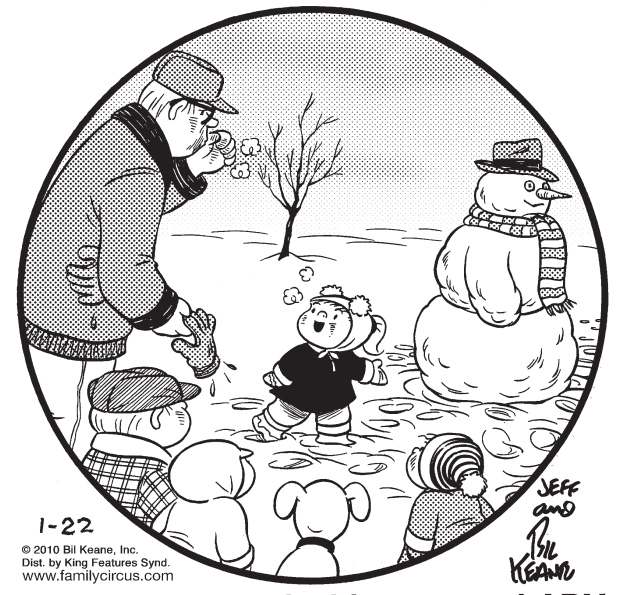
2. Double. There is a real possibility that partner will pass the double (which is intended primarily as takeout), and though you might deem this undesirable, there is no better alternative to the double. The dilemma you face merely emphasizes how annoying a well-timed pre-emptive bid can be. However, it might well turn out that the best result your side can achieve is to let the opponents play the hand in four hearts doubled.

3. Pass. This time you should expect to beat four hearts, but you can't afford to double because your partner will almost surely bid, and the wrong side might wind up playing the hand. It is true that a pass here might result in failing to punish your right-hand opponent to the fullest extent (if the next player and your partner both pass), but a far worse result might ensue if you doubled and partner took the double out.

4. Six clubs. Here you should bid what you think you can make. Of course, you might go down, but against that you should weigh the probability of making 12 (and perhaps all 13) tricks. The best you can do in these sticky situations is to make the bid you think will win most often in the long run, and in this context six clubs should be regarded as the best percentage bid.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Now, can we make him a snow LADY so he won't be lonely?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

GCDVWJC FYC GPJJCJ VF ZT

PHHLDC VMC VEE ELFFEC

JRMLFCJ, L ZWJF VIZLF

FYVF L'Z CEH-CZREPTCI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVER SINCE THOSE LADIES MET ON A CERTAIN STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, THEY'VE REMAINED PENN PALS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 1 Scenery chewer | 4 Resort | 7 Wimbledon surface | 12 Chicken-kink link | 13 Stolen | 14 Proportion | 15 Old soldier | 16 Henny Young-man's repertoire | 18 Make up your mind | 19 Hatred | 20 Bistro name starter, often | 22 Type measures | 23 Movie pig | 27 "— Town" | 29 Cheap | 31 Track legend Jesse | 34 Sports venue | 35 Requiring bicolored glasses | 37 "CSI" evidence | 38 Fly catcher? | 39 — Today | 41 Opening day? | 45 Memorable mission | 47 Illustrations | 48 Bluff | 52 Dove's call | 53 Bring the meal | 54 Funny-man DeLuise | 55 Pump up the volume | 56 Words to live by | 57 Office-holders | 58 Existed | 2 Hebrew letter | 3 Photo finish abbr. | 4 "Get outta here!" | 5 Moll over | 6 Had a home-cooked meal | 7 Somber | 8 Operated | 9 Goddess of fool-hardiness | 10 Madam's counterpart | 11 "Mayday!" | 17 A deadly sin | 21 Like urban land | 23 Powdered cleaning agent | 24 Copper head? | 25 Crib | 26 Timetable | 28 Work with | 30 Ashen | 31 Mel of Coopers-town | 32 Personal question? | 33 Historic time | 36 Lack-luster | 37 Variety of plum | 40 Riyadh resident | 42 Showy parrot | 43 Bakery lure | 44 Subway stations | 45 Kind of hairdo | 46 Resistance units | 48 Radio watchdog org. | 49 Rowing need | 50 Salt Lake City athlete | 51 Scarlet |
|---------------|------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------|

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| MAH | HAZE | POSE | | | |
| PTA | AMIN | LILY | | | |
| HAIR | PINS | ALOE | | | |
| RAP | GUESSED | | | | |
| PALMER | EAT | | | | |
| ALLI | NIP | RILES | | | |
| PUNS | GAB | COPE | | | |
| AMEND | SIR | NEE | | | |
| STAR | DOM | DAH | | | |
| COOK | WIRE | HAIR | | | |
| ANNE | ETAL | IRA | | | |
| REEL | DENY | RED | | | |

Yesterday's answer 1-22

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
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