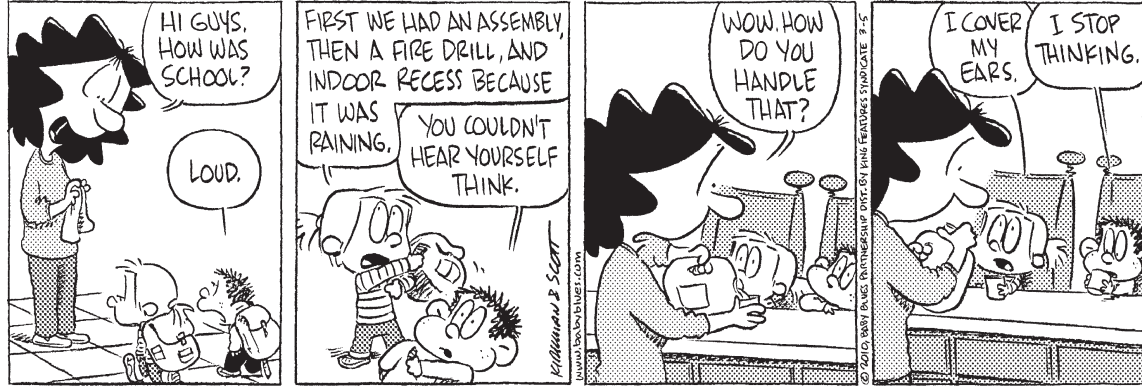


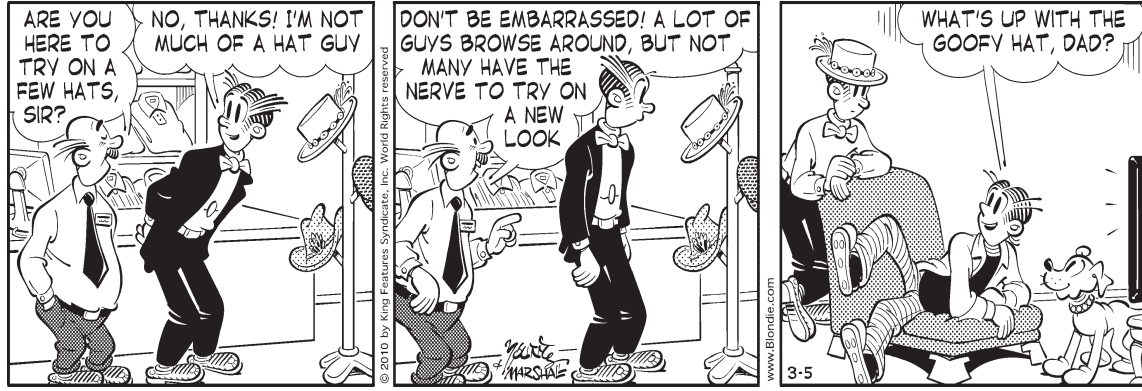
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



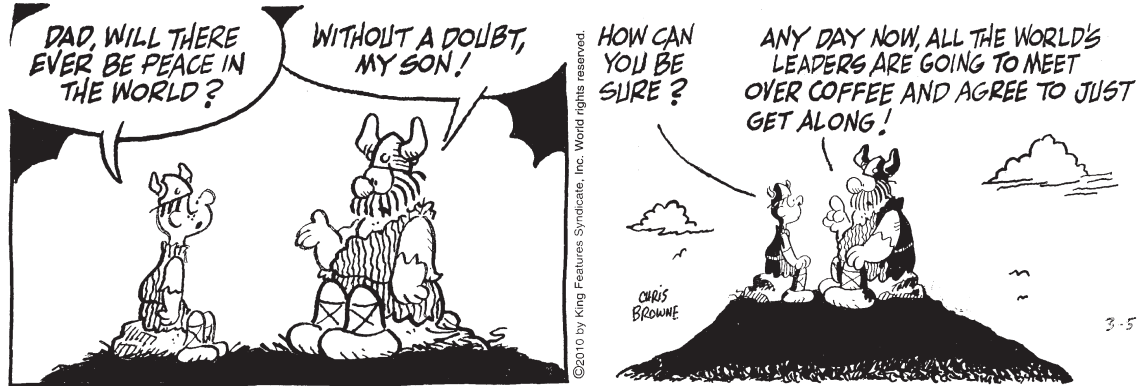
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



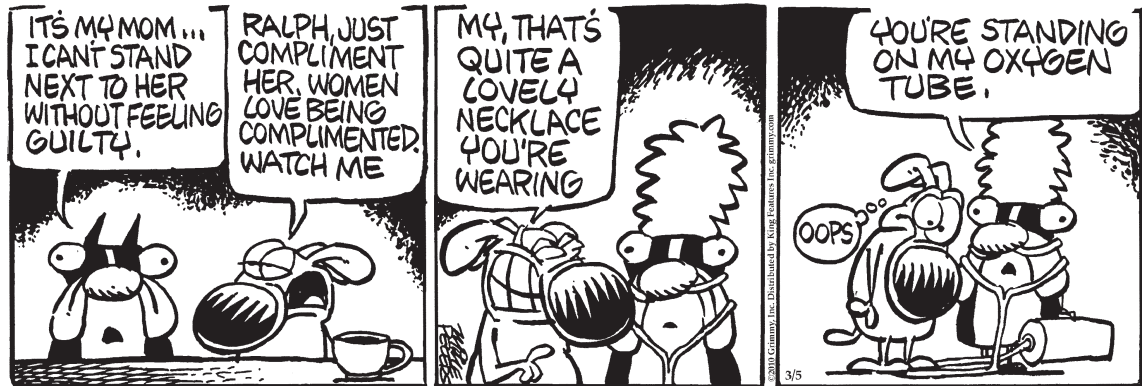
**Blondie** • Chic Young



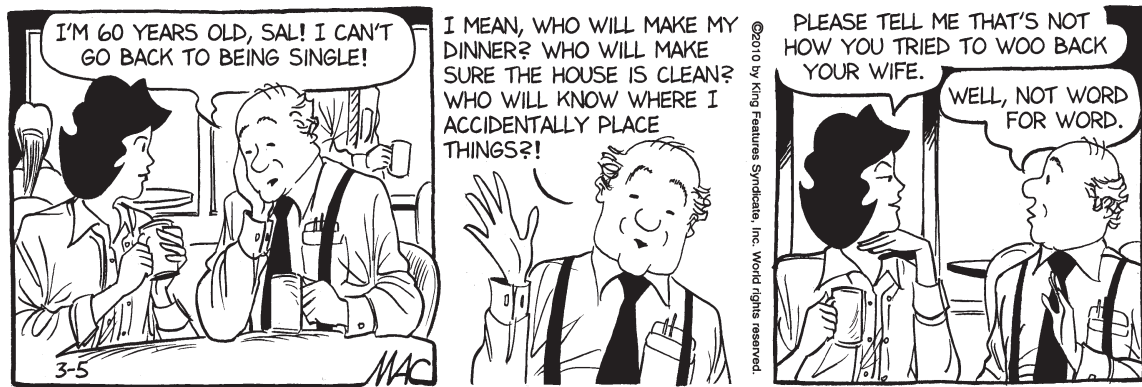
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



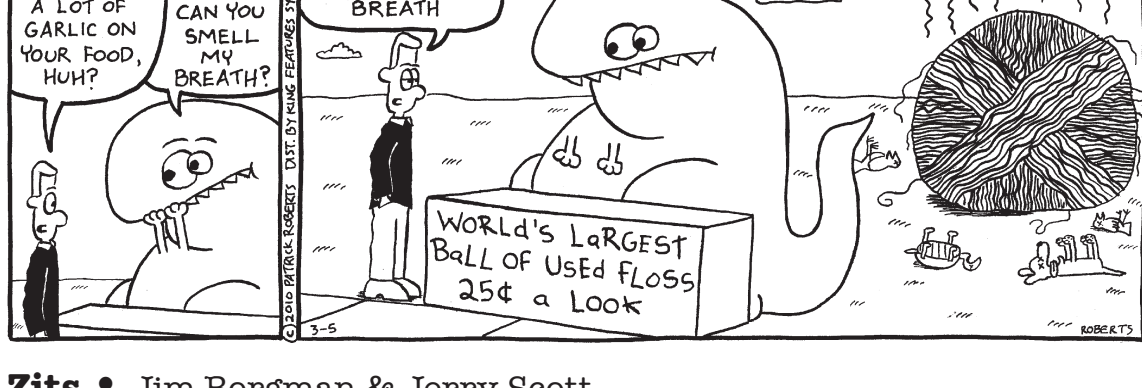
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Oven bottom is foiled again**

Dear Heloise: If you can help with this, you will forever be my idol! I was making PIES. As always with fruit (at least mine), they run. I put foil on the rack the pie would be sitting on, and I put foil on the bottom of my oven. Well, the foil baked onto the bottom of my oven. Can you think of anything I can try to remove the baked-on foil, or am I going to have to live with this? Since this is a brand-new stove, I am sick about this. Thank you. — Sharon, via e-mail.

Sharon, this has happened to lots of people, so you are not alone. A leading manufacturer of foil said that while unsightly, it shouldn't be a problem when cooking food, nor is it a fire hazard. But most manufacturers do not recommend lining the bottom of the oven with foil. Also, if you do put foil on a lower rack, don't cover the whole rack, as it may hamper heat circulation.

Oven manufacturers suggest gently scrubbing the foil (in a cold oven) with the rough side of a two-sided sponge and soapy water to remove as much of it as possible. Good luck. — Heloise

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: My travel hint is that I always bring clothespins to keep the drapes shut at night. The lights from the parking lot and surrounding businesses are bright, and are on all night. — V.H., Bakersfield, Calif.

You are singing my travel song! Those darn streetlights. — Heloise

**NEIGHBORLY HELP**

Dear Heloise: When our next-door neighbors are gone for any length of time, we watch their house, and vice versa. In the wintertime, the prospects of heater units malfunctioning, resulting in a freeze-up, is a concern.

We have started using indoor/outdoor wireless temperature stations so we can monitor the neighbors' room temperature without going over every few hours. We put the main unit in our house and the remote unit (98-foot range) in their house. Works just fine. — J.D. Murphy, Custer, S.D.

**FABRIC-SOFTENER BOTTLE**

Dear Heloise: I read that using pliers to pull out the spout on a fabric-softener bottle is a good way to get what is left inside. I just add a little water to the bottle, shake it up and pour it in the washer. I can get two or three more applications before recycling the container. — Mary, via e-mail

**APPLY HAIR SPRAY IN SHOWER**

Dear Heloise: I step into my shower stall to apply hair spray, keeping the sticky mist confined in an easy-to-clean area. — E.W., Salem, Utah

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:  
 ♠ A97 ♥ KJ86 ♦ 10 ♣ AQ984

1. Your left-hand opponent opens Two Diamonds (weak), your partner passes, and your right-hand opponent passes. What would you bid?

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. Since two diamonds is a weak bid that shows roughly six to 11 high-cards points, and your right-hand opponent does not seem interested in any more than a partscore, you should double for takeout. Of course there's some risk attached to this, but, even so, it is much better to compete than to pass.

You can't timidly allow the opponents to play the hand at two diamonds when there's such a good chance that your side can make a partscore or even a game. If the hidden value of a partscore is taken into account, you lose at least 300 points whenever the opponents make a partscore instead of you. Such losses cannot reasonably be justified by an excessive concern for safety.

An additional possibility is that partner is well-heeled in diamonds and can convert your intended takeout double into a profitable penalty double by passing.

2. Three hearts. True, you have only 14 high-card points, but with your excellent trump support and attractive distribution -- the singleton diamond is worth three extra points -- you have the equivalent of 17 or 18 points. If one of your low hearts were a low diamond, you'd simply raise to two hearts.

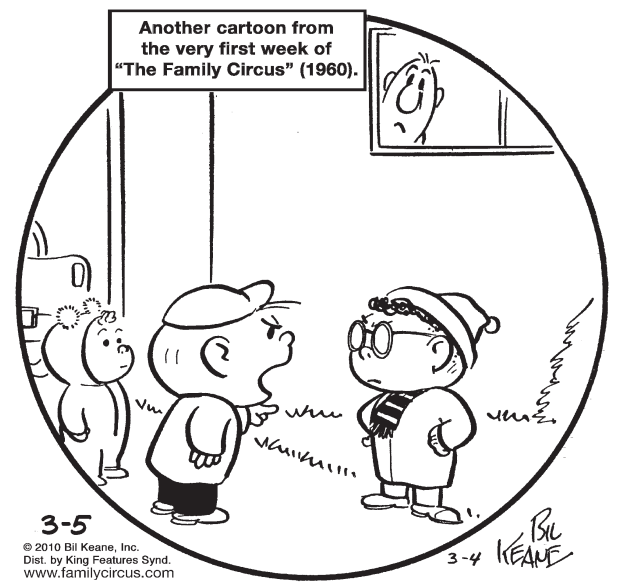
Your partner might pass three hearts, which is merely invitational, but you shouldn't fret about that possibility. If he passes -- indicating a very poor hand -- he may have trouble making even nine tricks.

3. Four diamonds. There is a good chance for a slam, and you would not get that message across with a simple raise to four hearts. Usually, the cuebid of an opponent's suit promises first-round control, but here you should be willing to lie a little because the situation demands aggressive action and there is no better bid available.

4. Two hearts. That is just about all you can do opposite a forced response. Partner might have a dreadful hand, and you should make allowance for it. The single raise in this situation typically shows 16 to 18 points.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

**Cryptoquip**

VOWIRCO L IX FKO VOCF  
 KZRCODEISF CDHIBOH LS FKO  
 YZHET, YZRET BZR WIEE

XO FKO XICFOH XLCFOH?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AN INFANT STARTS UNDERSTANDING WHO HIS FATHER IS, I SUPPOSE IT'S CALLED DADA PROCESSING.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals M

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Miss Piggy's pronoun
  - 4 Second-year student
  - 8 Entreat
  - 12 Rowing need
  - 13 Actress
  - 14 Obey
  - 15 Unreservedly
  - 17 "My bad"
  - 18 Soda shoppe treat
  - 19 Chick's mama
  - 21 On in years
  - 22 Stymie
  - 26 Leaves out
  - 29 Proscribe
  - 30 Peculiar
  - 31 Bart's sister
  - 32 Director's cry
  - 33 Disposition
  - 34 Barn resident
  - 35 Comedian
  - 36 Abdomen
  - 37 Cravat
- DOWN**
- 1 Takes blades to blades
  - 2 Honolulu's home
  - 3 Unyielding
  - 4 Plagiaries
  - 5 Reacted to fireworks
  - 6 Expert
  - 7 Snobbish
  - 8 Tine
  - 9 "Flying Down to ..."
  - 10 Venomous viper
  - 11 "Undeniably"
  - 16 Parkinson's medication
  - 20 Many millennia
  - 23 Implementation
  - 24 Pedestal occupant
  - 25 Vortex
  - 26 Coin aperture
  - 27 New Zealand bird
  - 28 Capri, e.g.
  - 29 Annoy
  - 32 Big star in Carina
  - 33 Tag-along's remark
  - 35 Puke
  - 36 Witticism
  - 38 Insignificant
  - 39 Annual visitor
  - 42 Bygone Peruvian
  - 43 Kind of tide
  - 44 Work at the keyboard
  - 45 Recipe meas.
  - 46 Be under the weather
  - 47 Extraterrestrial's transportation
  - 49 Squid squirt

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

B	A	L	M	O	B	S	O	L	D
A	L	G	A	I	D	E	M	F	A
S	T	O	P	A	N	D	G	O	F
H	O	G	T	I	E	T	H	A	N
O	R	Q	U	E	E	N			
S	H	I	P	M	A	N	E	D	I
E	O	N	A	N	D	O	V	A	
T	E	A	L	I	D	O	K	N	E
L	N	O	R	M	A	H	I		
L	I	E	D	G	E	M	E	D	U
T	L	O	H	I	T	A	N	D	R
F	L	U	A	K	I	N	I	S	T
E	S	T	B	E	N	E	E	A	S

Yesterday's answer 3-5

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