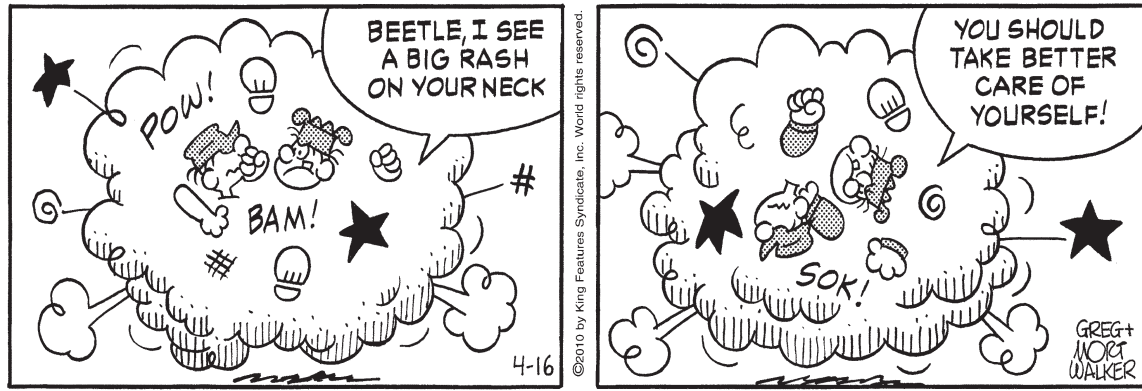


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



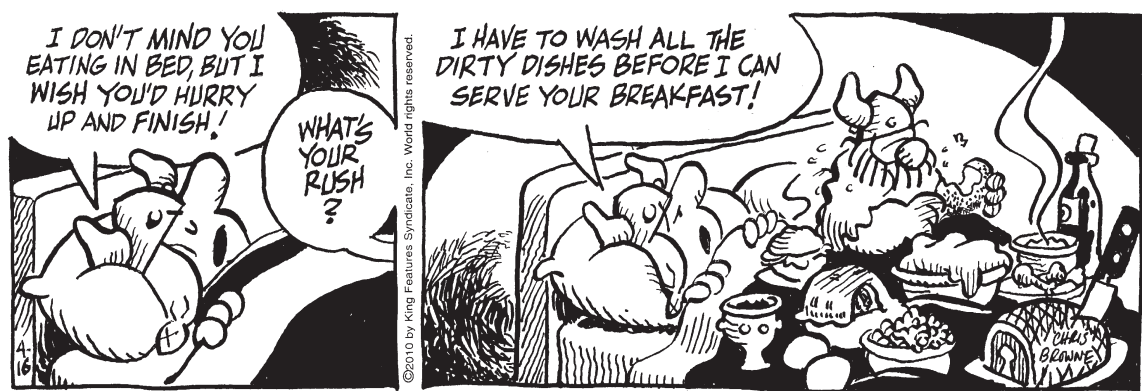
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



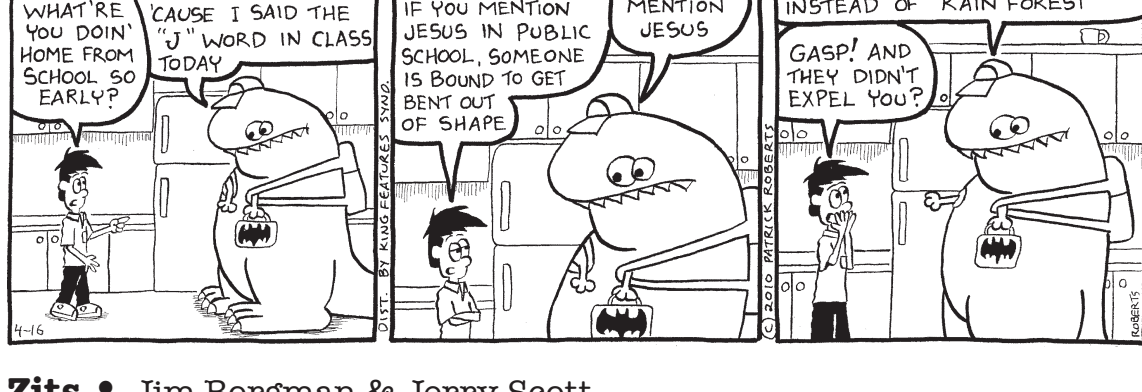
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Dear Heloise: What exactly is WASHING SODA? – Virginia, via e-mail
 Virginia, washing soda (also known as sodium carbonate, soda ash or soda crystals) can be added to laundry along with regular detergent to help boost the power of the detergent as well as help to freshen the clothes.
 Washing soda also can be used around the house to clean and eliminate odors. It makes cleaning easier, and freshens as it goes along. You can find it in the laundry aisle. It is not baking soda, and you should wear gloves when handling it. – Heloise

RECYCLING NEWSPAPERS
 Dear Heloise: I'd like to offer this handy hint: When recycling newspapers for a twice-monthly pickup, I used to put them in a plastic bag, but found that they were too heavy to handle. I bought a plastic garbage can on wheels and put the bags inside. Now I roll them out to the curb, remove the bags and roll the empty can back to the garage. No longer is it a dreaded chore, and no more huffing and puffing. – S.G. in New Jersey

WINE CORK
 Dear Heloise: Used wine corks make good bobbars for fishing and can be used to store hooks and flies. You also can slice and glue them to the bottom of a dish on a table you don't want to scratch. – Richard in North Carolina

TRAVEL HINT
 Dear Heloise: You had a reader who was complaining about the lights in hotels. (That also was my complaint. – Heloise) I have a couple of hints and suggestions:
 1. Several years ago, I started carrying a small flashlight in my bathroom bag. It goes on the bedside table as soon as I unpack. If you are in an area that is prone to blackouts, it is nice to have.
 2. Also, some of the hotels have night lights on the bottom of hair dryers.
 3. You can get a very inexpensive night light in the bulb department of most stores. I have seen them from 99 cents to \$2.99. – Donna Brocchini, North Highlands, Calif.

NO LEFT PHONE
 Dear Heloise: I have a hint that has been helpful to me. So that I don't forget my cell phone if it is charging, I always put my purse very close to the plug where I am charging my phone, and I lay the phone on top of my purse. I never leave home without my purse, so I never forget my cell. Thank you for all your wonderful hints and interesting topics. – Dolly, via e-mail

ADDRESS LABELS
 Dear Heloise: We receive many address labels from organizations we've donated to, and some we haven't. Since I can never use all those labels, I cut off decorative depictions of holidays and mark special days on our calendar. It makes the calendar pretty, and it's recycling, too. – Carolyn, Omaha, Neb.
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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:
 North 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
 East Pass ?
 South 2 ♣ Pass
 West Pass ?
What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
 1. ♠ J6 ♥ 72 ♦ A94 ♣ KQJ653
 2. ♠ A83 ♥ 10 ♦ 832 ♣ AKQJ92
 3. ♠ 4 ♥ 6 ♦ AK987 ♣ KQ10743
 4. ♠ 9852 ♥ KJ ♦ 63 ♣ AKQ75

Bidding Quiz
 1. Four spades. The jump-rebid in spades, in addition to showing extra points, virtually guarantees at least a six-card suit, so the J-6 can be regarded as adequate trump support. A rebid of three notrump, without a heart stopper, would constitute a needless risk. The only other conceivable bid, four clubs, is not desirable either, since it might lead to a contract of five clubs rather than four spades. Ten tricks at spades will almost surely be easier to make than 11 tricks at clubs, and you should act accordingly.
 2. Four notrump. It is highly likely that a grand slam in spades, clubs or notrump can be made if partner has the two missing aces. You therefore invoke Blackwood. If partner responds five diamonds, indicating only one ace, your best shot is six spades, which should make a very high percentage of the time. The only real concern is that partner has two immediate diamond losers and the opponents lead that suit, but given the bidding, this is not probable.
 3. Four diamonds. There may be a slam here also, but where it might lie is uncertain. Four diamonds suggests to partner that you lack spade support and asks if he can support clubs or diamonds. If partner responds five clubs or five diamonds, you should carry on to six, feeling confident that you'll score at least 12 tricks.
 4. Five spades. This is not an ideal type of hand with which to ask about aces, so a jump-raise in spades, inviting partner to bid six, seems the best choice. This is true even though your spades are not as strong as you'd like them to be – you lack a high honor – and it is chiefly for this reason that you don't bid six directly.
 Partner is not required to bid again over five spades, but in practice he will seldom pass with a hand that can produce 12 tricks opposite the one you have here. Considering your spade fit, strong clubs and secondary heart control, you clearly have the values that make a spade slam likely.
 It would not be wrong to go directly to six, especially with a conservative partner. Such decisions – whether to bid five spades or six – are frequently based on practical considerations.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/16
 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.

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

Cryptoquip

T ACZXX FQUMQQY T MTCUK
 TLREBFBTY TYP T UEBAI-
 XIBYYQP CQRUBVQ LTK FQ

ATVVQP T ACZTIZPBVQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MAN TRIED TO BREAK INTO THE COMPANY'S COMPUTER SYSTEM, BUT HE SIMPLY COULDN'T HACK IT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 "Casa-blanca" pianist slayer
 4 Cleo's Sternward
 7 Hearty quaff
 13 Piourette pivot
 14 Also-ran
 15 Disen-cumber
 16 Snow-covered peak, in song
 18 Honest politician of Israel
 20 Greet the villain
 22 Take blades to blades
 23 No different
 27 Corral
 29 An apple inspired him
 31 Doozy
 34 Chickens (out)

DOWN
 35 Dad, slangily
 37 "Of course" lotion additive
 38 First lady
 41 Go with the eagles
 45 Injures severely
 47 Bill's partner
 48 Garfield's place
 52 Piece of work?
 53 Francis-co's farewell
 54 Quaint stopover
 55 Noshed
 56 Calendar page, usually

Solution time: 25 mins.

OLD	WOVE	AMIS			
DYE	ABET	SORE			
DEM	OLISH	HOAX			
	OWL	TYRANNY			
EM	CEES	LOM			
FIR	TOM	BEDEW			
TRAP	BOW	DEMI			
SETUP	PAT	MIT			
	DOC	RESORT			
READIES	NUT				
ETUI	DEMONIZE				
EARN	AGAR	OER			
FLAG	ROTS	NEG			

Yesterday's answer 4-16

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	42	43	44
			45				46		47	
48	49	50	51						52	
53				54					55	
56				57					58	