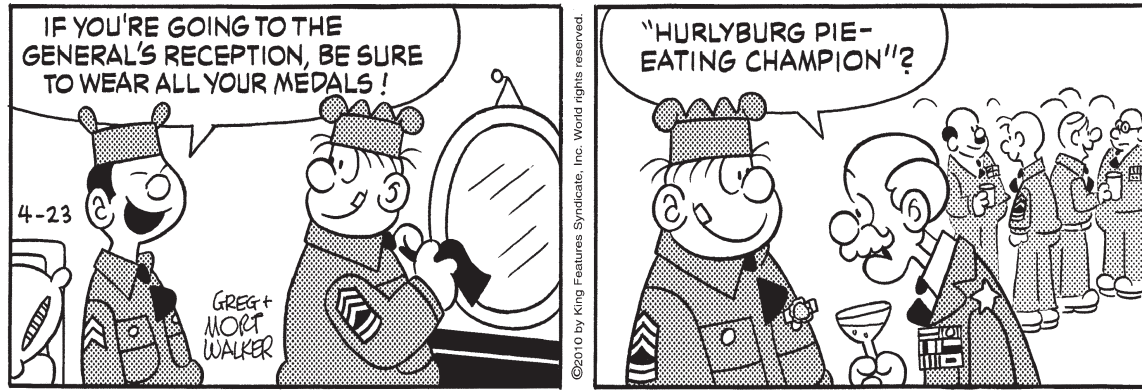


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



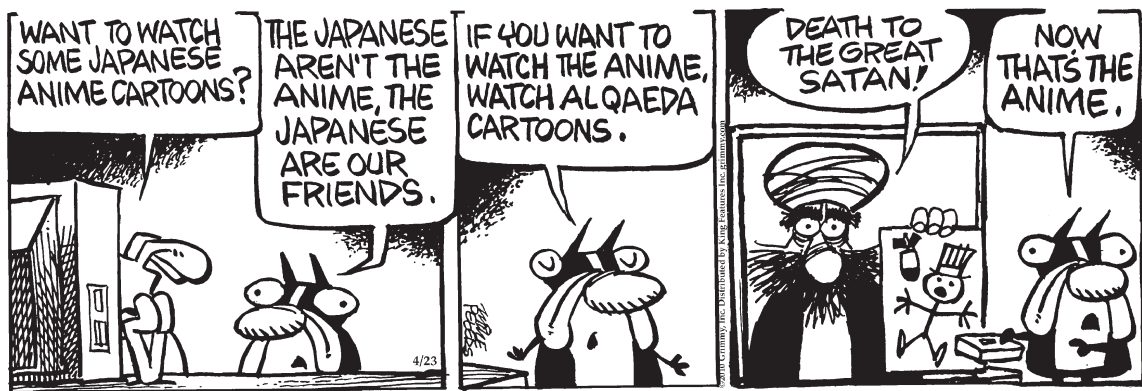
Blondie • Chic Young



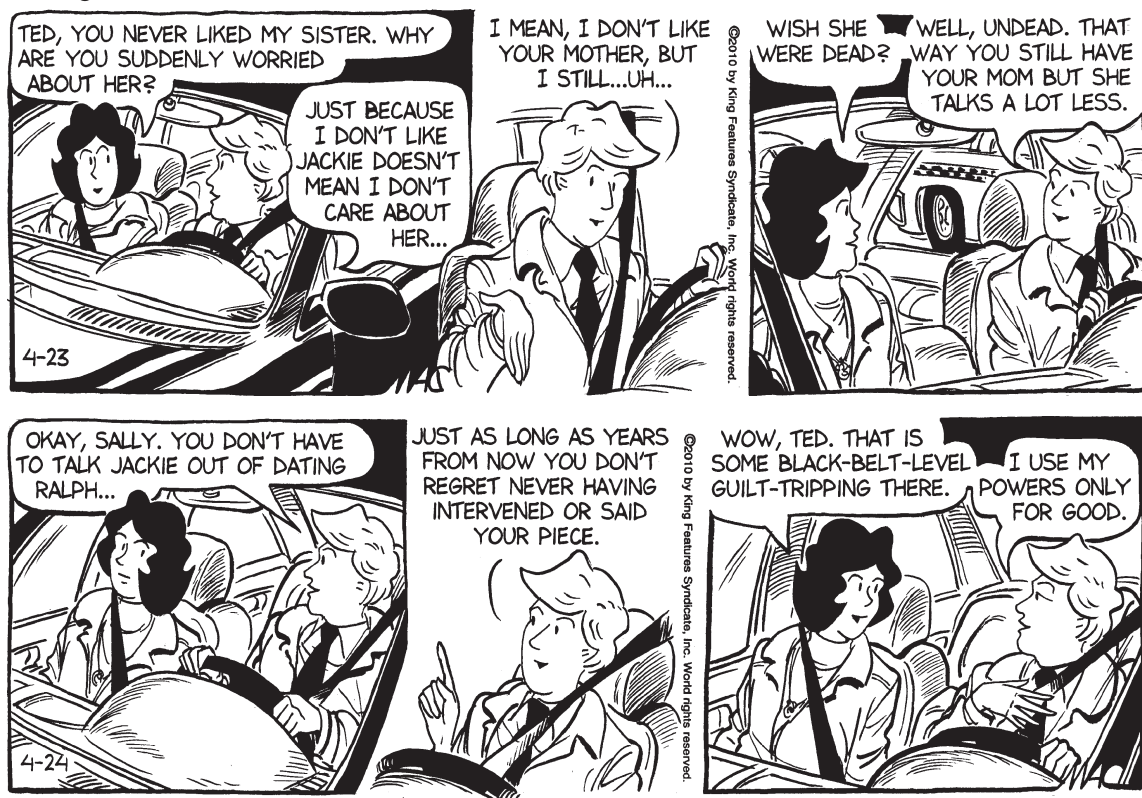
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Cleaning ivory takes extra care

Dear Readers: How many of you have ivory jewelry, chess pieces, figurines or piano keys and don't have a clue HOW TO CLEAN THEM? We looked at several sources in researching how to care for ivory, and here are a few hints:

- Ivory will darken or yellow as it ages, and it stains easily because it's porous.
- You should wash your hands to remove the oils and dirt, or for special pieces, wear white cotton gloves when handling ivory.
- Liquids, including water and cleaning solutions, may damage ivory and should be avoided.
- Dusting or gently wiping the object with a soft, clean cotton cloth or very soft brush is best.
- If you want to "clean" ivory, simply dampen a clean cloth or microfiber towel with only water, and wipe over the surface. Don't soak the ivory, and dry it thoroughly. Of course, if your ivory is broken or frail, refer to a professional conservator. — Heloise

A COUPLE OF GOOD HINTS

Dear Heloise: Some of the supplement bottles I buy have a flip-top lid, which I save and interchange with those bottles that don't.

Also, I put a dab of red fingernail polish on the topside of my phone charger cord because it was hard for me to see which way it connected. I also use it to mark the open ends of my compacts. — Susan in California

A COUPLE MORE GOOD HINTS

Dear Heloise: I have a couple of hints that I use all the time. When I have an important date or an appointment, I write it on my bathroom mirror with a dry-erase pen. No one sees it but me, and it cleans up with a damp cloth.

When I get a white glass or cup ring on a wooden table, I spray it lightly with a petroleum-based lubricant, and wipe it with a soft cloth. Works every time. — Susan, via e-mail

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: During our two-week trip to Italy, we stayed at seven different hotels. Before we left, I purchased an over-the-door vinyl shoe holder with mesh compartments for our toiletries. It worked out great, since many hotel bathrooms had vanity sinks or very little counter space.

When it was time to pack up, all I had to do was roll the shoe holder up with the toiletries in the compartments and slip it into my carry-on. Upon arrival at the next hotel, I would just unroll it and hang it over the bathroom door. It saved so much time by eliminating packing and unpacking at every stop. I plan to bring the holder on all future vacations. — Christine Garcia, Edison, N.J.

TISSUE RECEPTACLE

Dear Heloise: I keep an empty tissue box next to the fresh, newly opened box. It becomes a handy receptacle for used tissues that might otherwise get left on the coffee table or bedside table. It goes in the trash when the next box is opened. — Jo Migliavacca, via e-mail
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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South in each of the following three hands. What would you bid at the point where the question mark appears?

1. ♠ Q82 ♥ AKQJ93 ♦ 84 ♣ J6
 North 1♦ East Pass South 1♥ West Pass
 2♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
 3 NT

2. ♠ Q863 ♥ KQJ52 ♦ — ♣ KQ84
 North 1♣ East 1♠ South 2♥ West Pass
 1♣ 3♦ ?
 3. ♠ AK8 ♥ K83 ♦ 2 ♣ AQJ875
 South 1♣ West Pass North 1♥ East Pass
 3♣ ?

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. There is no good reason to think that four hearts will be easier to make than three notrump. On the contrary, it's highly likely that partner has at least one stopper in both black suits and can quickly collect nine or more tricks. In four hearts, you might well lose four tricks, especially with the opening lead going through dummy. You can afford to lose four tricks in notrump but not in hearts.

Typically, partner could have either of these hands:

- ♠ K54 ♥ 6 ♦ AK9762 ♣ Q73
- ♠ A10 ♥ 72 ♦ QJ9653 ♣ AQ2

In both cases, three notrump is virtually unbeatable, while four hearts might easily fail.

2. Four diamonds. There is a good chance for slam if partner has spade control. So, although he might have a minimum opening bid, you should explore the slam possibility by cuebidding East's suit to indicate first-round diamond control (the ace or a void).

If partner has [S] A4[H] A7 [D] J83 [C] AJ9652, he will either bid six clubs directly or first cuebid spades.

But if he has [S] 92 [H] A7 [D] AJ7 [C] A97532, he will sign off at five clubs, recognizing that his diamond ace is a useless card opposite your diamond void. It is up to partner to appraise his values in the light of your cuebid.

3. Four spades. Partner's bidding implies that he has at least five spades (with 4-4 in the majors, he would have bid hearts first), so it is vital to tell him now of your excellent spade support and, at the same time, that your three-club bid was based on maximum values. The jump-raise to four spades is a direct effort to get to slam in keeping with the general principle that the more you bid, the more you've got. A three-spade bid would tend to show weaker spade support, or that your three-club bid was based on a minimum.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Do you happen to need a taste tester?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Cryptoquip

H XJTMW KJMHJGJ UVNQJ
 FBWQ UXHJR UN AMHOK
 NYUN UVJ VNXQJQ. H

VTGJ ONBYUHYF JGHRJYAJ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONCE I KNEW THAT SOMEBODY GOT INTO THAT SEALED PACKAGE, I ABRUPTLY THREW A TAMPER TANTRUM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bakery lure
 6 — Beta Kappa
 9 Resort
 12 Cheek-related
 13 Cartoonist
 14 Charged bit
 15 Stew seasoning
 16 Mount — severely
 20 Prior nights
 21 Litter member
 23 Foreman foe
 24 Each
 25 Don of radio
 27 Saunter
 29 Cellist Pablo
 31 African herd
 35 Small plateau
 37 Brownish songbird

DOWN

19 Tumbler
 21 Snapshot
 22 Actress Thurman
 3 Mount —
 4 One of the strong-man
 5 Where the action is
 6 Bout before the main event
 7 Threw
 8 Noun-to-verb suffix
 9 Strainer
 10 Riddle
 11 Nervous
 17 Disclose

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-23

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			