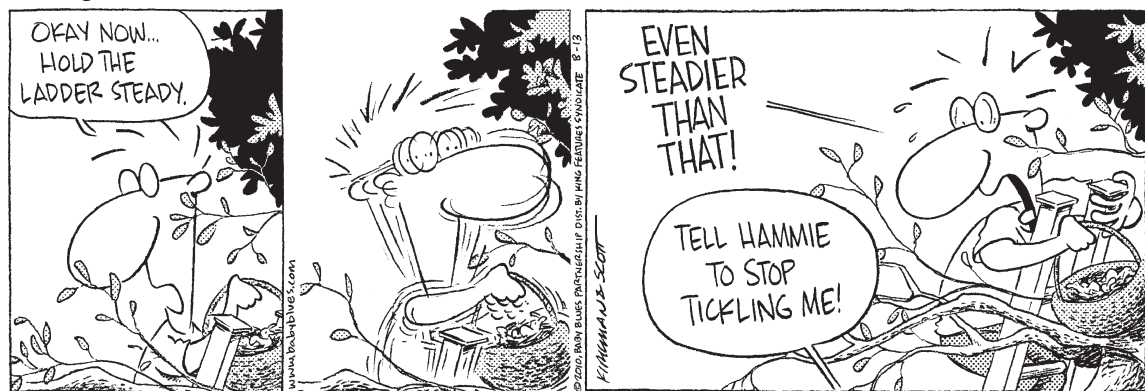
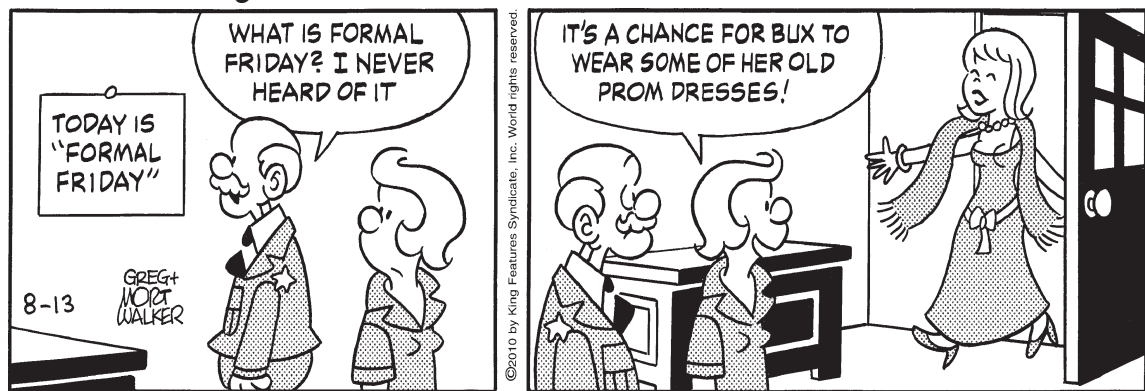


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



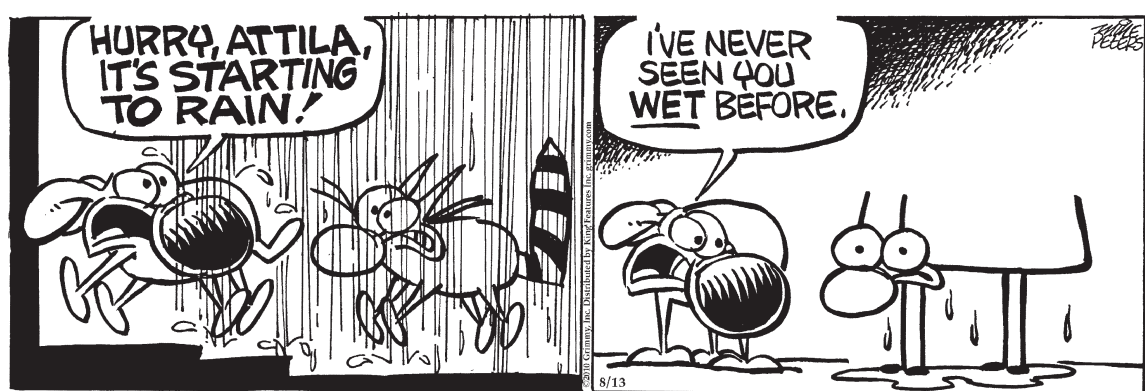
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



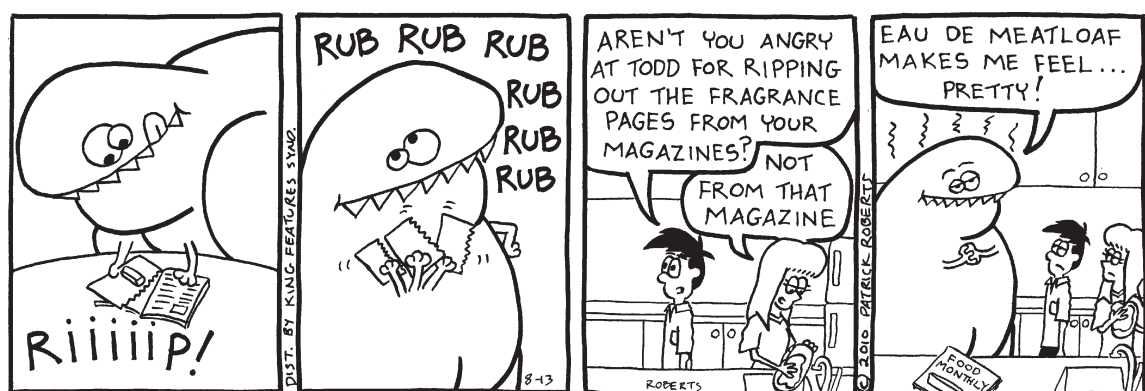
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



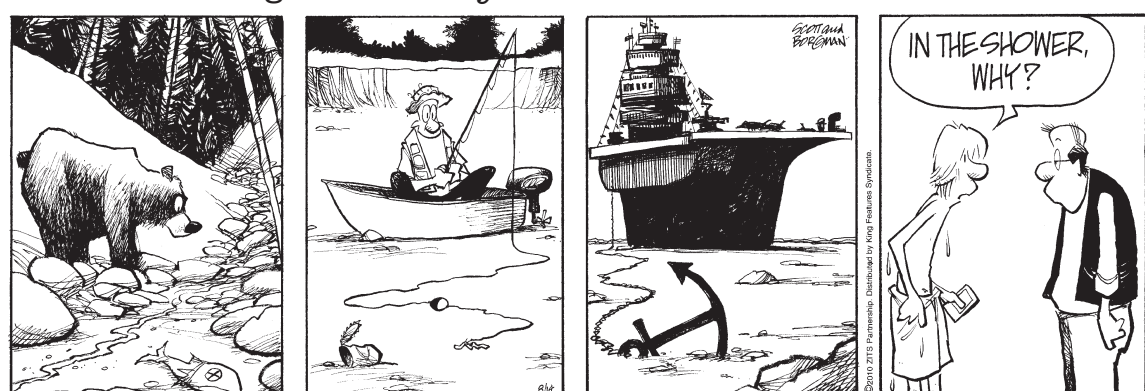
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Save at airport on bottled water

Dear Heloise: I always travel as cheaply as possible when it comes to FLYING. You're not allowed to take a bottle of water through airport security, but you are allowed to take an empty bottle.

I am an avid water drinker, and I often carry a bottle of water with me. By the time I reach the security checkpoint, the bottle is empty. Then I place it in the bin, and it goes through security.

Just wanted to pass this on to your other thrifty readers! — Stephanie A. Bemrose, Springfield, Mo.

P.S. I read your column for work (The Springfield News-Leader) and love reading your tips — so thanks for continuing your service!

Stephanie, I do the same, and if you get to security with some water in the bottle, you can pour it out into a trash can, then take it through. Your paper was one of the first to run the Hints From Heloise column. Thanks to everyone in Springfield. — Heloise

NO MESS

Dear Heloise: When doing painting around the house, make cleanup a breeze by putting two plastic shopping bags (with print side turned inside) on the paint tray. Put one over the other on each end, and tie with a knot.

You may have to work the roller down in the tray if the bags are a little snug. Just pour the paint in the wrapped tray and paint away. When it's time for cleanup, you can then cut the knot and invert the bags back off the tray.

You can even put the used roller cover inside the bags, close them up and throw them away. No cleaning the paint tray, and no need to buy a tray liner.

Also, you are reusing your plastic bags! — Carmen in California

A KEY REMINDER

Dear Heloise: Duplicated keys, even the new computer-cut keys, are sometimes not as good as the originals, and copies of copies may not work.

So, when you get new keys for locks, immediately have duplicates made, and put them in a safe place for future copying.

We often stay at a bed-and-breakfast that had to put locks on all the bedroom doors. I told the hostess my key suggestion, and the very next visit she thanked me. All of the guest keys had been lost within a year, and she still had her originals from which to make new keys. — Diane Severson in North Dakota

TWO-DOOR MAILBOX

Dear Heloise: We live in a rural area and have a two-door mailbox (opening in front and in back). We have a chain-link fence, and my husband, being the clever one he is, cut a hole in the fence where the mailbox is, and now I can reach in to put mail or take mail out without unlocking gates and walking outside our property. He did such a great job you can't even see where he cut the fence, it fits in so snug. — Shirley in California

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand? (With proper play, the contract can be made against virtually any distribution, but it is not easy to find the solution.)

WEST
 ♠ A Q 6 3
 ♥ K J 6 4 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A Q 6

EAST
 ♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ A Q 10 7 5
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ 4 3 2

Test Your Play

Win the diamond queen with the ace, ruff a diamond, cash the A-K of trumps and ace of spades, lead a low trump to dummy's ten and play a spade toward your Q-6-3.

1. If South shows out, follow low, forcing North to hand you the contract whether he returns a spade, a diamond or a club.

2. If South produces the king of spades when you lead the spade from dummy, 10 tricks are assured, and, in fact, you have a chance for one or two overtricks.

3. If South produces a spade lower than the king, play your queen. If the queen wins, your mission is accomplished. But even if the queen loses to North's king, he cannot stop you from making the contract because:

a) If North started with the doubleton king of spades, he must return a diamond or a club, either of which hands you the contract.

b) If North started with three spades to the king, a spade return establishes your fourth spade as a trick, while a diamond or club return also gives you your 10th trick.

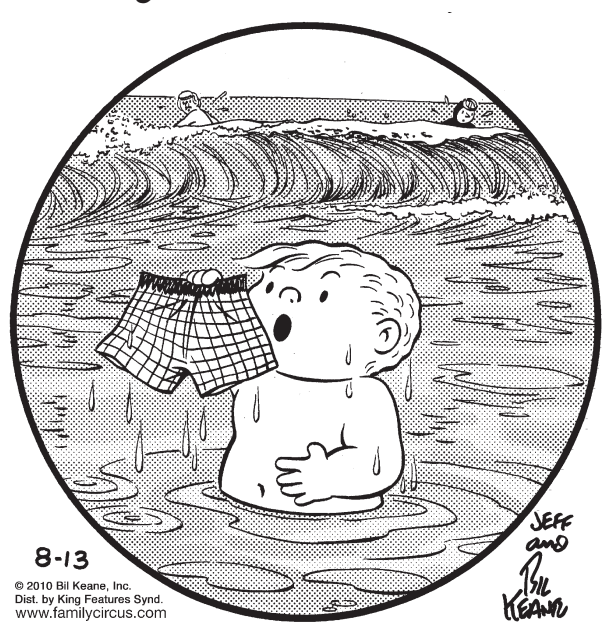
c) If North started with four spades headed by the king, he can do no better than take your queen with his last spade. But instead of ruffing this spade in dummy, which you might feel tempted to do, you discard one of dummy's clubs!

This leaves North in an untenable position. He must either return a diamond, allowing you to discard another club from dummy as you ruff in your hand, or else lead a club into your A-Q. Either way, you are certain to make the contract. Your only losers in this variation would be three spade tricks.

It is hard to visualize at the very start that making four hearts is certain regardless of how the North-South cards are divided. But the fact is that you can't miss if you adopt the right line of play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-13

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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

OMJQNBM XCMBM YWFB QSM

MEEWJWMRX QX WJWRU OQYMF

ULLFB, JLNVF GLN BQG

XCMG'SM ESLBXMS JCWVFSMR?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR NEW SITCOM ABOUT A PAIR OF ROOMMATES WHO OFTEN GET FLABBERGASTED: "THE AWED COUPLE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Morrison's band
 6 "Caught ya!"
 9 — o' -shanter
 12 Beginning
 13 Sister
 14 In vitro cells
 15 One showing promise
 16 First book
 18 Pizza topping, at times
 20 Nitty-gritty
 21 Insult (Sl.)
 23 Crony
 24 Admits customers
 25 Domingo offering
 27 Tag
 29 Fight
 31 O. Henry-esque
 35 Mythical lecher
 37 Bigfoot's cousin
 38 West Pointer
 41 Mag. staffers

43 Chic, in the '60s
 44 Mine entrance
 45 Costume ball
 47 Car's frame-work
 49 Big name at Indy
 52 Anderson's "High —"
 53 Performance
 54 — a dozen
 55 Gelid
 56 Petrol
 57 " — Buddies"

2 Yoko of music
 3 Effortless assimilation
 4 Film holder
 5 Nude
 6 Bassett or Lansbury
 7 Colors
 8 Raggedy one?
 9 — a fine lady upon a white horse"
 10 Re
 11 Spars
 17 Use
 19 Parking lot attendant
 21 Lah-di —

22 401(k) alternative
 24 " — the ramparts ..."
 26 Not liabilities
 28 Hitchcock menacers
 30 Long.
 32 Foe
 33 "Who am — judge?"
 34 Literary Spanish hero
 36 Fermentation fungi
 28-Down
 38 They often break Wile E. Coyote's falls
 39 For this purpose
 40 Blog, so to speak
 42 Small pigeon
 45 Isinglass
 46 Wreck
 48 Succumb to gravity
 50 Comic Phillips
 51 Sleep phenom

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-13

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		