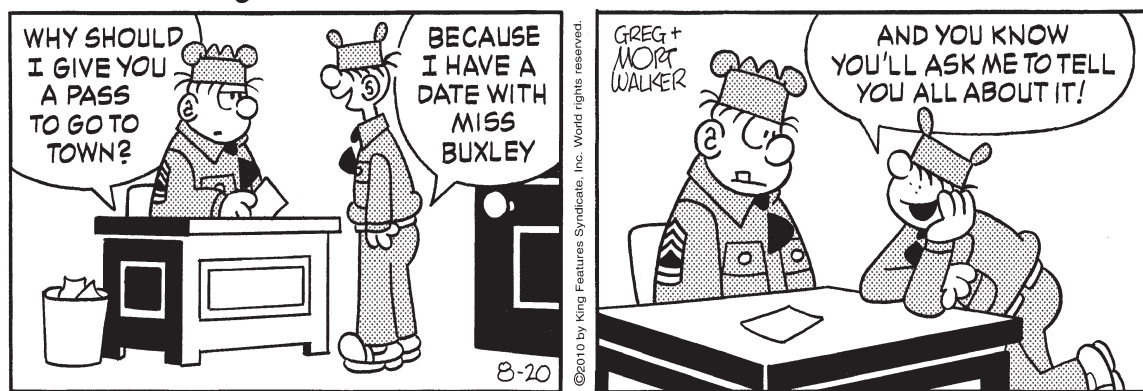


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



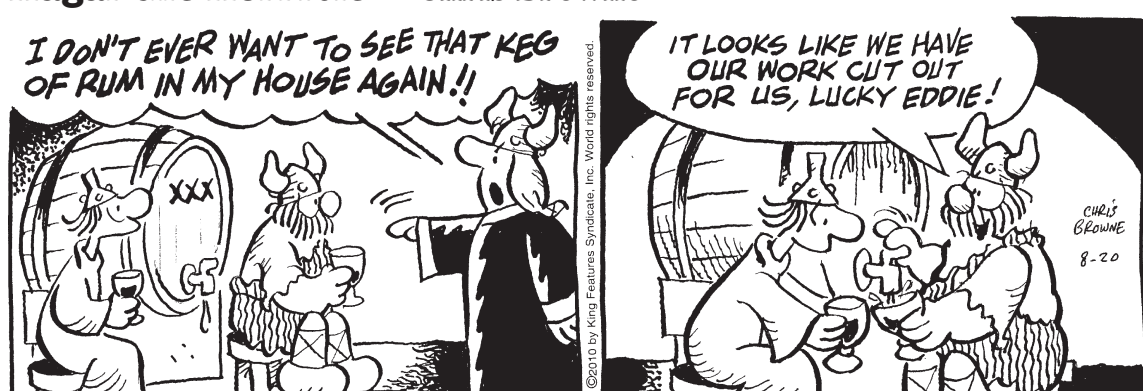
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



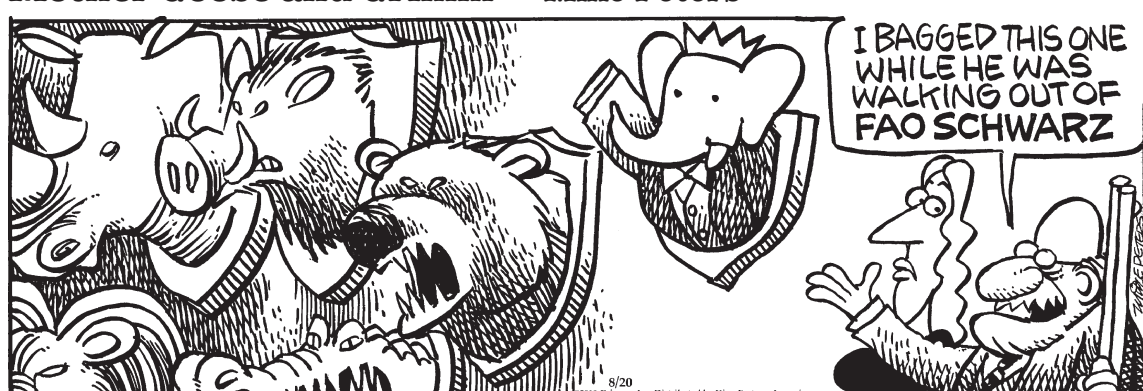
Blondie • Chic Young



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

Charcoal can really light itself

Dear Heloise: I had an interesting experience. I was barbecuing using SELF-LIGHTING CHARCOAL. As the coals burned down, I picked up the rest of the bag and began to dump briquettes on the fire. The bag just started to burn. I was holding a bag of fire as the self-lighting chemicals lit up! As I had poured the briquettes, I also poured the chemical onto the fire.

Fortunately, I was in a clear area and simply tossed the bag of fire out on the empty driveway. The chemicals quickly burned out, and no harm was done, but I learned a valuable lesson. — Bob in Alabama

Bob, this could have been disastrous and deadly! Self-lighting charcoal briquettes have lighter fluid infused in them! Also, do not put additional briquettes on a hot fire; you are asking for trouble!

When storing self-lighting charcoal, be sure the bag is closed tightly so the lighter fluid will not evaporate. CAUTION: Do not store these types of charcoal briquettes (or any other, too!) near ANY heat source. — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When you travel, take a small address book. Besides the addresses and phone numbers of relatives and friends with whom you'll be visiting, you should also have the phone numbers of your doctor, dentist and pharmacist for emergencies. — B.V. in Montana

CURBING CAR CLUTTER

Dear Heloise: As a widower and empty nester, I almost always drive alone. This allows/encourages the accumulation of "stuff": tissue box, maps, notebooks, etc., in the front passenger seat. All this "stuff" cascades to the floor in the event of a sudden stop, causing a mess and a dangerous distraction. I found that an inexpensive and widely available plastic dishpan can be belted into place using the vehicle's seat belt, thereby providing a safe storage area. Further, the "stuff" can be easily and neatly removed if I need to give someone a ride! — Lawrence in Colorado Springs, Colo.

BLOWING IN THE WIND

Dear Heloise: I have a helpful hint I hope some readers can use. I have vertical blinds in my home. In the summer, I like to pull them off to the side to let the light in, but if it's windy, they flap around. I take a rubber band, gather the blinds at the bottom and attach the rubber band, and there is no more flapping. — Jean in Pennsylvania

BOOT STORAGE

Dear Heloise: You recently printed a hint about making a boot tree from newspapers secured with the plastic sleeve the paper comes in. This may prevent air from circulating around the boots and drying them thoroughly.

I've taken a rinsed-out half-gallon milk jug and cut a large oval on each side. Leaving the cap off, I slip a boot over each milk jug. This way, air can move around and through the boots, and they dry more completely. — David in Pennsylvania

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You're the dealer and open One Diamond. Your partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ 7 ♥ K93 ♦ AK8652 ♣ KJ4
- ♠ AK85 ♥ Q82 ♦ AKJ94 ♣ 6
- ♠ 10 ♥ Q964 ♦ AK73 ♣ AJ85
- ♠ 6 ♥ KJ743 ♦ AKJ654 ♣ A

Bidding Quiz

1. Two hearts. This hand presents a conflict between whether to rebid your strong six-card suit or whether to show your heart support. In such cases, the decision depends on how you evaluate your hand.

With minimum opening values, you'd tend to rebid the diamonds; with extra values, such as those you hold here, you should lean toward the direct heart raise. The immediate raise will automatically increase the value of your partner's hand and will encourage him to bid again with a hand where he might pass a two-diamond rebid.

The bidding might then progress in a way that allows you to rebid your diamonds later on, thus warning partner that your heart raise was based on only three-card support.

2. Two spades. Once partner responds with one heart, it's best to take the position that this is a game-going hand. A one-spade rebid would not be forcing and might be passed by partner with a hand good enough to yield a game. About all you need from partner to produce 10 tricks is the K-J-10-x-x of hearts. Also, the jump-shift puts you on the right path to a slam should partner have the appropriate values.

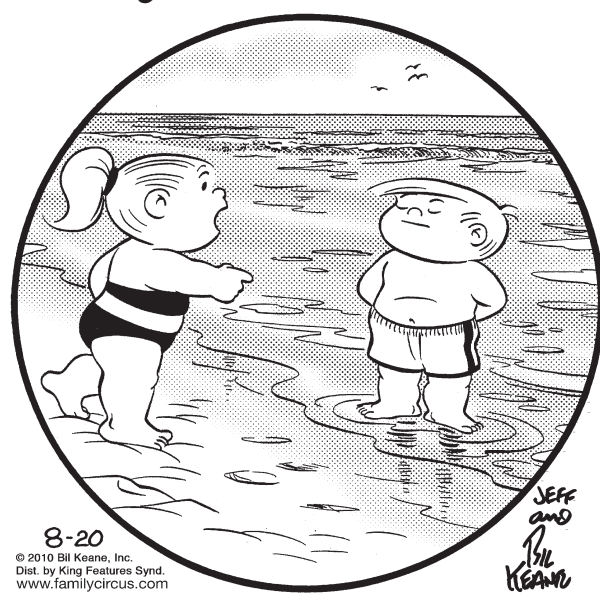
3. Three hearts. Although you have only 14 high-card points, the good heart fit, excellent controls and singleton spade put your side on the verge of game. The best way of letting partner know this is via an invitational jump-raise. Partner may pass with a very weak hand (six or seven points) but will carry on to game with anything more.

4. Four notrump. Point count takes a back seat in hands of this sort, and instead you should try to estimate how many tricks partner will make opposite your hand. Once your partner bids one heart, all you really care about is how many aces he holds — not how many points he has.

Your Blackwood bid should settle that question quickly. If partner responds five clubs, indicating no aces, you will sign off at five hearts. If he bids five diamonds, showing one ace, you'll bid six hearts. And if he bids five hearts, showing two aces, you'll raise to seven. It's true that partner may lose a heart or a diamond if one of those suits breaks badly, but you can't play winning bridge by being a pessimist.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-20

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"I'm tellin'! It hasn't been an hour since you ate!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

AVITKH WAK ZWZ BWAE

LJRSJ RB MTWVX M EHKMX

ZMRAXKH'B OMBXRAE OKEMSU:

"IU MHX LROO EW WA."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT LION'S NECK HAIR EMITS NO SMELL AT ALL, I RECKON HE HASN'T A SCENT TO HIS MANE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 39 Space-craft compartment | 3 1960s White House daughter | 20 "Friends" cast member |
| 1 Actor Kilmer | 40 Comic Leno | 4 Of the lower back | 23 Mosque bigwig |
| 4 Clay-rich soil | 41 Pass by | 5 Bread spreads | 24 Do 48-Across' job |
| 8 Picture of health? | 42 Ostrich's cousin | 6 Massachusetts cape | 25 Spud's buds |
| 12 Arm bone | 43 Long-shoreman | 7 Corrida VIP | 26 "Zounds!" |
| 14 100 cents | 44 Harmony | 8 Mediterranean three-master | 27 — contender |
| 15 Paper | 45 Levin and Gershwin you —?" | 9 Regret | 28 Body powder |
| 17 "Where have hands on hips | 46 Journal | 10 100 square meters | 29 Mini-whopper |
| 19 Expert | 47 Say it isn't so | 11 Thither | 30 Shril grass-hopper |
| 21 It may be faux | 48 Ram's mate | 12 Called balls and strikes | 31 Actor Friedlander |
| 22 Tame | DOWN | 13 Thither | 32 "CSI" find |
| 26 Go in | 1 Sacred Hindu text | 14 Called balls and strikes | 33 Sociable |
| 29 Megan or Michael J. | 2 Uncontrollable | | 34 Oust |
| 30 Has permission | | | 35 Hickory nut |
| 31 Incite | | | 36 Winter forecast |
| 32 White wine aperitif | | | 37 Advantage |
| 33 Nephrite | | | 38 Venomous viper |
| 34 Every iota | | | 39 Caustic solution |
| 35 Slight touch | | | 40 Switch positions |
| 36 Exhaust pipe output | | | 41 Tramcar contents |
| 37 Museum tour guide | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

BUDS	ALAS	GEL			
ATTIT	BENT	AGO			
NAMEPLATE	MOP				
SHERY	REES				
	NO	JONAS			
JUDO	MAO	THUG			
USA	IMP	ORE			
TEMP	LES	SWIM			
	EAVES	BE			
ARENA	FIESTA				
LED	LAMEBRAIN				
BEN	VIOL	EKED			
AKA	EDIT	DIDI			

Yesterday's answer 8-20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
									23	24
26	27	28					29			
31						32			33	
34										
37										
45	46	47								
50										
53										