

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



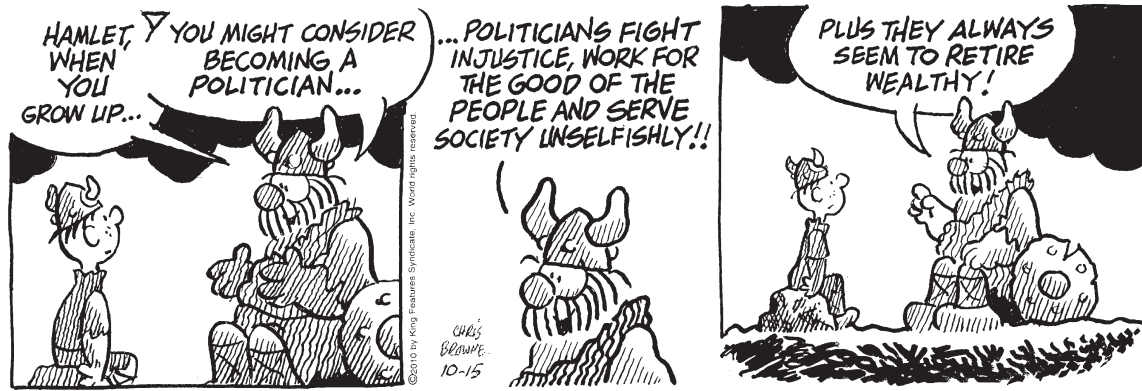
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



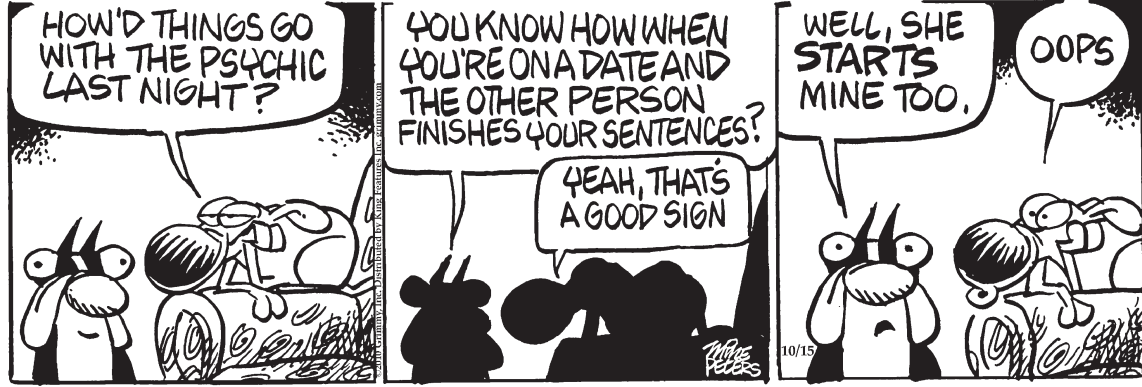
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



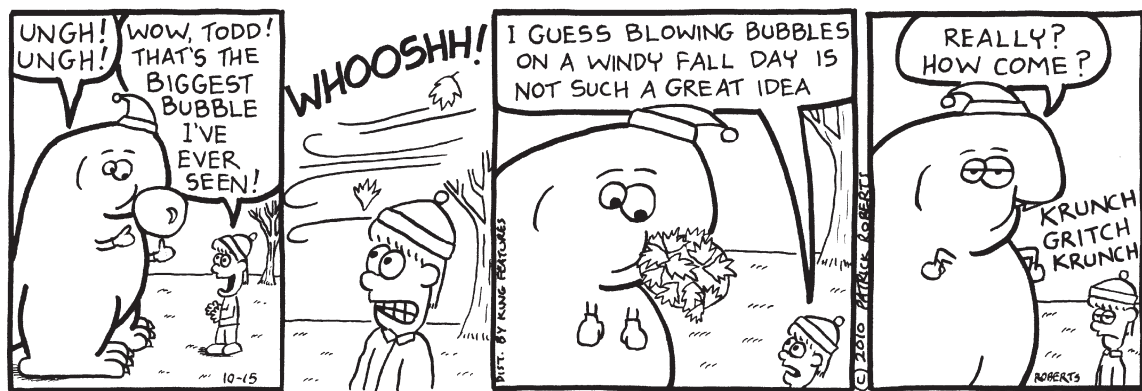
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Teach children school bus safety

Dear Readers: With school under way, meaning busy mornings and afternoons, it's important to know SCHOOL BUS SAFETY HINTS. Thanks to our friends at the National Safety Council (www.nsc.org) for allowing us to print these.

When boarding the bus:

- Stay in the designated area while waiting for the bus; don't hang around in yards or alleyways. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens before you approach. Calmly enter the bus; teasing, talking and laughing with your friends can distract you. Use the handrail and carefully climb up into the bus.

When on the bus:

- Find a seat and sit down right away. Loud talking, noise and confusion can distract the driver and can be stressful for all. Keep your hands, arms and head inside the bus at all times! Keep the aisles clear. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before you stand up.

When getting off the bus:

- Use the handrail when getting off the bus so that you don't trip or fall on the steps.
- Walk at least 10 steps in front of the bus so that the driver can see you if you need to cross to the opposite side of the street. Traffic, by law, is required to stop in both directions to allow you to cross the street, but always carefully check for cars yourself. Never go behind the bus!

Make safety a top priority so that everyone enjoys school without worrying about school bus accidents. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Research your destination before leaving. Learn about the history of the area and special attractions, which will help you avoid pricey tourist traps. — Sharon in Texas

LETTER OF LAUGHTER

Dear Readers: We thought we would revisit some of our favorite Letters of Laughter from over the years.

Janie wrote in to tell us: "After an exasperating day with my preschool son, I had taken all I thought I could. 'James,' I shouted, 'you're absolutely driving me crazy!'"

"With his most innocent look, he replied, 'Mom, I can't be doing that — I don't even know how to drive!'"

"Needless to say, my mood quickly changed, and he got a big hug." — Heloise

CLOTHESLINE HANGING

Dear Heloise: I have a solution for not getting bumps on the shoulder of shirts/blouses after hanging them on the clothesline. Just hang them using clothespins under the armpits. No worrying about how to remove the bumps! That's a real timesaver for me. — Pat Anderson, Hagaman, N.Y.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Clubs, and North leads a trump. You win with the seven, South following suit. How would you play the hand?

West	East
♠ A 5	♠ Q J 6 3
♥ 4	♥ K 3
♦ A J 10 2	♦ 9 4
♣ A Q J 9 8 7	♣ K 10 6 5 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the four of hearts, and South plays the king. How would you play the hand?

West	East
♠ 9 8	♠ A K J 3
♥ A Q	♥ 8 3
♦ K Q J 10	♦ A 9 6
♣ Q 10 8 5 2	♣ J 9 7 4

Test Your Play

1. It might seem that the best line of play is to lead a heart at trick two. If North has the ace, you make the contract whether he takes it or not. Even if South has the ace, you still have a spade finesse to fall back on.

But while it is true that the early heart play makes you a 3-to-1 favorite to make the contract, you can further increase the odds in your favor to about 4-to-1 by first crossing to dummy with a trump at trick two and returning the four of diamonds, planning to finesse if South follows low.

This play sews up the contract whenever South has both the king and queen of diamonds, which will occur one-fourth of the time. In that case, the best he can do is play the queen, which you take with the ace. You then return a low diamond to the nine. South wins with the king but is helpless. If he returns a spade, you go up with the ace and discard dummy's two hearts on the J-10 of diamonds; if he returns a heart, dummy's king becomes a trick, and you don't lose a spade.

2. It would be wrong to try to establish clubs, since this would surely lead to losing two clubs and at least three hearts. The play that gives you your best chance to get home safely is to lead the eight of spades at trick two, planning to play low from dummy if North follows low. If South wins the eight with the queen, you have nine tricks; if he wins the eight with the ten, you later finesse the jack, hoping North has the queen.

The recommended approach is sure to succeed if North has either missing spade honor, or both. It gives you a 3-to-1 chance to make the contract, whereas finessing the jack on the first round offers only an even chance, while attacking clubs gives you no chance at all.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"...It's their anniversary."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

D F E U J O F M K F W S S F B D U S S

V P P X E X U S X O Y F I L X W F Y V P

O V C F M K X R Q , C X Q K M U

I F L O V R O U B K F ' O D F - L F P P F Y ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAD SHE NOT EATEN HER FOOD AS DIRECTED, I WOULD CLAIM LITTLE MISS MUFFET WAS A WHEYWARD YOUTH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Allow equines | 1 Joel's "Cabaret" | 20 Fresh |
| 4 Cattle-drive item | 2 Co-star | 23 Gilligan's home |
| 8 Wharf | 2 Ht. | 24 Golf bag |
| 12 UN workers' agcy. | 3 Pith | 25 Chops |
| 13 Hayseed | 4 Old | 26 Expert |
| 14 Incite | 5 Roman magistrate | 27 Green acres? |
| 15 Airship | 6 Sapporo sash | 28 Spill the beans |
| 17 Part of the loop | 7 Dweller | 29 Press for payment |
| 18 Fly | 8 "Zorba the Greek" | 32 Fixed a ring, perhaps |
| 19 Hostel | 9 Ode | 33 "Bounty" captain |
| 21 Neither mate | 10 inspirer | 35 Skater |
| 22 High point | 11 Longing | 36 Babilonia |
| 26 Bowling Hall-of-Famer Pete | 12 Do the den walls | 37 "Scat!" |
| 29 Dawn droplets | | 38 Severity |
| 30 Witness | | 39 Danger |
| 31 Jack and Jill's course | | 42 Durante trademark |
| 32 Stocking woe | | 43 Cather's "One of —" |
| 33 Lost intentionally | | 44 Clench |
| 34 401(k) alternative | | 45 Short trip |
| 35 X rating? | | 46 Spoon-bender Geller |
| 36 Consecrate | | 47 Born |
| | | 49 Historic time |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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