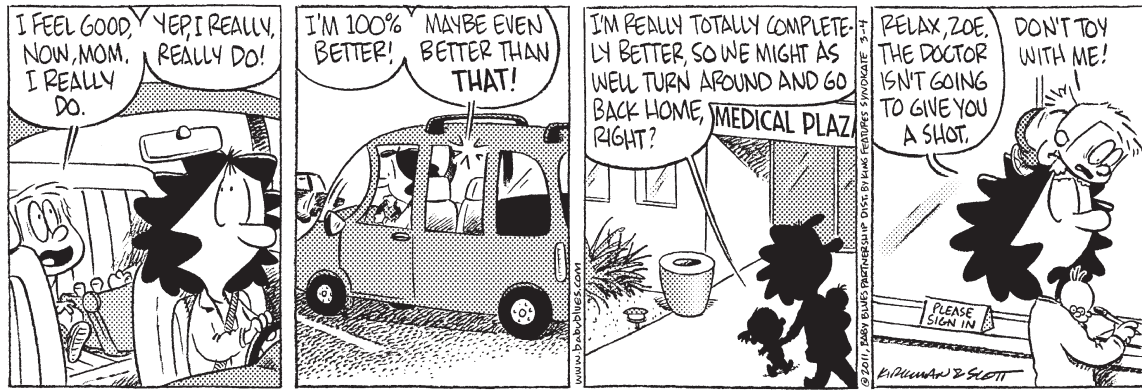
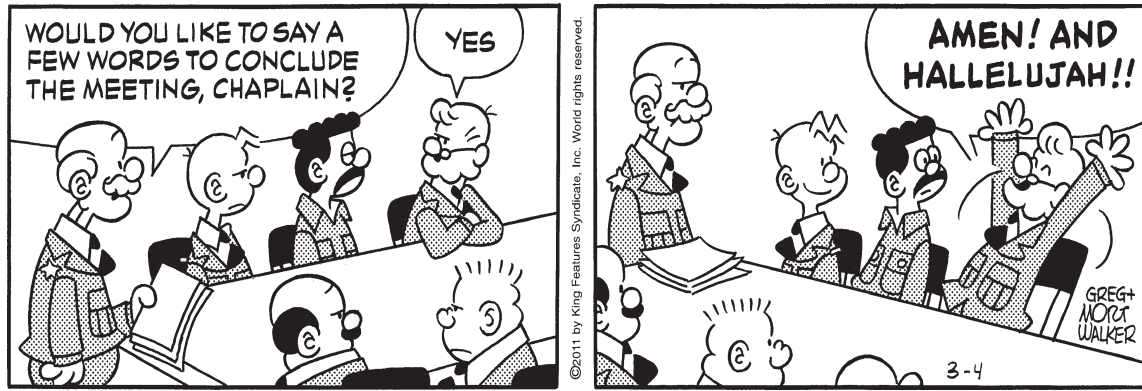


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



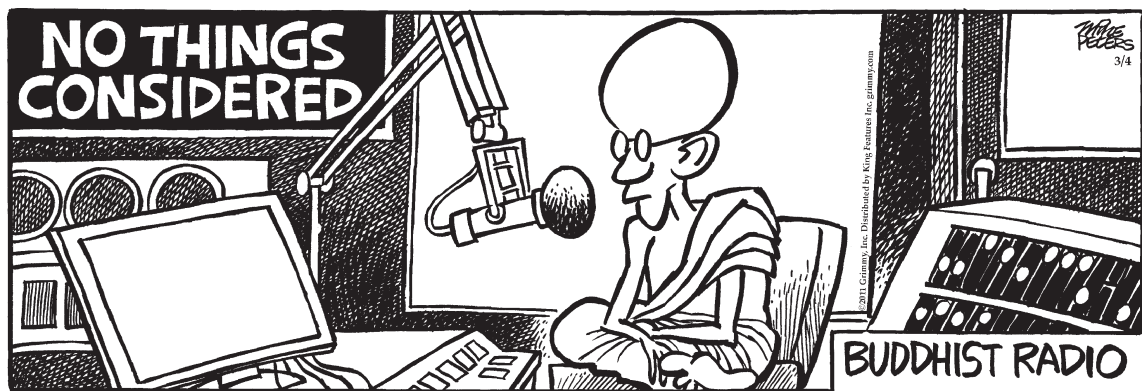
Blondie • Chic Young



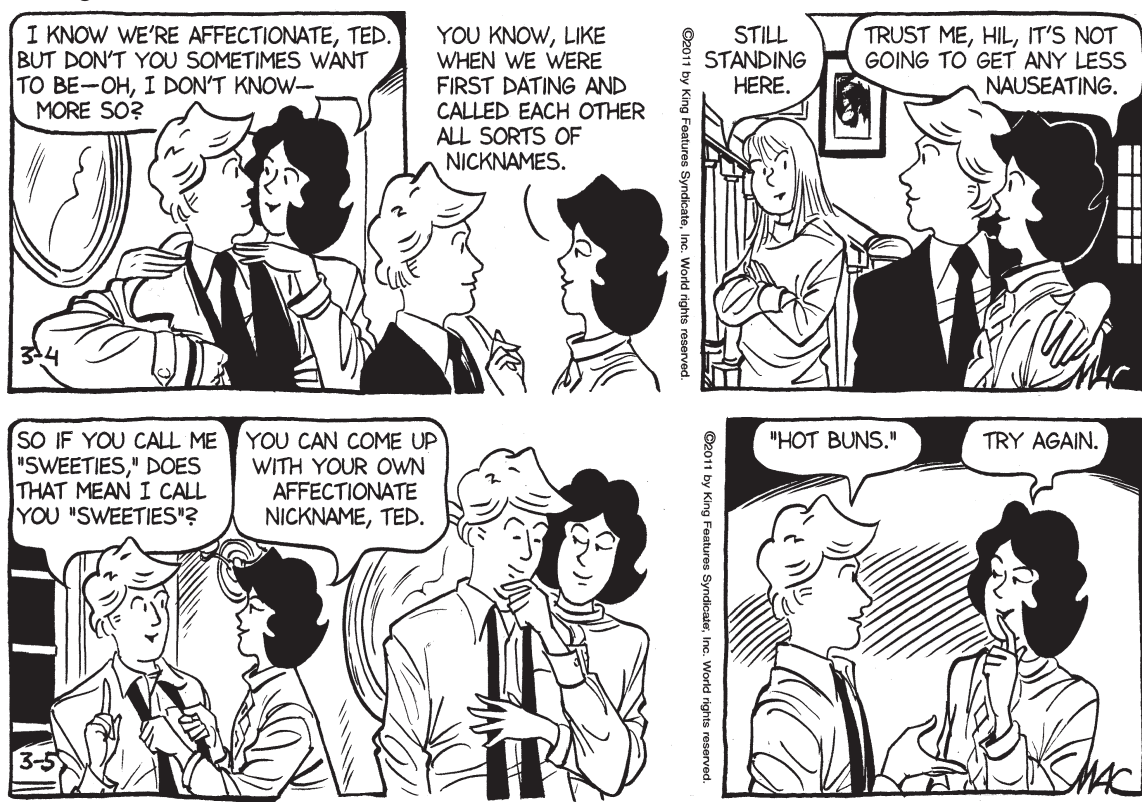
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



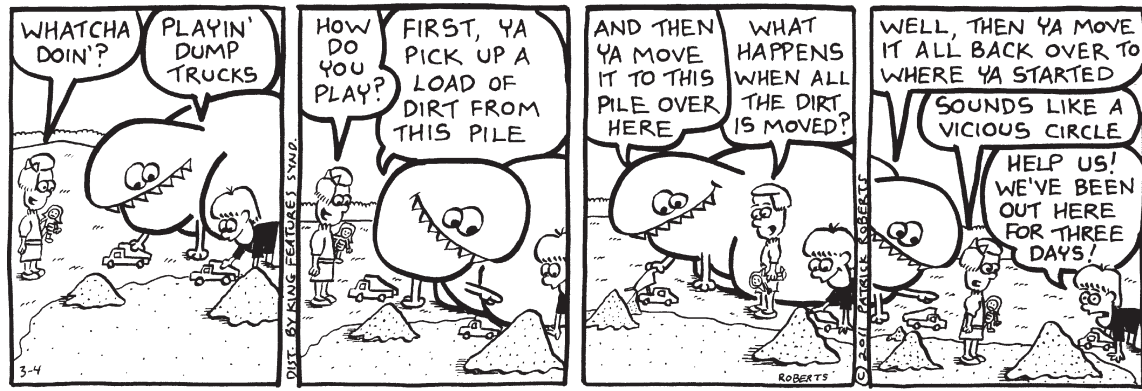
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



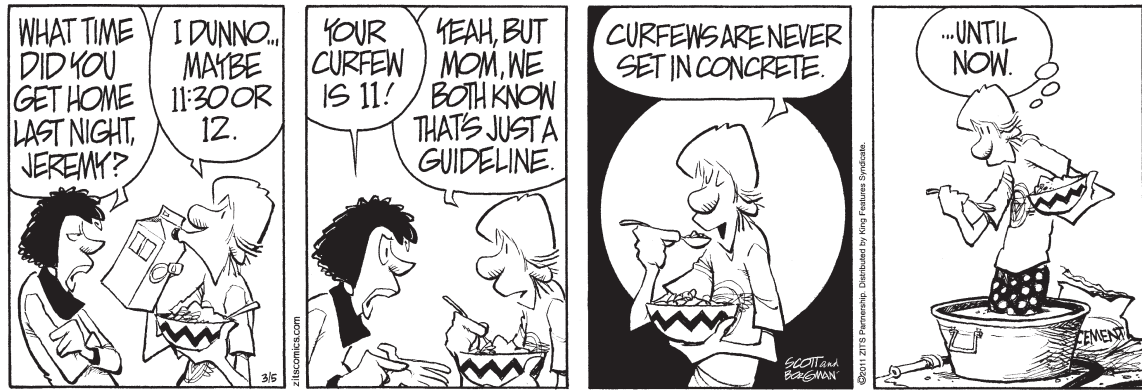
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Dad keeps up though far away

Dear Heloise: My husband has just begun his second deployment. I was trying to think of a way for him to keep up on what our kids are doing. I bought a three-ring binder and will put inside all the things THE KIDS ARE DOING or want to send him: report cards, rewards from school, birthday-party invitations, pictures they have drawn, special notes and letters, etc. When it is full, we'll send it to Daddy and start a new one. It allows my husband a chance to "catch up" on their lives and ask more specific questions when he calls home. He can simply return the binder in the mail or keep it until he gets the next one.

To all those who support families with deployed spouses, thank you so much — your kindness makes the painful separation easier to bear! — Suzy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

A fabulous idea that brings a smile! Thank you and everyone who steps up. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

COLLEGE HINTS

Dear Heloise: When my brother and I left for college, my mom made these three things for us, and they were extremely helpful.

First-aid kit: Bandages, pain relievers, over-the-counter medications, prescription information, etc. Place contents in a medium to large storage box with a lid that can slide under the bed.

Sewing kit: Include needles, needle threader, scissors, thread of several colors and sizes, and safety pins, all in a small storage container.

Small phone number and address book: Include relatives at home like parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc., and friends away at college. — Nicole from Nebraska

Prescriptions may need to be refilled while away at college. Check to see if you need your doctor to fax the prescriptions to your new pharmacy. — Heloise

CRUISE LIGHT

Dear Heloise: I read your tips on cruising and wanted to share my favorite tip that I tell anyone going on a cruise: Take a night light. It is much easier than trying to leave the bathroom light on. Even if you have a window, the room is very dark at sea — no streetlights to shine in. Love your column and read it every day in the Charlotte Sun in Port Charlotte, Fla. — Cindy Seybert in Florida

CAMPOUT COOKWARE

Dear Heloise: I don't know where I learned this one, but if I am going to cook on a campfire, I first smear liquid dish soap all around the outside of the pot before using it. It makes cleaning the soot off later a breeze. We lost power and cooked in our fireplace. It worked great for simple cleanup later. — Joan, via e-mail

MOVING MARKER

Dear Readers: Next time you are moving, try this to organize your boxes: Write on the boxes that don't need to be opened in black marker. On the boxes that need to be opened quickly, write on them with a red marker. It will be easy to tell what to open first. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
2 ♠ *	Pass	2 ♦ **	Pass
3 ♦ ?	Pass	3 NT	Pass

* strong, artificial ** waiting
What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ A ♥ AKQ83 ♦ AQJ984 ♣ 7
- ♠ 10 ♥ AK95 ♦ AKQJ7 ♣ AK6
- ♠ AK ♥ KQJ4 ♦ AKQJ62 ♣ 3
- ♠ AK ♥ AK32 ♦ KQJ103 ♣ AK

Bidding Quiz

1. Four hearts. By bidding four hearts, you imply a five-card heart suit, since it would make no sense to introduce a four-card suit at this stage.

At the same time, the heart rebid identifies a holding of at least six diamonds, since if your two suits were equal in length, you would have bid hearts rather than diamonds at your second turn.

Although your hand is very promising for slam purposes, you cannot safely bid more than four hearts. The impetus must come from your partner, whose responses so far have promised nothing.

2. Pass. It may seem dangerous to pass with a singleton spade, but it would be even more dangerous to bid again. Introducing your four-card heart suit on the four-level is chancier than hoping partner has sufficient length and/or strength in spades to stop the opponents from taking the first five tricks. Your best shot is to rely on the nine tricks in notrump you already have right in the palm of your hand.

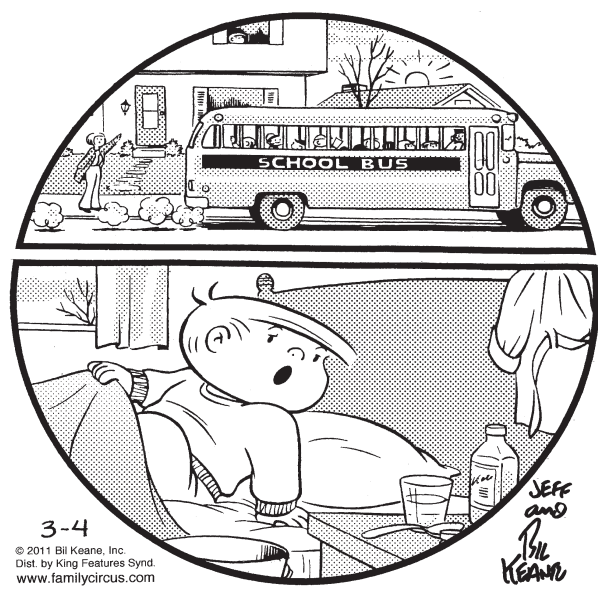
3. Five diamonds. There is no need to risk notrump with this layout — you have only eight certain tricks at notrump — when you are virtually assured of 11 tricks in diamonds. Just about all you need from partner to make five diamonds is the ten of hearts.

It would be wrong to bid four hearts; if partner has only three hearts and three or fewer diamonds, he might elect to pass and leave you in a contract that is not as good as five diamonds would be.

4. Four notrump. This is not Blackwood but rather a raise in notrump asking partner to keep on bidding if he has any values at all. Four notrump is a powerful bid, since it indicates a holding of 10 tricks even if partner has nothing. Obviously, he is permitted to pass.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/04

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.

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

Cryptoquip

OITLEPI MXLM DISLHI VIIQ

GQIDIQP MN DYHH EG NK

TIQMLYK OLCIV MQILMP,

Y KLSIV XIQ "TNNCYI VNI."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M EMPLOYED IN A PLANT PRODUCING RED-COLORED CASH. YOU MIGHT SAY I'VE MADE VERMILION DOLLARS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Chicken-link | 37 Loud | 36 Song of praise | 2 Aerobic maneuver |
| 4 Jet forth | 8 Welsh veggie | 40 By way of bird | 5 Grammarian's concern |
| 13 Largest of the seven | 14 Oppositionist | 45 Cousin of 15-Across | 6 Bro or sis |
| 17 Pinto variety | 19 Sigma precursor | 48 Veggie | 7 Barber-shop offering |
| 18 45-Down's activity | 21 Doctor's due | 50 Singer | 8 Toil |
| 22 Munchie for Bugs | 26 Sire | 51 Easy run | 9 Away from WSW |
| 29 Coffee vessel | 30 Gorilla | 52 Bronze | 10 Greek H |
| 31 Story teller | 32 Butter serving | 53 Borscht need | 11 Family shortener (Abbr.) |
| 33 Open somewhat | 34 Raw rock | 54 List | 16 One who can't be paroled |
| 35 Electronic transmission | | 55 Tackle's teammate | 20 Crone |
| | | | 23 Royal of India |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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