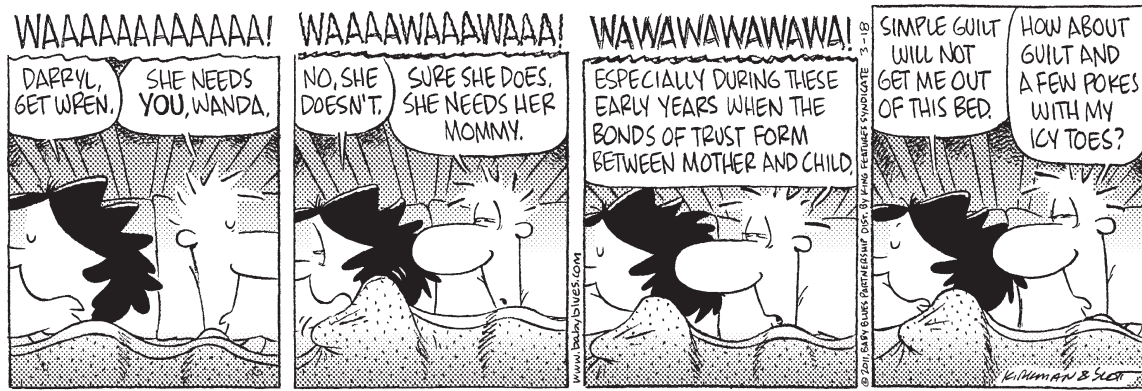


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



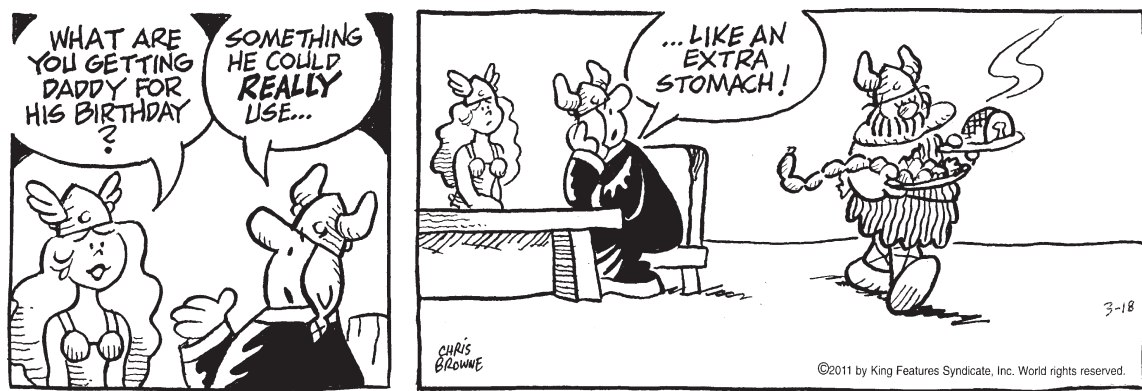
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



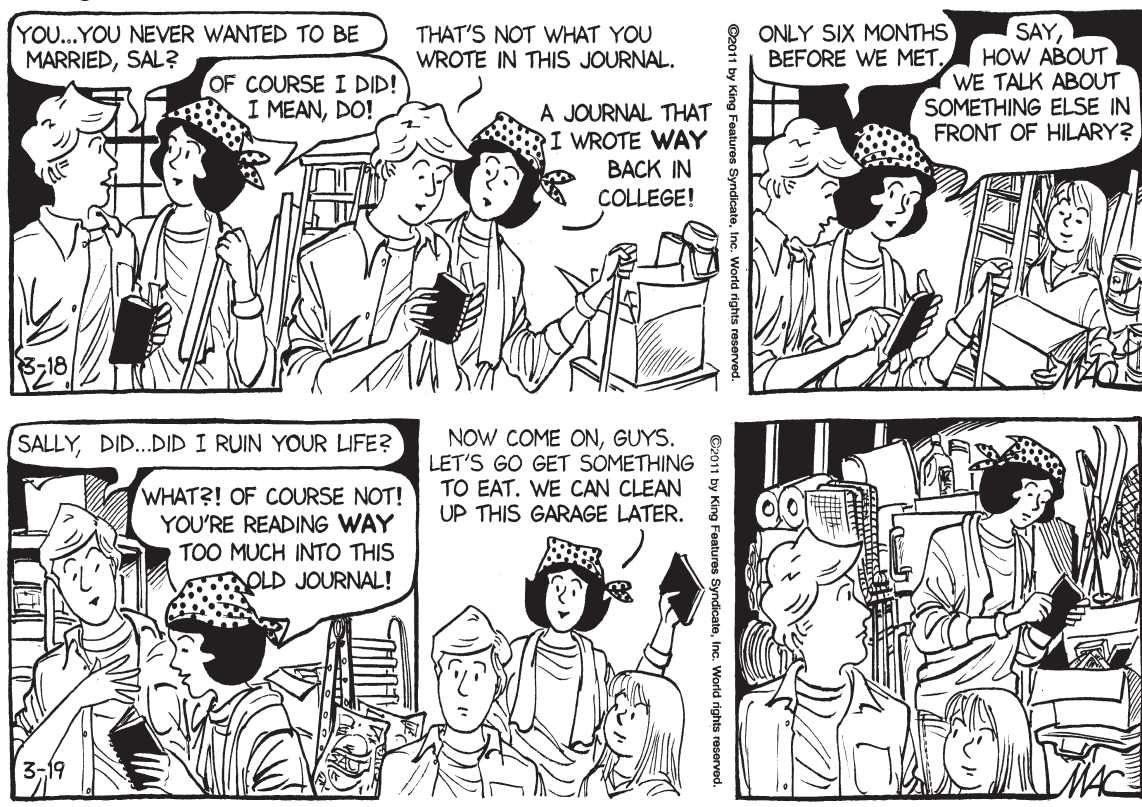
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



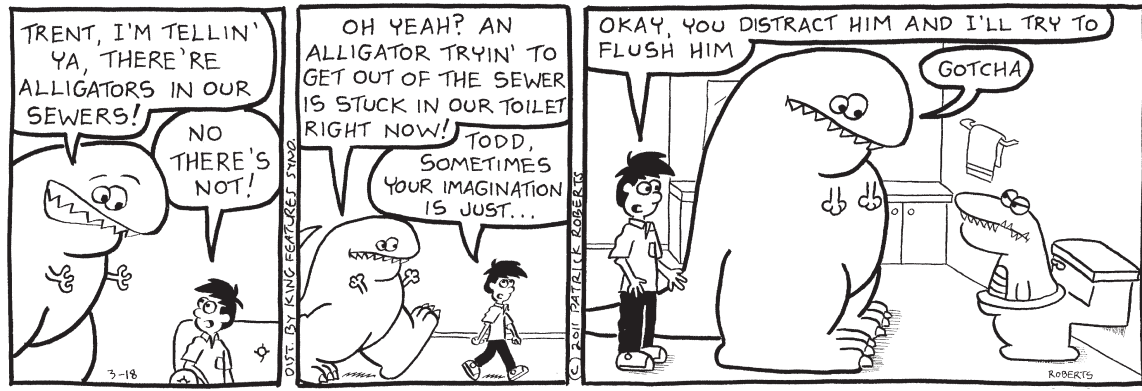
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



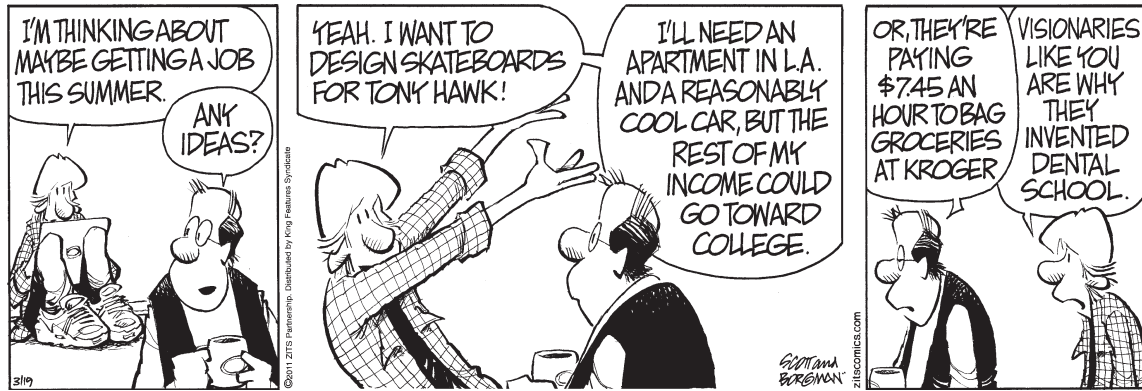
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Hints smooth passport process

Dear Readers: Getting a United States PASSPORT for the first time can be a little overwhelming, yet it's exciting and an important first. Here are some hints to help:

- First, the application. You can find these online or at any passport acceptance facility, passport agency and most post offices. DON'T sign the application until you submit it in person.
- Get two passport photos; there are photo-processing stores that do this. You must follow the guidelines.
- Submit the application in person. You can go to the post office, public library or other state, county, township or municipal government office, according to the U.S. Department of State. Some locations accept passport applications by appointment only; call first to be sure.
- When submitting your application, bring passport photos, proof of U.S. citizenship (a certified birth certificate, naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship), proper identification (driver's license, government or military ID, naturalization certificate), a copy of that identification and the fee.
- Processing can take a while, so make sure you get your passport well ahead of travel dates.
- There also is a passport card, which costs less than a passport. It is valid for entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports of entry, according to the State Department. It is not good for international travel by air. — Heloise

PORTABLE T.P.

Dear Heloise: We carry a roll of toilet paper when we take a road trip or go camping. My husband discovered that the plastic spindle case used to package 100 blank CDs makes a perfect portable toilet-paper holder. It keeps the paper clean and ready to use in an emergency. So we found a perfect way to reuse rather than discard the packaging of our blank CDs. — Heidi, via e-mail

QUICK CLEAN

Dear Readers: Having a hard time getting your preschooler to help put toys away after playing? Put like toys in bins. Once everything is organized, make it a game! See if your child is able to put the toys in the correct bin. Don't forget to be encouraging! — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Four of us were going to Las Vegas for a week. Instead of paying baggage fees, I shipped our toiletries via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail in the flat-rate medium box. I paid less than half what it would cost to check a bag. Without toiletries, we could carry on our luggage. Check with your hotel to see how to send yourself a package, and with the post office to see how long it will take. — Brenda B., via e-mail

SAFE MAILING

Dear Heloise: Someone recently suggested crumpled-up (dirty) newspaper for sending packages. I use plastic grocery bags, blown up and tied. These weigh nothing and are cleaner. — Audrey in California

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are the dealer and open One Diamond. Partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠AK7 ♥— ♦KQ9743 ♣AJ85
2. ♠5 ♥Q974 ♦AK82 ♣AQ94
3. ♠K96 ♥AJ5 ♦KJ8753 ♣10
4. ♠73 ♥AK10 ♦KQJ94 ♣AJ7

Bidding Quiz

1. Two clubs. The value of a hand rises or falls depending on the bids made by your partner and/or the opponents. In this case, for example, when partner responds with one heart, the value of your hand falls at least a couple of points. It is bad news to learn that partner has length in a suit where you're void.

Your first reaction to the unwelcome heart response should be to draw in your horns and take things easy until you learn whether or not the hand is a complete misfit.

In line with this, you rebid two clubs. A great advantage of this call is that it is ambiguous, since an opening bidder's change of suit may be based on anywhere from 13 to 18 points. What happens next depends mostly on partner's reaction to two clubs. The original promise of the hand would be restored if, for example, partner were to jump to three diamonds.

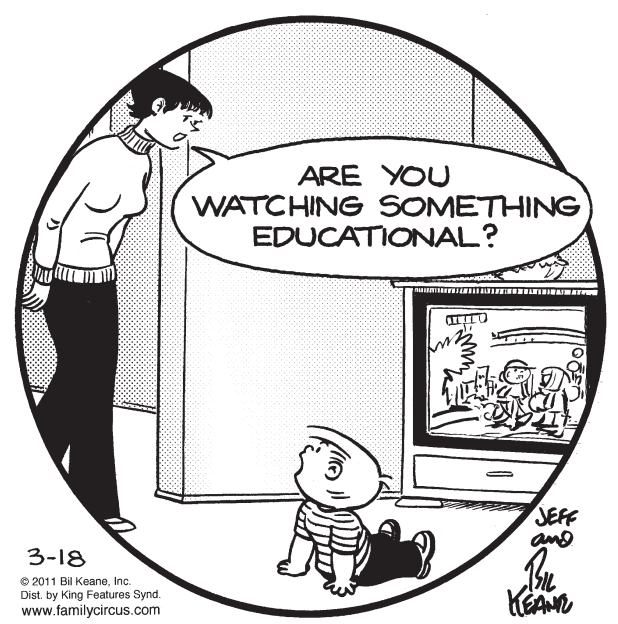
2. Three hearts. There is obviously a good chance for game, but you must allow for the possibility that partner's response may have been based on absolutely minimum values (six or seven points). In fact, if his hand is so bad that he passes three hearts, he may have trouble making even nine tricks. Your hand is obviously too good for only two hearts; including distribution, it's worth about 18 points.

3. Two hearts. It is better to show your heart support at once than to rebid your six-card diamond suit. Either rebid puts you in the minimum opening range, but the immediate heart raise has the merit of indicating that most of your cards are in diamonds and hearts. This in turn suggests that you have shortness in spades and/or clubs.

4. Three hearts. Partner will expect you to have four trumps for the jump-raise, but when you show up with 18 high-card points and the A-K-10 of trumps, he may find it in his heart to forgive you for having only three. Unfortunately, there simply isn't any better bid available. So while it may be argued that three hearts is not a perfect bid, it nevertheless comes closer than anything else you can do to picture the potential of your hand.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"No, it's actually pretty good."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

CE M GMDQPH YCHLRQLY M
ECLHT DLHZPS MQ DPZLAPYT
XJP'D XLLGCSK, JL'Y AL

GHLMRJCSK QP QJL RHCLH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING ACTOR CRUISE REALLY LIKED WARMONGERING, I'D SAY PEOPLE MIGHT CALL TOM A HAWK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rd.
 - 4 Write a P.S.
 - 7 Standish stand-in lady?
 - 12 "Great Expectations" lad
 - 13 Mainlander's memento
 - 14 Break in the action
 - 15 Big fuss
 - 16 Whit-sunday
 - 18 Critic Reed
 - 19 Masts
 - 20 Santa's sackful
 - 22 Detergent brand
 - 23 Brothers and sisters
 - 27 Has the skills
 - 29 Confined
 - 31 Pizza topping
 - 34 Impudent
 - 35 Quintet
 - 37 List-ending abbr.
 - 38 Bivouac structure
 - 39 Listener
 - 41 Recognized
 - 45 "Get lost!"
 - 47 Leading apartment
 - 52 Marry
 - 53 Nebraska city
 - 54 Spell-down
 - 55 Work unit
 - 56 Conned
 - 57 Clumsy boat
 - 58 Caustic solution
 - 24 "Monty Python" opener
 - 25 Clear the tables
 - 26 Agent
 - 28 Santa — winds
 - 30 NYC hrs.
 - 31 Make up your mind
 - 32 Born
 - 33 Hostel
 - 36 Erte's style
 - 37 Chalkboard accessory
 - 40 Tourist spot off Venetian
 - 42 Staircase post
 - 43 Each
 - 44 Golf club type
 - 45 Roe provider
 - 46 Timid
 - 48 Spacecraft compartment
 - 49 Ostrich's kin
 - 50 Siesta
 - 51 Definite article

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-18

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				58	