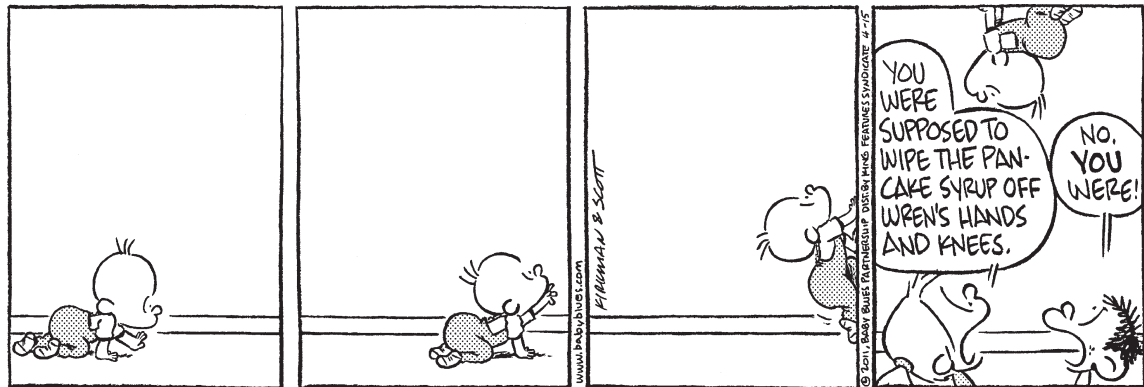


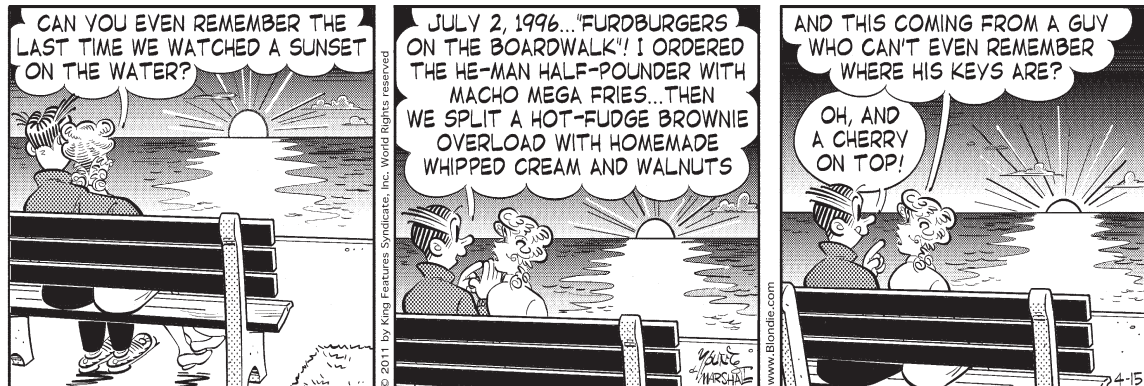
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



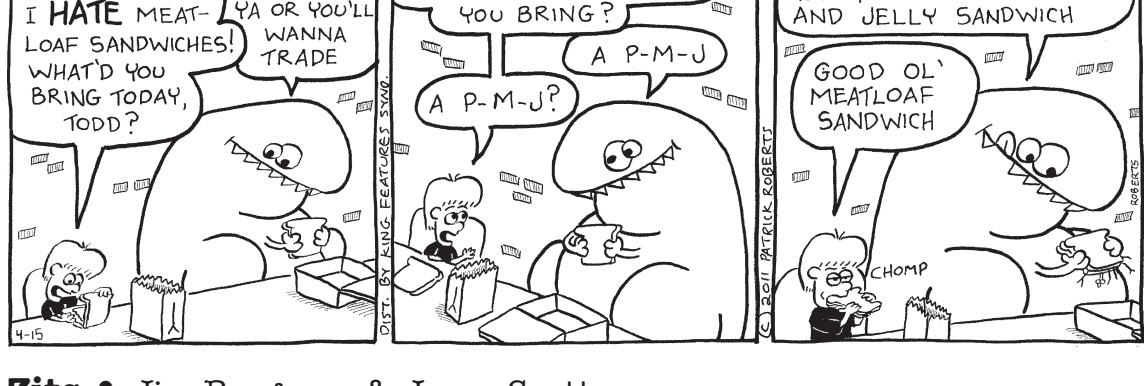
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Install detectors at correct height**

Dear Heloise: My sister lives in a house that is 100 years old with high ceilings. She had two new CARBON-MONOXIDE DETECTORS installed.

She started smelling gas and called the gas company, which found she had a very bad gas leak under her kitchen floor. If she had turned on a light, the whole house could have blown up.

The detectors did not go off because they had been installed too high on the wall. Please read the labels! - K.S., Canyon Lake, Texas

Glad your sister and her home are safe. However, carbon-monoxide detectors (even though installed too high up) would NOT have alerted her to a natural-gas leak. Carbon-monoxide detectors ONLY alert for carbon monoxide, (which is odorless - one reason it can be so deadly), NOT for natural gas.

Natural gas in its "natural" state has no smell. That is why gas companies put a stinky (like rotten eggs) additive in it - so you will smell the gas!

You are right that carbon-monoxide detectors must be installed at the correct height and location to be effective and save lives. Thank you for sharing so readers will be more diligent when installing safety devices. - Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**PAINTING HINT**

Dear Heloise: To reduce the fuss of painting cleanup, wrap the painting tray with a plastic bag (from any retailer) over the entire surface and base of the tray, followed by taping it down so no paint escapes the wrapping. When done, just cut or tear away the plastic, and the tray is as good as new. One also can purchase disposable brushes from a dollar store. - B.A. Berube, Augusta, Maine

**WARDROBE MANAGEMENT**

Dear Heloise: I try to get the most (best appearance) out of my clothing by varying the combinations of skirts, blouses, jackets, slacks, suits, etc. I also try to avoid wearing the same combination to the same place repeatedly. Remembering what and when I had worn a particular combination of clothing to an appointment was a problem.

Using a lined 4-by-6-inch index card, I marked off a 1/2-inch left margin and then divided the remainder of the card into four columns with a heading "date/place." I punched a hole in the margin column and recorded garment identification in the margin. I bent the card so it hangs vertically and mounted it on the hanger. The next time I wear that garment, I'll note the date and place on the card (e.g., "1/12/11, Dentist"). No more "ditto" appearances. - Pat Witta, via fax

**DRY COATS**

Dear Heloise: The family was coming over for dinner. It was raining, so I put coat hangers on the shower-curtain rod in the bathroom near the front door. No mess, and their coats were dry when they all left! - Carolyn, Sacramento, Calif.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**You are the dealer**, both sides vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?  
1. ♠6 ♥AK1095 ♦KQ8753 ♣9  
2. ♠AK8 ♥Q652 ♦AJ9 ♣AJ5  
3. ♠5 ♥93 ♦QJ1085 ♣AKJ106  
4. ♠AQ97 ♥AJ4 ♦J73 ♣652

**Bidding Quiz**

1. One heart. In general, a six-card suit is named before a five-card suit. But when the suits are adjacent in rank and the high-card content of the hand is close to a minimum, the higher-ranking suit is bid first -- even though it may be shorter. The purpose is to keep the bidding at a relatively low level in a hand of limited strength. Bidding diamonds first and hearts next would constitute a "reverse," indicating 17 points or more.

2. One club. Players who are not point-count conscious might open the bidding with one notrump. Admittedly, this 19-point hand looks very notrumpish, considering its flat distribution and scattered high-card strength, but it is far better to show the nature of your hand at your next turn.

An opening one-notrump bid promises at most 17 or 18 points, depending on the partnership's methods. This upper limit is inflexible and cannot be varied without risking a calamity. It is better to open one club and then jump to two notrump to deliver the message more accurately. If partner passes one club, the odds are that there is no game in the hand.

3. One diamond. The fact that you have only 11 high-card points is not a good reason for passing. If you did pass, you would have a hard time later convincing partner that you held a hand containing seven or eight potential tricks.

Once you decide to open, it is better to start with one diamond than one club, in line with the general rule of first bidding the higher-ranking of two equally long suits.

4. Pass. The only other call that can be reasonably considered is one spade, but this would be begging for trouble because of the rebid problem that would arise if partner responded two clubs or two diamonds.

Both of these responses would be forcing, and it would be impossible to find a rebid that would not misrepresent your high-card values and/or distribution. It is better to pass originally with a borderline hand than to run the risk of creating an insoluble bidding problem.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



4-15

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"Daddy, when you finish your tax homework, can you check my math homework?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

MOXX ORRXGAOFGZL TQNC EZW

OXX FSN ASTWASNQ MGFSGL

O ROWFGATXOW CGQFWGAF:

RXOQFNW ZE ROWGQS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO PRODUCE DELICIOUS, AUTHENTIC ITALIAN SYRUP, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER TAPPING NAPLES MAPLES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Symbol of intrigue
  - 4 iPhone download
  - 7 Nut job
  - 12 Actress Longoria
  - 13 Meadow above
  - 14 Foreigner
  - 15 Part of UCLA
  - 16 Beatles ditty
  - 18 Schuss
  - 19 Heavens above
  - 20 "Phooey!"
  - 22 Green prefix
  - 23 Castro's home
  - 27 Young fellow
  - 29 Trafalgar admiral
  - 31 Daniel who's played 007
  - 34 Prepared
  - 35 Gilligan's boat
  - 37 Scratch
  - 38 Carry
  - 39 Simile center
  - 41 Entanglement
  - 45 Its participants must form a line
- DOWN**
- 47 Spring mo.
  - 48 "The Swedish Nightingale"
  - 52 Conk out
  - 53 Alaskan islander
  - 54 Nourished
  - 55 Cozy lodging
  - 56 Boston news-paper
  - 57 Wayne and Worth (Abbr.)
  - 58 Roulette bet
  - 3 Fundamental worker
  - 4 Swiss range
  - 5 Cheated at hide-and-seek
  - 6 "War of the Worlds" effect
  - 7 Methods of MTV
  - 8 Every iota
  - 9 Spy-novel org.
  - 10 Jennings of "Jeopardy!"
  - 11 Inseparable
  - 17 Night light?
  - 21 "A Fish Called Wanda" Oscar winner
  - 23 Fridge decoration
  - 24 N.A. portion
  - 25 Physique
  - 26 Whatever number
  - 28 Past
  - 30 Historic time
  - 31 Nashville-based
  - 32 Carnival city
  - 33 Pismire
  - 36 Cry like a banshee
  - 37 Fridge decoration
  - 40 Check for smells
  - 42 Bottom
  - 43 Put one's two cents in
  - 44 Pollster's find
  - 45 Info measure
  - 46 Toteboard tally
  - 48 Show that spawned "NCIS"
  - 49 Right angle
  - 50 Ultramodernist
  - 51 Gist

Solution time: 25 mins.

JOG	TBSP	REPS								
AVA	AONE	ARIL								
MAINTAIN	ISLE									
NOT	TAINTED									
WASHER	LAB									
OLA	ROD	MODEL								
RAYS	WOK	WADE								
MESAS	SIB	IIN								
	ION	DOWNED								
FAINTER	NET									
ALOT	PAINTING									
YOWL	ACNE	EAU								
SWAY	LENT	RPM								

Yesterday's answer 4-15

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		