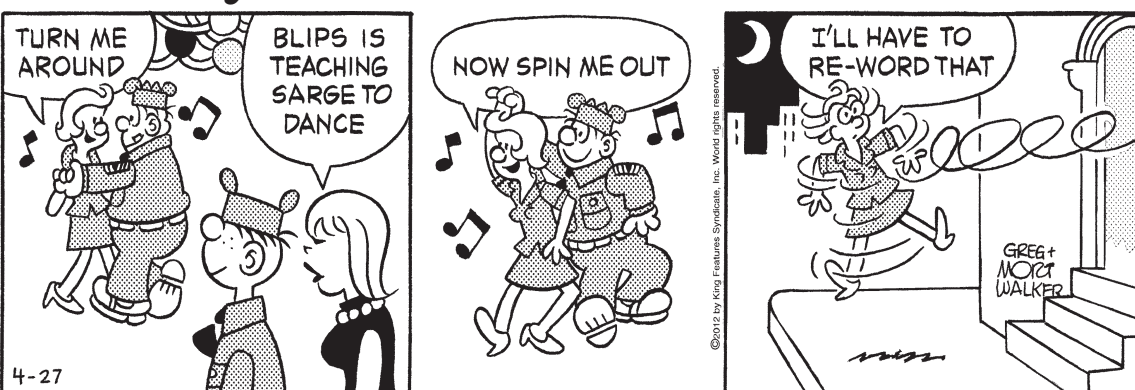


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



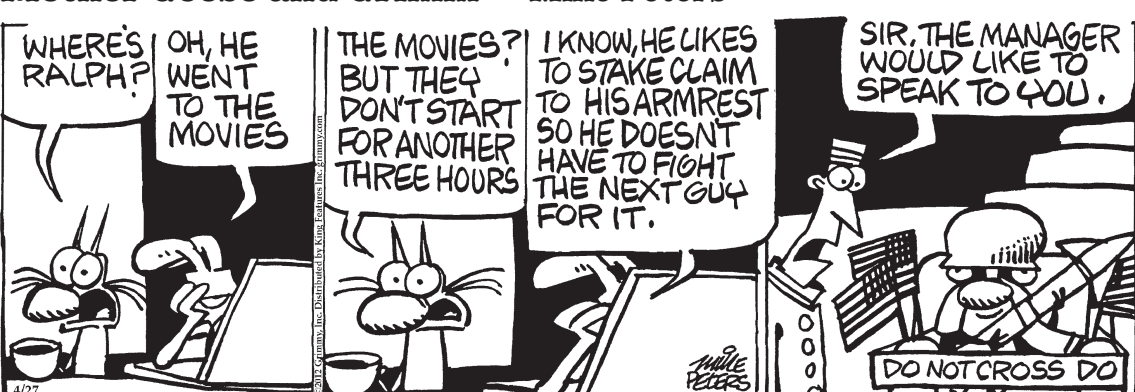
Blondie • Chic Young



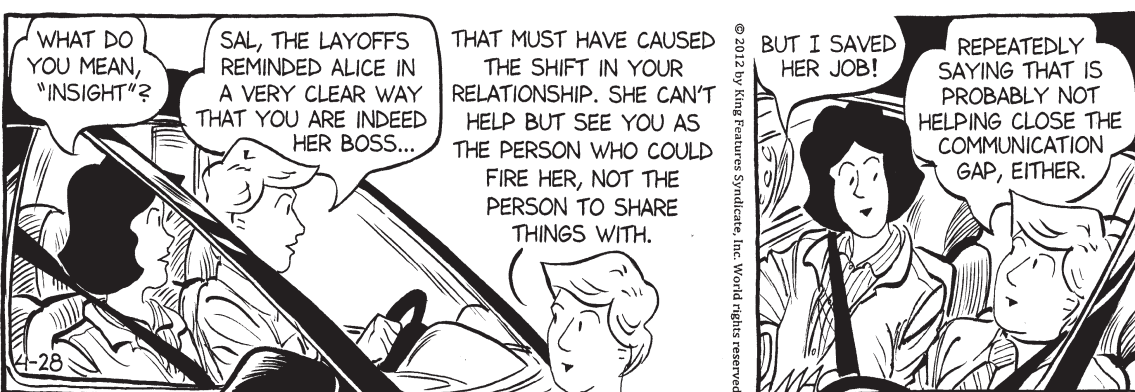
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



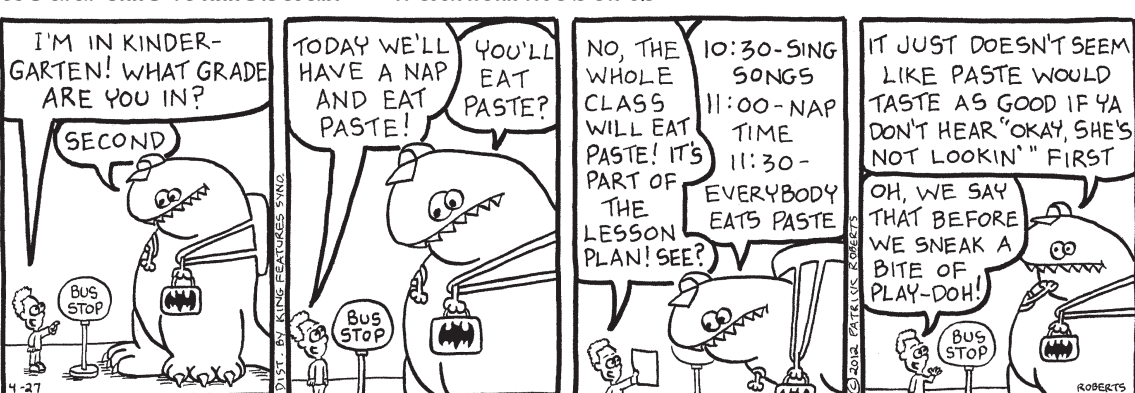
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Recycler asks: what about keys?

Dear Heloise: Greetings from Louisbourg, Nova Scotia! After recently purchasing new lock sets for our home, I realized how many keys get tossed in the garbage when locks of different types are changed.

Haven't we all got a container with old keys that no one can use or knows what they are for? Can old keys be recycled in any way? Thanks, and keep up the good work. – Judy, via e-mail

Greetings to you, Judy! How nice to hear from way up North, from my home state, Texas! You are so right! There are several ways to recycle them around the house:

- Sew them into the bottom of drapes to help the drapes hang straight.
- Tie onto fishing line and make into a wind chime.
- Attach to zipper pulls on coats or bags.
- Give kids a key chain with keys to play with.
- Sell or donate to artists.
- Use to decorate picture frames or gifts.

You also can check with a mixed-metal recycling company to see if it recycles the metal. Hope this helps. Calling all locksmiths! Any hints to help reuse or recycle keys? – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT
Dear Heloise: When traveling with small children and there is a need to use public restrooms, use bread wrappers to place over the toilet seat. When finished, just grab the wrapper by the end and discard. My neighbor used to call these my "fancy toilet-seat covers" when I asked her to save some for me. It helps, as the child doesn't have to touch the seat. – A Reader, via e-mail

This will work on seats that are split, but please do not flush them. – Heloise

LETTER OF LAUGHTER
Dear Heloise: I read with interest your column about money hidden by older family members (finding money hidden in strange places after they have passed. – Heloise). My mother also had that habit. Her place of preference was in back of pictures of family that were hanging on the wall. All family members knew about this.

After she died and the money was removed, the grandchildren had much enjoyment, some boasting: "Grandma liked me better than she liked you. She put \$20 behind my picture. Yours had only \$10!" – Dorris from Iowa

CUTTING-BOARD REDO
Dear Heloise: I have a wooden pull-out cutting board in my kitchen cupboards. It looked terrible after years of use. I looked high and low for a replacement.

Then it occurred to me to refurbish it with my husband's electric palm sander. Starting with coarser and ending with a finer paper, it looks nearly as good as new. – Jan from Idaho

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
Dear Readers: Here is a helpful phone hint if you are traveling overseas. In an emergency, dial "112" on your cell phone and be connected to an emergency service provider. This is available in most EU (European Union) countries. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Your partner deals and opens the bidding with Three Notrump. What would you respond with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ Q72 ♥ Q962 ♦ QJ9843 ♣ —
2. ♠ J ♥ Q7652 ♦ 9632 ♣ J84
3. ♠ Q94 ♥ K86 ♦ J93 ♣ Q872
4. ♠ K65 ♥ 94 ♦ A863 ♣ 9762

Bidding Quiz

1. Six diamonds. An opening three-notrump bid normally indicates a balanced hand containing 25 or 26 high-card points. Opposite your hand, it is therefore highly likely that a slam can be made with diamonds as trumps.

Unfortunately, there's no way of bidding this hand scientifically; the best you can do is to take a shot at what you think you can make. There could even be a grand slam if partner has exactly the right cards, but it would be foolish to take a blind stab at it. Partner is not barred from bidding seven over six, but in practice he will nearly always pass.

2. Pass. Here there's virtually no chance for a slam, so the only problem is whether to pass or bid four hearts (or four diamonds if you play transfers). Four hearts would essentially be a shutout bid and would not suggest interest in a slam.

A pass will probably work out best in the long run, since the combined high-card point count is somewhere around 29 or 30 points -- surely enough for partner to make nine tricks at notrump. The trouble with bidding four hearts is that partner might have only a doubleton heart, creating the possibility of losing two or three trump tricks that would not have to be lost in a notrump contract.

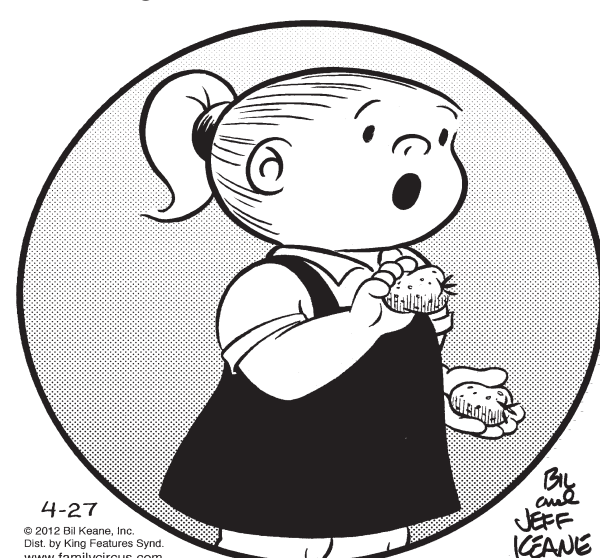
3. Six notrump. This hand is unimpressive in its own right, but opposite a three-notrump opening it assumes sizable proportions. Your combined count of 33 or 34 points makes a small slam very likely.

Hands of this sort illustrate the great value of point count in assessing the number of tricks your side can make. You nearly always belong in a slam when you and partner together have 33 or more high-card points.

4. Four notrump. This bid has nothing to do with Blackwood, but is instead intended to ascertain how many high-card points your side possesses. Partner should pass with minimum values for his three-notrump bid, but should carry on to slam with a maximum.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-27
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"Strawberries aren't like other fruits. They like to show off their seeds."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/27

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

GAJ VZWA ICPJ TG JCTDC

AXTUPLI DPWMAUA TG WZLRTGV

QM UCATL WZGQIDLTMIU:

"SAU'I WZRA Z XASA."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU HAVE TO WRITE THE LEGAL TEXT CONCERNING ALCOHOL LEVIES, USE PROPER SIN-TAX SYNTAX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals N

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS													DOWN																									
1	Slithery squeezer												36	Waste channel												20	Victory											
4	Gridlock sound												39	\$ dispenser												23	Melt											
8	Fork option												40	Ostrich's cousin												24	Green land											
12	Screw up												41	Asian hostess												25	Ca-booze's place											
13	Jealousy												45	Hair salon request												26	Raised platform											
14	Therefore												51	Paradise address												27	Con											
15	Sign up												52	Branch on												28	Pitch											
17	Black, in verse												53	Grooving on												29	Petrol											
18	Peanut holder, maybe												54	Creates dust?												30	Makes neat											
19	Puncturing tool												55	Chesapeake, for one												31	Big rigs											
21	Pigpen												Solution time: 25 mins.												32	Prized possession												
22	Fellow's address												PATH PANS CHA ALOE ALOU HUN STRANGERS ANT SOITREE HINGE SO THING CAGE PIE KENT AIR ATE RAH BLAB ILL ASHY NOBLE ID REGAL GOATEE OWE ENDANGERS OER SONS ELIN MRS SWAP SANE												33	Oktoberfest supply												
26	Calendar information												Yesterdays answer 4-27												34	Beat												
29	Card player's call												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												35	Ford predecessor												
30	Hasten												44 Host												36	Oktoberfest												
31	Unsigned (Abbr.)												45 —												37	Queen of Olympus												
32	Blue												46 A billion years												38	Beat												
33	Detective novelist												47 Decay												39	Ford predecessor												
34	"Monty Python" opener												48 A billion years												40	Queen of Olympus												
35	Navigation gizmo												49 Oklahoma city												41	Beat												