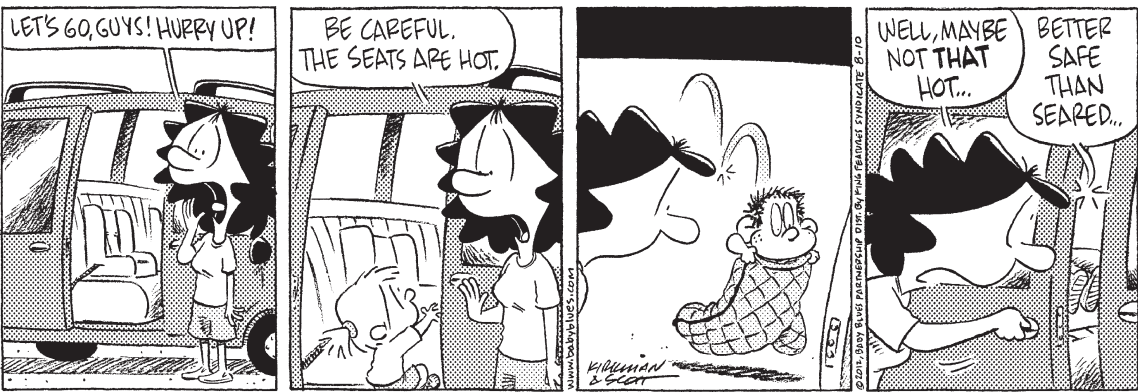
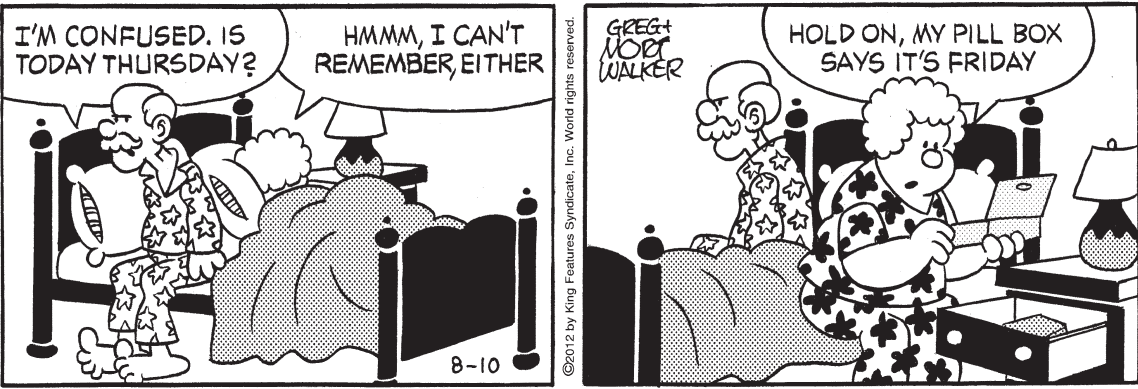


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



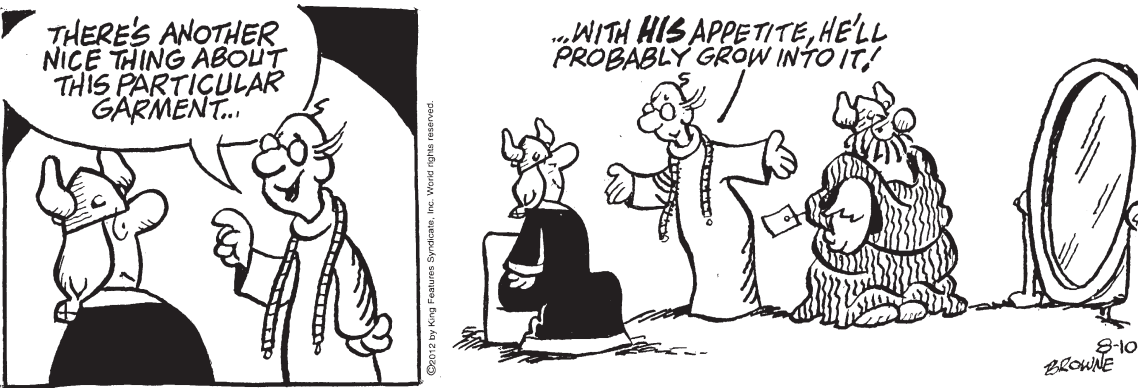
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



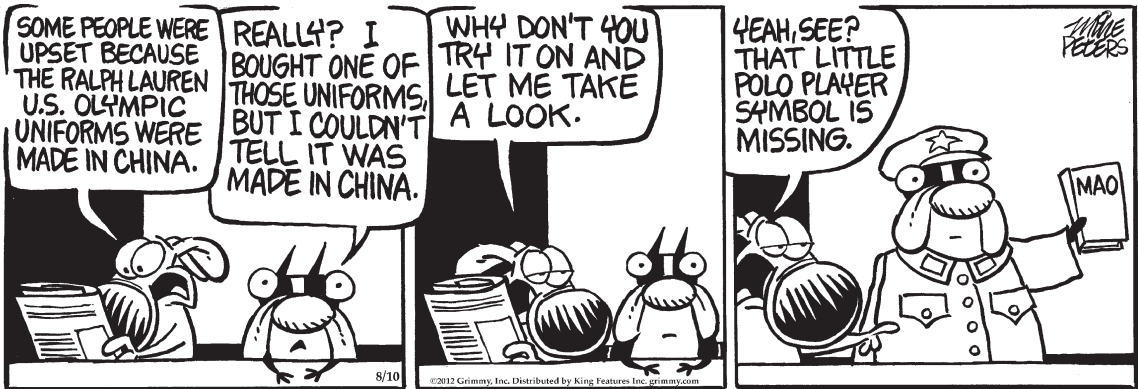
Blondie • Chic Young



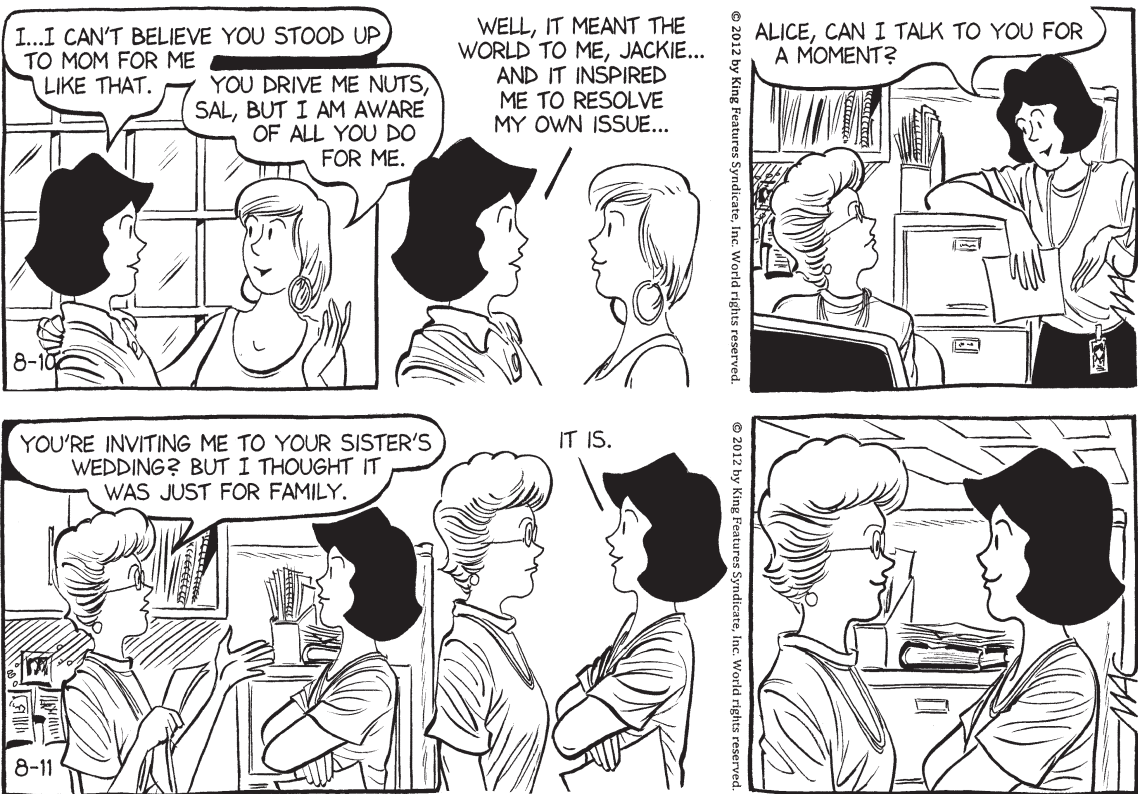
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



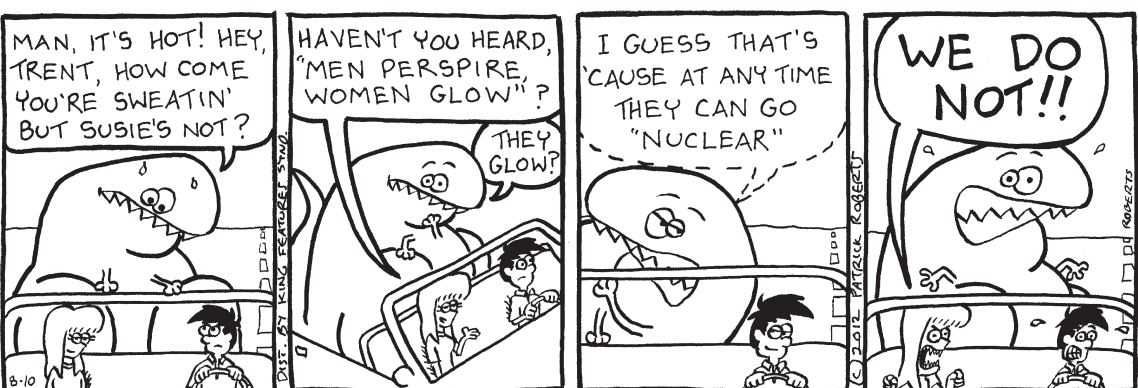
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Clean grout with borax, soda

Dear Heloise: You printed a recipe for cleaning grout using borax and something else. I lost it. Could you reprint it? I really enjoy your hints. – Ann in Houston

I am happy to help, and it's pretty easy. The grout-cleaner recipe is this: Mix 1/2 cup of baking soda with 1/4 cup of borax. Add hot water until it makes a thick paste. Apply to grout. Gently scrub with a soft brush and let sit for 15-20 minutes before rinsing. Do you have other areas you want to know how to clean? Order my pamphlet Heloise's Homemade Cleaning Solutions by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cleaners, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To clean a rust stain from iron in the water on a porcelain tub, dip half a lemon into borax and scrub the surface. Rinse well when done. – Heloise

P.S.: Be sure to wear rubber gloves, and don't splash it in your eyes.

TRAVEL FOLLOW-UP

Dear Readers: A previous column contained a travel hint about using an ironing board at a hotel as a table in a pinch.

Peg in New Jersey said: "I disagree about using an ironing board as a table for food. Nothing but clean clothes should ever be placed on an ironing board. Just think of the mess/stains that would be on your clothes if you decided to use the ironing board and the person before you had an 'Oops!' because he or she spilled something and couldn't or didn't clean it well."

This is a different point of view. Using the ironing board as a table is still good, but put down a towel or tablecloth before using. If you do spill, let the hotel housekeeping know so that the cover may be cleaned or replaced. – Heloise

SHOWER SHOCKER

Dear Heloise: When I shower, I like using liquid soap or shower gel. It often is cold to the touch, even though my bathroom is warm. Is there any way to quickly warm it up? – Margaret in Cleveland

Margaret, you're right! Just hold the bottle under the running warm water in your shower for a couple of minutes. Or fill the sink with hot water and put the bottle of soap in to get it warm. – Heloise

WATER BALLOON

Dear Heloise: My kids love to have water-balloon fights during the summer. I found an easy way to fill the balloons that doesn't make a mess. I took an old sports water bottle and filled it with water. The kids then slip the neck of the balloon over the spout of the bottle and squeeze. Easy! – Cindy, via e-mail

CUT CORK

Dear Heloise: Corks can be drilled or cut to fit snugly over pointed wall hooks for prevention of dimples or holes in clothing hung on the hook. Synthetic and champagne corks work best. – Elliott, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ AQ872 ♥ 63 ♦ J74 ♣ KJ5
2. ♠ KJ94 ♥ K9 ♦ Q63 ♣ A865
3. ♠ Q9652 ♥ 874 ♦ J ♣ AK96
4. ♠ AK876 ♦ 92 ♦ K93 ♣ A84

\* \* \*

Bidding Quiz

1. Three diamonds. Game is uncertain at this point, so all you can do is invite partner to bid again. His two-diamond rebid is a warning that he might have a bare 13 points, in which case game is unlikely. But since partner might also have two or three points more than a bare minimum, you should give him the opportunity to continue bidding, which he can do by next showing three-card spade support, undertaking a notrump game, bidding three hearts to show a heart stopper or even continuing on to five diamonds.

2. Three notrump. You have 13 high-card points, balanced distribution and a stopper in every suit, so game in notrump is clearly indicated. The queen of diamonds, in particular, is worth its weight in gold opposite a suit partner has bid twice. It would be wrong to bid only two notrump, which partner can pass, or to raise diamonds to any level.

3. Pass. Game is highly unlikely once partner announces a minimum, so the only remaining problem is to find the best partscore contract. Two diamonds is probably the best place to stop.

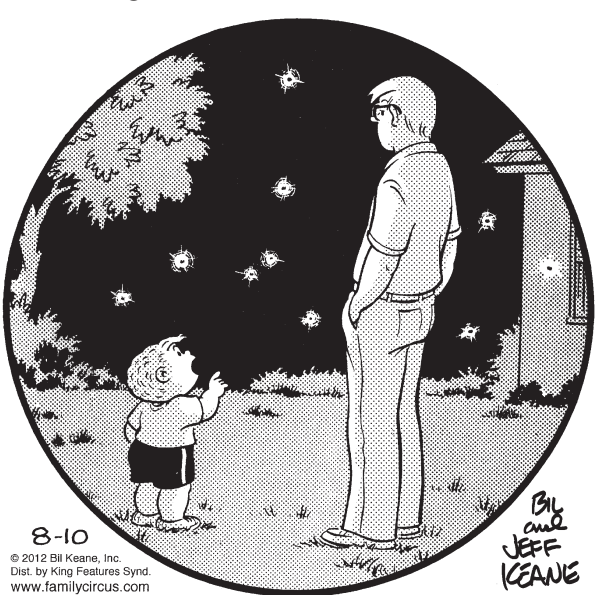
It would be wrong to rebid your shabby spades, and it would be equally wrong to bid three clubs, which would force partner to bid again in a hand where game chances are at best remote.

4. Three clubs. Three-card suits are normally not biddable, but they are sometimes used as a means of exploring game-going possibilities. You have a game-going hand opposite partner's opening bid, but you can't be sure whether the best contract is three notrump, four spades or five diamonds.

The most intelligent way of trying to resolve this problem is to bid three clubs (forcing) and see what partner does next. You could reasonably consider a jump to four diamonds, but this might result in missing the best contract of three notrump. The three-club bid has the great advantage of keeping all avenues open.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

8/10

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

Cryptoquip

TBGJR B'S SEVBGK AHRUT

LA QIW QOEGVRLT EL LZBT

EIJLBAG, WAI JAI OC TEW

LZEL'T QRCCBGK QBCCBGK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DICTATORIAL SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY WHERE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS ALWAYS REIGN: SERGEANTINA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Colorado ski mecca
  - 6 Aries
  - 9 Book-keeper (Abbr.)
  - 12 Camel's cousin
  - 13 "The Greatest"
  - 14 Chance
  - 15 Hammerstein's contribution
  - 16 Decorative floor
  - 18 Knapsack parts
  - 20 Kazakhstan river
  - 21 Buddhist sect
  - 23 Lamb's dam
  - 24 Minimal change
  - 25 Writer Kingsley
  - 27 Rice, on a Mexican menu
  - 29 Minnesota
  - 31 Fled to wed
  - 35 Heat
  - 37 Appellation
- DOWN
- 38 Miss USA adornment
  - 41 Neighbor of Ukr.
  - 43 Abrade
  - 44 Con
  - 45 Oft-repeated word
  - 47 Layered dessert
  - 49 Carnival attractions
  - 52 Blackbird
  - 53 Paid player
  - 54 Old marketplace
  - 55 Vast expanse
  - 56 Listener
  - 57 Grew
  - 19 Trophy, for one
  - 21 Sharp turn
  - 22 Comedian
  - 23 Philips
  - 24 D.C. type
  - 26 "Doctor Zhivago" star
  - 28 Same old story?
  - 30 Detergent brand
  - 32 Baffling contradiction
  - 33 Flightless bird
  - 34 Society newcomer
  - 36 Demosthenes, for one
  - 38 Spanish appetizers
  - 39 Foolish
  - 40 Places in the heart
  - 42 Malt shop item
  - 45 Actress Sorvino
  - 46 Latvia's capital
  - 48 Gorilla
  - 50 Prior to
  - 51 Blue

Yesterdays answer 8-10

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				