

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



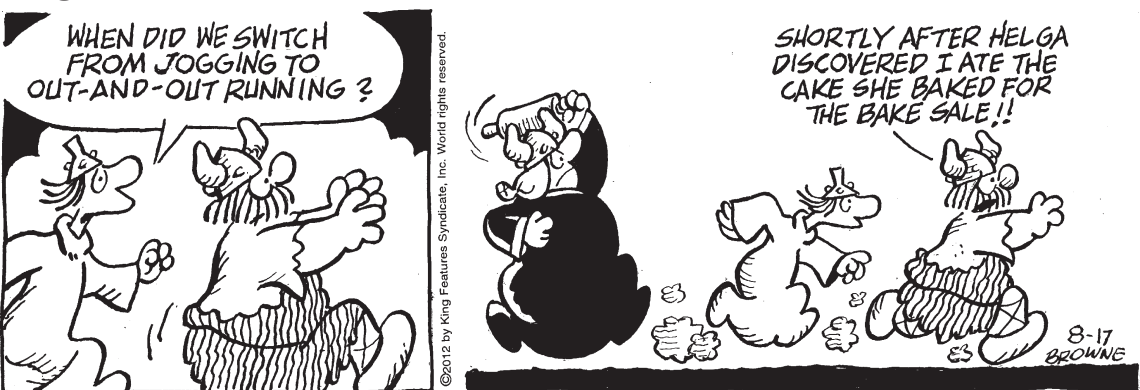
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



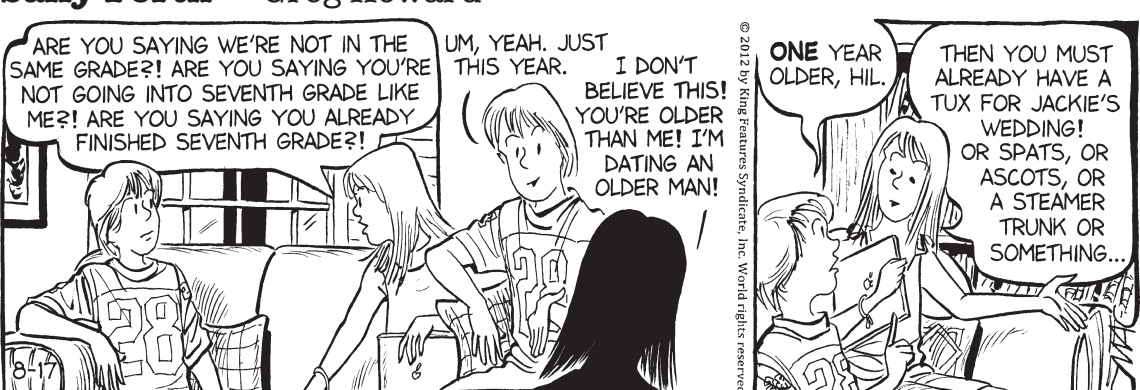
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



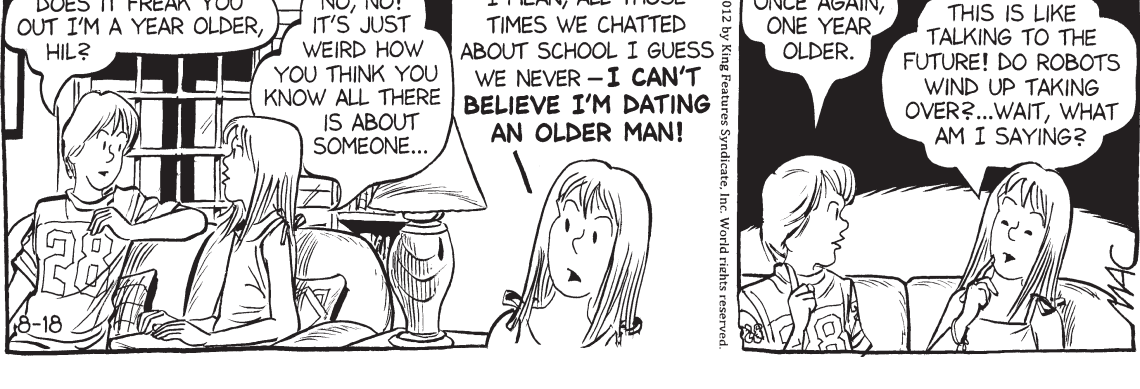
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



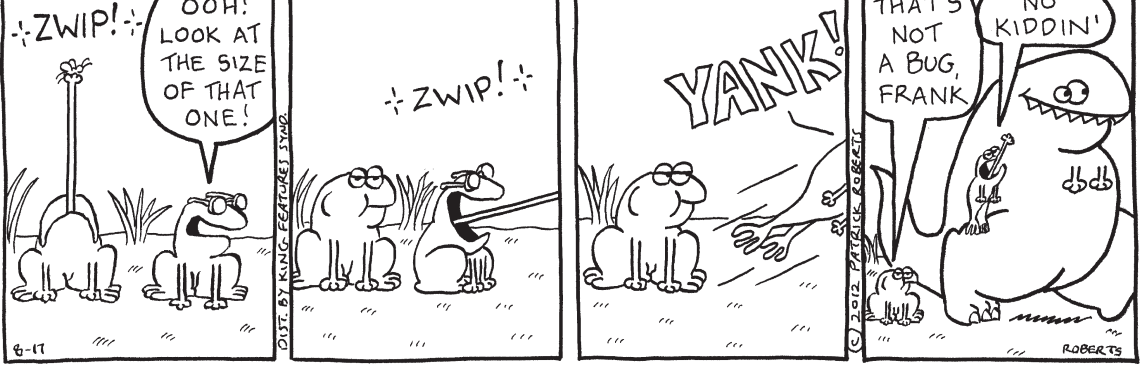
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Packing hints aim at security

Dear Readers: Not long ago, I was in Roswell, N.M., giving a speech about literacy for the Friends of the Roswell Public Library. Flying there and back, I put my netbook in my checked luggage, locked with a Transportation Security Administration-approved lock. When I got to the hotel, a note had been placed inside my netbook stating that my bag had been searched. On the way home, the bag had been thoroughly checked again. Here are a few hints from the TSA:

- It is recommended that you not place any valuables or electronics in your checked baggage (I know! I know! – Heloise). No matter how well you pack them, they may get damaged or stolen.
 - The TSA has the right to remove and examine all contents. Placing the items in clear plastic bags lowers the chances of your personal items being handled.
 - TSA prefers that you place footwear on top of items in checked baggage, and spread out books and documents within your luggage. Don't stack them all together.
 - Make sure to use TSA-approved locks, and label each piece of luggage.
- If you are uncertain of anything you might pack, visit www.tsa.gov or call (866) 289-9673. Safe travels! – Heloise

LETTER OF LAUGHTER
Dear Heloise: While I was watching my grandson the other day, we went outside to water my garden. He was helping me, and we went one by one watering all of my plants. When we got to the tomatoes, he yelled, "Apple!" and pulled off one of my green tomatoes! Cracked me up! – A Reader in Texas

FONT SIZE
Dear Readers: Want to change the size of the font or icons on your desktop screen? Here's how to do it on most computers:

- Click the "start" button, usually in the lower left-hand corner
- Select "Control Panel"
- Select "Appearance and Personalization"
- Click "Display"
- It will give you the option to select small, medium or large
- Click "Apply" to set the new settings.

You might need to log off and back on to see the new settings take effect. – Heloise

RETAINER REMINDER
Dear Heloise: My son wears a retainer. After having to replace it the second time, we searched for something to help him keep track of it. Our dentist mentioned he could make it in different colors and with designs. It cost extra, but we made it a bright color so it is noticeable when my son takes it out and sets it down somewhere. I am happy to say that with the bright color (and a little extra diligence on his part), we have not had to replace another one. – Linda, via e-mail

STORING NEEDLES
Dear Heloise: I keep the little plastic container my mechanical pencil lead comes in and use it to store sewing needles. It is just the right size, easy to find, and I don't prick myself as much. – A Reader, via e-mail

(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:
West North East South
1♥ Pass 2♣ ?
What would you bid with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠ KJ963 ♥ Q4 ♦ AK9 ♣ J85
2. ♠ AK743 ♥ 7 ♦ QJ942 ♣ K7
3. ♠ AQJ9872 ♥ 5 ♦ QJ83 ♣ 6
4. ♠ K8 ♥ KJ62 ♦ AQ732 ♣ Q4

Bidding Quiz
1. Pass. West should have at least 12 or 13 high-card points for his opening bid, and East 10 or more for his response. That doesn't leave much for your partner to have, and, in fact, he could be pointless.

To bid two spades, or double for takeout, would therefore be very dangerous and could cost you upward of 500 points if you are doubled for penalties. It is true that you had what seemed to be a fairly good hand when you first looked at it, but it's been shot to pieces by the enemy bidding. You can't afford to turn a deaf ear to the values East-West have told you they have.

2. Double. The same sentiments apply here also, but the difference is that this time you have good distributional values in addition to your high cards. There is a real possibility of competing successfully against the opponents, even though you know they heavily outnumber you in high-card strength.

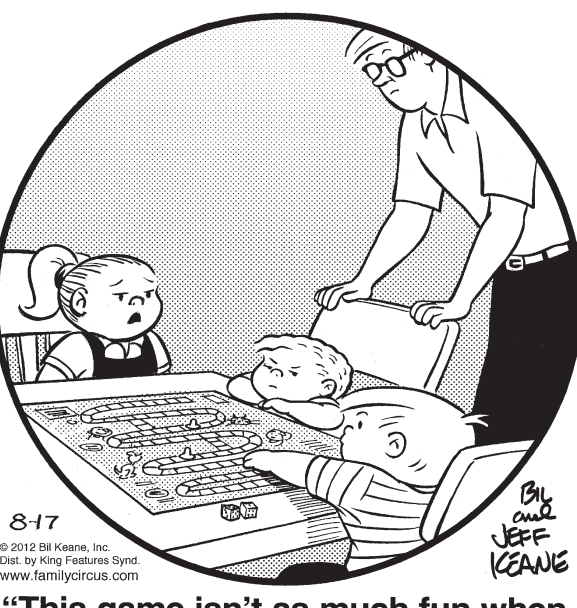
For example, partner might have something like ♠ O9852 ♥ 9653 ♦ 103 ♣ 42, in which case four spades, down one or two, presumably doubled, would be a much better result than letting the enemy bid and make four hearts.

3. Four spades. You don't expect to make four spades, though you might if you get lucky. The real purpose of the four-spade bid is to steal the opponents' bidding space so they can't find out exactly what they have between them at a lower level. Occasionally this strategy will pay excellent dividends when the opponents wind up in the wrong contract.

4. Pass. Here, as in the first hand, you take your medicine and pass. The 15 high-card points you started with have shrunk considerably in value. Your K-J of hearts in front of the heart bidder are worth much less than they were before the bidding started, and the same can be said about the rest of your hand. To bid two diamonds at this point would be both dangerous and unrealistic.

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-17 © 2012 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/17

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

Cryptoquip

XBAVQ Y DFBVBHMRQ KWSSRF
KYSSVR KRSXRRH SXB
PRYQNSFBHM DPWVBNBDPRFN
KR Y ERAQ EBF SPBAMPS?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT FIGURE OF SPEECH GOT DISALLOWED AS AN EXAMPLE, I WOULD CALL IT A NIXED METAPHOR.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Lustrous black
 - Corned beef concoction
 - Into the sunset
 - Unoriginal one
 - La Scala show-stopper
 - Related
 - Vitamin B-1 deficiency
 - Kindly bloke
 - Submit
 - Pi follower
 - Schedule abbr.
 - Moulin Rouge dance
 - Book of maps
 - Yank
 - Discoverer's cry
 - Seethe
 - Historic boy king
 - "Big Brother" host Julie
 - Census datum
 - Census datum
 - Ad for an upcoming broadcast
 - Chocolately treat
 - 401(k) alternative
 - Pompous sort
 - Halo
 - Opposite of
 - Samoan port city
 - United nations
 - Stench
 - Under the weather
 - "Little Women" woman
 - Pre-schoolers
 - Caustic solution
 - Pokes
 - Duel tool
 - Gull's cousin
 - Customs
 - Gladiators' venue
 - Knightly address
 - Tonsorial task
 - Cart
 - out a living
 - Sermon subject
 - Stick with a kick
 - Perfect
 - Crone
 - Silver salmon
 - Throat-clearing sound
 - Taboo act
 - Common rhyme scheme
 - Takeout order
 - Property claim
 - Monkey suit
 - Sawbuck
 - Muscle woe
 - Rap sheet
 - Sheetload of cookies
 - Gold mold
 - \$50, in "Monopoly"
 - Unattractive
 - Unrivaled
 - Recede
 - Hearty brew
 - Toper
 - Big fuss

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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		