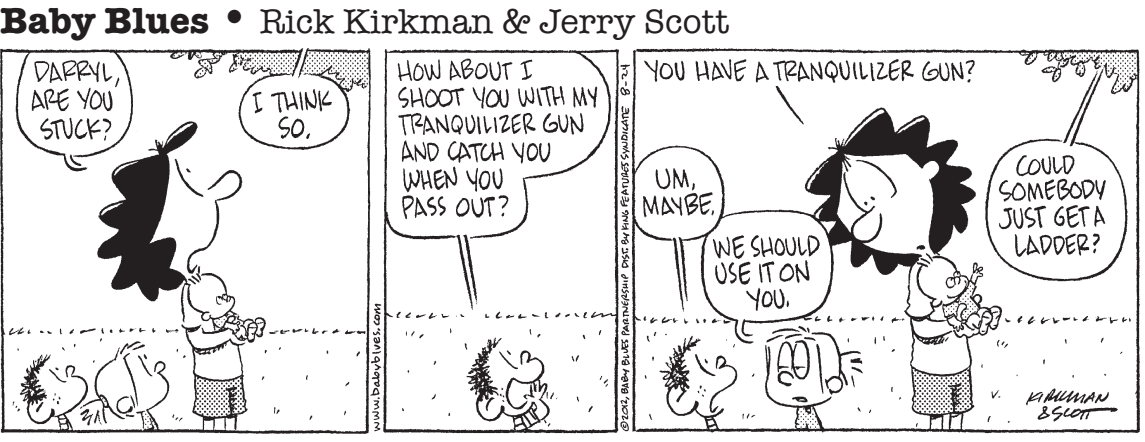
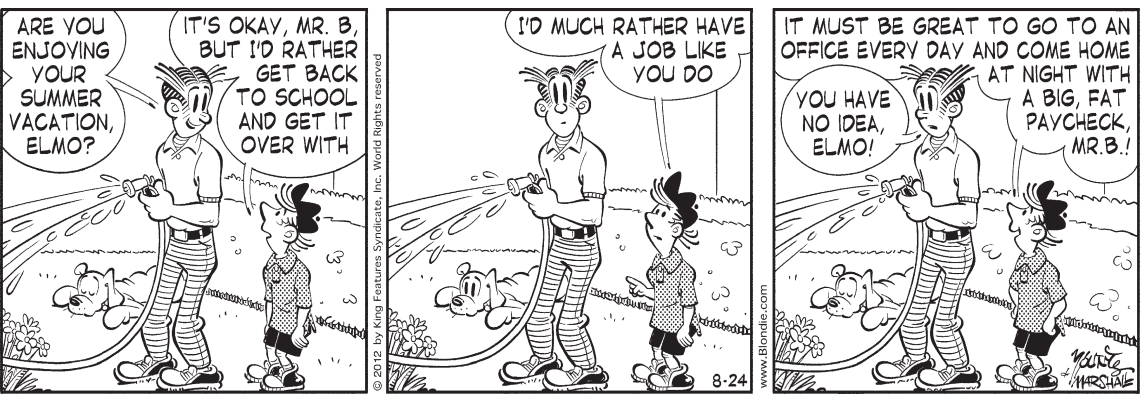
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

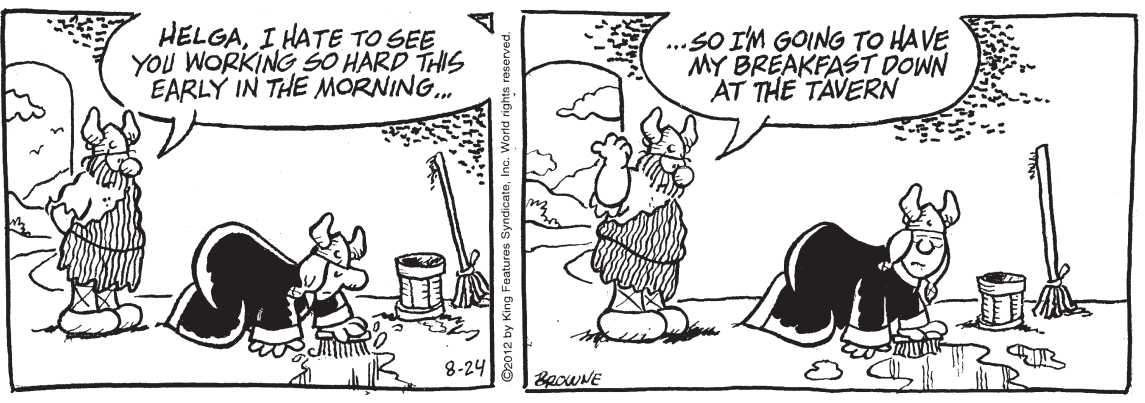


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

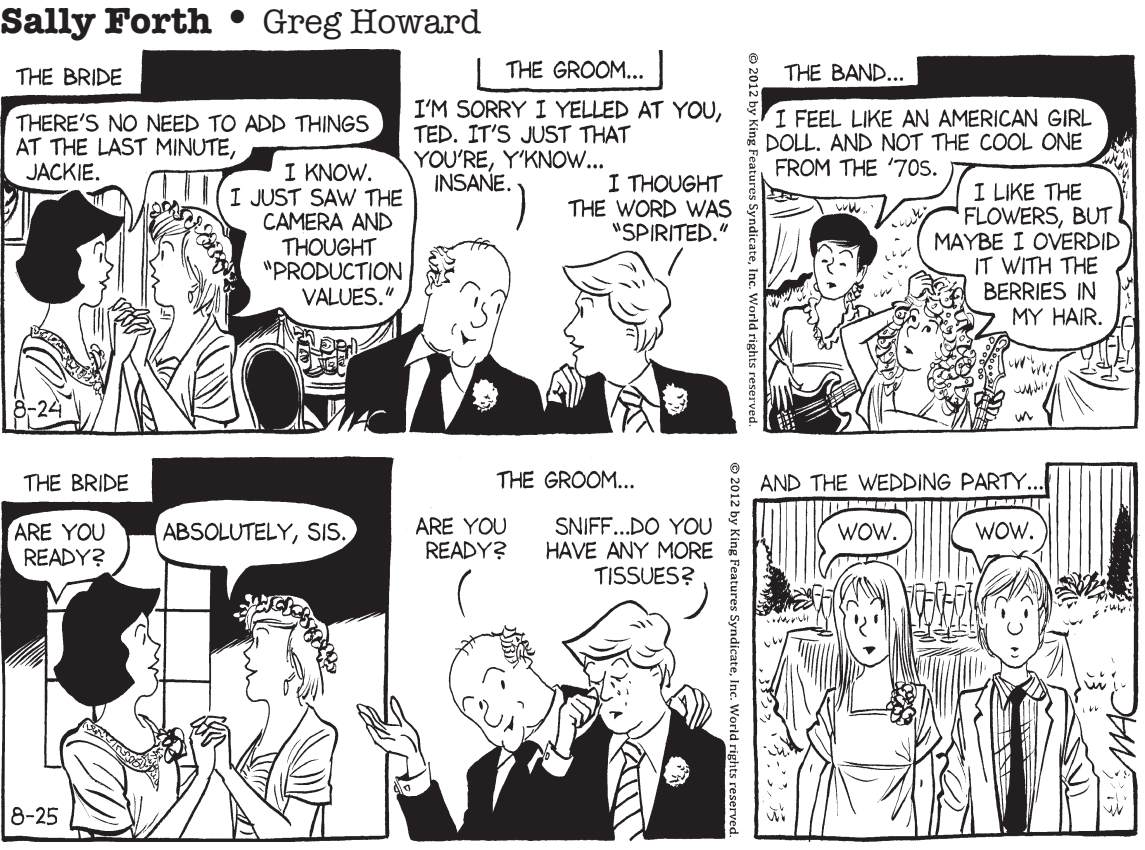


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

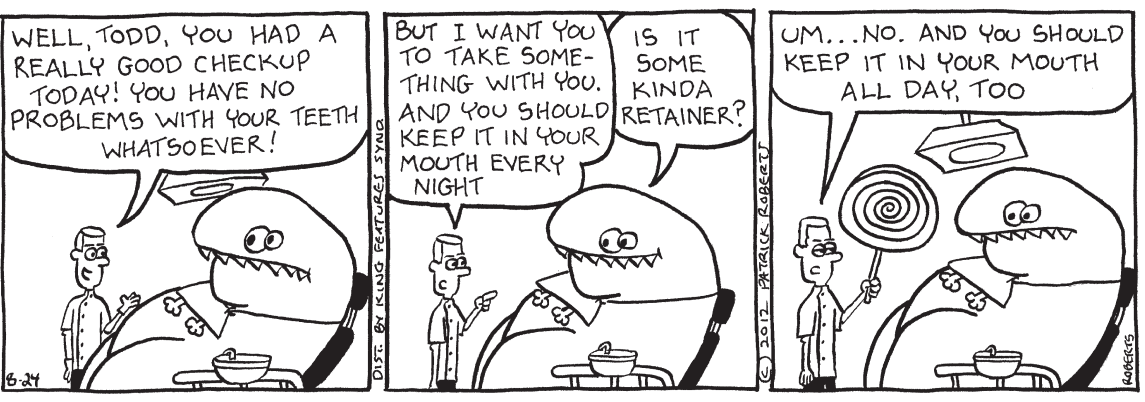


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

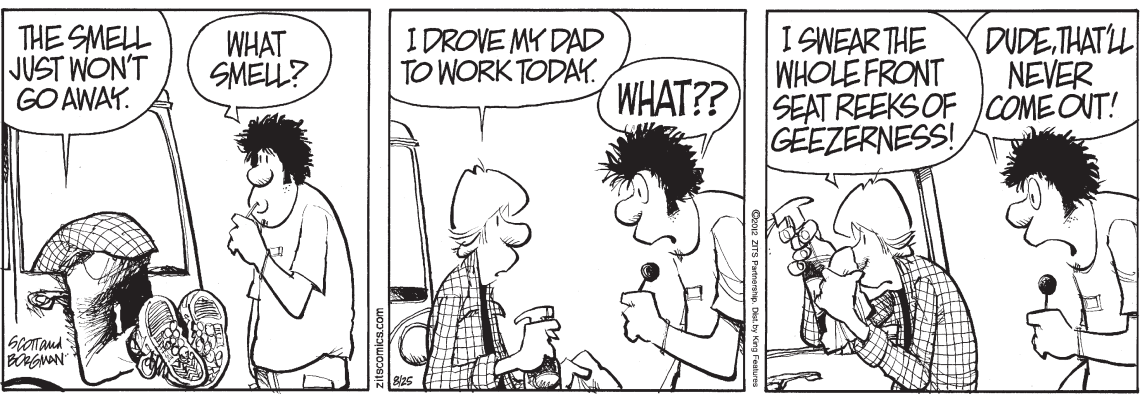
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Dorm rooms need thought

Dear Readers: Students will be going off to college soon, and many for the first time. Here are some helpful hints for parents and students:

• Your dorm room is your new home, so bring pictures of friends and family as a touchstone.

• Coordinate with your roommate (if you can) on who is bringing what. You don't need two TVs, etc. This will save a lot of space.

• Bring cleaning supplies! (They usually are not provided.) Keeping your room clean throughout the year means less work when you move out.

• Check for sheet size. Most dorm-room beds are twins, but they are extra long. Look for "dorm-room sheets."

• Are microwaves, candles, coffeepots, etc., allowed in the rooms? Many dorms do not allow them for safety reasons, and they have special designated "kitchen" areas.

For a college packing list, visit my website, www.Heloise.com. Have a great year! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

THINK LIKE HELOISE

Dear Heloise: I was trying to pack light for a short trip. I managed to reduce the amounts of most facial products, but the problem was a large bar of facial soap. A trip to my cosmetics counter to purchase a smaller size was unsuccessful. During the drive home, I wondered what Heloise would do. When I got home, I sliced a travel-size piece off the bar with a kitchen knife. Thanks for the inspiration! – Margaret, via e-mail

Good for you! When I give speeches to groups, I remind them "Put your Heloise hat on and figure out the solution." – Heloise

COOKIE CAN

Dear Heloise: I found an empty tin can (vegetable size) to be one of the most useful tools in my kitchen. The can serves many purposes, such as cookie cutter. With the can held in the same position, it is fast and efficient when used to break up hamburger for browning. It works well when used to cut up leftover cooked potatoes for frying, and it chops eggs beautifully for egg-salad sandwiches. – Lorraine in Montana

TASK TICKER

Dear Heloise: I made a daily list of things that needed to be done around the house. The problem was, I never knew what had been done. I laminated the daily lists. I bought some inexpensive white-board markers and hung the list in the kitchen with the markers next to them. When you do a chore, cross it off. Now there is never a question on what has been done. – A Reader in Texas

EASY ID

Dear Heloise: When I take clothes into the dressing room to try on, I place all the hangers facing one direction. Once I have tried something on, I flip the hanger to face the other direction. This allows me to quickly see what I have and haven't tried on. – A Reader in Pennsylvania

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the jack of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

WEST	EAST
♠ 6 5 2	♠ A J 10 3
♥ A 8	♥ K J 5 4
♦ Q 6 3	♦ A K 5 2
♣ A 10 9 8 7	♣ K

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand?

WEST	EAST
♠ A J 10 9 8 4 2	♠ 5 3
♥ K 8	♥ A J 10
♦ K 7	♦ A J 8 6 4
♣ A 3	♣ K 8 7

* * *

Test Your Play

1. You start with eight sure tricks and many different ways to try to acquire a ninth. But to nail down the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt, win the opening diamond lead in dummy, play the king of clubs and overtake it with the ace!

Continue with the ten of clubs, forcing out the jack or queen. Regardless of who wins the trick or what is returned, you are in complete command. Sooner or later you force out the other missing club honor, thereby assuring yourself of three club tricks and the contract.

If you try any other method of play, you might succeed, but you might also fail. The only way to guarantee three notrump is by overtaking the king of clubs with the ace.

2. Obviously, the only problem is to avoid losing two trump tricks, since you have no losers in the three other suits. To give yourself the best chance, you should take the first club with dummy's king and lead a trump toward your hand.

If South produces the queen or king of trumps at trick two, your worries are over. You win with the ace, return the jack of trumps and shortly thereafter chalk up the slam. But what do you do if South follows with a low trump at trick two?

The correct percentage play – the play that will win in the long run – is the jack, planning to finesse again later if the jack loses to the queen or king. Despite anything you might have heard or thought to the contrary, the planned second finesse is far better than going up with the ace on the second round of trumps if South follows low again.

The suggested line of play is not guaranteed to succeed; it is merely the best way to play the given suit combination and offers about a 75 percent probability of losing only one trick in the suit.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Leave the sideburns alone. I'm growin' them out."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/24

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/23

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Cryptoquip

ONRXJ S WZRSAXG ECAF O FSHF GZKKOJ OVZCWR ZW RFX ROQS'E VXRXJ, S XQAKOSVXG "NOJX XWZCHF!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I MADE A WHOLE BUNCH OF SOFT CHOCOLATE CANDIES, I LUGGED THEM AROUND IN A TRUFFLE BAG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Cookie container
4 Acknowledge
8 Work units
12 — Khan
13 Part of N.B.
14 Panorama
15 Acted as a go-between
17 Sicilian volcano
18 Data
19 Armada
20 Propaganda pamphlet
22 Unctuous
24 Solemn pledge
25 Haphazardly
29 Cravat
30 Square dance group
31 Ostrich's cousin
32 Chess climaxes
34 Finished
35 Addict
36 Small lizard
37 Characteristic
40 Antitoxins
41 Count counterpart
42 Fully filled
46 Regimen
47 N. Mex. neighbor
48 Historic time
49 Do in
50 Electrician's supply
51 Parched

DOWN
1 Predicament
2 Life time?
3 Shone brightly
4 Sternward
5 Kill a bill
6 Inseparable
7 Marry
8 Novelist Waugh
9 Ceremony
10 Actor Hackman
11 Hit a fly
16 Foot fraction
19 Level
20 Schlep
21 Reason for a tarp
22 Playful water critter
23 Enrages
25 Pinnacle
26 Strayed
27 Portent
28 Gloom
30 Brewer's oven
33 Culpable
34 Gumbo need
36 Capture
37 Danson and Koppel
38 Bar
39 Geometry calculation
40 Use a teaspoon
42 Witnessed
43 "Entourage" role
44 Mess up
45 Rotation duration

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-24

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		