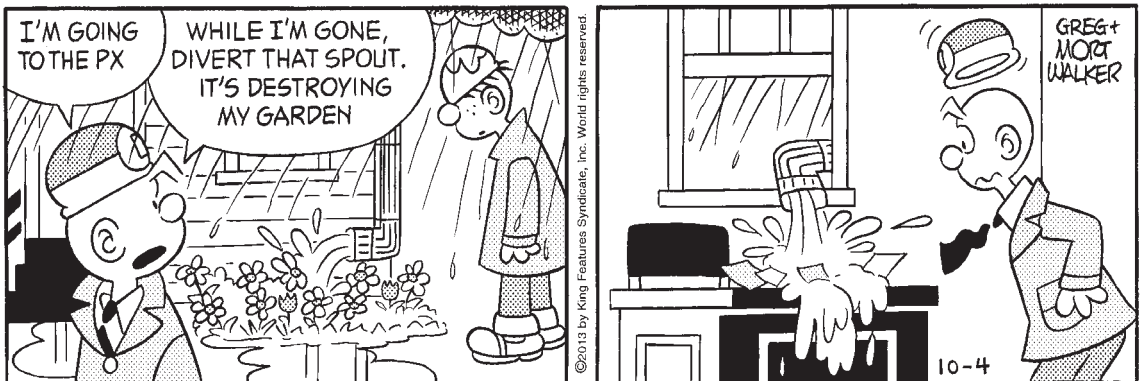


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



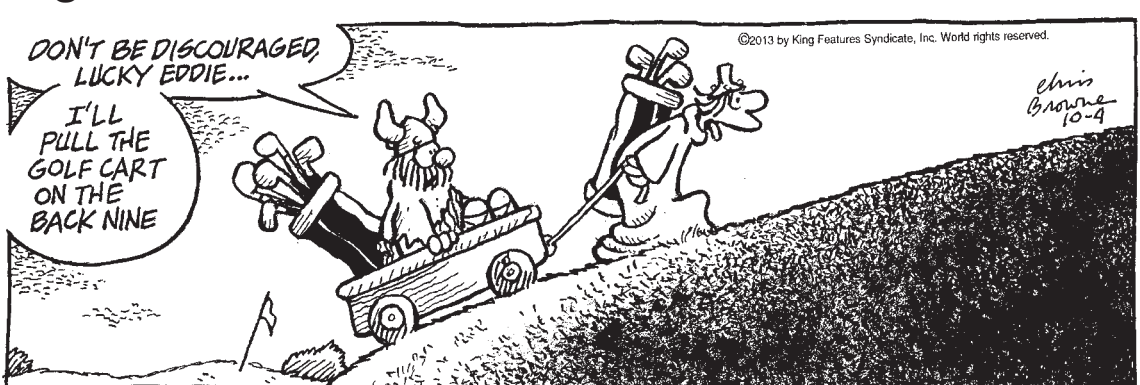
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



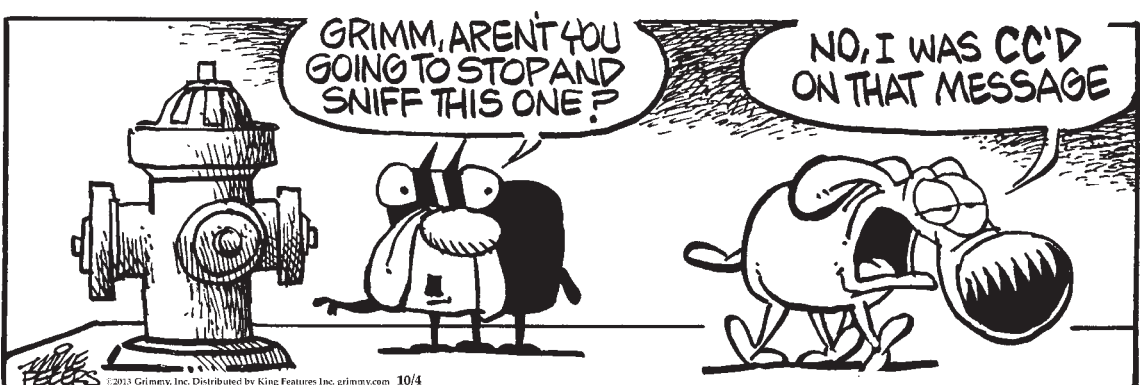
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



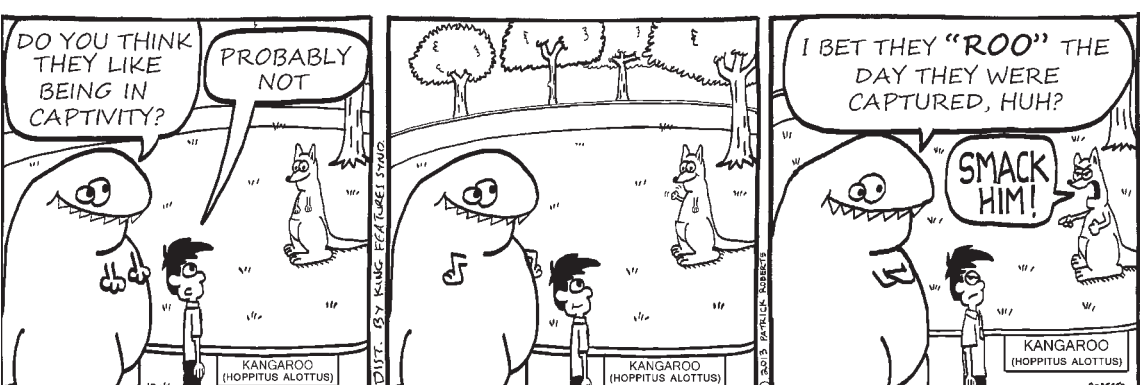
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Passwords need careful choices

Dear Heloise: Do you have any hints for online passwords? I know security is a big issue for everyone nowadays, and I want to make sure I am protecting myself. – Pat, via e-mail

Pat, I do have a few hints for you. The best thing you can do is make sure your password is strong and not easily figured out. Here are some suggestions:

- Use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters and numbers.
- Substitute symbols for letters. For example, a "\$" for an "s."
- Think of a sentence and use only the first letter from each word. Example, "My dog's name is Spot" equals MDNIS.
- Don't use things like birthdates, ZIP codes or phone numbers. They are too easy to find out!!
- Make up a password and then reverse it, such as "Date time" becomes "Emitatd."
- It's best not to use the same password on multiple sites, especially ones such as banking, credit card, etc.

Use these simple hints to better protect yourself, and you will feel more secure. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Regarding your hint from Kim in Michigan about taking a picture of your name and address for camera identification: For security at home while traveling, do not put your home address or phone number on your bags or personal items. Put your office address and/or cellphone number for a contact. – Ann in Houston

How right you are! For those who may not have an office address, use a friend's, or just use a cellphone number. – Heloise

FLUFFY TOWELS

Dear Heloise: You once had directions about how to keep towels soft and fluffy. I have misplaced the directions. Would you please reprint them? – Verlyn in Lubbock, Texas

This is a common question, Verlyn! The problem most likely is that the detergent is not being completely rinsed out. To find out if this is so, put the towels in the washer with no detergent, and run a cycle. If you see suds, TOO MUCH detergent!

To remove the buildup, wash the towels (only towels) in hot water and use baking soda or washing soda only. Add a cup or two, and do use a second rinse. Baking soda should be in every household! To find out money-saving hints for using baking soda, order my pamphlet Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Does your laundry have an odor? Add 1/2 cup of baking soda to the rinse cycle to wash away the smell. – Heloise

Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the six of spades. When you play the king from dummy, it wins the trick, South following with the four. How would you play the hand?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| West | East |
| ♠ Q 5 2 | ♠ K 7 |
| ♥ A K 8 | ♥ Q 6 3 |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | ♦ 10 9 8 |
| ♣ J 10 9 | ♣ A K 8 6 3 |

2. You are declarer with the same hand at Three Notrump, but this time when you play dummy's king of spades, South wins with the ace and returns the ten. How would you play the hand?

Test Your Play

1. In notrump, you usually try to develop tricks in your longest suit (in the present case, clubs), but that doesn't make it the right play in all cases. In this instance, the correct suit to play is diamonds, not clubs.

At trick two, you should lead the ten of diamonds and let it ride if South follows low. Even if the ten loses to the king, you are assured of nine tricks consisting of one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. North can't profitably return a spade, and you are home free whatever else he leads.

Of course, if South has the king of diamonds, you will make at least 10 tricks by repeating the finesse.

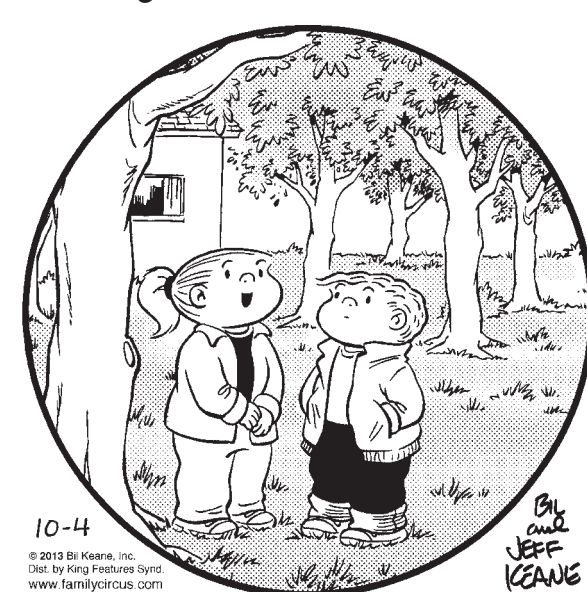
If you were to tackle clubs instead of diamonds and South had the guarded queen, you could go down after South returned a spade through your queen.

2. The situation changes completely if South wins the first trick with the ace and returns the ten. Instead of South being the player to whom you're afraid to lose the lead, North becomes the player you fear most. He presumably has the spade length (most likely five of them) and can therefore set you if he gains the lead after they become established.

Accordingly, you should duck the ten-of-spades return and win the next spade with the queen. Now you can safely lead the jack of clubs and finesse. If South wins with the queen and returns a diamond, you rise with the ace and collect your nine tricks – four clubs, three hearts, a spade and a diamond. There is no need to get greedy by taking the diamond finesse. You might wake up in the hospital if partner is the excitable type.

If South should happen to have a spade to return after taking the queen of clubs, you needn't be concerned. In that case, the opposing spades were originally divided 4-4, and the defenders can't score more than four tricks.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/04

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

Cryptoquip

ATQDO AJESJMZTB TSSMXZDR

NPM QTOD PJG ONDBBJZU

MZ TZ MCDZ UXTGGR SXTES

MA BTZO: CXTJXD QTGMZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD THINK THAT ALMOST ANY ILLUSTRIOUS BRITISH GUY WHO'S BEEN KNIGHTED HAS A SIR-NAME.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Unemotional | 1 Tackle |
| 6 Hot tub | 2 Moguls |
| 9 St. crosser | 3 Erie |
| 12 Japanese fencing style | 4 Neighbor |
| 13 Without further ado | 5 Reef |
| 14 Pout protrusion | 6 Nap |
| 15 Bury | 7 Blue |
| 16 Pizza sauce herb | 8 Astound |
| 18 E-commerce giant | 9 Frighten |
| 20 African antelope | 10 LP |
| 21 Tavern | 11 Strong adhesive |
| 23 With 27-Across, "30 Rock" role | 17 Enter |
| 24 Without complete clarity | |
| 25 Met melody | |
| 27 See 23-Across | |
| 29 Kind of clock | |
| 31 Well-armed predators? | |
| 35 "Fiddlesticks!" | 19 Tokyo's old name |
| 37 Approximately | 20 Marry |
| 38 Up to now | 21 Tale |
| 41 Shriner's chapeau | 22 Illustrations |
| 43 Jeremy of basketball | 24 "What's up, —?" |
| 44 Tallettel | 26 Current unit |
| 45 "Out of —" | 28 Landscaper's machine |
| 47 Shakespeare tragedy | 30 Follower (Suff.) |
| 49 Canonical hours | 32 Disney World city |
| 52 Ultra-modernist | 33 Omega preceder |
| 53 "— the ramparts ..." | 34 Charged bit |
| 54 West Point newbie | 36 Be able to buy |
| | 38 Unescorted |
| | 39 Located |
| | 40 Google rival |
| | 42 Galvanization materials |
| | 45 Sheltered |
| | 46 Paint layer |
| | 48 Sad |
| | 50 Always, in verse |
| | 51 Pigs' digs |

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | M | P | M | I | D | S | M | U | G |
| A | G | A | R | U | K | E | I | O | T | A |
| R | U | L | E | N | E | E | G | O | A | L |
| D | E | I | F | I | C | S | Y | N | C | H |
| A | S | H | O | O | H | | | | | |
| B | O | M | B | I | M | M | U | N | I | Z |
| A | B | A | N | E | A | N | O | W | | |
| A | I | R | T | I | G | H | T | O | G | E |
| C | O | T | C | P | U | | | | | |
| R | E | H | A | S | H | I | T | E | C | H |
| U | N | I | S | I | L | I | R | E | | |
| D | I | N | T | N | O | N | U | S | E | R |
| E | D | G | Y | T | U | G | N | E | W | S |

Yesterday's answer 10-4

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | | |