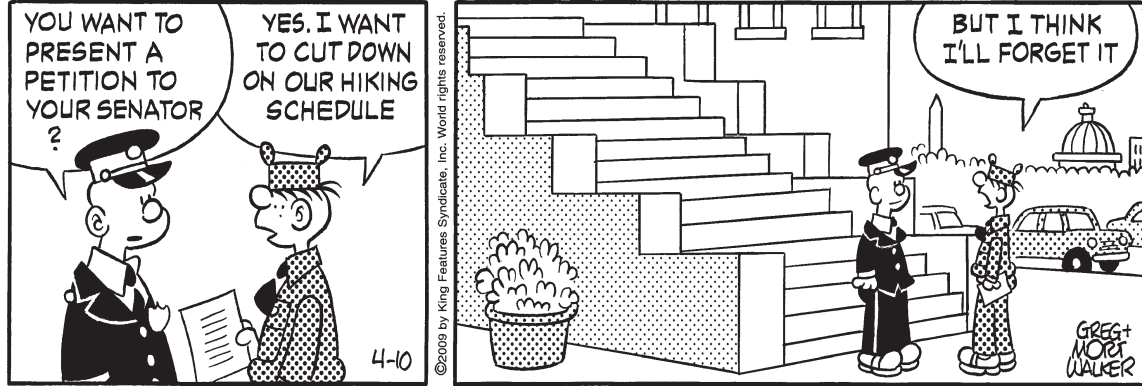


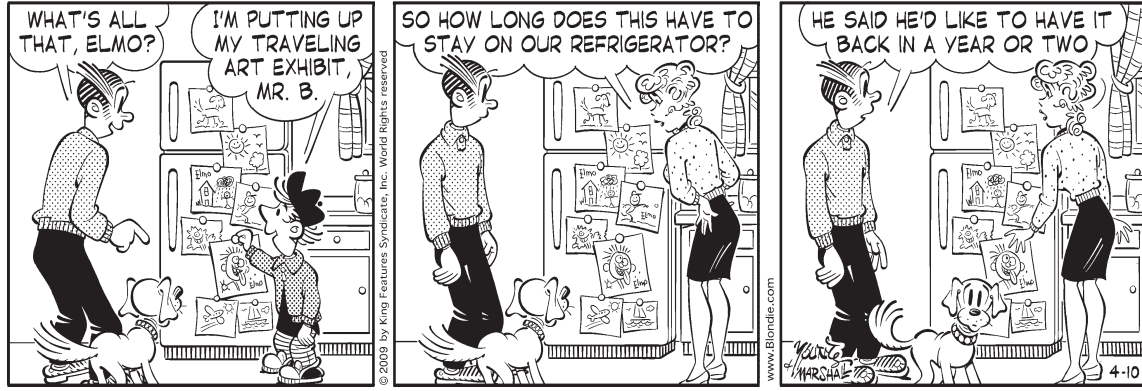
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



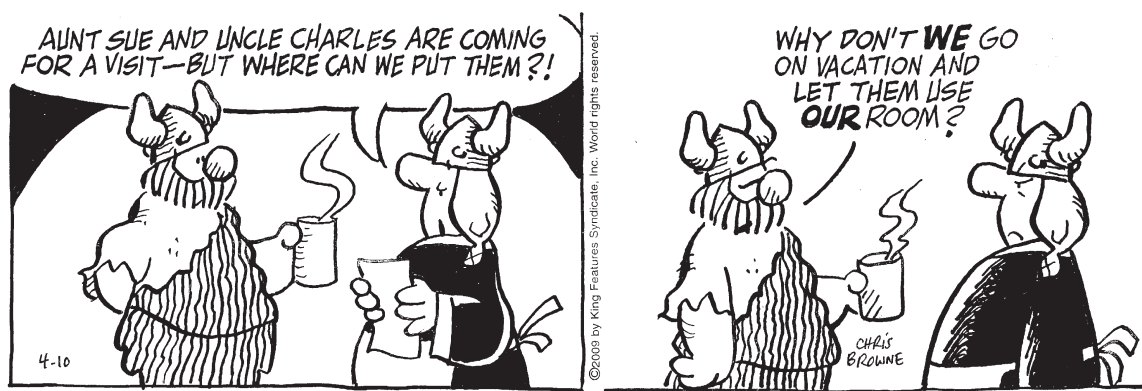
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



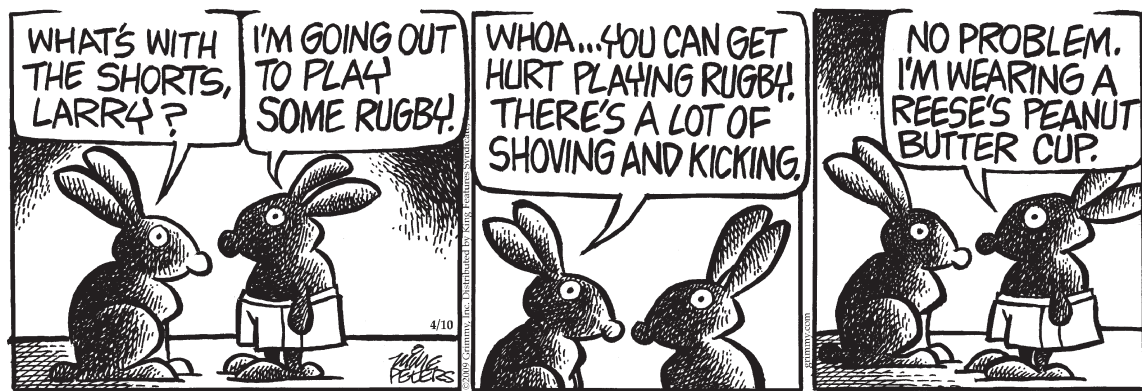
Blondie • Chic Young



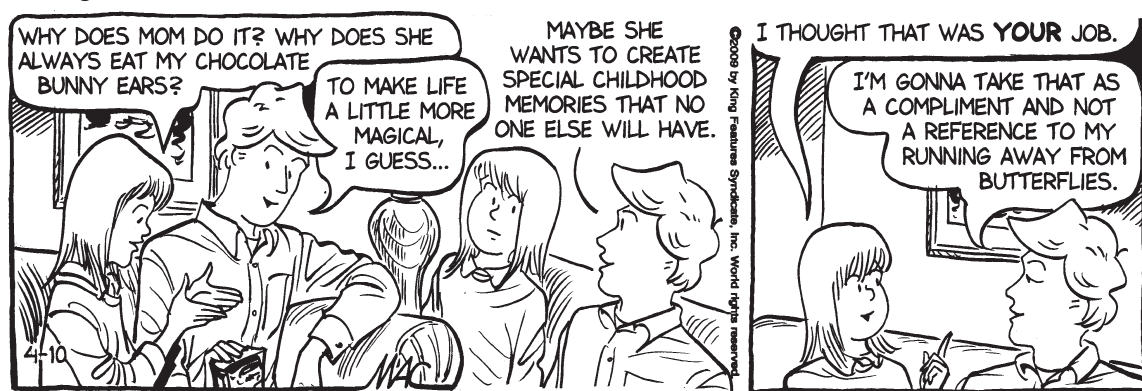
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



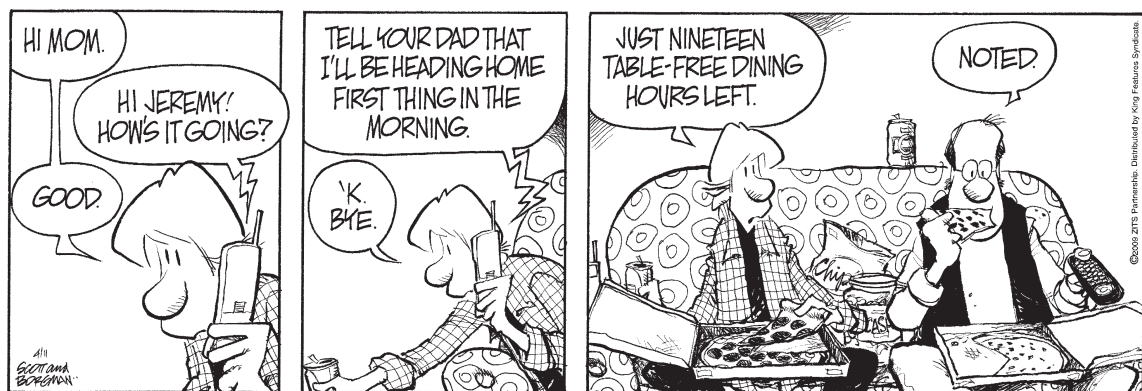
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Practice makes good neighbors

Neighborhood Safety

Dear Readers: Springtime is a good time to visit neighbors to talk about NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY and reinforce the importance of watching out for each other's homes.

Here is what a reader suggested: When someone sees or hears something suspicious, he or she should turn on the porch light and call the neighbor living next door or across the street, explain the situation, then ask that person to turn on the porch light and call another neighbor, and so forth. If there is a prowler and he sees porch lights turn on one after the other, he might think twice about that neighborhood.

Here are some safety hints to keep in mind:

- Teach your children to be good neighbors as well. Instruct them on how to keep a watchful eye out for each other's home and property, and how to report suspicious activity.

- Keep ALL doors and windows locked, being sure to check them after any repair or cleaning service has been used.

- If you are going to be gone for a period of time, use timers for lights, radios and televisions to mirror your usual habits.

- Ask a neighbor to housesit or leave his or her car in your driveway while you are away.

— Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When I travel, I keep a pair of pierced earrings in each of the compartments of a container usually used to keep track of pills. I got one at my pharmacy as a promotional gift. It's also nice because it fits into my purse. — A Reader, via e-mail

VINEGAR STRENGTH

Dear Heloise: I wonder how many people are aware that vinegar at the grocery store comes in two strengths — 5 percent and 9 percent. While most cooks use 5 percent, for cleaning the 9 percent can do a better job. I buy the 9 percent by the gallon and use it anywhere lime deposits build up, as well as for general cleaning. After it has been used for something like buildup in a glass, I pour it into the bowl of the commode. It helps keep deposits from building up in the bottom of the bowl. — Rosalie, Uvalde, Texas

You are right! Both strengths are carried by a large grocery store in our area, but many parts of the county have only the 5 percent. The higher strength is a little more expensive. — Heloise

SAFE PLASTIC

Dear Heloise: To keep small plastics from being tossed around in the dishwasher, I purchased plastic laundry clips. I clip small plastics to the top rack in the dishwasher. The clips need to be firmly in place so that they don't fall near the heating unit at the bottom of the dishwasher. — Liz Walters, via e-mail

PAINTING PICK

Dear Heloise: I use an ice pick to make three or four holes in the ridge of a paint can. This allows the paint to drain back into the can. It does not seem to interfere with the lid making a good seal. — Sharon H. Evans, Houston

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Your right-hand opponent opens with Four Hearts, both sides vulnerable. What action would you take with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠AQJ84 ♥6 ♦K9 ♣Q9732
2. ♠AK95 ♥— ♦KQJ10 ♣QJ863
3. ♠KQ7 ♥QJ96 ♦A85 ♣984
4. ♠K6 ♥— ♦AK109 ♣AKQJ972

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. The main purpose of a pre-emptive bid is to make it difficult for the opponents to enter the bidding. So if you happen to hold this hand against a four-heart bid, it is not easy to decide whether to pass or bid four spades. You are truly between a rock and a hard place. If you are by nature a fearless competitor, you will bid four spades and hope the roof doesn't cave in on you. If you are by nature cautious, you will pass and hope for the best. Either way, you won't feel comfortable.

Probably 60 percent of experts would pass, but a highly respectable 40 percent would boldly enter the fray with four spades and take their chances.

2. Double. Your partner might elect to pass the double, which is intended primarily for takeout, but even though you may feel this is undesirable, you have no reasonable alternative. The dilemma you face merely emphasizes how bothersome a pre-emptive bid can be. If partner does pass, it may well turn out that the best possible result is to defend against four hearts doubled and beat it one or two tricks when there is no game your way.

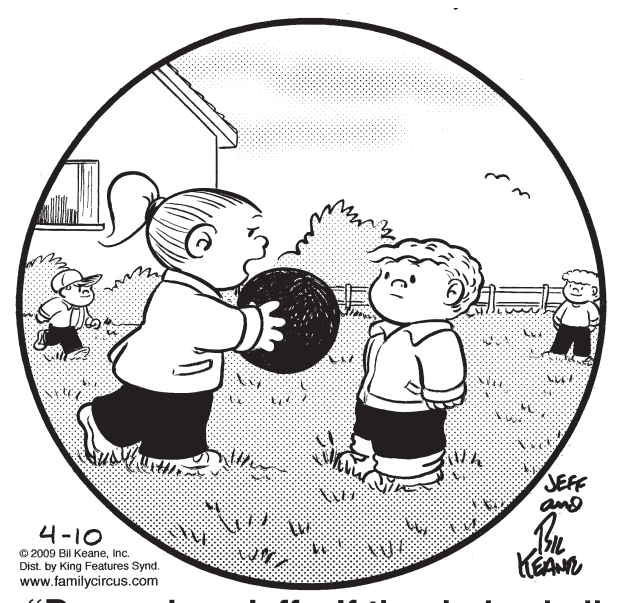
3. Pass. Here you expect to beat four hearts, but you dare not double because partner is likely to bid rather than pass, and your side will wind up minus rather than plus.

You may not exact the full measure of punishment by passing (if the next two players also pass), but it is not a good idea to get greedy in this type of ambiguous situation, where the potential for disaster lurks right around the corner.

4. Six clubs. Here you should bid what you think you can make. Of course, you may go down, but against that you must weigh the probability of making either 12 or 13 tricks. The best you can do in these sticky situations is to make the bid you think will win in the long run, and in this context a leap to six clubs should be regarded as the percentage bid.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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“Remember, Jeffy. If the dodge ball hits you, you’ll be illuminated.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/10

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QLWU FVUE FAZZCTMT VDW

FVMHUR V ZACB DVKMWO

VZZ VO AUKW, H QACZB

TVE OLVO'T KZVF-ADHUR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR FLUFFY LITTLE CAT OR DOG IS TREATING YOU TERRIBLY, COULD ONE CALL IT FURBALL ABUSE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Use a ray gun | 1 Energy | 34 Winter forecast | 16 Diner sign |
| 4 Impale | 2 Expert | 35 Hide-away | 19 Thai money |
| 8 Puppy's attacks | | 36 Abacus bits | |
| 12 Lemieux milieu | | 37 Yuletide refrain | |
| 13 Harvard rival | | 40 Aim | |
| 14 Redact | | 41 Booty | |
| 15 Mrs. Odysseus | | 42 Aquatic birds | |
| 17 Gauch's weapon | | 46 Jealousy | |
| 18 Bugle call | | 47 Type of race | |
| 19 Big man on campus? | | 48 Menagerie | |
| 20 Ire | | 49 Lawyers' salaries | |
| 22 Old phone feature | | 50 Bohemian | |
| 24 Swine | | 51 Recede | |
| 25 1930 Harold Arlen song | | | |
| 29 Equi- | | | |
| 30 Automaton | | | |
| 31 Historic time | | | |
| 32 It merged with Tanganyika in 1964 | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-10

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	