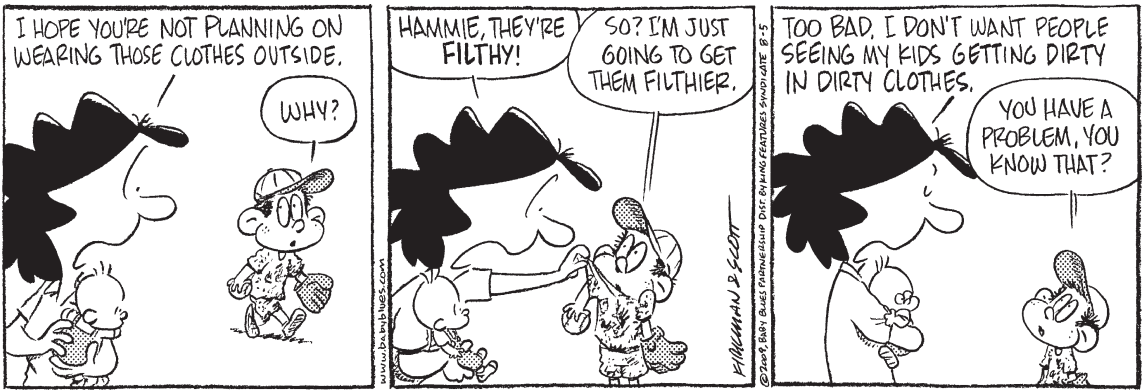
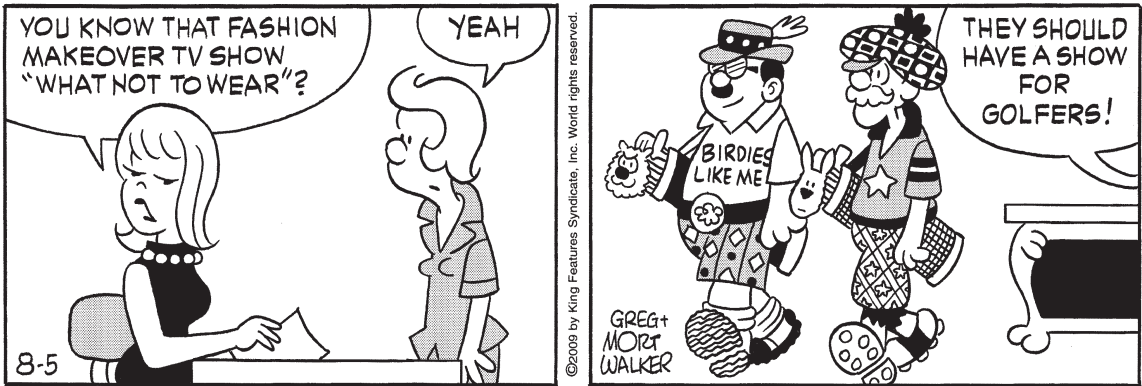


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



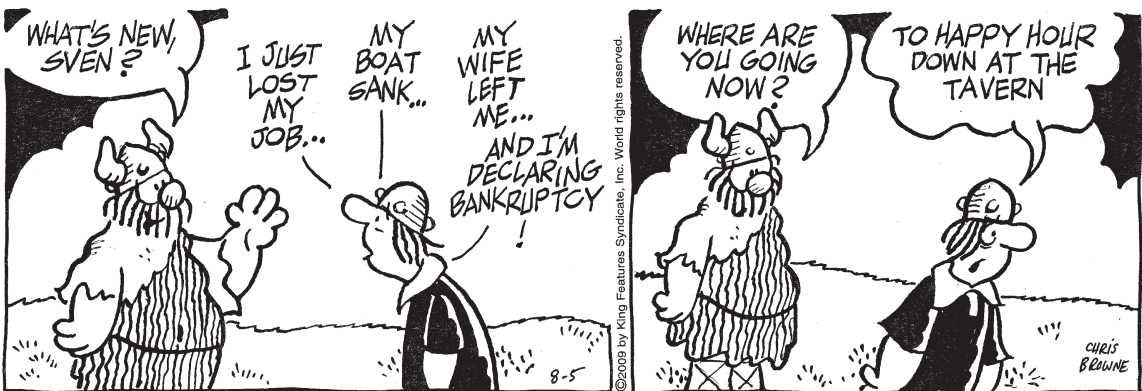
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



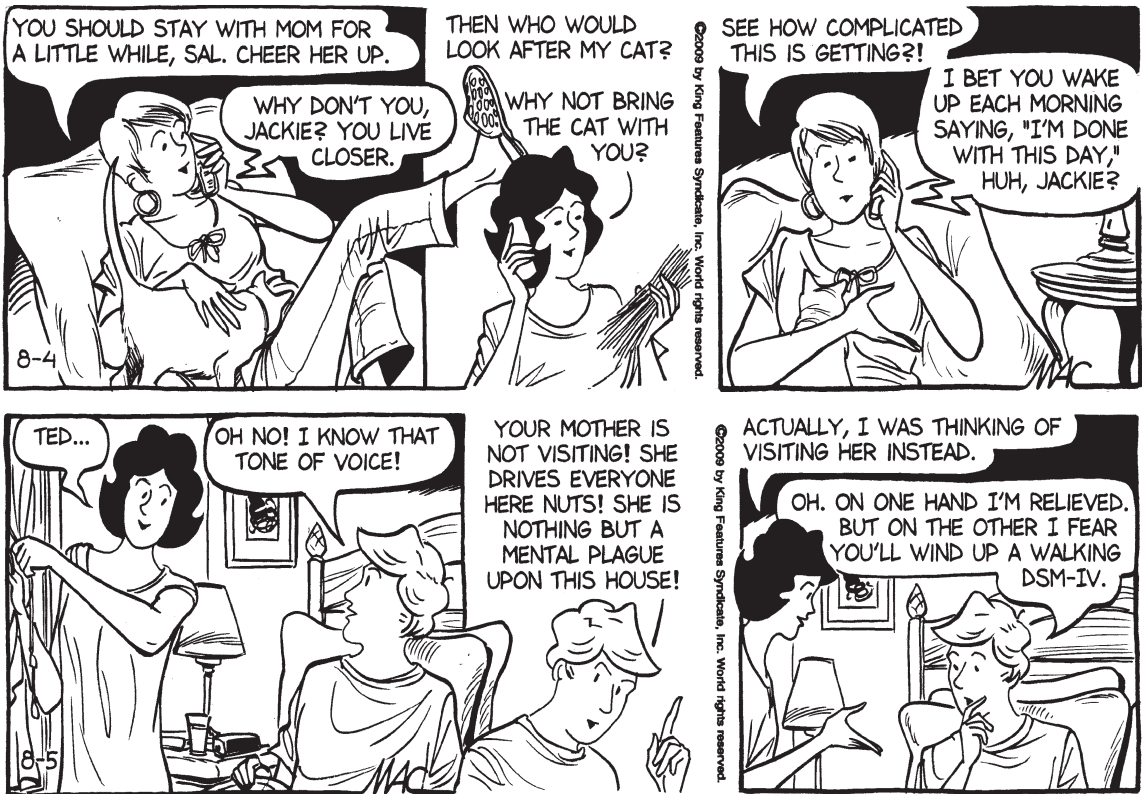
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



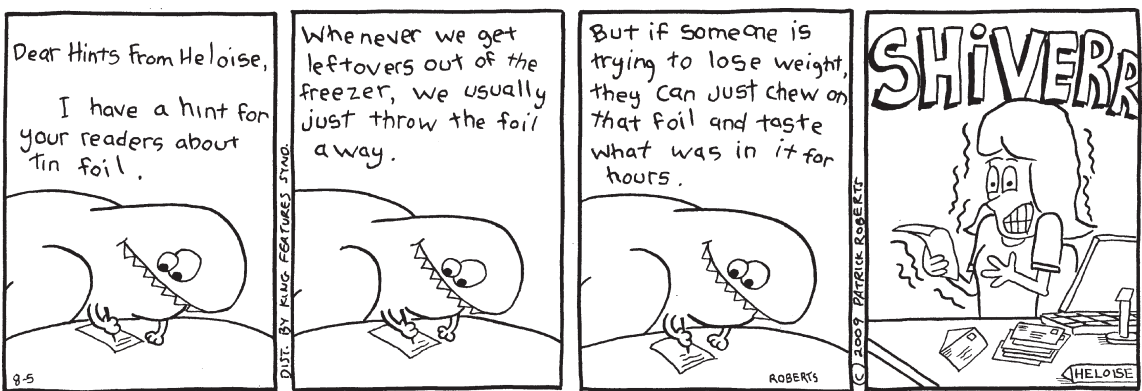
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



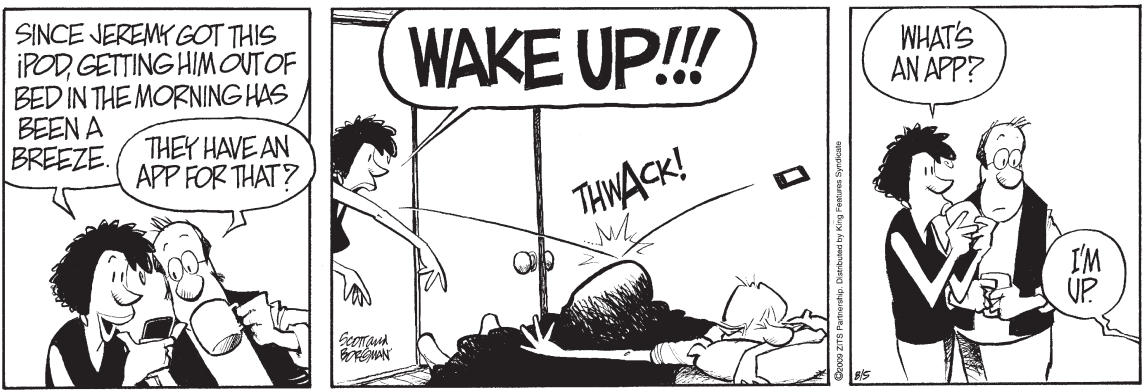
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Is food safe in dented cans?

Dear Heloise: Can you address the safety of USING FOOD FROM DENTED CANS? I was taught to NEVER use them, but my friend does all the time and says as long as it isn't bulged, it's OK. Who is right? – Susan S., via e-mail

Remember the old adage “When in doubt, throw it out”? That is the mantra you should follow. According to the USDA Food Safety Department, you should not eat food from cans that are leaking, bulging, rusting or BADLY DENTED. Even a tiny puncture can allow bacteria to contaminate the contents. Your family's health isn't worth the risk. – Heloise

P.S.: Don't buy dented cans! But, if you drop it on the floor at home and dent it, it's OK to open and eat right then.

COOKING SPRAY

Dear Heloise: This is a reminder to never add cooking spray to cookware without first shutting off the stove burner. If the cooking spray contains a propellant, it could cause a burst of flame! – Janeen S., Boardman, Ohio

KEEPING TEA COZY

Dear Heloise: Place a tea cozy on your teapot after boiling water. It keeps the water hot longer ... for another cup. – Kay S. Osborne from Mission Viejo, Calif.

Any time is a good time for a delicious cup of tea. Here in South Texas, iced tea is the favorite! I do brew fresh tea to make iced tea. Yes, it might be a little more effort, but it tastes sooo much better. Here is how I learned to brew tea from a dear friend, Mrs. Carey. Put the water on to boil and bring the teapot to the kettle, not the kettle to the pot. Put in 1 teaspoonful of loose tea leaves or a regular-size tea bag (Mrs. C. would frown at tea bags!) per cup. Pour in the boiling water, stir two or three times if using tea leaves, then let brew for 3-5 minutes. It's better to make it stronger and dilute with water than add too much hot water to brew. Want some tasty and cheap recipes for flavored teas? Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/CT, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Here's how to make Anise and Lemon Tea. Crush 3 tablespoons anise seeds and add to 2 cups tea leaves and 1/2 cup dried grated lemon peel. Add brown sugar to sweeten. – Heloise

SOFTENING BROWN SUGAR

Dear Heloise: To keep brown sugar soft, I've always used the following easy method: Simply put a slice or two of bread in the container holding the brown sugar. It works overnight. It also works in a cookie jar with cookies that get hard. The bread gets hard instead of the cookies. And then I just toss the bread out for the birds. Everyone is happy. – Juanita Clopton, Ferris, Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 10 6 3
♥ 10 7 2
♣ Q J
♦ 10 6 3

WEST
♠ K 7 4
♥ K J 8 4
♦ 6 2
♣ A 9 8 7

EAST
♠ A Q 9 8 2
♥ A 6
♦ 10 9 7 5 3
♣ Q

SOUTH
♦ 5
♥ Q 9 5 3
♦ A K 8 4
♣ K 5 4 2

The bidding:
West Pass North Pass East 1 ♠ South Dble
West Redble North Pass East Pass South 2 ♣
West Dble North Pass East Pass South Redble

Opening lead — four of spades.

A Picture Is Worth 1,000 Words

The language of bidding in bridge contains only 15 words: spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs, notrump, double, redouble, pass and the numbers one through seven. Nevertheless, despite this limited vocabulary, a competent pair will reach their best contract on the great majority of deals.

But even the very best players occasionally get confused about the meaning of their bids. Witness this deal from a team match where the players got their wires crossed.

At the first table, South doubled East's opening spade bid, and West redoubled, showing 10 or more points. North passed, and East did likewise. South then bid two clubs, which West doubled.

At this point, South elected to redouble. He intended this as an SOS asking North to choose between diamonds and hearts. But North apparently misunderstood the plea for help and passed.

A spade was led and returned. Declarer ruffed, played a diamond to the jack, ruffed a spade, led a diamond to the queen and ruffed dummy's last spade with the king. West overruffed and returned the seven of clubs, dummy's ten losing to the queen. Declarer later scored two more tricks, but went down two redoubled -- 600 points.

The East-West pair had every reason to believe they had achieved an excellent result, until they learned what happened to their North-South teammates at the other table:

West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Dble
Redble Pass Pass 1 NT
Dble Pass Pass Redble

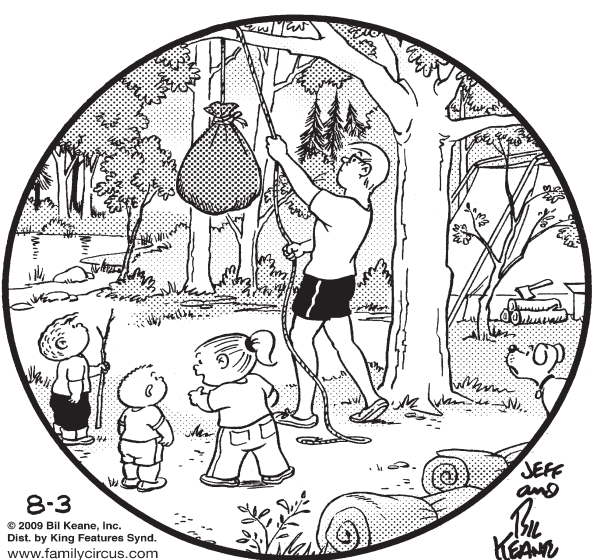
Here, also, South made an SOS redouble, exploring partner to choose a suit. But the North player at this table was also impervious to South's plea, and the final contract became one notrump redoubled.

West led a low spade. The ten lost to the ace, a spade was returned to West's king, and a third spade allowed East to run his suit. Declarer finished with only three tricks, going down four -- 1,400 points!

Obviously, the bridge vocabulary just isn't big enough!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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.

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

Cryptoquip

B M A S T B Z N U A B X C P
P N U O A K E T M E A Q T U O X T Q Z
S N Q N A B N Z A T O N A K N Q , B ' Z
X C P P A K N L E B C L N E N A S B U N E .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE SINGER EYDIE IS AN AFICIONADO OF FINE FOOD, YOU MIGHT SAY SHE'S A GOURMET GORME.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Request
4 Mac-Donald's place
8 Woman of the knight
12 Skedad-dle
13 Curved molding
14 Blood-hound's clue
15 Lemieux milieu
16 Ruthless, as a competi-tion
18 Winning
20 Twitch
21 Honey bunch?
24 PAC's concern
28 Likely loser
32 Swampy terrain
33 "A pox upon thee!"
34 Above, to an editor
36 Predeter-mine
37 Watch wolfishly

39 Carnival goer's lunch, maybe
41 Bookcase compo-nent
43 "Wheel of Fortune" option
44 Commo-tion
46 Leger-demain
50 Basic swimming stroke
55 Praise in verse
56 Rainbow
57 Slay
58 Anti-quated
59 Kelly or Siskel
60 Calendar abbr.

61 Turn blue?
DOWN
1 Met melody
2 Similar things
3 Elbow counter-part
4 Animals' entrees
5 In olden times
6 Rule, for short
7 Encounter
8 E-busi-ness
9 Toss into the mix
10 Cattle call
11 Work unit
17 Have a bug

19 Honest politician
22 Learning (Abbr.)
23 Future juniors
25 Shuttle-cock
26 Vivacity, to the maestro
27 Safe-cracker
28 Fleet from far away?
29 Approach-ing order?
30 Take-out order?
31 Clench
35 Food
38 Pass by
40 — jiffy
42 Medicine approval org.
45 Probabil-ity
47 Suitable
48 Without acting
49 Relinquish
50 Use a shovel
51 Raw rock
52 Card-player's call
53 Fawn's mama
54 Back talk

Solution time: 21 mins.

RIOT MPH POOL
ATROCITY URGE
FORMULAS EARN
CBS TABLET
ALGAE BELL
BOOT FORMOSA
SAG OASIS ALI
FORMICA STUD
WITH ITEMS
SHEATH BAR
TOWN FORMERLY
EYED UNABATED
PARA LED KEGS

Yesterday's answer 8-5

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					58			
59				60					61			