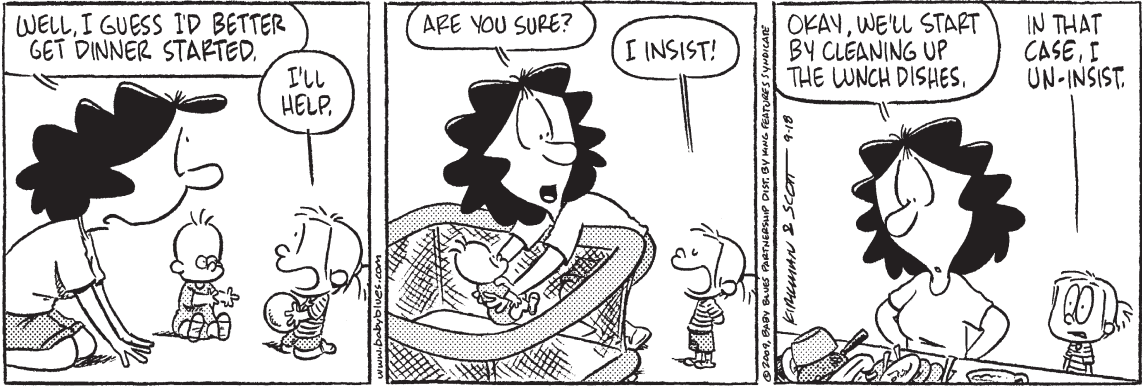


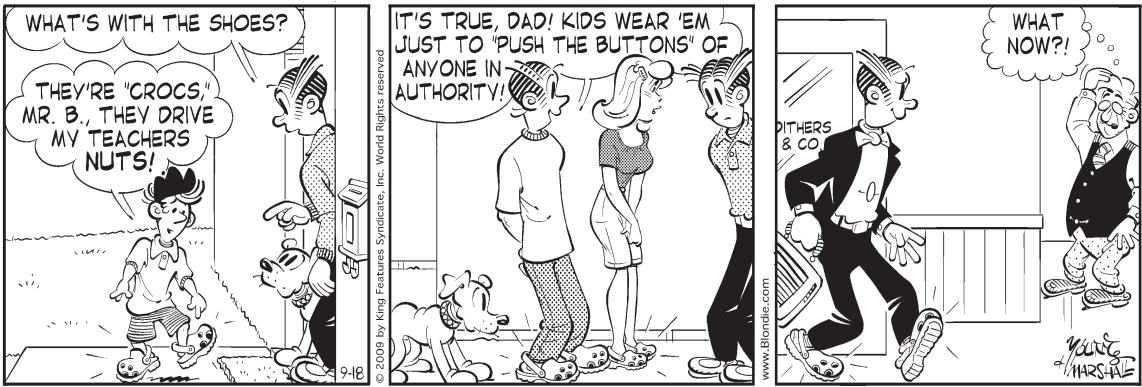
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



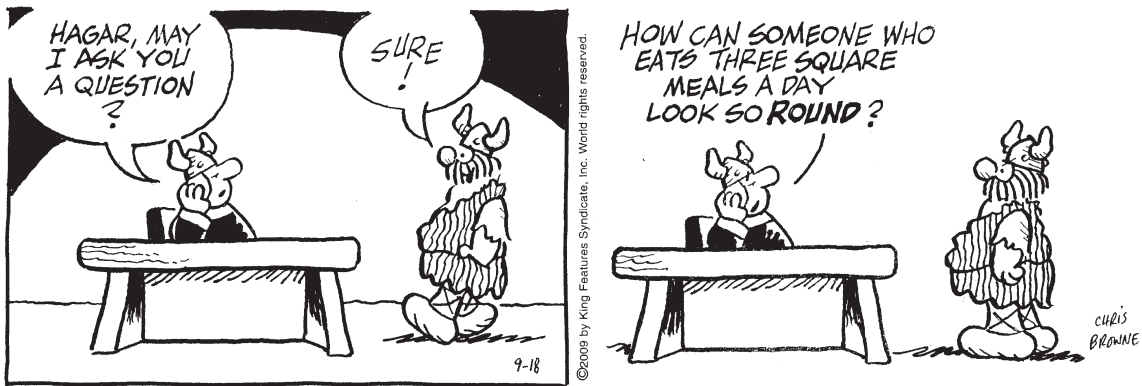
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



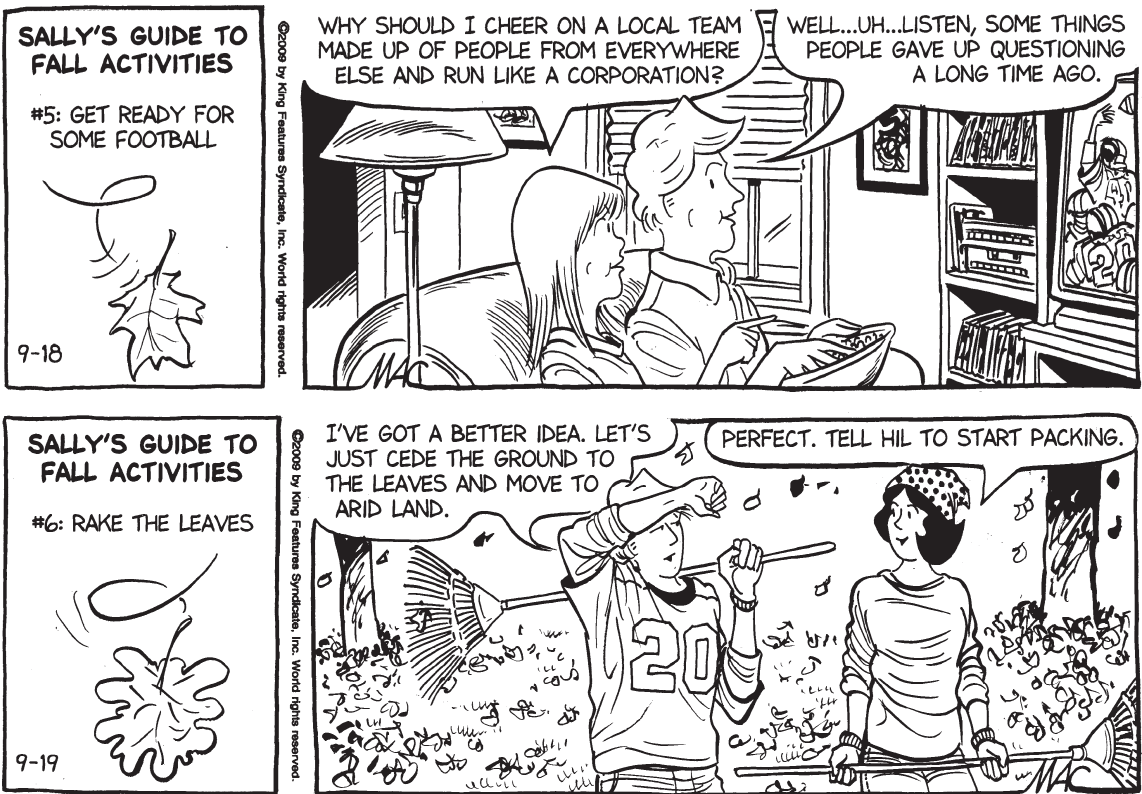
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



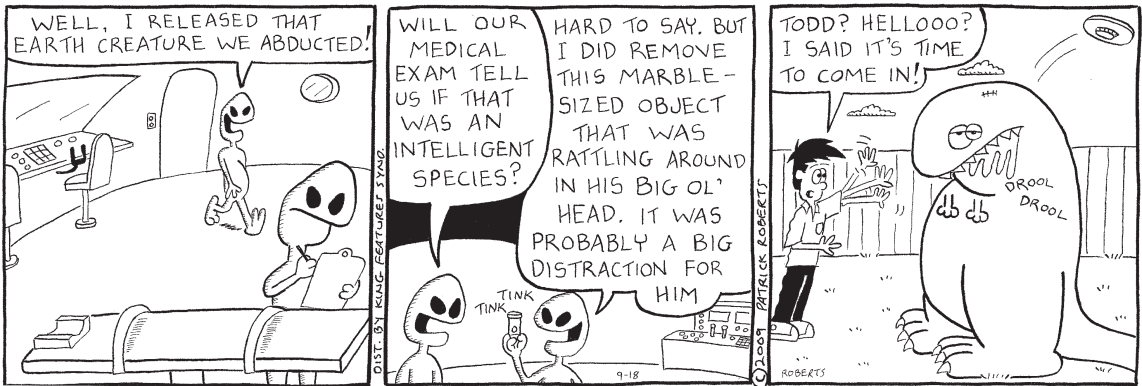
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



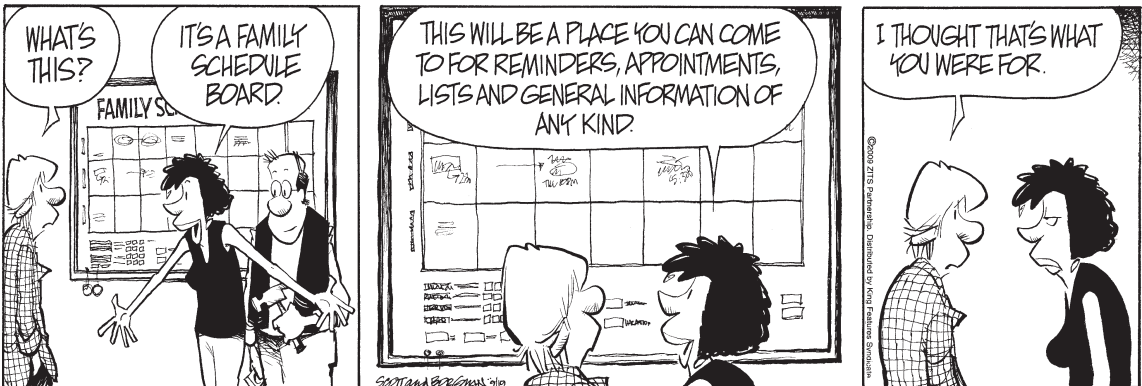
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Check safety of garage door

Dear Heloise: You asked me to write about how to test the reversing feature of an AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOOR. The reversal test should be done monthly, if possible. The garage door is typically the largest and heaviest moving object in the home. If not used or maintained properly, it can cause injury or death.

If your opener is older than 1993, it should be replaced. Garage-door openers manufactured after Jan. 1, 1993, are required by federal law to have advanced safety features that comply with the latest Underwriters Laboratories standards.

Check the balance of the door to make sure you can easily open or close it manually in case you lose power or automatic operation. Balance also helps the reversal feature to work properly.

Start with the door closed. Pull the red release handle, attached to a rope suspended from the opener or its rail, to release the opener from the door. Manually lift the door by grasping the door handle or a safe place where your fingers cannot be pinched or injured. The door should move smoothly and with little resistance. When you let go of the door, it should stay open about 3 or 4 feet above the floor. If it does not, it is OUT OF BALANCE, and a trained door-systems technician should be contacted.

If the door is balanced, close it and reconnect. This is done by pushing the transmitter or wall button to activate the automatic opener. It should reconnect itself to the door.

With the door fully open, place a 1-1/2-inch-thick piece of wood (a two-by-four laid flat) on the floor in the center of the door's path. Standing inside the garage, but safely away from the path of the door, use the remote control or wall button to close the door.

When the door contacts the wood, the door SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY REVERSE direction and return to the fully open position. If the door does not reverse, contact a trained door-systems technician to inspect the door system.

Hazards exist when making adjustments to a garage door's balance system. That's why it's always best to contact a professional to make adjustments. — Joe Hetzel, technical director, Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association

Joe, thank you for this potentially lifesaving information! It was nice talking with you when I called to check the safest way to test an automatic garage door. Readers, please take heed — your family's safety is at stake! — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When vacationing by car, I put clothing on hangers to keep it from becoming wrinkled. I turn them inside out and place on hangers. They don't become dirty, and are clean to wear. The hangers lie across my suitcase in the trunk and are easily grabbed by the hooks and hung in the motel closet. — Ann from Indiana

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You are South and hold this hand: ♦ 5 ♥ AQ96 ♦ K108 ♣ AJ1093

1. **You open One Club**, West bids One Spade, partner bids One Notrump, and East passes. What would you bid now?

2. **You open One Club**, West bids One Spade, partner bids Two Diamonds, and East passes. What would you bid now?

3. **You open One Club**, and partner jumps to Two Notrump. What would you bid now?

4. **You open One Club**, partner bids One Diamond, you rebid One Heart, and partner raises to Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Two clubs. Game is unlikely since partner probably has seven to nine points, including a spade stopper. One notrump might make very easily, but two clubs is apt to be a safer spot. Of course, partner may have 10 points and two spade stoppers, but until he indicates such a holding, you should not assume it.

You would be overstating your values if you bid two hearts, which would indicate upward of 17 points and might get you beyond your depth.

2. Two hearts. When partner weighs in with two diamonds (as compared with a one-notrump bid), your chances for game become much more promising since partner is indicating at least 10 points. Furthermore, the two-diamond bid raises the value of your hand several points, thanks to your singleton spade. All you need do for the moment, however, is to mark time with two hearts, planning to show your diamond support later. It should be noted that, in this sequence, two hearts does not imply extra points, since it is the cheapest bid you can make.

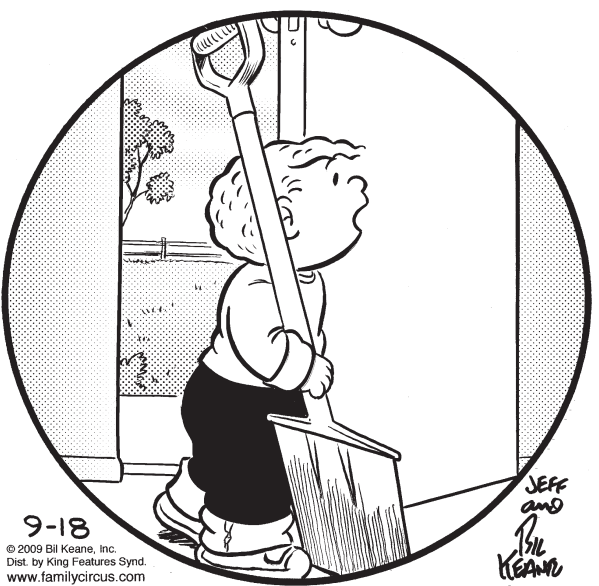
3. Three hearts. You bid three hearts mainly to warn partner against notrump. He is unlikely to have four hearts, since he failed to respond with one heart, but he may have bypassed that suit for tactical reasons. Three hearts does not imply extra values; once you are committed to reaching game, it is far better to use this bid to clarify your distribution.

4. Three diamonds. There are three bids to consider -- three diamonds, three hearts and four hearts -- and they all make some degree of sense. You may not make four hearts if partner's raise is based on a dead minimum, and that is the chief objection to a direct four-heart bid.

Three hearts would invite partner to go on to four, but the problem with this bid is that you'd be announcing extra values without actually delineating them. Three diamonds has the added virtue of indicating extra values while also describing the three-suited nature of your hand.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

J E S KMYASJL IMYN JQ

G Q M V J L X S W J L Z X M S D Q E C Y

A I M V C Z Q I M D A M Y , K C G D V

A I S A N M W M L L M D E M L L M D ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE PET RABBIT WOLFS DOWN LOTS OF MEDITERRANEAN BREAD, WE NAMED HIM PITA COTTONTAIL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Deviate from course

4 Soother

8 Region

12 Yoko of music

13 Always

14 Paradise

15 Blimp

17 Church seating

18 Not al fresco

19 Mischievous

21 Stick with a kick

22 101-digit number

26 Chipped in at the start

29 "Eureka!"

30 Fish eggs

31 Equipment

32 Bankbook abbr.

33 Labyrinth

34 Bobby of hockey

35 Weight stat

36 Vestibule

37 Blunder

DOWN

1 Boo-

40 Buck-eyes'

41 Gibson of tennis

45 Hoodoo

48 Zero

50 Mayberry moppet

51 Appellation

52 West of Hollywood

53 Sailors

54 Use a teaspoon

55 Egos' counterparts

23 Confederate

24 Leak slowly

25 Lusty look

26 Enthusiastic

27 Pianist

28 Poi base

29 Blackbird

32 Attacks with arguments

33 Three-card scam

35 Clear the tables

36 Less authentic

38 Reynards

39 Judd or Campbell

42 Half (Pref.)

43 "Zounds!"

44 Gets older

45 Trot

46 WSJ news item

47 Pen point

49 Chierios grain

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-18