

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



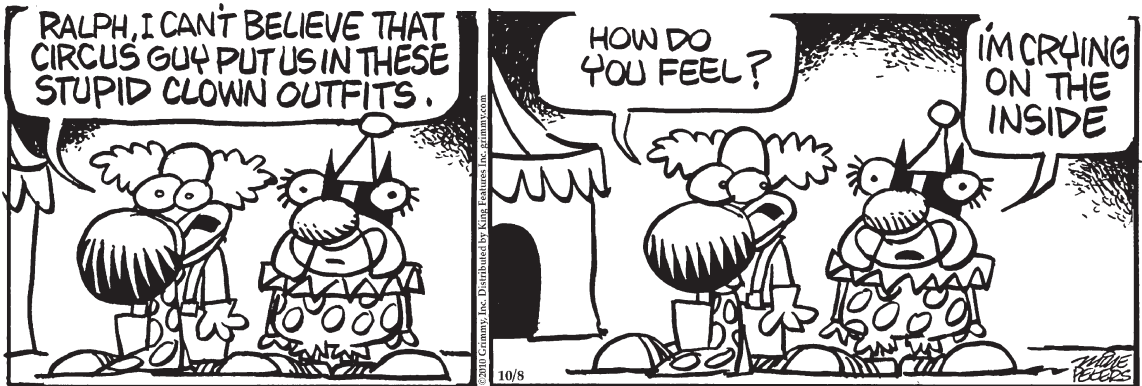
Blondie • Chic Young



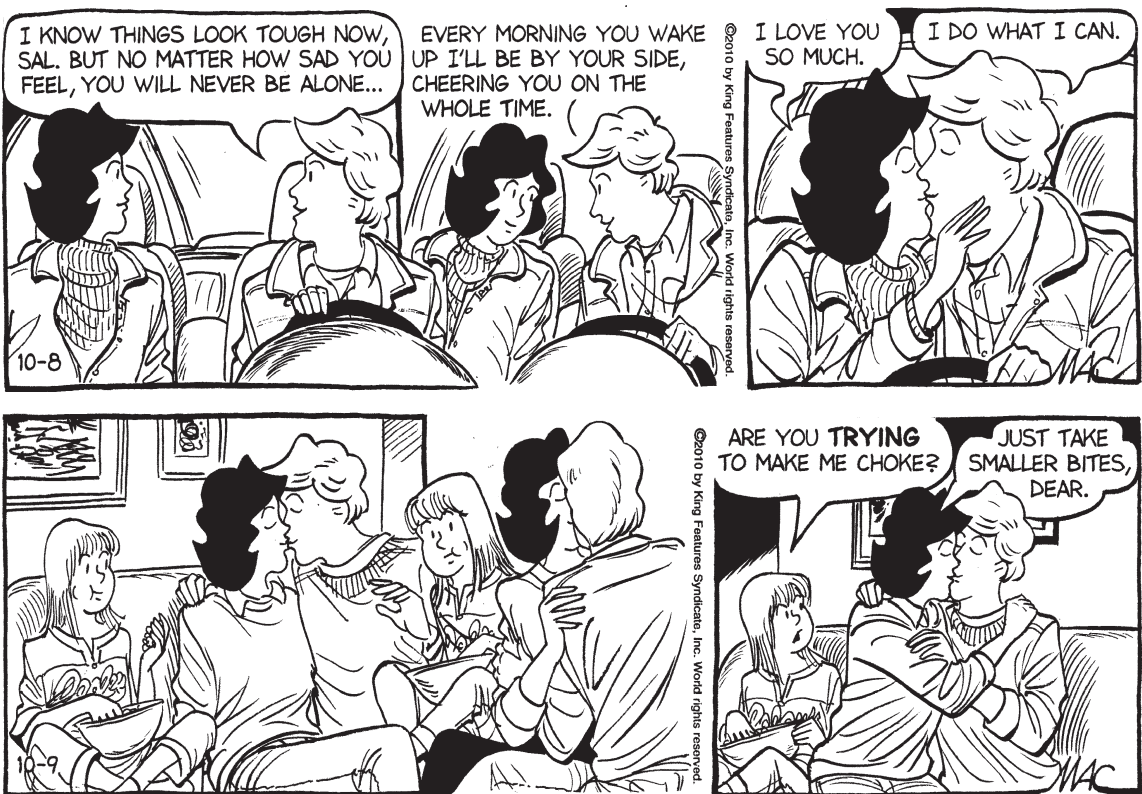
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



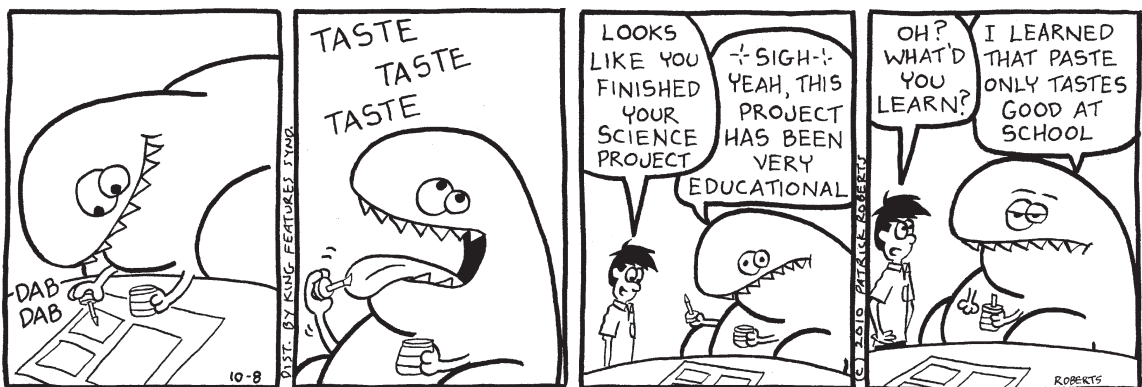
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



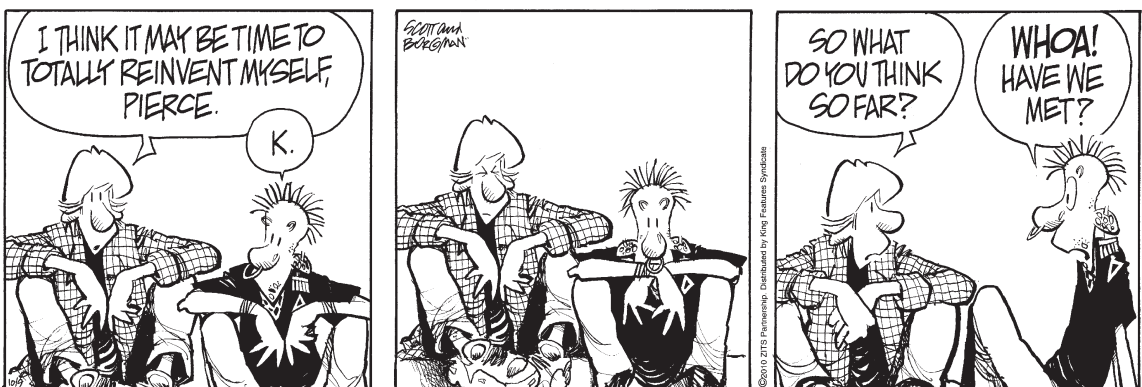
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Check out fire extinguisher

Dear Readers: Kitchen grease, the microwave and candles are just a few of the ways A FIRE CAN START IN YOUR HOME! Have you checked your fire extinguisher recently? Most people take the fire extinguisher for granted or may not even know how to use it.

Experts recommend that you have several fire extinguishers in your house: one in the living areas of the home, one in the kitchen and one in the garage, if you have one.

The San Antonio Fire Department does not inspect fire extinguishers for private homes, but check with your fire department – it might. There are companies that do inspections; check online, in the phone book or get a recommendation from your fire department.

For apartment and condo dwellers, you should have at least one fire extinguisher in your unit, and any extinguishers should be inspected once per year at a minimum.

You can check your fire extinguishers yourself. Make sure the pin is in place (it has not been damaged) and the extinguisher is at the correct pressure. The needle should be in the green portion of the gauge, and the entire unit should be clean and not leaking. If your fire extinguisher is depressurized or broken, replace it. Don't wait – do it today!

When to use a fire extinguisher? According to experts at Underwriters Laboratories (www.ul.com), several factors must be in play: Everyone is out of the home, the fire is in a small area, it is not spreading rapidly, 911 emergency has been called, you have a clear view of the fire, there is not a lot of smoke, and you are comfortable using the fire extinguisher. Why not do a quick inspection right now? It could save a life and prevent a devastating fire. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: My husband and I were on vacation, and he left our camera in a taxi. He called the taxi service the next morning, but it had not found the camera. We were on our way out of the hotel when he got a call on his cell phone that the police had his camera. It had been turned in the night before by a good Samaritan. The police department had turned on the camera, gone through the pictures and found his name and phone number – he had taken a picture of his business card. What a great idea for anyone! Thought this might be a good hint for travelers in your column. – S.G. in Springfield, N.J.

PLATE PLACEMENT

Dear Readers: A dinner-size paper plate will slide easily into a large zippered freezer bag. Store leftovers this way in the refrigerator. The plate supplies added support to the food for easy grab-and-go. – Heloise

MOTHER'S CARD ON KID'S BIRTHDAY

Dear Heloise: I always send my mother a Mother's Day card on my birthday. I always felt that was her original Mother's Day! – Nancy R. from Oxnard, Calif.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are the dealer. What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ Q8752 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ J8 ♣ A6
- ♠ AKJ104 ♥ 9 ♦ A ♣ Q109832
- ♠ 10 ♥ AQJ93 ♦ J98652 ♣ A
- ♠ AK74 ♥ AJ5 ♦ 873 ♣ 762
- ♠ K92 ♥ AQJ ♦ 8754 ♣ A65

Bidding Quiz

1. One spade. This follows the general rule that you bid your longer suit first. You should not abandon the rule simply because the hearts are of much better quality than the spades. The length of the two suits is the determining factor. Hearts can be mentioned next if the opportunity arises.

It would be wrong to open one notrump, even though you have 16 high-card points and no void or singleton. The two doubletons, as well as the potential of a major-suit game, militate strongly against opening one notrump.

2. One club. Here also, the longer suit is bid first. The club opening makes it possible to bid the spades economically at your next turn and then again at your third turn, identifying your five-card spade suit and, by inference, your equally long or longer club suit. This should help partner steer your side to the best contract.

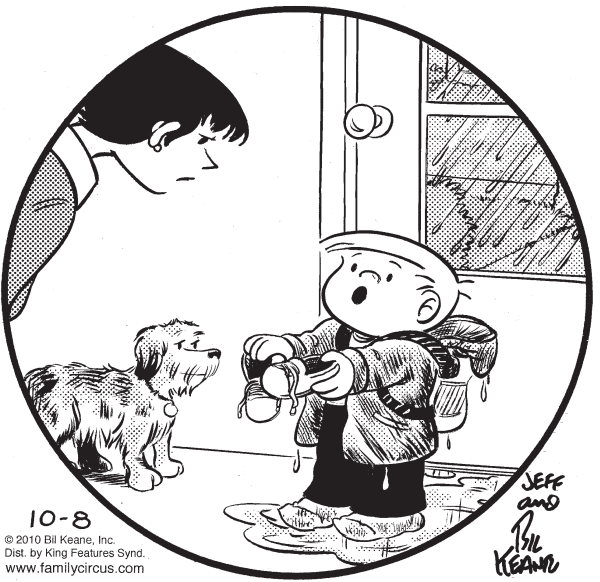
3. One heart. An exception is made here by opening one heart even though the diamonds are longer. The chief reason for this is that when you're dealing with a 6-5 distribution in the minimum range, and the two suits are touching one another, it is better to start with the higher-ranking suit even though it might be the shorter one. This enables you to bid the lower-ranking suit on the next round, thereby keeping the bidding lower.

4. Pass. Despite your three quick tricks, there is simply no adequate opening bid available. To open one spade and be faced with finding a proper rebid if partner responds two clubs or two diamonds is asking for trouble; it would be impossible to make a rebid that would show your values and distribution correctly. Alternatively, to open one club with the 7-6-2 would be too great a distortion of your actual holding. A pass is therefore the best course of action.

5. One diamond. Hands containing 14 high-card points are compulsory opening bids. This principle overrides one's natural reluctance to open the bidding with a suit headed by only the eight, but there is no other possible bid available. The only alternative – one notrump – would promise a higher point count.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“You said not to get my shoes wet, so I carried 'em under my raincoat.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/08

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.

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

Cryptoquip

C XHRMCQ NKQQSV DQCTTKZ

MS XKCM RD MAK VCLK

HWZKHB, XRM AK ZWZT'M

KLKT BPHCMPA MAK BRHNKHB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FELLOW BRINGING THE LAWSUIT SEEMS VERY MOURNFUL. HE'S PROBABLY A PLAINTIVE PLAINTIFF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 37 Winter forecast | DOWN | 17 Bionic man |
| 1 James — Garfield | 38 “Loves me (not)” | 1 “— was saying, ...” | portrayer |
| 6 Suitable | 41 Work with flower | 2 Cubby-hole | 19 “Phooey!” |
| 9 Buck-eyes’ sch. | 43 Pink-slip | 3 Pack | 21 Yale student |
| 12 Colander | 44 Dermatol-ogy | 4 State with cer-tainty | 22 Calendar abbr. |
| 13 Mop & — | 45 Add on | 5 Gold or silver | 24 Shark’s giveaway |
| 14 Tin container | 47 The “Crime Dog” | 6 To-do list | 26 Riddle |
| 15 Smaller map | 49 March King | 7 Stage presenta-tion | 28 Actress Kirsten |
| 16 Half a winter pair | 52 Paid player | 8 Craggy peak | 30 Bawl |
| 18 Gearshift mechanism, for short | 53 Month in Marseilles | 9 Eye (Pref.) | 32 Peeved |
| 20 Sheltered | 54 Spritelike | 10 Less risky | 33 Curse |
| 21 Down Under | 55 Blue | 11 Hungry | 34 Ram’s mate |
| 23 Started | 56 Illustra-tions | | 36 Costume |
| 24 Scandi-navian inlet | 57 Southpaw | | 38 Chokes |
| 25 Hay there? | | | 39 Ghana’s capital |
| 27 The R in NPR | | | 40 “— We Trust” |
| 29 Contami-nate | | | 42 Museum stand |
| 31 Green | | | 45 Some-where out there |
| 35 Pyro-maniac’s crime | | | 46 “Unforget-table” singer |
| | | | 48 Ms. Thurman |
| | | | 50 Perch |
| | | | 51 Whatever amount |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |
| | | | | 35 | | 36 | | 37 | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | 41 | | 42 | | 43 | |
| 44 | | | | | 45 | | | 46 | | |
| 47 | | | | 48 | | | 49 | | 50 | 51 |
| 52 | | | | 53 | | | 54 | | | |
| 55 | | | | 56 | | | 57 | | | |