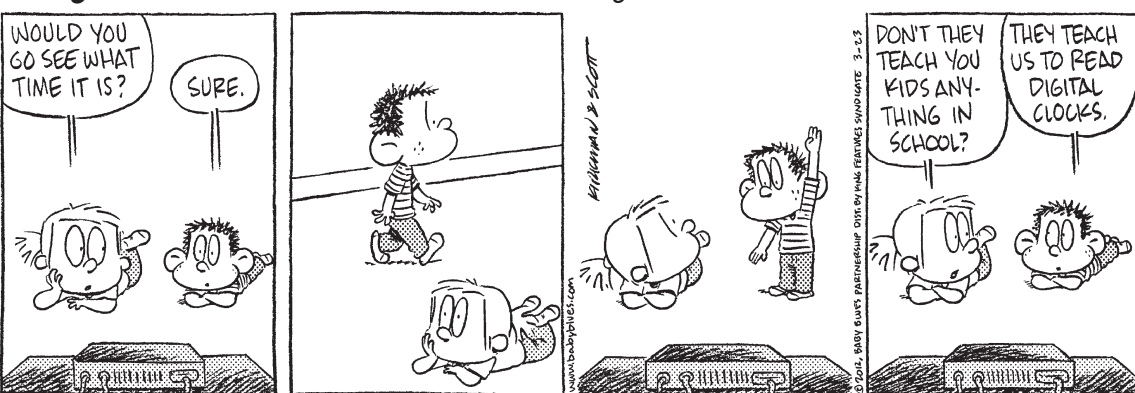


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



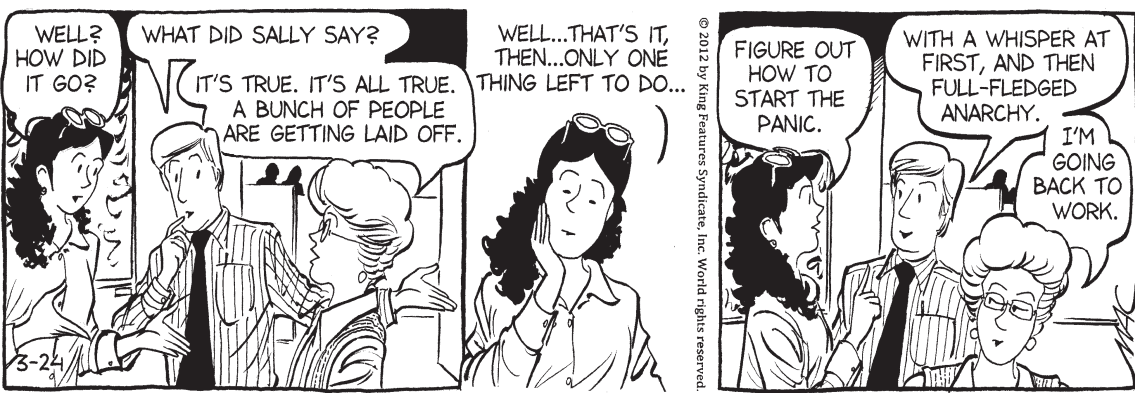
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



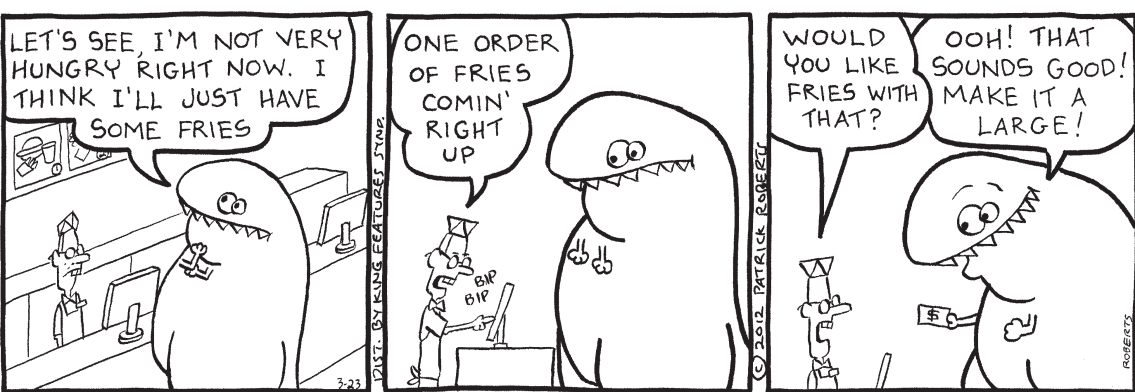
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



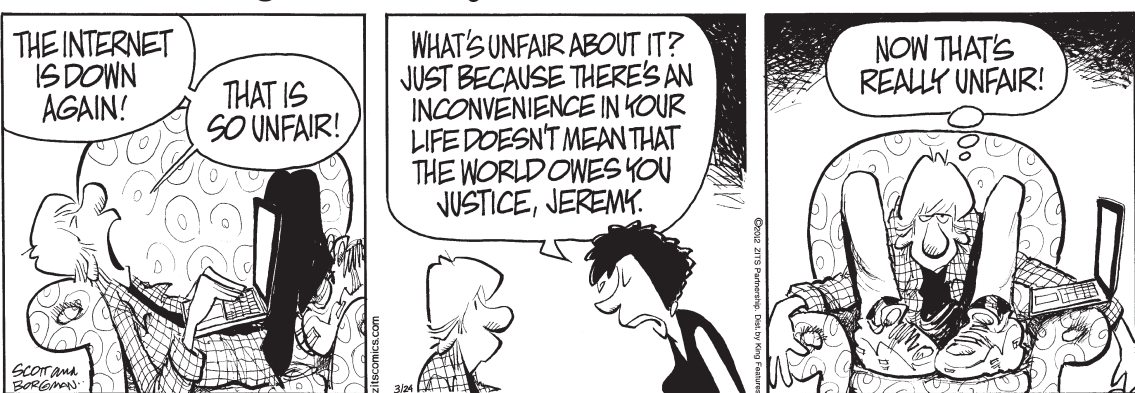
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



• Hints from Heloise

**Antique dress needs cleaning**

Dear Heloise: I have an antique, handmade wedding dress that needs to be cleaned. Since there are no tags, what would you suggest I wash it in? It looks like mostly lace, sheer and taffeta. — Rhonda, via e-mail

Rhonda, how lucky you are! Since you don't know what all the materials are, your best bet is to take it to a professional dry cleaner who has experience with heirloom garments and understands antique materials. I'd hesitate to try to wash it, since there are different materials.

There probably are several cleaners in your area who can take care of it and check for needed repairs. If you would like to find out ways to store a wedding gown yourself, order my pamphlet Heloise's Bridal Gown Hints and More. To receive one, send \$3, along with a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope, to: Heloise/Bridal, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Be sure to store your gown in a cool, dry place. Periodically, check it and refold with a different crease so one place doesn't weaken. — Heloise

**CORD CLARITY**

Dear Heloise: I am always mixing up the cords to my computer and unplugging things I don't mean to. I take the square, plastic package closures from bread, label them and place them on the cords near the power strip. I now no longer have to search to try to figure out which cord is which. — A Reader, via e-mail

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Readers: As a fan of homemade dressings, store-bought vinaigrettes just aren't the same. When going to a picnic or other outing, the glass containers may not survive the trip. Here's a "neat" hint: Pours necks such as those on wine bottles also can fit in small or large plastic soda bottles. Put the dressings in a plastic bottle, then use the pourer when it is time to dress the salad. You also can put oil in one and vinegar in the other. — Heloise

**PICTURE THIS**

Dear Heloise: Here are some hints for taking better photographs:

- Be on eye level or higher with subjects.
- For under-the-shade outdoor pictures, use a flash, if necessary.
- Check the background. Make sure it will not look like a tree is growing out of a head, etc.
- For indoor portraits, experiment by using different lights, flash or no flash.
- When using a flash, make sure there is no mirror or glass door/window in the background. The flash will bounce off it. — Winnie R., via e-mail

**SPACE SAVER**

Dear Heloise: I use a shoe bag on the back of the bathroom door to store all kinds of things. It holds deodorant, curling irons, blow-dryers, shampoo, etc. The bathroom is very small, with almost no storage space, and the shoe bag works great. — L.C., via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**You are South**, with neither side vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:  
**South** West North East  
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♥

**What would you bid now** with each of the following five hands?  
 1. ♠AJ842 ♥75 ♦984 ♣AK5  
 2. ♠AKJ92 ♥A ♦742 ♣Q963  
 3. ♠AQJ652 ♥K63 ♦K8 ♣K7  
 4. ♠A10982 ♥K109 ♦AK9 ♣82  
 5. ♠AQJ543 ♥3 ♦K5 ♣AKJ2

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Pass. You have a minimum opening bid -- you could hardly open with less -- and the easiest way to apprise partner of this is to pass. You don't know whether East can make three hearts or whether you can make three spades, so your best move is to pass the buck to partner and let him decide what to do. That's what partners are for.

2. Three spades. This is a far more promising hand, and you should show it by bidding three spades. You can't jump to four spades with so many losers in the minor suits, but you nevertheless should have a reasonably good chance for nine tricks. You expect your partner to pass three spades in this competitive situation, but he is not completely barred from bidding again.

3. Four spades. Your chances of making game are excellent, especially when your three kings sit squarely behind East, who is likely to hold whatever aces your side is missing. Taking into account your distribution, partner's spade raise, the location of your honor cards and the inferences you can legitimately draw, your hand is worth about 20 points.

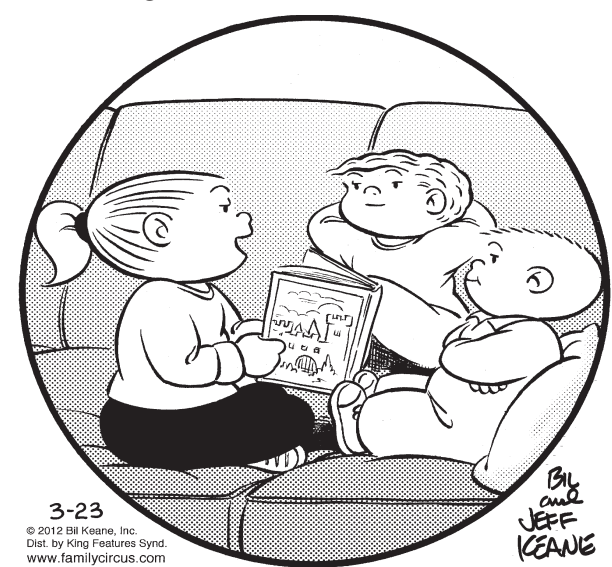
4. Double. You have four probable defensive tricks, and partner is likely to have one or two more, so the best solution is to let East play the hand, doubled. The alternatives are to pass or to bid three spades, but neither of these actions is quite as attractive as the double. If partner's two-spade bid was based almost entirely on distributional values, he will retreat to three spades, but that is his decision, not yours.

5. Four clubs. This is an unequivocal slam try, because you would simply bid four spades if your only goal was to get to game.

You hope partner's response will be four diamonds, showing not only the ace but also a willingness to cooperate in getting to a slam. You could then, either immediately or eventually, bid six spades. Partner doesn't need much of a hand for the slam to come home. The king of spades, ace of diamonds and either the queen of clubs or shortness in clubs are almost certain to do the trick.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**"It starts with 'Once upon a time,' 'cause nobody was wearing a watch."**

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/23

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

ISEYYHI YGMP EAGKQ

YGFZAGJL TOG JHJM'Q IKQ

QOZ PUEYY WZUL TZSS: "H

YOGKSJ OEWZ FGTM AZQQZU."

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US YOUR BEST ADVICE ON WHICH WINE TO BUY? IT WOULD BE GRAPELY APPRECIATED.**

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals D

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Concen- 43 Cartoon- 57 Midafter- 19 Turning
  - trate (on) ist's noon point
  - 6 Sprite 44 Camera 21 Branch
  - 9 Tend part 22 Potpie
  - 12 Welsh 45 Cheer- 1 Airwaves 24 Jazz
  - dog leaders' org. style
  - 13 Arrest companion 2 "— -la-la!" 26 Readers'
  - 14 Japanese 47 Sparkle 3 Animal
  - sash 49 Wood- 4 Wrinkly 28 Cannies'
  - 15 Youngster shop 5 Factions counter-
  - 16 Micro- 52 Type 6 Lure 30 Present
  - blogging 53 Flight- 7 Suburban 32 Defeatist
  - service squares green 33 Grecian
  - 18 Cravat 54 Flight- 8 J. Edgar's 34 Cartoon
  - holder less bird org. vessel
  - 20 Firetruck 55 "Go, 9 Engine 10 Not just 36 Make
  - 21 Likely necessity 11 Overcaf- 17 Resur- 38 Rags-to-
  - 23 [Uncor- 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - rected] team!" rection author
  - 24 Suffering 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - from ennu 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 25 Oboe 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - insert 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 27 Snake 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - poison 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 29 Quarter- 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - back Dan 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 31 Not trans- 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - parent 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 35 Reached 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 37 Foolproof 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 38 Cockeyed 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - 41 Supplement- 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama
  - with "out" 56 Prune 17 Resur- 39 Alabama

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-23

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				