

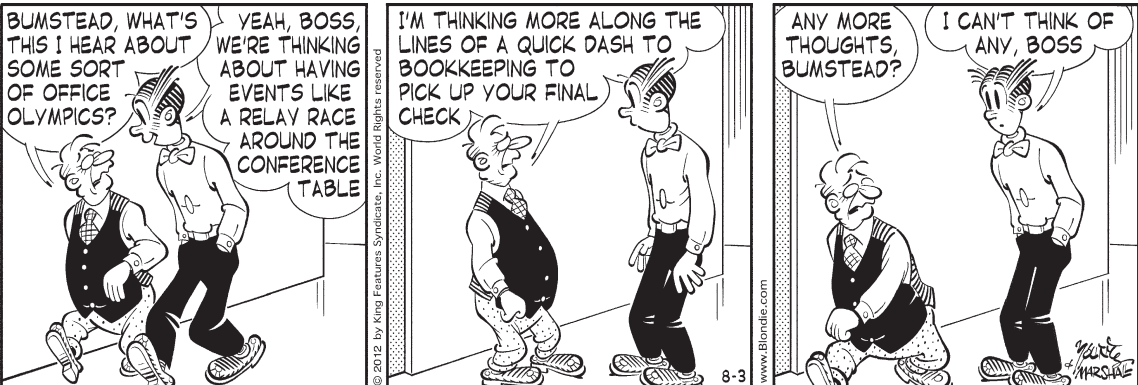
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



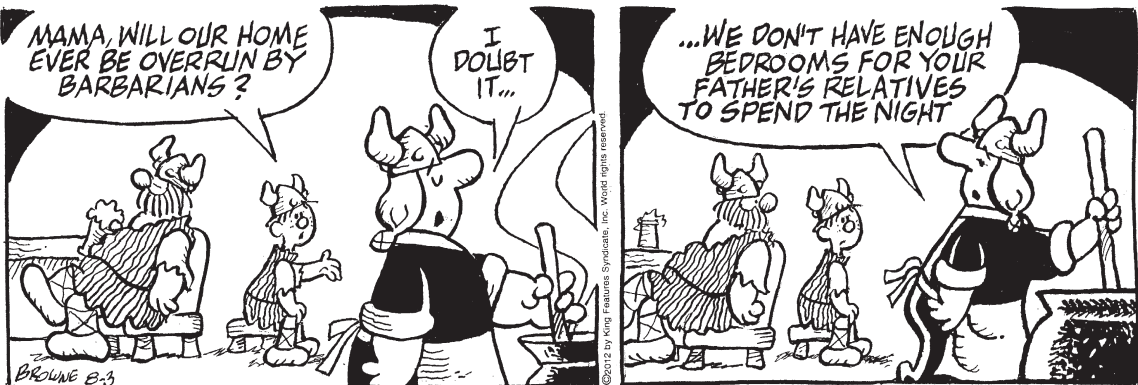
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



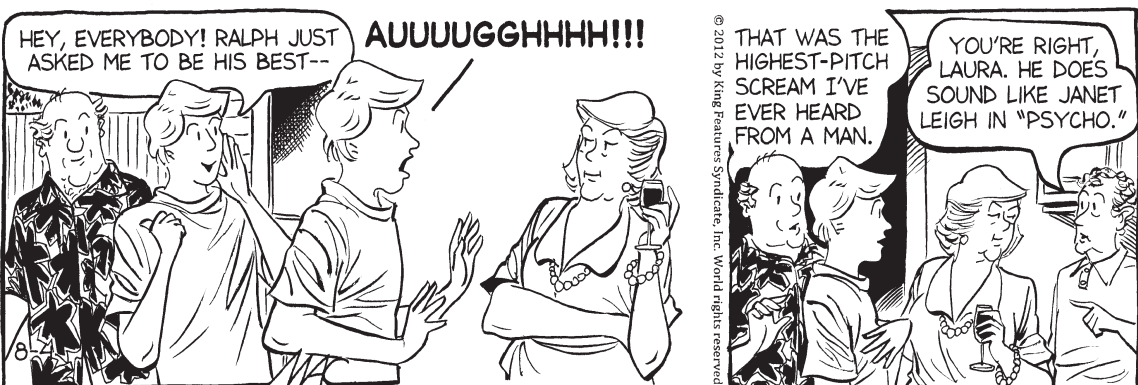
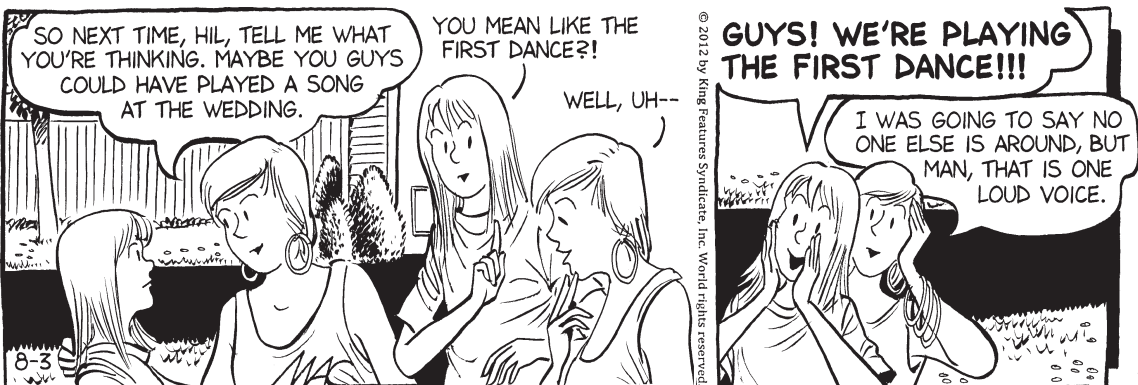
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Can you 'kill' your septic tank?

Dear Heloise: Recently, you had an excellent segment for septic-tank users in your column.

When we had a new septic tank installed several years ago, the installer cautioned us that excessive use of household antibacterial cleaning products can "kill" a septic tank.

There are times when the use of antibacterial cleaning products is desirable. Most often, just plain soap and water are sufficient for daily cleaning jobs. — Barbara in Iowa

Barbara, household antibacterial products may kill some of the bacteria in a septic system, but it depends on how you use the products. Normal daily use in a household of two to three people probably is all right. Using too much of any product that kills bacteria is what can cause problems. It's advisable to be mindful of this when cleaning and doing dishes, as well as laundry. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I know that a lot of people like to wrap their toiletries in plastic bags before putting them in their luggage to contain spills. I cut a small section of plastic wrap, place it over the opening of a container and then screw the lid back on. While the plastic bag is good for containing the spill, I still don't want to lose my shampoo, face wash, etc. This way has never failed, and it keeps me from having to switch from my brand on trips. — Paulina, via e-mail

LIPSTICK COLOR

Dear Readers: A recent column asked how many lipsticks women have. The number ranged from one to more than 90! Here are some hints for using lip color:

- Make sure your lips are fully moisturized. If they are dry, put on a light layer of colorless lip balm or petroleum jelly to keep them soft.
- Next, outline with a lip pencil and fill in with lip liner. (This is what I do.)
- Put on a coat of matte lipstick.
- Fold a tissue in half, place it in between your lips and lightly press them together to blot.
- For a bit of shine, add a dab of lip gloss.

Press your lips together, and ta-da — a fresh take on your everyday lip! — Heloise

FRESH FABRIC

Dear Heloise: I have a toddler son who loves to pull all the wipes out of the wipe container. I came up with a solution to save the wipes and still keep him entertained. I kept some containers after they were emptied and filled them with some fabric scraps I had around the house. Now he can "pull" for hours, and he isn't wasting money. — Kim in Texas

BERRY REFRESHING

Dear Readers: Want a quick treat? I mix low-fat cottage cheese with low-fat Greek yogurt, a 50/50 mix. Add a little artificial sweetener, and pair with berries of your choosing. Blackberries are my favorite because they color the yogurt mixture a pretty tint of purple. — Heloise
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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the king of diamonds. Trumps are divided 2-2. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♦ K 9
♥ A K J 7 3
♦ 7 4 2
♠ A 9 5

EAST
♦ 8 7 4
♥ Q 10 9 2
♦ A 6
♠ K J 10 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the queen of hearts, which you duck, and continues with the jack, which you win, South following suit. When you next lead the king of spades, South takes the ace and returns a spade to your queen. How would you continue?

WEST
♦ K Q J
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A K J
♠ K 9 3

EAST
♦ 10 7 4
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 9 4 3 2
♠ A 6 5

Test Your Play

1. The obvious danger is that North has the ace of spades and that you may misguess which way to take the club finesse. Thus, suppose you won the diamond lead, drew trumps and lost a club to South's queen. He could then return a spade, which would defeat the contract if North had the spade ace. Similarly, if you took the club finesse the other way and lost the trick to North's queen, you could go down if North then returned a low diamond to South for the killing spade shift.

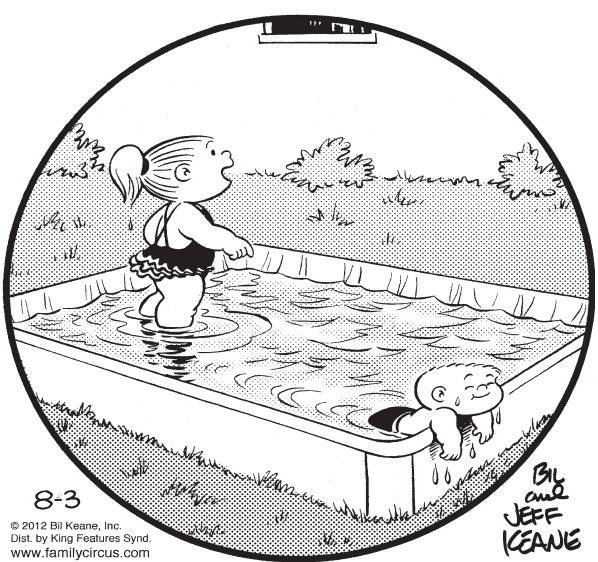
To cover all contingencies, the proper play is to duck the king of diamonds at trick one, thereby severing the North-South communication in that suit. Let's say North continues with another diamond. You win with the ace, draw trumps, lead the jack of clubs from dummy and finesse. Even if the finesse loses, you are home with 10 tricks consisting of five hearts, the ace of diamonds, three clubs and a diamond ruff in dummy.

2. You have eight sure tricks and so must try to develop a ninth. The question at this point is which is better: to cross to dummy with a club and take a diamond finesse, or to play the A-K-J of diamonds, hoping the suit divides 3-3 or that either opponent started with the singleton or doubleton queen or ten.

The finesse offers about an even chance of success, while playing the A-K-J of diamonds from your hand will succeed in developing an extra trick about two-thirds of the time. Leading the A-K-J is therefore the superior play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-3
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/03

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

BWEMXB RWFE YXH S YXHIRP

NSHDIP SP BCWOC NSEG

NSUI MIIH JAG RAVVUWIR:

“PCI JAOD RCXVR CIHI.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TINKERBELL GRANTS YOU MAGICAL FAVORS, I DO BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SAY “THANK YOU FAIRY MUCH!”

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Speedometer stat	DOWN	23 Frivolous
1 Chances, for short	38 Apiece	1 Re 26-Down	24 “Born in the —”
4 Taxi	39 Old card game	2 — Amboy, N.J.	25 Lunch-eonette order, for short
7 Walk through mud, maybe	41 Deuce topper	3 Permission	26 Pupil's place
12 Shell game need	45 GIs' alarm clock	4 Grotto	28 Citi Field athlete
13 Gorilla	47 Ostrich's kin	5 Pinnacles	30 Knock
14 Anorak	48 Perfumery	6 Jaunty chapeau	31 Census statistic
15 Attempt	52 Rotating part	7 Skewer	32 Playwright Levin
16 Greenish-blue deposit on copper	53 Measure on copper	8 Trail the pack	33 [Uncorrected]
18 “— Impos- sible”	54 Type units	9 Hockey legend	36 Punch
19 Put forth	55 Intention	10 Tackle moguls	37 Illinois city
20 Eats	56 U-shaped river bend	11 Owns ca's	40 Fairy tale baddies
22 Schedule abbr.	57 Witness	17 Schlep	42 Summarize
23 Oil job	58 Thickness	21 “Ameri- ca's Most Wanted” host	43 Cyber-message
27 Mornings (Abbr.)			44 Delicious
29 Inspiring horror			45 Concoct
31 Super-market section			46 Being (Lat.)
34 Playing marble			48 Way back when
35 Fodders for mills			49 Limit, for short

Solution time: 25 mins.

GEL	TUFT	ROUT
ALI	AFRO	ERGO
LIFE	BOAT	FELL
ELL	TABLOID	
COFFEE	LYE	
AGO	TAXI	ECLAT
PERK	RIB	TIDE
SEMI	SUP	FOX
NAB	DIGEST	
POTS	DAM	PAL
ADAM	LIFETIME	
RIPA	SEAR	NOR
DEEN	ANTS	EW

Yesterday's answer 8-3

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		