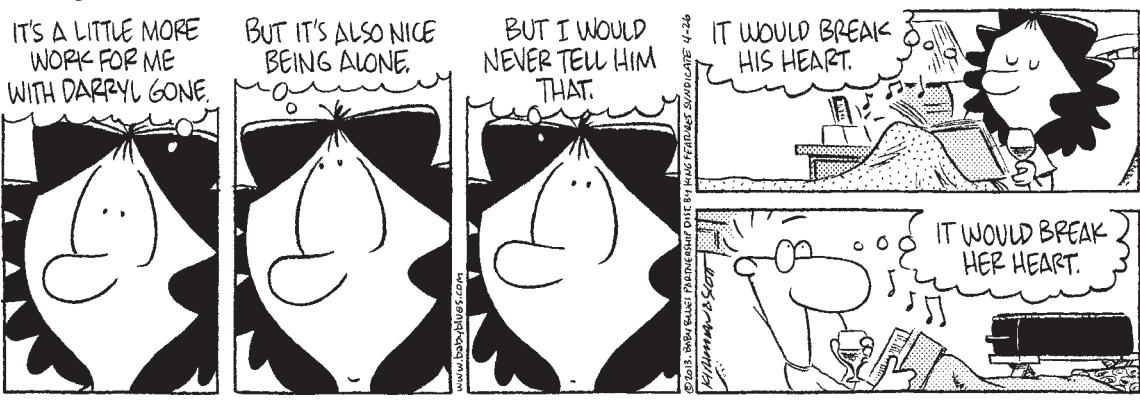
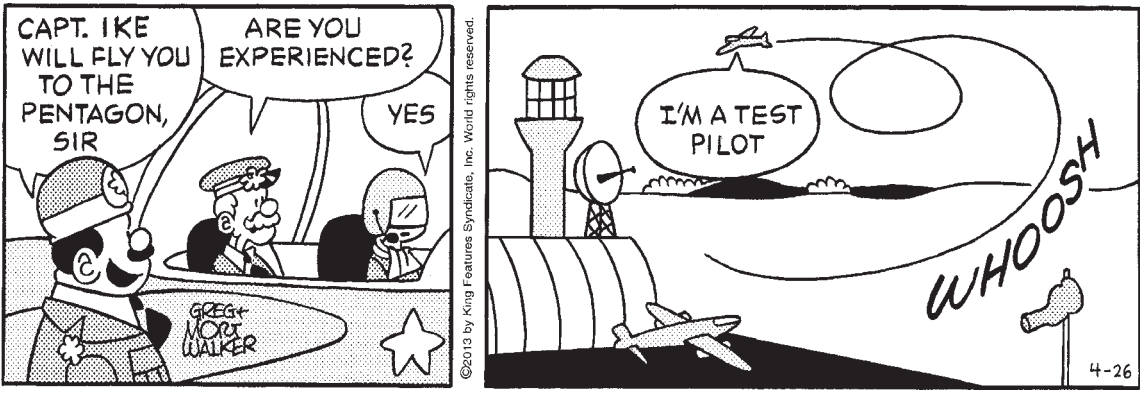


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



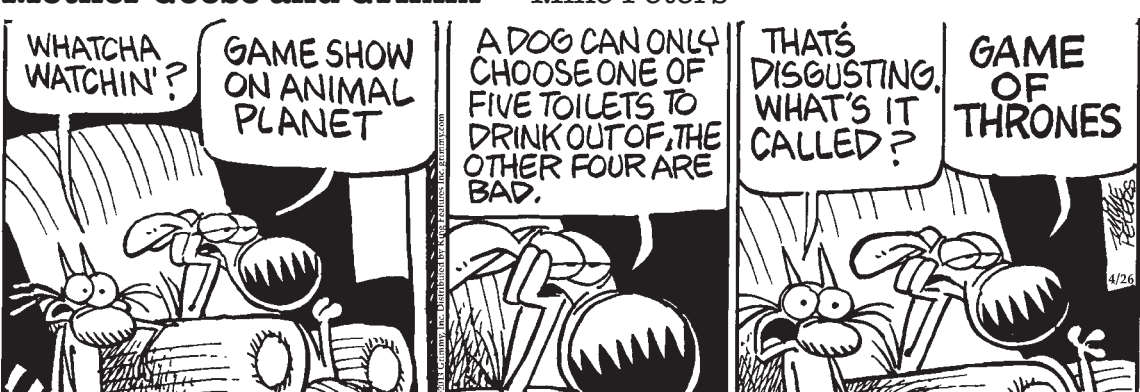
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



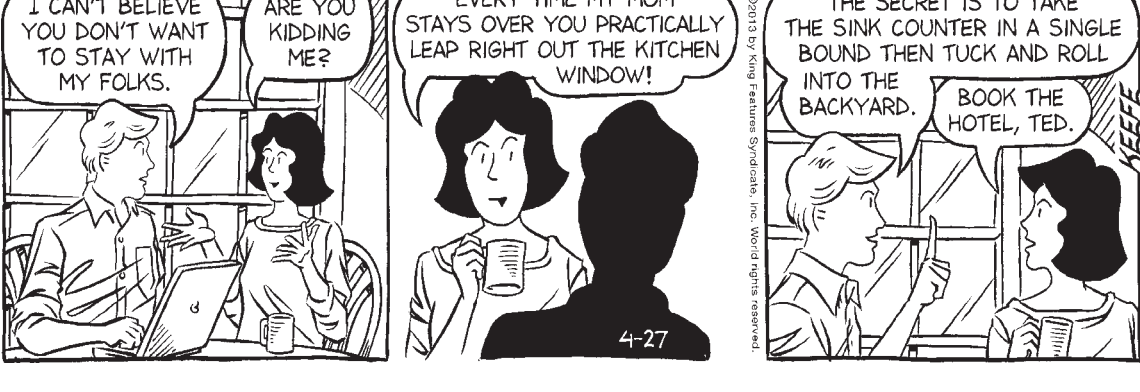
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



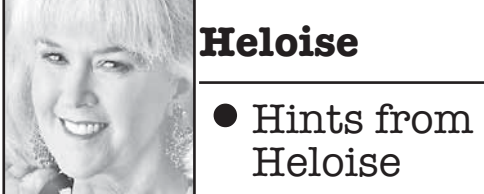
Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Follow rules near guide dogs

Dear Readers: Having printed hints for helping the blind before, it's time to address how to approach a guide dog team. A team consists of a guide dog and its owner. When a dog is in harness, it is at "work" and is responsible for guiding its owner and should not be distracted. Here are some hints on what to do (and NOT do) when you come across a guide dog team:

- Always greet the owner first. Whatever side the guide dog is on (most work on the left), approach from the other side.
- Do not approach a team while in the middle of a task. Wait until the task is completed.
- Do not pet a guide dog without asking the owner's permission. Some owners will allow you to pet the dog, and others will not. Do not get your feelings hurt if the owner says no.
- Do not call out or whistle at a guide dog. The owner's safety is dependent on the guide dog maintaining focus. So do not distract the guide dog.
- Do not feed or offer the guide dog food or treats. Guide dogs are fed on a schedule that is strictly maintained. Because they often visit restaurants and grocery stores, they are trained to ignore food. Offering them food not only distracts them, it negates their training and also can make them sick. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
 Heloise
 P.O. Box 795000
 San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
 Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
 E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT
 Here are two great hints from J.M., via tablet computer:

When packing for a trip, I realized my curling iron was too hot to pack, and I was rushed for time. The thought of my oven mitt came to mind. It worked perfectly, allowing the curling iron to remain open so it could cool off, but it was safe to handle and put in my tote bag. Even at home, I put the curling iron in an oven mitt before putting it in the drawer, which prevents the possibility of it melting other cords, etc. I also use the mitt to rest the curling iron on as it warms up.

(J.M., this is a great travel hint that has been printed before. Just be careful. Check what kind of material the inside of your oven mitt is. Sometimes the inside is a different material and may not be as heat-resistant as the outside. And don't put the curling iron directly in the oven mitt after unplugging. Give it at least a couple of minutes to cool off before placing it inside. — Heloise)

FOLDING TABLE
 For my houseguests, I put up our folding table in their room, which is the perfect height and size for an open suitcase. The area under the table is handy to stow any other items. I also have added a folding chair now for guests as they put on shoes or socks while dressing. These items go back to their storage area after the guests have gone.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Partner opens the bidding with One Diamond. What would you respond with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ 983 ♥ AQJ6 ♦ J ♣ AJ853
2. ♠ Q9762 ♥ 10 ♦ K5 ♣ AK864
3. ♠ 954 ♥ K976 ♦ 8 ♣ AJ982
4. ♠ AK98 ♥ J8652 ♦ KQ4 ♣ 10

Bidding Quiz

1. Two clubs. It is better to bid two clubs than one heart. A one-heart bid followed by two (or three) clubs would give partner the wrong picture of the length of your suits. But if you respond two clubs and then bid hearts at your next turn, partner will realize that you have more clubs than hearts and that in all likelihood you have only four hearts. Had the suits been of equal length, you would, of course, bid the higher-ranking one, hearts, first.
2. One spade. Here, for the reason just stated, spades are bid first. The fact that your clubs are of better quality is not a good reason for naming them first. The aim is to land in the longest trump suit, not necessarily the strongest, and also to wind up in a major rather than a minor, if possible.

Spades are playable as trumps if partner has three of them. If you were to bid clubs first, and spades secondarily, partner would naturally assume that you had only four spades and would not raise them with three-card support. You could thus miss the best contract.

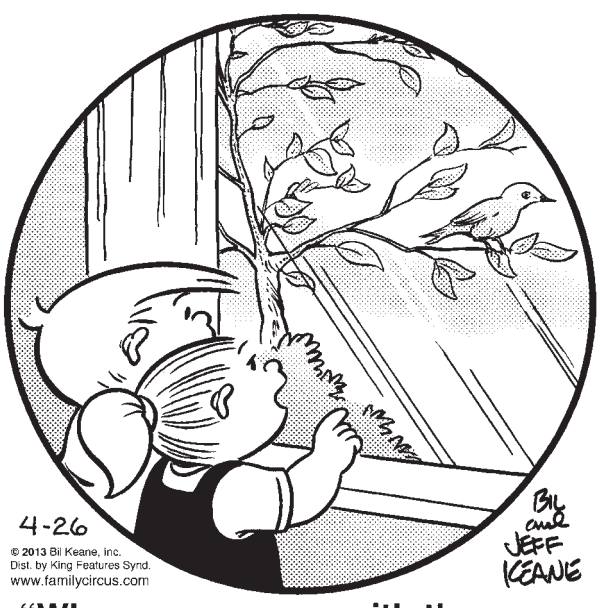
3. One heart. Two clubs would be the wrong response in this case because going into the two-level in a new suit promises at least 10 points, which you don't have, while bidding one heart indicates only six or more points. In such situations, it's better to violate the rule of bidding the longer suit first than to misrepresent your high-card strength.

4. One heart. Here you go back to naming the five-card suit before the four-carder. Again the length of the suit takes precedence over the strength, even though the spades contain seven high-card points and the hearts only one.

In a nutshell, what it amounts to is this: With strong hands, you follow the principle of bidding the longer suit first, the purpose being to describe your distribution as accurately as possible in order to give your side the maximum chance of winding up in the best game or slam. With weak hands, where your initial plan may be to make only one bid and quit, you exercise extreme care in choosing the suit to name, the principal concern being to avoid bidding weak hands strongly.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Whoever came up with the name 'bluebird' didn't try very hard."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/26

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.

Cryptoquip

OMYK ODAVJ GDA NYVV Y
 KCFKYNVCJ SYIEFC NICYKAIC
 KMYK EQ YVOYGG MDQKEVC?
 Y F C F C S G Y F C S D F C
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DISLIKE THIS BLEAK PART OF THE HOSPITAL, BUT IT WILL SUFFICE, FOR LACK OF A BETTER WARD.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Chum
 4 With
 29-
 Across, Conrad novel
 8 Faction
 12 Whatever amount
 13 Dermatology subject
 14 Horn sound
 15 Related to summer theater
 17 "That hurts!"
 18 Decorate a T-shirt, '60s-style
 19 Old Olds
 21 "— the fields we go"
 22 Tritite
 26 Mc-Cartney cohort
 29 See
 4-Across
 30 Praise in verse
 31 Doves' place
 32 Eviscerate

DOWN
 1 History
 2 Oppositionist
 3 Orpheus' instrument
 4 Attorney
 5 Earth tone
 6 Genetic stuff
 7 Mid-western city
 8 Remained upright
 9 Debtor's letters
 10 Elmer, to Bugs
 11 Biblical abbr.
 11 Biblical ending
 20 Shade source
 23 Georgetown athlete
 24 Hebrew month
 25 See to
 26 "Shool!"
 27 — list
 28 On
 29 Moon-shine container
 32 Commence hostilities
 33 Thick
 35 Binge
 36 Went by water
 38 Excited
 39 Porcelain
 42 "I'll have what — having"
 43 Wooden strip
 44 Leave an impression
 45 "The Chew" network
 46 Meadow
 47 Rowing need
 49 Weeding tool

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-26

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	