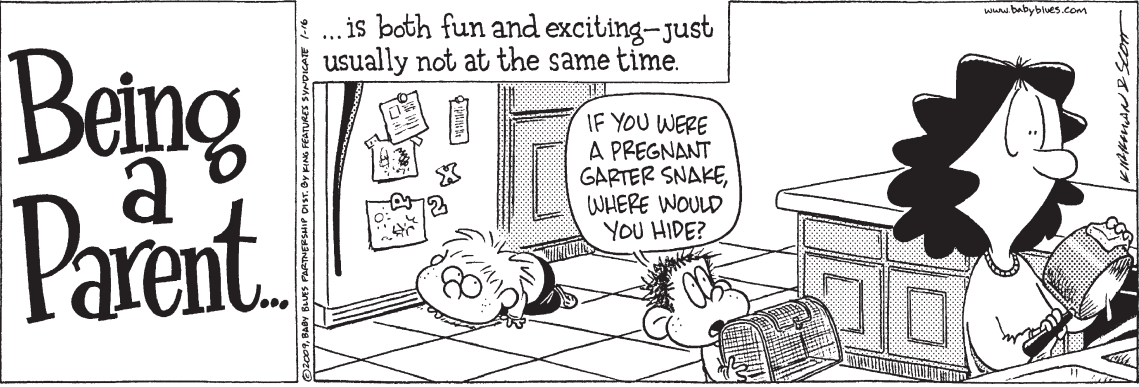
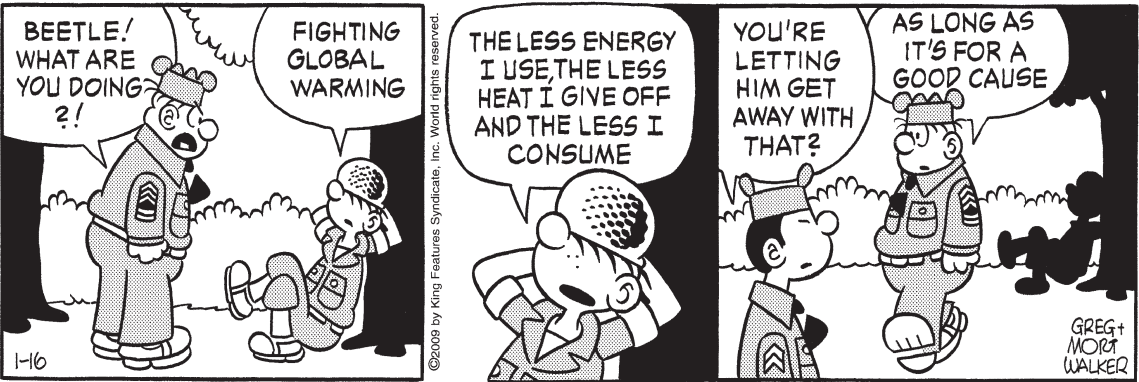


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



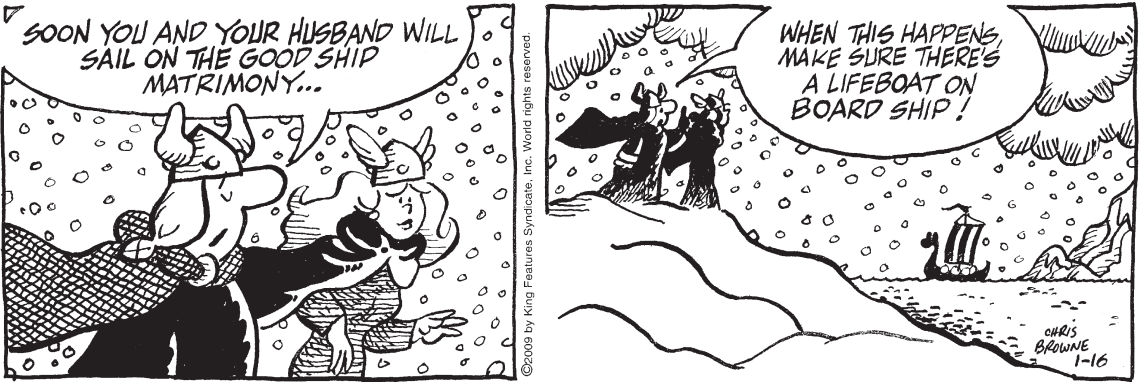
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



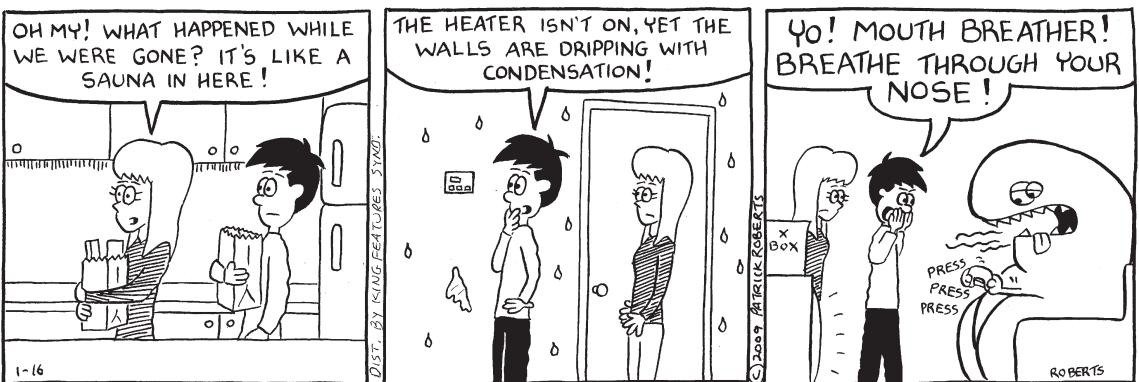
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



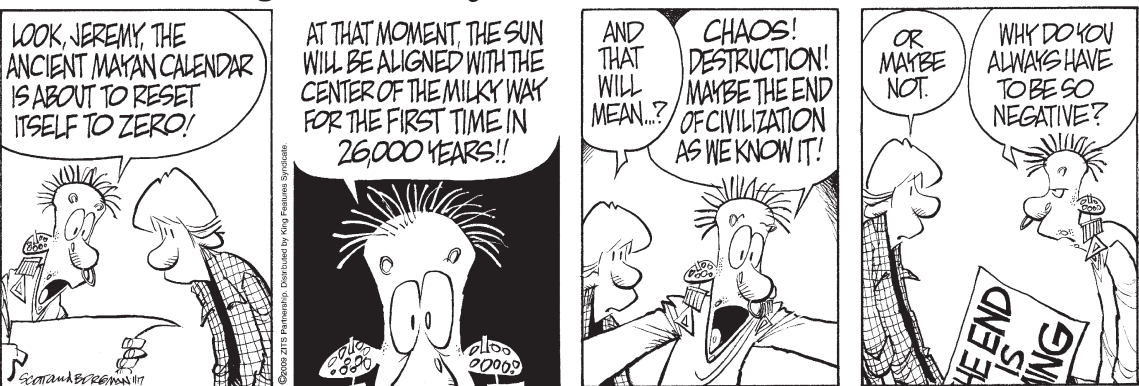
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Protect yourself from pickpockets

Dear Heloise: I'm a retired deputy sheriff, and my husband's POCKET WAS PICKED while we were in Florence, Italy. The authorities were pleased that we had photocopies of our documents and were very kind to us after they got over laughing about the retired cop/victim. I'd like to share some hints from me, my husband, the Carabinieri and every other law-enforcement agency in the world.

Check out travel-oriented catalogs. There are security wallets available in several different styles, such as inside the waistband of pants, around the neck, on your ankle or a lightweight waist pack. Buy a couple of different types. A tour guide I know wears one at her waist when she is wearing a sundress and one around her neck for ease of access when her clothing permits.

Carry only one credit card and one piece of identification in outer clothing or a handbag. Put everything else in a secure location or in one of the security wallets.

If someone really wants your stuff, give it to the person. The pickpockets of the world are very proficient and will probably get your stuff before you even notice. The purse snatchers here in California will come by on a motorcycle, hook your purse/backpack and drag you along with it if you don't give it up. Your stuff is not worth severe injuries. — June L., Ventura, Calif.

June, crime can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Thanks for your expert advice from your unfortunate personal experience. Folks, stay alert and aware of your surroundings, especially when on vacation, when sometimes we tend to leave our "common sense" at home. -- Heloise

WINDOW WASHING

Dear Heloise: I wanted to share something I learned from my brother, who spent time in the United States Air Force. The best way to clean window glass on cars is to use a glass-cleaning liquid with newspaper. It will not leave any streaks or smudges. To keep your hands clean, however, gloves must be worn. -- Daily Houston Reader, via e-mail

CLEAN HOUSEPLANTS

Dear Heloise: My girlfriend and I disagree on what to use to clean and shine houseplant leaves. Her mother used milk, and mine used cooking oil. What's the story? -- A Reader, Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Well, half right and half not. These old hints have been around a long time. The update is that shiny leaves just need plain old tap water to clean and dust them. To shine them, use a little vegetable oil (not baby oil, which is only mineral oil with fragrance). Remember that plants breathe through the leaves, so put oil or a commercial plant shine only on the top. -- Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dble Redble ?
What would you bid with each of the following six hands?

1. ♠ 942 ♥ J83 ♦ 62 ♣ K7543
2. ♠ Q752 ♥ 96432 ♦ 53 ♣ 84
3. ♠ J74 ♥ 85 ♦ Q962 ♣ J753
4. ♠ Q108632 ♥ A95 ♦ 74 ♣ 82
5. ♠ J82 ♥ QJ95 ♦ Q103 ♣ 1085
6. ♠ QJ97432 ♦ 874 ♦ 5 ♣ J3

Bidding Quiz

1. Two clubs. After East's redouble, you're not required to answer partner's takeout double since partner will get a chance to rescue himself if you pass. You should bid, however, if you have a definite preference for one of the unbid suits, as in this case. Bidding in this situation does not guarantee anything in the way of high-card points.

Two clubs not only describes your hand fairly well, but it may also help partner choose an opening lead if West becomes declarer. The chances are that East-West will eventually buy the contract.

2. One spade. This is an even more dreadful hand than in the preceding problem, but there is too much risk that if you pass, partner will bid two clubs or two diamonds when the redouble comes around to him. He may have only three spades, or four bad ones, and bypass that suit in favor of clubs or diamonds, which could lead to disaster. Your spade bid at this point is an attempt to keep your side out of serious trouble.

3. Pass. Here you pass because you have tolerance for any suit partner may name when the redouble comes around to him.

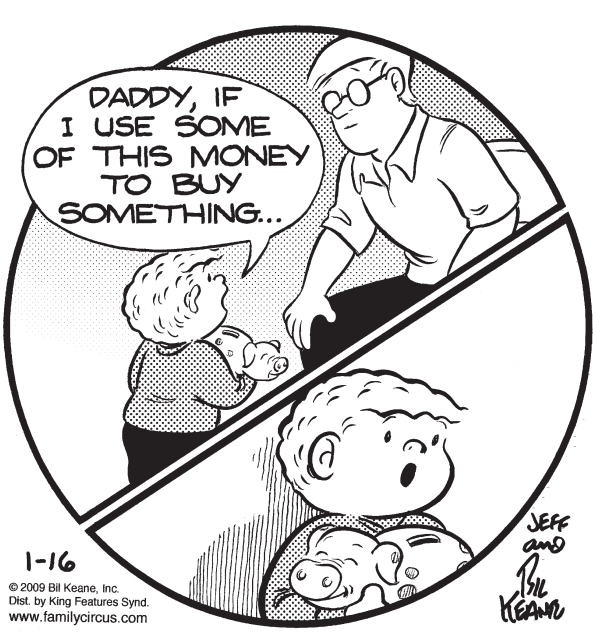
4. Two spades. This time you not only want to show your suit, but also that you have some real values. The jump-response in this sequence shows mild interest in game, but is not forcing.

5. One notrump. The purpose of the notrump call is to tell partner that you have a balanced hand of limited strength and at least one heart stopper. If partner has a five-card or longer suit, he can bid it if he feels that would offer a safer haven than one notrump.

6. Three spades. This is a pre-emptive bid, pure and simple, and there are two reasons for it. First, the jump to three spades cramps the bidding and may cause the opponents to wind up in the wrong contract. Second, the pre-empt may pave the way to a worthwhile sacrifice against an adverse game contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/16

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/17

Cryptoquip

ITFI LZHXUFS YFSQOFBIQDUSX

N H F S I N D W C Q B U S X

TFUDLDQRTZR RTWQHC SFYZ

UIRZHO "LDQRRZHR LDURIHZR."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A POPULAR TUNE ABOUT EVENINGS SPENT ON A SANDY BEACH COULD BE CALLED "I LOVE A GRAINY NIGHT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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1 Poke	35 Coaster	partner	nation																																																																																																																																															
4 Prospector's hope	36 Welk specialty	3 Shorts of a sort	21 Take on																																																																																																																																															
8 Rainout spread	recipient	4 Skein members	22 Under a spell																																																																																																																																															
12 Have bills	40 Sandwich shop	5 They give a hoot	23 Second-hand																																																																																																																																															
13 Basin accessory	41 Birthright barterer	6 Shelter capitalist?	25 Got up																																																																																																																																															
14 Disturb	42 Fed head Ben	7 Parched	26 German																																																																																																																																															
15 California campus	46 Peel	8 Self-evident statement	27 Breach of secrecy																																																																																																																																															
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18 Show bad aim	48 A billion years	10 "Hud" director	30 Acrimony																																																																																																																																															
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20 Paratrooper's need	50 Sailing vessel	16 Charlie Brown's nemesis, often	34 Pop choice																																																																																																																																															
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