



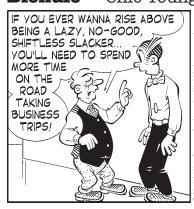


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

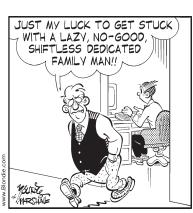




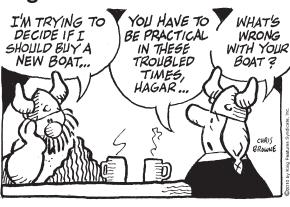
Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters







WHICH IS WHY

Sally Forth • Greg Howard







BUT ALSO EASILY





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



9 comics CFP 2-12-10.indd







Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Slow coffee brew needs vinegar fix

Dear Heloise: My COFFEE MAKER is getting slower and slower. Could it be the lime deposits in our water, and if so, what can I do about it? Thanks. – Merry, via e-mail

Merry, hard water probably is the culprit! Especially if you don't have a water softener. However, there is a very easy solution, and it involves my old friend, vinegar! Cheap, safe and green!

Fill the reservoir with straight vinegar, let it go through a brew cycle, then turn off the coffee maker. Put the hot vinegar back in, let sit for about 20-30 minutes, then run through one more time. Run fresh cold water through several times, and you are all set. Don't waste that vinegar! Pour it down the drain to kill bacteria. Does this whet your appetite for more money-saving vinegar hints? I have a six-page pamphlet with lots of ways to use vinegar that are amazing and safe! If you'd like to receive the pamphlet, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. A bonus vinegar hint: Mix equal amounts of household vinegar and water. Put into a spray bottle, and be sure to label clearly. Use this cleaner to make your windows sparkle! - Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I have a travel hint that I've been using for a few years. I see a lot of people using ribbons, colored yarn or string tied on their lug-

As for me and my family, we use different-colored electrical tape around the handles (we use three different colors). So now when we look for our luggage, all we do is look for our colors. -Craig, Waterville, Maine

RECYCLING

Dear Heloise: I use a permanent marker to mark recycling plastic grocery bags with what's to be placed inside them. Examples are: tin, glass, aluminum, etc. - Karen G., Hoisington, Kan.

CLEAN OR DIRTY DISHES?

Dear Heloise: How often have you not known whether the dishes in your dishwasher are clean or dirty and mixed dirty dishes with clean ones? This may not work for every design of dishwasher, but we clip a painted wooden clothespin to the handle on the front of the washer. When we start the washer, we clip the clothespin on, and the washer, we put the clothespin on the windowsill. The clothespin is soft wood and doesn't hurt the finish on the washer, and since it's painted, it looks a little more decorative than a plain one would. - Katherine, via e-mail

CHILL OUT

Dear Heloise: I recently fell, spraining my wrist. I discovered that a flexible wine chiller (gel-filled tube that fits typical wine bottles) makes a great ice pack for a hand injury - just drape a cloth napkin on your hand and slide your hand into the chiller. – Suzanne, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone: North South East

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ AKJ9 ♥ J8 ♦ KJ873 ♣ J5 2. **♦** KQJ9852 ♥ 7 ♦ A964 **♣** 10 3. ♠ 8763 ♥ 62 ♦ AK7 ♣ K1084 4. **♠** QJ974 ♥ 943 **♦** AJ8 **♣** 76

Bidding Quiz

1. Two diamonds. Once partner opens the bidding, this is a game-going hand, but the correct final contract is not yet clear. The best you can do at this point is to start describing your hand as accurately as possible, planning to let partner eventually choose the proper contract.

You therefore bid two diamonds, intending to bid your spades next. Partner will then know that 22 your spades are only four cards in length and that your diamonds are probably longer, since you bid them first. Having thus laid the proper groundwork, it should not be difficult for you and partner to decide whether the best game contract lies in spades, hearts, diamonds or notrump.

2. Four spades. You can't very well stop under game, and you obviously don't want to play at any contract except spades. The direct leap to game indicates seven or eight playing tricks if spades are trumps even if partner has no support for the suit.

3. Double. With four probable defensive tricks added to the three your partner is likely to have for his opening bid, it seems best at this point to double for penalties, expecting to exact at least a two-trick set. There is no good reason to assume your side has a game, since partner can easily have only a minimum opening bid.

To bid two notrump at this juncture would allow the opponents to get off the hook in a situation where your side might not be able to make more than a partscore.

4. Two hearts. Your trump support is not robust, but there is no better bid than two hearts. You can't really pass with eight high-card points, holding a mild trump fit and a doubleton club besides. Nor can you afford to say two spades, a forcing bid that might drive you to a higher level than your side's combined values justify. Two hearts says that you have six to 10 points,

including distributional values, and it has the merit of allowing you to stop at a low level if partner has a minimum opening bid.

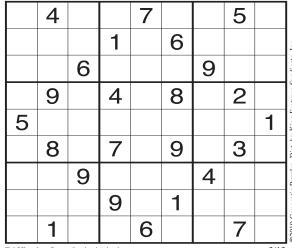
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How come spring and fall don't have Olympics, too?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 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.

5	4	9	6	8	1	7	2	3
1	8	7	2	3	9	4	5	6
2	3	6	7	4	5	8	1	9
3	5	8	9	1	2	6	7	4
6	7	1	4	5	3	2	9	8
9	2	4	8	7	6	5	3	1
7	6	5	1	9	4	3	8	2
4	9	3	5	2	8	1	6	7
8	1	2	3	6	7	9	4	5
Difficulty Level ***								2/1

Cryptoquip

AOU JRKMAVDU SRTVKM ERZA

we know the dishes are clean. When we empty SZLUS TZKAF AR BVKG Z

KUT LZSUUS. OU DQFA EU 🏵

ERSUG RQA RB OVF FLQJJ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THOSE THIEVES DECIDED TO STEAL THE BIG BLANKET, COULD YOU SAY THEY WERE TAKING COVER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E

DOWN

21 Frat-party

42 Spot

on a

43 Time of

your life?

die

44 False-

hood

45 Illustra-

tions

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

35 Cain's

ACROSS

31 Ump

tion

1 Dined	victim	1 Matter-	garb
4 Last	36 Snapshot	horn or	22 Deadly
year's	37 Canine	Jungfrau	23 In due
frosh	sounds	2 Golfer's	time
8 Actor Pitt	40 Burn	prop	25 Vatican
12 Hawaiian	some-	3 Having	VIP
garland	what	only two	26 Pertaining
13 Greek	41 Formerly,	choices	to trees
vowel	formerly	4 Temptress	27 Encounter
14 Continen-	42 Long,	5 "My bad"	28 Frizzy
tal coin	slender	6 Sch. org.	hairdo
15 Collar	cigar	7 — Solo	30 Steak-
style	46 "—	8 Carrier	house
17 From the	Ha'i"	9 Ladder	order
beginning	47 Com-	part	33 Pleasingly
18 Hastens	poser	10 Neighbor-	plump
19 Church	Stravin-	hood	34 Converse
music-	sky	11 This	36 Boscs
maker	48 Melody	direction	and
20 Unyield-	49 Online	16 Green	Bartletts
ing	journal	land	37 "Dragnet"
22 Dis-	50 Church	19 Smell	star Jack
appear	seating	20 Took to	38 Exam
slowly	51 Allow	the pool	format
24 Sported			39 Norway's
25 Grand	Solution tim	ie: 25 mins.	capital
view	MOLDNU		40 Winter
29 Past	E P E E A S	H H E L D	forecast

30 Helicopter blade 32 Almond confec-34 Trucker on the radio Yesterday's answer 2-12

26 | 27 | 28 47