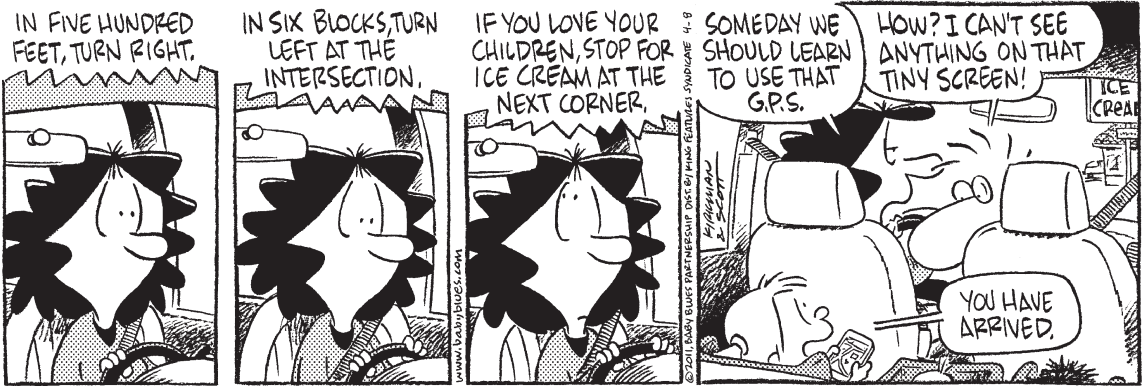


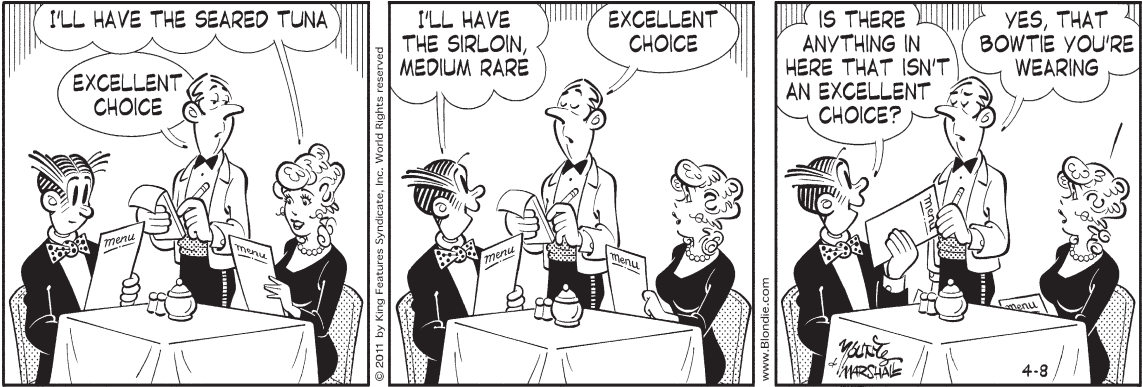
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



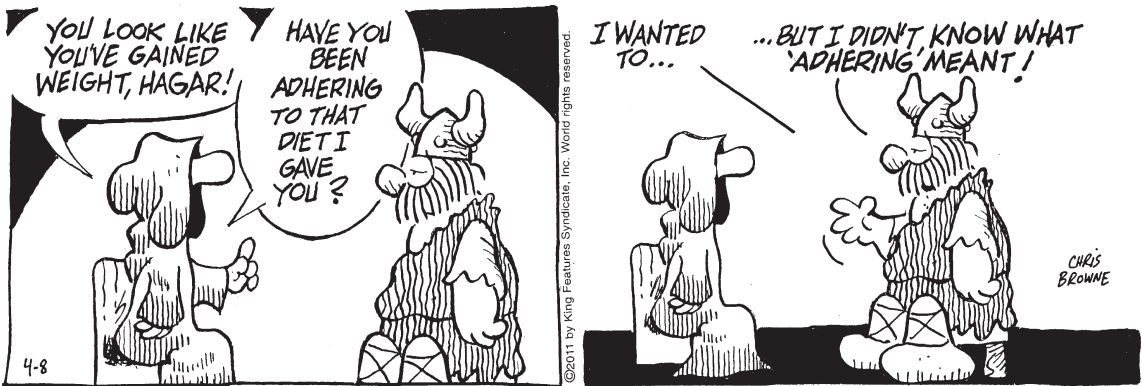
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



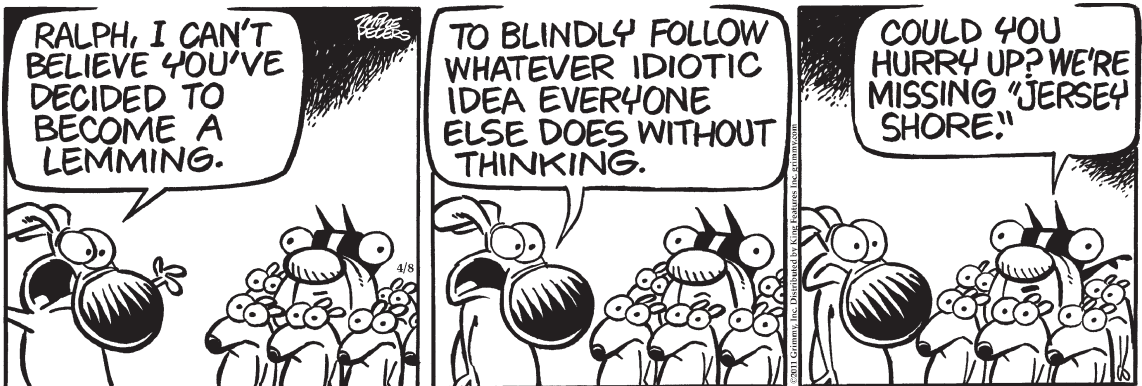
Blondie • Chic Young



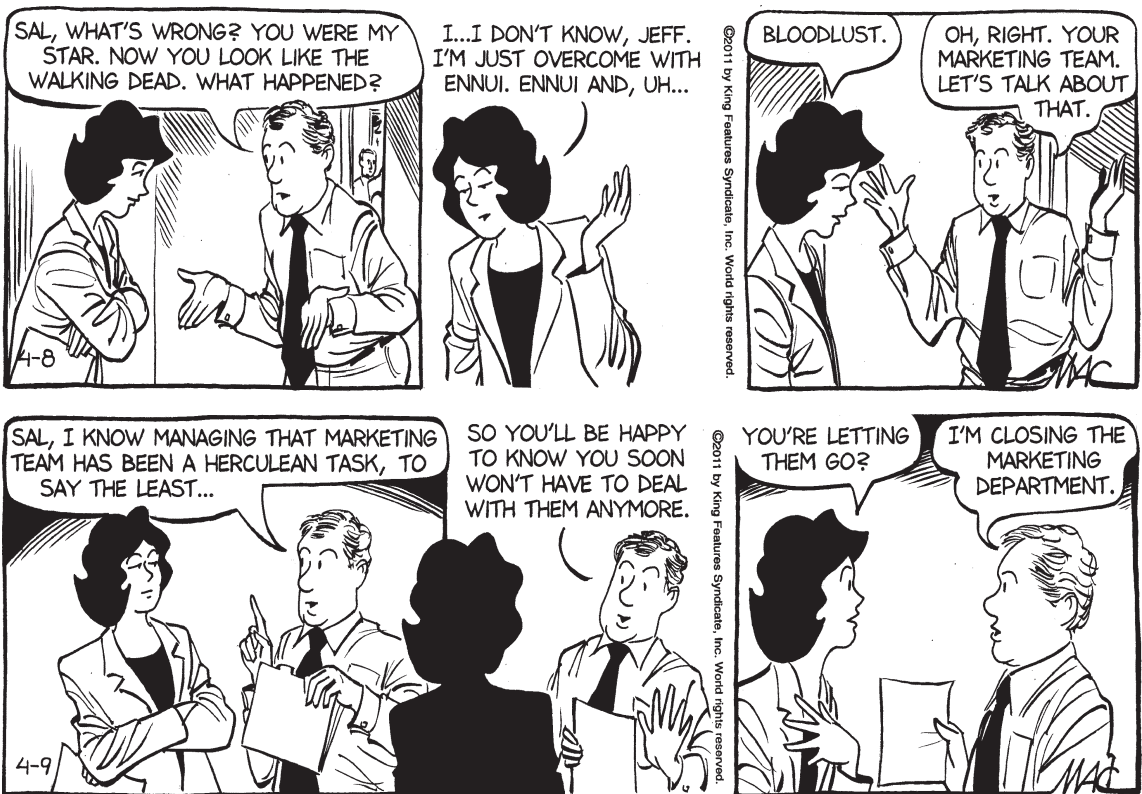
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



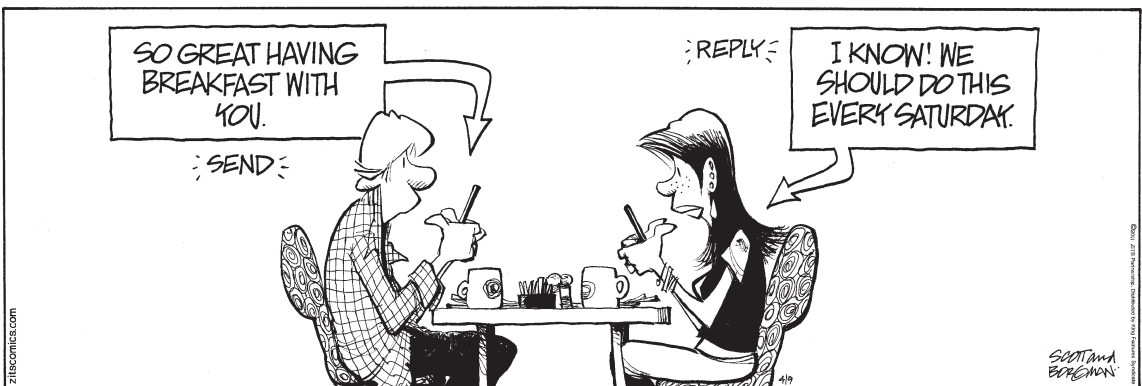
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Hints help keep clean, tidy home

Dear Heloise: Many years ago, I asked my (new) mother-in-law how she kept such a beautiful home. She always had a CLEAN AND TIDY HOME, and she seemed effortless in her kitchen and her dealings with her family's day-to-day events or occasional "crisis." Her answer: "A couple of hints from Heloise and a little bit of elbow grease." I've never forgotten her advice. – M.A. Castillo, Washington, D.C.

How nice of her to give you good advice. Thanks for writing, and please know I'm here to help. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Whenever I am planning a vacation, I look into the area to make sure we get to see all the neat local things that the area has to offer. I search online and try to get all the information I can. I also call the chamber of commerce to see what it has to say about the area. Most of the people who answer the phone are more than willing to tell what the locals enjoy doing in the city. – H., via e-mail

FIREPLACE DOORS

Dear Heloise: We have a wood-burning stove with glass doors, and the easiest way to clean them is using the ashes. Dampen a scrubbie-type pad (plastic, not metal of any type) and dip in the cold ashes. Scrub the glass and wipe up the residue with a paper towel. It is amazing how fast this is. – Trudy Lally, Hopatcong, N.J.

MICROFIBER-CLOTH USE

Dear Heloise: Here is my hint for microfiber cloths: I cut a 12-inch square cloth in two, using my pinking shears so it doesn't unravel, then I sew two narrow pieces of elastic on far enough apart to fit on my dust mop. This way, I can turn the cloth over when it gets dirty on one side and use it some more before I wash it. This saves on buying the cloths for the dust mop, making it more "green." – Lois, Prescott, Ariz.

TWO HINTS, ONE READER

Dear Heloise: My husband recently lost weight and had T-shirts he liked but couldn't wear. I covered couch pillows in the T-shirts with the logos in the center. Now we have throw pillows that show his interests.

And I use a microfiber floor broom that has a slipcover. After I sweep, I clean the broom by running the vacuum over it. That leaves it ready to use next time and cuts down on washing the microfiber cover. – Robin Davis, Richmond, Mo.

HANDY BOOKMARK

Dear Heloise: When I am reading a book, magazine, etc., I place my bookmark front side for the right side of the book, or turn it backward if I need to continue my reading with the left side of the book. – T. Durham, Tupelo, Miss.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	?	

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

- ♠ Q8742 ♥ K95 ♦ J73 ♣ 94
- ♠ AJ63 ♥ 102 ♦ Q52 ♣ KJ63
- ♠ AKJ76 ♥ 742 ♦ K973 ♣ 8
- ♠ AK95 ♥ 63 ♦ J84 ♣ AJ43

Bidding Quiz

- Pass. Although partner's three-club bid urges you to bid again, it is not forcing. It merely invites a further bid if you have more than the six or seven points you might have for a suit response on the one-level. With no values beyond those already shown, the best thing to do is pass.
- Five clubs. You are not exceptionally strong in high cards, but what you have should prove very useful to partner. Not only do you have excellent trump support, but you also have first-round spade control, a doubleton heart and the queen of diamonds for good measure.

All these features add up to much more than a simple raise to four clubs, which you would make if you had, say, the queen of spades instead of the ace.

- Three diamonds. There is surely a game somewhere, but the best contract is uncertain at the moment. The three-diamond bid may be all that partner needs to undertake three notrump, and, furthermore, it gives him room to show three-card spade support.

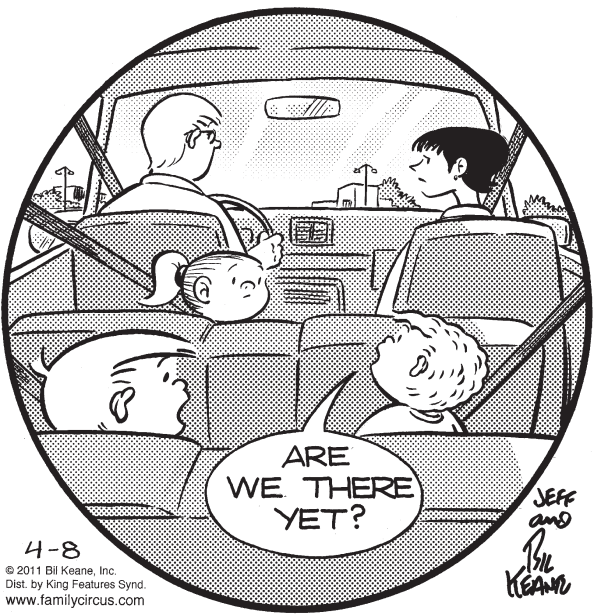
It is far better to bid three diamonds than three spades. The failure to show your diamonds might result in missing three notrump. The inequality of your two suits should be disregarded in an effort to find the best contract.

- Six clubs. Here you should take the bull by the horns and bid six. Partner has jumped in clubs with a far-from-solid suit (you're looking at the A-J), and, since he has at most five points in clubs and neither the ace or king of spades, he's bound to have substantial high-card strength in both red suits.

There's no way of knowing precisely where the 12 tricks will come from, but that shouldn't stop you from bidding the slam. The only real criterion in these situations is whether you think partner can make 12 tricks – and it would be unduly pessimistic to think he can't. A typical hand for partner would be [S] 7 [H] KQ4 [D] AK5 [C] KQ10852, which, opposite yours, would make slam a virtual laydown.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Depends on where we're going."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

IW WOXAGQGL JYA KTO UXWM

VTOG X SOAKXQG SXAU LXFO

VXM DYDPHXA, Q MPDDYMO

Q 'F IOQGL VTQMKJPH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR MOVIE THAT REVEALS ALL OF THE LIES IN A CORRUPT PREACHER'S SERMONS: "PULPIT FICTION."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Type measures
- Stupor
- MRI fore-runner
- Greet the villain
- Destroy
- Verdi opera
- Refuses to buy
- Tide type
- Vivacity in music
- Soothing agents
- Baseball-shoe feature
- Tater
- Wander
- Having a porous texture
- Grecian vessel
- Wooden peg
- Sapporo sash
- In the cards
- Goes platinum
- friendly

DOWN

- Speechify
- One of the sales staff
- Two-way
- Big branch
- Video-game control
- Met melody
- Meara or Rice
- That girl
- Cautious
- Rod attachment
- Stannum
- Recede

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-8

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	