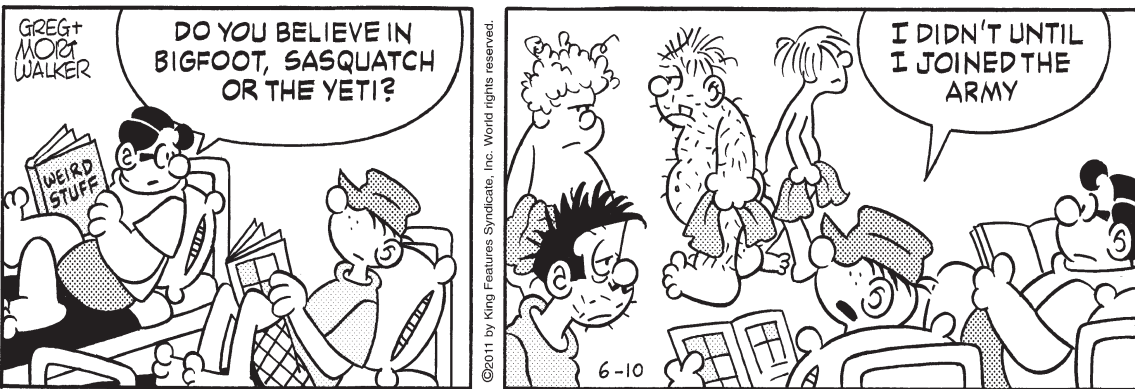


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



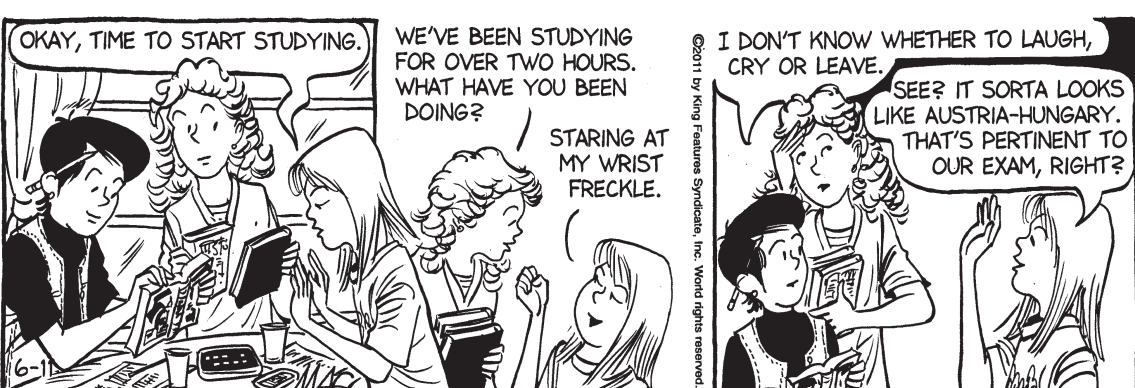
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



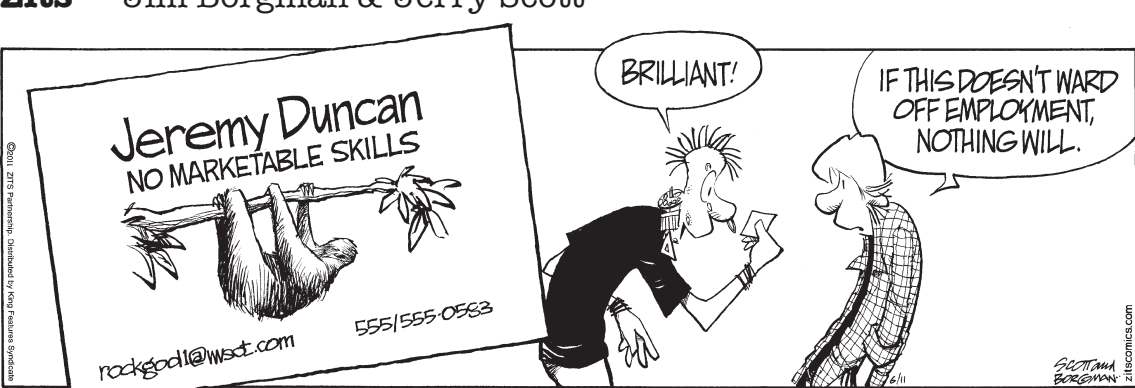
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



• Hints from Heloise

**Clean spa tub in your home**

Dear Heloise: Due to your experience and my lack of such, I am requesting a suggestion for deep-cleaning or sanitizing my SPA TUB. I've just cleaned it and scrubbed the jets with an old toothbrush. I want to be certain that all bacteria is gone so I can feel good about getting in my spa tub, which came with the house I bought. — Heidi Gold, via email

Heidi, you are not alone in wanting to know how to clean a spa tub when moving into a house, condo or apartment.

Make sure you have good ventilation and no kids or pets around. You will need household chlorine bleach and powdered (or gel) DISH-WASHER detergent for this project. Fill the tub with hot water so that the jets are covered at least several inches. Add 1 to 2 cups of household chlorine bleach and 1/4 to 1/2 cup of dishwasher detergent. There is no exact "recipe," so depending on the size of the spa tub, you may use more dishwasher detergent.

Run the spa for at least 20 minutes, turn off and let the water sit for 30 minutes, then drain. Refill with cold water and run the jets for 10 minutes, then drain the water when finished. — Heloise

P.S.: If you use bath additives, you may want to clean the spa using this method every so often.

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

**FOOD LEFT ON AISLES**

Dear Heloise: Regarding food left by people in the grocery store: I work at a grocery store in California, and if food is too warm, we throw it out. Our motto is "When in doubt, throw it out."

It would be helpful if customers would let an employee know if they don't want a frozen or cold item any longer. We really don't have a problem putting it back if they give it to us in time. — Don in California

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: To blend in with the locals when traveling, I cover a travel-guide book with a book jacket to hide the fact that I'm a tourist unfamiliar with the city/country. — Jennifer C., via email

Brilliant! And you don't have a map sticking out of a pocket or look lost! — Heloise

**JEWELRY STORAGE**

Dear Heloise: I enjoy beading, and have made necklaces to color-coordinate with various ensembles. It is important to protect delicate beads, but I had to search to find the right necklace.

I bought pre-cut squares of various colors of felt fabric at a craft store, folded each square and sewed two sides to make a pouch. A purple pouch protects a purple necklace, etc. For color combinations, I use a coordinating bag. — Bobbie M., Washington, D.C.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are the dealer and open One Spade. Partner responds One Notrump. What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ KQ743 ♥ KQ6 ♦ AJ3 ♣ K9
- ♠ KJ7652 ♥ A7 ♦ 10 ♣ AQ84
- ♠ AQJ85 ♥ KQ972 ♦ AQ ♣ 7
- ♠ QJ10974 ♥ A8 ♦ KQJ ♣ AK
- ♠ AKJ1096 ♥ 3 ♦ AK7 ♣ J104

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Two notrump. Partner's one-notrump response shows six to 10 high-card points. As there is no way of knowing whether he is closer to the upper or lower end of this range, the best you can do is to invite him to bid again by raising to two notrump. Partner should pass with a minimum and continue bidding with a maximum.

The two-notrump bid logically shows 16 to 18 points. With less than 16 you'd pass one notrump because the combined hands could not contain 26 points. With 19 or more you'd raise to three notrump because the combined hands have no less than 25 points.

2. Two clubs. Despite your own strong preference for spades, you should bid two clubs. If partner passes, indicating a distinct preference for clubs over spades and minimum values for his one-notrump response, you are probably in the best contract. If you were to rebid two spades over one notrump, you'd run the risk of finding partner with a singleton spade and perhaps four or five clubs.

3. Three hearts. You should assume there's a game somewhere and therefore jump-shift to three hearts (forcing). It would be extremely pessimistic to bid only two hearts over one notrump, since partner might pass. That's what you'd bid if you had only 12 or 13 high-card points instead of the actual 18. There's no absolute guarantee you can make a game, but the odds favor strong action.

4. Four spades. Holding nine sure tricks, it is not overly optimistic of you to expect partner to provide at least one more. You should therefore bid game without further ado. It would be wrong to bid only three spades, which would run the risk of partner passing when game is a near-certainty.

5. Three spades. With only seven sure winners, this hand is obviously not as strong as the previous one, so your best move is simply to invite partner to bid again.

If partner has minimum values for his notrump response, he'll pass -- and you may have trouble making even nine tricks. But if partner has maximum values, he will bid again, and you'll probably wind up making four or five spades. With hands of intermediate strength, you must consult partner and abide by his decision.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Sam likes to smile with his tail 'stead of his face."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/10

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

**Cryptoquip**

L J W Q K R C A W S H E N R

R N T T H S W Z Z H S R J W T C T H V X

H I Y H E X W L K R C Q V K L H T Q L H

I H V T Y H V T L W T - I K R N A K Q L Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS COMING UP WITH CRYSTAL-CLEAR MEANINGS OF WORDS, IS THAT DEFINE INSPIRATION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Chesapeake, e.g. 58 — -relief 21 Shade of green

DOWN 23 Sepals, collectively 31 Chinese tea 32 Hem and — 33 Gershwin or Levin

1 Pitched 2 Muslim nymph 24 In olden days 25 Burst 26 Inseparable 28 Compete 30 Meadow 31 Chinese tea 32 Hem and — 33 Gershwin or Levin

34 Run off to wed 35 Apollo Theater's neighborhood

38 Unpleasant 39 College URL 40 "Monopoly" property 41 Picture of health? 42 Detox center 43 Sports venue 44 Graph component 45 See 3-Down 46 Related 48 Chum 49 Lennon's lady 50 Woodworking tool 51 Regret

47 Mound 48 "Monopoly" property 49 I.M. — 50 Twelve 51 Compass point suffix

52 Whammy 53 Excessive 54 Architect I.M. — 55 Singer DiFranco 56 Twelve 57 Compass point suffix

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