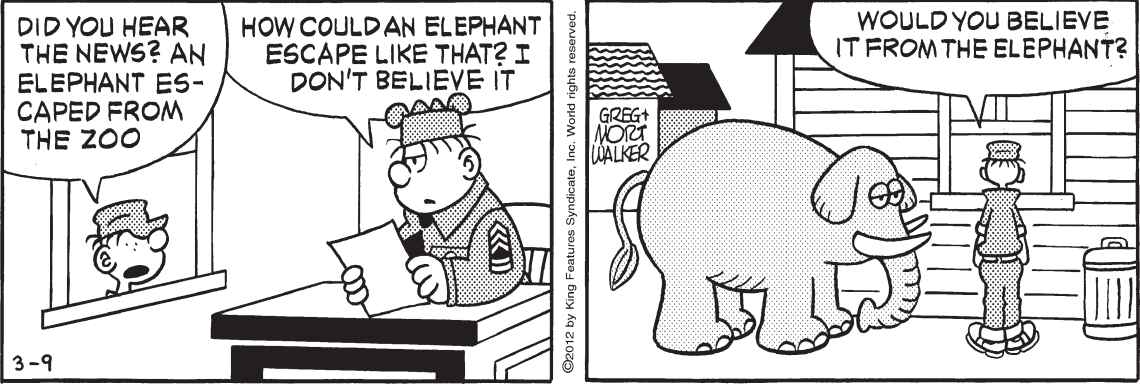


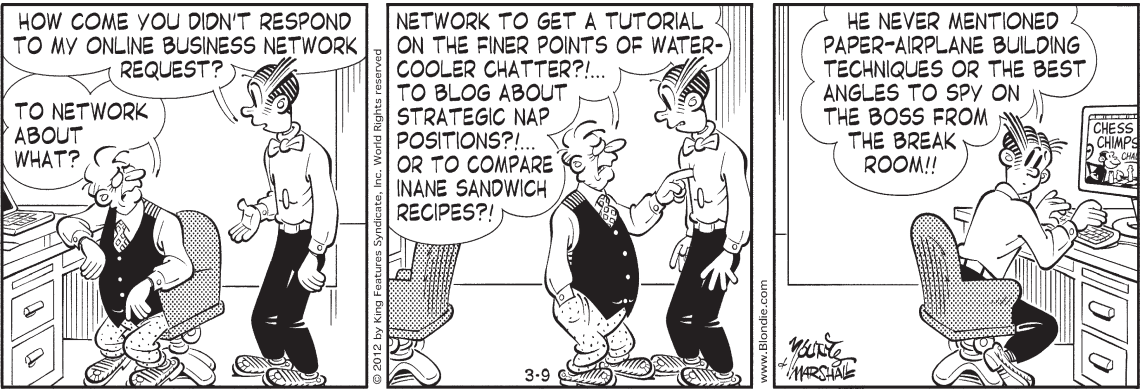
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



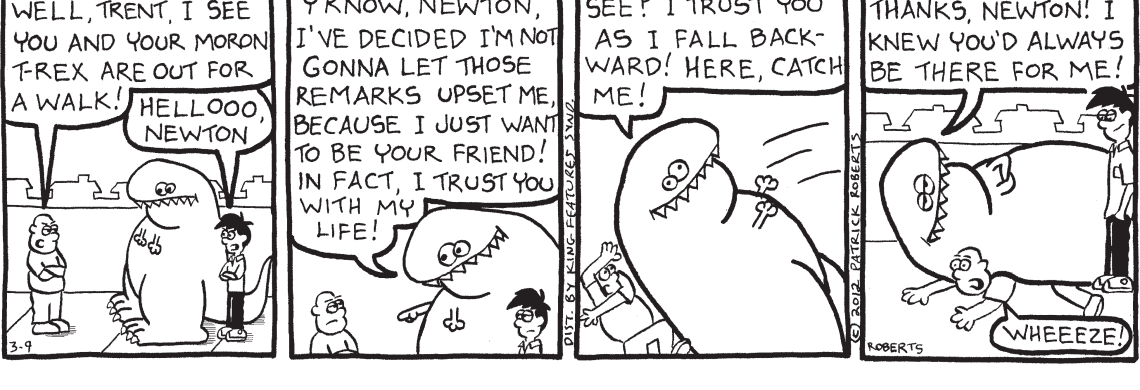
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Guidelines help when regifting

Dear Readers: If you have some gifts that don't quite fit your lifestyle, your decor or yourself, what's a good way to handle them? The term "regifting" sometimes evokes snickers, eye-rolling or one big cringe. But regifting can be OK. However, there are some guidelines:

- Give a gift that you received, but can't use, to someone who really can use it or needs the gift.
- The unwanted gift must be new and unused.
- Be careful not to regift an item back to the person who originally gave it to you!

A true story about regifting is the one of a newlywed couple. They received several silver ice buckets and regifted one, without opening it, that was engraved with their names! — Heloise

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

DONATE OLD CLOTHING TO ANIMAL SHELTER

Dear Heloise: I love reading your column in the *Roswell (N.M.) Daily Record*. I often see hints about donating clothes to thrift stores, which includes ensuring that clothes are clean, with no stains. However, I like to donate my son's and my old clothes to the local animal-shelter thrift store. Any clothes that cannot be sold are used as bedding for the pets! I urge your readers to contact their local animal-rescue group or pound to see if it also uses old clothing for bedding. — L.J.L., via email

A fabulous hint! Say "Hi" to my friends in Roswell. I'm going to be there May 17 for the Friends of the Roswell Public Library "Make Reading Fun" event. Hope you will join me. — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When traveling by motor home, I often found myself making several trips lugging all the laundry and supplies to the laundry room in the RV park.

Now, I sort the laundry in the RV and put each load in a large, plastic trash bag. I pour the detergent directly into the bag on top of the laundry. Next, I fill those little fabric-softener balls and put one in each bag. The whole (small) bottle of bleach goes into the bag with the bleachables. — Cheryl, via email

QUESTION MARK

Dear Heloise: I tape my doctors' appointment cards in date order onto a mirror in my dressing area. Whenever I think of a question I need to ask my doctors, I write the question on the back of the applicable doctor's appointment card and take the card with me when I go for my visit. — Karen P., Litcher, La.

BIG-BAG THEORY

Dear Heloise: Whenever I'm out and I need something that I don't carry in my handbag normally (such as a sewing needle, an adhesive strip for a small cut or a black felt-tip marker), I always go to the woman who has the BIGGEST handbag and ask her. It's pretty safe to say she's got everything and the kitchen sink in there! — Julie in Texas

Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the queen of spades. How would you play the hand?

WEST
 ♠ A K
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A K Q J 10 9
 ♣ 7 5 4 3

EAST
 ♠ 3
 ♥ A K 6 4 3
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A 10 9 8 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, North having bid one spade over your opening one-heart bid. North leads the jack of clubs, on which South plays the nine. How would you play the hand?

WEST
 ♠ K 2
 ♥ K J 9 7 3
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ A K 7 3

EAST
 ♠ 10 3
 ♥ A Q 10 5 4
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ 5 4 2

Test Your Play

1. To draw trumps and rely entirely on a 2-2 club break — a 40 percent probability — would be pushing your luck too far. You can improve your chances greatly by playing for a 4-3 division in hearts, a 62 percent probability.

Accordingly, you win the opening spade lead with the ace, cash the ace of trumps and, assuming everyone follows suit, next cash the A-K of hearts and ruff a heart. If the opponents follow to all three rounds of hearts, ruff the king of spades in dummy, ruff another heart, draw trumps and claim six, scoring your 12th trick with dummy's six of hearts.

If the hearts do not divide 4-3, you can still make the contract if the clubs are 2-2 and the trumps break normally. Testing the hearts before touching the club suit gives you two chances to make the slam instead of just one.

2. Your best chance is to duck the club lead, hoping the opposing clubs are divided 3-3. In that event, after drawing trumps and cashing the A-K of clubs, you will be able to discard a spade from dummy on your fourth club and thereby limit yourself to one spade loser.

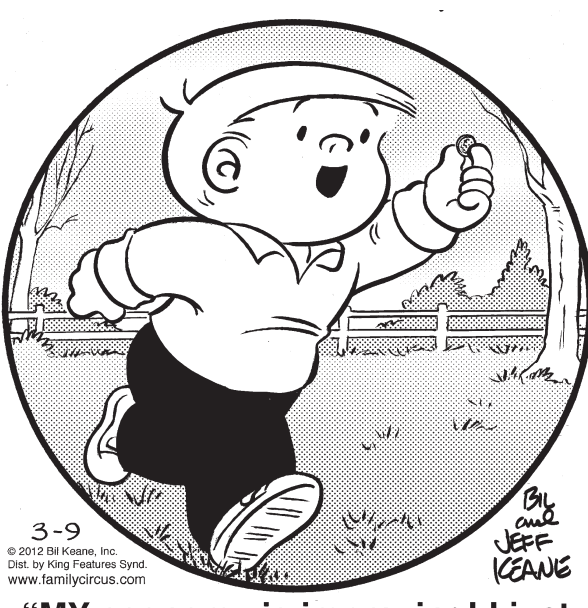
What you are hoping is that North, for his overcall, has a hand something like:

♠ AQJ74 ♥ 62 ♦ K92 ♣ J106

If he does and you make the mistake of winning the opening club lead, there will be no way to stop South from later gaining the lead with a club or a diamond for the killing spade return.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

CQYYMCSBV E VQX DNGN OM
 SKKNVEKKX OEZYNG DSOP E
 JGMEAD EX OPNEONG EDEGA,
 ZSVPO PN GSV E OMBX?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY UNUSUAL DISLIKE OF SALT IS VERY INTENSE. I'VE EVEN HEARD FOLKS SAY I HAVE SODIUM ODIUM.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Corn spike
 4 Stow cargo
 8 Office note
 12 Life story, for short
 13 Lotion additive
 14 Acknowledge
 15 Unwanted repercussions
 17 Cleo's river
 18 Doctor's due
 19 Stopped a squeak
 20 Aesopian lesson
 22 Transcending (Pref.)
 24 Pavlov or Lendl
 25 Aped
 29 Calendar abbr.
 30 Paycheck extra
 31 Aye canceler
 32 Rorschach patterns

DOWN
 1 "Cabaret" lyricist
 2 Have a bug
 3 Car attachment
 4 Tag mouth-wash
 5 "Sad to say ..."
 6 Elmer, to Bugs
 7 "A mouse!"
 8 "Flash-dance" song
 9 Satanic agent
 10 Double agent
 11 Hadn't paid yet
 16 Slowly withdraw (from)
 19 Elevator name
 20 Call-length
 21 It takes the cake
 22 Like some mouth-wash
 23 Ostriches' kin
 25 Disposition
 26 Hiker's carryall
 27 Count counterpart
 28 Unit of force
 30 Mediocre
 33 Trumpet sounds
 34 Moist
 36 Civvies
 37 Legend
 38 Vacillate
 39 Use the microwave
 40 Slender
 42 Marry
 43 Praise in verse
 44 Miller Sebastian
 45 "— Tiki"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-9

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	