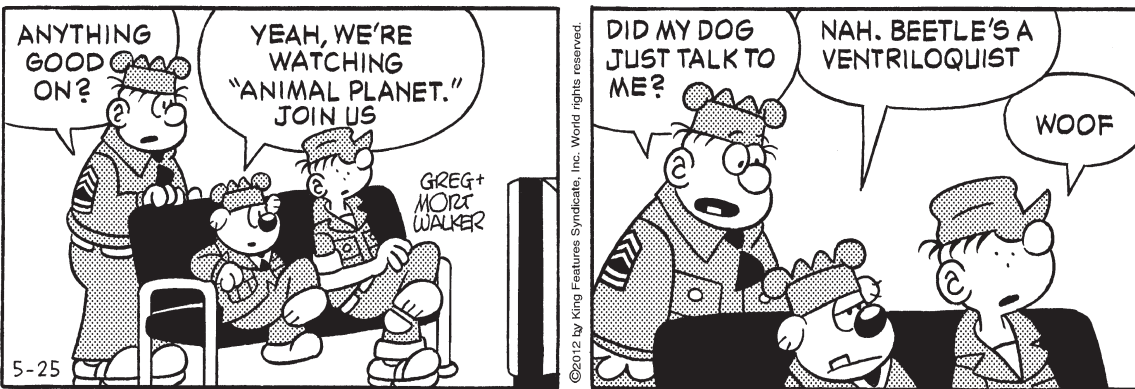


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



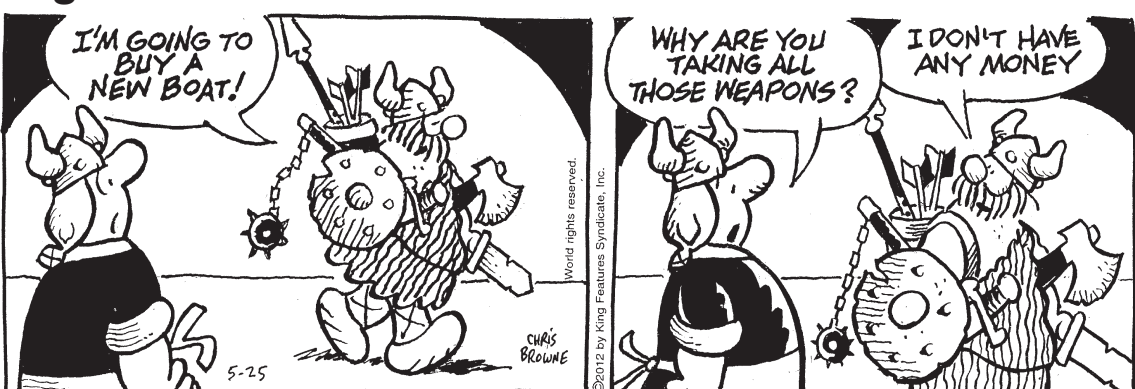
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



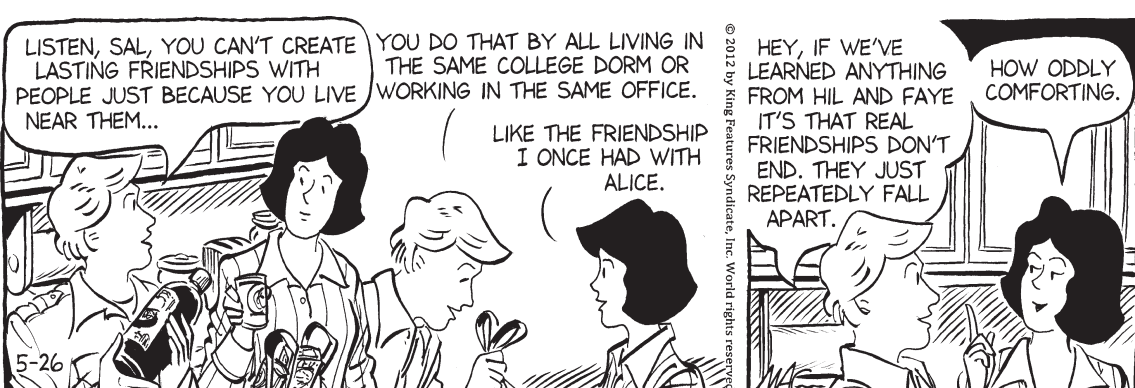
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



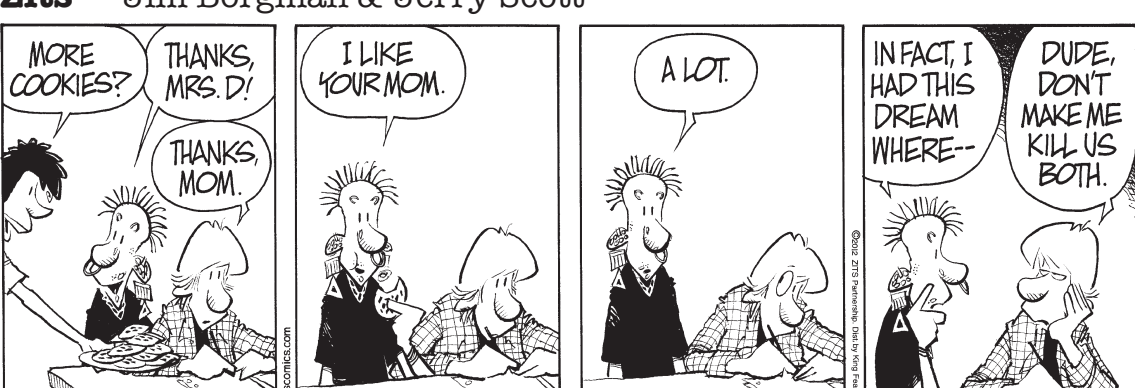
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Give car tires the Lincoln test

Dear Readers: Do you know how long you should wait before buying new tires? Several factors go into determining whether you need new tires, not just wear or time. Here are some hints on what to consider:

Tires are considered worn out when the tread depth reaches 1/16th of an inch. To easily measure this, insert a penny with Lincoln's head down. If the top of Lincoln's head is visible, the tread is too low. It's time for new tires!

Another important factor is age. Most manufacturers recommend (regardless of wear) that tires be replaced every five to six years. Over time, the rubber deteriorates and can cause the tire to fail. To find the manufacture date, check the sidewall. There is a four-digit number. For example, 4611 means that the tires were produced the 46th week of 2011. — Heloise

Readers, please see the letter below for another safety hint.

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: On a trip to a major theme park, I lost my rental-car keys. Luckily, I had taken a picture of the car and license plate with my cell-phone. I showed the picture to the agent at the lost-and-found desk, and she was quickly able to identify my keys. Thank you for making life a little easier — one hint at a time. — Joan, via e-mail

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

LETTER OF LAUGHTER

Dear Heloise: I have a question for you. I would like to know why my cat insists on lying on my feet! No matter whether I am sitting in the front room or in the bathroom, she comes in and throws herself down on my feet — I think she is trying to keep me at home. — Vivian, via e-mail

She must like your company, and your feet are available when a "lap" may not be. — Heloise

DOCTOR DO'S

Dear Heloise: Whenever I schedule doctor appointments for myself or my son, I always try to schedule for as soon as the office opens. As the day goes on, doctors tend to get more and more behind — understandable, as patients often require extra attention. First thing in the morning, the wait time is shorter. This is helpful when you have a small child who has a hard time sitting still for long. — Busy Mom, via e-mail

ORGANIZED STORE COUPONS

Dear Heloise: Regarding the hint about finding coupons for the store list, I make my list on the back of a used envelope, and I asterisk the items I have coupons for. I slip them into the envelope. My husband likes to do the grocery shopping, and he finds this quick and easy. — Pam, via email

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	?	

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

- ♠ AJ94 ♥ KQ2 ♦ 875 ♣ 963
- ♠ KQ73 ♥ 96 ♦ AJ83 ♣ Q84
- ♠ AK8752 ♥ Q763 ♦ 92 ♣ 10
- ♠ AK643 ♥ 85 ♦ Q76 ♣ 852
- ♠ AK932 ♥ QJ ♦ 8743 ♣ A5

Bidding Quiz

1. Three hearts. Even though partner's two-heart bid indicates a minimum opening bid in the 13- to 15-point range, there is still a chance for game. Although you have only 10 high-card points, your K-Q of trumps are worth at least a point more than their face value, so you should invite him to carry on to four. Partner could hold, say, ♠ K6 ♥ AJ10743 ♦ AQ4 ♣ 82, which would make him a favorite to score at least 10 tricks.

2. Two notrump. There's a reasonable chance for game here also, despite partner's discouraging rebid. The best you can do, however, is to suggest that game is still possible by bidding two notrump. If you had the jack of clubs instead of the four, you'd bid three notrump yourself.

3. Four hearts. Here you have only nine high-card points, but the chance for game is actually better than in either of the preceding hands. You have lots of playing tricks and distributional assets, and these are usually more important than high-card count.

It's not easy to visualize a hand partner could have where he'd lose four tricks. Estimating your prospects by counting potential winners or losers is much more reliable than point count in distributional hands.

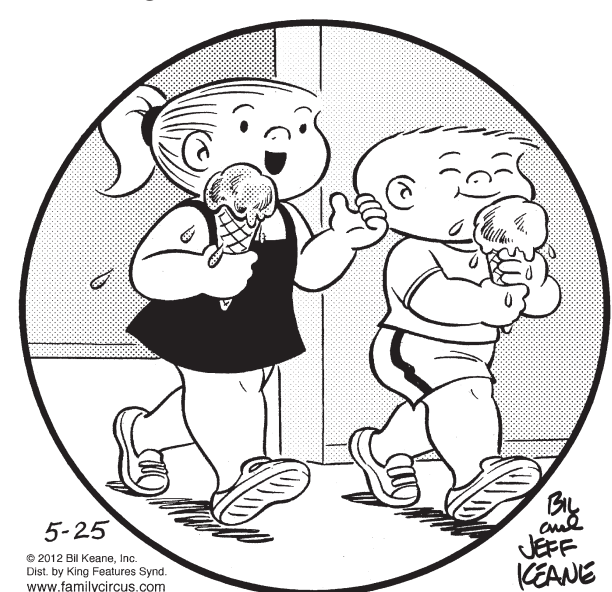
4. Pass. Here there is almost no hope for game opposite an opening bid of the minimum class, so the wisest thing to do is pass. Although your spade response might have been based on a weaker hand — say six points instead of nine — that is not a good argument for bidding again. Partner will welcome your extra values as soon as your hand comes down as dummy.

5. Four hearts. It is unusual to jump-raise with only two trumps, but they're of excellent quality and should be considered more than adequate support for a suit that partner has bid twice. Besides, you want to be sure to get to game with your 14 high-card points, and there's simply no better bid available.

A jump to three notrump, which is a possible alternative, should be avoided because you have inadequate strength in the unbid suits. Hands containing primary strength (aces and kings) usually play better in a suit than at notrump.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

GUCLW U'Q WQSEYVWR BG

B GWLHFUMV JHBFR, VYH

QUJKM GBV U KBZW B

GWCMFV-EWZWE SYGUMUYC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: INSIDE THE MAPLE SYRUP PLANT, I WONDER WHETHER EMPLOYEES WISH ONE ANOTHER MANY SAPPY RETURNS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Pontifical | 55 Leary's | 16 Wan |
| 1 "Holy mackerel!" | 37 Neighbor of Sweden | 20 "Prescription" | 23 Swaddle |
| 4 Addict | 39 Healthy | 24 Emanation | 25 Holler |
| 8 Catch | 40 Billboards | 1 "Dragnet" star | 26 Analgesic |
| 12 Id counterpart | 21 2002 animated movie | 2 Shrek, e.g. | 27 Hodge-podge |
| 13 Infamous | 45 Sandwich shop | 3 Courts | 28 Den |
| 14 Lofty | 48 Our galaxy | 4 "Unmentionables" | 29 — and outs |
| 15 Show place? | 50 Dogfight participants | 5 Drainage system | 6 Historic period |
| 17 Crucifix | 51 Pinnacle | 7 Writer's payment | 32 Immeasurably deep |
| 18 Blues legend | 52 Praise in verse | 8 See 34-Across | 33 Actress |
| 19 Nay undero | 53 Watercraft | 9 Brazilian resort city | 34 Fence component |
| 21 That girl | 54 A deadly sin | 10 In olden times | 38 Trousers statistic |
| 22 Elbow room | | 11 High deg. | 39 Movies |
| 26 Staffs | | | 42 Off base |
| 29 "Monty Python" opener | | | 43 Wanders |
| 30 Regret | | | 44 Kept tabs on |
| 31 "Two and a Half Men" role | | | 45 Brylcreem amount? |
| 32 Whatever number | | | 46 Green, in a sense |
| 33 Marx or Malden | | | 47 Meadow |
| 34 Roman 8-Down | | | 49 Hosp. area |
| 35 Pledge drive station | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

BEER	AREA	TAR	
ALOE	LIEU	AVE	
SINGALONG	GEL		
EASILY	HOARY		
ME	EXTOL		
EDGE	SIR	HOYA	
LIE	AGA	NOW	
FETA	SHY	AGUE	
ALIST	AT		
MILAN	PHOBIA		
ADO	COMEALONG		
TEN	UNIT	LOCO	
HAG	REDS	SNAG	

Yesterday's answer 5-25

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		
45	46	47			48	49				
50					51			52		
53					54					55