

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



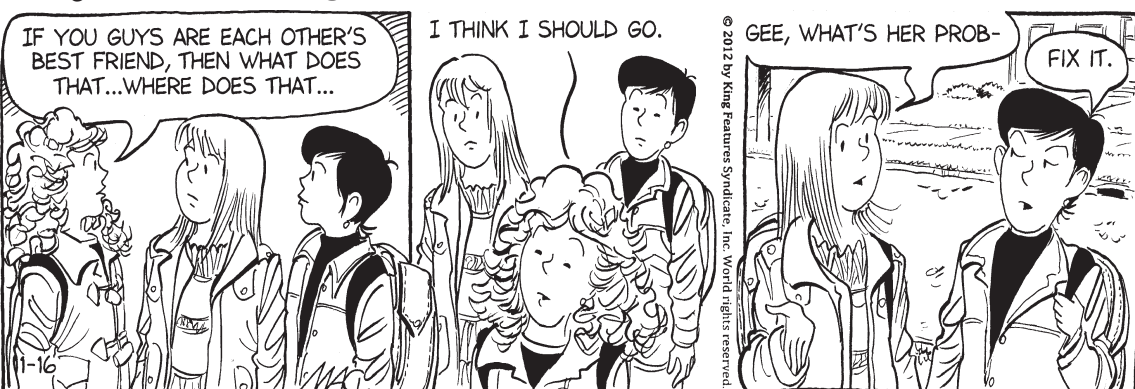
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



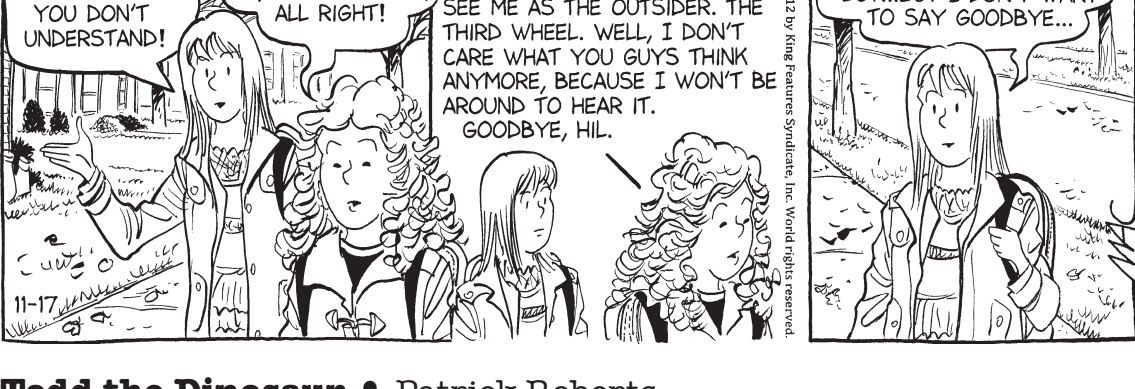
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



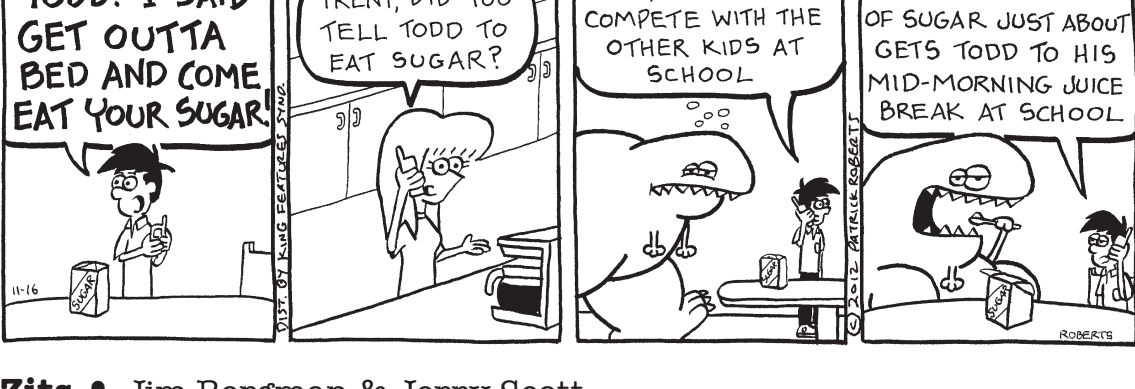
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Know the trick to bathroom lock

Dear Heloise: Many parents often are terrified when a small child locks himself in the bathroom.

Recently in our home, this very thing happened to us. There was no key to unlock the door from the outside, nor could we crawl in the window, as it was too high.

Know what I did? I called a hardware store and told them what kind of door lock I had. (Most door locks in all houses usually are the same type, so if you are in doubt about the brand, you can just open another door and look for the manufacturer's name.)

There happens to be a tiny hole at the base of my doorknob where it connects to the door. I had never seen the hole before. An ice pick or a sharp object, if run into this hole, will immediately unlock the door.

I think it would behoove many a mother to take a minute to look at their bathroom doorknob today. Then if an emergency arises, they will know exactly what to do. This is hazardous not only to children, but to grown-ups, too.

Many times you read where a grown person had a heart attack in the bathroom while shaving or taking a bath. People often faint in the bathroom. Some bathrooms are built on the inside — especially in apartment houses — and have no outside window. This might save a life. — Louise Bowles, via fax

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

PLACE-MAT PROTECTION

Dear Heloise: I don't know about you and your readers, but I hate cleaning up spills in the refrigerator. I bought some cheap, plastic place mats at a store and lined the shelves with them. It is much easier to clean up spills now, and if they get ruined, they are easily replaced. — Tanya in Texas

GOLFER'S DELIGHT

Dear Heloise: There always are golf balls in our house. One day, I started using one to massage my muscles. I roll it under my foot, especially in my arches. Or I take one in my hand and rub my shoulders and neck. It is really nice to have someone help you and roll it on your back. And it doesn't cost much. — Joyce in California

DRY-CLEAN CLOTHES

Dear Heloise: For a "dry clean only" garment I wear several times before cleaning, I slip a hair scrunchie over the top of the hanger each time I wear it. It's easy to tell how many times it has been worn. — L.L. in South Dakota

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

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

- ♠ KQ82 ♥ AK ♦ J3 ♣ KJ976
- ♠ KQ963 ♥ Q7 ♦ A ♣ AQ982
- ♠ AK53 ♥ Q42 ♦ J ♣ AKJ74
- ♠ AQJ2 ♥ — ♦ A954 ♣ AQJ43

Bidding Quiz

1. Two notrump. Partner's one-notrump rebid over one spade is ambiguous. It might range from a poor six-point hand without spade or club support to a moderate hand with as many as 10 points. By raising to two notrump, you indicate a relatively balanced hand containing about 16 to 18 high-card points, and thus invite partner to carry on to three notrump.

Two clubs over one notrump would fail to identify your 17 high-card points, while a jump to three clubs would show your point count, but would misrepresent the length and strength of your club suit.

2. Three spades. With 17 high-card points and two strong five-card suits, you should express your game prospects vociferously. The jump-rebid describes your high-card strength and distribution at the same time.

By rebidding your spades, you indicate five cards in the suit. Partner can then infer that you must also have at least five clubs, since you would not have bid clubs first with less than a five-card suit.

3. Three hearts. You should press hard for game despite your three-card trump support (partner will know you have only three hearts, since you would have raised immediately with four-card support). A two-heart bid would be proper if you had a king less; as it is, though, you can show your actual values with the three-heart bid. Partner can then carry on to game in hearts if he has five of them, or retreat to three notrump if he has only a four-card suit.

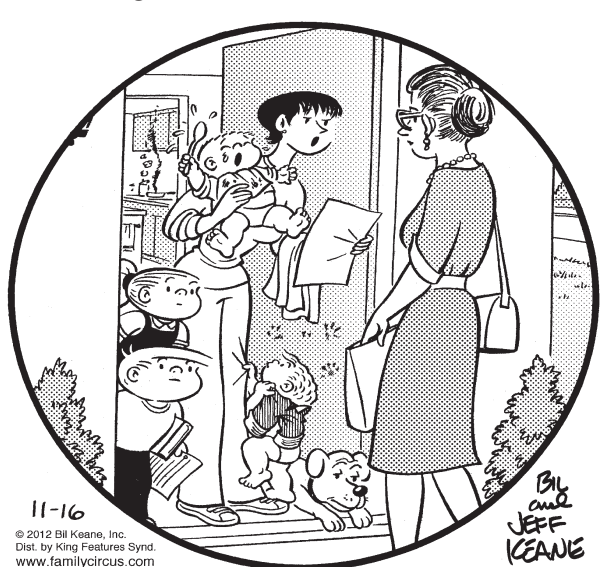
A jump to three clubs would conceal your heart support and would also fail to pinpoint your singleton diamond.

4. Two diamonds. Your diamonds are certainly not hefty, but the situation calls for identification of your distribution. Partner should now read you for 4-0-4-5 distribution and should be able to make the appropriate decision as to the best contract.

You don't jump-rebid here because, after partner's one-heart response, there is a distinct possibility that no satisfactory trump fit exists, in which case there might be no game. At the same time, though, the fact that you have elected to bid all three suits strongly implies a good hand and urges partner to continue bidding.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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.

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

Cryptoquip

PTNSB VCO RG VPT ADG

LPNRAF PAO LZJLZJRAF

EPXXT, GCS TRENXO BDIS

EJRSB "R CPISA'G FDG P EDD!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN THE PHILIPPINES, ONE WOULD PRESUME THAT THE MOST PREFERRED TREATS ARE MANILA WAFERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Muppet master | 35 Walk in the woods | 1 Predicament | 20 Charitable donations |
| 4 Wile E. Coyote's supplier | 37 Less | 2 Wall St. debut | 21 Onion relative |
| 8 Low-diet | 40 Sicko, for short | 3 Indulge in reflection | 22 Crowd? |
| 12 Mimic | 41 Rue the run | 4 Farm statistic | 23 Full house, e.g. |
| 13 Make dinner | 42 Steep | 5 Wheedle | 25 Stopper |
| 14 Medley | 46 Bistro name | 6 Witticism | 26 Spur on |
| 15 Preside over | 47 Shake-speare's river | 7 — out a living | 27 Hebrew month |
| 17 Walden, for one | 48 Plaything | 8 Office machine | 28 Loch — Monster |
| 18 Mountain goat | 49 Broadway prize | 9 — vera | 30 Estate recipient |
| 19 Feudal lord | 50 Wilson predesessor | 10 Circle | 33 Asthmatic, maybe |
| 20 Choir members | 51 Ram's ma'am | 11 Olympic skier | 34 Deserve |
| 22 You | | 12 Black, in verse | 36 Pretense |
| 24 Slender | | 13 Island neckwear | 37 Datum |
| 25 Mao Zedong's title | | | 38 Reverberate |
| 29 Encountered | | | 39 Timely query |
| 30 Band section | | | 40 Campus VIP |
| 31 Praise in verse | | | 42 Wrestling surface |
| 32 Like kebab | | | 43 Actress Gardner |
| 34 Greek letters | | | 44 AAA job |
| | | | 45 Storm center |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-16

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | |