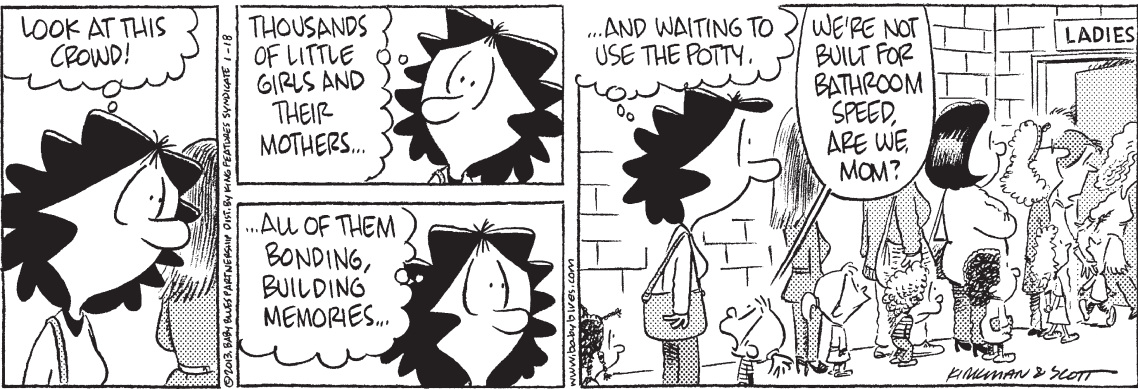
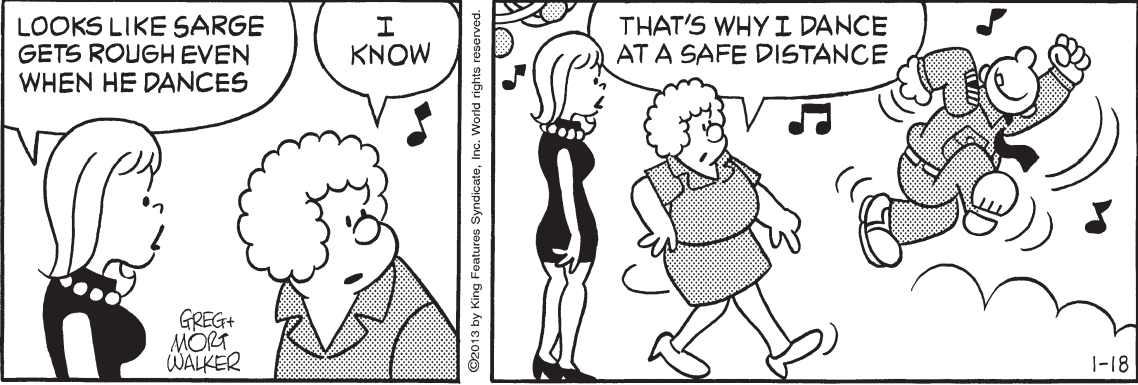


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



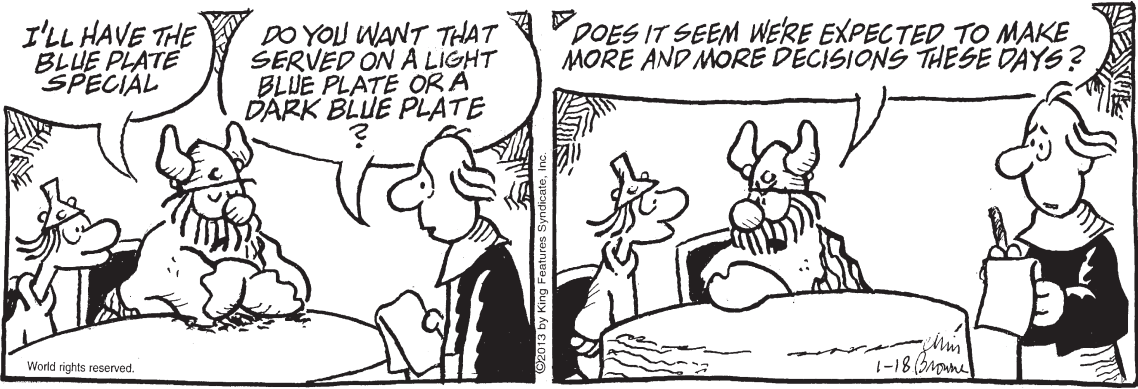
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



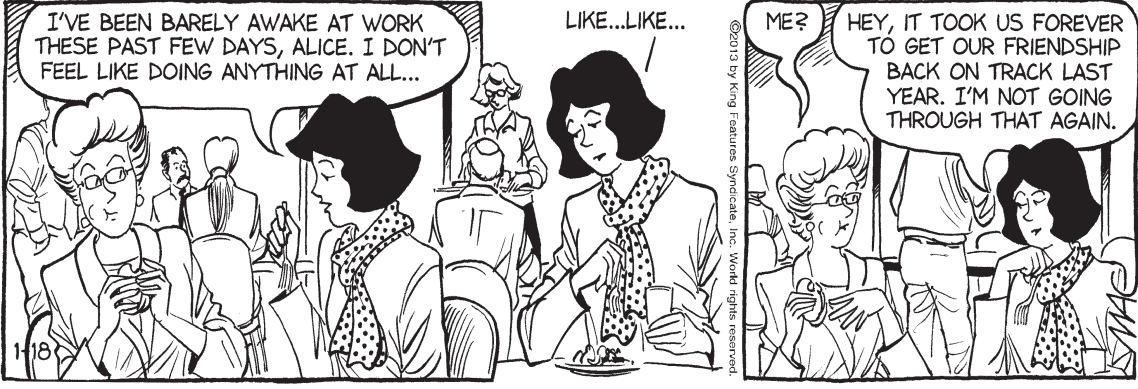
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Heartworm pills needed in winter

Dear Readers: In the winter months, many people may think that they don't need to give their pets heartworm pills, especially in the far Northern states, where winter really settles in. This is not true! The American Heartworm Society recommends giving heartworm prevention year-round, even in seasonal areas. Here are several reasons:

- You can never guarantee that mosquitoes are no longer a threat. Even areas with cold winters can have unseasonably warm periods.
- Many heartworm preventatives also treat for intestinal parasites, like hookworms, roundworms and whipworms, so monthly is good to prevent other problems, too.
- Many companies guarantee their product. If your dog becomes heartworm positive while on their product, they will pay for treatment. But you must be able to prove that they were on it consistently.

The benefits greatly outweigh the risks. Heartworms can be anywhere from 4 to 12 inches and are deadly. Heartworm prevention is much less expensive than the treatment, much safer, and much easier for your beloved dog! – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Here is an easy way to make luggage tags: Take brightly colored index cards (neon colors work great) and write or print the desired information. Many stores sell laminating pages that you can just peel and stick. I use packing tape and cover both sides of the card, then trim around the edges. Punch a hole, tie it to your suitcase and you are ready to go. The bright color also helps identify your bag much quicker! – Sandy in Florida

TAILGATING TROUBLE

Dear Heloise: I hate, when I am driving, for someone to tailgate me, so I used to just tap my brakes in hopes of getting them off my bumper. Well, I have found a better way, and while it doesn't work all the time, it works much better and more often than tapping my brakes. I just switch on my emergency flashers, and that, quite often, is successful. – W.M. in Texas

Even though people do it, tapping your brakes is never safe. And using the flashing emergency lights while driving is not recommended, either. The best solution, if possible, is to move over and let the driver be on his or her way. – Heloise

TISSUE ISSUE

Dear Heloise: I had a few tissues end up in the wash – what a mess! Just out of desperation, I tossed a microfiber rag into the dryer along with the clothes strewn with tissue bits. It worked wonderfully to collect the tissue. – Michelle Bennett in Maryland

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and North opens One Diamond, over which East bids One Spade. What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠AQ6 ♥872 ♦963 ♣9754
2. ♠Q94 ♥AJ8 ♦AQ7 ♣Q872
3. ♠KJ9852 ♥97 ♦84 ♣Q63
4. ♠K8 ♥102 ♦AQ95 ♣AKJ53
5. ♠97 ♥962 ♦AJ87 ♣AQ96

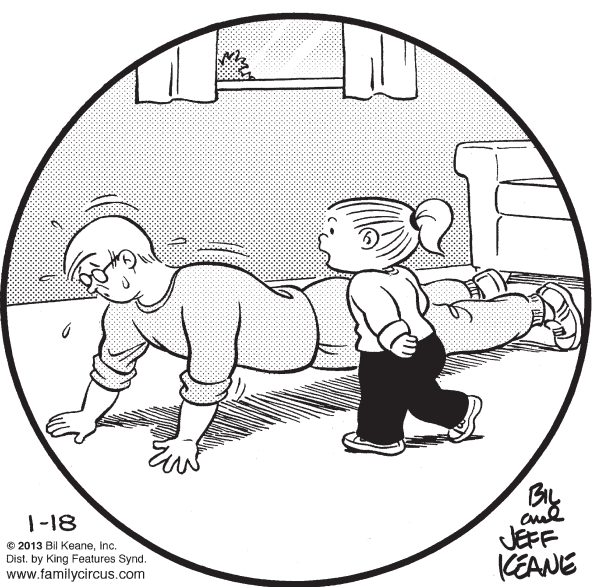
Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. You presumably would have responded one notrump if East had passed, but you are relieved of that obligation after East intervenes with one spade. The temptation to bid one notrump to show that you have the spades stopped should be resisted, since such a bid, voluntarily made, indicates a good seven to 10 points rather than just six.
2. Two notrump. The requirements for a jump-response of two notrump – balanced hand with 13 to 15 points – are the same whether there is an intervening bid or not. True, your spade stopper is a bit tenuous, but this minor blemish does not nullify the descriptive advantage to be gained by bidding two notrump.
3. Pass. If you play that a double would be for penalties in this situation, there is certainly a strong temptation to take that action here, but from a tactical standpoint, this would be the wrong thing to do. Whenever you double for penalties after partner has opened the bidding, you are encouraging him to double anything else the opponents bid -- and here you are not at all prepared for such a development. Moreover, you guarantee you will take further action of some kind if the overcaller's partner runs to a different suit and your partner passes – and you aren't ready to do that, either.
4. Three clubs. The best way to alert partner to the possibility of a slam is to start by jump-shifting in clubs. This shows at least 17 points, including distributional values. By bidding clubs now and raising diamonds later, you will imply shortage in either spades or hearts, or possibly both. Once you jump-shift and then support diamonds, you should leave the rest to partner.
5. Two clubs. Here you are confronted by a fairly common situation: Your values are too good for a raise to two diamonds and not good enough for a (forcing) raise to three diamonds. In other words, your hand is worth a bid of about two-and-a-half diamonds.

The usual way to try to resolve this dilemma is to first bid a new suit, compelling partner to bid again, and then raise diamonds later to encourage him to continue bidding. An alternative, now popular with many players, would be to bid two spades, a cuebid of the opponent's suit, to indicate a hand of 11 or more points with diamond support.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Are you allowed to count by fives like that?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/18

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/17

Cryptoquip

HY JNM AUIU VN OUA

VNTUVQUI Z YRJHGT VNJ

NMV NY PZGE SIZYVO, ANMRS

JNM PU EHVHGT WQUWEO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WANT TO PURCHASE SOME PUPPIES AT ROCK-BOTTOM PRICES? HEAD ON DOWN TO THE BARKIN' BASEMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Swelled head | 35 Choral composition | 1 Apiece number |
| 4 Marble chunk | 36 Jewel | 2 Disco style |
| 8 Taj Mahal city | 37 Dine | 3 Hedge-podge |
| 12 "You've got mail" co. | 38 Free from responsibility | 4 Casual wear |
| 13 Carry on | 45 PC picture | 5 Homes for gnomes? |
| 14 Hairstyle | 46 Trams' contents | 6 On in years |
| 15 Hollywood trickery, for short | 47 Grand —, N.S. | 7 "Symphonie Fantastique" composer |
| 16 Basin accessory | 48 "Vanilla Sky" actress | 8 Low-pH chemicals |
| 17 Greek vowel | 49 Verifiable | 9 Suitable |
| 18 Firetruck gear | 50 Slithery swimmer | 10 Ceremony |
| 21 "— Im-possible" | 51 Continental coin | 11 Some-where out there |
| 22 Office-holders | 52 Actress | 19 Potter's need |
| 23 Bocce equipment | 53 Filch | |

Solution time: 27 mins.

OPS	FCC	ERASE
PEA	ILL	DUGIN
TRY	BOARD	GAME
ITS	STRAY	
CHOP	HAIJ	AMEN
	ODE	AFLAME
VOILA		LA SSO
AFRAME	SUM	
STAR	NUT	OILY
	SISAL	DUE
NOTREDA	AME	ANA
TRAIN	GEE	HAS
HEROD	ENS	ORT

Yesterday's answer 1-19

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				52				53		