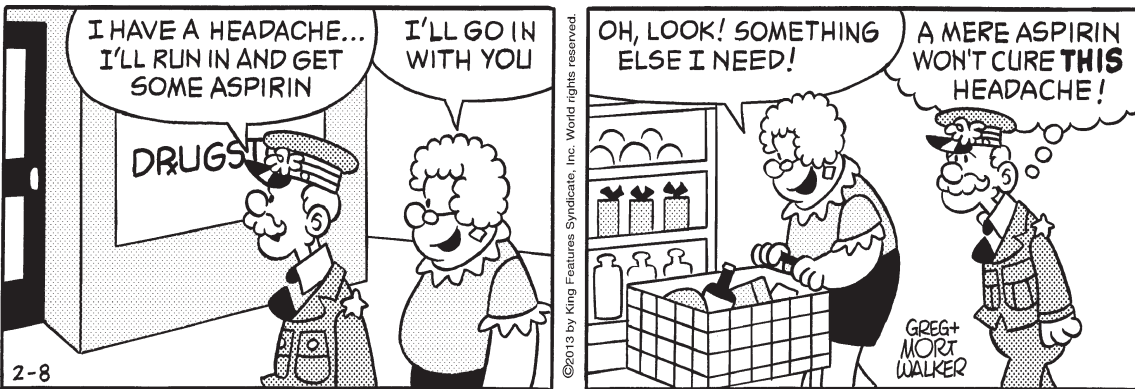


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



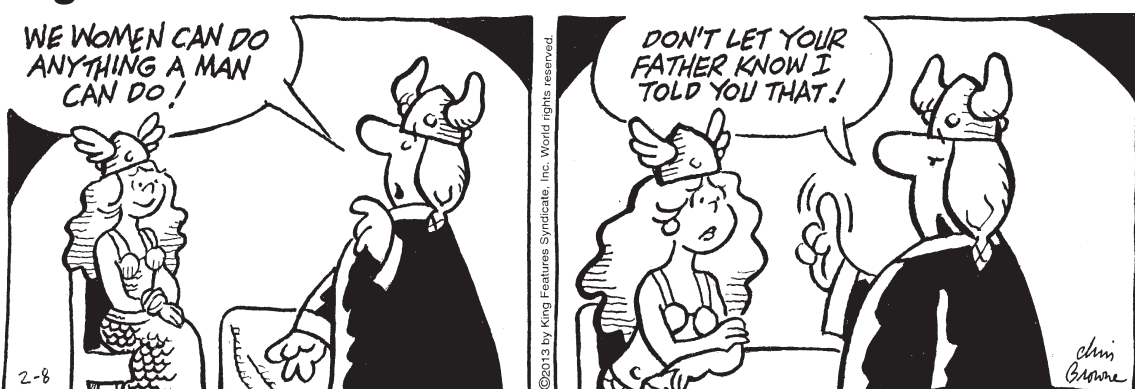
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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

Old awards give new reward

Dear Readers: A reader wrote in asking what she could do with her kids' old trophies. Here is what some of you had to say:

• Brady in Texas wrote: "My brother was a teacher at a school for at-risk students. He'd spend all year gathering and putting new life into old baseball mitts and trophies. In the spring, he would organize a softball tournament for the students. He told me those trophies were the only thing most of those kids had ever won."

• Sherry in Virginia wrote: "We donated a lot of ours (we are a bowling family) to the local Veterans Administration hospital. The nameplates were changed and given to the veterans who participated in their bowling tournament."

• Nancy in Alabama wrote: "I set up a photo shoot for my daughter's trophies and took a close-up shot of each one. Then I pried off the nameplate and took the trophies to the local Girls Club. I made a CD of the photos for my daughter. Everyone was happy."

• A Reader, via e-mail, wrote: "I'm an awards dealer, and we welcome old trophies. Too often, youth groups have low budgets. We like to see every child get something."

What great ideas! Keep the hints coming! — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I take many road trips, and I often am in unfamiliar cities. When driving in, I pay attention to where the local hospitals or minor emergency clinics are located. There usually are signs off the main highways designating hospitals. I like to be prepared, in case I ever am in need of one. Luckily, that hasn't happened yet. — Dan in Florida

NIX THE GNATS

Dear Heloise: I am having gnat problems with my indoor plants — some more than others. I change the soil and mix used coffee grounds with it. I still get gnats. Please help! — Gloria in Colorado

One of my classic hints is to mix a little dish soap into the water and use that mixture to water the plants. There also are many commercial products available that will kill gnats. Sprinkle a tablespoon of granulated insecticide over the top of the soil. These can be found at most home-improvement or garden stores.

Gnats are attracted to moist soil, so the best way to prevent gnats is to let the soil (or at least the top inch or two) dry completely in between watering. — Heloise

DOGGIE MEALS

Dear Heloise: My dog is on a special food for health reasons, so when I board him, I have to take his own food. I started premeasuring the food for the kennel workers. I place each feeding amount in a small, zippered plastic bag. It not only helps me by making sure I have sent enough food, but it helps the workers save time by not having to measure it themselves. — Jean in Iowa

Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

West North East South
1♥ Dble Redble ?

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

- ♠ 952 ♥ 874 ♦ 63 ♣ KJ962
- ♠ Q864 ♥ 97632 ♦ 74 ♣ 85
- ♠ J73 ♥ 105 ♦ Q852 ♣ Q974
- ♠ QJ543 ♥ A72 ♦ 10983 ♣ 6
- ♠ J65 ♥ QJ93 ♦ Q95 ♣ J32
- ♠ QJ98742 ♥ 10 ♦ J84 ♣ 83

Bidding Quiz

1. Two clubs. Partner's takeout double has asked you to choose one of the three unbid suits, but after East's redouble, you do not have to say anything since partner has another chance to bid. However, in this situation a pass by you would imply that you had no real preference for any of the three suits. For this reason, you should bid two clubs at this point because it's the only one of the three suits that you can tolerate. Also, the two-club bid might help your partner find the best opening lead.

2. One spade. This is the same idea as in the previous problem. If you were to pass, you'd run the risk that partner might bid two clubs or two diamonds. You bid spades now to try to keep partner out of trouble.

3. Pass. This time you should let your partner select the suit, since you have at least moderate support for any suit he chooses.

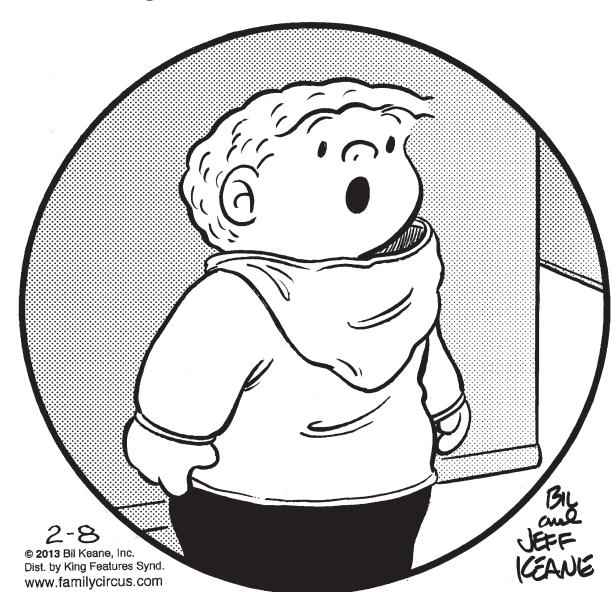
4. Two spades. The jump-response indicates that you're bidding from strength and not from fright. It indicates a mild interest in game but is not forcing.

5. One notrump. This is not a weakness bid — in general, you don't answer a takeout double with one notrump when you hold a weak hand. The purpose of the notrump call is to advise partner that you have a balanced hand with one or two heart stoppers, as well as a smattering of other values.

6. Three spades. This is a pre-emptive bid, pure and simple. The primary purpose of the three-spade response is to cramp the opponents' bidding in the hope that you can prevent them from getting to their best contract. At the same time, it might induce partner to bid four spades — either as a sacrifice against four hearts or as a genuine attempt to make game.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My sweatshirt was made wrong. They put the hood on the front!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/08

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.

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

Cryptoquip

WQYKTQX JDKJ FHTQ'U EYTX

SHTUJ KTWDYTX QYUUNA

MKU ZVHJY DKTTNMHAF. HJ

QYSJ DYT KQQ K-ZVHEYT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOMEBODY RECENTLY TOLD ME THAT THE MOUNTAIN DRIVING TEST IS BEING GRADED ON A CURVE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Handle roughly
 - 4 Dog bane
 - 8 Back talk
 - 12 Past flier
 - 13 Peruse
 - 14 Clarinet's cousin
 - 15 Mansion staff
 - 17 Smolder
 - 18 Catches some rays
 - 19 Playful water critter
 - 20 Moral standard
 - 22 Own
 - 24 Destroy
 - 25 Peace
 - 29 Inseparable
 - 30 Permanent inmate
 - 31 "Golly!"
 - 32 Snakes away (at)
 - 35 Gross

- DOWN**
- 1 — de
 - 2 Census
 - 3 More deserving
 - 4 Swiss money
 - 5 Periscope part
 - 6 Dine on
 - 7 Billboards
 - 8 Cushion
 - 9 Touch
 - 10 A few
 - 11 Palm-reader, maybe
 - 16 Futile
 - 19 Finished
 - 20 Love god
 - 21 Melody
 - 22 Substantial
 - 23 War god
 - 25 Go under
 - 26 Unknown
 - 27 Earl Grey and kin
 - 28 Some evergreens
 - 30 Poland's Mr.
 - 33 Urban Walesa
 - 34 Merri-ment
 - 36 Battle
 - 37 Guns the engine
 - 38 Black-and-white snack
 - 39 "Do — others..."
 - 40 Cereal choice
 - 42 Dine
 - 43 Greek vowel
 - 44 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
 - 45 Pair

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-8

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					