

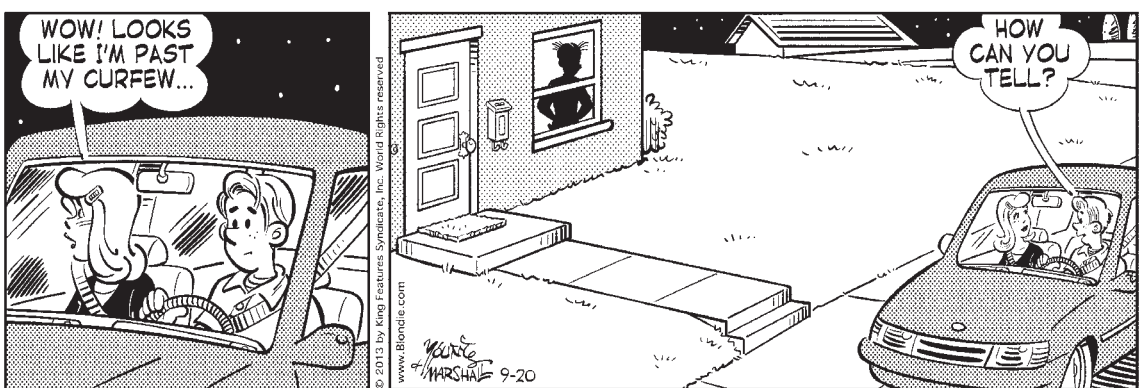
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



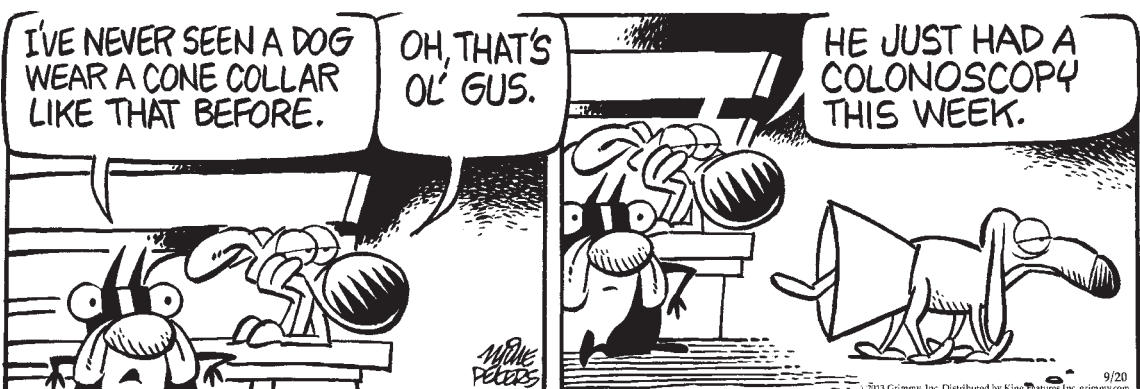
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



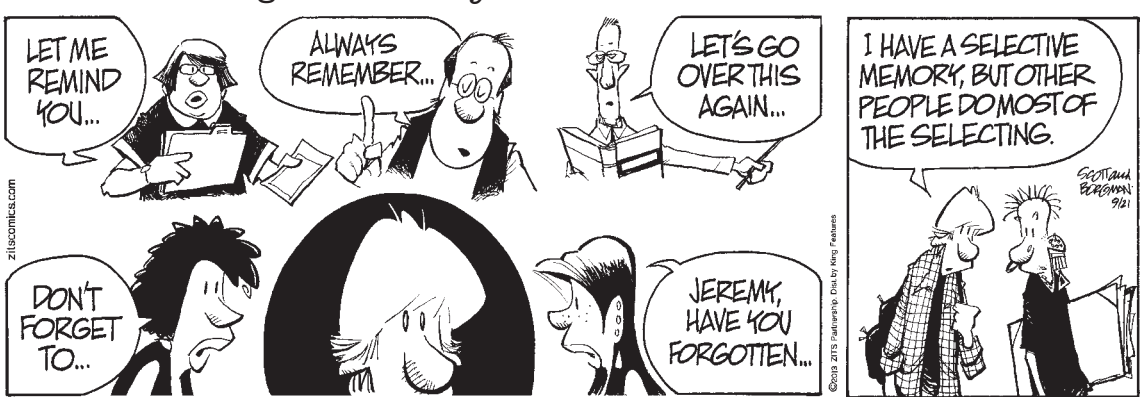
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Microfiber helps keep cycle fresh

Dear Heloise: I'm the proud new owner of a Ural Patrol sidecar rig. I know you have had a Ural motorcycle for some time, and I wanted to know if you had any hints for me. — Jerri in Holiday Island, Ark.

Love the bike, and it's really fun (and safer than a two-wheel) to ride through the Texas Hill Country. I do have a few hints for you:

- Use rubbing alcohol and a microfiber cloth to shine any chrome on the motorcycle.
- Travel with a small, plastic spray bottle of half vinegar and half water. Use a microfiber cloth and the solution to freshen the inside of your helmet.
- Use the same vinegar solution to clean mirrors.

• After taking off your boots, sprinkle baking soda in them and/or stuff them with newspaper to keep odor down.

• If your hands get dry while riding, slather them with lotion and put on cotton gloves.

Keep the wheels on the ground! — Heloise
P.S.: The best Heloise motorcycle hint: Wear a helmet. I always have, and I've had my motorcycle license since 1974. Go to my website, www.Heloise.com, and watch the videos of me riding in Texas!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: My phone has a feature where I can write notes. On vacation, I keep track of what I did, saw and took pictures of. When I get home, I go over the notes and type up a description of each day. Then when I scrapbook, I place the description on the page with the pictures. Years later, it is a great reminder. — Nita in Texas

SHOE SOLES

Dear Heloise: My son's baby shoes held memories for me. I took the shoes, a long piece of white paper and some water-based paint. I coated the bottom of the shoes in paint and made a print of them. I started with the smallest pair and worked up. Under each print, I labeled his age. When it dried, I framed it. — Mandi in Mississippi

TRASH-CAN LINERS

Dear Heloise: I use plastic grocery bags as trash-can liners in my bathrooms. To save time (and storage space), I put several bags on the trash can at the same time. When it needs to be taken out, I just pull off the top bag, and there is already a new one in place. — Melissa in Georgia
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Bridge • Steve Becker

Below are six statements of fact or fiction. Decide whether each statement is True or False.

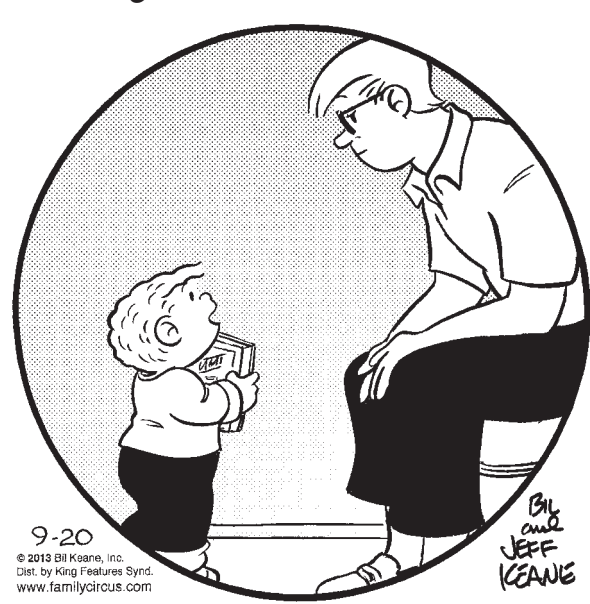
1. You should undertake a grand slam if the only potential loser for your side lies in a suit where you have A-9-8-7-2 opposite K-6-5-4-3.
2. Dummy has K-9-8-7 of a suit, and you (South) have A-Q-6. You play the A-Q, West following with the 2-4 and East the 3-10. When you next lead the six, West produces the five. The percentage play is to put up dummy's king.
3. If your right-hand opponent bids One Spade and you overcall with One Diamond, there is no penalty if you change your bid to Two Diamonds to make the bid sufficient.
4. Partner opens One Heart. If you respond Four Hearts, it is a stronger bid than Three Hearts.
5. Dummy has J-10-5 of trumps, and you, the declarer, have K-7-6-4-3-2. The best way to try to hold yourself to just one trump loser is to lead the five from dummy, planning to go up with the king.
6. If you and partner bid: 1 ♦-1 ♠-1 NT-2 ♥, the Two Heart bid is forcing.

True-or-False Quiz

1. True. A grand slam should be bid when the probability of making it exceeds 67 percent. When three cards of a suit are missing, they will divide 2-1 78 percent of the time, so the odds favor bidding a grand slam.
2. False. The theory of restricted choice applies to this situation. According to the theory, after the play to the first two tricks, and assuming best defense by East-West, East is twice as likely to have been dealt the 10-3 as the J-10-3. The odds are thus approximately 2-to-1 in favor of finessing the nine.
3. True. But if you make any other sufficient bid including a pass, your partner is barred from bidding for the remainder of the auction.
4. False. Leaping directly to game in hearts shows a distributional hand of approximately nine points or less, excellent trump support (usually five cards or more) and a singleton or a void. Depending on how your partnership plays, the jump to three hearts either shows 11 or 12 points (a limit raise), or 13 or more points (forcing to game).
5. True. Percentage-wise, this approach is far better than leading the jack from dummy, planning to finesse against the queen.
6. False. In the given sequence, after a one-notrump rebid by opener, a two-heart bid says you have a weak hand that would like to play in either two spades or two hearts and asks partner to choose between the two suits. While you could arrange with partner to treat two hearts as forcing in this sequence, that is not the majority view.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-20
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 9/20

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Y B Z V I C B J P B V S L Q L I C

F V H D V Q L L Y Q L F B O J C T B D

O C I N N L C B O J P V C Y B Z L S B

V P L N T B C C Q L S V H J O Z

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A SLITHERING SIDEWINDER REALLY WANTED TO FRIGHTEN OFF THAT GUY, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE RATTLED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | Chris |
| 1 Pickle holder | 35 Unctuous nymph | 20 Roast beef au — |
| 4 Bumps off | 37 Assertion | 21 Green land |
| 8 Unfriendly | 40 Black, in verse | 22 Meat moistener |
| 12 Work with | 41 Family member | 23 Biographer's write-up |
| 13 Void partner | 42 Cornmeal concoctions | 25 Exam format |
| 14 Reed instrument | 46 — de foie gras | 26 Adept |
| 15 Without talking | 47 One of Pac-Man's pursuers | 27 Met melody |
| 17 Friend of Dorothy | 48 Swelled head | 28 Start |
| 18 Duel tool | 49 Litigant | 30 Gloomy |
| 19 Dark, as twilight | 50 — of the D'Urber-villes | 33 Thyroid problem |
| 20 Barber-shop quartet member | 51 Wall Street stat, with "The" | 34 Press |
| 22 Morose | | 36 Follows the rules |
| 24 Chart toppers | | 37 Upper-case |
| 25 One of Monopoly's light blue avenues | | 38 Waikiki wingding |
| 29 Raw rock | | 39 Initial chip |
| 30 Ill-gotten gain | | 40 Antlered herd |
| 31 Exist | | 42 Orchestra's place |
| 32 "Julia" Oscar winner Vanessa | | 43 Indivisible |
| 34 Pelvic bones | | 44 Earlier |
| | | 45 Scatter seed |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-20

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	