## Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott
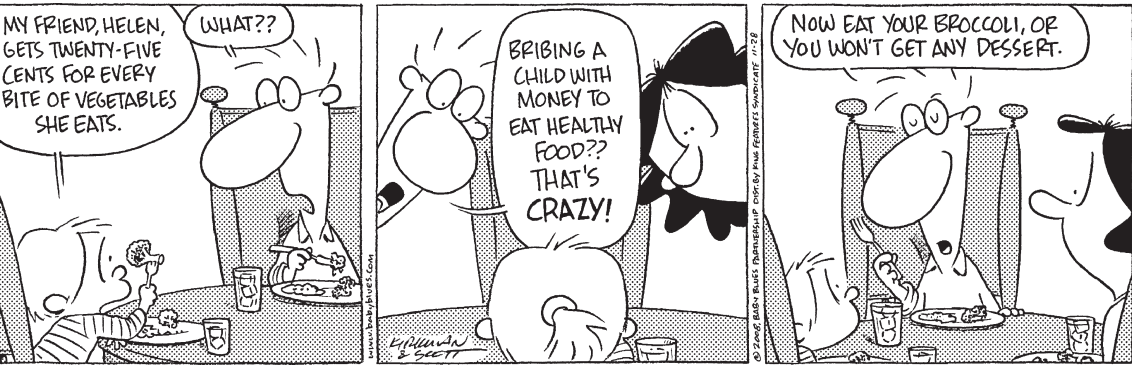


## Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



## Blondie • Chic Young



## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



## Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



## Sally Forth • Greg Howard



## Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



## Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



### Conceptis SuDoKu
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ ★ ★ ★

11/28

*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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.*



## Bridge

**You are South,** neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | ? | |

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

1. ♠ AJ743 ♥ 8 ♦ 97 ♣ KJ852
2. ♠ KQ875 ♥ 943 ♦ AJ ♣ KQ6
3. ♠ AK962 ♥ 7 ♦ Q84 ♣ AJ65
4. ♠ KJ632 ♥ 10 ♦ 4 ♣ Q98753

\* \* \*

### Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. There is no good reason to bid again over three notrump, despite your 5-5-2-1 distribution. Granting that such hands generally play better in a suit, the fact remains that you've told partner about your preference for suit play and he has said he's not interested.

2. Six notrump. This is a matter of simple arithmetic. Partner's jump to two notrump announced 18 or 19 points, and you have 15. The combined total is 33 or 34 points, which means that bidding a slam is mandatory. Your three-club bid was designed to find out if partner had three-card support for spades, and now that he said he hasn't, you have no reason to doubt that notrump is the best denomination.

3. Four diamonds. A slam is clearly imminent here also, but this time there is a good possibility that partner's diamonds will prove a superior medium for the slam.

It is certainly reasonable to assume that partner has precisely two spades because of his failure to bid three spades at his last turn. He is therefore highly likely to have five diamonds for his bidding to date. If that is the case, he may find it much easier to make six diamonds than six notrump.

Your four-diamond bid is, of course, forcing. If partner bids five diamonds over four, you plan to carry on to six.

4. Four clubs. This is a tough choice, but the odds favor suit play over notrump. There are two important differences between this hand and the first one.

Your distribution there was 5-5-2-1; here it is 6-5-1-1, which is decidedly less satisfactory for notrump purposes. Also, in the first hand you had nine high-card points, giving your side more than the 26 normally needed to make three notrump, while here you have only six points, leaving you a point or two short of 26. In terms of pure probability, game is more likely in one of your suits -- where your distribution can play a role -- than in notrump.

Tomorrow: Last chance.

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## Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Who do you think is a better actor — SpongeBob or Bart Simpson?"

## Crossword

**ACROSS**
1 Bug killer
4 "— Wiedersehen"
7 Son of Japheth
12 Second person
13 Chromosome component
14 Home
15 Under the weather
16 Titmouse's cousin
18 Ph. bk. info
19 Bizarre
20 CSA uniforms
22 Pi follower
23 Entreaty
27 Feedbag tidbit
29 Swindle
31 Really bad
34 Blue hue
35 Printed calico
37 Wood-shaping tool
38 Chinese gang
39 Have
41 Host
45 Wine option
47 Perfume label word
48 Taco Bell mascot
52 Sleeve contents
53 Made on a loom
54 Rowboat need
55 Poorly lit
56 Rendezvous
57 On in years
58 For example

**DOWN**
1 Very eager (to)
2 Sorrow
3 Oklahoma city
4 Not pizzicato
5 Not needing medical attention
6 Hill of music
7 Put together
8 Lawyers' org.
9 Pantheon member
10 "— to Joy"
11 "Golly!"
17 Gator's kin
21 Mormon leader
23 Popular takeout entree
24 Baton Rouge sch.
25 Always, in verse
26 Pub order
28 Model Carol
30 Conned
31 Performance
32 One of the five W's
33 Dorsal appendage
36 "J'accuse" writer
37 Yearly
40 Rodeo rider's cry
42 Peruses
43 "West Side Story" song
44 "Delish!"
45 Batter's tactic
46 Jack, e.g.
48 100 lbs.
49 Perp. to vert.
50 Trellis climber
51 "— So Fine"

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 11-28

## Cryptoquip

A V X X - Y M K A M   O F N S Q   P F X V

O V F P T S N M C   F   C S K T B   K O

A S N M Y X Q - G Y N M M V E   P K Q   E K C G :

" P D V   P D S V V   X N P P X V   B T C G . "

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN FROLICKING WITH A WELL-FED WEB-FOOTED BIRD, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE PLAYING WITH A FULL DUCK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals T