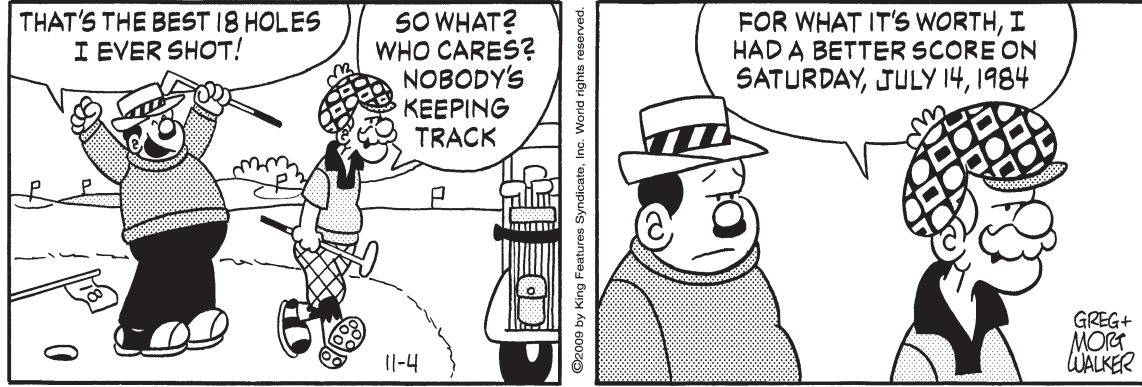


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



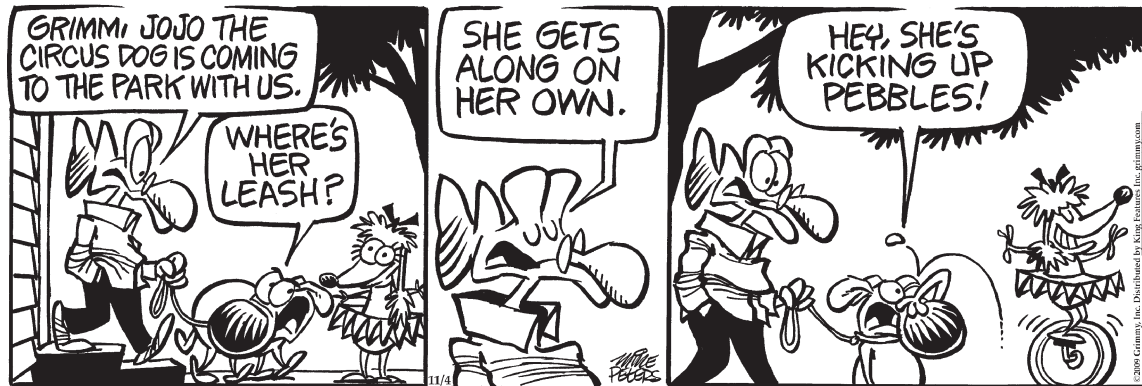
**Blondie** • Chic Young



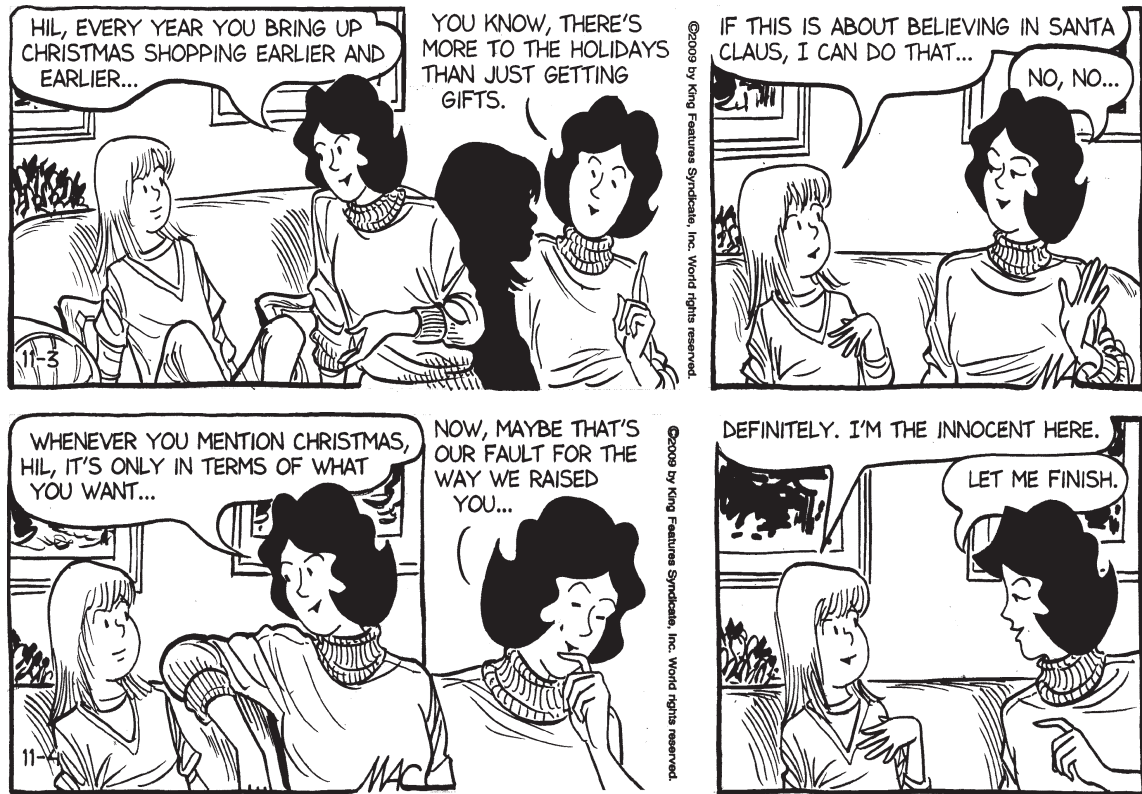
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**How to send a treat for troops**

Dear Heloise: Our church group has decided to start sending baked goods as CARE PACKAGES to military personnel in Iraq. We brainstormed several ideas, such as shoe boxes, etc., but found that the best way to send a cake to anyone overseas is to bake the cake in a small, metal coffee can. After baking, remove the cake to cool. Then repack it in the can, put on the plastic lid the coffee came with and pack the can in a postal box. Soldiers tell us that they love getting cakes this way for two reasons:

1. The cake arrives in one piece
2. The cake can be stored easily, with an airtight lid, if it's not eaten all at once. – Gwen, via e-mail

How wonderful to hear that your group is sending home-baked goodies to our troops! Nothing beats a treat from the heart and kitchen!

Your group deserves a big Heloise hug, and I know the troops who receive the goodies are appreciative, too.

I'd love to hear hints from other readers who send treats to troops. – Heloise

**HELOISE'S HOT COCOA MIX**

Dear Readers: There's a chill in the air, and that means it's time to reprint Heloise's Hot Cocoa Mix recipe.

Combine:

- 2 cups of powdered milk
- A dash of salt
- 1/4 cup of cocoa
- 1 cup of powdered sugar

Mix all of the ingredients together and put into a nice container. Decorated containers make great holiday gift ideas! Type or hand-write a label with these directions:

To use, put approximately 4 tablespoons into a cup and fill with 8 ounces of boiling water. You may want to use more or less to your taste." To receive a copy of Heloise's All-Time Favorite Recipes, which includes Heloise's Apricot Preserves and other tasty, easy-to-make recipes, send \$5 with a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Recipes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: For hot chocolate with a "creamier" taste, add about 1/3 cup powdered nondairy creamer and/or 1 tablespoon malted milk powder. Sprinkle a dash of cinnamon or allspice for zing, and top with a marshmallow. – Heloise

**EASY PEEL**

Dear Heloise: I have a suggestion for people who love avocados, mangos and even hard-cooked eggs, but find that stiff fingers resist the chore of peeling and dicing.

You can bypass some of that by cutting the avocado in half, discarding the big pit and scooping the contents with a teaspoon.

With the mango, you can cut each side off and then scoop. The part left on the pit is then easily diced.

A hard-cooked egg can be cut in half through the shell, and with a small spoon, the yolk and white come out easily. – Trudy, San Antonio

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A 1 9  
♥ A Q 7 6 4 2  
♦ 2  
♣ A K 5  
**WEST**  
♠ Q 10 8 7  
♥ K 10 8  
♦ 9 8 4 3  
♣ 9 7  
**EAST**  
♠ 5 4 3 2  
♥ J 9  
♦ J 7 6 5  
♣ Q J 10  
**SOUTH**  
♠ K 6  
♥ 5 3  
♦ A K Q 10  
♣ 8 6 4 3 2

The bidding:  
East 2 ♠ South 2 ♣ West 7 ♠ North 7 ♣  
Pass Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead — nine of clubs.

**Sylvia Stages a Neat Recovery**

Despite anything you may have heard to the contrary, this was the hand that launched Sylvia upon her amazing series of misadventures at the club.

The deal occurred shortly after she became a member. There is no question that the Admissions Committee would have rejected Sylvia's application for membership had it been aware of how poorly she played, or how little experience she had had.

I was not present when the hand arose, but the bidding was reported to me to have taken place as shown.

Sylvia was South and bid two spades (a strong opening in those days) after East had passed. Obviously, she had suffered a mental aberration of some sort. Perhaps she was counting aloud how many spades she had, or was thinking about the previous hand. Whatever the reason, West passed, and North promptly bid seven spades.

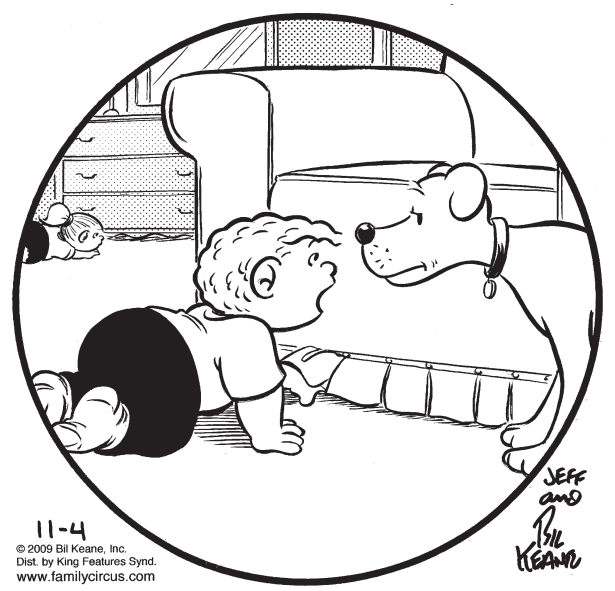
Sylvia was agast at this turn of events, but, as usual, she showed no outward sign that anything was wrong. She won the club lead in dummy, led a diamond and, having learned several days earlier how to finesse, played the ten.

After the ten held, she cashed the A-K-Q, discarding a club and two hearts from dummy. Sylvia then finessed the queen of hearts, cashed the ace of clubs and ace of hearts and ruffed a heart with the six of spades.

Nine tricks had been played, and West was down to the Q-10-8-7 of trumps. When Sylvia now led a club, West ruffed with the seven but was overruffed by dummy's nine. And when Sylvia trumped dummy's last heart with her king, West had to undertrump with the eight. A club lead then trapped West's Q-10, allowing dummy's A-J to score the last two tricks, and the grand slam came rolling home!

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



11-4  
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www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/04

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

DHPRRCRY IL OXCHS KXYA  
JLQPH ILGOM, C OAHCAUA  
PRTCARI AYQDICPRM KPS IL  
SAUCMA DQJPGCS MTKAGAM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC TALE CONCERNING A SMALL MOTOR THAT COPIED A PIGEON: "THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COOED."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Foolish sort
- 5 Satchel delay
- 12 A Katzenjammer kid
- 13 Commotion
- 14 NASA's "Forget it"
- 15 "Oh, really?"
- 17 PC picture
- 18 Mar
- 19 Harm
- 21 Peruse
- 24 Tooth-paste type
- 25 Bit of banter
- 28 Ark builder
- 30 Caustic solution
- 33 Past
- 34 Line dance?
- 35 Wet wriggler
- 36 Feathery accessory
- 37 "— Karenina"

**DOWN**

- 1 Anything but
- 2 Nasty stinger
- 3 Grooving on
- 4 Unisex garb
- 5 Cudgel
- 6 Billboards
- 7 Suitable
- 8 Japanese cartooning style
- 9 Commonly named
- 10 Highly excited
- 11 Southern bread
- 16 Hearty brew
- 20 Mideast VIP
- 22 Shortly
- 23 "Death Be Not Proud"
- 25 Poet
- 26 "I" strain
- 27 Unspecified people
- 29 Culture medium
- 31 Verily
- 32 46-Across provider
- 34 Feature of a Batsuit
- 38 Off the boat
- 40 Marble type
- 42 Donkey
- 43 Remedy
- 44 Met melody
- 45 Break suddenly
- 47 "Hi, sailor"
- 48 Teaspoonful, at times
- 49 Greek vowels
- 52 Eggs
- 53 X rating?

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

ALF	DEBRA	DAB								
CEL	ENRON	RUE								
HOUSE	COAT	END								
AMO	CHEATS									
LODGER	HELM									
EUR	DEC	MACAW								
ASEA	SUB	NONE								
STALL	PAC	AKA								
MAMA	TARTAR									
SUBT	TIRE									
PRO	HOUSEBOAT									
AGA	ELATE	USE								
MET	SARAN	THE								

Yesterday's answer 11-4

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				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		