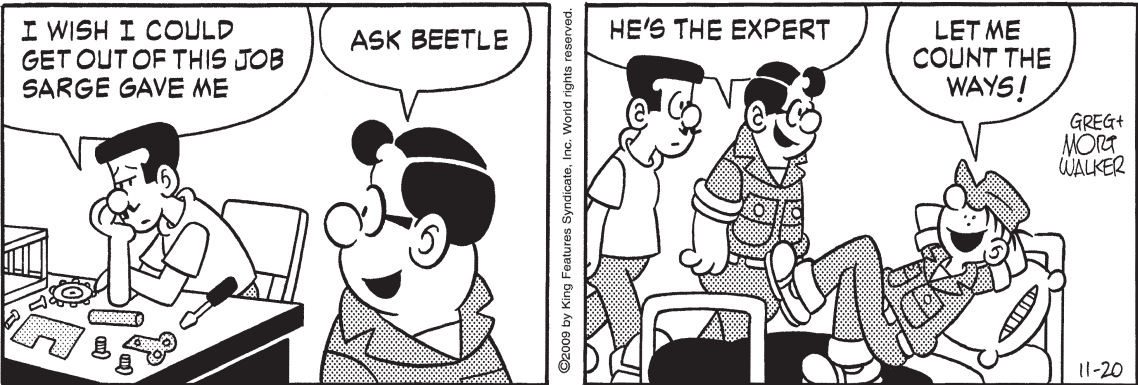


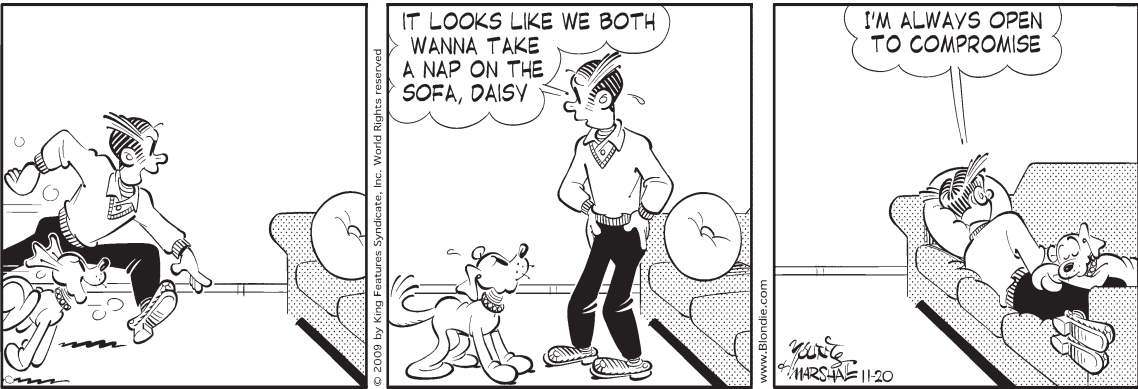
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



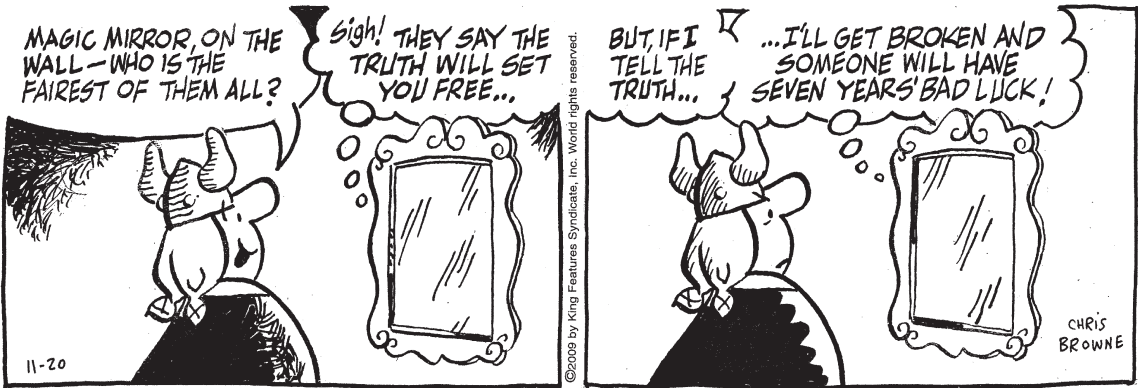
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



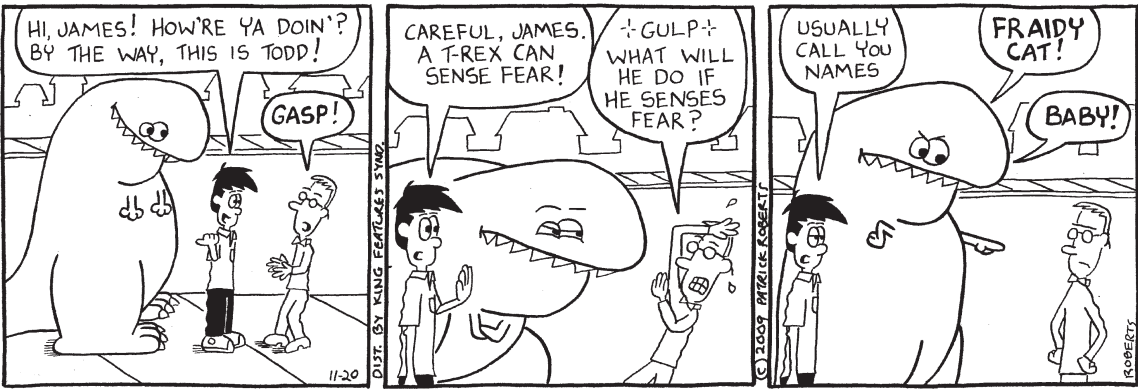
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Aging detectors make fires a risk

Dear Heloise: A note about the life span of SMOKE DETECTORS: We as consumers have been told for many years that if the batteries in smoke alarms are fresh and if the alarm sounds when tested by poking the button on the system, the unit is working properly.

However, the most vital part of the smoke alarm is the smoke sensor. It detects the presence of smoke, and it has a limited life span. Write the date that you install the smoke detector on the actual unit. When buying a house or renting an apartment, check to be sure the smoke alarms are not more than 10 years old. If they are, request that they be replaced. — A Reader, via e-mail

Important points! New smoke alarms have an estimated life span of eight to 10 years, then the entire unit should be replaced. Check batteries twice a year, and replace at least once a year.

We spoke to our fire department, which referred us to the U.S. Fire Administration's Web site, www.usfa.dhs.gov. Here are some other important fire-safety and -prevention hints:

- Establish an escape route in your home, and have surprise fire drills so family members will know how to evacuate in an emergency.
- Be sure the whole family knows how and when to call emergency personnel.
- Install carbon-monoxide detectors.
- Consider installing fire sprinklers in your home.

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When traveling by car, I hang clothes I'm taking on my shower rod, slip a large garbage bag over the clothes and secure the drawstring around the neck of the clothes hangers. Then I lay them over my suitcase.

I lay my suitcase on the back seat and my "garment bag" on top. In my trunk, I keep my overnight bag that I take into the motel, so I don't have to unload every time. — Linda, via e-mail

HAMPER SACHET

Dear Heloise: My clothes hamper was smelly, so I made a sachet. I poured baking soda into a coffee filter, stapled it closed and put it in the hamper. I change it every week and pour the old soda down a drain to freshen it. — Barbara, Ohio

Barbara, baking soda is one of my favorite cleaners. Most households have it, and if not, a box is inexpensive! For more uses around your home, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To keep baking soda handy, take an empty grated-cheese or spice container, wash it well and, when dry, fill it with baking soda. When needed, just grab and shake. — Heloise

CLEAN BLENDER

Dear Heloise: To clean a blender, first rinse, then fill halfway and add one drop of dishwashing liquid. Put the lid on securely and turn on a low setting. Follow by rinsing well, and the blender is ready to be used again! — Kerry in Iowa

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South and have the following hand:

♠ K10983 ♥ 872 ♦ A107 ♣ J4

1. Partner bids One Diamond, you bid One Spade, and partner bids Three Diamonds. What would you bid now?
2. Partner bids One Club, you respond One Spade, and partner bids Three Clubs. What would you bid now?
3. West bids One Notrump (15 to 17 points), partner doubles, and East passes. What would you bid now?
4. Partner bids One Spade, and East doubles. What would you bid now?
5. Partner bids One Heart, you respond One Spade, and partner bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Four diamonds. The jump to three diamonds is not forcing, but you should respond to it because you have a better hand than you might have had for your one-spade bid.

The only real problem is whether to raise diamonds or rebid your spades to show a five-card suit. All in all, it is better to bid four diamonds, which offers the additional advantage of allowing partner to show three-card spade support at his next turn. A three-spade bid at this point would suggest a longer or stronger suit, but, more importantly, it would suppress the diamond support that partner should be apprised of.

2. Three diamonds. Again, you should respect partner's jump-rebid, but this time your best action is to bid a suit that, strictly speaking, is not biddable. The purpose is to enable partner to bid three notrump with appropriate heart strength and also to leave room for him to show belated spade support.

3. Pass. Partner's double of one notrump is for penalties, not takeout, and with eight high-card points in your hand, you should be delighted to pass. West figures to go down two or three tricks at one notrump doubled.

4. Three spades. The raise to three spades over the double is pre-emptive and not forcing. It normally indicates four or five trumps and six to eight high-card points, but the high-card strength can be lower in extremely distributional hands.

5. Pass. This will prove to be the winning call in the long run, even though partner will sometimes have a hand that produces 10 tricks opposite this one. In most cases, you'll make eight or nine tricks, and it's not worth jeopardizing the partscore by bidding again. On the average, partner will have about 14 points for his raise, including distributional values, which leaves you well short of the 26 points normally needed for game.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"It's your fault, Billy! You're the oldest and you should know better!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/20

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/19

Cryptoquip

V R T Y F H G C H H G R F X S

O C W W T R I V Q H G C Y C J X B R H

C Y P C F X Y, S Q X O Q X B P I C S

G R ' I O G C W J R P C Y P C Y F R W Q X I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE OF MY CLOSE FRIENDS LIKES TO THINK OF A SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AS A MARCH IN MARCH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Cocktail ingredients? | 2 In olden days | 22 "Woman With a Pearl" |
| 1 Pouch | 37 Pieces of eight? | 3 Hall | 4 Prague citizen |
| 4 Burn somewhat | 40 Existed | 5 Loathe | 23 Liberal party? |
| 8 Leading man? | 41 Hide in the shadows | 6 Pismire | 7 "Catcher in the —" |
| 12 Id partner | 42 Worn away | 8 Acid neutralizer | 25 Remedy |
| 13 Wild and crazy | 46 Brutus' being | 9 Use an old phone | 26 Abrasive mineral |
| 14 Prom-goers' car | 47 Vicinity | 10 — nitrate | 27 Con |
| 15 Chevy model | 48 Gl's entertainers | 11 Cattle calls? | 28 Egg container |
| 17 Deck in the ring | 49 Campus bigwig | 16 Cisterns | 30 Long sandwiches |
| 18 "The Amazing —" | 50 Kitten's comment | 19 Con-temptible | 33 Dim the lights |
| 19 Poolroom supply | 51 Gas gauge fig. | 20 News-caster Seavareid | 34 Layered treat |
| 20 Mrs. Archie Bunker | | 21 One-named singer who recorded "Thank You" | 36 Undomesticated |
| 22 Brat's stocking stuffer | | | 37 Took off |
| 24 Disen-cumbers | | | 38 North-amptonshire river |
| 25 Napoleon, by birth | | | 39 — Major |
| 29 Altar affirmative | | | 40 Cauldron concoction |
| 30 Sudden voltage increase | | | 42 Photog's need |
| 31 Inseparable | | | 43 Raw rock |
| 32 Fabric with ribs | | | 44 Kreskin's claim |
| 34 Scraps | | | 45 Homer's inter-jection |
| 35 Help a hood | | | |

Yesterday's answer 11-20

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	