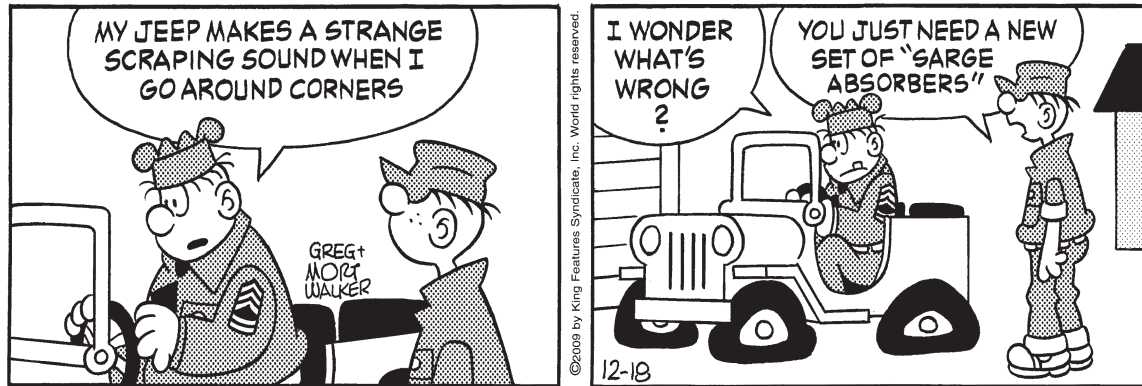


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



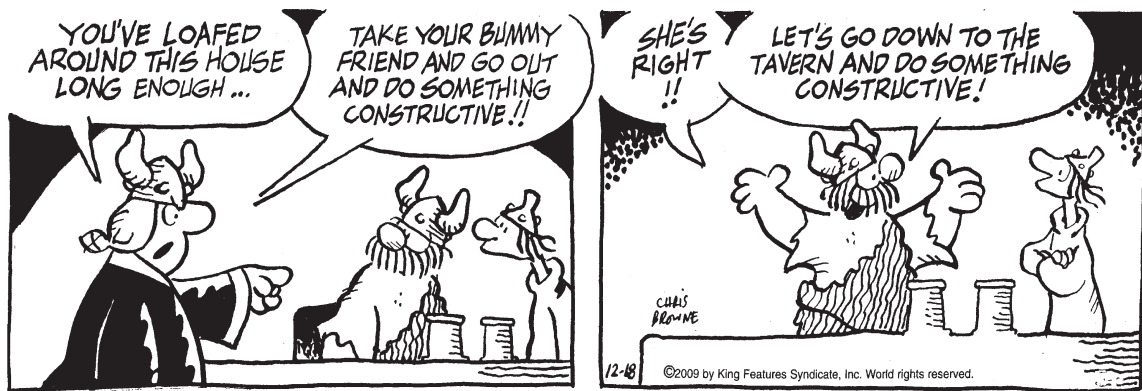
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



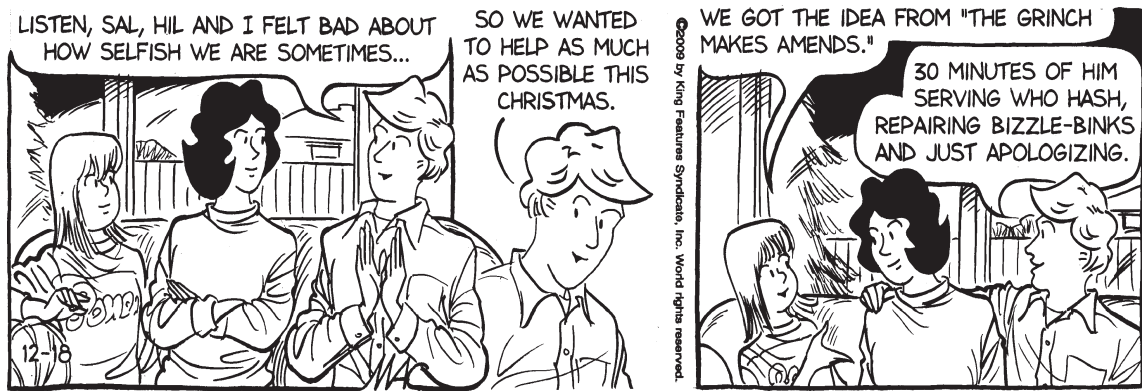
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



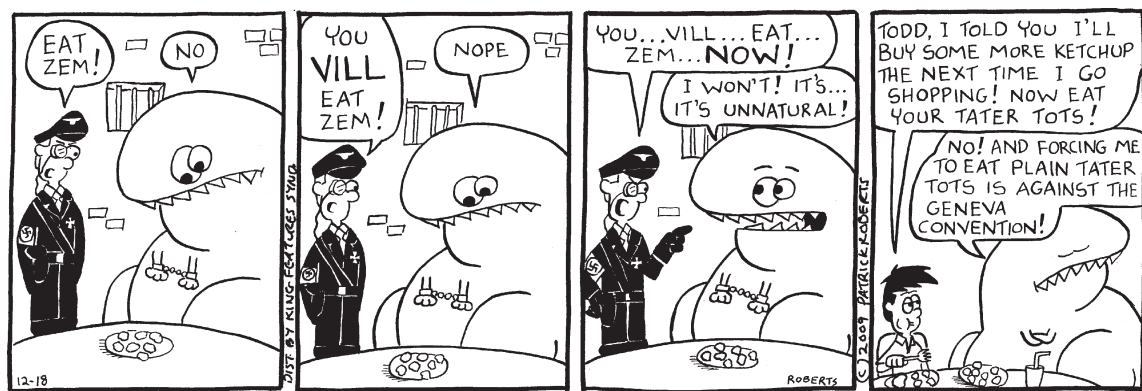
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Protect the air in your home

Dear Readers: You should install CARBON-MONOXIDE DETECTORS near bedrooms in your home to prevent possible sickness or death. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas that occurs when fuels, such as gas, oil, coal or wood (in boilers, oil burners or water heaters), are burned incompletely. The gas then permeates your home -- about 65 percent of carbon-monoxide-related deaths come from heating systems.

- Have your furnace and water heater maintained properly and checked by a professional at least once a year. This is a must!
- Buy a detector certified by the Underwriters Laboratories. The packaging should have the UL letters in a logo. Do not buy a used detector.
- Carbon-monoxide detectors should be placed either high or low on the wall and within 15 feet of every bedroom. Newer-model detectors can detect both low and high levels of carbon monoxide.
- If the alarm goes off, open the windows. Get everyone out as fast as possible. Call 911 from outside when family members are safe.

— Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
TWO HINTS, ONE READER

Dear Heloise: I save the credit-card-size plastic cards that come in the mail as advertisements, calendars, etc. It began as a collection for the grandkids to play "shopping." Then I began to use them to "sweep" up small spills or gummy spots on the counter, floor and table. It saves getting out the whisk broom or hand vacuum.

My second suggestion applies when someone is ill and the caretaker is struggling to keep up. You may not be able to change bed linens, but changing pillowcases is quick and refreshing. — Kate, Vienna, Va.

REUSE CHIP CAN

Dear Heloise: I never liked throwing away a paint roller at the end of the day, especially when I wasn't finished with my project. Wrapping the roller in foil did not work for me. I save tall chip containers and store the roller inside overnight. Place the roller in the can and snap the lid on tight. — Duane Belseth, Fairmont, Minn.

Duane, be sure to wipe the inside of the chip container beforehand, because it may be greasy. We've printed many hints about how to reuse these handy containers. They make perfect storage for spaghetti, pens and pencils, nails and screws, cookies, crackers, coins, trash in the car, straws, yarn, etc. You also can use them as building blocks for small children, shoe trees or cover them with pretty paper for a fun vase. — Heloise.

GARDEN GLOVES

Dear Heloise: My wife wanted to buy two pairs of new garden gloves because she had two old left-hand gloves. The right-hand fingertips were missing, having worn through. I told her to just turn one of the left-hand gloves inside out to make it a right-hand glove. It worked. Now she has a pair of garden gloves. — Kaz in Connecticut

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are the dealer, neither side vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ AQ874 ♥ Q18542 ♦ A ♣ 6
- ♠ AQJ ♥ AQ3 ♦ KJ7 ♣ AKQ4
- ♠ KQ532 ♥ 85 ♦ 7 ♣ AKJ83
- ♠ 1082 ♥ AK7 ♦ AQ763 ♣ K7

Bidding Quiz

1. One spade. The general rule with 6-5 distribution is to bid the longer suit first. But when the high-card content of the hand is close to minimum and the shorter of two touching suits is higher-ranking, it usually works out better to name the five-card suit first. The reason for the exception is that two adjoining suits should not be bid in reverse order with hands that are relatively weak in high-card strength.

Change a small heart or the six of clubs to the ace, and the proper opening bid would be one heart.

2. Three notrump. This bid shows a hand containing 25 or 26 high-card points, notrump distribution and strength in all suits. An opening three-notrump bid is one of the most precise calls possible, and it should be strongly preferred whenever all of the aforementioned essential elements are present. Naturally, such an opening suggests the possibility of a slam.

3. One club. This follows the general rule that when opening the bidding, clubs are named before spades when both suits are of equal length. This relieves you of any rebid problem, regardless of partner's response. If partner responds with one diamond or one heart, you'll bid one spade, then rebid spades at your next turn to show a five-card suit (and, by inference, five or more clubs).

If you opened with one spade instead, you'd be courting trouble. Thus, if partner bid two hearts or two diamonds, you would not be able to bid your clubs next as this would imply greater strength than you have, and you could very easily wind up in the wrong contract.

4. One notrump. Consistent with the principle referred to in the second question, you should begin with the bid that comes closest to describing your hand. One notrump tells partner you have 15 to 17 high-card points, notrump distribution and scattered strength. In one fell swoop, it describes the nature of your hand and usually makes it easier for partner to explore for or place the best final contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-18

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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

O FIOXH CX CERBK WG IOS-
IWS FLCJHA SQLGWLKQV RD
C SADIJOCFLOAF AIWBEV

RQ FOFEQV "AILOXH LCS."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WELL-KNOWN TENNESSEE CITY WHERE ALL DOORBELLS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY BANNED: KNOCKSVILLE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Tummy muscles
- Talon
- European capital
- Rotation duration
- Swear-word
- Satanic
- Roget's list?
- Edges
- Hair salon supply
- High nest
- Rotation statistic
- Isinglass
- Lummock
- Do the tourist thing
- Felon's flight
- Hiawatha's transport
- Singer Sumac
- Willing participant?
- Heal, as a fracture

DOWN

- Billboards
- Chesapeake or Hudson
- Group of symptoms
- Ice-cream parlor stack
- Deposits
- \$ dispenser
- "How come?"
- Prepare leftovers
- Finished
- "La Boheme" role
- Differently
- and terminer
- Rue the run
- Send forth
- Chows down on
- Talk a blue streak?
- Not straight
- Retain
- Tale
- St. Louis team
- Elliptical
- Staffer
- Wield scissors
- That girl
- "Absolutely"
- Under the weather
- Firma-ment

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-18

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		