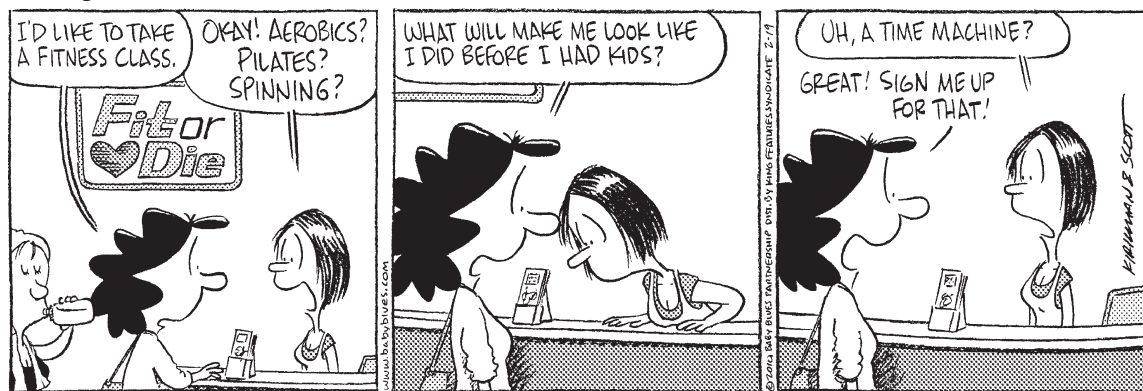


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



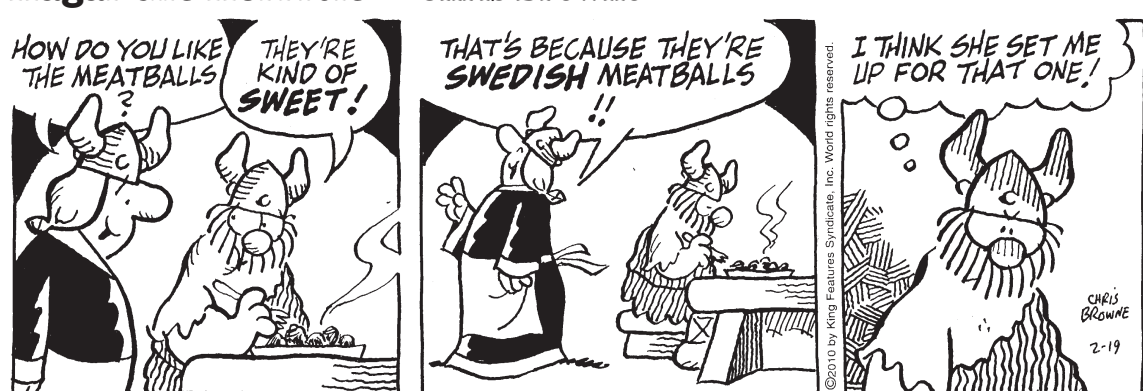
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



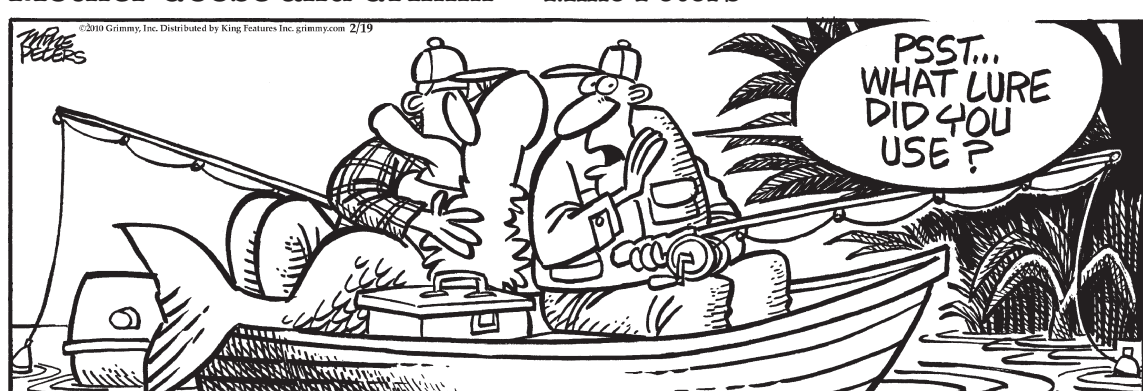
**Blondie** • Chic Young



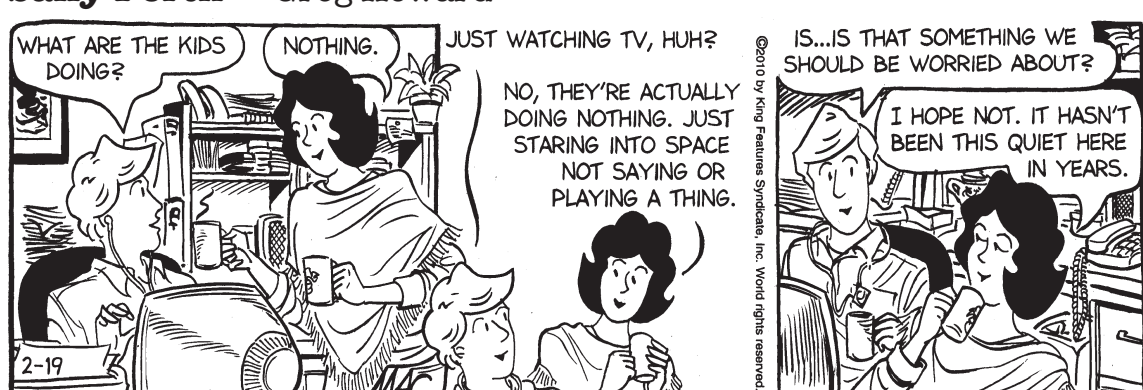
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



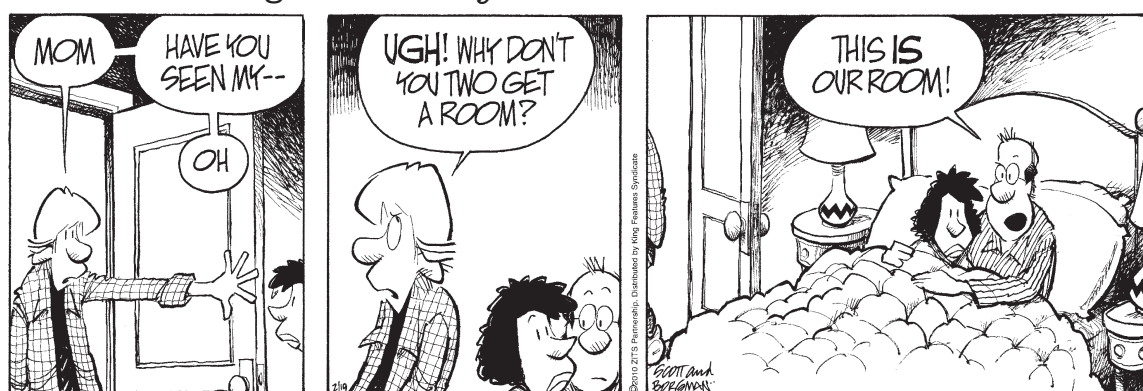
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Simple steps maintain washer**

Dear Heloise: Several years ago, I had a WASHING MACHINE that smelled horrible. After trying several of my own tricks, I gave up and called a repairman. He took the baskets out and showed me a thick, gooey buildup of powdered detergent and fabric softener that had formed on the bottom of the solid basket under the perforated basket. He recommended not using fabric softener in the washer. Instead, use dryer sheets in the dryer, if you must. Next, he said to use liquid detergent (no residual powder to build up). Last, occasionally run an empty load of the hottest water you can to dissolve the goo. I haven't had a problem since. I also leave my washer lid open after I have finished my laundry to ventilate it. That also tells me at a glance if I have emptied the machine and haven't forgotten a load. — Lea W., via e-mail

**PLASTIC FORKS**

Dear Heloise: When staking up small indoor or outdoor potted plants, I find plastic forks to be useful and durable. Also, the card holders from florists work well, especially for trailing vines. — Jan Roysse, Stayton, Ore.

**WATER BOTTLES**

Dear Heloise: We keep half-filled drink bottles of water in the freezer. On a road trip, we put one or two in the car instead of buying cold water at convenience stores. Saves money, and you have cold water for a couple of hours. Longer trip? Use an insulated bag to keep additional bottles cold for later. Tip the bottles to the side when freezing to maximize the cooling surface.

We live about 45 minutes from the nearest grocery store. When we go shopping, we put frozen bottles of water (instead of ice, which leaves water to seep into packages) into a cooler or insulated bag. Cold or frozen foods stay that way until we get home. — Sara, Wardensville, W.Va.

**REFRIGERATOR SHELVES**

Dear Heloise: I hate my refrigerator shelves — they are the wire type. Bottled water and other small jars are always toppling over. I placed glass cutting boards on the shelves, so you can see what's on the shelf underneath. A good place to find such a board is a thrift shop or a yard sale, and at a much better price, too! — Cindi Wolstenhulme, Eloit, Maine

**MUSTY SMELL**

Dear Heloise: Several years ago, I purchased a washstand at an antiques shop. When I got it home, I realized it had a horrible musty odor inside. I took it to the backyard, scrubbed and sprayed it, but the odor was still there. That washstand sat outside for days in the sun — no good!

My neighbor told me to brush clear varnish on all the inside surfaces. I didn't have anything to lose, so I did it, and it worked. I have enjoyed my antique find for many, many years, and am still using it. — Wilma in Texas

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**You are the dealer and bid One Club. Partner responds One Diamond. What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?**

- ♠ AQ ♥ K108 ♦ J742 ♣ QJ93
- ♠ AJ ♥ AQ ♦ Q65 ♣ KQJ942
- ♠ 10 ♥ AQ87 ♦ KJ6 ♣ AKQ75
- ♠ AJ53 ♥ — ♦ A93 ♣ KQ9653
- ♠ 8 ♥ A ♦ AKJ84 ♣ KQ7642

**Bidding Quiz**

1. One notrump. Though it is very normal to raise partner with four-card support — and it might therefore be argued that the proper rebid here is two diamonds — there are good reasons for preferring one notrump. First, your hand is well-suited for notrump, and the balanced distribution is better shown by a rebid of one notrump. A raise in diamonds would imply distributional values, such as shortness in one or both of the major suits, that you don't have. Also, judging from the opponents' silence, partner probably has a good hand and might be headed for game. If this probability materializes, a nine-trick notrump game is far more attractive than an 11-trick diamond game. Furthermore, if notrump is the best contract, your tenace positions in the majors will be protected on the opening lead with you as declarer.

2. Three notrump. You should not be willing to settle for less than game once partner responds to your opening bid. A rebid of either two notrump or three clubs would run the risk of a pass, since neither of these bids is forcing.

3. Two hearts. The jump-shift in hearts forces partner to continue bidding until a game is reached, even though he might have only six points. Game, and possibly a slam, is highly probable in clubs, diamonds, hearts or notrump. These possibilities can best be explored after partner is first made aware of your intentions via the jump-shift.

4. One spade. The best way to begin describing your distribution is to bid one spade at this point. Even though you have six clubs and only four spades, you can't afford to bypass the possibility of a 4-4 fit in spades. If need be, you will show your diamond support later and thus identify the three-suited nature of your hand.

5. Four notrump. The number of aces partner has is the key to how many tricks your side can make with diamonds as trump. You therefore utilize Blackwood to extract this vital information from partner. If he shows no aces by responding five clubs, you bid five diamonds; if he shows one ace, you bid six diamonds; if he shows two aces, you bid seven diamonds.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/19

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

OSWEWOGME'V DWZM GSWG  
TDM ZWP NKDR KD GSM  
VOWDRKDWLKW LMEVKTD TN

"UTUMPM" OTZKOV: TXWN TPX.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DINING OUT WITH THAT PODIATRIST IS FANTASTIC, BECAUSE AS A RULE HE WINDS UP FOOTING THE BILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                             |                     |                       |                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>               | 41 Redact           | 3 Filled, folded      | 25 Bottom line          |
| 1 Priestly robe             | 45 Boutique         | 4 Grate               | 26 Airport screeners'   |
| 4 Uncooked                  | 47 Away from        | 5 Off course          | 28 Detergent brand      |
| 7 Refuse to, quaintly       | 48 Sweden's capital | 6 Jubilant yell       | 30 Eventual aves        |
| 12 Up to                    | 52 Conditions       | 7 Benefit once        | 31 Make up your mind    |
| 13 Blond shade              | 53 Half-diameters   | 8 With it, on         | 32 Swiss canton         |
| 14 Eagle's nest             | 54 Mid-May honoree  | 9 Onassis, familiarly | 33 Sawbuck              |
| 15 Sapporo sash             | 55 Collection       | 10 Zero bearing item  | 36 Dog owner's ordeal   |
| 16 Hoard                    | 56 That is (Latin)  | 11 Ball-digs          | 37 Dry red wine         |
| 18 Chaps                    | 57 Pigs' dig        | 17 Chan-teuse Laine   | 40 Times of prosperity  |
| 19 "1984" laborer           | 58 Attempt          | 21 Robbery            | 42 Believer of a sort   |
| 20 Letter opener's creation | DOWN                | 23 Worship            | 43 Draw a conclusion    |
| 22 Mimic                    | 1 Fermi's bits      | 24 Under the weather  | 44 Irritable            |
| 23 "— Mis-behavin'"         | 2 Written slander   |                       | 45 "SNL" segment        |
| 27 Attention-getting cry    |                     |                       | 46 It long eluded Lucci |
| 29 Lots                     |                     |                       | 48 — Lanka              |
| 31 External                 |                     |                       | 49 Youngster            |
| 34 Battery inventor         |                     |                       | 50 Rhyming tribute      |
| 35 Easy-to-build house      |                     |                       | 51 USSR successor       |
| 37 Scratch                  |                     |                       |                         |
| 38 Coloration               |                     |                       |                         |
| 39 Honest politician        |                     |                       |                         |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-19

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	