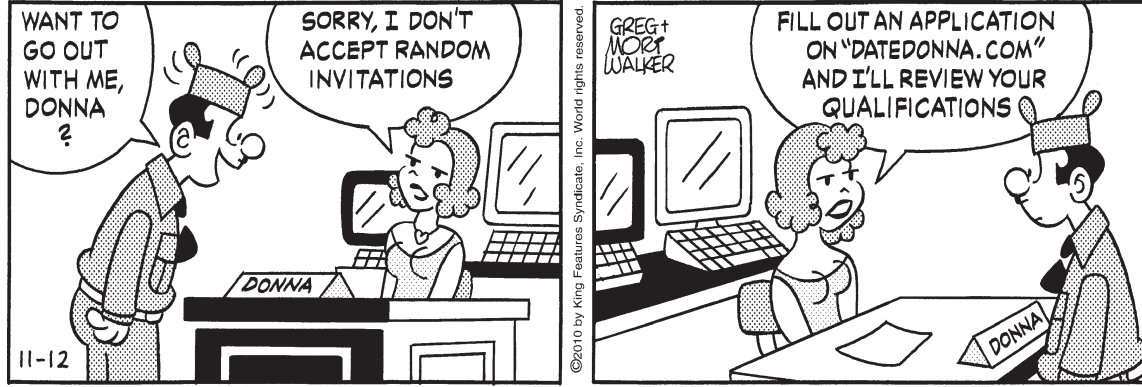


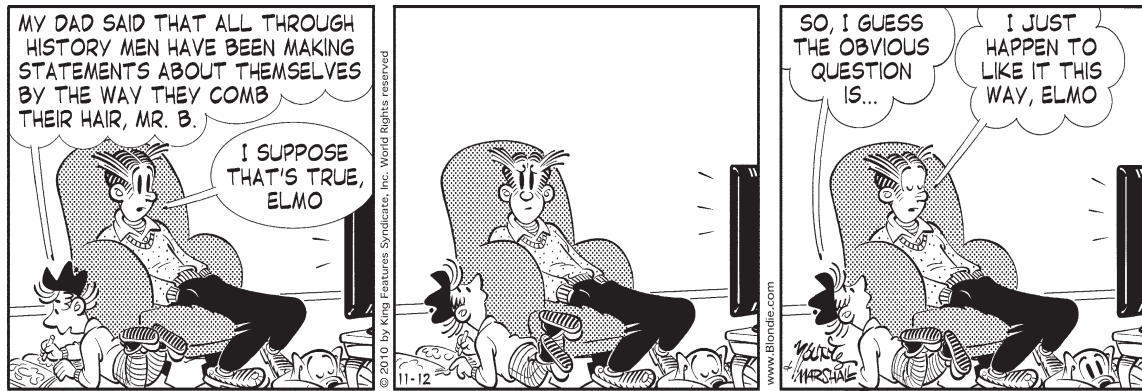
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



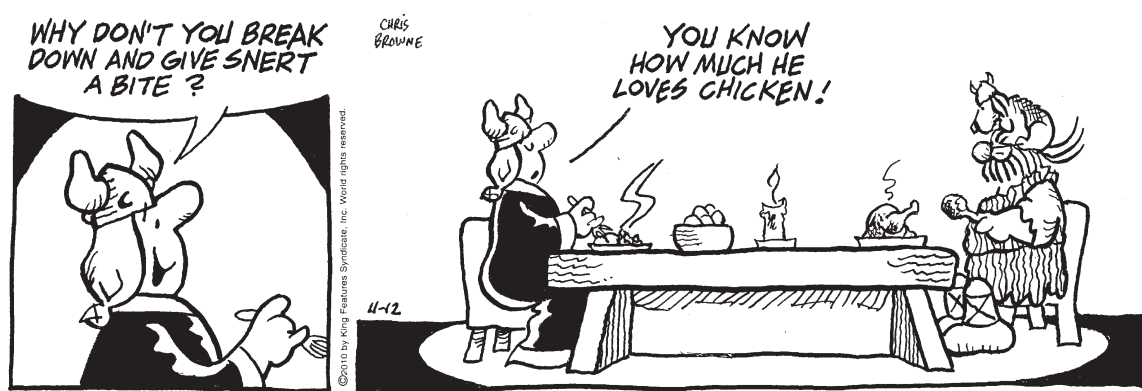
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



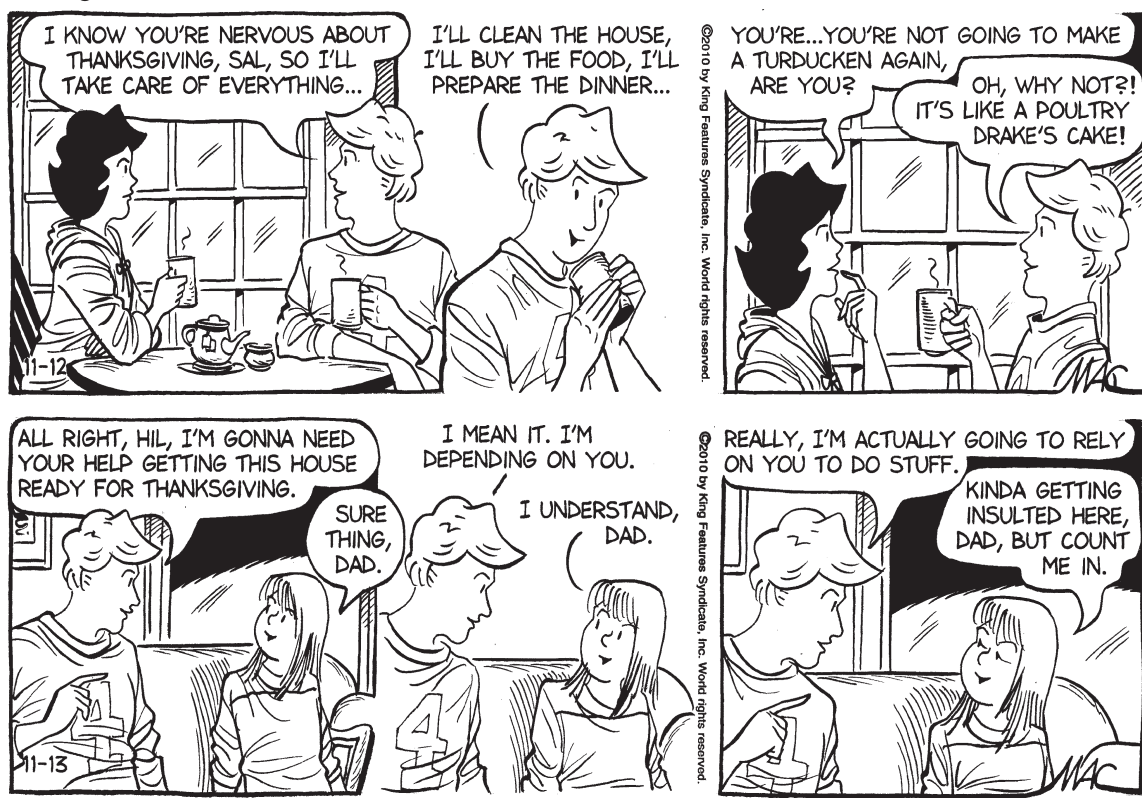
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



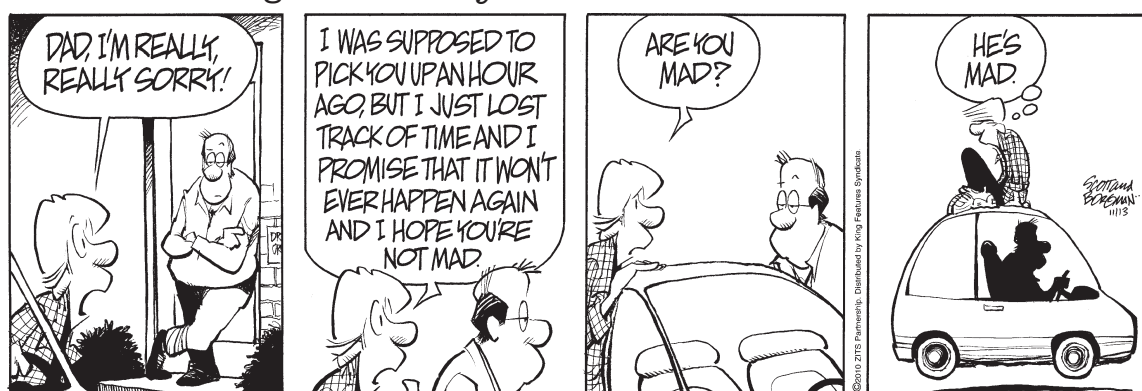
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Fireplace soot can be erased**

Dear Readers: If you have a FIREPLACE and use it a lot, here are two hints for you:

Smoke on a few bricks? An art gum eraser, available at an art store or mega-retailer, is a quick fix. Knead it and press it into the soot stains. Fold over the stained portion until you have a clean space on the gum. Repeat until the eraser has removed as much of the staining as it can.

If the fireplace glass doors are stained, a good solution is oven cleaner. Remove the doors and take them outside to a well-ventilated area. Spray both sides with a thick layer and allow them to sit outside for a few hours. Rinse with the garden hose, dry, and you are done. — Heloise

P.S.: Do not use abrasive to scrub doors, because it may affect the integrity of the glass.

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**KEY REMINDER**

Dear Heloise: I carry my car keys on a large, round key ring. It's handy when I reach into my overstuffed handbag to find my keys easily.

My favorite use is stapling a note to it to remind me to do something I would otherwise forget! It drives me crazy to have paper hanging off my key ring, so I'm sure to do whatever it is I'm supposed to remember. — Cathy Hart, Omaha, Neb.

A good hint to help remember things. One note: It is not advisable to have a large, weighty key chain hanging down when driving. Too much weight could possibly damage the ignition of your car. — Heloise

**BABY TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: We have a 4-month-old baby, and I traveled to Florida with her. My husband's golf travel bag was perfect for the portable playpen and car seat base, and any extras for the baby. Plus, it has wheels and is easy to pull behind you. — Gretchen Sherman in Schertz, Texas

This is a novel use for a golf bag. What a great way to keep things organized! — Heloise

**EASY-REACH TRASH CAN**

Dear Heloise: My kitchen trash can is several steps away from the counter, and I tired of walking to it for every little bit of trash I accumulate in making lunches or dinner. So, I use a fruit/vegetable bag as a trash bag, and when finished, I grab it and throw it away. — Shar, via e-mail

**SMALL NUMBERS ON CALENDARS**

Dear Heloise: A lot of calendars have small numbers that are difficult to read. I take a marker and go over the numbers. I can see the numbers much better! — Verene in Kansas

**SPARK PLUGS**

Dear Readers: It is a good idea to change spark plugs on a regular basis. According to the Car Care Council, dirty spark plugs don't operate properly and can misfire, wasting fuel. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

- ♠ Q97 ♥ 83 ♦ AK74 ♣ AJ98
- ♠ 10 ♥ K5 ♦ AJ9873 ♣ AKJ4
- ♠ 62 ♥ AQ74 ♦ AKQ32 ♣ K3
- ♠ K8 ♥ 62 ♦ AKQ985 ♣ A95

**Bidding Quiz**

1. One notrump. The only bids worth considering are one notrump and two clubs. Because an opening bid of one of a suit may range from 12 to 21 high-card points and may have any kind of distribution, it is best to pinpoint the size and shape of a hand as soon as possible.

The one-notrump rebid describes your hand very adequately. It states that your opening bid is of the minimum class (12 to 14 points) and that the distribution is balanced (4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2). A rebid of two clubs would be much less definitive, since it would suggest substantial length in the minors and could be based on many more high-card points. The notrump rebid simultaneously identifies your limited high-card values and distribution, while a two-club bid would create an ambiguity that could lead to your winding up in the wrong contract.

2. Two clubs. This is a far more promising hand than the previous one, but still you should proceed cautiously, since partner might have only six points.

Two clubs allows the greatest scope for further investigation. If partner passes, game chances are virtually nil. If partner bids again, you plan to take further action in order to show that your opening bid was not of the minimum class. A jump to three diamonds over one heart is not inconceivable, but it would not describe your hand quite as well as the suggested bid of two clubs.

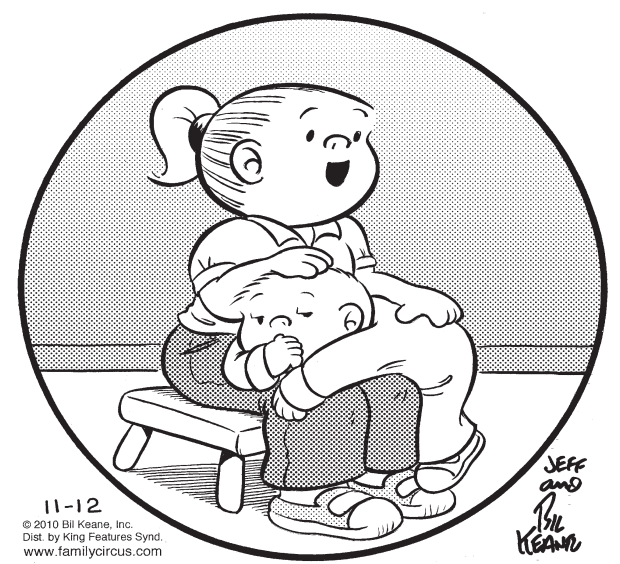
3. Four hearts. You shouldn't settle for less than game, since it's hard to imagine that partner will lose as many as four tricks. The best way of getting to game is by bidding it directly. The leap to four hearts is by no means a closeout bid; on the contrary, it implies great interest in a slam. It would be wrong to bid only three hearts, which partner can pass.

4. Two notrump. It is true that the rebid of two notrump in this sequence signifies 18 or 19 high-card points, but you can surely afford to relax the usual requirements, considering the likelihood of scoring six diamond tricks.

Point count should always be regarded as a flexible tool. This hand is superior in playing strength to most balanced hands containing 18 or 19 points, with which you would jump to two notrump.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



11-12

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"Let's teach PJ to purr, then he'll be almost as good as havin' another pet."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Cryptoquip**

DYXWLTYSY KYMMHF  
KHEVHU UH QNXR HLU USY  
DYTU QWEUT, N FHLMI USNCR

SY GNTTYI SNT XLMMNCV.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I MADE THE EDITORIAL ADJUSTMENT UNTHINKINGLY, MIGHT YOU CALL THAT A KNEE-JERK REDACTION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals H

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Broom closet item
- Radar screen noise
- Campus area, for short
- Big bother
- Green land
- Incite
- Humongous
- Carbon compound
- Poor substitute
- Under the weather
- Youngster
- Massachusetts, long ago
- Harridan
- Send quickly
- Princess' insomnia cause
- Equal
- Fellows
- Desirable engine sound
- Before
- Purchase

**DOWN**

- Spiked club
- Stench
- D.C. bigwigs
- Give
- "Hungaria" composer
- 401(k) alternative
- Louisiana bird
- Pacify
- Grecian vessel
- Past
- Md. neighbor
- Western
- Bagel topping
- Numbered composition
- Pianist Peter
- Tall tale
- Detail, for short
- Long lunch?
- Film holder
- "30 Rock" cast member
- Broadway offering
- Introductory matter
- Auto-front protector
- In
- Last letter
- "Rizzoli &"
- Discoverer's cry

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 11-12

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