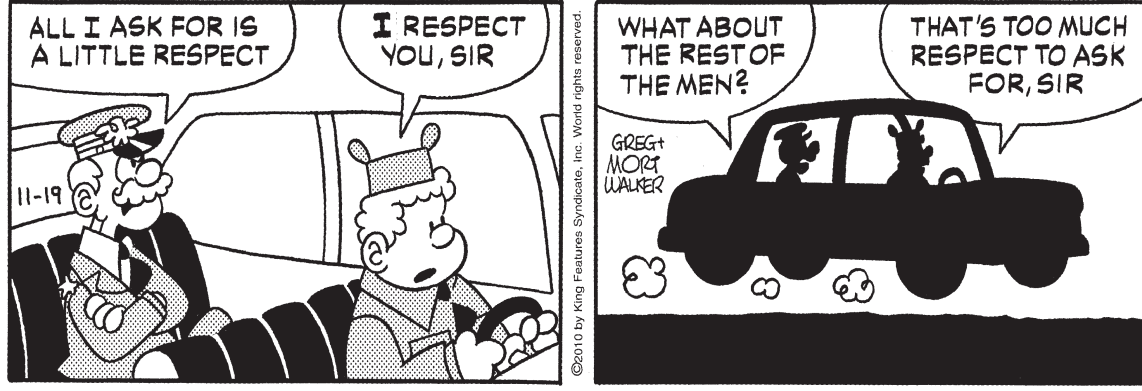


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



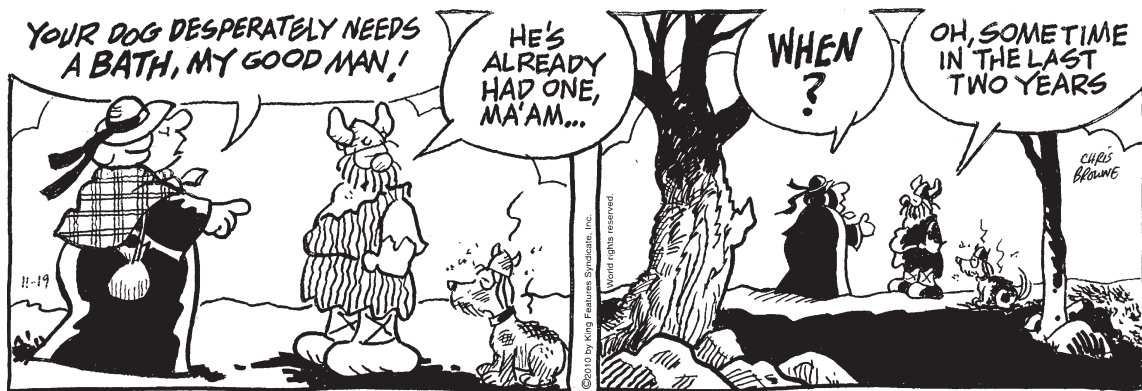
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



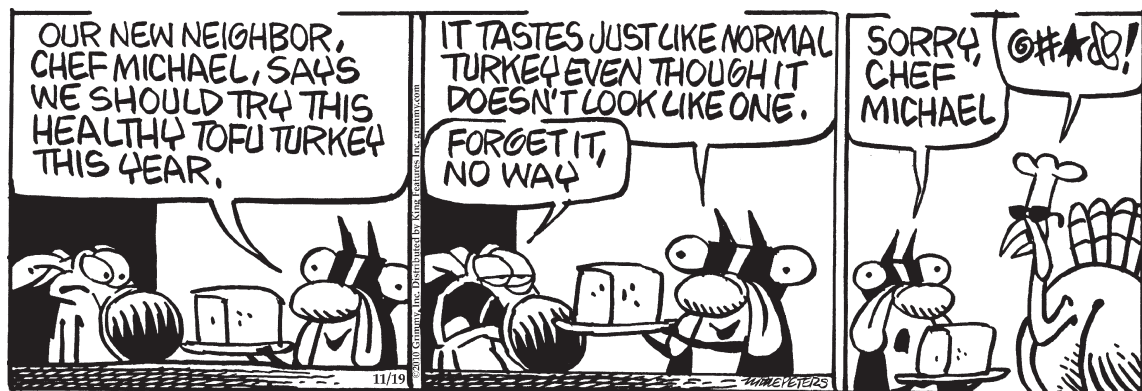
Blondie • Chic Young



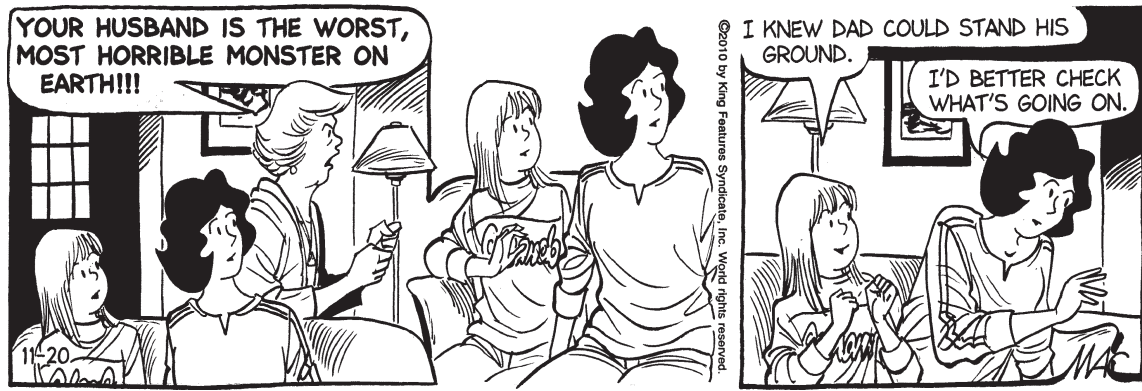
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Remember rules to pack for flying

Dear Readers: The AIRPORT seems to be another home away from home these days! Recently, I was in 10 airports and on seven planes in three and a half days! The Transportation Security Administration (www.TSA.gov) has regulations for liquids and gels that you are permitted to carry on board. Remember the 3-1-1 system when packing your carry-on bag. Three refers to 3 ounces (or specifically 3.4 ounces, or a 100 ml bottle or less) of fluid or gel. Lots of manufacturers have "come on board" and have begun packaging hair-care products, oral care (toothpaste, mouthwash, etc.) and other personal-care items in these sizes. There are some exceptions. Medications, baby formula and baby food are allowed in larger sizes. Tell your TSA screener if you have these in your bag.

The first 1 in the 3-1-1 system? One-quarter-sized, clear, zipper-top (freezer type) bag. The second 1? One clear bag per person. Using this system helps the screeners get everyone through the security checkpoint quickly and efficiently.

Keep in mind, these guidelines are meant for the items in your carry-on bag and if you are making a short trip. You can pack larger personal-care items in your checked bag.

In my checked bag, I use large zip bags to categorize scarves, lingerie and, of course, anything that has the potential to leak. — Heloise

SPRAY GERMS AWAY

Dear Heloise: As winter and the cold-and-flu season approach, anytime the bathroom needs a "spritz" to freshen the air, I make sure to use a deodorizing disinfectant spray to spray the handle on the toilet, the faucet handles, the sink area and the bathroom doorknob as well. And I'll occasionally spray the bedroom doorknobs, too! Better safe than sorry! — Pennie in New Jersey

You can't be too safe, but please check that those surfaces won't be harmed by the spray. — Heloise

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Dear Heloise: I have always found it difficult to pull my driver's license from those tight little slots in my billfold. To make this task easier on the fingers, I attached a piece of clear packing tape to the side of my license, creating a pull tab. I've gotten lots of comments from clerks in stores who see me easily removing my license. Hope this hint helps your other readers. — Janet Lohmeier in Nebraska

HOME SAFETY

Dear Heloise: These are some hints for those who live alone. For peaceful sleeping, install a deadbolt lock on your bedroom door. Get the kind that is keyless for easy exit but needs a key for entry. Make spare keys to give to family members in case of an emergency.

Keep your cell phone with you at night and also your car keys if you have a car alarm system. Set off the car alarm if someone breaks into your house. — A Reader, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You hold the following hand, both sides vulnerable:
♠AK73 ♥AQ94 ♦6 ♣Q752

1. Your left-hand opponent bids One Spade, and your partner overcalls Two Clubs. What would you bid after your right-hand opponent passes?

2. Your right-hand opponent bids One Diamond, which you double. What would you bid after your partner responds One Spade, both of your opponents having passed?

3. Your partner opens One Diamond, and the next player doubles. What would you bid now?

4. Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with Three Diamonds, which you double for takeout. Your partner responds Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Two spades. It's hard to conceive of a two-club overcall that would not produce at least 11 tricks opposite this hand. Instead of automatically leaping to five clubs, however, it's far better to cuebid the opponent's suit first.

The cuebid has the advantage of encouraging your partner to consider bidding a slam after you later jump to five clubs. Despite the adverse opening bid, a club slam is far from impossible.

2. Two spades. Your partner, who has been forced to bid by your takeout double, may have a dreadful hand, so it is inadvisable to do more than make a single raise at this point.

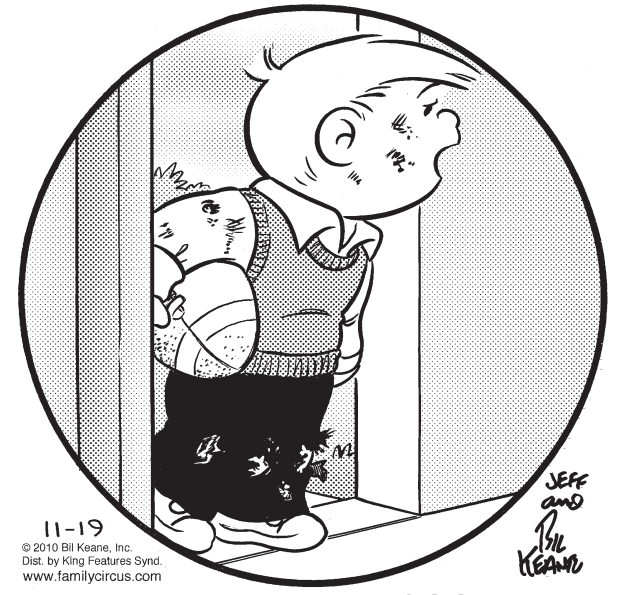
Game is very unlikely unless partner takes action over the two-spade bid. The spade raise, in conjunction with your previous double, shows approximately 16 to 18 points and invites partner to bid game if he has a maximum (roughly eight or nine points) for his one-spade response. A leap to three spades may be tempting, but the fact is that you can't be sure of making nine tricks after a forced response from partner.

3. Redouble. The redouble of the opposing takeout double indicates that you hold 10 or more high-card points and does not necessarily promise support for partner's suit. A strong possibility here is that the best result may be obtained by doubling the opponents in whatever they decide to bid. It is conceivable, though unlikely, that you and partner can't even make a game, which is all the more reason to aim for a substantial penalty.

4. Pass. Of course, you'd have preferred a suit response from partner, but there's nothing you can reasonably do about that now. It is quite possible that three notrump is the only game contract your side can make.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I forget, are these my GOOD pants or my PLAY pants?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

L UDTUQE EDAAV GAZQ

TADD HR EIUDD, VHZXUKDA

SHDNLRC KANE. L CBAEE L

IBEX KA JHXE-ASSAJXLGA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL THE CONDITION IN WHICH A PERSON IS REALLY HAPPY? ELATIONSHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Year-end abbr. | 34 Overly proper one | 1 Happy companion? | 16 Cereal choice |
| 4 Couch | 35 Go first | 2 Actress Mendes | 19 Catcher's aid |
| 8 — and crafts | 36 Artist's plaster of Paris mix | 3 Going downriver, in a way | 20 — Major |
| 12 Eggs | 37 Wanderer | 4 Super-man comparison | 21 Conceited |
| 13 Do surveillance on | 40 Ganges wrap | 5 Scull supply | 22 Dieter's lunch |
| 14 Enticement | 41 Grad | 6 Evergreen type | 23 In due time |
| 15 Australia's capital | 42 Jerky cousin? | 7 — carte | 25 Anatomical cavities |
| 17 Recognize | 46 Actress Wilson | 8 High-pH chemical | 26 Napoleon, by birth |
| 18 Tramcar loads | 47 Calla lily, e.g. | 9 Baseball scores | 27 Mainlanders' mementos |
| 19 Brigantine pair | 48 Time of your life? | 10 Jog | 28 Therefore |
| 20 Of an eye layer | 49 Drunkards | 11 Stitches | 30 Wasted no time |
| 22 Glide along | 50 Information | | 33 Camels' kin |
| 24 Drought relief | 51 Present | | 34 Persian spirit |
| 25 Biblical song | | | 36 Third letter |
| 29 Sermon subject | | | 37 Siestas |
| 30 Serf | | | 38 Margarine |
| 31 "— the fields we go" | | | 39 No purebred |
| 32 Episcopal, perhaps | | | 40 Filth |

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	E	M	J	O	G	T	R	A	Y
M	E	N	U	E	R	E	W	A	D	E
U	R	D	U	A	R	R	E	N	O	S
T	A	S	M	A	N	M	E	E	K	
I	N	P	U	S	T	A	N	D	I	N
B	A	R	S	P	Y	A	G	A	R	
I	T	O	A	N	A	D	U	S	T	
D	O	W	N	S	I	Z	I	N	G	
L	I	S	P	M	A	M	M	A	L	
I	B	I	S	P	E	A	E	E	L	
S	A	N	E	E	G	G	N	O	S	
M	A	G	I	T	O	E	T	W	O	S

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		