

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



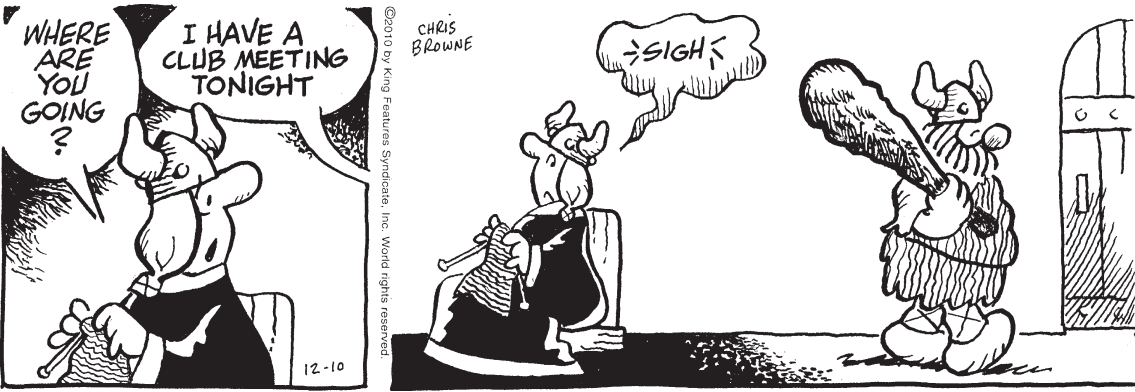
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



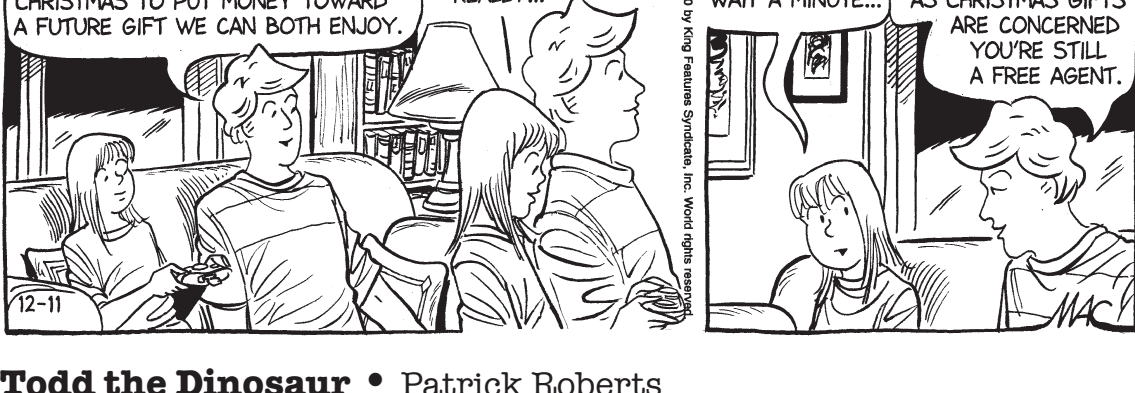
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



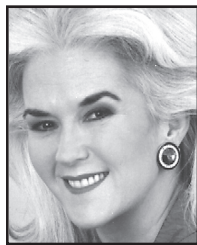
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Zip ties give suitcase security

Dear Heloise: When we travel and stay in a hotel room more than one night, I take small, plastic ZIP TIES with me. When we leave for the day, I close up the suitcase, put a zip tie through the hole in the zippers, and it can't be tampered with without cutting the zip tie.

I don't know that anyone would go through our things, but now I don't even have to give it a second thought. Remember to take a small pair of scissors or a pocket knife with you to cut the ties with. — Shirley in Caddo Mills, Texas

Shirley, I, too, travel with zip ties. If I have to check my luggage (which I seldom do), the zip ties are approved by the Transportation Security Administration to lock your luggage. However, if the TSA screeners have to open your checked bag and they cut the zip tie, they will not replace the tie and can't be held responsible for any items that may fall out of your luggage. — Heloise

P.S.: Your belongings are probably safe in your hotel/motel room in most cases. However, if you have expensive items, especially electronics, play it safe.

PETITE VS. REGULAR

Dear Readers: What's the difference between petite and regular-size clothing?

Here are a few hints on choosing which one to wear:

- Petite clothing is for women under 5 feet 4 inches, meaning that it's about height.
- Petites can range from 00P to 14P, and there are plus-size lines.
- Petite clothing is shorter in the sleeves, torso, rise and length. — Heloise

CLEANING FOUNTAINS

Dear Heloise: I just found another use for vinegar. Our miniature terra-cotta fountain was accumulating algae faster than we could keep up, even using a special commercial preparation. We hesitated to use bleach, as it might have been too hard on parts of the fountain. Well, we tried white vinegar — just poured a few "blubs" into the fountain water. It cleaned up the green stuff, and it lasts a long time between cleanings. — W.S. in California

Vinegar to the rescue again! Just drain out the water, pour in the vinegar, scrub and rinse. — Heloise

SHAMPOO FOR SHOWER WALLS

Dear Heloise: For years, I have used the cheap-shampoo trick for cleaning shower walls. Now the price of shampoo has gone up. Someone suggested adding lots of water to the shampoo and putting it in a spray bottle. Wow!!! It works great, and it is easier to wash down because the soap is diluted. — Ina, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Partner bids One Heart. What would you respond with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ KJ874 ♥ A852 ♦ 73 ♣ 85
2. ♠ 63 ♥ AQ974 ♦ AK103 ♣ K8
3. ♠ AQ98 ♥ 10 ♦ K92 ♣ AJ764
4. ♠ 8752 ♥ J8653 ♦ A942 ♣ —

Bidding Quiz

1. Two hearts. This is preferable to one spade, the alternative response. To bid one spade would create an awkward problem if partner rebid two clubs, two diamonds or one notrump. A preference bid of two hearts would then constitute an underbid, as you have much better trump support than partner would expect, while a jump-preference to three hearts would constitute a substantial overbid.
- Furthermore, if partner rebid two hearts over one spade, you'd be torn between whether to pass or raise to three hearts, and either call could prove to be wrong. A direct raise to two hearts, indicating six to 10 points and adequate trump support, avoids these potential problems.
2. Three diamonds. Slam is a distinct possibility, but you're in no position to judge whether or not it can be made. It is therefore best to make a jump-shift response, alerting partner to the prospect of a slam, and then let him decide how far to go. Of course, you plan to show your heart support next.
3. Two clubs. Here your goal is to try to describe your distribution as accurately as possible, planning to bid two spades over partner's expected two-diamond or two-heart rebid. This sequence will show, by inference, that your clubs are longer than your spades.
- It would be a serious mistake to bid one spade initially rather than two clubs. If you were to bid spades first and clubs later, there would be no way your partner could know you had more clubs than spades. In a case where you know you are going to get to a game and could even have a slam, there is no good reason to muddy the waters by bidding spades first when there is a simple way to describe your actual distribution.
4. Four hearts. Here you combine your offensive chances with your defensive fears by leaping directly to game. Your heart length would be a defensive liability if the opponents played the hand, and the chief purpose of leaping to four hearts is to make it difficult for them to enter the fray.
- At the same time, you should not feel overly surprised if partner buys the contract at four hearts and then makes it. Your club void might prove to be a huge asset. Hands of this sort depend largely on how well they fit with partner's cards, but the winning strategy in the long run is to bid game at once and let the opponents try to sort things out.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"It doesn't get to be a Christmas tree 'til it gets all dressed up."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★ 12/10

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.

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

Cryptoquip

YH YVATBOYH BHXFTYHOA

OLTELTYQBLH'X IBVY-DYXAM

XFDXBMBYTK XULFIM TAYIK

DA HYVAM EATF-MAHQBYI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THAT FARMER HAILS FROM BEIRUT, I SUPPOSE HE COULD BE CALLED A SEEDER OF LEBANON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Source of PIN money?
 - 4 Colorful fish
 - 8 Water-craft
 - 12 Weep
 - 13 Assess
 - 14 Therefore
 - 15 Trouble
 - 17 Halt
 - 18 Moral principles
 - 19 That girl
 - 21 Thick-ness
 - 22 Frank
 - 26 Binge
 - 29 A handful
 - 30 Greek vowel
 - 31 Be in charge of
 - 32 Path
 - 33 Cripple
 - 34 Cleo's slayer
 - 35 Carton
 - 36 Nervous
 - 37 Empty talk
 - 39 Young fellow
 - 40 "Help!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Rue the run
 - 2 Legend
 - 4 Authorita-tive decider
 - 5 Easy mark
 - 6 Con-sumed
 - 7 Pennsyl-vania city
 - 8 Harass
 - 9 Scrap
 - 10 Past
 - 11 Upper limit
 - 16 Used a paper towel
 - 20 Explana-tion
 - 23 College VIP
 - 24 Elevator name
 - 25 Ready for anything
 - 26 Persian bigwig
 - 27 Mexican money
 - 28 En-grossed
 - 29 Transmit by wire
 - 32 Put on a pedestal
 - 33 Olympics award
 - 35 Resume
 - 36 Sport fish
 - 38 Colorado ski mecca
 - 39 Star-bucks order
 - 42 "Serpico" author
 - 43 Desire
 - 44 Brother of Cain and Abel
 - 45 Coloring agent
 - 46 Scepter
 - 47 Eisen-hower
 - 49 Indivisible
- Solution time: 25 mins.**

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