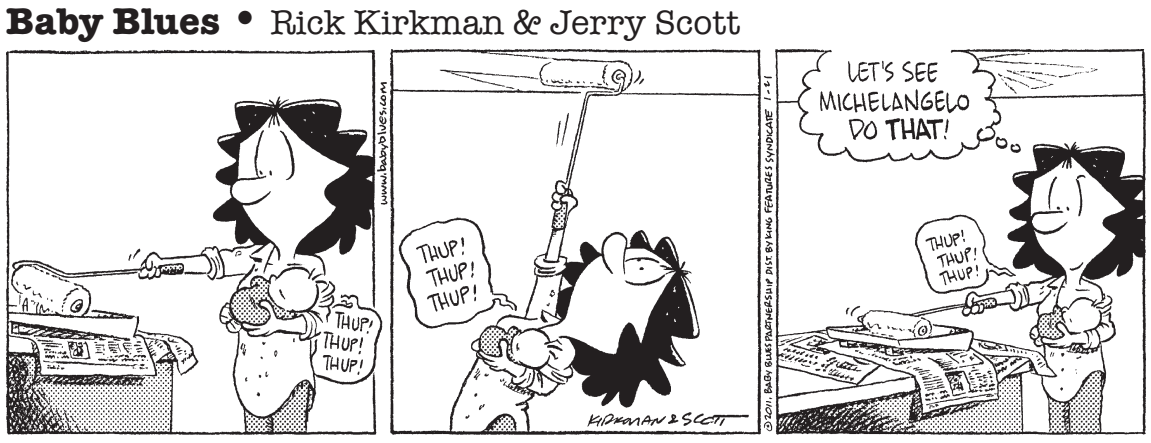
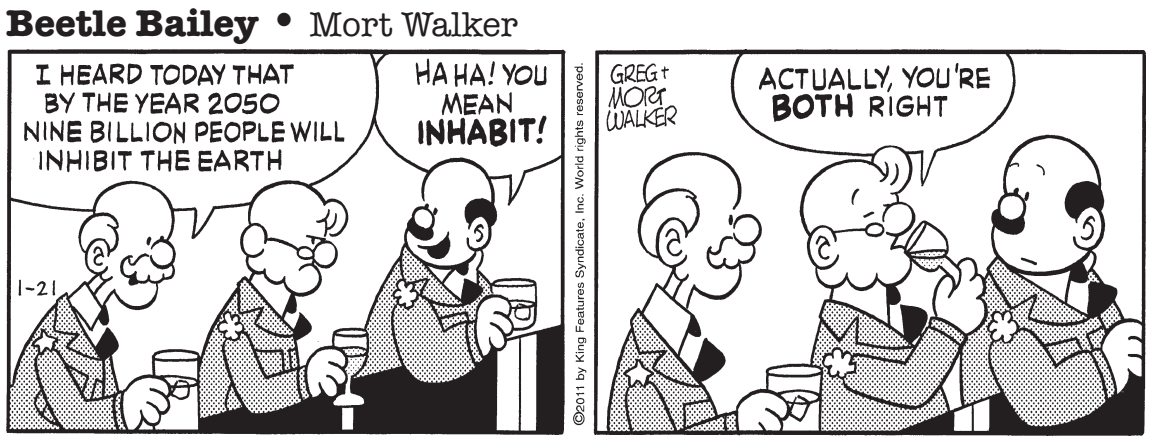
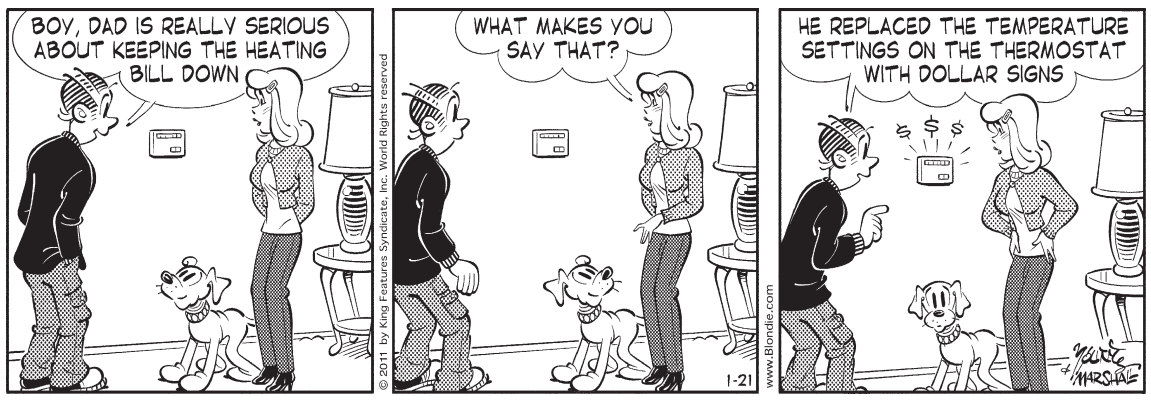
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



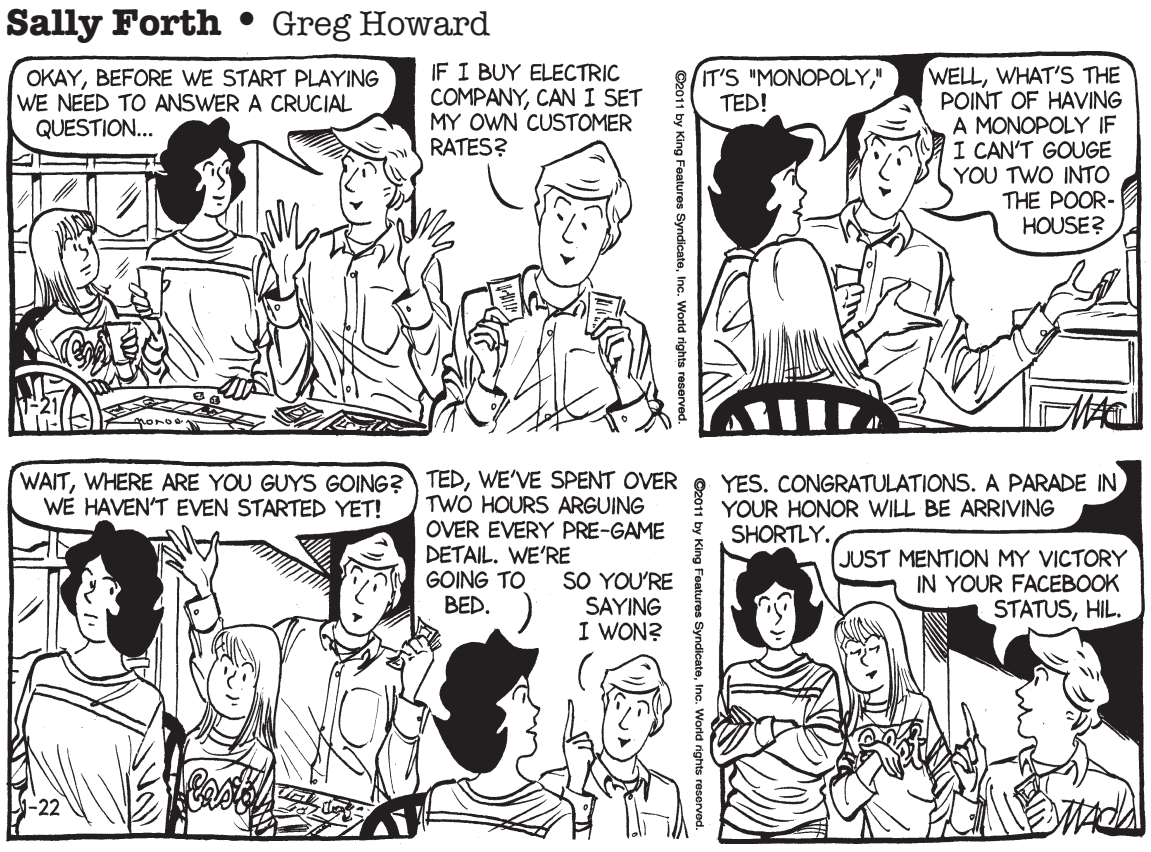
Blondie • Chic Young



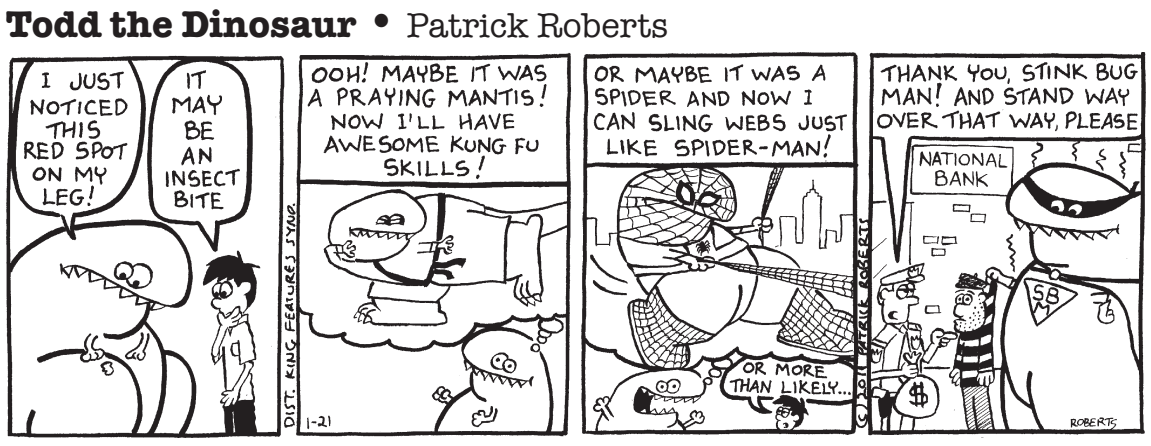
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Give kids label for airport safety

Dear Heloise: Once when I was traveling, I was holding the baby and watching the luggage, and the 3-year-old ran away. After this incident, I always put a PIECE OF MASKING TAPE on the back of the kids' shirts with the flight info and all the phone numbers that are pertinent. The kids are told that the information is there and to walk to a uniformed adult if they get lost.

We never had to use it, but it made me feel so much better traveling by myself with the kids. – Sue, via e-mail

This is one hint, but please consider placing this information inside panel of clothing, or in a pocket so it isn't visible to everyone. – Heloise

EASY ID

Dear Heloise: Recently, I had several rooms painted using four different colors. Before I went shopping for accessories, I took a heavy paper plate and drew a line down the center and painted a different color on each side of the line. On the back, I did the same thing. Now when I go to the store, I just fold the plate to fit in my purse, and I'm ready to exactly match fabrics, pillows, linens, etc. – Priscilla McChesney, Huntsville, Ala.

THRIFTY CHILDREN

Dear Heloise: I have three daughters. Every Christmas, they would receive money from relatives to spend a portion on whatever they wanted. We would go to the mall after Christmas and walk from one end to the other. They could look at whatever they wanted, but couldn't buy until we were on the way back. They became selective in their purchases, and never spent all the money they had available. – R. Parent, Houston

HOUSEGUESTS

Dear Heloise: I place a set of guest towels in a cloth-type shopping bag or reusable tote from a local store and label with a guest's name. I hang the bag on the towel hook in the bathroom. The guest has an extra bag that can be used while visiting, and he or she has a small souvenir to take home! – Leslie Jorgensen, Omaha, Neb.

JURY-DUTY HINT

Dear Heloise: My husband got a jury summons in which he has to call every night after 6 p.m. to see if and when they need him. He has to do this for a whole month. In order not to forget, we placed a sticky note on the TV screen so when he gets home for the evening, he will remember to call. We put the sticky note on his cell phone, and when he places it on the charger for the night, he can put it back on the TV. – Kristi, via e-mail

TEA LIGHT NIGHT LIGHT

Dear Heloise: I keep a battery-operated tea light in my travel case to use as a night light in hotels. – R. Cummins, Pulaski, Miss.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Assume you're the dealer. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ 10 ♥ A8542 ♦ AKQJ6 ♣ 74
2. ♠ K8 ♥ Q94 ♦ KQ862 ♣ AQ3
3. ♠ 5 ♥ AQ1083 ♦ AJ8762 ♣ 5
4. ♠ KJ7 ♥ KQ8 ♦ A109 ♣ KQ86

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. One heart. It would clearly be wrong to open one diamond simply because that is the stronger suit. Since the majority of hands end up in a suit contract, every effort should be made to represent suit length correctly so that the partnership will wind up in the suit in which it holds the most cards.

The most efficient way of attaining this goal when holding two five-card suits is to bid the higher-ranking suit first – regardless of its strength – with the intention of subsequently bidding the lower-ranking suit twice. This will give partner a choice of suits at the same level. If you were to bid diamonds first, followed by hearts, the same would not be true.

2. One notrump. It is far better to open with one notrump than one diamond. The notrump bid has the huge advantage of immediately describing a balanced hand, all-around strength and 15 to 17 points, not to mention the incidental advantage of making it more difficult for the opposition to enter the bidding.

A diamond opening is likely to create later bidding problems. For example, if partner responded to one diamond with one heart or one spade, you'd be faced with a problem that has no satisfactory solution.

3. One heart. This hand represents an exception to the rule laid out in the first problem. Since it barely qualifies as an opening bid, an effort should be made to keep the bidding as low as possible. This can best be accomplished by starting with one heart. Then, if partner makes the expected response of one spade, you can comfortably bid two diamonds, permitting the contract to be played at that level in either red suit.

Observe that if you start with one diamond and get a one-spade or one-notrump response, your hand is not nearly good enough to "reverse" into two hearts, which would show at least 17 points. Weak hands are best bid economically, even at the cost of slightly misrepresenting the distribution.

4. One club. This looks very much like a one-notrump bid, but you can't make that bid with 18 points.

It may seem harmless to exceed the normal limit by only a point, but one mustn't forget that partner's responses are geared to a 15- to 17-point spread. A game or slam could easily be lost if the point-count range became elastic at the whim of the opener. The excess values above an opening one-notrump bid can be shown by jumping to two notrump at your next turn.

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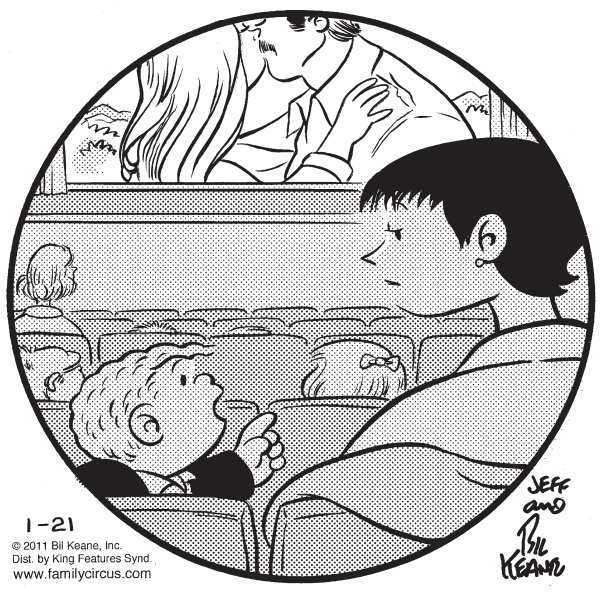
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Can we turn it to a different channel now?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/21

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/20

Cryptoquip

JXKCC SR BMNAK-XHWGN BMNHYJN ABUNHXBC NGKN GKQ NGB CUBJHKX KFHXHNV NS RXV GHWG: QHYS-CSKAC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSICAL INSTRUMENT THAT CAN ONLY BE PROPERLY PLAYED BY BOASTING BRAGGARTS: HOT-AIR BASSOON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Cornfield comment
4 However
7 Nerdy sort
12 Historic period
13 Eventual aves
14 Heart line
15 Benicio — Toro
16 Mentionables?
18 Pismire
19 Fire
20 Bronx cheer
22 Schedule abbr.
23 Bean curd
27 Type measures
29 Handsome lad
31 "Survivor" team
34 Phantom's bailiwick
35 Fireplace part
37 Modern-day evidence
38 Sicilian spouter
39 Carte intro
41 Region
45 Donkey's sounds
47 Transmit electronically
48 Flotation device
52 "A pox upon thee!"
53 Go
54 Rule, for short
55 Listener
56 Worked (up)
57 Fuss
58 Banned bug spray

DOWN
1 Fragrant wood
2 Sports venue
3 Ballroom favorite
4 Nitwit
5 Palatal pendants
6 Turkic tongue
7 Challenge
8 "Holy mackerel!"
9 Before
10 Seventh letter
11 Tavern
17 Poet Pound
21 Marty, in "Madagascar"
23 November birthstone
24 Inseparable
25 Evergreen type
26 "— Today"
28 Profit
30 Dress in
31 Commonest English word
32 On Soc. Sec.
33 Writer Fleming
36 Rodgers collaborator
37 Convertible sofa
40 First lady after Hillary
42 Slain, gangster style
43 Water nymph
44 Put forth, as strength
45 Raised
46 Lily variety
48 Sort
49 Born
50 Aye opponent
51 Leading lady?

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-21

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		