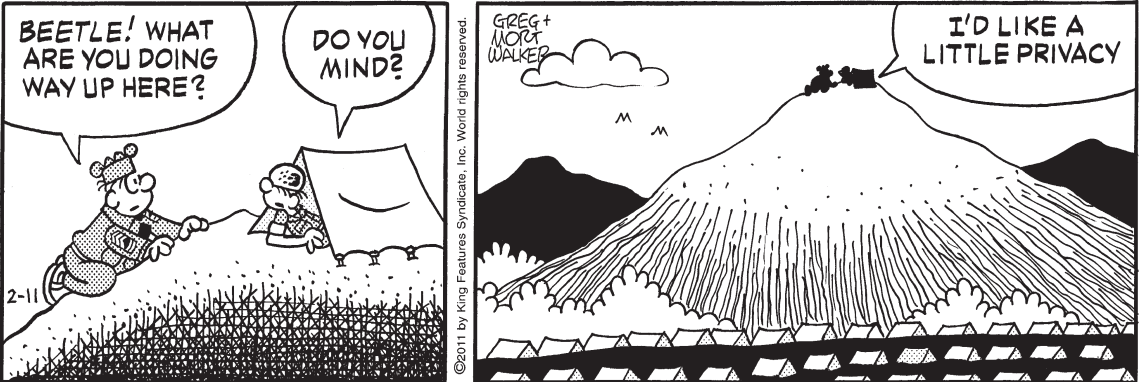


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



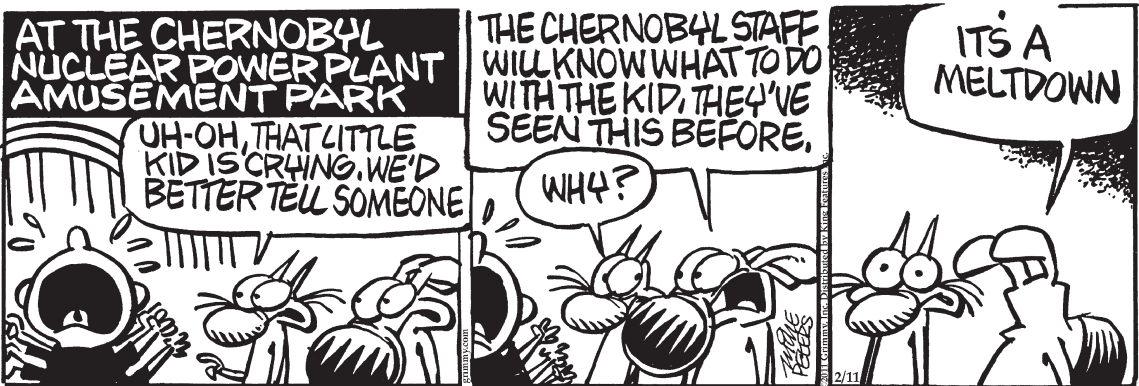
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



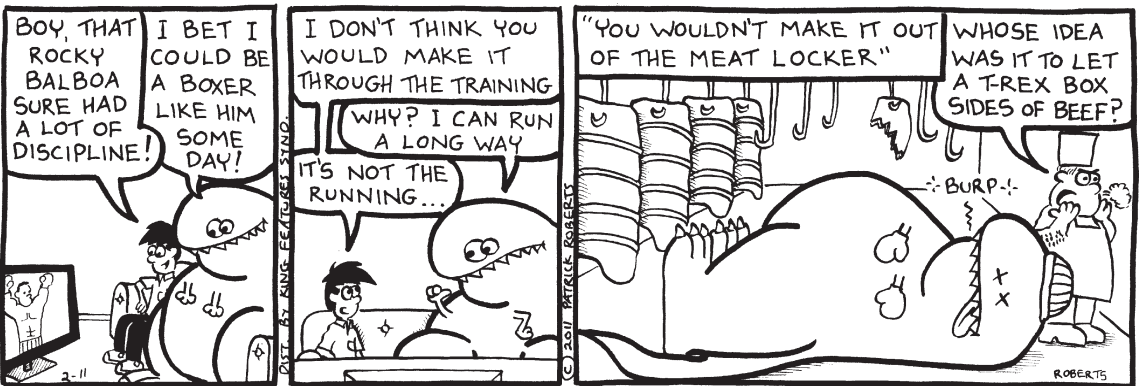
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



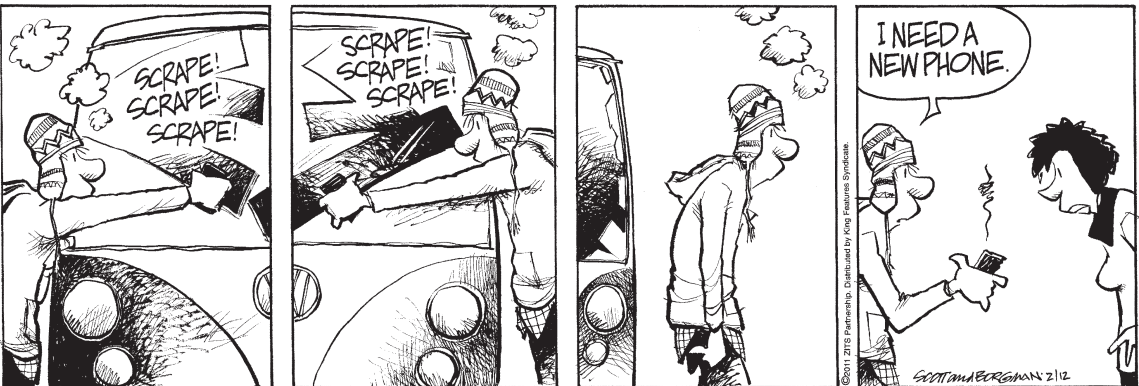
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

More hints help with car rentals

Dear Readers: We have gotten a lot of e-mails and letters in response to the recent RENTAL-CAR HINTS. Here are a few additional hints that you may find useful when renting your next car:

- Check with your insurance company (and credit-card provider, too) to see if it covers rental cars. If it does, there is no need for insurance with rental-car companies. If not, it may be a good idea to buy insurance when you rent the car. (Be sure what the insurance/credit-card company may and may not cover.)
- You may find a rental car cheaper away from the airport. Sometimes they have airport tax on car rentals at the airport. If renting away from the airport, some companies will arrange for transportation (known as a shuttle), and with others you will have to take a taxi. Make sure to factor in the cost.
- Have someone over 25 rent and drive the car. You can rent a car at 21, but most likely you will be charged more than if a 25-year-old or older is driving the car.
- Deals for weekly rentals may be more cost-effective. Look into all your options before selecting a car rental. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com  
ADDRESS BOOK

Dear Heloise: I had a small, hardcover address book I wasn't using. I am now using it for all my online accounts because of the alphabetized pages. You can add the online name, your user name and password in the space allowed. I keep it right near the computer. – Mary G., via e-mail

This is a good suggestion; however, you want to be careful to keep this at home or at the office in a locked desk drawer or other place not easily accessible to snooping eyes. – Heloise

**USE CLEAN JAR INSTEAD OF BLENDER**

Dear Heloise: I must take a powdered prescription mixed with juice before every meal. The instructions suggest using a blender because the powder is very difficult to mix, but who wants to wash a blender three times a day? (Beside the fact I don't even own one!) I happened to be visiting my boyfriend when he decided to make scrambled eggs. He put the eggs in a jar with a tightfitting lid and shook it vigorously. There was the answer to my dilemma! – Karolyn in Harrisburg, Pa.

NO MESS

Dear Heloise: When I'm outside in the garden and have to go in the house, instead of taking my shoes off (to not track in mud or grass clippings), I bought a couple of cheap, plastic shower caps. I just slip them on the bottom of my shoes and walk through the house. Plastic food-storage covers also work. – Cass, Racine, Wis.

This hint comes in handy in the winter as well, to keep all the snow and wet weather off flooring! – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South in each of the following four hands. What would you bid at the point where the question mark appears?

1. ♠AKJ8 ♥K107 ♦AKJ4 ♣96  
South North  
1 ♦ 1 ♥  
2 ♠ 3 ♣  
4 ♥ 4 ♠  
?

2. ♠AK1092 ♥KQ83 ♦Q9 ♣A2  
South North  
1 ♠ 2 ♥  
2 ♠ 4 ♥  
?

3. ♠Q7 ♥K8652 ♦9863 ♣A10  
South North  
Pass 1 ♠  
1 NT 3 ♥  
?

4. ♠9542 ♥AQ1072 ♦A8 ♣93  
South North  
Pass 1 ♦  
1 ♥ 4 ♥  
?

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. Without a doubt, you have a very good hand, but partner already knows approximately what you hold from the combination of your opening diamond bid, your jump-shift in spades (indicating at least 19 points) and your delayed heart raise.

If he was interested in slam, he would have bid more strongly. Since you have no values beyond those already expressed, it's best to pass. Partner may have something like [S] Q952 [H] A983 [D] 852 [C] J4, in which case even four spades is in some jeopardy.

2. Four notrump. Partner's raise to four hearts indicates that he wants to be in game even if you have a minimum opening bid. Since you are well beyond a minimum, however, an attempt to get to slam is fully justified. If partner shows only one ace in answer to your Blackwood inquiry, you should still bid six hearts. The ace you're missing will most likely be your only loser.

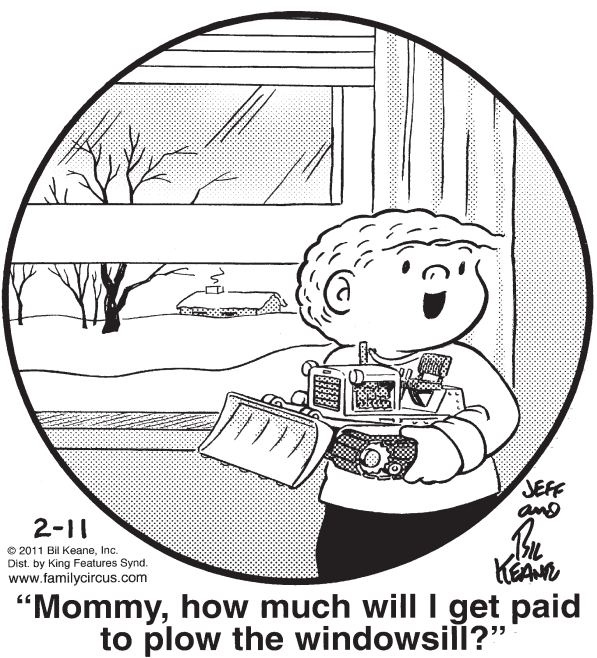
3. Four clubs. This is a slam try showing the club ace and implying an excellent heart fit. Partner may have something like [S] AKJ82 [H] AQJ4 [D] A4 [C] 76, and you'd certainly want to be in six hearts in that case.

4. Five diamonds. This hand is also on the verge of a slam, since partner must have at least 20 points and has no idea you have nearly an opening bid. It would be dangerous to go directly to six hearts, since you could have two immediate losers in one of the black suits.

Five diamonds shows the ace of diamonds and interest in slam. You hope this will enable partner to bid six (or seven) with the necessary controls in clubs and spades.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

Cryptoquip

VYLCYAMC EYS OYAMFYTD UKY

X Z U X D O U S H I M O

YSVKMOISXIHCO XZZ FD

KHAOMZE: IKM ZYCM XSSXCLMS.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE FILMING SESSION IS INCLUDING MANY CELEBRITIES, I'D SAY IT'S A SHOOT FOR THE STARS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Actor McBride  
4 Church section  
8 Taj Mahal city  
12 Baltimore newspaper  
13 Hammerhead part  
14 "Let's Make a Deal" option  
15 Opposites  
17 Source  
18 Sandwich treat  
19 Moment  
20 Hearty drinks  
22 College VIP, for short  
24 Mexican entree  
25 Cake enhancement  
29 Guitar's cousin  
30 Shine  
31 Born

**32 Represent in words**  
34 Microwave, e.g.  
35 Aspire  
36 Intelligent software  
40 In the thick of  
41 Winged  
42 Party guests  
46 Bath powder  
47 Swerve  
48 Agt.  
49 Pharaoh's symbol  
50 Lancaster foe  
51 Firmament

**DOWN**

1 Helgenberger series  
2 Attila, e.g.  
3 Bills  
4 — -ski  
5 Mexican money  
6 Witness  
7 Type measures  
8 Aimless  
9 Slip-up  
10 Santa's runway  
11 Pretentious  
16 Therefore  
19 British singer  
20 Poker variety  
21 Aftermath

**22 Investigate**  
23 Got up  
25 Turn over  
26 Sci-fi villains, often  
27 —do-well  
28 Bloke  
30 Rum recipe  
33 House of worship  
34 Leave out  
36 Smug look  
37 Information  
38 Verve  
39 Pitcher's boo-boo  
40 State with certainty  
42 Wall climber  
43 Keanu, in "The Matrix"  
44 Comic-strip squeal  
45 Bond, for one

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterdays answer 2-11

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		