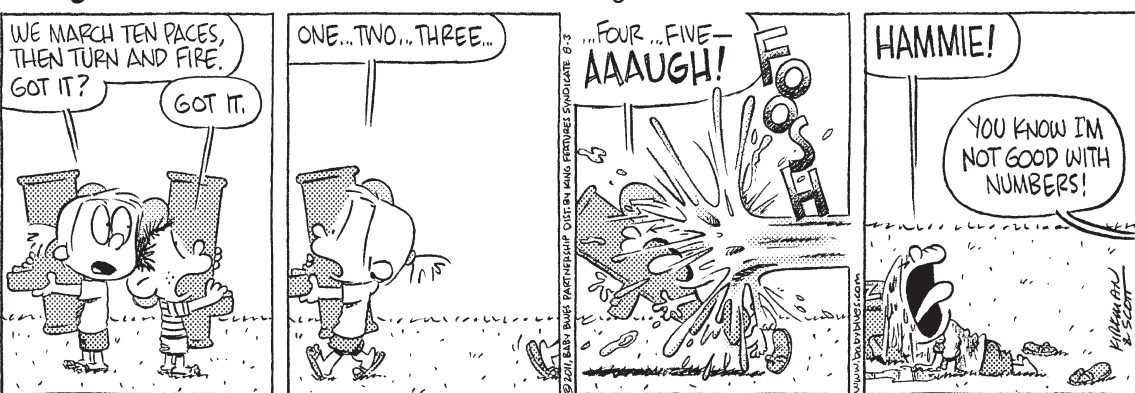


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



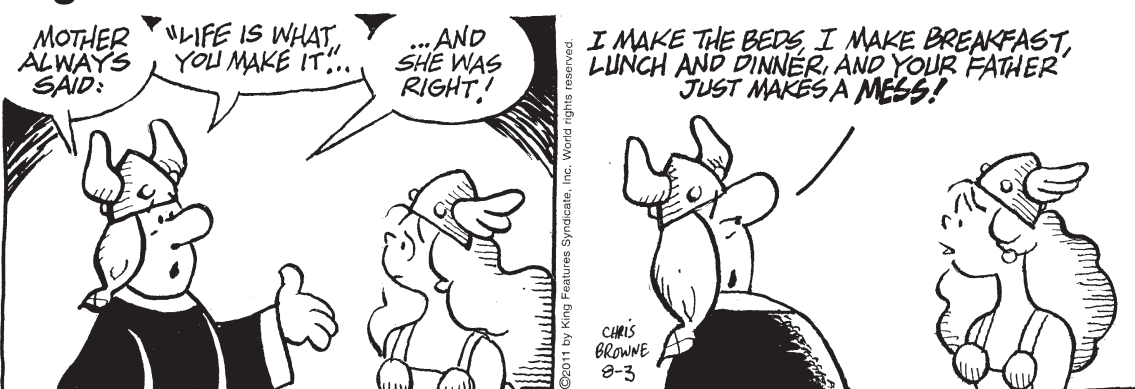
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



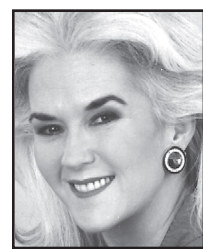
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Place oven racks for baking results**

Dear Heloise: Will you tell me where to place my OVEN RACKS for pies and other baked goods? I didn't think the bottom crust of my last pie was cooked thoroughly. I love your column and read it every day in the Amarillo (Texas) Globe-News. — Kaye McCall, via email

When in doubt, place the oven rack in the middle of the oven. This works well for most things you are cooking because it sits where the temperature is not too hot or too cold, and the air circulates.

The top and bottom racks are the places where the most heat is concentrated on the top or bottom of whatever you are cooking. So, when using the broiler, you want items placed on the top rack, close to the heat source. When cooking pizza, you would want to use the bottom rack (unless otherwise instructed). — Heloise

P.S.: An oven thermometer is a must if you bake a lot.

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**HANDY POTATO MASHER**

Dear Heloise: My use for a potato masher is to mash ripe bananas for recipes and baby food. — Loren in Florida

A potato masher also is handy for crushing berries, crumbling hard-cooked eggs, mixing meatloaf and smashing crackers. — Heloise

**DISHWASHER CLEANING**

Dear Heloise: When I load my dishwasher and don't have a full load, I go around the house and find knickknacks that need a good cleaning and put them in the dishwasher. I also check my china hutch to see if there are things that need to be washed. This way, I get two things done at the same time. — Sara T. from Texas

This brought a laugh to the office, because one of my assistants does this exact thing. One day, she put a small dove figurine in the dishwasher, and when the dishes were done, the figurine was gone! She later realized that it was soapstone, and the hot water in the dishwasher had made it disintegrate. A lesson learned: Always make sure any item you put in the dishwasher is "dishwasher safe." — Heloise

**WATERMELON CUTTING**

Dear Heloise: I always cut a watermelon when I buy it. Placing the cutting board on a cookie sheet with raised edges catches all the juice and seeds rather than having a mess on the counter-top. Easy cleanup. — Karen F., via email

**CLOSE TIGHT**

Dear Heloise: I would like to submit my helpful hint: When I open a plastic bag, I cut a strip from the top of the bag and use it to close the bag and seal in the contents by tying the strip around the bag. — Lynn Diehl, via email

(c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ A Q 7  
♥ 4  
♦ K Q J 10 5  
♣ K J 9 3

**WEST**  
♦ 6 5  
♥ Q J 8 7 2  
♦ A 6 3  
♣ Q 7 6

**EAST**  
♦ 9 2  
♥ A 10 9 5 3  
♦ 8 7 2  
♣ A 10 4

**SOUTH**  
♦ K J 10 8 4 3  
♥ K 6  
♦ 9 4  
♣ 8 5 2

The bidding:  
North 1♦ East 1♠ South 1♠ West Pass  
2♦ Pass 2♣ Pass  
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

**On a Wing and a Prayer**

Sometimes a defender is forced to make a play that appears to be suicidal. Yet when the special circumstances of that deal are analyzed, it can be seen that the play is absolutely necessary.

Take this case where South is in four spades and West leads the queen of hearts. East takes the ace and must decide what to do next. He should conclude that his only chance to defeat the contract is to return the four of clubs!

Before examining the reasons for this play, let's first observe its effect. West puts up the queen of clubs, taken by dummy's king. Sooner or later, declarer concedes a trick to the ace of diamonds. When he does, West returns a club through dummy's J-9, and East's A-10 of clubs set the contract.

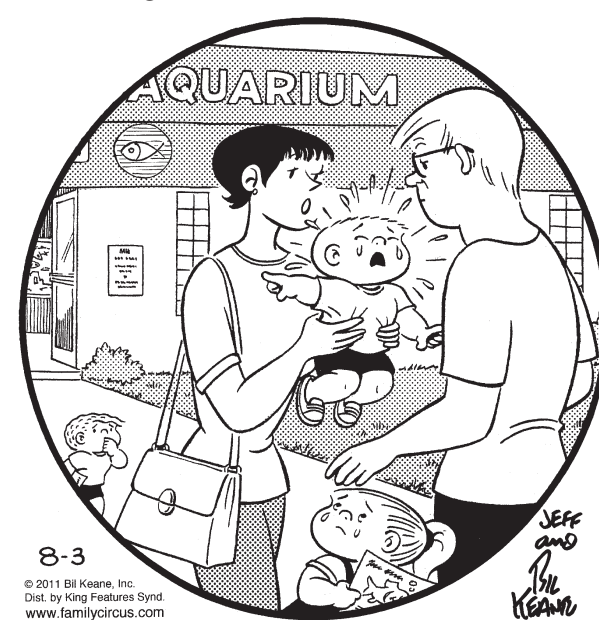
Now let's examine the reasoning that points the way to this defense. The first step is for East to dismiss any lie of the cards that would render the contract impregnable. East must therefore assume that West has the ace of diamonds, since if South has that card, the contract can't be beaten. Having done this, East can now count three defensive tricks in the form of three aces. The remaining question is where a fourth trick might come from. Given South's spade bids and dummy's spade holding, there is no hope of getting a trump trick, so the only possibility remaining is to score two club tricks. This can't be done if South has the club queen, so West must be credited with that card.

However, two club tricks can be taken only if the defense is in position to collect them when West's presumed ace of diamonds is driven out. And the only way this can be achieved is with a low club return by East at trick two.

As it happens, West has both of the cards East needs to defeat the contract, and the virtue of his logic reaps a just reward.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

**Cryptoquip**

V AOFVOSO DJO HYUX PHON

MTCW NJY FYSOX MHYLLVIM

DJOVH JUVH NOHO ATWC

UHHUIMVIM DHUEEVP PYLAW.

PRODUCERS IN ALASKA WHO BECAME WELL-KNOWN FOR WEARING FUR COATS: PARKA BROTHERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "CSI" evidence
  - 4 Arp's art style
  - 8 Turkey stuffing herb
  - 12 Charged particle
  - 13 Idle or Clapton
  - 14 Caspian feeder
  - 15 Francisco precursor
  - 16 Billiards variation
  - 18 Winner
  - 20 Still
  - 21 ID at Barnes & Noble
  - 24 Earlier-born
  - 28 Government grant of a sort
  - 32 Facility
  - 33 Ornate vase
  - 34 Starts the pot
  - 36 Dundee denial
  - 37 Thick-coated kin of the weasel
- DOWN**
- 1 Frisbee
  - 2 Ark builder
  - 3 Kournikova or Karenina
  - 4 Quite far offshore
  - 5 Onassis, familiarly
  - 6 Use a shovel
  - 7 In need of liniment
  - 8 Under-stated
  - 9 Altar constellation
  - 10 Four qts.
  - 11 Right angle
  - 17 Ball holder
  - 19 Cambridge sch.
  - 22 Gunshot sound
  - 23 Explosive, for short
  - 25 Actress Delany
  - 26 Birthright
  - 27 Stencher
  - 28 Totals
  - 29 Stumble
  - 30 Part of A.D.
  - 31 Antelope's playmate
  - 35 Holy place
  - 38 Obsequious gesture
  - 40 Afternoon social
  - 42 U.K. fliers
  - 45 "Unh-unh"
  - 47 Alpha follower
  - 48 Terrible guy?
  - 49 Immediately upcoming
  - 50 Existed
  - 51 Sternward
  - 52 Rage
  - 53 Roulette bet
  - 54 401(k) alternative

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-3

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		
59				60					61		