

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



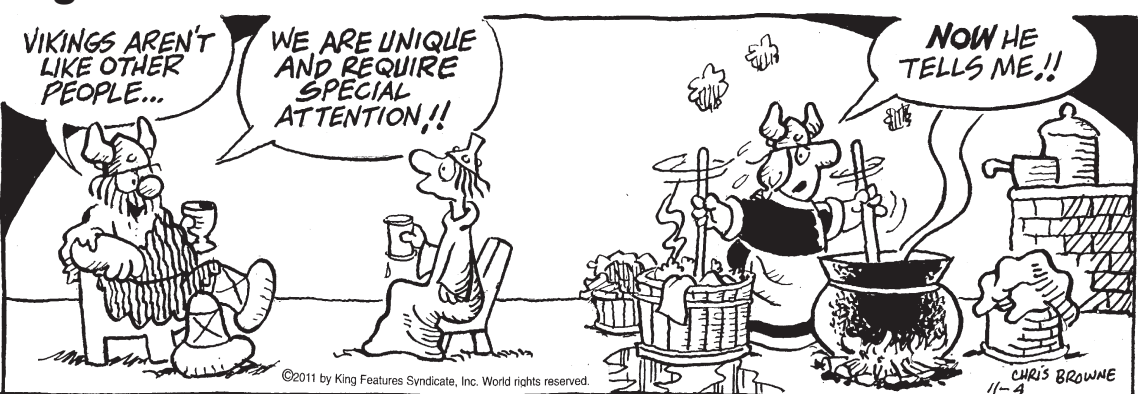
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



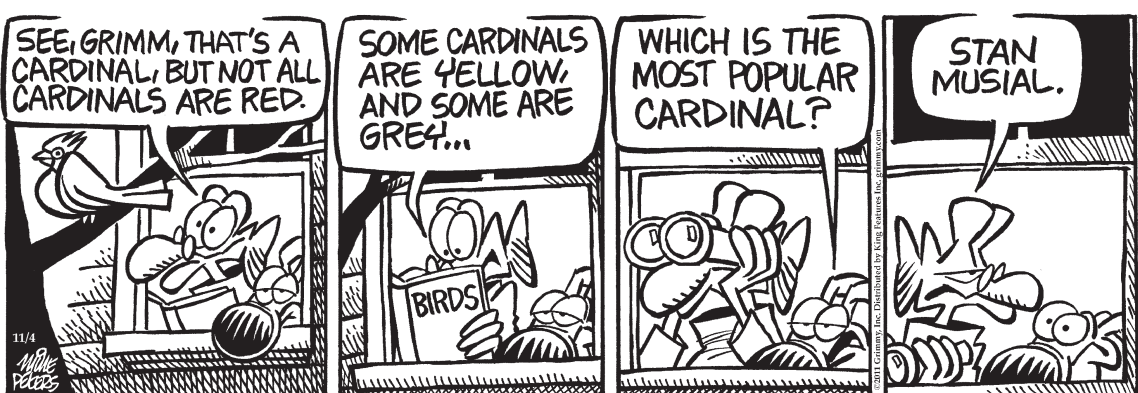
**Blondie** • Chic Young



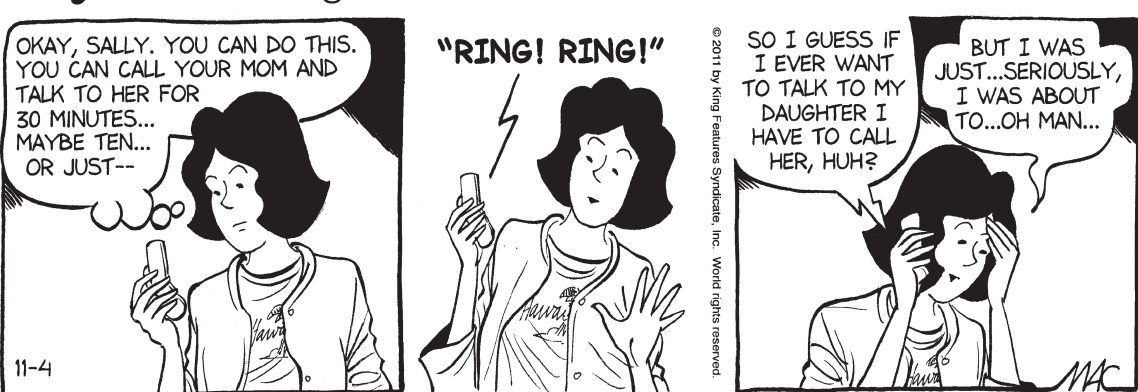
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



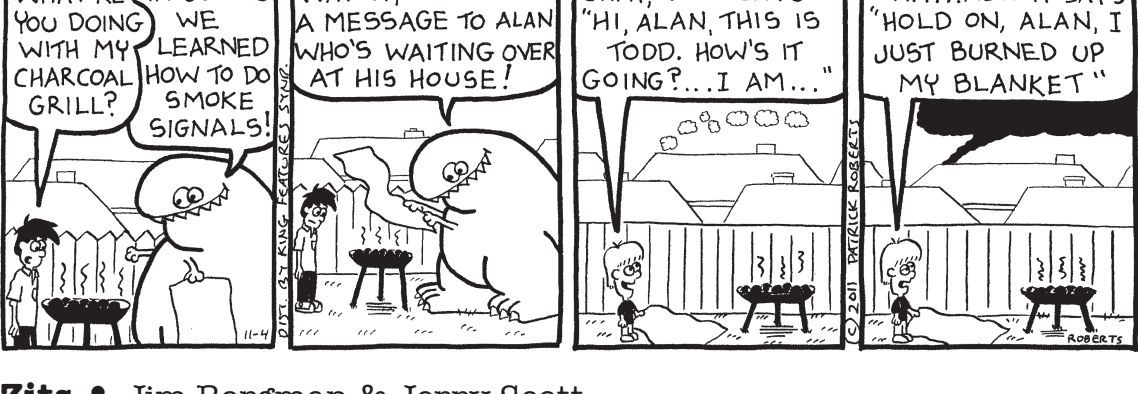
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Hints to help clean cast iron without damage**

Dear Readers: A recent column on how to clean CAST-IRON SKILLETS had many of you sharing your hints. Here are just a few of them:

- Gerald C. in Fayetteville, N.C., says: "Dry it with a paper towel. Put in coarse salt. Rub hard with a tough rag, and the skillet will clean up."
- James C., via email, says, "The technique I learned in keeping your pan clean is to use salt and oil with a paper towel as a scrubber."
- Charles P., via email, says: "When cleaned and rinsed, I place the skillet on my cooktop over a high flame to quick-dry, then wipe (when cold - Heloise) with a paper towel that has been anointed with a little vegetable oil."
- Janet C., via email, says: "Put a grungy cast-iron skillet in your oven when you turn on the self-cleaning feature." (Heloise here: You can only place your cast-iron in the oven when self-cleaning if you have the type of oven that has racks able to stay in during this cleaning process. Many ovens require that you remove the racks before self-cleaning, so please be sure to check your manual before doing this).

• Joan B. in Omaha, Neb., says: "My father was always working in his garage on his projects. One day, when my mother went shopping, he sand-blasted the gunk off! He was so proud of how shiny he got it. I don't think my mother was very happy, though. But we all had a good laugh."

I'm sure he meant well, but a beautiful, black cast-iron skillet is a treasure! Thanks to all the readers for sharing your hints! - Heloise

**CUSTOMER RUDENESS AND CRUMPLED BILLS**

Hi, Heloise: Just read your column in *The Washington Post* online. The reader hit the nail on the head with her comment about the rudeness of customers handing crumpled bills to salesclerks. It's a sensitive point for me. I worked on a turnpike part time for a while.

The rudeness of patrons never ceased to amaze me. There were those who handed me crumpled bills, a \$100 bills for a \$1 toll, or pennies and coins from the floor. Others were angry because it took time to count their pennies or uncrumple bills or help a patron who was lost.

And folks wondered why I wore gloves! So, uncrumple bills, smile and remember the person behind the counter. - Peggy, via email

**HELOISE'S TEST YOUR HINT IQ**

Dear Readers: What can you use as a substitute for honey? Here are your choices:

- corn syrup
- maple syrup
- jelly.

The "honey" of an answer is corn syrup. Corn syrup can be substituted for honey in most recipes. Remember, it's not as sweet as honey, so a dessert won't be as sweet, and the texture and flavor might be a little different. - Heloise

Send a money-saving or timesaving hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or you can fax it to 1-210-HELOISE or email it to [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com). I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ Q3 ♥ AK853 ♦ KQ74 ♣ 95
- ♠ Q84 ♥ AQJ73 ♦ AKJ6 ♣ 10
- ♠ — ♥ KQ962 ♦ AJ103 ♣ KJ94
- ♠ KQ ♥ KQJ94 ♦ KJ75 ♣ K9

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Four spades. You seldom raise partner with only two trumps, but you don't have much choice in this case. Partner's jump-rebid of three spades is highly invitational and shows at least a six-card spade suit, for which the Q-x is adequate support. It would be wrong to rebid your hearts and suppress your spade support, and it would be positively unthinkable to bid three notrump without a club stopper.

2. Four notrump. Up to this point, you've shown no more than a minimum opening bid, and it's now time for you to make a move toward slam. Unless partner has no aces, you should have a good play for 12 tricks. Partner could have, say, [S] AJ10xxx [H] xx [D] Qx [C] Axx, in which case you'd surely want to be in slam. But if he has [S] KJ10xxx [H] xx [D] Qx [C] KQx, you wouldn't. The only way to resolve this issue is via Blackwood, planning to bid six if partner has one or two aces, and to stop in five if he has none.

3. Three notrump. This violates the general principle that you should not bid notrump with a void in partner's suit, but the alternative bid of four clubs is even more unattractive. Partner is unlikely to have four clubs, and even if he does, three notrump might still turn out to be the best contract.

4. Four spades. Because of your high point count and K-Q of spades, it is natural to think of slam, but partner should not have three aces and long spades and bid this way if three spades is not 100 percent forcing. Partner could have [S] AJ10xxx [H] xx [D] xx [C] AQx, in which case you wouldn't want to be any higher than four.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"You can have the tissue back, Mommy. It was just a sneeze false alarm."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/04

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

**Cryptoquip**

MCSA JBYOT RBIQBXQ JSOO

REQJWSO TWEOBISR WV ACQK

MQHQ IBTQHS AQOK ASOO?

TQZHQR VSWH WX CQWZCA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I AM CUTTING THE SMALL BAND MEMBERS' HAIR, YOU COULD SAY I'M TRIMMING THE TRIO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                            |                          |                                     |   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>              | 41 Noon, on a sundial    | <b>DOWN</b>                         | 1 "Hum-bug!" weapon                       |
| 1 Rudimentary              | 43 Irate                 | 2 Hearty brew                       | 21 Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory"       |
| 6 Doctrine                 | 44 Mine, in Marseilles   | 3 Midsized Siberian dog             | 22 Rhyming tribute                        |
| 9 Med. watchdog org.       | 45 Excessive             | 4 Mosque bigwig                     | 24 Can material                           |
| 12 Memorable mission       | 47 Russian urn           | 5 Traffic pylons                    | 26 At a slow tempo                        |
| 13 Ultra-modernist         | 49 Post-wedding relative | 6 Bug                               | 7 Membership                              |
| 14 Blunder                 | 52 Dead heat             | 8 Mid-May honoree                   | 9 Wild                                    |
| 15 Macho type              | 53 Pismire               | 10 Southern talk                    | 11 Obey reveille                          |
| 16 Japanese warrior of old | 54 Aroma                 | 12 Excessive times, in bygone times | 13 One taking great interest in his work? |
| 18 Brunch entree           | 55 Bygone                | 14 Excessive times, in bygone times | 15 Obey reveille                          |
| 20 Cuts into lumber        | 56 "One Mic"             | 16 Excessive times, in bygone times | 17 One taking great interest in his work? |
| 21 Bliss                   | 57 Animal groups         | 18 Excessive times, in bygone times | 19 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 23 Pouch                   |                          | 19 Excessive times, in bygone times | 20 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 24 Veil material           |                          | 20 Excessive times, in bygone times | 21 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 25 Concept                 |                          | 21 Excessive times, in bygone times | 22 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 27 Flight component        |                          | 22 Excessive times, in bygone times | 23 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 29 Butt in                 |                          | 23 Excessive times, in bygone times | 24 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 31 Intl. humanities agcy.  |                          | 24 Excessive times, in bygone times | 25 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 35 Broadcast               |                          | 25 Excessive times, in bygone times | 26 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 37 Incurison               |                          | 26 Excessive times, in bygone times | 27 Excessive times, in bygone times       |
| 38 "Trivial Pursuit" piece |                          | 27 Excessive times, in bygone times | 28 Excessive times, in bygone times       |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-4

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				