

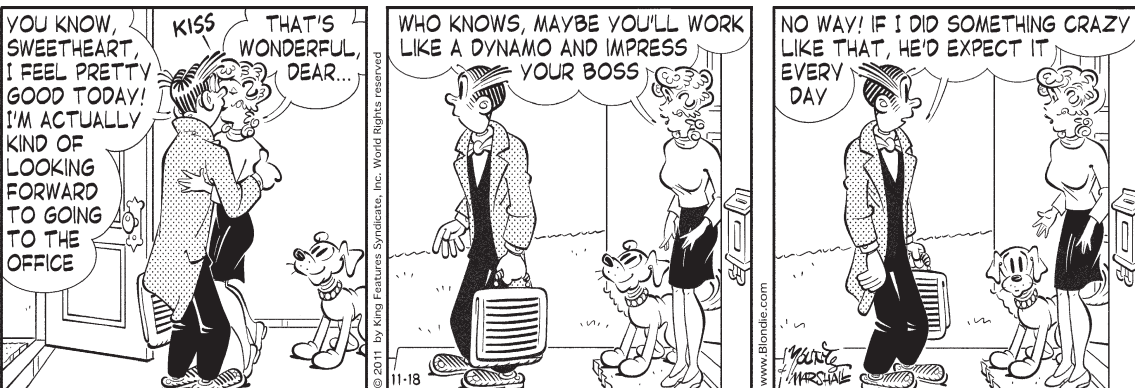
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



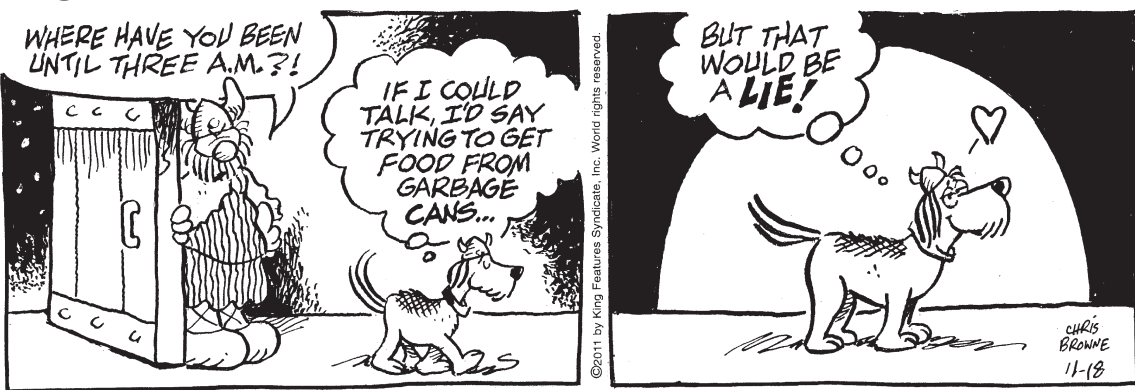
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



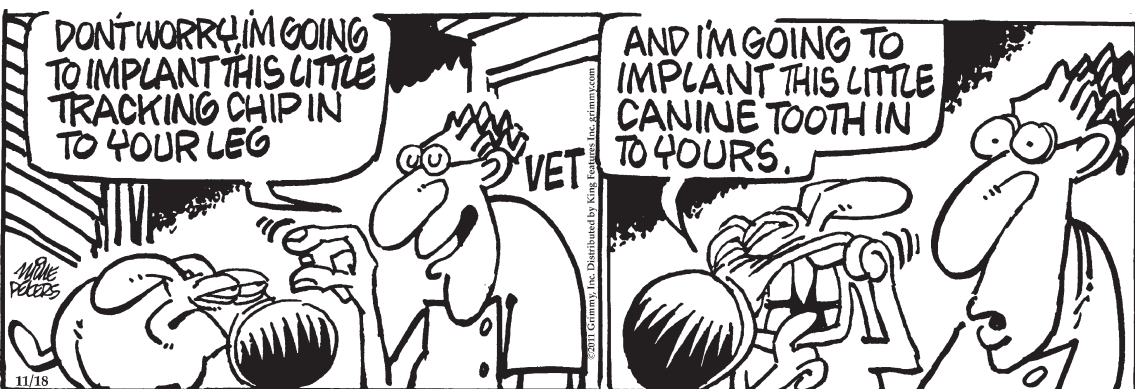
Blondie • Chic Young



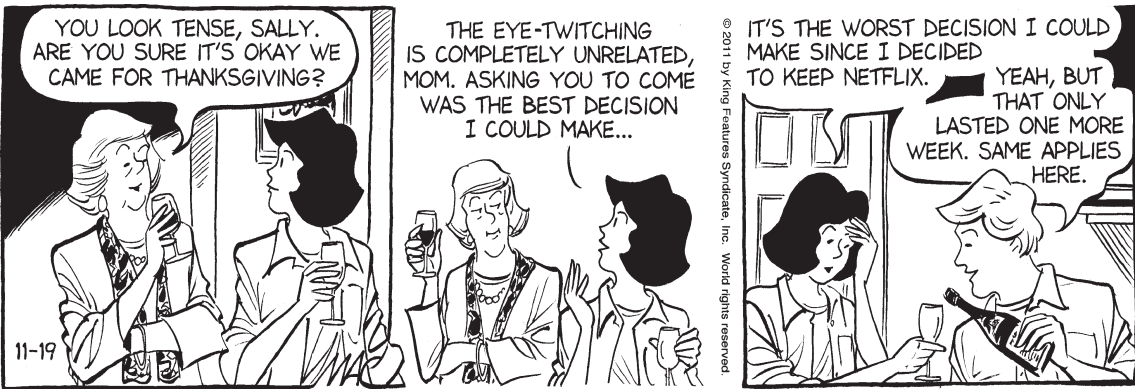
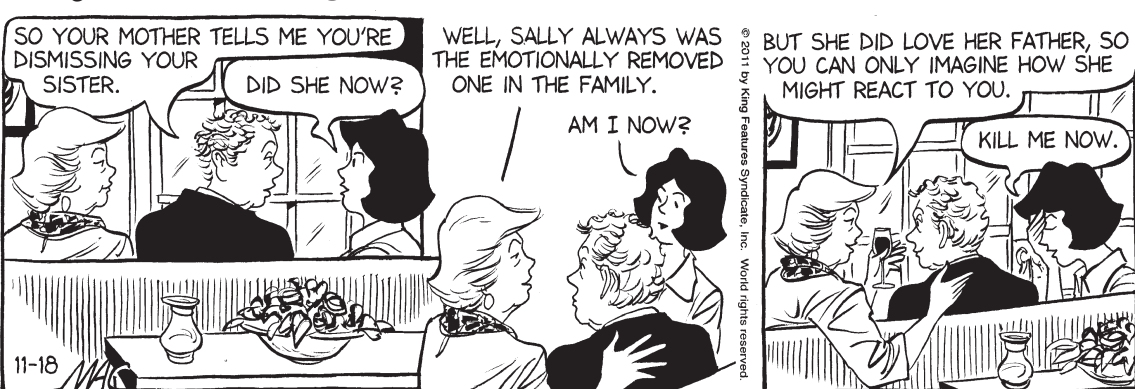
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott




Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Wiggle out stubborn bulb

Dear Heloise: My wife said she has seen your suggestions for how to UNSCREW A STUBBORN LIGHT BULB from a very tight fixture cover. Any suggestions you can give will be a blessing! – John Crowley, via email

John, happy to help! Safety is the main concern. You must turn off the power from the main circuit box (or, with a lamp, unplug it).

Wearing gloves and eye protection, carefully wiggle the bulb, trying to loosen it from the base. In your case, place a heavy cloth over the light bulb and carefully break it off from its base.

Next, using a rubber-style jar opener, slowly reach in, twisting and wiggling back and forth gently to remove the base that is left behind.

Remember to completely clean the empty socket before replacing the light bulb to be sure there is no glass left. You can use a clean, dry cloth or a vacuum-cleaner attachment.

Heloise Update: A raw potato was once suggested for removing the base, but the moisture from the potato actually could cause a short. So don't! – Heloise

TRAVEL SAVINGS

Dear Heloise: Each year, we schedule a getaway for the first weekend of December. Hotels and resorts usually offer money-saving packages during the lull immediately after Thanksgiving and before Christmas. The airports also seem to be less crowded.

Many destinations not only dazzle with holiday decorations, but offer special activities. It's an ideal time to save on travel and get into the holiday spirit. – Shelly and Bob M., San Antonio

A super-saver hint, and one I'd never thought of! Glad you sent it in. – Heloise

SAFETY FIRST

Dear Readers: Do you know the correct way to dispose of "sharps" (needles, syringes or lancets)? Placing them in a plastic bag and in the trash is a no-no. What are the alternatives?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov), the following disposal methods are OK: a mail-back program for a fee, a drop box at your doctor or pharmacy, or call your public health department for guidance.

You also can place it in a puncture-resistant plastic bottle with a screw-on lid and tape the lid closed, then place in the garbage can. – Heloise

THAT SINKING FEELING

Dear Heloise: I use two sink mats at a time – one in the sink, and the other on the front edge of the sink. When dishes bump the edge, they don't crack or break. – Edward in San Antonio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand?

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| WEST | EAST |
| ♠ A J 9 | ♠ 8 5 2 |
| ♥ A | ♥ J 10 9 4 |
| ♦ A K Q J 8 6 2 | ♦ 10 9 7 |
| ♣ A K | ♣ 7 6 3 |

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the four of diamonds. You win South's ten with the jack and return the jack of clubs, on which North discards the five of hearts. How would you play the hand?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| WEST | EAST |
| ♠ A Q 10 3 | ♠ 7 |
| ♥ A Q 10 | ♥ 8 3 |
| ♦ K J 9 | ♦ 5 2 |
| ♣ J 10 8 | ♣ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2 |

Test Your Play

1. It would be a mistake to try to avoid losing two spade tricks by banking all your hopes on one or two finesses in that suit. You would be a strong favorite to lose two tricks by this method of play.

You have a far better chance to establish an extra heart trick. Win the club, cash the ace of hearts and cross to dummy with a trump. Play the jack of hearts and discard a spade if South follows low.

Win whatever North returns, enter dummy with a trump and lead the ten of hearts, discarding another spade if South follows low. This method of play succeeds if South was dealt one or both missing heart honors – about a 75 percent chance.

Of course, if South covers either heart lead from dummy, you ruff high and are then assured of an extra heart trick.

2. The problem is to untangle the clubs (which are blocked) and, at the same time, protect against the possibility that North started with five diamonds to the A-Q. The best way to try to solve this problem is to overtake the jack of clubs with the king and lead a diamond to your nine!

If North cashes his diamonds, you simply discard a club from your hand on the fourth round, allowing you to run the suit. But if North sees through your scheme and shifts to a spade or a heart after winning the diamond nine with the queen, you top whatever South plays and put North back on lead by conceding the king of diamonds to his ace.

North still can't afford to play another diamond, so let's say he again returns a spade or a heart. You win and play the ten of clubs, allowing South to win with the queen. If South has a diamond to return, you make three notrump; if he is out of diamonds, you make four notrump.

Observe that North can't wriggle out of his predicament even if he cashes the ace of diamonds after winning the nine with the queen. In that case, after he exits with a heart or a spade, you can simply concede a club to South's queen that much earlier to secure the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

G J B S C R J F Y J G Q X T C J J W

G J J E N C W J V O J S F N F S I N Z

Z N C K F Q O J R, Q E N C I V B S I I

F Y S F S R F Q W X T C S K F J F.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SONG ABOUT ONE'S NEVER-CEASING FONDNESS FOR CERTAIN HEDGE SHRUBS: "I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YEWS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Soil samples rich in clay | 2 Mound stat | 20 New Testament book |
| 1 Moment | 37 Big glitch | 3 Trattoria dish | 21 Castle protection |
| 4 Second-hand | 40 Throat clearer | 4 City-related | 22 Olympic swimming |
| 8 Touse | 41 Grown-up nits | 5 Burn somewhat | legend |
| 12 401(k) alternative | 42 Poison ivy aid | 6 Type measures | 23 Rice-shaped pasta |
| 13 Nevada city | 46 Culture medium | 7 Homer's interjection | 25 Fill fully |
| 14 Exam format | 47 Burden | 8 Half | 26 Dire situation |
| 15 Utensil made from a gourd shell | 48 Sawbuck | 9 Coffee shop vessels | 27 Fermi's bit |
| 17 Data, for short | 49 Anything but that | 10 Well-protected | 28 11 o'clock broadcast |
| 18 Open slightly | 50 Crimson Tide school | 11 Coin aperture | 30 Carte |
| 19 Surround | 51 Nevertheless | 16 Trojan War hero | 33 Longtime convicts |
| 20 Jordan's capital | | 19 Highland hillside | 34 Verse |
| 22 Categorize | | | 36 Tibet's capital |
| 24 Wheedle | | | 37 Venetian blind part |
| 25 Aerosol vessel | | | 38 In the offing |
| 29 Pitch | | | 39 Exotic berry |
| 30 Corn | | | 40 Grad |
| 31 Consumed | | | 42 Stocky horse |
| 32 Thick-bladed dagger | | | 43 Santa — winds |
| 34 Turn the soil | | | 44 Born |
| 35 Don Juan's mother | | | 45 Tolkien character |

Solution time: 25 mins.

DECO	PEG	HERO
ASAP	AAA	UPON
FARE	ITS	MITE
TURNON	TAPS	
AFTERSHOCK		
TRAIT	PIP	DOE
HEIR	DOC	EIRE
EER	BIC	EXCEL
AFTERSHAVE		
I	MAM	FACTIAL
ERGO	IDO	URGE
BAHT	SIR	TOES
BYTE	SEE	ENDS

Yesterday's answer 11-18

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	