

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



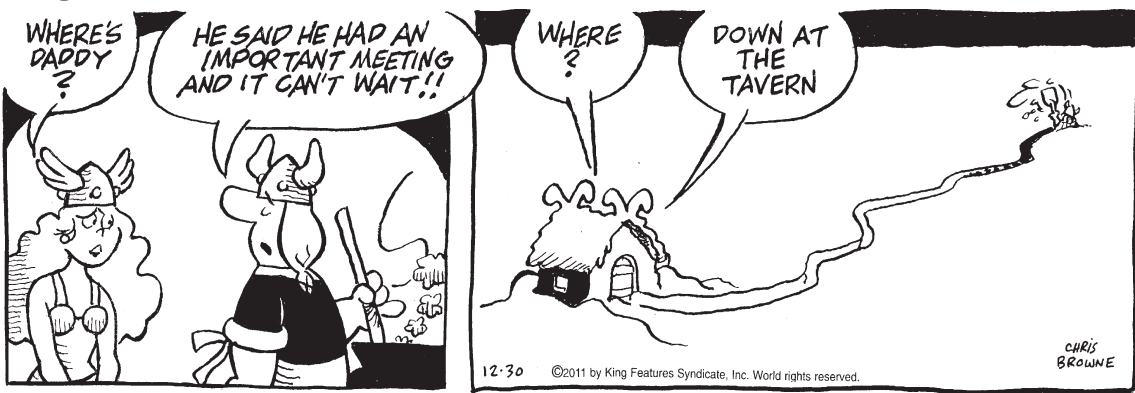
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



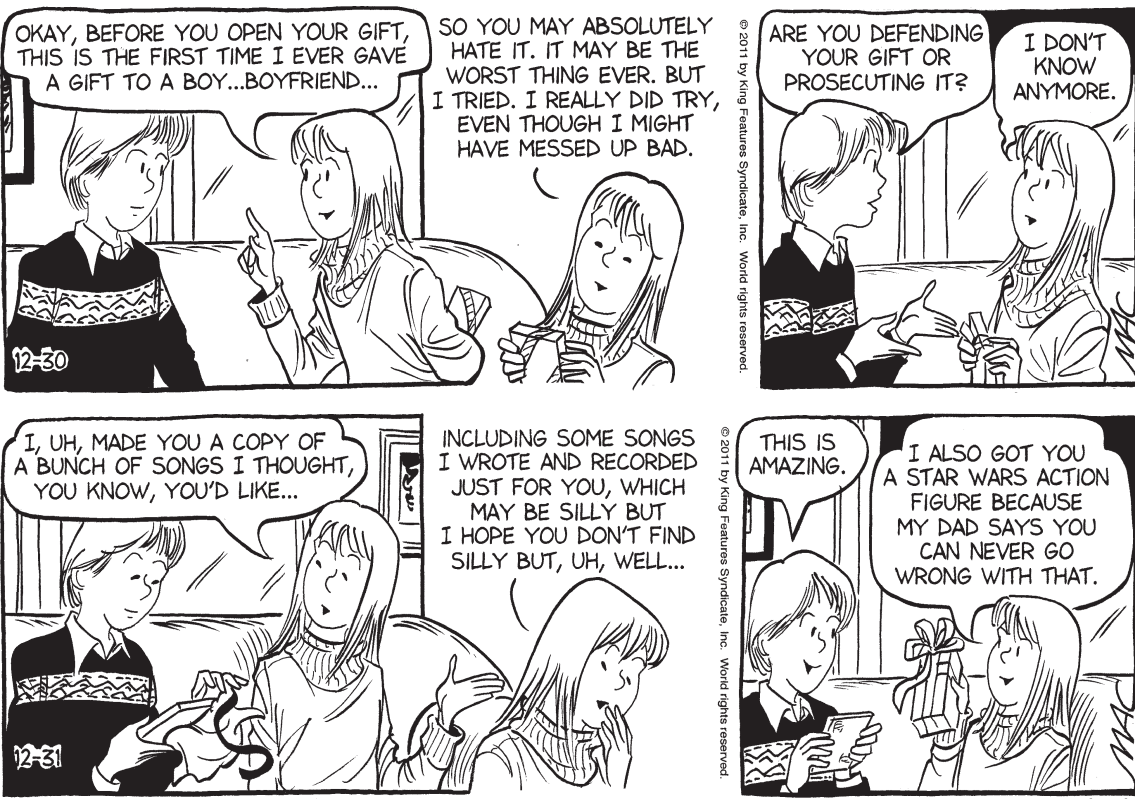
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



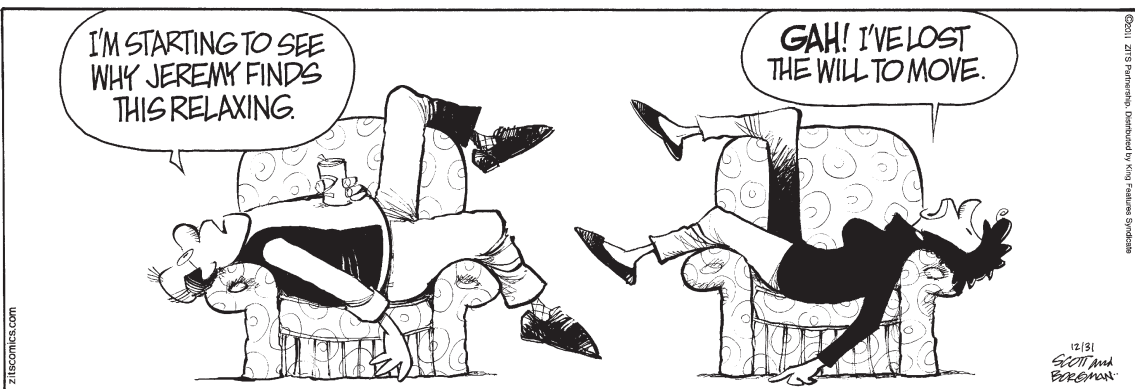
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Teen and Mom both read hints

Dear Heloise: I wanted to take some time to tell you how much my mom and I LOVE you! So many hints, recipes, laughs and years! You are a lifesaver! I am 18, and I read your column every day in class when we have mandatory reading. You even get me to think up my own hints! I feel so smart while reading Heloise! It helps me learn hints and be more creative. I have saved many of your articles and might end up passing them down like many others have done. Happy holidays from a passionate reader! – Whitney M., Omaha, Neb.

Glad you are enjoying reading my column! Please visit my website, www.Heloise.com, for more hints. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

TRAVEL TIPS

Dear Heloise: My husband and I take several long driving trips a year and have found the following helpful:

- Take several zip-top bags in all sizes for keeping snack items fresh.
 - Take a bottle of window cleaner and paper towels to wash off your windows, headlights and taillights. This is important if you're somewhere with lots of bugs or in slushy conditions.
 - Carry the address and telephone number of where you are staying; also, include your neighbors' telephone numbers back home.
 - Keep a container of moist wipes in the car.
 - Take extra checks for your checkbook if you are staying an extended length of time.
 - Take the charger for your cellphone.
 - Take books on CD or audiotape to listen to.
- It's amazing how much shorter the drive seems. – A Heloise Fan from Findlay, Ohio

TWO HINTS

Dear Heloise: As a senior citizen whose memory has seen better days, I have discovered the best way for me to keep track of my appointments. On Sunday, I look at my calendar and write down on a small piece of brightly colored paper all my appointments for that week. I then tape the paper to the bottom of my bathroom mirror, the one place I know I will see it many times on a daily basis!

About earrings, if I have trouble getting them to slide into the lobe, I take the post and dip it in the opening of a tube of antibiotic cream, which puts a thin coating of the cream on it. I have done this for years. – Dena in Silver Spring, Md.

LINE DRY

Dear Heloise: It puzzles me that in the quest to save energy (energy-saving washers/dryers, etc.), no one mentions clothesline drying. In fact, I understand that some housing communities forbid this. It really doesn't take long to do this chore – maybe five to 10 minutes, depending on how many loads one has. – Pat in Strasburg, Va.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:
♠ KQ1083 ♥ KQ95 ♦ K4 ♣ A2

- Partner bids One Diamond, and you respond Two Spades. Partner bids Three Diamonds, and you bid Three Hearts. Partner says Four Diamonds. What would you bid now?
- Your right-hand opponent bids One Diamond, which you double. Your partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?
- After two passes, your right-hand opponent opens One Club, which you double. Your partner responds Two Hearts. What would you bid now?
- You open One Spade, and partner bids Two Notrump. You bid Three Hearts, and partner bids Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

1. Four Notrump. Partner obviously likes diamonds and probably has seven of them headed by the A-Q or A-Q-J. How many tricks your side can make depends primarily on how many aces he has.

It is therefore best to bid four notrump, which in this sequence is Blackwood even though no suit has been directly agreed upon as trump. If partner responds five spades (three aces), you plan to bid seven notrump (or seven diamonds); if he responds five hearts (two aces), you'll bid six diamonds; and if he responds five diamonds (one ace), you'll pass.

2. Three Hearts. You can't bid four hearts, since partner might have a worthless hand, but your hand is too strong for a raise to only two hearts. Three hearts, inviting partner to carry on to game with a smattering of values, is just about right.

3. Three Clubs. When this hand appeared in The Bridge World magazine some years ago, a panel of 45 experts voted as follows: 22 for three clubs; 16 for four hearts; five for four notrump; two for two spades.

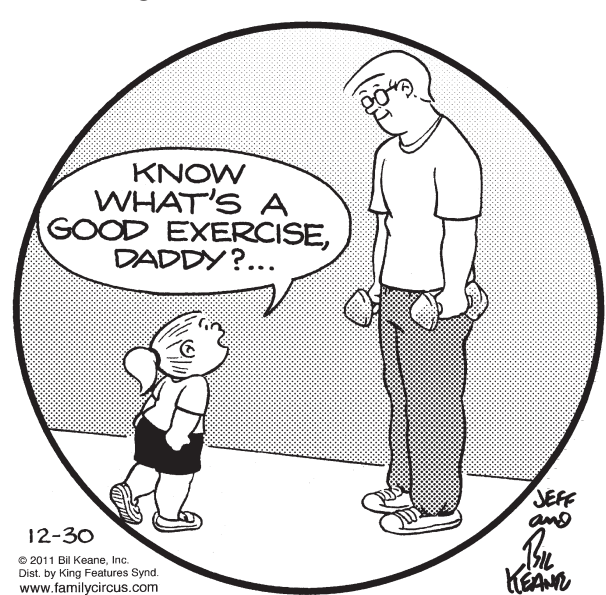
Those favoring three clubs (a cuebid) or four notrump were obviously more slam-minded than those who leaped to four hearts, basically a close-out bid. It does seem that if partner has two aces, a slam is probable, and for that reason this writer favors three clubs or four notrump, in that order.

4. Four Notrump. Twelve tricks might be lay-down if partner has the right values, even though the combined point count cannot be 33. (Two Notrump indicated 13 to 15 points.)

Four notrump is invitational in this sequence, and partner does not have to respond. It asks partner to bid six notrump if he has a maximum for his initial two-notrump bid, and has nothing to do with Blackwood.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Reaching down and liftin' somebody up."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/30

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

Cryptoquip

CLZR RJVYE RERCHX VYR

IJZNC ZU CLH RCENH PB

YU HYFNZHF HFY. ZC'R

KHBZUZCHNE Y FHC FP XHCFP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG AQUATIC REPTILE THAT SIMPLY LOVES ANY QUICK MUSIC HAVING A DRIVING BACKBEAT: A ROCK-ODILE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Garden pest
 - 6 Not functioning
 - 9 Third degree?
 - 12 Fuddydaddy
 - 13 Male turkey
 - 14 Corn spike
 - 15 Inventor Nikola
 - 16 Bedtime interjection
 - 18 Improved
 - 20 Seed covering
 - 21 Underwear with underwire
 - 23 That girl
 - 24 Lascivious
 - 25 Cry from a sty
 - 27 Colorado ski mecca
 - 29 Attachments
 - 31 Foam
- DOWN**
- 1 Squeezing snake
 - 22 Disen-cumber
 - 24 Meadow
 - 26 .01 ruble
 - 28 Un-adorned
 - 1 Suitable
 - 2 Opposite of post-
 - 3 Spouse
 - 4 Between jobs
 - 5 One of Franklin's certainties
 - 6 Them
 - 7 Quartet
 - 8 Some radios
 - 9 Seckels, e.g.
 - 10 Custom
 - 11 With irony
 - 17 Frequents
 - 19 Rib
 - 21 Opposite of post-
 - 32 King of Jordan, 1952-99
 - 33 Ostrich's cousin
 - 34 Plagiarist
 - 36 Reliable
 - 38 Un-stressed vowel
 - 39 Aligned
 - 40 Kentucky Derby prize
 - 42 They're calling Danny Boy
 - 45 Start over
 - 46 Almost black
 - 48 Egos' counterparts
 - 50 Performance
 - 51 To the — degree

Yesterday's answer 12-30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16			17		
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		