

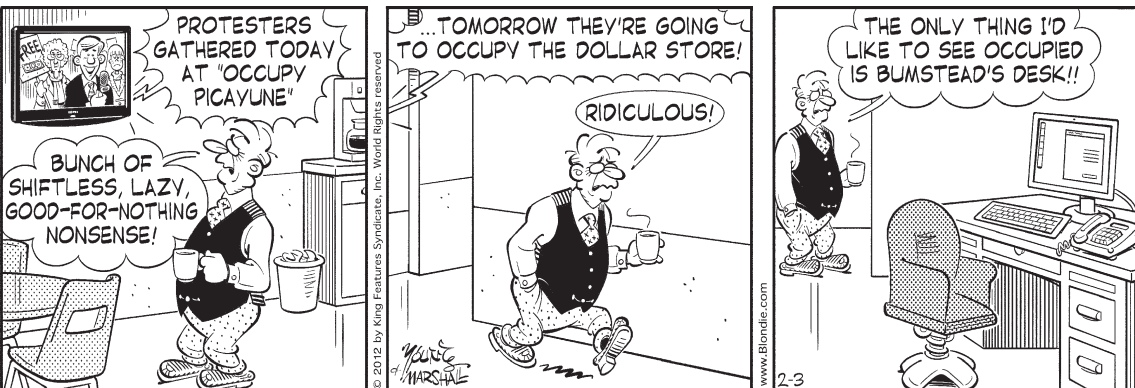
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



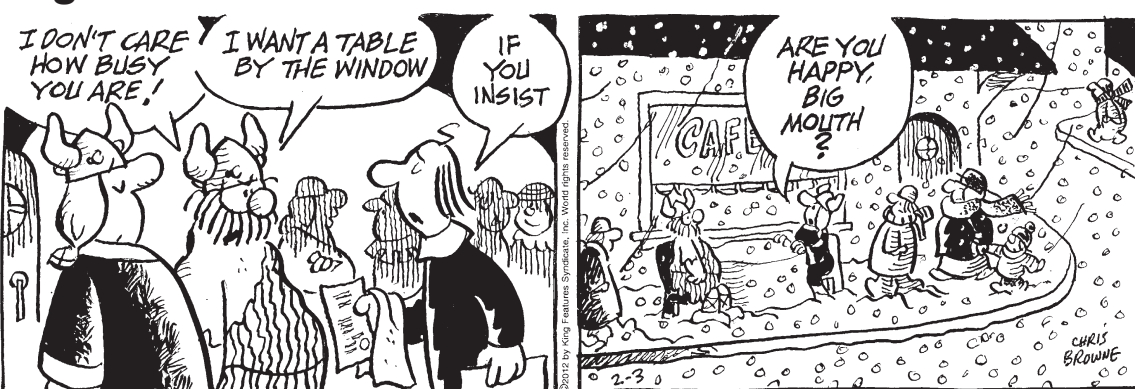
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



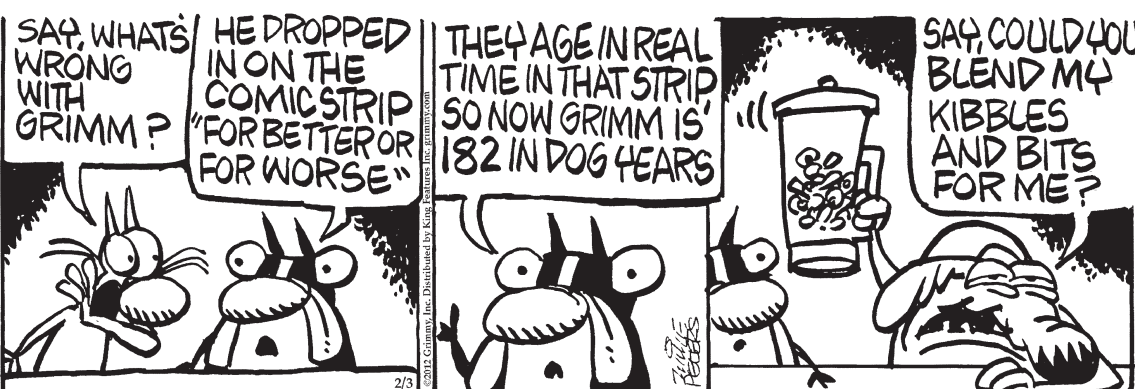
Blondie • Chic Young



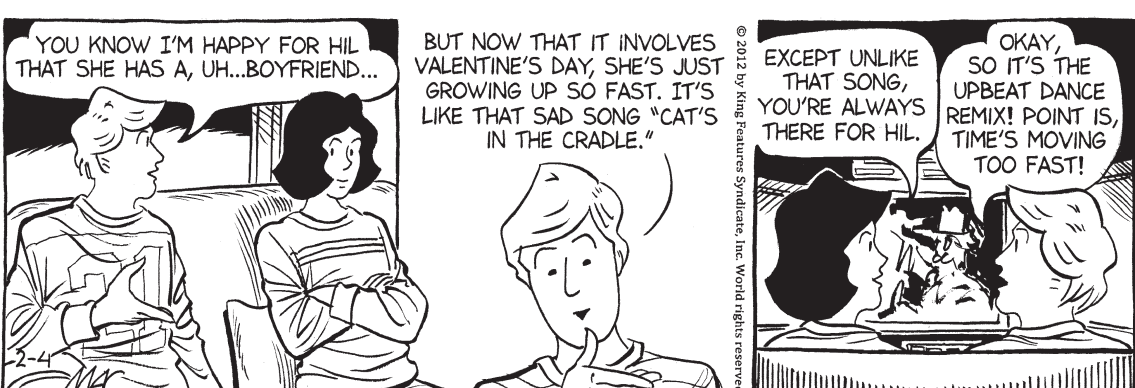
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



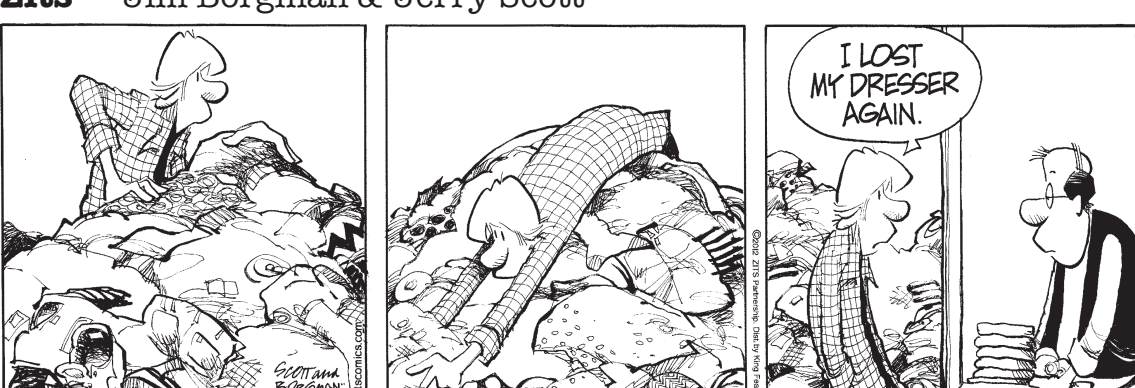
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Reader shares Heloise memory

Dear Heloise: Here is a fond memory of your mother. I had the very good fortune to live in Hawaii as a child. My father was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base from 1956 to 1960, and we were faithful members of the nearby base chapel. The original Heloise was living in Honolulu at the same time.

I am very sure that she was the teacher for a rather rowdy group of 9-year-old boys during the Summer Daily Vacation Bible School, including me. She was a very good teacher, and she put us through the paces of "Bible verse drills." The quickest to find the verse would win. What we would win, I can't really remember.

When things got too loud and out of hand, I remember vividly her solution, delivered in a steady, dramatic Texas twang: "If you boys don't hush up, I'm going to ... KISS YOU!!!" Immediate silence all around, and back to work we went. — John Hardy, Baton Rouge, La.

John, yes, that was my mother, all right, and I can still hear her Texas twang! Thanks for making me smile. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

LETTER OF LAUGHTER

Dear Readers: Heloise Central is an office full of women! I like calling my employees "my girls," and one employee in particular doesn't mind. Since she turned 40, she likes being called a girl! — Heloise

LUNCH TO GO

Dear Heloise: We stayed at a motel this summer that provided a complimentary breakfast, but also a "breakfast on the go" lunch sack, and in it was a bottle of water, an apple, chocolate and a health-food bar. Was it ever handy and delicious as we traveled.

So, when we had company, I made "breakfast on the go" bags for the two of them. They planned to shop all day, so I labeled it the "shopping survival kit," and they said it was wonderful. Thought you would like to pass it on! — Corinne B., Universal City, Texas

Glad to, and it's a lovely gesture. Hey, what motel put chocolate in the breakfast bag? I want to stay there! — Heloise

SMOOTH OPERATOR

Dear Heloise: I have an almost-new, expensive ballpoint pen. I have not used it for about two months, and now it will not write. Any hint to get it operational once more? — Daniel F., via email (my pen won't write!)

Hi, Daniel: Team Heloise checked with a major pen manufacturer and learned that ink refills have a two- to three-year shelf life. Sorry to say, the ink in yours most likely is dried out. Check for replacement refills at office-supply or other retail stores. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Partner opens the bidding with One Diamond, you respond One Spade, and partner rebids One Notrump. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ AKJ63 ♥ 84 ♦ J5 ♣ AJ72
- ♠ KQ85 ♥ 64 ♦ 943 ♣ KQ72
- ♠ AQ974 ♥ 9 ♦ AQ65 ♣ 832
- ♠ AJ87 ♥ J9 ♦ J102 ♣ KQ98

Bidding Quiz

1. Three clubs. Partner's two bids indicate that he has a hand of the minimum class (12 to 14 high-card points) with balanced distribution, most likely 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2. Since you also have an opening bid, game must be reached, but despite partner's descriptive rebid, it is still not clear what the best game contract is apt to be.

Three clubs gives you the best chance to find the proper contract. If partner next bids three spades, you bid four spades; if he bids three notrump, you pass; if he bids four clubs, you bid five.

Note that in the given sequence, it is necessary for you to bid three clubs rather than two to force partner to bid again. This is because after a one-notrump rebid by opener, a simple change of suit by responder is not forcing, and opener is permitted to pass.

2. Pass. Game is unlikely, since partner has at most 14 points. There is also no point in trying to improve the partscore contract by bidding two clubs. Partner will probably make seven or eight tricks in notrump on high-card values alone, so the most sensible course of action is to pass.

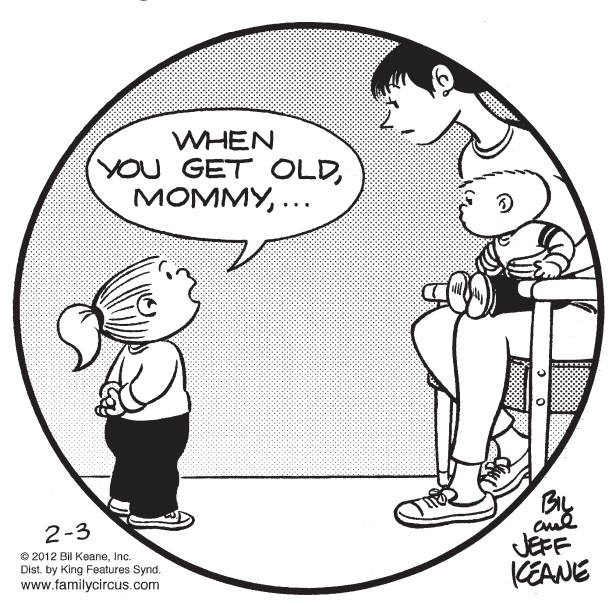
3. Three diamonds. You can't stop under game after partner's opening diamond bid, so you make a forcing jump in his opening suit to elicit more information. If partner bids three spades, you bid four; if he bids four diamonds over three, you carry on to five; if he bids three notrump, you pass.

There is almost no chance for a slam after partner's minimum rebid, and it is best to disregard those few magic hands he might have that would produce 12 tricks.

4. Three notrump. This is a slight stretch, but three notrump comes closer to representing your true values than two notrump, which is the alternative bid. If your sprinkling of eights and nines were deuces and treys, two notrump would be the recommended call. As it is, though, one or more of these intermediate cards is likely to prove helpful in producing nine tricks. Intermediate cards are seldom given a value in point-count literature, but these lesser soldiers of the game often make a critical difference.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/03

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.

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

Cryptoquip

OE D IVJFCXHU FUVYUDJ

VWPR UCWN OW KHUR IMOPPR

AHDXMHU, O YCHNN XMDX'N

AOWXHU-DIXOKH NVEXADUH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THESE GLASS LAB VESSELS COME FROM BRITAIN, I THINK OF THEM AS NATIVE ENGLISH BEAKERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Yuletide melody 55 Suitable 11 Blunder

1 After-hrs. bank 37 Godly messenger 16 Thin pancake

4 Mop the decks 39 Swiss peak 20 Jewel

8 Rope 40 "Live! With Kelly" aier 23 Cicatrix

12 Weep 41 Sticker for details 24 Continental coin

13 Zeus' consort 42 Cohort of Harry and Ron 25 Holler

14 Addict 43 "A Bell for Adano" author 26 Long cut

15 Nemean Lion slayer 44 Discord goddess 27 Sheltered

17 Bellow 45 Effervescence 28 Take to the skies

18 Longs 46 Levy 29 Toast

19 Id counterpart 47 Pleads 30 Chess legend

21 Biblical verb suffix 48 Depend (on) 31 Bobby

22 "A Bell for Adano" author 49 Poorly lit 32 Bay of Naples island

23 Reacts in horror 50 Pennsylvania port 33 Society newbie

24 Muppet master Henson 51 Show you amok 34 Labyrinth

25 Poolroom prop 52 Jung or Yastrzemski 35 Prior to

26 Loton additive 53 Depend (on) 36 Oafish

27 Obese 54 Depend (on) 37 T.S. Eliot's "cruellest month"

28 Jung or Yastrzemski 55 Suitable 38 Labyrinth

29 Red or Black 56 Poorly lit 39 Tittle

30 Poorly lit 57 Yuletide melody 40 Jewel

31 Loton additive 58 "Live! With Kelly" aier 41 Cicatrix

32 Obese 59 "A Bell for Adano" author 42 Continental coin

33 Jung or Yastrzemski 60 Discord goddess 43 Holler

34 Red or Black 61 Depend (on) 44 Long cut

35 Poorly lit 62 Show you amok 45 Sheltered

36 Yuletide melody 63 Jung or Yastrzemski 46 Take to the skies

37 Godly messenger 64 "A Bell for Adano" author 47 Toast

38 Swiss peak 65 "Live! With Kelly" aier 48 Chess legend

39 Sticker for details 66 Effervescence 49 Bobby

40 "Live! With Kelly" aier 67 Cohort of Harry and Ron 50 Bay of Naples island

41 Sticker for details 68 Discord goddess 51 Society newbie

42 Cohort of Harry and Ron 69 Levy 52 Labyrinth

43 "A Bell for Adano" author 70 Depend (on) 53 T.S. Eliot's "cruellest month"

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	

Yesterday's answer 2-3