

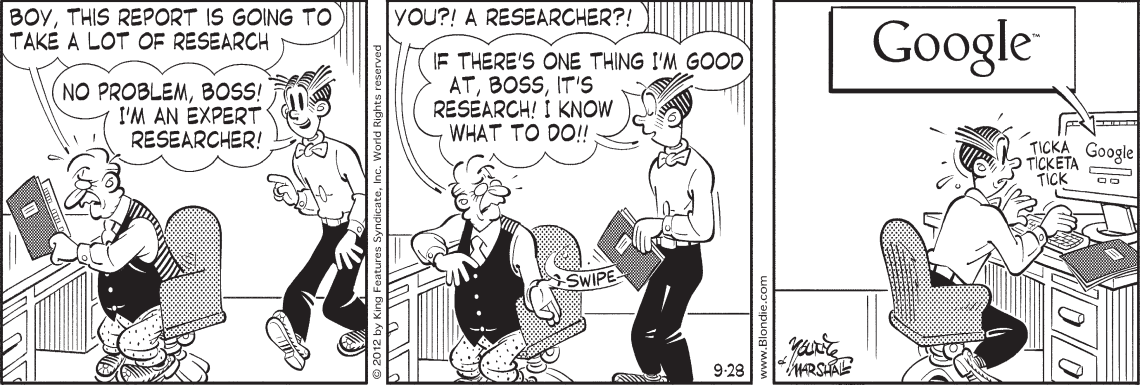
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



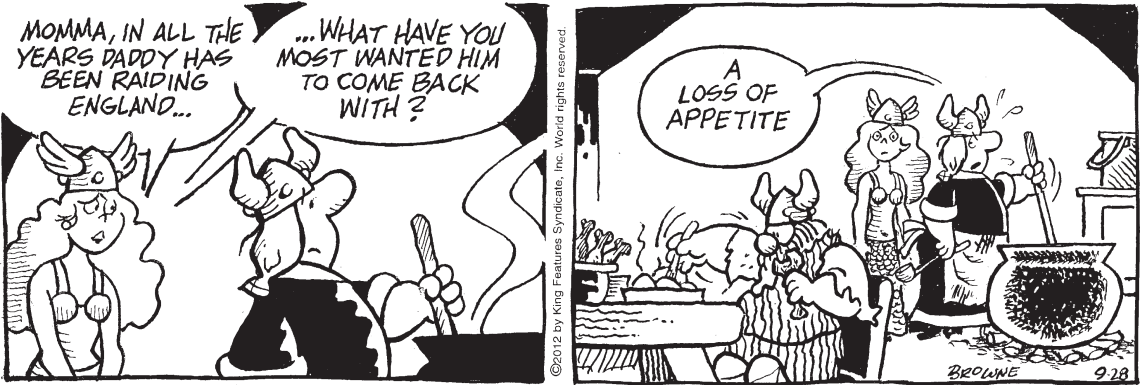
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



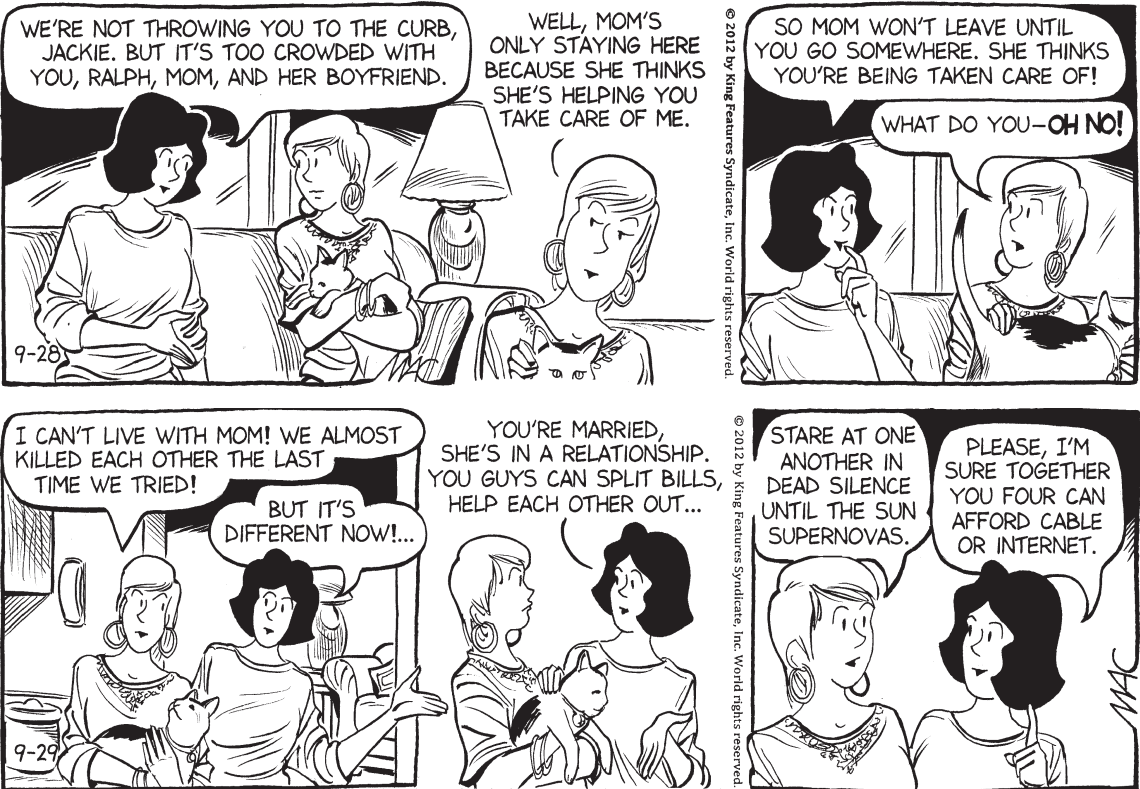
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Centerpieces save, simplify

Dear Readers: Looking for some easy ways to make cute, inexpensive centerpieces for a lunch, party or other event? Here are a few hints:

- Fill a vase with thick layers of different-colored marbles. It can be changed to match the season or holiday, like black and orange for Halloween.
- Take an old coffee can, hot-glue twigs on the outside, then tie a ribbon around it and place a small plant inside.
- Fill a clear vase or bowl with seashells or colorful ornaments.
- Place many candles of varying sizes in the center of a table on a mirror or round plate. Incorporate things you wouldn't normally use – lollipops, hats, rocks or anything you can find.

Decorating is what you make of it, so have fun and try new things! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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THREAD COUNT

Dear Heloise: What does thread count mean? And what should I look for when buying sheets? – A Reader, via e-mail

The number of threads per square inch of fabric is what determines thread count. Generally, the higher the thread count, the softer the sheet, but that is not always the case. Also, consider the fiber (cotton, silk, etc.). Be aware that a sheet with a smaller thread count made with better-quality fibers might feel softer than a higher thread count with lower-quality fibers.

Consider finishing also. Most sheets go through a finishing process to help them not shrink, pill or wrinkle. A lesser-quality set may not have been finished thoroughly. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I booked a hotel online and received a confirmation e-mail, with a confirmation number, dates and charges, which were prepaid. When we arrived, the hotel did not have our reservation and had no rooms available. I gave the hotel staff the confirmation e-mail to show that I had prepaid. They apologized profusely. They secured us another room at a hotel across the street and gave us our money back, but it still was an inconvenience. I am glad I brought the confirmation e-mail, but next time I am going to call the hotel beforehand and make sure it has our reservation. – A Reader in Florida

WISH LIST

Dear Heloise: We have a lot of family members in other states. When birthdays or holidays roll around, I receive numerous emails asking what to get my children. While presents are not necessary, I found it easier to make an online wish list. Some of the major online-shopping websites allow you to make a wish list, which others can view online. They even can purchase and ship the item with just a few clicks. – A Reader in Washington

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:
West North East South
1 ♥ 1 NT Pass ?
What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

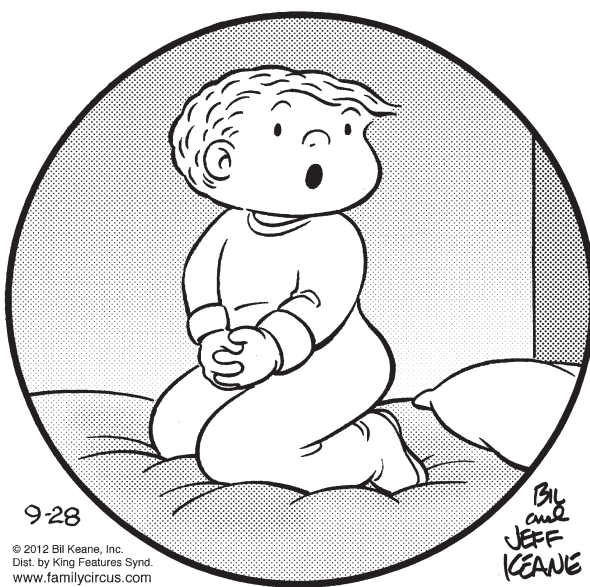
1. ♠ 105 ♥ 763 ♦ AQ84 ♣ Q1082
2. ♠ 962 ♥ 5 ♦ Q87643 ♣ J83
3. ♠ KJ6 ♥ 83 ♦ 74 ♣ AQ9842
4. ♠ Q1074 ♥ 52 ♦ KQ865 ♣ Q2
5. ♠ KJ63 ♥ 8 ♦ KQ72 ♣ QJ94

Bidding Quiz

1. Two notrump. A direct overcall in notrump is approximately equivalent to an opening one-notrump bid, so partner has indicated 15 to 18 points, notrump distribution and at least one heart stopper. With eight points you should invite him to go on to game in notrump, bearing in mind that nearly all of the opposing high cards are favorably located in front of him.
2. Two diamonds. This indicates a weak hand and is not a forward-going bid. You are saying, in effect, that two diamonds will be a safer contract than one notrump. Partner is virtually barred from bidding again. True, there are players roaming the streets who, having overcalled with one notrump, will turn a deaf ear to this warning and will go right on bidding. The best remedy for this lies not in changing your bidding style, but in finding a new partner.
3. Three notrump. That is what you would bid if partner had opened with one notrump, and that is what you should bid opposite a notrump overcall. It would be pointless to bid three clubs (forcing), since you have no reason to believe (and to suggest to partner) that an 11-trick contract in clubs will be superior to a nine-trick game in notrump.
4. Two clubs. Most players treat a two-club bid in this situation as Stayman, just as if partner had opened the bidding with one notrump. If partner bids two spades, you will raise him to four, while if he bids two diamonds, denying four spades, you will next bid three notrump.
5. Two hearts. This is also a game-going hand, but there is no way of knowing at this point whether it is best to play the hand in notrump or in a suit. The most sensible way of trying to resolve the problem is by cue-bidding West's suit. Partner will realize you're not keen about notrump and will presumably lean toward naming a suit – particularly spades if he has four of them. If he rebids two notrump, though, you will raise to three.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

MB GQC ECMDO NRMIMGPK

MTZISCTVC EQMVQ ODMTFB

ZKIFB VQKKBC GK RSP

VNIICO RCJCDNWC ICJCDNWC?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE GUY DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO GULP DOWN THAT BREWED BEVERAGE, BUT HE GAVE IN TO BEER PRESSURE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Held a meeting	DOWN	25 Last letter
1 The girl	38 Abhor	1 Bush	26 Bobby of hockey
4 Possesses	39 Carte	2 Israeli port	28 Can. neighbor
7 Man of morals?	lead-in	3 Incite	30 Geological period
12 Crone	41 Dreyfus	4 Williams of country	31 Speedometer abbr.
13 Oklahoma city	45 Go	5 Hand-some youth	32 Playwright Levin
14 Give birth to, on a farm	47 Sharp turn	6 Dieter's lunch	33 Trawler need
15 Fix the outcome	48 She played	7 Dermatologist's case	36 Boxer Max
16 Record-setting fastballer	52 Sapporo sash	8 Listener	37 Ferocious
18 Craft from far off	53 Heals	9 Willy	40 See
19 Jack	54 Id counterpart	10 Eggs	42 Down
20 Ricochet, in billiards	55 Negative prefix	11 Nerd-pack occupant	42 With
22 Bachelor's last words	56 Heron's cousin	17 Acknowledge	40 Down
23 TV clown	57 In medias —	21 Bowie's weapon	42 Depleted atmospheric region
27 They're between mus and xis	58 Work unit	23 Shut out	43 Toil
29 Someone who carries a torch?		24 Peculiar	44 Gerontologist's study
31 Some skirts			45 For fear that
34 Passenger			46 Grandson of Eve
35 Easily built home			48 Lemieux milieu
			49 Carpet
			50 Mess up
			51 Born

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-28

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	