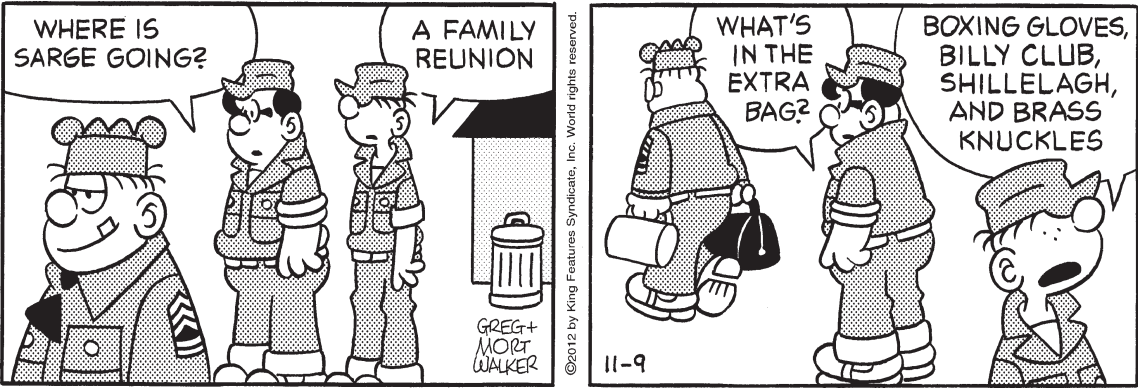


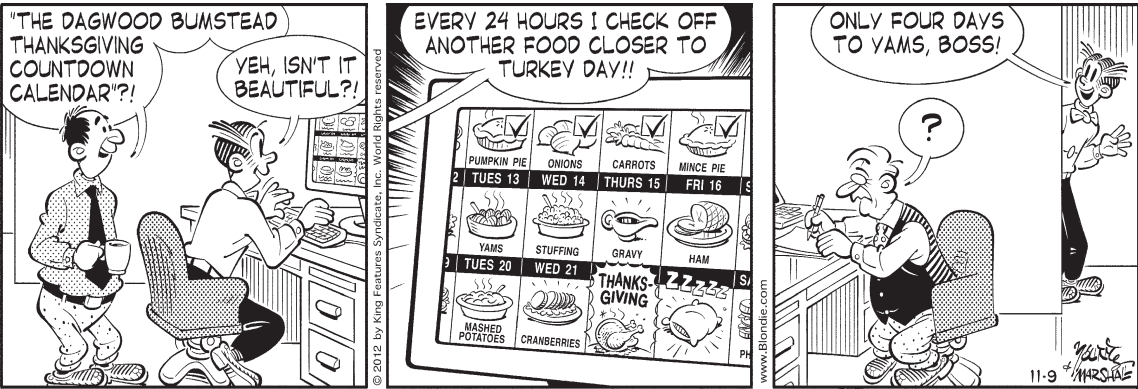
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



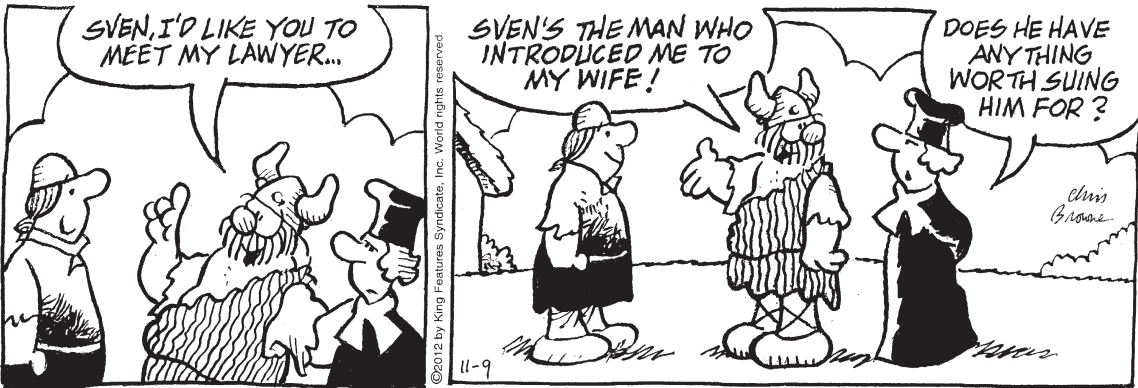
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



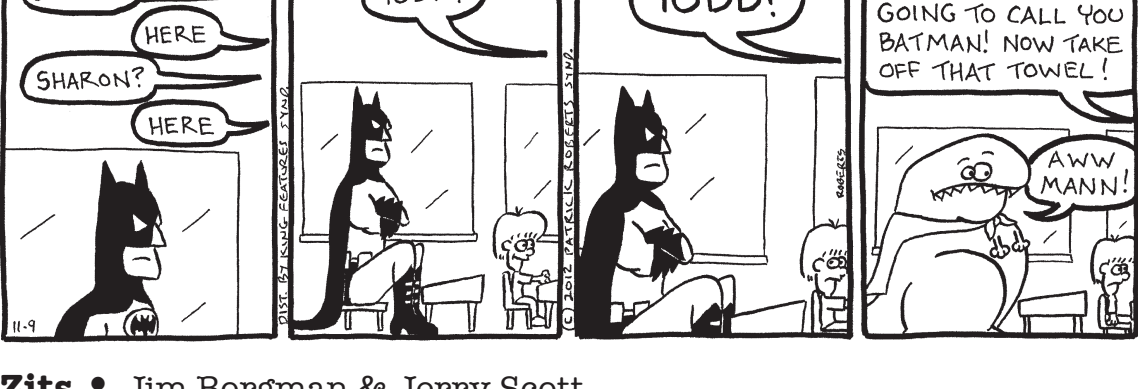
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

One phone call stops the ringing

Dear Readers: Telemarketers are a pain in the neck! To help stop them, the Federal Trade Commission has a service called the do not call registry.

To call and get your phone number on this Do Not Call list, be sure to call from the number you'd like to register. If you have multiple phone lines (land line or cell line), call from each one; dial (888) 382-1222 (TTY (866) 290-4236).

If you want to register your phone number online, go to www.donotcall.gov to apply.

The Do Not Call Registry cannot stop calls from places you have given permission to call, places you have business with, tax-exempt nonprofit organizations or calls that are not commercial or do not include unsolicited advertisements. – Heloise

P.S.: This is a major annoyance to many folks! Call today (or register online) so you can get some relief!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

KEY IDEAS

Dear Readers: Here are a few of the many letters and e-mails that came in about what to do with old keys:

Darlene in Wisconsin wrote: "As a fourth-grade teacher, I took our box of keys and used them as a creative-writing activity. Each child selected a key, then imagined what kind of door the key would open and what was behind it."

Kim in Texas wrote: "Tie a collection to the bottom of an old chandelier instead of costly crystal drops. Use as an accent on a gift-wrapped package. Use ribbon or twine to create napkin rings (especially cute for a housewarming gift)."

Murray in California wrote: "Buy a cheap picture frame with glass and set the keys on red or black felt, and it becomes a great wall hanging."

Thanks for all the great hints – keep the hints coming! – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When my parents went to California, I made them a large paper with my name, phone number (with area code) and address, and my sister's as well. I taped it on the dashboard of their car. If in an accident, it is very helpful. Cellphones could be lost in an accident, and who do you call then? – Bailey in San Antonio

PETS FIRST

Dear Heloise: When moving, put your pets' toys and bedding where they can be found before you start unpacking. Their toys will have their scent on them and make them feel at home immediately. And they won't be quite so confused and disorderly. – A Reader, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

| East | South | West | North |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | ? | | |

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ Q5 ♥ 97 ♦ AKQ75 ♣ 8632
2. ♠ Q5 ♥ 987 ♦ AKQ75 ♣ 632
3. ♠ 742 ♥ QJ96 ♦ J5 ♣ AK92
4. ♠ 963 ♥ Q8432 ♦ 10 ♣ AKJ5
5. ♠ QJ7 ♥ 65 ♦ AJ104 ♣ K832

Bidding Quiz

1. Two diamonds. After passing originally, it might be tempting to respond three diamonds to show values close to an opening bid, but the fact is that partner's heart bid has depreciated your values somewhat instead of elevating them. It's true that he might pass two diamonds, but if he does, you probably haven't missed a game.

It's important to recognize that two diamonds is a forward-going bid showing 10 or more points – despite your previous pass – and that partner will give full weight to this encouraging response.

2. Three diamonds. Prospects for game are better this time because you have three hearts instead of just two. This one factor adds greatly to the promise of the hand, because a possible game in hearts looms more strongly on the horizon. The jump-response in diamonds implies at least a tolerance for partner's hearts.

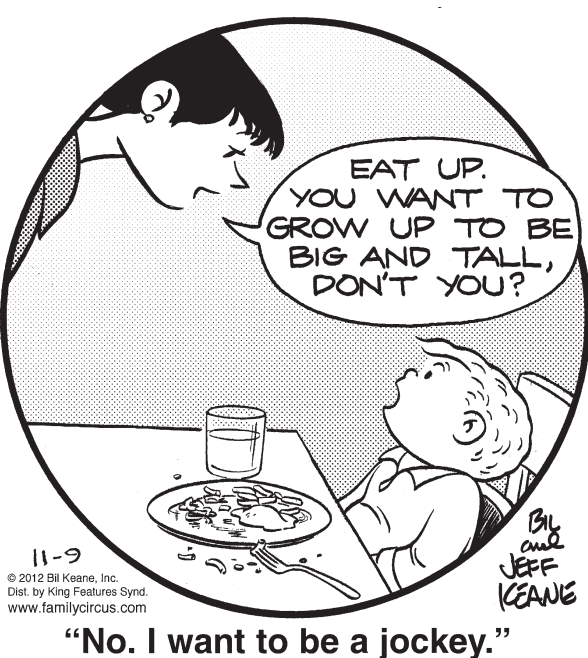
3. Three hearts. The jump to three hearts after passing initially indicates that you have nearly an opening bid with strong support for hearts. Partner might pass if he holds a skimpy opening bid, but if he does pass, he is unlikely to make 10 tricks. Remember that he is just as eager as you are to score a game, so if he passes, you're probably high enough. Many players these days would also bid three hearts even if they were not a passed hand, showing the same type of hand (a limit raise) and inviting game. Be sure to check with your partner as to whether you play limit or forcing jump-raises by an unpassed hand.

4. Four hearts. Here you should grab the bull by the horns and jump to game. You shouldn't test your luck to see whether partner will bid again over a response of three hearts. When you feel confident that your side has a game – and you should certainly feel that here – you shouldn't give partner an option to pass. For those who play "splinter bids," a leap to four diamonds would also be an acceptable choice.

5. Two notrump. After an initial pass, this indicates 11 or 12 points, notrump distribution and stoppers in the three unbid suits. That's exactly what you have, so you bid two notrump and let partner carry on from there.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/09

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/09

Cryptoquip

GMIOZ XKHGZ IZU KZQFMIB

PLJBG UZLZ EHLRJFQXZP

HI Q LQIOK, M UHJFP OQFF

XKZR EQLR-QOZJXMOQFG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF IT'S DISCOVERED THAT SOME FISH WERE FIBBING, THEY VERY WELL MIGHT HAVE BEEN COD IN A LIE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Point of view | 55 Gender | 25 "Meet Me — Louis" |
| 1 Media watchdog org. | 37 Capital of Mozambique | DOWN | 1 Karma |
| 4 Basin accessory | 39 Ostrich's cousin | 2 Family | 26 Mosque |
| 8 Jason's ship | 40 Cal.'s ocean | 3 Group of actors | 27 "Peter Pan" |
| 12 Carte lead-in | 41 Dutch exports | 4 Inuit | 28 Snare |
| 13 Old woman's home? | 45 Shaving cream additive | 5 Puppy | 29 Cookie holder |
| 14 Cat call | 48 Capital of Turkmenistan | 6 A billion years | 32 Rich fabric |
| 15 Capital of Uzbekistan | 50 Sunup | 7 Gotten back | 33 "Be-Bop-" |
| 17 Elliptical | 51 One-on-one battle | 8 In the thick of | 35 Greek vowel |
| 18 Involve | 52 Wall climber | 9 Accelerate | 36 With complacence |
| 19 Plant bristle | 53 News-paper pg. | 10 — long way | 38 Knock over |
| 21 Mischievous tyke | 54 Bizarre (Var.) | 11 Hooter | 39 Bygone anesthetic |
| 22 Capital of Rwanda | | 16 Hirsute | 42 Sacred Egyptian bird |
| 26 Prologue | | 20 Humor | 43 Macadamize |
| 29 Fast flier | | 23 Met melody | 44 Charon's river |
| 30 Director Howard | | 24 Forsaken | 45 Big bother |
| 31 Little lamb's owner | | | 46 Once around the track |
| 32 Prohibit | | | 47 Have bills |
| 33 Ostentatious display | | | 49 Seek damages |
| 34 Santa — winds | | | |
| 35 Blunder | | | |

Yesterday's answer 11-9

| | | |
|--------|--------|------|
| THRU | OVUM | SAP |
| AEON | DIKE | MBA |
| CRAOSH | DIET | ALI |
| HOMERS | RISER | |
| AS | BROTH | |
| GIFT | LEI | SHOP |
| OIL | AGO | IRE |
| DIAL | KIT | STEW |
| SEVEN | DO | |
| TAHOE | POWERS | |
| HIM | TRASH | HEAP |
| ADO | CONS | ALGA |
| WEB | HEAT | TSAR |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | |