Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

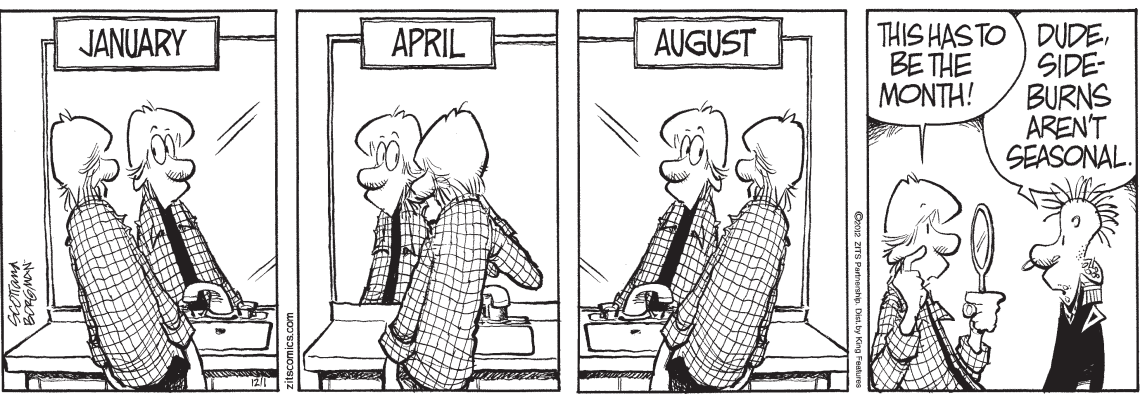
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Divided boxes store ornaments

Dear Heloise: Looking for a way to pack Christmas ornaments, I found that the sturdy, divided boxes that wine comes in work great. The 12 sleeves hold a lot of ornaments and are just the right size. I put as many large ornaments as would fit in first and then filled with smaller ones so all would be secure when the lid was closed. Small holiday candleholders, etc., wrapped in paper filled the rest of the box. – Carol, via e-mail

Start collecting them now! You even can spray the boxes with holiday colors so they will be easy to identify. – Heloise

SCORCH MARK

Dear Heloise: Please help! I was ironing a shirt the other day and accidently scorched it a little bit. Is there anything I can do to remove the scorch marks? – A Reader, via e-mail

Depending on how bad the marks are, you might be able to "lighten" them. Use 3 percent hydrogen peroxide and a clean, white terry cloth to gently buff out the singed area. Repeat the steps several times, and the mark should lighten. Be sure to test a hidden area first. If the garment is heavily scorched, it may not be salvageable. Have other stains you need help with? I have compiled a list of stain solutions in my pamphlet Heloise's Handy Stain Guide for Clothing. To order a copy, send $5 with a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Stain Guide, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Check the care labels on all garments – the label should have ironing instructions listed. If not, the garment probably will not need ironing. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Tired of using the toilet tissue at rest stops, we save the "end of the roll" at home. Flattened and placed in a snack-size baggie, it easily fits into pocket or purse and makes travel stops more pleasant. We keep a bag of these "handy packs" in the trunk of the car when traveling. – Mary Ellen in Mississippi

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Dear Readers: Here are some simple keyboard shortcuts that will help when using your PC:

- Ctrl + A will select the complete text.
- Ctrl + X will cut selected item.
- Ctrl + C will copy selected item.
- Ctrl + V will paste in selected item.
- Ctrl + Home will go to the beginning of the document.
- Ctrl + End will go to the end of the document.

Every computer is different, so check to verify that these will work. – Heloise

POTATO SCOOP

Dear Heloise: Our ex-daughter-in-law was over for dinner and put a pasta scooper in the mashed potatoes. It worked perfectly for scooping out each person's portion. – C.C. in Colorado

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

1. ♠ K8632 ♥ AKQJ2 ♦ 7 ♣ Q4
2. ♠ K94 ♥ AJ3 ♦ AQ85 ♣ KQ7
3. ♠ KQ6 ♥ 97 ♦ 87632 ♣ AKJ
4. ♠ AQJ9874 ♥ 10 ♦ 7 ♣ KQ85
5. ♠ K83 ♥ AJ4 ♦ 53 ♣ AKJ92

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. One spade. Even though your hearts are much stronger than your spades, it is better to follow the general rule of opening with the higher-ranking of two five-card suits, planning to bid the lower-ranking suit at your next two turns, if necessary. If you were to start with one heart and later bid your spades, your partner would naturally assume that you had only four spades and would not raise you with three-card support. As a result, you might never locate the best partscore, game or slam contract, which could be in spades.

2. One diamond. Though you obviously have a notrump type of hand, the correct opening bid is one diamond. Hands containing 19 high-card points do not fall into the opening notrump category – they are too strong for one notrump and not strong enough for two notrump. Such hands are best described by opening with one of a suit and then jumping to two notrump over partner's expected response of one heart or one spade.

3. One diamond. Virtually all hands containing 13 high-card points are mandatory opening bids. This rule overrides one's natural reluctance to open with a five-card suit headed by the eight. It is far better to bid one diamond – a suit in which you have length – than one club, a suit in which you have strength.

4. Four spades. This gives you several possibilities for a good result. First, you have a reasonable chance of making four spades even if partner has only moderate values. Second, there's a good chance of buying the contract at four spades undoubled even if the opponents have most of the missing high cards. Third, if the opponents elect to compete over four spades, they might miss their best spot because they have to start searching for it at the five-level.

5. One notrump. This tells partner that you have 15 to 17 points, a balanced distribution (not more than one doubleton) and stoppers in at least three suits -- exactly what you have. If you were to open with one club instead, you would have an impossible rebid if partner responded with any suit on the one-level. If partner bid one heart, for example, you could not bid two hearts (which would indicate 13 to 15 points), three hearts (which would promise four-card support), one notrump (13-14 points) or two notrump (18-19 points). The opening notrump bid spares you this headache.

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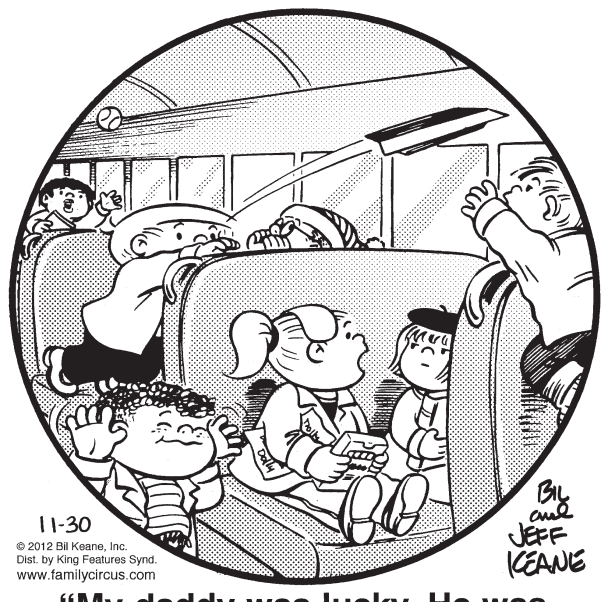
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My daddy was lucky. He was allowed to WALK to school."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/30

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/29

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Cryptoquip

CIVC HYL TOGHS IBGUO TODBZGOT RYDO KBZFTU BR TGYOT LGVUU VC BFJO, HZC CIVC'U DOGS IVS-CSKYJVX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TERRIBLE-TASTING BRAND OF BREAKFAST FOOD MADE FROM AN IMITATION CEREAL GRAIN: CORN FAKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

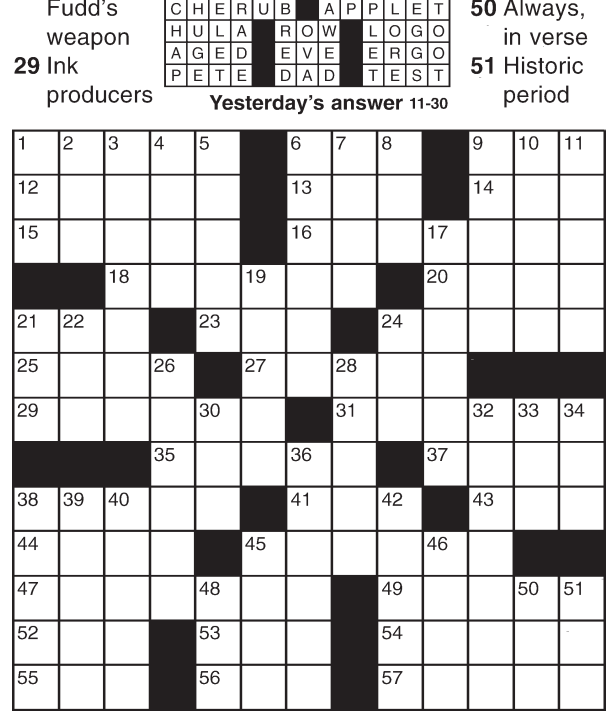
ACROSS

1 White-water carriers
6 Zero
9 Hot tub
12 Confederacy's foes
13 Spoon-bender Geller
14 Still
15 Blunder
16 Advisory group
18 1970s band, Mott the —
20 PBS science series
21 Pale
23 Ball-bearing item
24 Venomous viper
25 Utah city
27 Elmer Fudd's weapon
29 Ink producers
31 Cottontail
35 Trumpet part
37 Mexican entree
38 Up to the time that
41 Doctrine
43 Evergreen variety
44 Midday
45 Psychotic, for short
47 Jack Webb series
49 Recipient
52 Type squares
53 Sib
54 Villainous look
55 Scoundrel
56 Train component
57 Aquarium favorite

DOWN

1 Pirates' potable
2 Blackbird
3 Hosiery style
4 Fuss
5 "Beezer"
6 Centers
7 Dies —
8 Freedom, for short
9 Churchly council
10 Source of annoyance
11 Rose oil
17 Owing
19 Jeopardy
21 Go a-courtin'
22 Curved line
24 Carte lead-in
26 Not idle
28 New
30 Chum
32 Gun attachment
33 Lemieux milieu
34 AAA job
36 Champ
38 Hypnotized
39 Bellini opera
40 Drink to
42 Center
45 Antitoxins
46 Region
48 Peacock network
50 Always, in verse
51 Historic period

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-30