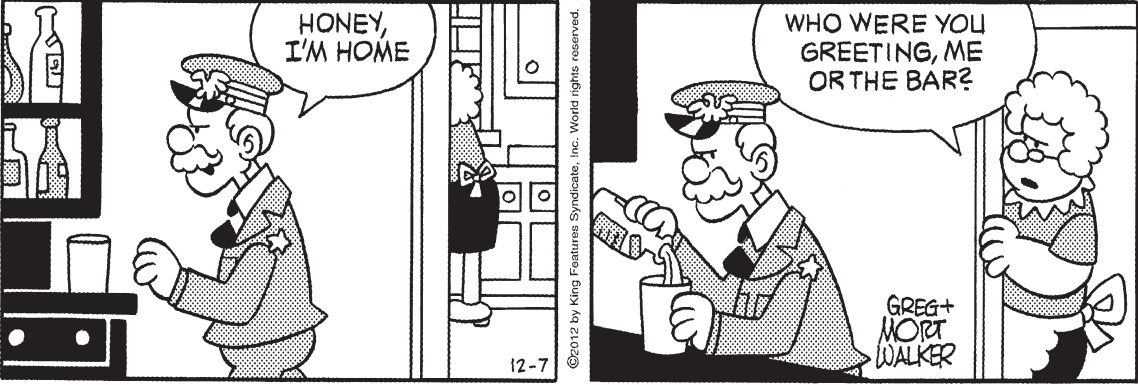


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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

Reminders help flying packages

Dear Readers: A lot of people travel for the holidays and bring gifts and food with them. Here are just a couple of friendly reminders about flying with wrapped packages, from the Transportation Security Administration:

When it comes to food, the same rules apply as the rules for liquids. If it's more than 3.4 ounces, it needs to be put in checked baggage or shipped ahead of time. This includes jams, creamy dips, sauces, etc.

Wrapped gifts are allowed in your checked baggage, but realize that if your bag is searched, TSA officers may and are allowed to unwrap the package. Plan to wrap gifts upon arrival, or ship them ahead of time.

I hope these hints come in handy, and I wish everyone safe travel this holiday season! – Heloise

P.S.: Please don't fuss at TSA officers if your family's favorite homemade salad dressing must be confiscated from your carry-on bag.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

Dear Readers: Did you know that when you delete a file on the computer, it is temporarily moved to the computer's recycle or trash bin so you can recover a file that might have been accidentally deleted. Here are some hints about a computer's recycle bin:

- To recover files from the recycle bin, double-click on the recycle-bin icon. Find the file. Right-click on the file and select "Restore."
- To permanently delete files from the recycle bin, first open it. There will be an option on the toolbar to "Empty the Recycle Bin." Select this option, and all files will be permanently deleted. (Be sure to look over the files first and make sure there is nothing worth saving.) – Heloise

SPONGE SUPPORT

Dear Heloise: I purchased a wrist support to help when using my computer mouse. It wasn't much good – my wrist kept slipping off. I returned it and noticed a carwash sponge at the same store for \$1. The sponge is about 6 inches by 9 inches and is covered with soft and fluffy fabric. It works great! – Doug in Louisiana

DIAPER-PAIL REDO

Dear Heloise: I repurposed my grandson's diaper pail. He and his mom live with us, and the bathroom was littered with his tub toys. I got some decals and decorated the white-lidded pail with ocean creatures. It has a pop-up lid, and when the bath ends, he shoots the toys into the pail like basketballs. The toys can drain and be ready for the next adventure. – Deb in Indiana
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Bridge • Steve Becker

Partner bids One Diamond with neither side vulnerable, and the next player passes. You have a partscore of 60. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠A93 ♥KJ7 ♦J84 ♣AQJ2
2. ♠K7 ♥85 ♦KQ75 ♣AJ943
3. ♠K84 ♥K2 ♦K73 ♣Q9542
4. ♠AKQ75 ♥QJ ♦K962 ♣K3

Bidding Quiz

1. Two notrump. A two-notrump response to an opening bid of one of a suit ordinarily indicates a balanced hand containing 13 to 15 points with stoppers in the three unbid suits. The bid is forcing, and the auction must continue until game is reached.

But when there is a partscore of 60, two notrump has a somewhat different meaning. Since a response of one notrump would be sufficient to complete a game, the two-notrump bid amounts to a slam try and is usually based on 16 or 17 points. However, opener need not bid again, and, in fact, he is expected to pass with minimum values.

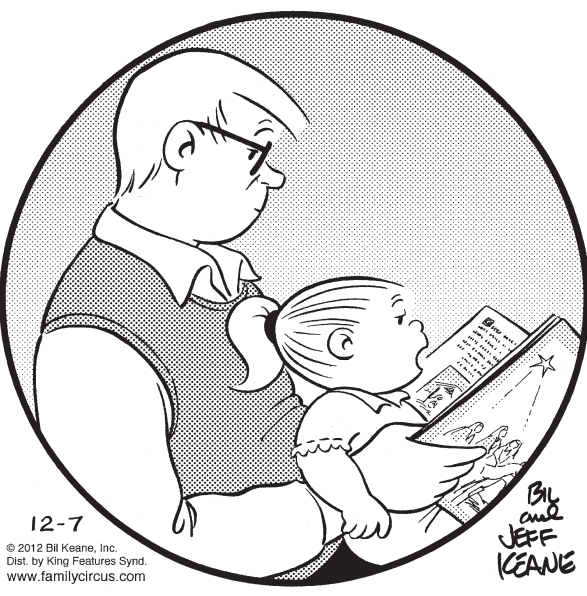
2. Three diamonds. The same principle applies to a jump-raise that is one level higher than necessary. Such a raise also carries with it a slam suggestion. As before, though, the jump-raise is not forcing. It is also important to note that a two-club response -- which completes the partscore -- is not forcing, and opener is free to pass. For this reason, the value bid of three diamonds, which immediately confirms a fit and alerts partner to slam possibilities, is preferred.

3. One notrump. Without the partscore you would respond two clubs as a normal exploratory move. But it is inadvisable to bid such a weak suit under partscore conditions at a time when partner is not obligated to bid again. There is a real danger that he will pass with two or three small trumps, and this could result in the loss of a game if the trumps are banked against you.

A one-notrump response is superior because it allows the contract to be made on high-card strength alone, even if you run into an unlucky distribution of the clubs. With 11 high-card points facing an opening bid, you should not worry about making one notrump if partner accepts that contract by passing. Seven tricks should be a breeze.

4. Two spades. A jump-response in a new suit (jump-shift) is 100 percent forcing and compels the opener to bid again regardless of the nature of his hand. The jump-shift differs from the jump-raise or the jump to two notrump, which are merely mild invitational moves toward a slam. There's no ceiling on the strength implied by a jump-shift. The sky's the limit.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Did Santa Claus and Jesus go to school together?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

12/07

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

Cryptoquip

ROQKLZ KEGVS YJML

AOZPJTH HVC SOKS UGBYL CKI

JTSZQRQZS SPG MJUUZQZTS

PKIL: K EVEEBZ ZTSZTMQZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO SHINNY UP A ROPE VERY MASTERFULLY, I SUPPOSE THEY HAVE CLIMB-IT CONTROL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 39 Shell game need | 2 Hexagonal state | 24 English river |
| 1 Chevy Equinox, e.g. | 40 Affirmative | 3 Kill a bill | 25 The Bee — |
| 4 The enemy | 41 Yellow-flowered herb | 4 Unisex garment | 26 So |
| 8 Pharmaceutical | 45 New Zealander, informally | 5 "I — Anyone Till You" | 27 Croupier's tool |
| 12 Corroded | 48 Elvis hit | 6 Id counter-part | 28 On the briny |
| 13 Wise one | 50 Green land | 7 Billion-dollar seller | 29 Candle matter |
| 14 Simple | 51 Approximately | 8 Handed out | 32 Suspect's pic |
| 15 Guard of a sort | 52 Ostrich's cousin | 9 "Awesome, dude!" | 33 Article of food |
| 17 Leading man? | 53 Rumble faction | 10 "Born in the —" | 35 Place-kicker's pride |
| 18 Unlikely loser | 54 Adolescent | 11 Workout site | 36 Lillian of mail-order fame |
| 19 Every crumb | 55 Witness | 16 Trainer | 38 Losing power, like a battery |
| 21 Illustrations | DOWN | 20 Journal | 39 Obey a comma |
| 22 Frank | 1 Cutting tools | 23 Colorless | 42 Mid-month date |
| 26 Pamphlet | | | 43 Arrive |
| 29 Peruke | | | 44 Chills and fever |
| 30 Regret | | | 45 Small barrel |
| 31 Kind of mark or tag | | | 46 George's brother |
| 32 A welcome sight? | | | 47 Be victorious |
| 33 Bouquet holder | | | 49 Raw rock |
| 34 Guitar's cousin | | | |
| 35 "Monkey suit" | | | |
| 36 Feelings, informally | | | |
| 37 Old salt | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-7

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		