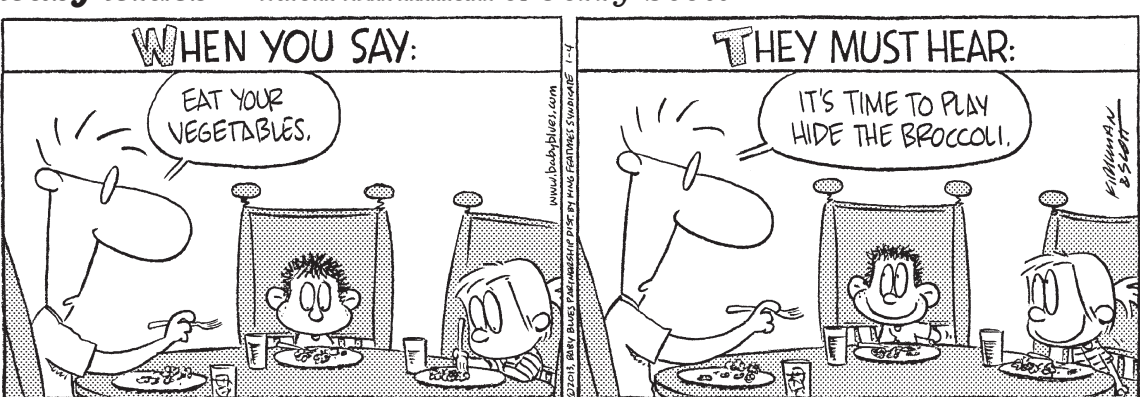
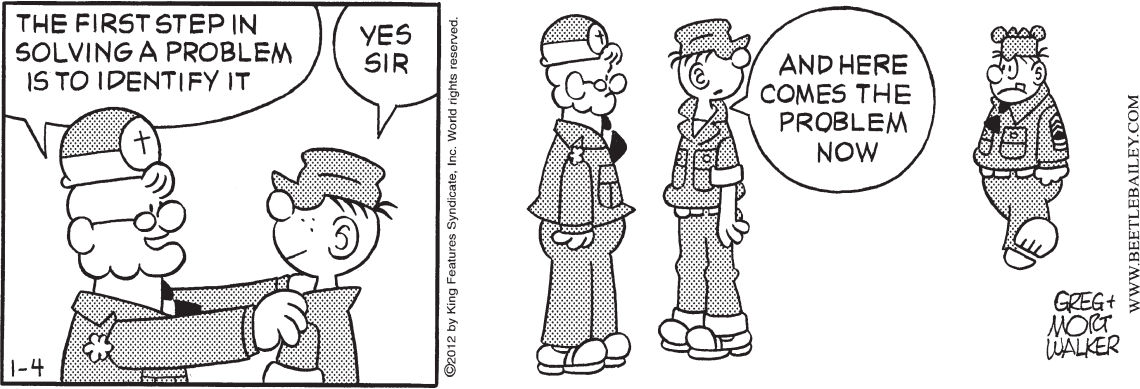


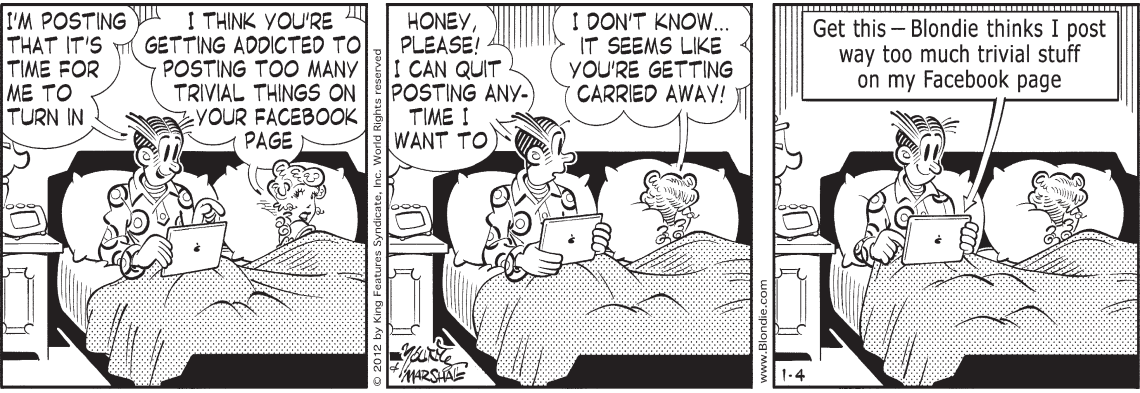
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



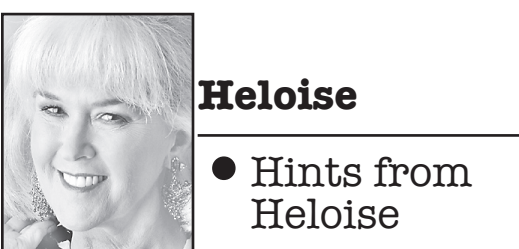
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Basic landline still has value

Dear Readers: As cellphones become more and more popular, many people are foregoing landlines completely. But in the event of an emergency, if cellphone towers go out or there is no power to charge your phone, what will you do? Research reveals that you can get basic plain-Jane phone service for \$20 or so a month. It's a good backup, and it saves minutes (on your cell bill) for local calls. — Heloise

FOUND PHONE
Dear Heloise: I recently found a cellphone, the second time this has happened. Both were locked, and there was no way to find the owner. My hint is to put an alternate phone number on the inside of the battery cover. I dropped them off at the cellular provider indicated on the front of the phone. — Dawn B. in Wisconsin

Very good point! Some phones may not have a battery "cover," but this is a valuable hint. If your phone doesn't have a removable battery, place a note between the phone and the cover. — Heloise

PET STAINS
Dear Heloise: Do you have a way to eliminate pet stains on carpet? — L.S. in Texas
First, you need to get to the area as soon as possible. If it's fresh, blot up as much liquid as you can, using paper towels. Then mix a solution of 1 teaspoon mild dishwashing detergent and a cup of warm water. Dab the stain, working from the outside in. Be sure to not soak the area. Rinse with clean water and blot dry.

Next, mix 1/3 cup white vinegar and 2/3 cup water, and dab the area. Vinegar will help remove the odor and any detergent that is left behind. Have other cleaning problems you need help with? I have compiled a handy pamphlet of my favorite solutions. To order, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cleaners, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To make a simple vinegar-based cleaner for windows and mirrors, mix 1/2 cup of vinegar and 1/2 cup of water. — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT
Dear Heloise: When I was traveling as an airline captain, I often would have layovers at vacation spots. When I wanted photos of famous landmarks, I would first look at a postcard selection and find the "professional's" viewpoint. By taking my photo from the same vantage point in the postcard, my photos often turned out better than they otherwise would. — Jim in Omaha, Neb.

KEEPING BLANKETS CLEAN
Dear Heloise: My hint regards keeping blankets and bedcoverings clean if your dog sleeps with you. My friend suggested that rather than washing blankets each week, I place two flat sheets under my duvet. Now my small dog is happy to slip between them, and his hair lands there, rather than on a dry-clean duvet or a blanket that cannot stand up to washing. — Vanessa in Texas

Bridge • Steve Becker

You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the jack of clubs. You play the queen from dummy and win South's king with the ace. When you cash the A-K of hearts, North turns up with the Q-10-8, so you must lose a trump trick. How would you proceed from here?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| West | East |
| ♠ K 6 | ♠ A Q 5 |
| ♥ A K 6 4 3 | ♥ J 7 5 2 |
| ♦ A J 6 | ♦ K Q 10 4 |
| ♣ A 6 3 | ♣ Q 8 |

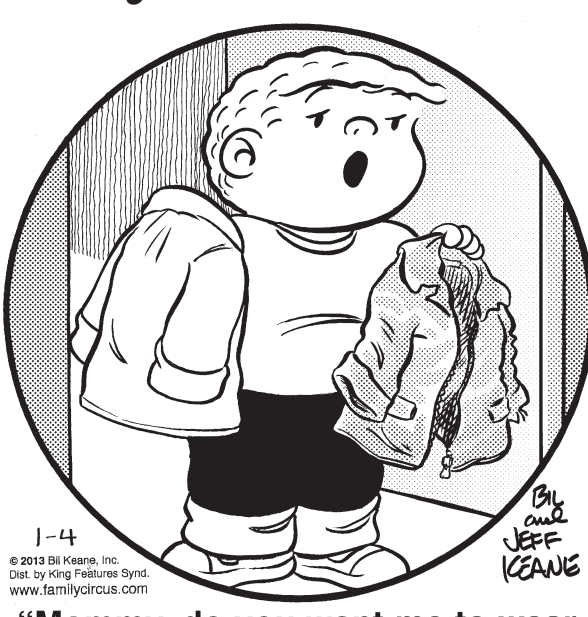
Test Your Play
Obviously, you must try to dispose of both of your club losers before North can gain the lead with the trump queen to cash the setting trick in clubs. If all goes well, you can deposit one club on a spade and another on dummy's fourth diamond. The only problem is which of the two suits to play first.
Strangely enough, the proper method of play calls for tackling the diamonds first. There is an excellent reason for this, as can be demonstrated by assuming that the North hand looks something like:

- | |
|------------|
| ♠ 8 4 |
| ♥ Q 10 8 |
| ♦ 9 7 3 2 |
| ♣ J 10 9 4 |

If you started by playing the K-Q-A of spades, North would ruff the third one and cash the ten of clubs to put you down one.
But if you started by playing the A-K-Q of diamonds (after South showed out on the third round), you could safely continue with the fourth round of diamonds and discard one of your clubs. You would then play the K-Q-A of spades and just get under the wire by discarding your remaining club loser on the third round of spades. Your only loser on this line of play would be a trump.
However, if North turned up with precisely three diamonds, you could not afford to continue with a fourth round of diamonds, since North could ruff and cash a club to defeat you. In that case you would play three rounds of spades next, hoping North could not ruff, and then lead dummy's last diamond to get rid of your remaining club.

The underlying principle is simple enough. Since it is impossible to make the contract if North has less than three diamonds, you proceed on the assumption that he has at least three. You therefore lead diamonds first to see exactly how many he started with and adapt your play according to what develops. Leading diamonds first can never be the cause of losing the contract, but leading spades first might be.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

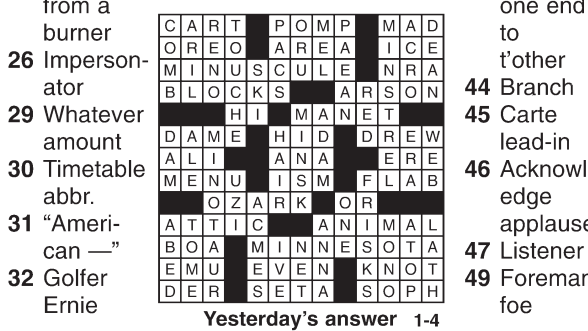
Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/04
This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Cryptoquip

VEFBFB XKLQJKWV MNBX XM
JLDK OKMOSK QMFQKFXWLX
MF XJK XJWMLX XEVVNK
XJLX'V XJK DMQLS OMEFX.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UGLY CANINE BEAST WHO TORMENTS PEOPLE BY FORCEFULLY PLACING THEM ON SCALES: A WEIGHER-WOLF.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Greek consonant | 1 Labels |
| 4 Cold War weapon | 2 Pronto |
| 8 2000 election scrap | 3 Beatles' "Back in the —" |
| 12 Fool wright | 4 Poison antidote, maybe |
| 13 Law office worker, for short | 5 West Point newbie |
| 14 "Les Miserables" author | 6 Top supporter |
| 15 Accelerator | 7 Slanders |
| 17 Quite excited | 8 Utter disorder |
| 18 Tidy (up) | 9 Embrace |
| 19 Altar affirmative | 10 Past |
| 21 Vanna's cohort | 11 Pooch |
| 22 Flame from a burner | 12 Student |
| 26 Impersonator | 20 Rotation duration |
| 29 Whatever amount | |
| 30 Timetable abbr. | |
| 31 "American —" | |
| 32 Golfer Ernie | |



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	