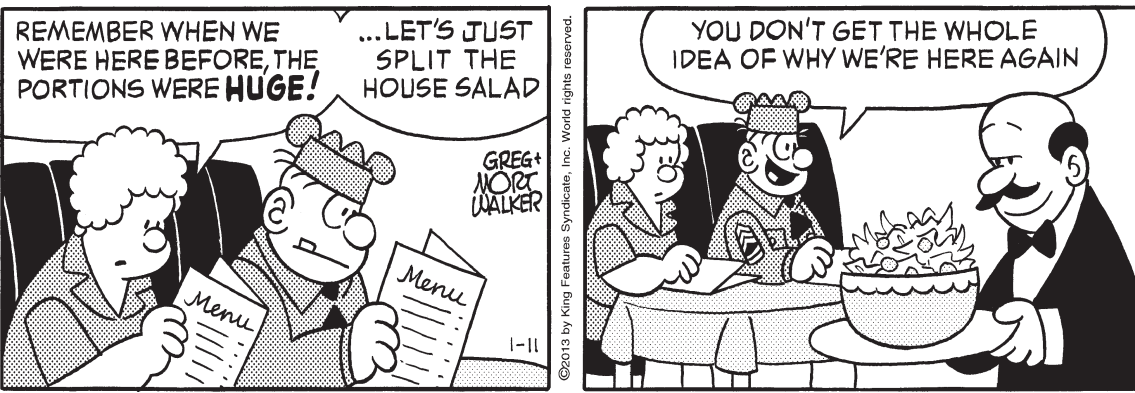


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



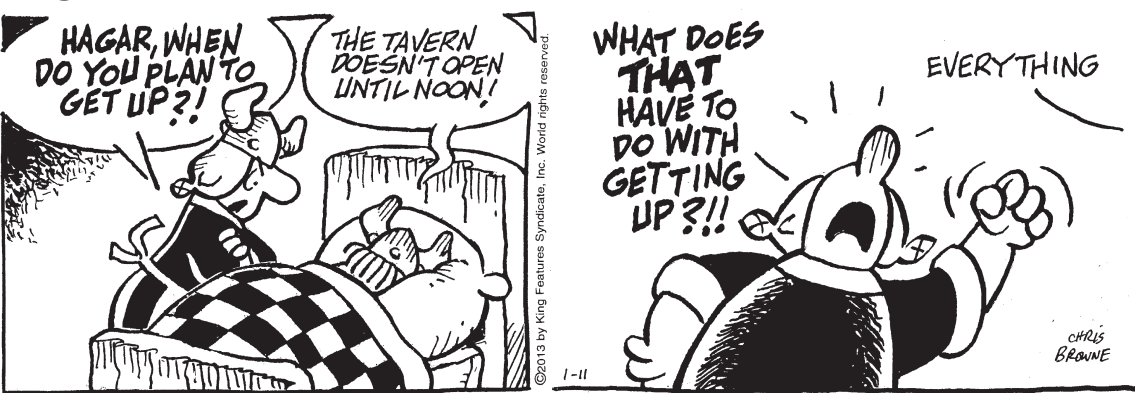
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



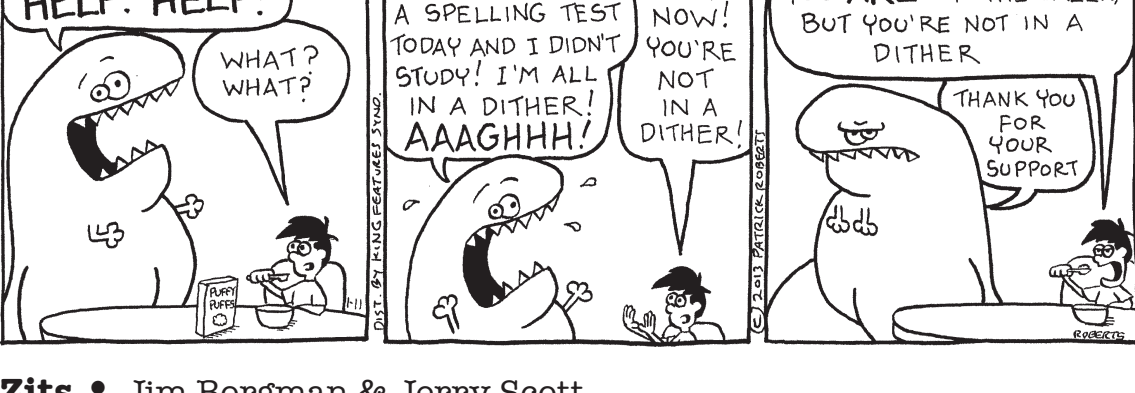
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Fabric softener works on walls**

Dear Heloise: My daughter has old plaster walls. Unfortunately, there are at least four layers of wallpaper on the walls. How do we go about removing the paper without damaging the walls? — Diane, via e-mail

Try using a little fabric softener or liquid starch and water. Score the wallpaper with a wallpaper scorer first. You can find one at most home-improvement stores. Apply the solution and wait.

When the wallpaper starts to loosen, start at a corner and gently pull the wallpaper from the wall. Remoisten if the wallpaper is not loose enough.

If there is glue residue, use my favorite household product: vinegar. Mix a solution of vinegar and water (50/50). Spray it on the area and let sit. Wipe away with an old, clean cloth. Vinegar is a great product to keep around the house. It is good for so many things!

Want to know what else you can use it for? Order my pamphlet. Send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to:

Heloise/Vinegar  
Box 795001  
San Antonio, Texas 78279-5001.

Apply white vinegar to old decals until soaked for easy removal. — Heloise

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: I found another way to use the cloth wine-bottle carriers that you get from the grocery store.

I use a four-pack size to hold my hair products, lotions, brushes, etc., when traveling. It is so easy to just put on the counter in the hotel, and not have so many bottles and cans all over the sink area. — Karen in Washington

**PET PROTECTION**

Dear Readers: With so many having been affected by natural disasters in recent years, people are beginning to prepare, just in case. Don't let your pets be overlooked.

Whether a natural disaster or an unforeseen accident, pet owners need to make arrangements for their pets. Who would look after them? Where would they go? Unfortunately, too many animals end up in shelters or worse because arrangements were not made.

Make sure you have a plan in place for your pet. Keep a document with all the needed information with your other estate documents. Keep a card in your wallet with pet and contact information in case of an accident. — Heloise

P.S.: Cabernet, our mini schnauzer, agrees! "Woof, woof!"

**DRY-CLEAN CARE**

Dear Heloise: I have several garments that are dry-clean only. I hated having to take them to the dry cleaner if I had worn them for only a few hours and they weren't very soiled.

I found that if I hung them where they could "air out" for a few hours, most of the wrinkles would go away, and I could get another wearing before taking them to the cleaners. — A Reader in Texas

(c)2013 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ K4 ♥ AK742 ♦ 10 ♣ AJ963
- ♠ 9 ♥ AQ764 ♦ A8 ♣ KJ742
- ♠ J4 ♥ QJ1053 ♦ AQ ♣ AK106
- ♠ 982 ♥ KQJ83 ♦ A ♣ AJ92

1. Three spades. Partner's two-spade bid is somewhat ambiguous in this sequence. It might be based on as little as ♠ QJ10873 ♥ 8 ♦ K764 ♣ J7, or as much as ♠ AQ8652 ♥ 93 ♦ 52 ♣ K84.

You'd have very little chance for game with the first hand and an excellent shot at game with the second. So you raise to three spades and let partner decide whether to bid four. Your K-4 of spades are adequate support for a suit that partner has bid twice.

2. Pass. You can't fight city hall. With no fit in spades and minimum high-card values for your opening bid, this is obviously not a game-going hand. The only problem remaining, therefore, is to find the best partscore contract.

In general, where there's a misfit — which seems to be the case here — you should throw in the towel as soon as you can. The only other possible action would be to bid three clubs, but this might lead you deeper into the morass if partner cannot support that suit. The sooner you drop a hot potato, the better off you are.

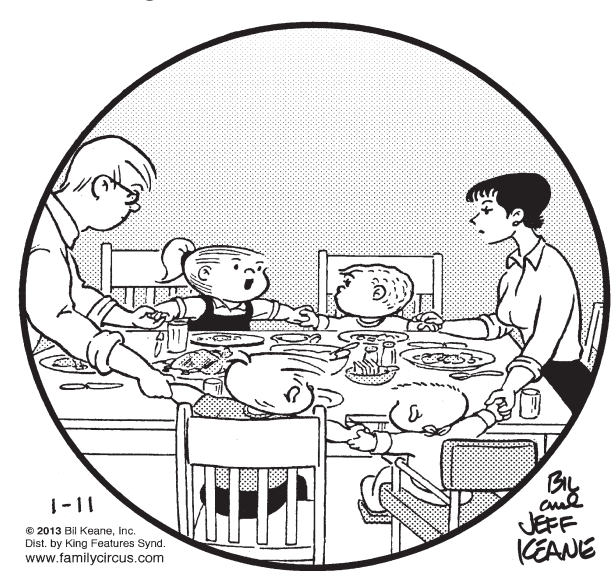
3. Two notrump. You can't very well pass with 17 high-card points, so you invite partner to bid game in notrump, which you'll almost surely make if he bids it. Of course, partner might have a hand suitable only for spades, and in that case he'll bid three or four spades, either of which you'll pass.

4. Four spades. The jump-raise to game, despite your skimpy trump holding, comes much closer to representing the real value of your hand than does the alternative bid of three spades.

True, you have only 15 high-card points, but nearly all of them are potential tricks. In particular, your three trumps, together with the singleton ace of diamonds, should be worth their weight in gold. Partner might not make four spades, but you would be remiss not to bid it.

(c)2013 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Do we hafta hold hands during grace so everybody gets to start eating at the same time?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/11

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

UIRKE S YIKO BIPVOP WICM

SLIRV SC HCYPOEHLKG

QOPVHKO BSVYJ IQ WIHK LO

VHVKOE "SCGVJHCM MPIUW"?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MASSEUR PERIODICALLY USES THE CLEVER ADVERTISING SLOGAN "MAY I HAVE YOUR TENSION, PLEASE?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                            |                                  |                        |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>              | 36 "Annie Hall" director         | 2 Story of a lifetime? | 20 Come to earth          |
| 1 "Grey's Anatomy" network | 37 Yuletide rendition            | 3 Lose warmth          | 21 Lotion additive        |
| 4 Facebook contribution    | 40 "Buenos Aires"                | 4 Old hat              | 22 Celebrated with a bash |
| 8 Undergoes recession      | 41 On safety org.                | 5 Job                  | 23 Eye part               |
| 12 Carnival city           | 42 Annoy for one's own amusement | 6 Yon maiden           | 25 Gull's cousin          |
| 13 Arthur of tennis        | 46 Young horse                   | 7 A Kennedy brother    | 26 Cabana's location      |
| 14 Portrayal               | 47 Initial chip                  | 8 Mistakes in print    | 27 Not working            |
| 15 Place to find a rake    | 48 Conk out                      | 9 Galosh               | 28 Noble gas              |
| 17 Cheer                   | 49 TV trophy                     | 10 United nations      | 30 Coal or gas            |
| 18 Bart's sis              | 51 Kreskin's claim               | 11 Eve's third son     | 33 Doubly thick           |
| 19 Keep tabs on accessory  | <b>DOWN</b>                      | 16 Bouncy melody       | 34 Cabbage salad          |
| 22 Authoritative order     | 1 Illustrations                  | 19 Hospital section    | 36 Wasn't well            |
| 24 Oodles                  |                                  |                        | 37 Eatery                 |
| 25 Diamond-back, e.g.      |                                  |                        | 38 Teeny bit              |
| 29 Present                 |                                  |                        | 39 Wander                 |
| 30 Stinky                  |                                  |                        | 40 Be overly fond of      |
| 31 Praise in verse         |                                  |                        | 42 Enthusiast             |
| 32 False teeth             |                                  |                        | 43 Individual             |
| 34 Unaccompanied           |                                  |                        | 44 "The season ..."       |
| 35 Make one's way          |                                  |                        | 45 With it, once          |

Solution time: 25 mins.

REST	HEM	STAN			
ACHY	ARE	CHIC			
PROP	VAN	IAGO			
TUPELO	TUFT				
SACRIFICED					
BLEEP	OOO	HAAH			
TEXT	PUN	PESO			
UNE	JUG	SHREW			
SACRAMENTO					
RAMP	EYEFUL				
EGAD	KEA	NAVE			
BETA	IMP	JRES			
BEER	NUS	XMAS			

Yesterday's answer 1-11

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	