

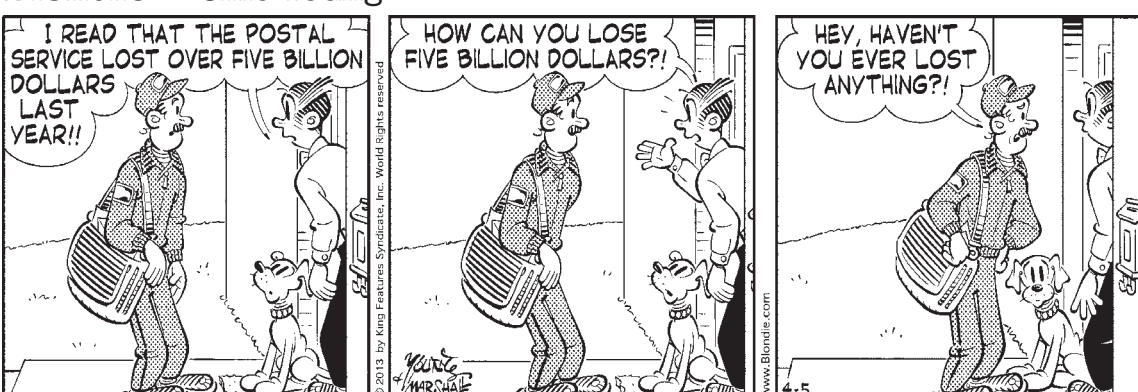
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



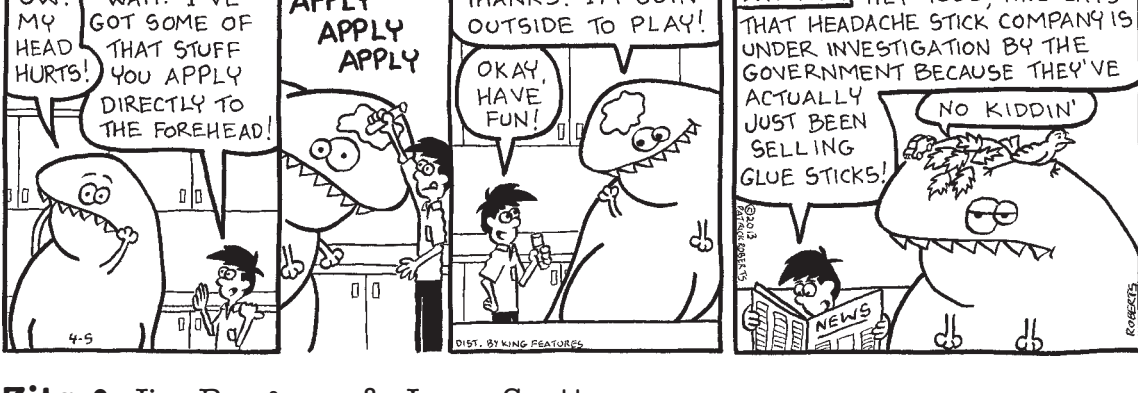
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Pop-up ads can be closed**

Dear Heloise: I do a lot of work and research online. I hate when I go to a website and a large ad appears. I have found that when this happens, most pages have a link that says "continue on to destination" or something like that. You can click on it and bypass the advertisement. It normally is in small print at the bottom or corner of the page. They make it hard to find, of course, because they want you to click on the ad. — Paul, via e-mail

Paul, you are voicing what most of us deal with when using the Internet! However, those annoying ads are what allow us to use the Web for free. Do look for that small box or "X" that reads "skip this ad" and click on it! You're right — it usually is hidden or blends into the background! — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**  
Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: Regarding your hints on what to do when leaving for a long trip, those are good suggestions, and here are some more:

Turn off valves to the washer and under the sinks. This could prevent the house from flooding if a supply hose springs a leak — and they do. The ice maker will turn off when the bin is full, so that's not a huge issue. Also, check the thermometer and set the air conditioner at 85 or the heat at 60. I also leave a radio on and set random on-off timers on some lights. — P.A.L., via e-mail

Good advice, and everyone should have a "checklist" to close the house down, especially if you travel a lot, like I do. It's easy to forget to take out the trash! — Heloise

**SCENTED FLOWERS**

Dear Heloise: My husband has allergies, so I'm not able to burn candles in our home. I lightly spray scented oil, perfume, etc., onto artificial flowers that I have in several vases. The scent is not strong and can be tolerated by my husband. I mainly do this when we're expecting company, as I can do without the scents the rest of the time. — Cheryl B. in Louisiana

**BACKBOARD**

Dear Heloise: Have you ever tried to frame a photo only to find that the backboard is too large to fit easily? As a photographer, I have had this happen many times. Take an emery board and gently file the edges. Soon the back will ease into the frame. — Bonnie M., Fort Wayne, Ind.

**SECURITY BLANKET**

Dear Heloise: I always keep a blanket in my car. I found a really cute outdoor one that rolls up pretty small. My family loves to go on picnics, see outdoor movies or just enjoy a park. I never know when we may want to stop and be outdoors. I always have a blanket handy now, just in case. — Rose in Texas

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**You are South**, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:  
North East South West  
1♦ 1♠ ?

**What would you bid** with each of the following five hands? (For the purposes of this quiz, assume you are not playing "negative" doubles.)  
1. ♠93 ♥85 ♦AJ75 ♣KQ962  
2. ♠72 ♥AKJ4 ♦Q3 ♣KJ942  
3. ♣KJ94 ♥Q106 ♦5 ♠AJ873  
4. ♠KQ5 ♥AJ73 ♦Q84 ♣KJ8  
5. ♠4♥AQ9 ♦KQ982 ♣AJ76

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Two clubs. Your hand is too good for a simple raise to two diamonds, and not good enough for a jump-raise to three diamonds. The best way of handling the situation is to bid two clubs first, promising upward of 10 points, and then support diamonds at your next turn. Partner can then decide whether to go on or stop, depending on his hand.

2. Two clubs. Here you intend to arrive at a game eventually, since you have an opening bid facing an opening bid, but the best final contract is at present uncertain.

The first step in trying to resolve this problem is to bid your longer suit, clubs, intending to bid hearts next. In this way, partner will learn that your clubs are longer than your hearts, and also that you have a good hand, since you responded initially on the two-level and then bid a second suit.

3. Double. You have a good chance of collecting a fat penalty if partner has a normal opening bid. Your hand is likely to take at least four tricks against a spade contract, and partner, if he passes, will normally contribute three or four more. The double is therefore likely to produce the best result, especially since there is no assurance that your side can make a game.

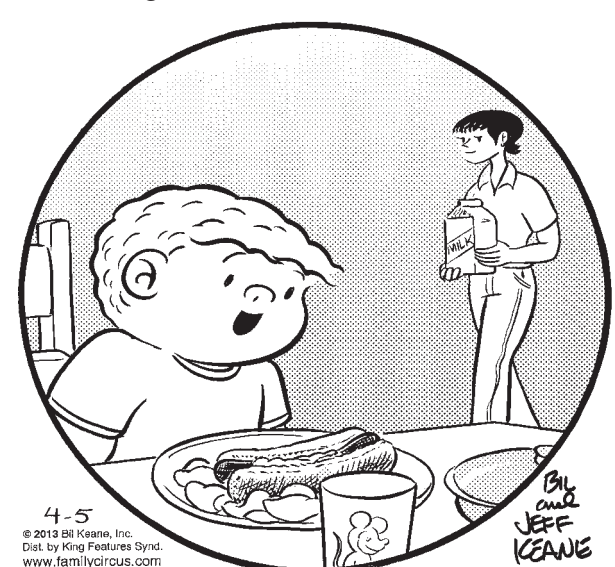
While it is true that the double is for penalties, partner is not required to stand for it if he has a highly distributional hand.

4. Three notrump. Game is certain, and notrump is clearly the best denomination. The jump to three notrump shows 16 or 17 points and balanced distribution as well as at least one spade stopper. At the same time, it encourages partner to try for slam with appropriate values.

5. Two spades. The cuebid of the opponents' suit announces a big hand and interest in reaching a slam. Obviously, prospects for a slam are excellent if partner has no wasted strength in spades, and the best time to convey this news to him is right now. (If you play "splinter" bids, a leap to three spades, indicating a strong hand with a singleton or void in spades and a fit with partner's suit, would deliver a similar message.)

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Oh boy! I'm a LOT hungrier now that I know we're havin' HOT DOGS!"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/05

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

B E P B I V L Q Q W H N E L E P B W X

D H P K A W ' X A P Y S B P V J P S K V F

N H S B W X Z K C W H B E W

Y X W Z C L K F J " I V P X B W H L D Y P H S X "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERYBODY PRESENT AT THE EVENT SEEMED TO BE VERY HAPPY AT THE SAME TIME, BY CHEER COINCIDENCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Moment, for short
  - 4 Nevada neighbor
  - 8 Detergent brand
  - 12 Savings plan acronym
  - 13 Actor LaBeouf
  - 14 Moby Dick's pursuer
  - 15 Insect repellents
  - 17 "— Lisa"
  - 18 Harbor structure
  - 19 Asian nation
  - 20 Not intoxicated
  - 22 Actor Newman
  - 24 On in years
  - 25 San Francisco carriage
  - 29 Under the weather
  - 30 Divine
  - 31 "... and seven years —"
  - 32 1776 crossing site
  - 34 Porn
- DOWN**
- 1 [Un-corrected]
  - 2 Geological period
  - 3 "Wichita Lineman" singer
  - 4 Leading man in the theater?
  - 5 Norse hammer thrower
  - 6 Melody
  - 7 Owns
  - 8 Mexican entree
  - 9 Do as you're told
  - 10 Convey or Delany
  - 11 Abba of Israel
  - 16 Piper's adjective
  - 19 Seventh of a series
  - 20 Put into words
  - 21 Leer at
  - 22 Chaplain
  - 23 Competent
  - 25 Layer
  - 26 Marsh-mallow toaster
  - 27 Chills and fever
  - 28 Decays
  - 30 Verdon or Stefani
  - 33 Carelessness?
  - 34 Couch weight boxer?
  - 37 Norway's capital
  - 38 Organization
  - 39 Relaxation
  - 40 "Be a sport"
  - 42 Scoundrel
  - 43 Corroded
  - 44 Martini ingredient
  - 45 Affirmative action?

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-5

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	