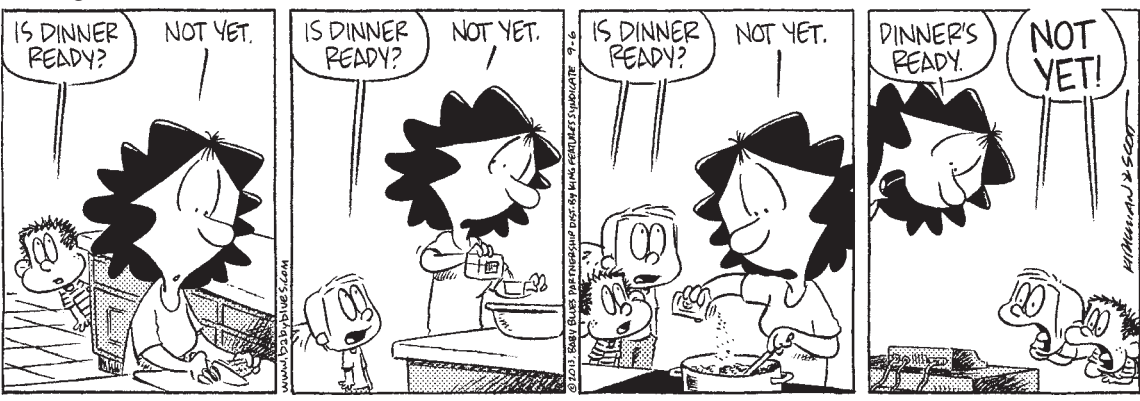
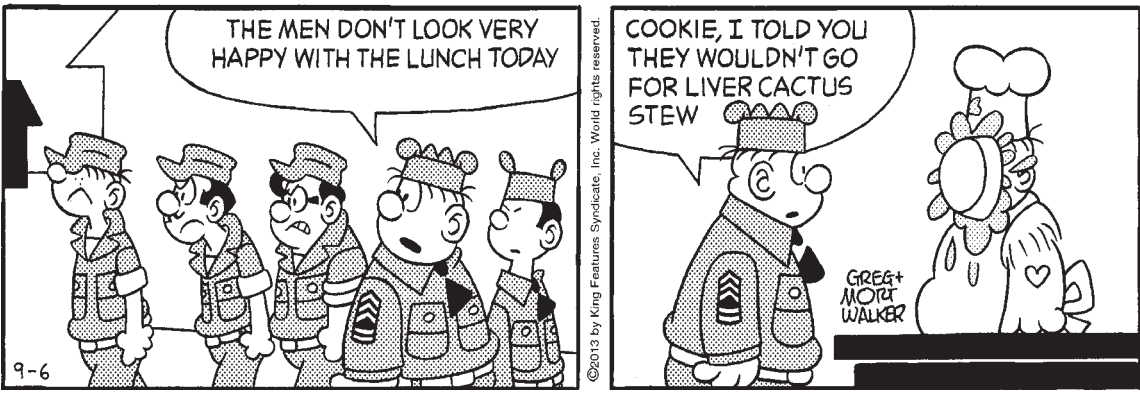


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



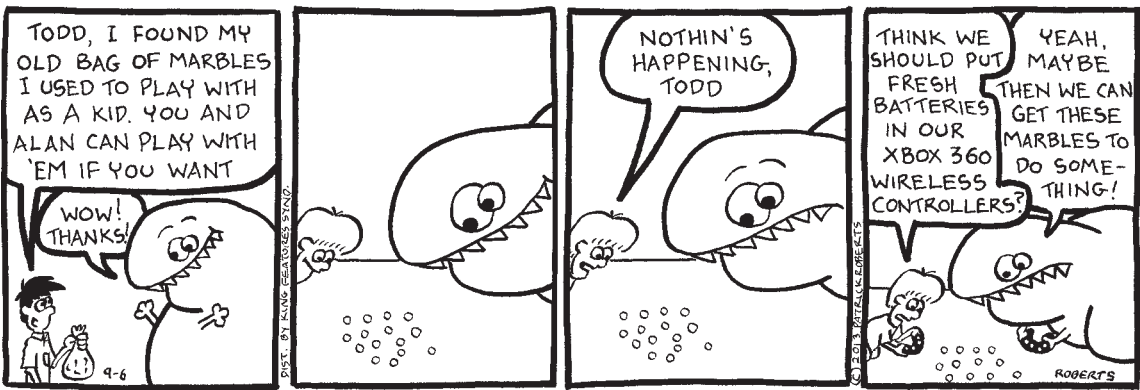
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Prepaid cards finance vacation

Dear Heloise: When I have a vacation coming up, here's how I save money. Whenever I have extra money, I purchase a prepaid gift or credit card from a major company that can be used almost anywhere, and stash it someplace safe.

When I am packing, I pull out all of the gift cards I have saved. Not only is it safer because it doesn't have any of my information on it, it also helps me limit the amount of money I spend. (I do bring my actual credit card with me for emergencies.) – Lee in San Antonio

Love it! A great way to "painlessly" save for vacation. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

MOTH REMOVAL

Dear Heloise: I recently married and moved into my husband's home. For the first time, I found holes in my T-shirts. After my husband pulled a suit out of another closet, it dawned on me it is moths. Can you please help me get rid of the moth problem? – Denise, via e-mail

Your best bet is to remove everything and clean it, or at least examine the items for moths or larvae. Take them outside and shake them out. Wash the clothes you can with the hottest water safe for the fabric. Dry-clean the rest, if you can. Vacuum the closet, and scrub the walls and floor if possible. If storing items in the closet, place them in plastic storage boxes to give added protection.

An inexpensive way is to buy cedar chips. Place in an old pair of pantyhose and tie off the end. You can make it however large or small you need, depending on the size of the space. You can place in closets, drawers, etc. Hope these hints help rid you of your moth problem. – Heloise

TROUBLE TURNING

Dear Heloise: I have arthritis, which means it is difficult for me to turn the key in the lock on my front door. A wonderful lady at a home-improvement store helped me. She made me a new key with a square, extra-large base for my fingers. It is great. It's cute, and I now have a painless way to open my front door. – Maria in Huntington Beach, Calif.

CONTACT CASE

Dear Heloise: I use an extra contact-lens case as a pillbox. I separate the medication into the two different compartments. It is easy to write on and label if needed, and small enough to fit in my pocket. The best part is that it didn't cost much. – A Reader in Virginia

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Your right-hand opponent deals and bids Three Diamonds, both sides vulnerable. What action (if any) would you take with each of the following five hands?

- ♠AQJ7 ♥A1063 ♦4 ♣K982
- ♠Q96 ♥A94 ♦KJ73 ♣A86
- ♠AKQ984 ♥AJ5 ♦K6 ♣K9
- ♠AQJ86 ♥KQJ2 ♦— ♣AQ74
- ♠AKJ973 ♥KQ ♦10 ♣KQ95

Bidding Quiz

1. Double. The primary purpose of a pre-emptive bid is to make it difficult for the opposing side to reach their best contract. Certainly this aim is frequently achieved, and there is nothing unusual about the opponents getting to a bad contract as a result of a pre-empt, or in their being frozen out of the bidding altogether.

The best way to defend against a pre-emptive bid is to bid naturally. Double for takeout, overcall with a strong suit and moderate values, and, most important of all, pass when it is unsafe to compete. Here, a takeout double is clearly best. You have exactly what you are supposed to have for the double -- opening bid strength and excellent support for all of the unbid suits.

2. Pass. Any other action would be fraught with danger, since your left-hand opponent might have the bulk of the missing high-card strength, and you have no safe place to land. Besides, you should feel confident about your prospects of defeating three diamonds should that become the final contract.

3. Three notrump. This might seem radical, but it could well be the winning bid. Other possibilities are three spades (which is ultraconservative), double (which might confuse the issue) or four spades (which might not work out as well as three notrump, since you would have to make 10 tricks instead of nine).

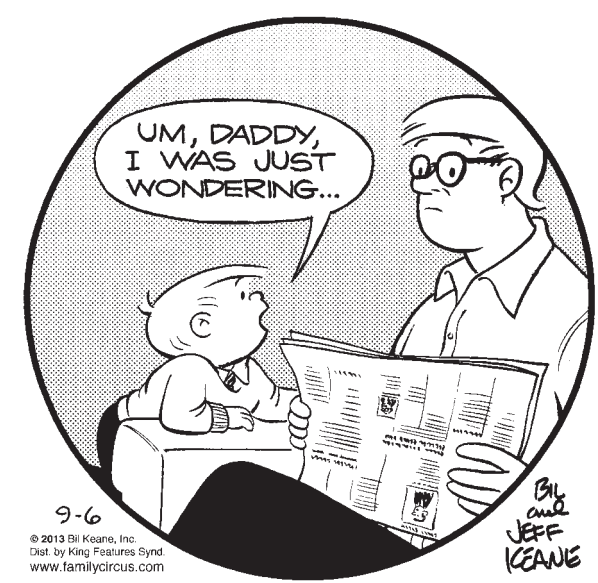
Partner needs very little to produce nine tricks in notrump, but needs a fairly good hand to yield 10 tricks in spades. Admittedly, partner might have a hand that would make game in spades and not in notrump, but the best you can do in these situations is to estimate which type of hand he will be dealt more often and act accordingly.

4. Four diamonds. A cuebid, forcing partner to choose the trump suit, is the best choice here. Not only does it transmit the message to partner that you hold a hand powerful enough to produce a game in its own right, but at the same time it strongly suggests the possibility of a slam.

5. Four spades. The choice lies between three and four spades, and either one could turn out right. Certainly you shouldn't bet the family fortune on making four spades, but that is not the proper test. The key consideration is how often you would miss a game by bidding only three spades. There is obviously no precise answer, but the general rule is that in close situations, it pays to take the slightly more aggressive tack when it comes to bidding games.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"... Are you in a better mood or is Mommy?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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

Cryptoquip

RLH JRDZH JGHSJ'J KHDK
FDSHE QDN SMR OH RLH
WASDE VHJAZS. RLASC MW
AR DJ D RHQFMKDKN
JHR ODGC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC SONG ABOUT A ONCE-VIRTUOUS PERSON AND HIS RAPID FALL FROM GRACE: "SAINT MISBEHAVIN'."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals R

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Male cat | 3 Throws off the track | 24 Calendar abbr. |
| 1 No-see-um | 44 Mimmicked | 4 React in | 26 Greek consonant |
| 6 No teetotaler | 45 Cinco de Mayo celebration | 5 "Cats" inspirer | 28 Tureen |
| 9 Dos Passos trilogy | 47 Laments loudly | 6 Justice Antonin | 30 Wrong (Pref.) |
| 12 Perfect | 49 Pork cuts | 7 Roughly | 32 Beefy soup |
| 13 Weep | 52 Before | 8 Cobb and | ingredients |
| 14 Court barrier | 53 Bumped into | 9 Striking group | 33 Carnival city |
| 15 Trunks | 54 Shoelace tip | 10 Markets | 34 \$ dispenser |
| 16 Criticizes | 55 Young fellow | 11 Bewildered | 36 Is |
| 18 Harlem theater | 56 Faux — | 17 Seek justice | 38 Tower of — |
| 20 Field mouse | 57 Saunter | 19 Rubbery stuff | 39 La Scala show |
| 21 — Baba | | 21 Tummy muscles | 40 Spoke like a kitten |
| 23 Clavell's "— Pan" | DOWN | 22 Shelter | 42 Moham-medanism |
| 24 High IQ group | 1 New England sch. | | 45 Dog bane |
| 25 Quasi-modern's concern | 2 Bachelors' last utterance | | 46 Take-out request |
| 27 Claw | | | 48 Mischievous tyke |
| 29 Type of seed | | | 50 Born |
| 31 Sweater type | | | 51 Pigs' digs |
| 35 Blended | | | |
| 37 Way out | | | |
| 38 Fails as a performer | | | |
| 41 2007 Super Bowl number | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13		14	
15						16			17	
		18							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				56				57		