

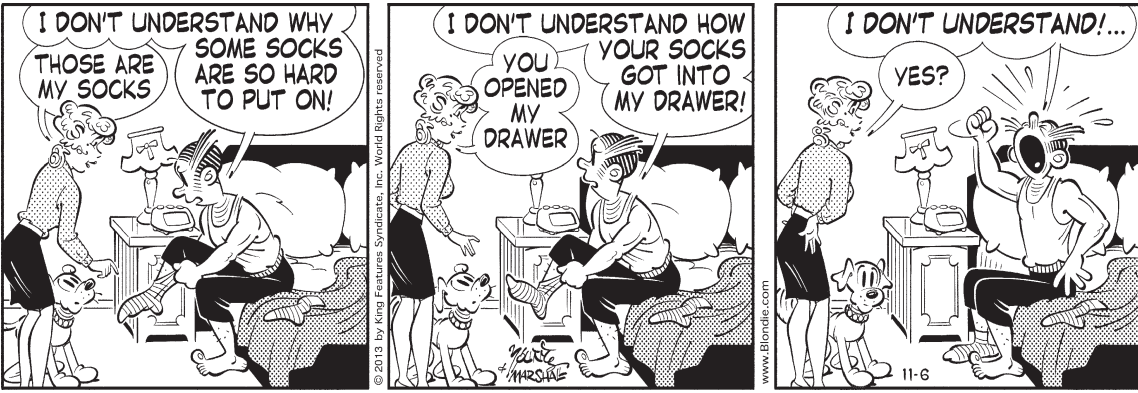
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



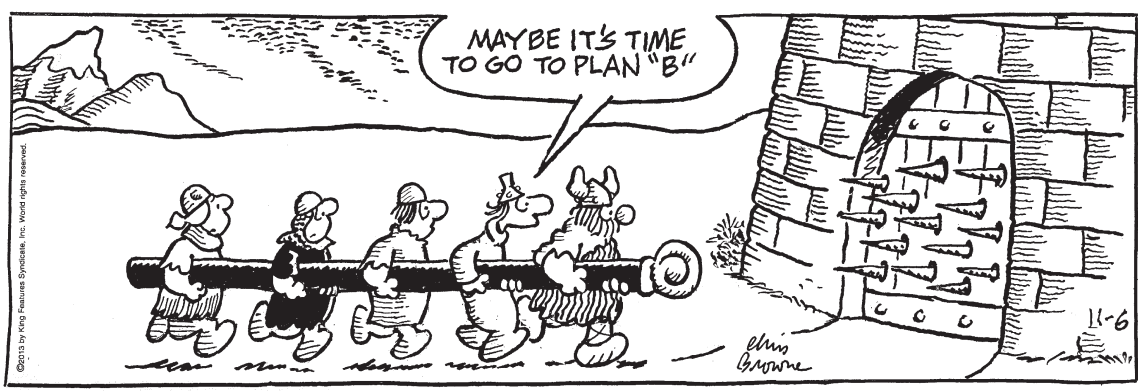
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



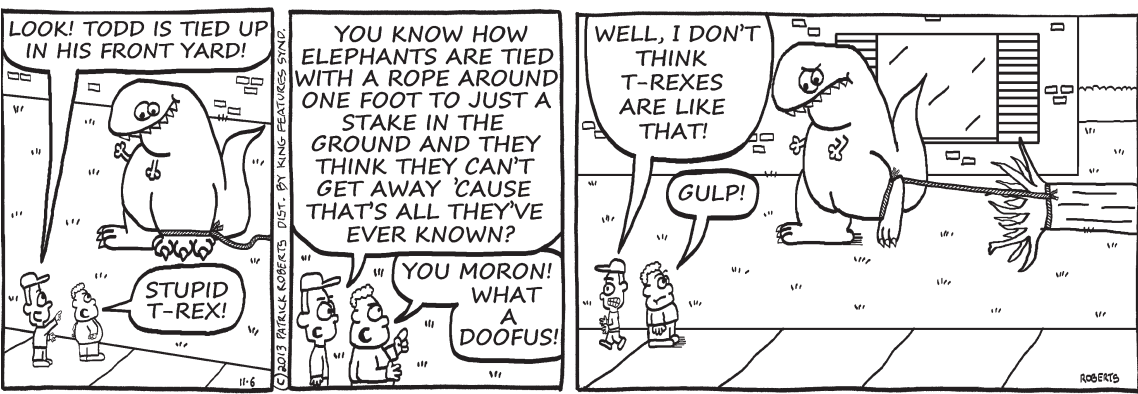
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



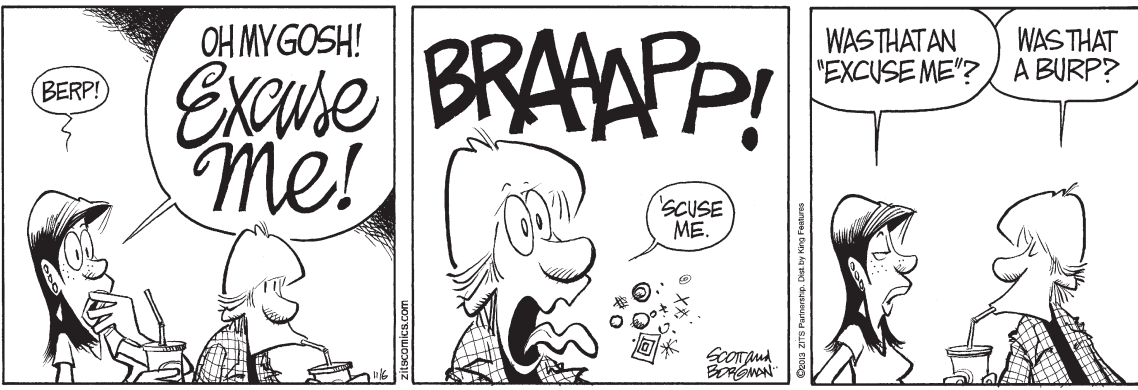
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Dishwasher melts honey

Dear Heloise: I looked everywhere to see if this hint was posted and couldn't find it. To repair honey, jam, jelly or caramel that has crystallized, simply seal the container well and run it through a dishwasher cycle with your next load. Allow the jar to slowly return to room temperature with the dishwasher closed. The dishwasher provides gentle agitation. It's not the fastest method, but certainly the easiest and most foolproof. - Ronald S., via e-mail

Ronald, I had an older jar of crystallized honey that was just perfect for testing your hint. Not only did the honey return to its original state, but the sticky outside of the jar was cleaned, too! A two-for-one hint! - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
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San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

JAM AND JELLY

Dear Heloise: You probably have answered this many times, but I would like to know what the difference is between jam and jelly. - A Reader, via e-mail

I'm happy to answer this for you! Jam is made from crushed fruit. Jelly is made from fruit juice that is cooked and turns to a gel. An added hint: Jam is usually thicker than jelly, and both taste great on a bagel! - Heloise

FROZEN BUNS

Dear Heloise: There are just two of us, and when we buy hamburger or hot-dog buns, there are always eight. How do we freeze the buns without them getting hard the next time we want to use them? - A Reader, via e-mail

Major bread manufacturers don't recommend freezing your buns, because it can compromise the quality, but many people do freeze them. Here's the hint on how best to freeze them.

Force all of the air out of the bread bag, and seal it in a freezer bag before storing in your freezer for double the protection. Once you're ready to use them, allow them to thaw on the counter. If the consistency isn't what you were looking for, throw the buns on the grill for a light toasting to help with the texture. - Heloise

LABEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I have been looking for a way to label my pans and trays that I take to family events and parties. They always seem to get mixed in and confused with others. I now mark the bottom of them with nail polish, and everyone knows it belongs to me. Even better, if the tray happens to get washed, the nail polish does not come off. This has saved me a lot of money, because I always get my trays back now. - J.M. in New Jersey

SHREDDED CABBAGE

Dear Heloise: When a recipe calls for shredded cabbage, I just buy a bag of coleslaw mix and add as much or as little as needed. If there is any mix left over, I cook it down and freeze it. I make sure to date it for future use before storing. - Marcia K. in Pennsylvania

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ J 9 7, ♥ Q 6, ♦ A 9 5 4 2, ♣ 8 6 3

WEST: ♠ 10 2, ♥ J 10 9 4, ♦ K 10 8 6, ♣ K J 4. EAST: ♠ 5, ♥ A K 8 5 3, ♦ Q 7 3, ♣ Q 10 7 2

SOUTH: ♠ A K Q 8 6 4 3, ♥ 7 2, ♦ J, ♣ A 9 5

The bidding: South 1♣, West Pass, North 2♣, East Pass. Opening lead — jack of hearts.

How to Manufacture Tricks

In some hands, you start with a ready-made number of tricks and finish with exactly that number because there is nothing you can do to increase them. In other hands, the number of tricks you can take is far from certain at the start.

The outcome might depend on how the opponents' cards are situated, or on the particular approach you adopt. Such deals are naturally more interesting to play than the so-called pat ones.

Take this case where the defenders cash two hearts and shift to a club. Superficially, it seems declarer must lose two club tricks and go down one, but actually he has a chance to make the contract if he can establish dummy's fifth diamond as his 10th trick. To that end, he should start by winning the club return with the ace, then lead a diamond to the ace and ruff a diamond.

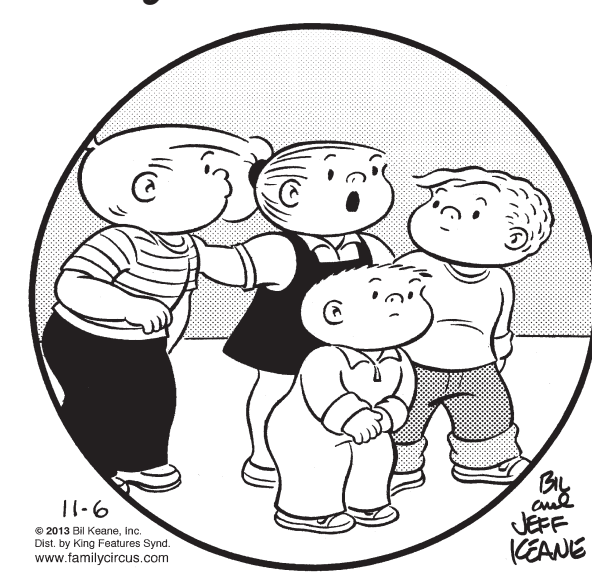
To utilize the extra diamond trick he is trying to establish, declarer will require three further entries to dummy, so he next leads a low trump and finesses the seven! When the finesse succeeds, South ruffs another diamond high and re-enters dummy with the jack of trumps to ruff the fourth round of diamonds.

Declarer's efforts are rewarded when the diamonds prove to be divided 4-3. The nine of diamonds is now a trick, and the nine of spades is the entry to dummy to collect it.

Note the importance of the trump finesse, without which the contract cannot be made. Percentage-wise, it is much better to finesse against the ten than to try to drop the singleton ten in the East hand. This is because West will be dealt the 10-5-2, 10-5 or 10-2 of spades about three times as often as he will be dealt specifically the 5-2 of the suit.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

8x8 Conceptis Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various cells.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/06

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

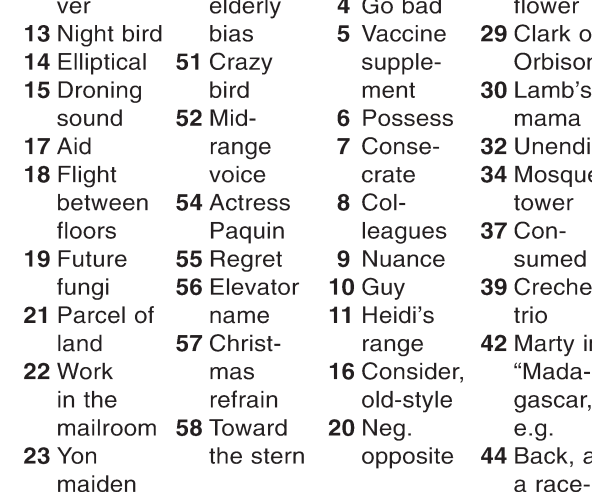
BLDDNBHRW BNCV PICHZVZ
ERVX PTT DNBBHYTV KGHRWB
PYNLK PFKNZ GPREB, XNLTI
GV YV KNC-RHBFHVRK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE ARE OFFERING OPINIONS ABOUT SOME ORBITING BODIES, IT COULD BE COMETARY COMMENTARY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Weaponry, 5 Go up and down, 8 Prolonged sleep, 12 Aerobic maneuver, 13 Night bird, 14 Elliptical, 15 Droning sound, 17 Aid, 18 Flight between floors, 19 Future fungi, 21 Parcel of land, 22 Work in the mailroom, 23 Yon maiden, 26 Symbol of intrigue, 28 Mall unit, 31 Great Lake, 33 Pirates' potation, 35 Winter forecast, 36 Ray type, 38 Poorly lit, 40 CBS logo, 41 Jazz saxophonist, 43 Arrest, 45 Main course, 47 Anti-elderly bias, 51 Crazy bird, 52 Mid-range voice, 54 Actress Paquin, 55 Regret, 56 Elevator name, 57 Christmas refrain, 58 Toward the stern, 59 Siestas, 60 Source, 61 "Lisa", 64 Go bad, 65 Vaccine supplement, 6 Possess, 7 Consecrate, 8 Colleagues, 9 Nuance, 10 Guy, 11 Heidi's range, 16 Consider, old-style, 20 Neg. opposite, 23 fashion?, 24 Historic time, 25 Cell-phone alert, 27 Unopened flower, 29 Clark or Orbison, 30 Lamb's mama, 32 Unending tower, 34 Mosque, 37 Consumed, 39 Creche trio, 42 Marty in "Madagascar," e.g., 44 Back, as a racehorse, 45 Verve, 46 Forbidden act, 48 Tittle, 49 Use scissors, 50 Disarray, 53 "Wiedersehen"



Yesterday's answer 11-06

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-59 indicating starting positions for clues.