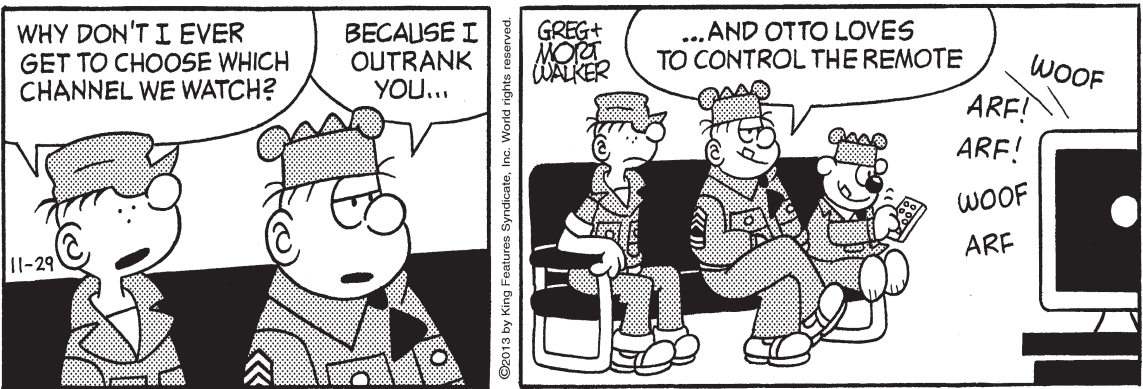


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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

Covered plate may tempt fate

Dear Readers: Is the license plate on your auto easy to read? In many states, it's illegal to alter a license plate. Also, something as simple as a license-plate frame that does not fit correctly and covers information may be grounds for a ticket. If a frame, decal, etc., obscures the number or the state name, it is a big no-no!

Also, don't put any cover on it or anything that makes the license plate unreadable. Take this into consideration, and check your state laws the next time you are thinking about getting a special license-plate frame, etc. -- Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When we traveled to a rented beach house, I put five laundry-detergent pods and five dryer sheets in an empty plastic container from a powdered drink mix and packed it in my checked luggage. When we got there, we didn't have to go out to buy more laundry supplies than we needed, and I had a container to bring shells home in! -- Joni W., Bentonville, Ark.

NO TEARS

Dear Heloise: I have a 2-year-old female Shih-poo (Shih Tzu-poodle mix). She gets pinkish-brown staining on her cute little face just under her eyes. Do you have a safe, pet-friendly hint about how to clean her face and remove most of the staining? -- Debbie T., via email

There is an easy, safe Heloise Hint that I learned from several veterinarians. Mix 1 part baby shampoo (no tears!) with 10 parts warm water. Gently wipe the area using a cotton ball. It may take several times to get rid of the gunk. Then use a damp cloth (water only) or another cotton ball to "rinse" the area.

Many dogs have this problem, especially most white and light-colored dogs, plus it seems to show on them more than on a dark-colored dog. Try to wipe their eyes daily to help prevent a buildup. If the staining is really bad or your dog tears excessively, check with your veterinarian to make sure nothing is going on. -- Heloise

WALLET MISHAP

Dear Heloise: I had an accident where my wallet fell out of the rear pocket of my jeans. I came up with the idea to sew a 2-inch strip of self-gripping fabric to the top center of that pocket, which prevents that from happening. It also may prevent the loss of a wallet from a "nimble-fingered" pickpocket, as the pocket cannot be opened without you feeling it and hearing the self-gripping fabric unzip. -- Frank L., Anaheim, Calif.

COLD FEET

Dear Heloise: Recently, my daughter got her feet soaked in the melting snow. When she returned from lunch, she was complaining about how cold her feet were. A fellow employee suggested that she set her shoes in front of the refrigerator in the kitchen. By 5:00, her shoes were totally dry. Makes sense, since the warm air from the refrigerator blows out the front. -- Evelyn B., Little Rock, Ark.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has gone:
West North East South
1 ♦ Dble Redble ?
What would you bid with each of the following five hands?
1. ♠ 6 ♥ J963 ♦ J754 ♣ 8732
2. ♠ K1053 ♥ Q1053 ♦ 10 ♣ J984
3. ♠ KJ87642 ♥ 8 ♦ 73 ♣ 542
4. ♠ Q53 ♥ 10962 ♦ 72 ♣ Q763
5. ♠ Q62 ♥ J107642 ♦ A43 ♣ 8

Bidding Quiz

- One heart. Whether or not to bid over a re-double is more a matter of common sense than convention. A pass indicates that there is nothing to be gained by bidding, while a bid indicates that it is unwise to pass.
- Here, the aim of the one-heart bid is to avoid the awkward situation that could arise if you were to pass and partner bid one spade, your worst suit. The heart bid does not promise any values; it can be based merely on heart length and/or the obligation to keep partner out of trouble.
- Pass. This is a fairly good hand opposite a takeout double, but there is no need to respond at this point since partner has a bid coming, and you have support for any suit he names.
- Three spades. This is not a strong bid, but instead indicates extra spade length and very limited high-card strength. Partner is expected to pass unless he has values in excess of a minimum double. While the chief purpose of the three-spade bid is to interfere with the opponents, it also implies substantial offensive strength if spades are trumps.
- Pass. Here it is better to let partner seek his own salvation. You can't be sure which suit should be trump, so you let him make the choice. You're at least moderately prepared for any suit he chooses.
- Note the difference between this hand and the first one. There you bid one heart because of the danger that partner, left to his own devices, might bid spades. Here there is no good reason to fear that action.
- Two hearts. The jump to two hearts informs partner that your side may have a game in hearts. The bid is not forcing and shows a stronger hand than a jump to three hearts, which would be preemptive, as in No. 3 above. If partner does not accept your invitation, game is unlikely.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



11-29

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www.familycircus.com

"He told me to tell you he's not here, but you can try your sales pitch on me."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/29

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.

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

Cryptoquip

VWBBIVX K BHGZX IU CGIRV

NXHX JI DKLX KR GRJXHRKC

MIRUCGMJ. NIWCZ SIW VKS

JDKJ'V K MGLGC HIKH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON SPYING ON FICTIONAL ATTORNEY MASON, MIGHT YOU PURCHASE A PERRY-SCOPE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Old fogeys
 - 6 Swab the deck
 - 9 "Eureka!"
 - 12 Get up
 - 13 — out a living
 - 14 Vintner's vat
 - 15 Chorus syllables
 - 16 Base-runner's route
 - 18 Actress
 - 20 Initial chip
 - 21 Evergreen type
 - 23 Pouch
 - 24 Lock
 - 25 Leading man
 - 27 Automaton
 - 29 Upholstery fabric
 - 31 In the thick of
 - 35 Baby care expert
 - 37 Simone or Dobrev
 - 38 Brief and to the point
- DOWN**
- 2 Bobby of hockey
 - 3 Chart
 - 4 Norway's capital
 - 5 Elite navy group
 - 6 Doc
 - 7 Tom Joad, e.g.
 - 8 Shell game item
 - 9 Expiate
 - 10 Quests
 - 11 Llamas'
 - 12 Edition
 - 13 Raw rock
 - 14 Have
 - 15 Sebastian
 - 16 Moun-tains
 - 17 Sheen or Scorsese
 - 18 2001 movie, "Donnie"
 - 19 Swap
 - 20 Exemplan of slowness
 - 21 Boast
 - 22 Being, to Brutus
 - 23 Author Umberto
 - 24 Pair with an air
 - 25 Still, in verse

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

Yesterday's answer 11-29

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			56					57			