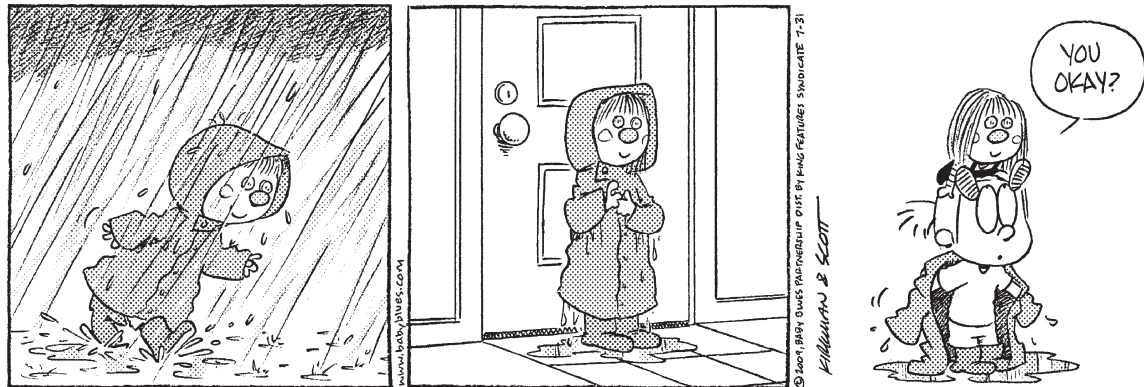
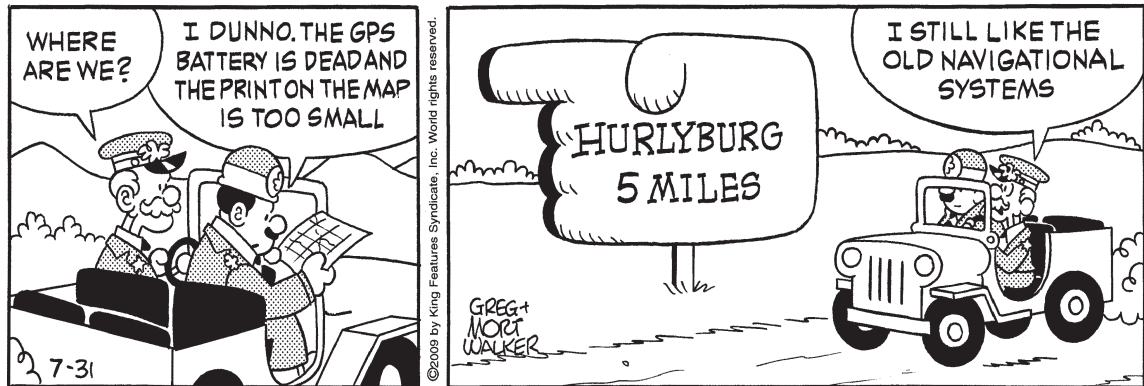


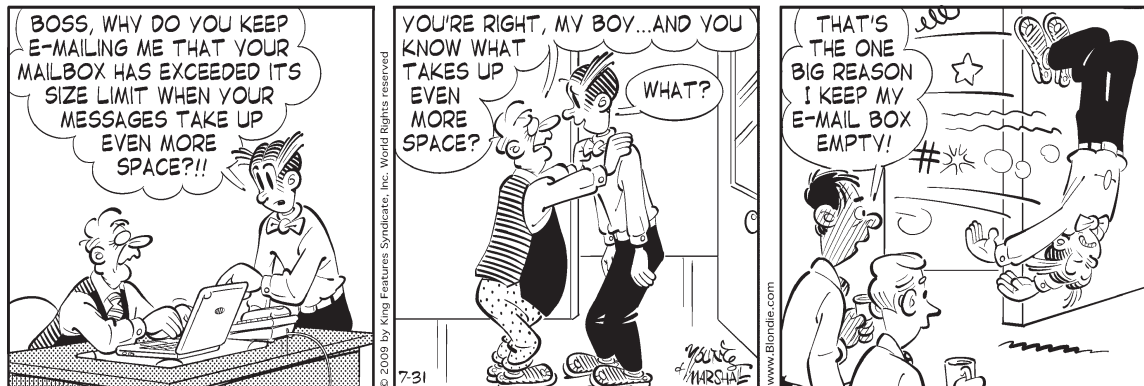
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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

Here's a fix for table spots

Dear Heloise: I recently got a great deal on a beautiful solid-oak DINING-ROOM TABLE that is perfect for my home. The only drawback is that there are five spots that I'm told are from very hot food being served on a paper plate and then set on the table. These marks resemble water marks but are bigger, without the "ring" look to them. Do you have any hints for getting these marks out? Thank you so much. — Laurie C., via e-mail

This Heloise hint might work if the stains are not too old. Mix white toothpaste with baking soda in a 50/50 solution. Rub this into the area in a circular motion, using a clean sponge, cloth or even your finger. The spot should get a little warm to the touch. When the stains are gone, wipe off the mixture with a slightly damp cloth. Buff dry and wax or polish the wood with furniture polish to reveal it. Voilà — good as new! — Heloise

GARDEN ROW MARKERS

Dear Heloise: We planted our garden late this year. Instead of using wooden sticks to mark where the rows of seeds are, I cut up old plastic flowers and used them for row markers. Makes instant flowers in the garden as well as serving a purpose, and I'm recycling, too! — Joyce, Winner, S.D.

TRAVEL JOURNAL

Dear Heloise: Loved the hint about keeping a travel journal. It was right on the button. I have an old journal that a relative had kept while on a journey around the world early in the 20th century. It is fascinating to compare her observations with what is happening now. Amazing, and I will pass it on to my children. — Jean McClintic, Houston

GROCERY LIST

Dear Heloise: I keep a grocery list on the refrigerator, and I've trained my family to write any household items that are about to run out as they notice them. Since I don't usually eat cookies, I depend on the family to write on my list when the cookie jar is running low, for example.

For bathroom items, like shampoo or soap, sometimes I forget what I need, so I keep a little pad and pen in the drawer of the vanity and can write my list there.

I also have a folder where I pay bills, etc., that is marked "pending." Here I put order confirmations, magazine subscriptions or cancellations and things such as rebates sent to make sure these kinds of orders are received. I write the dates and amounts, and any confirmation numbers or check numbers. — Laurie from Mississippi

SPOT CONCEALER

Dear Heloise: I have a pair of white jeans that I like to wear often. I noticed a spot on the leg, and when I washed them, the spot was not removed. I got a package of iron-on butterflies and put one over the stain, then I added a few more. — Novella, Sacramento, Calif.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the jack of spades. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠A, ♥A, ♦AKQJ102, ♣AK943
East: ♠KQ63, ♥KJ95, ♦43, ♣762

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the seven of spades, on which South plays the queen. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠KJ5, ♥AJ93, ♦KQ8, ♣Q106
East: ♠642, ♥K105, ♦A62, ♣AJ93

Test Your Play

1. You are sure to make the slam if the opposing clubs are divided 3-2, so all your thoughts should be centered on how to cope with a 4-1 or 5-0 club division.

By far the best approach, after winning the spade lead with the ace, is to play as many trumps as necessary until the opponents have exactly one trump remaining. You deliberately do not draw this last trump, but instead next play the ace of hearts and A-K of clubs.

If both opponents follow to both clubs, you draw the missing trump and concede a club trick. If the clubs divide 4-1 or 5-0 and the ace or king of clubs gets trumped, you score the rest of the tricks because the player who ruffs is forced to return a spade or a heart to dummy.

If the clubs divide 4-1 or 5-0 and the A-K are not ruffed, you next lead your deuce of trumps, hoping that the player who wins with the missing trump will be forced to return a spade or a heart.

2. Let's say you win the spade queen with the king and try a club finesse. If it loses, South will return a spade, and if North started with five spades to the A-10, you go down one.

Alternatively, you could win the spade lead, cross to the king of hearts and take a heart finesse through South. If this lost, you'd still be in trouble because you'd have only eight sure tricks. You could then try a club finesse, but again would go down if it lost.

The safest line of play is to let South win the first trick! This assures the contract whether North has four or five spades. Let's say South returns a spade at trick two. When you play the jack, North may or may not take his ace, but the contract is safe either way.

Assume he ducks. You next try the club finesse, confident that if it loses South cannot harm you. If he has a spade to play, it means North started with only four of them, and you finish with nine tricks. If South has no more spades, you also have at least nine tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



7-31

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"I TOOK a bath before we came!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

R L Y Q S G Y I S G H C M Y I
M Y F M S K F H P B G W T W K T B F
E B I H Q X T Y X R H C L P K S B C E B H C L :

"QSBOS HC CY TSQHSOSK."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY WIFE WAS PERFORMING THIS KICKING DANCE REPEATEDLY, SO I FINALLY YELLED "CAN THE CANCAN!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Completely
4 Tarot cards' determination
8 Pack away
12 Vast
13 Finished
14 One of the Three Bears
15 Optimistic
17 Wishes otherwise
18 Midas' desire
19 Snag
20 Basilla areas
22 Erstwhile
24 Men
25 Bits of trickery
29 Grecian vessel
30 Michael of tennis
31 Exist
32 GOP symbol

DOWN

1 Fool
2 Meadow
3 "Auld on the street?"
4 Basketball
5 Eager
6 X rating?
7 Earlier than
8 Leap
9 Tense
10 Cartel acronym
11 Lave
16 "And so it —"
19 Reagan Cabinet member
20 Chills and fever
21 Knitting stitch
22 Word on the street?
23 Departed
25 Carpet type
26 Parasite
27 Genealogy chart
28 Fixes a seam
30 Guitarist
33 Traffic cones
34 Caffeine-rich nut
36 Former capital of Nigeria
37 Cast a ballot
38 Vicinity
39 AOL client, e.g.
40 Dangling site
42 Japanese pond carp
43 Joan of —
44 Inve bills
45 Inseparable

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-31