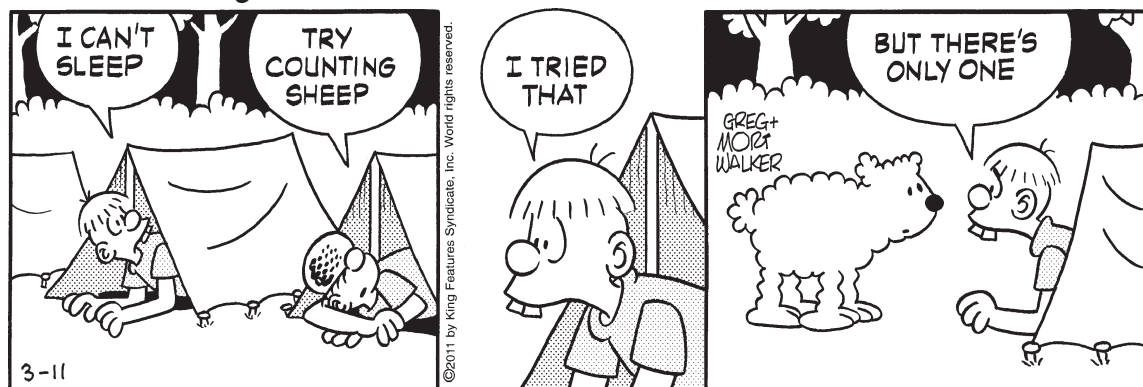


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



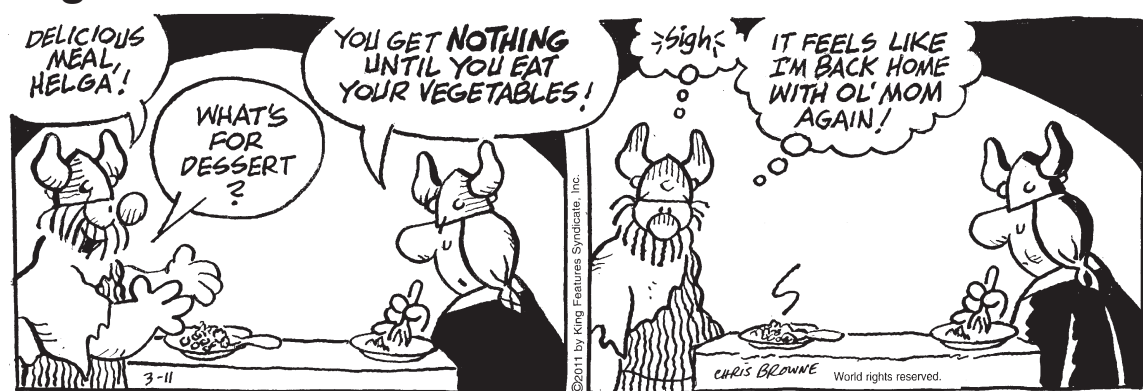
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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



Dear Heloise: This is a message to all MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENTS and soon-to-be middle-school students. This is how you have a good day at school. The first thing to do is get organized. A cluttered locker/backpack/binder leads to a tough day. I didn't have a binder, and I was really disorganized. My backpack was full of random papers, notebooks, pencils and pens. I got a binder and folders. One folder for homework, one for random papers I need to keep, and one for a subject for which a folder was mandatory. In the front part was a place for pencils and pens, etc. Having an organized binder/backpack/locker isn't the only way to have a good day at school. You need to get along with all peers and teachers. Yes, I know this can be hard, but if you want to have someone to talk to, you need these friends. And when you need a question answered by a teacher, you don't want to feel awkward all the time while you're asking the question. I wish you a good time and happiness in middle school. — Kedsie C., via e-mail

Kedsie, good hints for all students, regardless of age! Thanks so much for writing in. I'd be happy to print more hints from students. Please e-mail yours to: Heloise@Heloise.com, or mail to: Heloise/School Hints, Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000. — Heloise

HOUSEGUESTS
Dear Heloise: My son said my guest bathroom reminds him of a "bed-and-breakfast." I bought two inexpensive plastic brochure holders at an office-supply shop. I have them holding local Floridian-attraction leaflets, and the further-away Florida sights and attractions. I ask our guests to bring me new brochures (some even have discount coupons) if they visit a place. Relatives and friends seem to enjoy reading and/or planning their visits to these areas of interest. — Rose Crickenberger in Florida

PHOTOS
Dear Heloise: I buy some 8-1/2-by-11-inch sheet protectors to put 8-by-10-inch photos in that I don't want to put on my wall or that don't fit in the sheets of my photo albums. I place two photos back to back and then place them in a three-ring binder. This also works for sheets of smaller photos so you don't have them loose everywhere. — Christina Thomas, via e-mail

KEEPING IN TOUCH
Dear Heloise: To keep my extended family in touch, I send out an e-mail each month listing birthdays, anniversaries and special family events for that month. I add some recent news items or greetings to each one. Other family members have used my e-mails to forward additional news to all of us as well. — Jeanette Abi-Nader in Pennsylvania

WAXING FLOORS
Dear Readers: An easy way to wax floors is to use a long-handled, clean paint roller to help with the job. It's a lot easier to clean under furniture and other hard-to-reach places. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ J2
 ♥ J105
 ♦ AK9853
 ♣ A4
WEST
 ♠ K1083
 ♥ K96
 ♦ 106
 ♣ Q1053
EAST
 ♠ Q96
 ♥ Q83
 ♦ J742
 ♣ J92
SOUTH
 ♠ A754
 ♥ A742
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K876
 The bidding:
 North East South West
 1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
 2♦ Pass 3NT Pass
 Opening lead — three of spades.

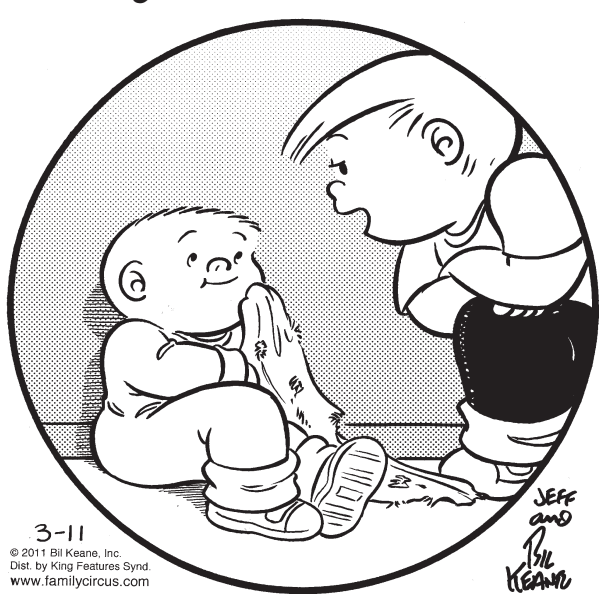
Doing What Comes Unnaturally
Occasionally, the correct play is missed by declarer because there is a natural aversion to doing it. For this reason, declarer must make every effort to keep an open mind, regardless of how pat a particular situation may seem to be. Consider this case where South was in three notrump and West led a spade. Declarer played the jack from dummy and allowed East's queen to hold. The next spade was likewise refused, and a third spade was taken by the ace. South now cashed the queen of diamonds, led a club to the ace and played the A-K of diamonds. But when the suit failed to divide 3-3, declarer was finished. The only tricks he could score were his seven top winners, so he wound up down two.

Declarer erred by banking everything on an even split of the missing diamonds, about a 36 percent proposition. This approach made him nearly a 2-1 underdog. South could have nearly doubled his chances by making the seemingly unnatural play of overtaking the queen of diamonds with the king and cashing the ace. When West's ten appears, the nine is conceded to the jack, assuring declarer of nine tricks.

This line of play is far better than the one actually adopted by South. It not only makes the contract when the diamonds divide 3-3, but also whenever the suit breaks 4-2 and the player with the doubleton has either 10-x or J-x. Since the doubleton ten or jack will be dealt to one defender or the other 29 times in 100, declarer can thus elevate his chances of bringing in five diamond tricks to about 65 percent, making him almost a 2-1 favorite to finish with at least nine tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"You're lucky, PJ. Your only job around here is to be cute."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

Z W W N C M T M B K R W N E M Z I C F
 V M R Y W H N W Z H N V Z B V
 R N H U N V Z I D B K Z H M U N H M B
 E Y M B Z : F Z B K C T N W D C H D Z R C .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE YOU COULD
 CALL SOMEONE WHO USES TWINE TO COLLECT
 AND BUNDLE HAY A BALE BONDSMAN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals N

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 Triangular sail
 4 Fermi's bit venues
 8 Workout
 12 Old French coin
 13 Gaucho's weapon
 14 Lothario
 15 Meddler
 17 14-Across' look
 18 Ship-building wood
 19 Erect
 20 Juggler's props
 22 Beard site
 24 Agitate
 25 Loaf keeper
 29 Curry of NBC News
 30 Times of prosperity
 31 Einstein's birthplace
 32 Popular TV school
 34 Cruising
 35 Greet the villain
- DOWN**
 1 Dubya's brother
 2 Hosp. area
 3 Very active
 4 Mahmound of the PLO
 5 Stole
 6 On in years
 7 Possibly will
 8 Earth
 9 Boo-buddy
 10 Think (over)
 11 Burpee product
 16 Scream
 19 Prejudice
- 20 Actor**
 21 Top-notch
 22 Irate
 23 Half (Pref.)
 25 Employer
 26 Work
 27 Bread spread
 28 Grand opening day?
 30 \$50, in "Monopoly"
 33 Beat
 34 Mideast gulf
 36 Orchard pest
 37 007
 38 Eastern potentate
 39 One European capital ...
 40 ... and another
 42 Annoy
 43 Actor
 44 Island souvenir
 45 Superman foe Luthor
- Solution time: 25 mins.**
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | A | S | A | A | I | L | S | M | O | G |
| E | B | O | N | P | R | O | P | A | P | A |
| W | E | L | D | N | E | O | E | R | S | T |
| S | T | O | O | G | E | S | I | N | G | |
| R | E | A | R | M | E | L | M | R | O | Y |
| U | R | S | A | S | T | Y | W | E | R | E |
| H | I | S | D | O | E | T | O | T | O | S |
| R | E | A | L | N | U | M | B | E | R | |
| S | O | A | P | U | N | K | I | N | D | |
| A | L | S | O | C | B | S | I | D | E | A |
| L | O | I | N | O | O | H | N | O | R | M |
| P | U | N | Y | N | A | Y | G | L | O | P |
- Yesterday's answer 3-11

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		