Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott









Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker







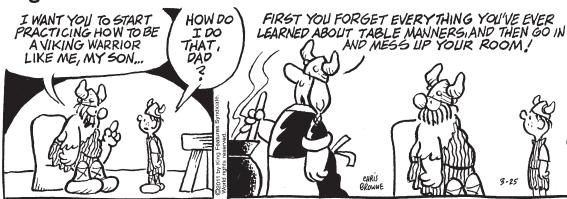
Blondie • Chic Young







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



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Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Smelly problem can be masked

Dear Heloise: Please, help me! I had a DEAD MOUSE in the ceiling of my walk-in closet. I have tried everything to get rid of the terrible odor. - Mary Reist, Warren, Pa.

Mary, this odor is one of the worst! The odor will not go away until the mouse completely decomposes. Yuck, I know!

You can try masking the odor with essential oils. Put several drops of an essential oil (like peppermint or clove) on a paper towel or cotton ball and set on a plate on a top closet shelf.

If you have an attic fan, turn it on to circulate as much fresh air as possible. As a last resort, you can rent or purchase an ozone machine, which will help "clean" the air of the smell. - Heloise

DOWNSIZING A HOME

Dear Heloise: When a family member dies or is moving to a nursing home, there are many places you wouldn't necessarily think of that can help with downsizing and house clearing.

Vintage clothing stores often will send someone out to look at items and buy things. And they take them away the same day. This way, you have a better idea of what should go to charity and what can be making you some extra money, with no effort on your part but a phone call!

Many antiques dealers do the same thing for furniture and glassware; they will come out, appraise and buy on the spot. This is especially helpful when you have a whole houseful to deal with and idea where to start. It is a shame to just throw old things away because there is no perceived value, when they can be reused by people who will appreciate them. - Kellie in Minnesota TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: To keep earrings organized for traveling, buy plastic canvas (found at craft stores), cut into 1/2-inch squares and put one pair of earrings in each square. If the canvas has big-enough holes, you can thread the ear wires through them, too. - Sharon, via e-mail

DUSTING GLOVE

Dear Heloise: I was getting some items together to give to a charitable organization and came across a two-pack of those stretchy-knit, onesize-fits-all gloves.

I had purchased a feltlike plant dusting mitten, and it occurred to me that these gloves would be perfect for dusting plants and furniture as well. spindles, and it worked great. I was able to dust all six chairs faster than using a rag.

holes for dusting, too. - Kaye Robinson in Thaxton, Miss.

NO SLIP

Dear Heloise: You know that webbing material they put around Asian pears and other fancy fruit? Put it on your dish detergent bottle, and it makes a nice slip-proof grip. - Tom, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone: North West East South Dble What would you bid with each of the following four hands? 1. ★ A93 ♥ Q6 ♦ QJ84 ♣ Q1093 2. **♦** K985 **♥** KJ872 **♦** 6 **♣** Q74 3. **♦** QJ7643 ♥ 9 ♦ A72 **♣** QJ5 4. **♠** 97543 ♥ 5 ♦ 1086 **♣** AĴ72

Bidding Quiz

1. Two notrump. In general, your partner's double of an opening bid indicates that he also has an opening bid plus support for the unbid suits. So in responding to his takeout double, it is up to you to show how weak or strong you are 12 when making your response.

East's heart bid relieves you of the obligation 15 to bid, and with a poor hand you'd pass. Any bid you make voluntarily in this situation shows at least moderate strength, and if you have an unusually promising hand for game, you can show 18 it by making a jump-response. Thus, you would bid one notrump here if your 20

queen of clubs were the deuce. But with the given hand, you should jump to two notrump, indicating that you have 11 or 12 points instead of the seven to 10 you would show by bidding one notrump. The lack of a heart stopper should not bother you, since partner must have some heart strength for his double.

2. Double. Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. East's heart bid is decidedly suspect, and the best way of telling your partner that East might be fooling around is by doubling one heart for penalties. If the bidding takes a new turn, you can then bid spades. Partner will thus be informed that you have heart and spade length as well as the necessary high-card values for such a sequence.

3. Four spades. Once partner has made a takeout double, you become a strong favorite to make four spades, so you should bid it straightaway. Your six-card spade suit, singleton heart and 10 high-card points all make it extremely unlikely that the opponents can take four tricks. Some players might bid only two or three

spades (invitational) over one heart, but partner shouldn't be given any opportunity to pass. The one response you absolutely can't make is a mere one spade, which would not come anywhere close to reflecting the promise of your hand.

4. One spade. You have just about enough strength to justify a voluntary bid of one spade. The suit itself is nothing to write home about, but remember that your partner should have adequate spade support.

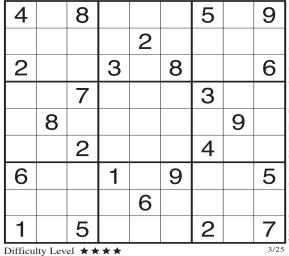
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I don't think I'm gonna be very good at basketball till my head grows taller.'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 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 las

	5	2	6	3	8	/	4	9	1
_	4	3	1	2	9	5	8	7	6
h	7	6	5	8	3	9	1	2	4
1 2	2	4	8	7	1	6	9	5	3
)	3	1	9	5	4	2	7	6	8
e	9	5	4	6	7	8	3	1	2
	1	8	2	9	5	3	6	4	7
t	6	7	3	4	2	1	5	8	9
	Difficu	lty Lev	el **	*					3

Cryptoquip

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

D G C C Q D Z T R D 0 0 P

I used it on my dining-room chairs with carved CFPLZDEQFZB LGOSTD LSH

Of course, I still save my hubby's socks with RFPSE DESEGFP, BQGNH QTP

BSNN ELPO TPSTHPF-ESNN OPT? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS MARKETPLACE HAS PLENTY OF CRAZY ITEMS FOR SALE. MANY

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

	ROSS Sur- rounded		"Gun- smoke" star		Lauder of cosmetics "2001"		Gun the engine Cat's call
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	ramparts	37	World's		measures		ed
	"		fair	57	Clarinet-	11	Gaggle
9	Periodi-	38	Wool		ist's		members
	cal, for		eaters		supply	17	Queued
	short	41	IRS		,	19	Cheer up
2	Big		employee	DC	NWN	21	Suitable
	name	43	Manhan-		Shock	22	"What?"
	in grills		dle		and —	24	Listener
3	Catcher's	44	Eastern	2	Chaps	26	Month
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5	Summa-	47	Spread	4	Night light	30	Rds.
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	stanza		the center		word		(for)
6	Stray	49	Plank		diagrams	33	Hot tub
	Absolute-		Dance	6	Major trial		Boar's
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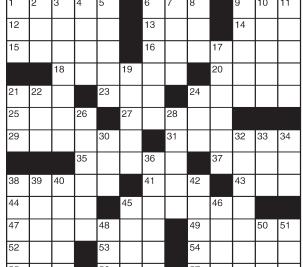
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