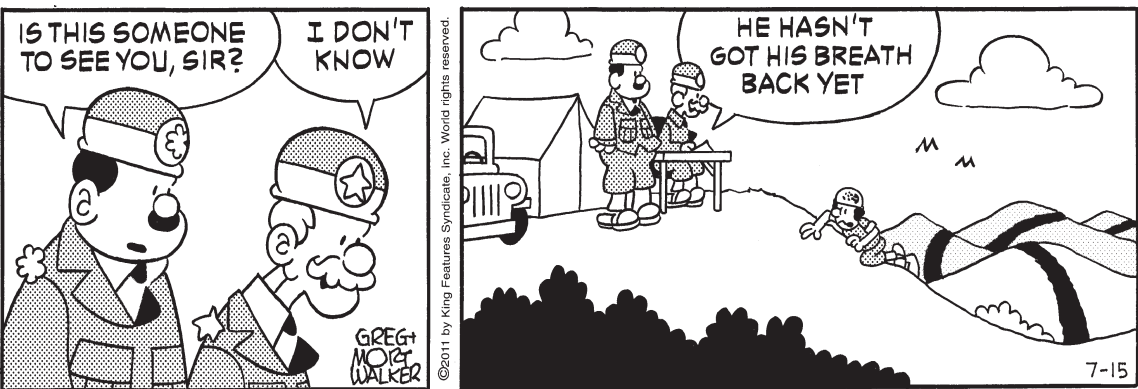


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



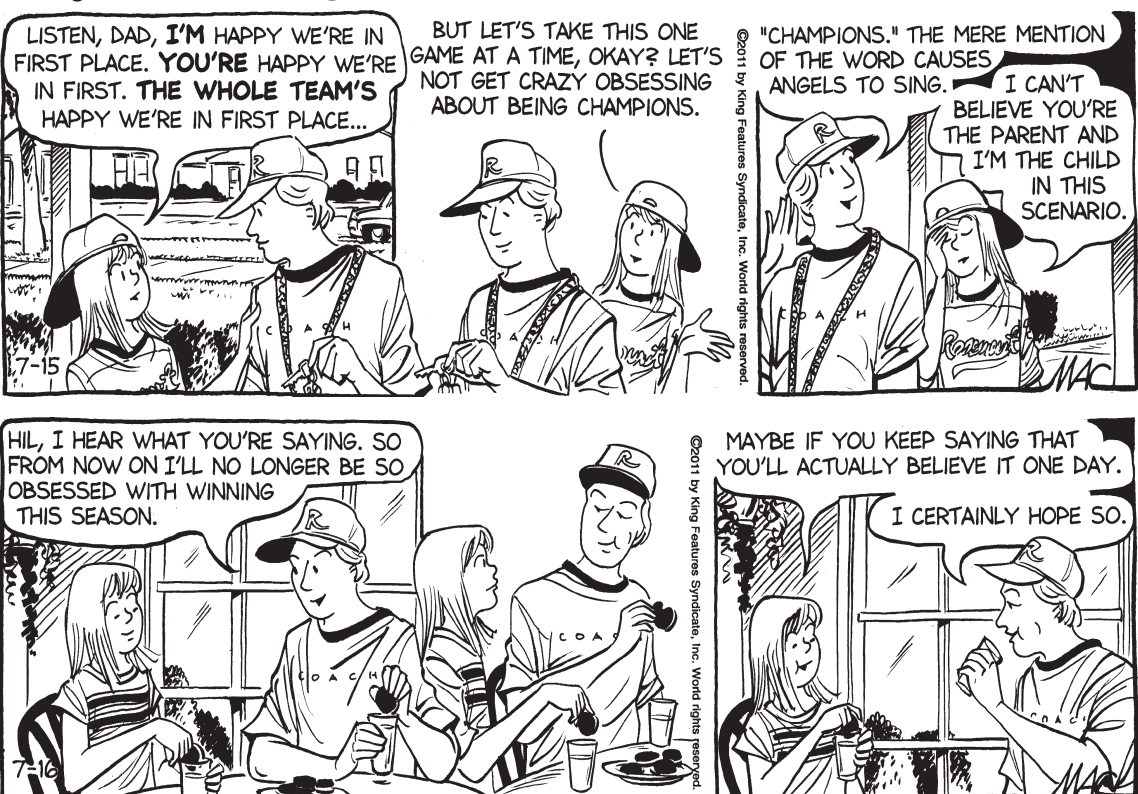
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



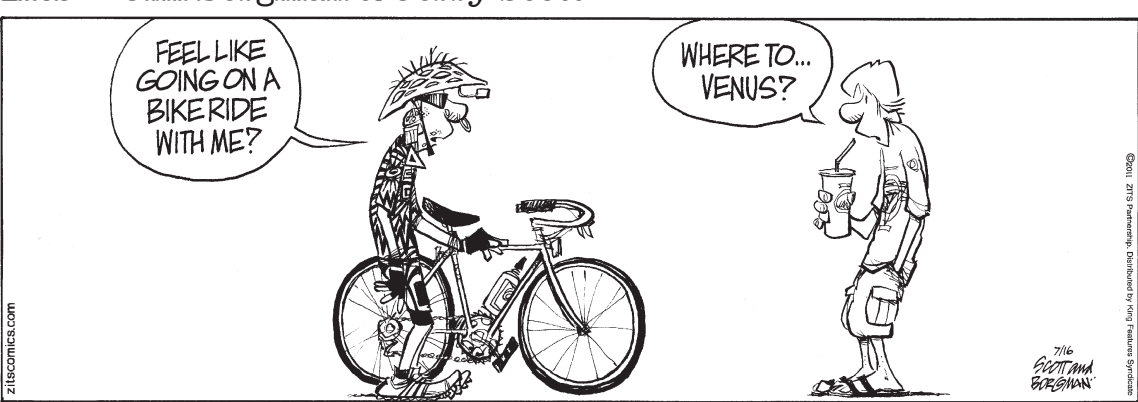
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Gray grout needs a shine

Dear Heloise: What can I do to make the GROUT on my bathroom floor look clean? Most of it is just plain old, and I have not found a cleaner that will restore it. – Julia O'Connor, North Little Rock, Ark.

If the grout has been discolored for a long time or is just plain old, it may be harder to clean, and even bleach may not help, but here's what to try: Mix 1 cup of household bleach with a gallon of water. Apply to grout and let it sit for 20 minutes. Use an old toothbrush (powered would work especially well) to scrub. Wear rubber gloves and old clothing in case the bleach splatters. Rinse with water, and when dry, see if the grout is lighter. If you own a steam cleaner, that would be a good tool to use also.

One of my assistants cleaned dirty grout in her kitchen when moving into a home that was eight years old. She added a good-quality floor cleaner to some water (check bottle directions), got on her hands and knees and scrubbed the grout with a scrub brush. She used an old towel to immediately wipe away the dirt and yuck. Do a small section at a time, so you don't redeposit dirt back. It took time, but the result was a beautiful floor. – Heloise

P.S.: It may be time to re-grout or use a grout paint and sealer if it's still gray after cleaning.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

COMFORTING BEVERAGE

Dear Heloise: Hot tea is one of my comforting and enjoyable beverages. I flavor it with solid, hard candy, such as butterscotch; usually I crush it in a plastic bag, using a rolling pin. This increases the rate at which it dissolves as you stir.

Sugar-free hard candies are low-calorie and beneficial to those who must be careful of their sugar intake. – Margarette Mattern, Temple, Texas

SUMMER TRAVEL HINTS

Dear Heloise: With this being the time for summer travel, here are two hints:

1. Lighten up your wallet and bag/purse. The thought of needing a warehouse-club, video-store or coffee card for your neighborhood shop is crazy. Leave only the important cards in your wallet, like driver's license, medical, travel discount and a couple of credit cards.

2. I've traveled with only two or three credit cards. In case you lose your wallet or a suitcase goes missing that you've stashed all your receipts in, you've got fewer credit-card companies to notify. – Sue Bibi, Pittsburgh

FIREPLACE GLOW

Dear Heloise: A friend has a terrific idea for using her candles. She has a fireplace with glass doors. She puts three or four candles in the fireplace and lights them. It gives the room a warm glow. This is good for those with allergies that candles bother. We'll be moving into a house with a fireplace, and I plan to use this idea. -- Faith, via email

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the ten of hearts. You win with the queen and play the ace of diamonds, on which South discards a club. How would you continue?

WEST  
♠ A K J  
♥ A K Q  
♦ A K J 10 9 6  
♣ J

EAST  
♠ 9 8 5  
♥ 6 4 3  
♦ 7 5 3 2  
♣ A Q 10

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the five of clubs, and you win South's king with the ace. When you lead a low diamond to the jack, both opponents follow low. How would you continue?

WEST  
♠ A 7 3  
♥ A K 5  
♦ 9 6 4  
♣ A Q 9 8

EAST  
♠ K 9 6  
♥ 9 4 2  
♦ K Q J 8 3  
♣ 6 3

\*\*\*

Test Your Play

1. Despite the unlucky trump division, the slam is a virtual certainty if you take the proper preparatory measures.

Cash the king of diamonds and lead the jack of clubs to the ace. Then cash the A-K of hearts before exiting with a high trump (retaining your six as an entry to dummy's seven, if needed). North must make a friendly return, whether he leads a spade into your A-K-J, a heart (handing you a ruff-and-discard) or a club (establishing a club trick in dummy on which you can discard the jack of spades).

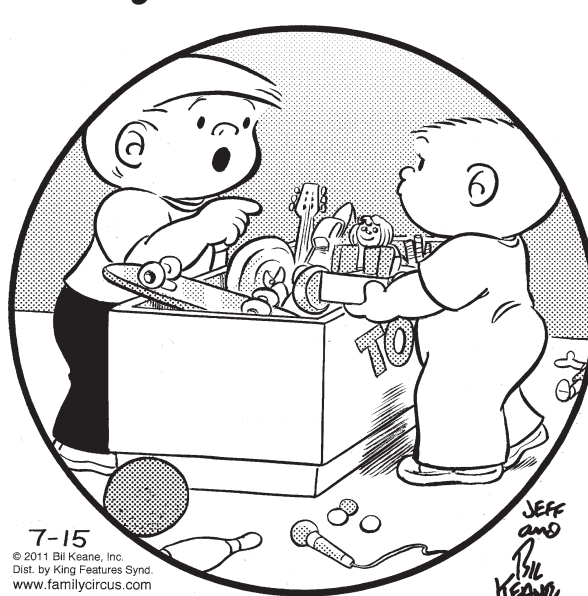
It would be wrong to attempt a finesse in either black suit after South shows out on the first trump lead. Either play might succeed, but there is no reason to rely on sheer luck when there is a sure way to make the slam.

2. To make certain of the contract, continue with a low diamond from dummy! This guards against a holding of A-10-x-x in the South hand, which is the only real threat to the contract. It assures you of three diamond winners and at least nine tricks. If South wins with the ten and returns a low club, you cover with the eight and remain in firm control of the situation. You're sure to finish with three diamond tricks and two tricks in each of the other suits.

If you lead the king of diamonds at trick three instead of a low diamond, South can stop you from making three notrump by ducking again with A-10-x-x. The low diamond play at trick three covers all possibilities.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“No, PJ, you don't hafta pick up your toys until Mommy tells you to.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/15

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

M B E Q Y S L R V X N G S V G M X Q L O

E X M X Q M O G O G L J D X L R B M,

N B U M X Z B B O B O G Y U D G L L B O

N S V T X Q V E G V T B M O B D G J.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WANT TO GIVE BUGS BUNNY A VERY COSTLY GIFT, MIGHT YOU BUY HIM A TWELVE-CARROT RING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Open a soda bottle 6 Performance 9 Bankroll 12 "— porridge hot" 13 Bill's partner 14 Kyoto cummerbund 15 Knapsack part 16 Desert crosser 18 Mini-program 20 Bygone VHS alternative 21 America's uncle 23 "Of course" 24 Lost cause 25 Neighborhood 27 Invited 29 Basement 31 Don of "Cocoon" 35 Bother 37 Go by 32-Down

38 Is able to old-style 41 Actor Penn 43 Spinning stat 44 Out of control 45 Famed NYC apartment building 47 Rye seed 49 Break a Com-mandment 52 Yon bloke 53 "Hail!" 54 Sports venue 55 Type measures 56 Scarlet 17 Homes 19 Memorize 21 Pouch 22 Exist 24 Prized stone 26 Palin territory 28 Skin-covered canoe 30 Pismire 32 Three-masted vessel 33 With it 34 Shade provider 36 Accepted stock 38 Hidden 39 Forcefully 40 Standards 42 Making all the stops 45 Host Letter-man 46 Actress Spelling 48 Sherman called it hell 50 Bambi's aunt 51 Tic-toe link

DOWN 1 Prosperous 2 Trawler need 3 Candy-apple cover 4 PDQ 5 Energetic 6 Get at 7 Paint layer 8 Anderson's "High —" 9 Made on a loom 10 Lessen 11 Money of Bahrain

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-15

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				