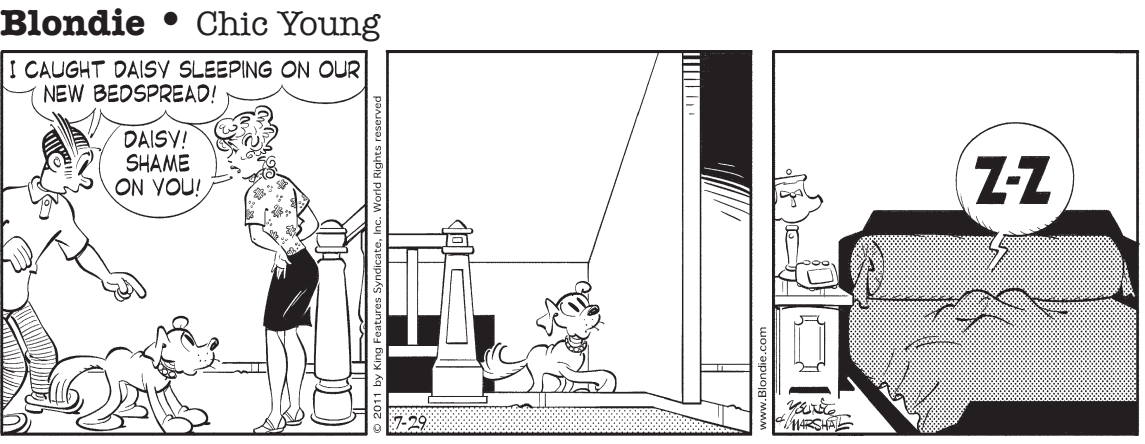
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

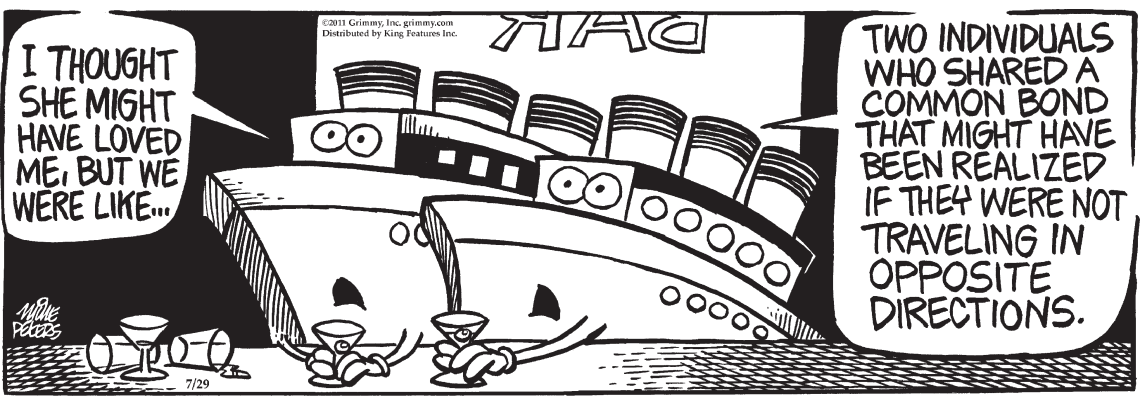
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

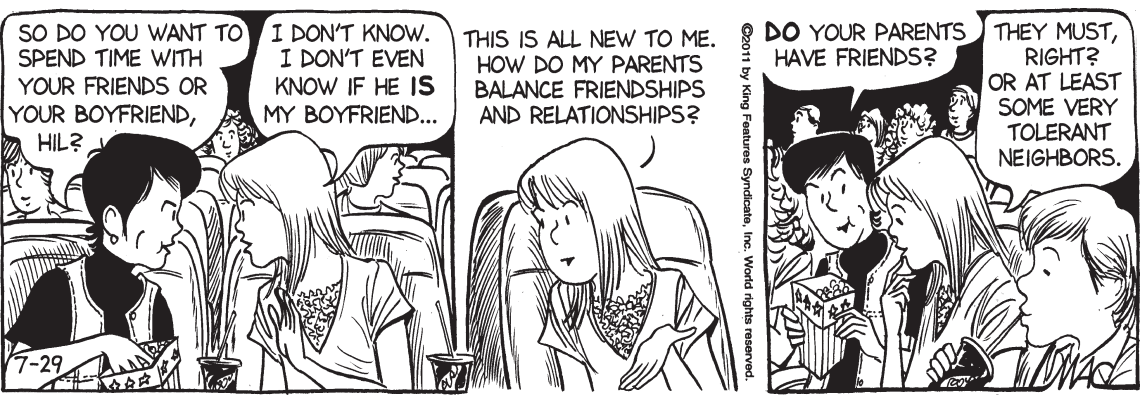


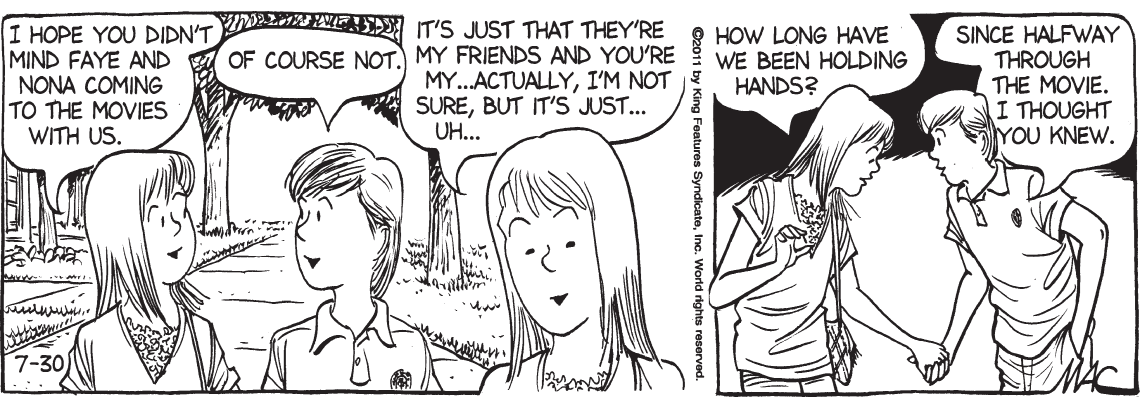
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



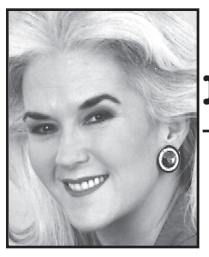
Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Travel tips date 49 years in past

Dear Readers: This year will be the celebration of 50 years of the Heloise column in newspapers. Looking through my files, I found some charming and funny columns my mother, the original Heloise (1919-1977), printed. I thought you would get a laugh and a smile reading them, as I did.

In 1962, Joan Crawford, the movie actress who was a friend of my mother's and died the same year my mother did, wrote the following letter with advice about PACKING while traveling.

She says: "Dear Heloise: Knowing that many people travel in the summertime, and after reading your column, I am writing to tell you how I pack so that it might help others. I pack all of my hair items in one makeup box and all of my makeup items in another. Then I lay out each dress on a portable rack, on its hanger. (By the way, when I do pack the dress, I put it in the suitcase right on its own hanger! Hotel rooms so seldom have enough hangers or the correct type.) I never pack a dress in a suitcase until I have laid out the matching shoes, purse, gloves and hat that I will wear with it. Then I pack my gloves and kerchief inside the purse that I will be carrying. A bed is an excellent place to put out all the items.

"When I have the entire outfit together, then I pack it. I always see that the belt is attached to the dress hanger for each dress. I have a special case for my hats. It is tall hatbox style. I always stuff my hats carefully with tissue paper, and I put a good deal of the tissue inside the hatbox so they will not rattle around in traveling. When I get to my destination, I unpack all of my clothing, including the hats so they can 'stretch out and breathe.' I never let my hats stay in their case. As I wear each dress, I put it in the bottom of the suitcase on its hanger so I don't have to unpack that one again. I always wash my underwear each night. One thing I cannot stand is to pack soiled clothing with clean clothing. If possible, I also wash out my dresses each night. They are then clean to repack. Even if I do not have time the next day to iron them – at least they are clean when I repack them." Joan Crawford, 1977

Some way to pack, huh – on hangers! – Heloise, 2011

BACON STORAGE

Dear Heloise: I arrange bacon strips in the amount I use on a cookie sheet. (I cut mine in half to better fit in quart bags, as I eat a strip and a half of bacon for breakfast.) I freeze it, then loosen it with a spatula, put it in plastic freezer bags and refreeze. – Bill Wallace, Brandon, Miss.

LONGER SHEETS

Dear Heloise: Regarding a recent column, an easy way to have longer top sheets is to purchase the top sheet one size larger than the fitted sheet. I buy a queen top sheet for my full-size mattress. – Elaine V. Bartlett, Spokane, Wash.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You deal and bid One Diamond.
Partner responds Three Diamonds.
What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ K105 ♥ KQ7 ♦ AK7652 ♣ 8
2. ♠ Q4 ♥ K3 ♦ KQ753 ♣ AQJ8
3. ♠ J6 ♥ K94 ♦ AJ95 ♣ KQ72
4. ♠ 82 ♥ AK6 ♦ KQ874 ♣ J63

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Four notrump. Partner's jump indicates excellent diamond support and 13 to 16 points (part of which may be distributional), raising the question not only of whether there's a small slam, but whether you might even make a grand slam.

Accordingly, you invoke Blackwood, asking for aces. If partner bids five diamonds, indicating one ace, you will of course pass. If partner responds five hearts, showing two aces, you will bid six diamonds. If he responds five spades, showing three aces, you will next bid five notrump, asking for kings. If partner responds six diamonds, indicating one king (which must be the king of clubs), you will bid seven diamonds because you can count 13 tricks. Finally, if partner bids six clubs (no kings), you should stop in six diamonds as you cannot account for what you will do with your spade loser.

2. Four clubs. If you had a minimum opening bid, you'd normally bid three notrump or four diamonds to show your limited resources. But this hand is not a minimum – you have 17 high-card points – and you can portray these extra values by bidding four clubs to show interest in a slam and first-round control of clubs. You then leave the rest to partner. He may go on to a slam or choose to stop at game as he sees fit.

3. Three notrump. This is not a pleasant bid to make, considering your spade holding, but there is no better call available. In view of your flat distribution, an 11-trick game in diamonds is far less attractive than a nine-trick notrump game.

Partner doesn't really expect you to have all three side suits completely buttoned up when you bid three notrump, so he can decide to overrule you by returning to diamonds if his values are unsuitable for notrump.

4. Three hearts. Here, too, the best chance for game lies in notrump, but you can't reasonably bid three notrump with two suits unguarded. You therefore bid three hearts, hoping that partner, with appropriate spade and club strength, will be able to bid three notrump.

Three hearts does not, in and of itself, profess interest in a slam. It can be interpreted as either a probing bid for game in notrump – which is the intention here – or as an initial step toward slam. Because the bid is ambiguous at this point, partner is expected to tread gingerly until its purpose is fully identified.

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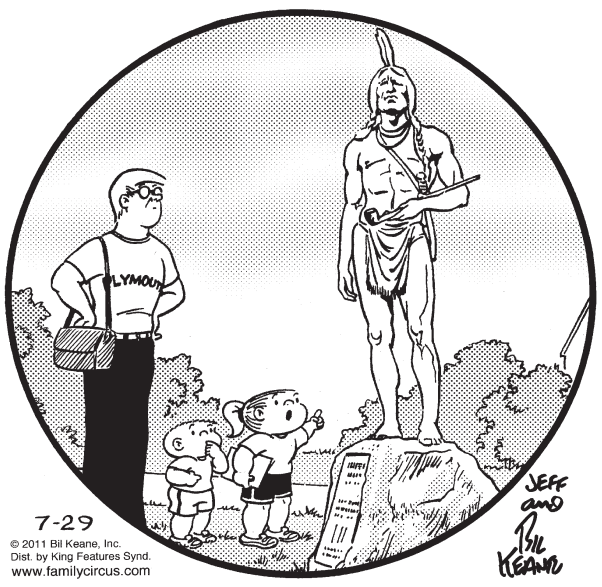
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"He might've lived longer if he didn't smoke that pipe."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/29

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/28

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Cryptoquip

CDIVXRD JWVJ RIVQNYQVGYVQ MSXQNDADA AYNDR HVQK HBJBAIKISDR, Y RXMMBRD WD'R V CYTYQU GYTYQU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A PERSON COULD SAY THAT IF ACTRESS SALLY HAS AMBITIOUS ASPIRATIONS, THEY MIGHT BE FIELD GOALS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pod occupant
4 Pedestal part
8 Rug type
12 Hosp. hookups
13 Satan's specialty
14 Inlet
15 Old-style music provider
17 Destruction
18 Incessantly
19 Chutzpah
20 Piece of hardware
22 Jane Lynch's show
24 Pork cut
25 Sweater with a rounded collar
29 Qty.
30 Accordion feature
31 Noon, in a way
32 Worker's compensation
34 Bridge
35 Wheels of fortune?
36 Got up
37 Oust
40 Friend of Dorothy
41 Met melody
42 Insignificant bit
46 Tirade
47 Emanation
48 Zero
49 Caustic solutions
50 Skating jump
51 Highlander's hat

DOWN
1 Stone
2 Actress Longoria
3 Harshness
4 Moisten
5 State with conviction
6 Bracketed word
7 Wapiti
8 Mosquito thwarter
9 Session with a shrink
10 Tel —
11 Heredity component
16 Still
19 Mr. Gingrich
20 Hit Stooge-style
21 Prolonged sleep
22 — -Roman wrestling
23 Plumbing problem
25 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
26 Champion of a cause
27 "Arrivederci"
28 Benevolent
30 Dr. McGraw
33 Baseball shoes
34 Put an end to
36 Twine fiber
37 Count counterpart
38 Picture of health?
39 Christmas tree, often
40 Muse's instrument
42 Air safety org.
43 Illumination measure
44 Spy novel grp.
45 Airline to Amsterdam

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-29

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		