

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



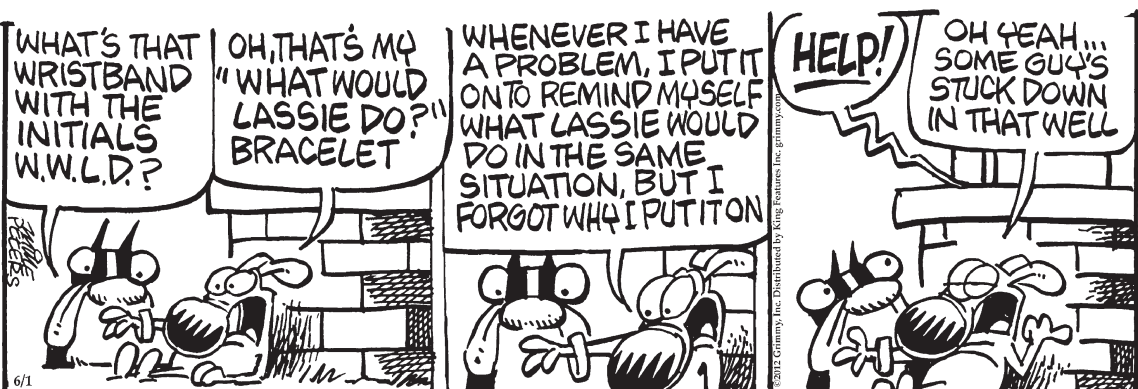
Blondie • Chic Young



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

Challenge gets reader to doctor

Dear Readers: The following letter was one of many sent to the *Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal*, which runs my column. I was there for a speech for the Lubbock Women's Club, and we had a Hints for Heloise contest. When I was at the paper for a "meet and greet" with readers, Shelly was one of them. It was wonderful to see her again and know that a friendly "challenge" about a cholesterol blood test helped her go see her doctor. I was speaking the previous time for an American Heart Association women's health fair and luncheon. Please read on. – Heloise

"Through the years, I have read and used so many Heloise Hints. But several years ago, Heloise was in Lubbock on a speaking engagement. My store provided the books being sold.

"Heloise and I were talking, and the nurses came in to check our cholesterol. She turned to me and said, 'I will if you will.' When I got the results, I contacted my doctor and have been treated for my cholesterol. It probably would have been some time before I had this done or was treated." – Shelly Gonzales, via e-mail

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
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E-mail: [Heloise@Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise@Heloise.com)

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: As a business professional, I do a lot of traveling. After a long day, I prefer eating dinner in my room. There often is not a table that will accommodate my meal. One evening, as I got out the hotel ironing board to prepare my clothes for the next day's meeting, I realized the answer. I now use the ironing board as my meal space. – Sandy, via e-mail

PHONE PHOTOS

Dear Readers: Did you know that you might be able to edit images on your smartphone? You usually can fix red eyes, crop photos and even rotate them. When an image is selected, an edit button should appear. Click the button and a tool bar will appear at the bottom of your screen. While not a broad selection of tools, you still can improve photos. – Heloise

TOMATO TUB

Dear Heloise: I spray-painted several large, plastic cat litter containers, drilled holes in the bottom and planted tomatoes in them. They did great! – Pam from Arizona

What a great idea! And painting them allows you to match any color scheme. Readers, what do you think? How do you reuse your large plastic tubs? Write and let me know. – Heloise

QUICK FIX

Dear Heloise: My husband is always losing buttons off his shirts and pants. He usually discovers they're missing as he is getting dressed. I keep a pincushion in my dressing area with pre-threaded needles that have various colors for such situations. We easily can grab a needle and sew a button back on. – Jan in North Dakota

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

WEST  
♠ K 10 5  
♥ A Q 3  
♦ J 10 3  
♣ A J 9 2

EAST  
♠ Q J 2  
♥ 9 2  
♦ A Q 9 6 4 2  
♣ 10 4

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

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

EAST  
♠ J 9  
♥ J 6 4  
♦ K 8 7 5  
♣ 10 9 7 2

Test Your Play

1. In many deals, one defender poses a greater threat to the contract than the other and thus becomes the principal opponent to fear. Here, North is that defender, since he may have enough hearts to bring about your undoing if he is eventually given a chance to cash them.

So, to protect your interests, you should try to disarm him immediately. Win the jack of hearts with the queen and lead the king of spades. The purpose of this play is to dislodge North's ace of spades if he has it.

If the spade king wins the trick, you next lead the jack of diamonds, planning to finesse; even if the finesse loses, you are assured of at least nine tricks. If the spade king loses to the ace, you duck the heart return and win the next heart. Then you take the diamond finesse.

If South turns up with the king, you still make the contract. South either has no more hearts, because North started with five or six of them, or he has another heart, in which case North had only four hearts originally. Either way you make at least three notrump.

Your basic aim is to guard against the possibility that North started with something like:  
♠ A94 ♥ K10874 ♦ 8 ♣ Q765

In that case, taking a diamond finesse before leading a spade would prove fatal.

2. Since there is no quick way of getting to dummy to attempt a trump finesse, you should try to force your way into dummy by taking the ace of diamonds and then playing the A-K of spades and A-K of hearts, in that order. Assuming both opponents follow suit in hearts and the queen has not fallen, you exit with a heart.

Whether the opponent who has the heart queen returns a spade or a diamond, you finally reach dummy to take the trump finesse. There is no assurance that this method of play will make the slam, but it offers by far the best chance.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

ED WJA OZR X Z WJASV CBXX

JAK JD KJW MAENHESV

MNJFRC, E CAYYJCX WJA'H

FZNN KBZK Z NXVJ NZOM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOURS AFTER SWALLOWING A CERTAIN MINERAL SUPPLEMENT, I REALIZED I HAD THAT ZINCING FEELING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Snapshot  
4 Dog  
owner's  
ordeal  
8 Cougar  
12 "Le Coq —"  
13 Spread selection  
14 On  
15 Hive  
honcho  
17 Carry on  
18 Actress de Matteo  
19 Leading man in the theater?  
20 "Odyssey" companion piece  
22 Competent  
24 Messages  
25 Slaked  
29 Every last crumb  
30 Kama follower  
31 Before  
32 Interrogate  
34 Delany or Carvey

35 Reveille's opposite  
36 Burdened  
37 Houdini or Potter  
40 Prima donna  
41 Supposed super-berry  
42 Montreal dweller  
46 Galvanizing stuff  
47 Catch sight of  
48 "Yo!"  
49 Rewrite, maybe  
50 Information  
51 — out a living

Solution time: 25 mins.

DOWN  
1 Promptly  
2 Debtor's letters  
3 Convincing  
4 Filleted  
5 Goya's "Duchess of —"  
6 Ball-bearing item  
7 Weeding tool  
8 3.26  
light-years  
9 Hexagonal  
state  
10 Relocate  
11 Mimic  
16 Historic times  
19 Arm bone  
20 Bagdad's country  
21 Humdinger  
22 Cars  
23 Swiss capital  
25 Witticism  
26 Migraine  
27 Sea flier  
28 Campus bigwig  
30 Remain  
33 Not lenient  
34 Jay's rival  
36 Neighbor of Sudan  
37 Visibility hindrance  
38 Low-ph  
39 Hindu princess  
40 Cabinet div.  
42 Proof abbr.  
43 Dos Passos trilogy  
44 "A mouse!"  
45 Catcher's place

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		