

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



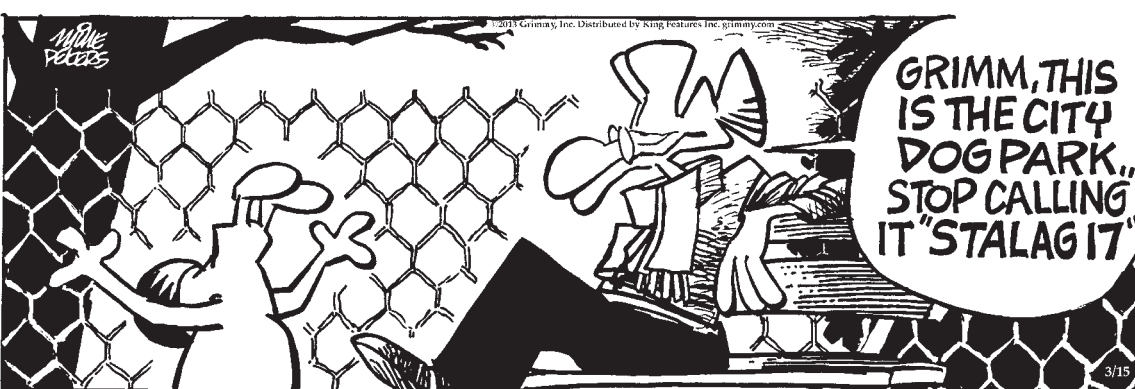
Blondie • Chic Young



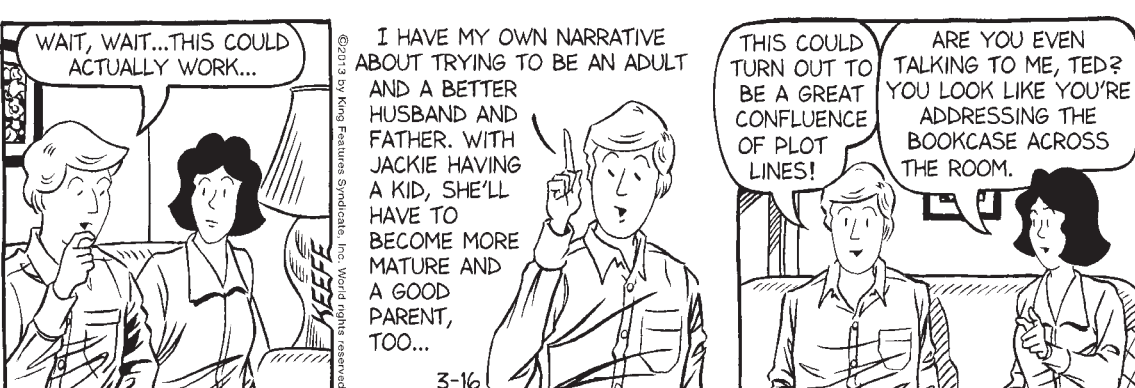
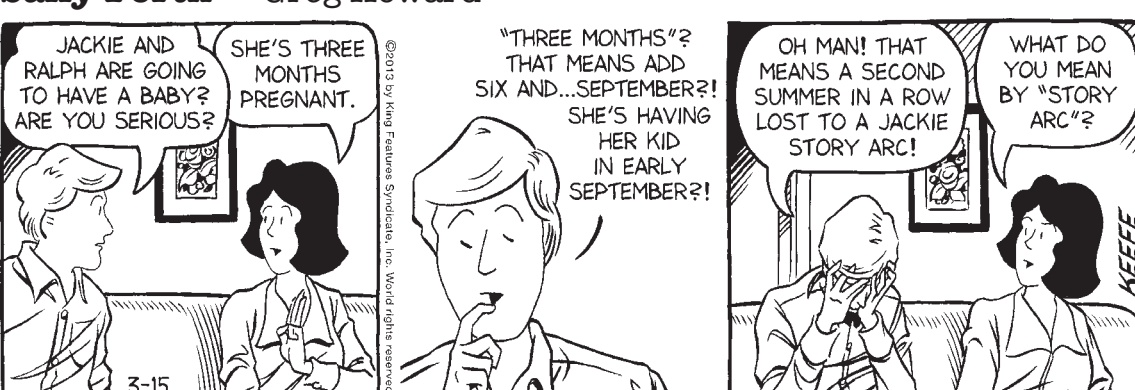
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Write down hotel's telephone

Dear Readers: I travel a lot across the country (Florida for two speeches, Los Angeles for a TV show and back to my home base in San Antonio for several speeches) for charities, groups and conventions. This January, I was in the Washington, D.C., area for a home-improvement show for several days. A friend gave me an invitation, so I was able to attend the presidential inauguration. Visit my website, www.Heloise.com, for links to the hints I shared on several Washington, D.C., TV shows, plus a few photos.

Here's my travel hint that I found invaluable on this trip: The phone number of the hotel was not printed on the key-card holder anywhere. Now, I write the phone number on the "envelope" or key-card holder. Many cards have just the hotel chain info on them, as do some of the notepads in the room, which are no help if you need to call the hotel directly. The key is always with me, so if I need the number, I have it. — Heloise

P.S.: My other travel hotel "key" hint? I drop the key in the holder and put it right on the floor by the door. I always know where it is!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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HAPPY HOUR

Dear Heloise: How do you tip during happy hour? The food and drinks are at a discounted price, but my server did the same job. Do I tip at the discounted price or regular price? — Tom in Des Moines, Iowa

Tom, this is a good question. Tip at the regular price. The server is doing the same job bringing you food and drinks. If you think he or she did a good job, tipping is how to show appreciation. Trust me, servers do not get paid much per hour!

Another important tip about tipping: I always tip more for breakfast. It's usually the cheapest meal of the day, but the server is still doing the same amount of work, if not more! How many times do servers come back to refill coffee, and bring more butter or jam? The wear and tear on their feet probably is double or triple other meal times. Tip BIG for breakfast. — Heloise

THANK-YOU NOTES

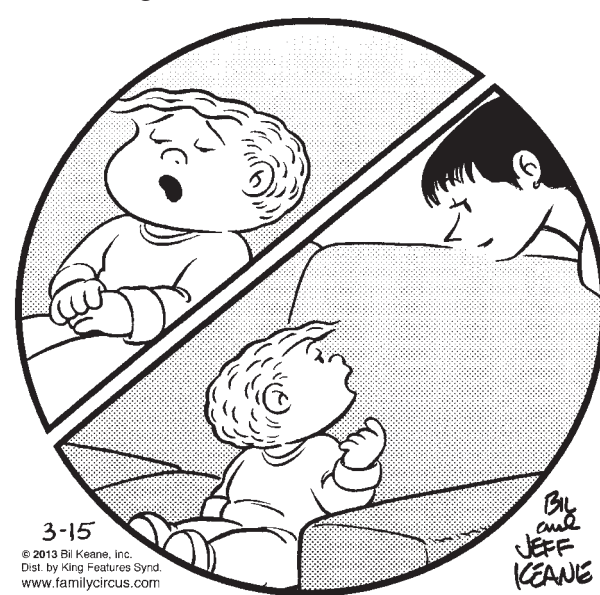
Dear Heloise: For my son's birthday party, I had invitations made with his picture on them, with him dressed in an outfit that matched the party theme. I also took photos of him holding a thank-you sign. When I ordered the invitations, I ordered thank-you notes with that picture of him.

After the party, I didn't have to stress about writing a million thank-you notes. I simply sent out the cards. I don't know if it is proper etiquette, but it saved me a ton of time while still telling my guests "thank you." — Alicia in San Diego

As busy as any mom is, you get an "OK" from me! — Heloise

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/15

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

AXAZE NMYA H CFJRN FHR

NJ FHXA RLZCAZE, EJJ

YMCFN DHGG NFA SZJDAQLZA

HV HSSHZMNMJV JSAZHNMJV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE SINCE THERE'S NO SECOND SPARE CONTAINER IN WHICH TO POUR THIS WINE, I CAN'T DECANT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass
3♣ Pass ?
What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠ 732 ♥ Q4 ♦ J7642 ♣ K109
2. ♠ 875 ♥ KQ ♦ 95432 ♣ A107
3. ♠ QJ4 ♥ 82 ♦ Q964 ♣ Q863
4. ♠ K93 ♥ 10 ♦ J852 ♣ A9752

Bidding Quiz

1. Three hearts. First, let's consider the meaning of the three-club bid. It is a jump-shift and therefore 100 percent forcing. In effect, partner is saying to you, "I realize you might have as little as six points, but that's all I need for game."

It follows that he has upward of 19 points. Most of these points are in high cards, but some of them are sure to be distributional. It is better to bid three hearts than four clubs — even though you have better club support — because it will probably be easier to make 10 tricks in hearts than 11 tricks in clubs.

2. Four hearts. Having indicated six to 10 points by your one-notrump response, you can afford the luxury of jumping to four hearts without running the risk of partner misunderstanding the bid. The jump-raise might lead to a sound slam contract. Your nine points in partner's suits are what are known as "working" points, and they will surely carry their full weight. These nine points are far better to hold than, say, the K-J of spades and K-Q of diamonds, which could prove of little use to partner. Partner could have a hand such as ♠ A4 ♥ AJ1095 ♦ A ♣ KQJ82, in which case both six hearts and six clubs are virtually unbeatable.

3. Three notrump. The nine-trick notrump game is more promising than an 11-trick club game. If partner passes three notrump, that's probably the best spot. You plan to pass if he next bids four hearts, but if he bids four clubs, you'll raise to five.

4. Five clubs. Your hand was not especially attractive after partner opened with one heart, but his jump to three clubs puts a brand-new face on your prospects.

It would be wrong to bid only four clubs at this point. That's what you'd do if your ace of clubs were, say, the queen. But with your actual holding, you should jump to five clubs to tell partner that your club raise is based on very sound values and is not just a courtesy raise. The leap to five clubs might be all the encouragement partner needs to undertake a slam.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 S dispenser
4 "— Miserables"
7 Trounce
12 Commonest English word
13 Matter-horn
14 Worn unevenly
15 2012 movie bear
16 Savage
18 Mid-afternoon, in a way
19 Long-legged shorebird
20 Pull an all-nighter
22 Freudian concept
23 Use a key-board
27 Moreover
29 Rodeo outcries
31 Strong adhesive
34 Meal for Oliver Twist
35 Moral principles
37 Larry's pal
- DOWN**
23 Pitched
24 Second person
25 "Ulalume" writer
26 Immigrant's study (Abbr.)
28 Big Apple letters
30 Past
31 Moray or conger
32 Sch. org.
33 Resistance measure
36 Practice pugilism
37 Sweet Spanish wine
40 Proclamation
42 Jack
43 Go in
44 Irritable
45 Glaswegian girl
46 Novelist
48 Varnish ingredient
49 Under the weather
50 Life story, for short
51 Tatter

Solution time: 25 mins.

GEM	DATE	SCAM			
ALI	EPIC	URSA			
MINSTREL	ROIL				
UPA	RADICAL				
ATTACK	TON				
LEI	HIP	GAMUT			
ORAL	ART	MISO			
EMEER	OAF	NET			
GAR	GALORE				
CHAPMAN	MIT				
LULU	MINIVANS				
ELAL	ENOL	UBI			
FURL	NAVY	RAP			

Yesterday's answer 3-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19							
20			21				22			
			27				28			
31	32	33							34	
35							36			
38							39			
							45			
48	49	50	51							52
53							54			55
56							57			58