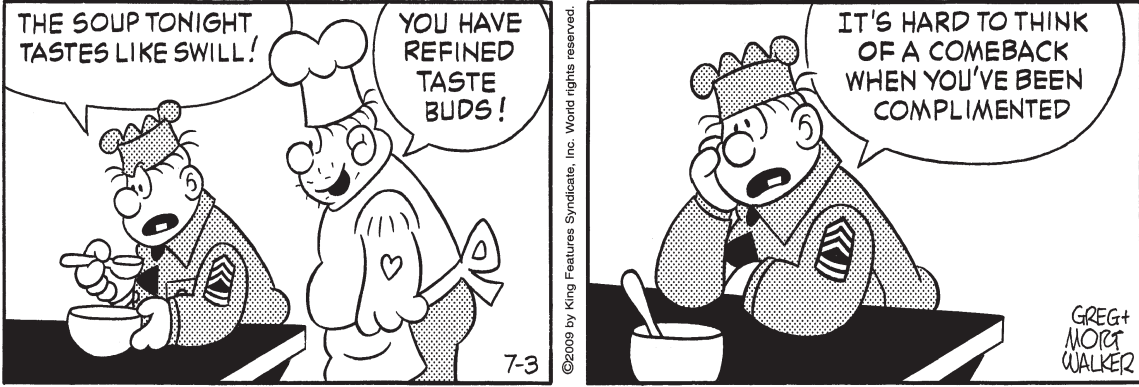


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



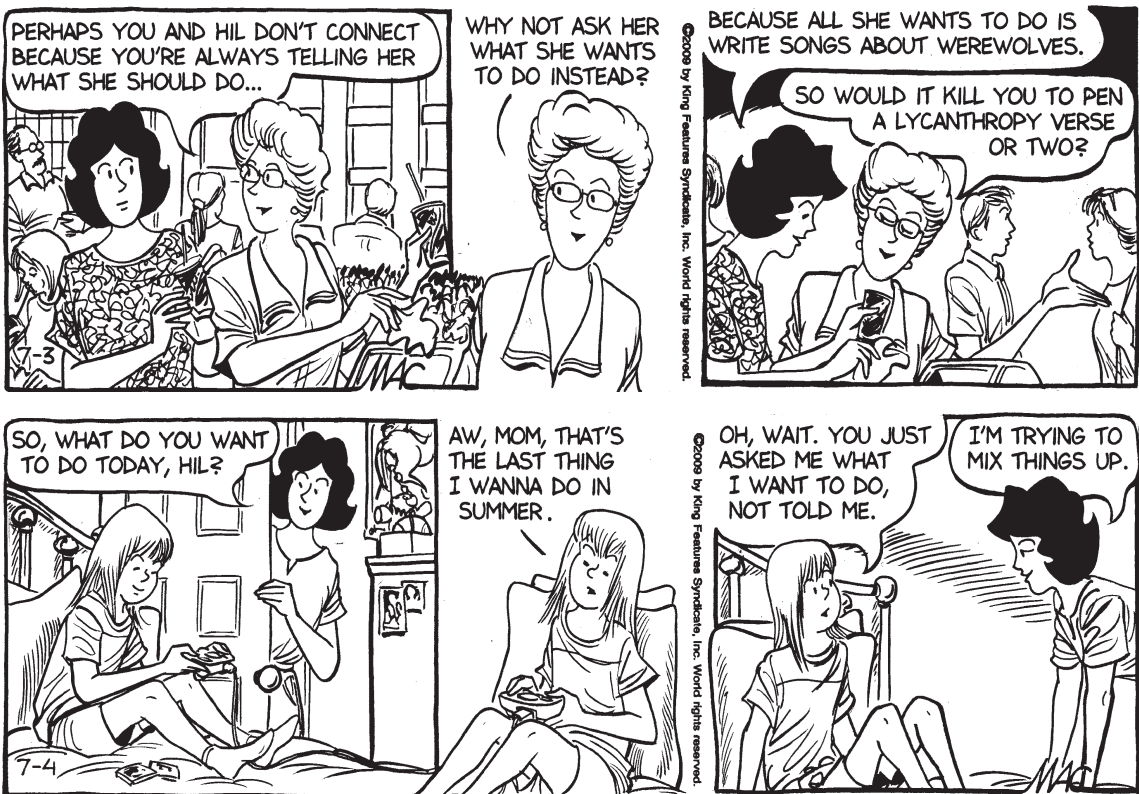
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



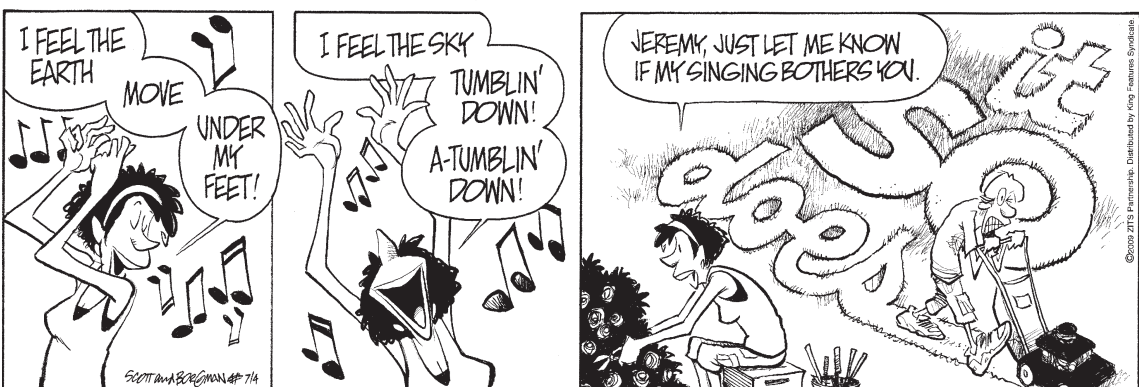
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Avocado seed grew to tall tree

Dear Heloise: My mother sent me your article on how to GROW AN AVOCADO TREE years ago. I started an avocado seed in a plastic sandwich bag with a small amount of water and placed it in a sunny window. The seed started out slowly. The treasured sprout went from a small pot to a larger pot as it continued to grow. Five years ago, my family moved to the San Antonio area.

It was at that time we decided that since we were planting our family roots in San Antonio, we would plant the avocado tree in our new backyard, a tree that had resided only in temporary accommodations, from one pot to another. Last year, we had our first avocado from the now-25-foot-tall tree. Everyone asks me what kind of avocado seed I used. I honestly don't know.

Thank you for sharing your information about growing avocados. We have enjoyed watching the tree grow, and were delighted when we saw the first avocado appear on the tree. I hope you enjoy the photo of my husband, Val, holding the fruits of our labor. – Shayne Cox, Converse, Texas

Shayne, thanks so much for the photos. If you would like to see the fruits of this family's labor, visit my Web site, [www.Heloise.com](http://www.Heloise.com), and look under special columns!

I also grew an avocado tree (about 15 feet tall) from a seed, but mine was inside, in a sunny spot in our foyer. Sadly, it died after about 15 years. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: When traveling by car, I keep my medicines and makeup in an ice cooler. It's handy and keeps items insulated from the heat as well as the cold. It keeps both meds and makeup handy and easy to get to. I also always carry a wet washcloth in a plastic sandwich bag, as well as a hand towel. – Marilyn Toland, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

LOST AND FOUND

Dear Heloise: I have a very tall dresser, and sometimes things fall behind it. So, I keep an old pair of stockings with my vacuum cleaner. Whenever I need to get to something behind the dresser, I put a stocking over the vacuum tube and secure it with a rubber band (and hold on tight!), then I lower the hose down behind the dresser and turn on the vacuum. The item sticks to the vacuum without going in the tube. – Elizabeth in Virginia

**EASY FIND**

Dear Heloise: Having moved more than once and having tried many systems for labeling boxes, this is the one that works best for me. I marked each box on the top and all four sides with numbers. In a small notebook, I wrote the number for each box and listed the contents for that number. I listed them as they were packed so that the items on the top of my list were actually on the bottom of the box. This made it really easy to know what was in each box. – Settled in Pennsylvania

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Bridge • Steve Becker

There are some sequences of bidding that, from a practical standpoint, must be regarded as impossible — that is, you could not have a hand that fits the bid or bids you've made. In each of the following four cases, specify whether the last bid made by South is possible or impossible.

1.

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2. South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
3. North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4. West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	4 ♥	5 ♠

Bidding Quiz

- Impossible. In standard bidding methods, any jump-bid by a responder is forcing to game (unless responder passed at his first opportunity to bid). South is therefore required to bid again in the given sequence. North's two-notrump bid shows 13 to 15 points, though he may occasionally have only 12 points. The same general principle would apply if North's last bid were three clubs, three hearts or three spades instead of two notrump. These would also be forcing bids that South could not pass.
  - Of course, a partnership could easily agree — as many nowadays have — that jump-bids by responder on the second round are invitational rather than forcing, indicating a hand that is not quite good enough to force to game. In that case, passing two notrump in the given sequence would become permissible, but this is entirely a matter for partnership discussion.
  - Impossible. The initial two-diamond response by North shows at least 17 points and is 100 percent forcing to game. Consequently, South is not permitted to pass four diamonds. North is presumably bidding his time, waiting to hear South's reaction to four diamonds before making a final decision on just how far to go.
  - Impossible. The two-notrump response showed 13 to 15 points and committed the partnership to game. South must therefore bid again over three diamonds.
  - Possible. The generally accepted meaning of the five-spade bid is that South has a slam-going hand that depends entirely on not losing the first two tricks in the suit the opponents have bid. Thus, South may have a hand such as ♠KQ842 ♥95 ♦— ♣AKJ983
- North should pass with two immediate heart losers; bid six spades with second-round control of hearts (K-x or a singleton); and cuebid six hearts (or bid a grand slam) with first-round control (the ace or a void) in hearts.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Cryptoquip

JS SAAT EBKX XDBWY SA  
HJKBMMX VAWWDVS SRD  
EJYSBTD, YA J VWJDQ "JS'Y

SRD DKQ AH BK DWWAW!"  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SHOWY GARDEN BLOOMS ARE FATIGUED AND NEED SOME REST, DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY USE FLOWER BEDS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Peculiar
  - 4 Furniture brand
  - 8 Long ride?
  - 12 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
  - 13 Infamous lyre player
  - 14 Finished
  - 15 Truman's economic policy
  - 17 Barn roof decoration
  - 18 Witticism
  - 19 Less
  - 20 Hugh Laurie series
  - 22 Apollo 11 goal
  - 24 Dust Bowl migrant
  - 25 One justifiably ridiculed
  - 29 Bobby of hockey
  - 30 Move laterally
  - 31 San Francisco's — Hill
- DOWN**
- 1 Luminox "CSI" evidence
  - 3 Rum recipe
  - 4 Privately made movie
  - 5 Retain
  - 6 Historic time
  - 7 Comcast alternative
  - 8 Affectionate
  - 9 Terrible guy?
  - 10 Carte
  - 11 Galena and cinnabar
  - 16 Stratagem
  - 19 Oliver Twist's request
  - 20 Component of stock footage?
  - 21 Gumbo item
  - 22 Sir's counterpart
  - 23 Unctuous
  - 25 Occupy time
  - 26 Waiting area
  - 27 Small grimace
  - 28 Undergoes recession
  - 30 Jet forth
  - 33 Monkey in a lab
  - 34 Punch
  - 36 Onward
  - 37 "Phooey!"
  - 38 Reverbate
  - 39 Dweeb
  - 40 Platter
  - 42 Retainer
  - 43 Motorists' org.
  - 44 Ram's fan?
  - 45 On pension (Abbr.)
- Solution time: 25 mins.**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | A | B | U | U | M | A | P | U | R | E |
| A | N | O | N | N | O | N | O | N | C | E |
| U | T | A | H | P | O | D | S | C | A | R |
| T | I | R | A | D | E | R | A | I | L |   |
| P | I | G | E | O | N | T | O | E | D |   |
| L | O | O | P | S | N | I | T | T | R |   |
| A | L | L | Y | A | N | D | S | H | I | A |
| I | I | L | E | M | U | F | I | E | N | D |
| D | O | V | E | T | A | I | L | E | D |   |
| E | T | A | L | A | Y | E | L | E | T |   |
| T | H | O | U | G | A | P | A | I | D | E |
| A | R | T | I | D | A | L | E | R | E | I |
| I | S | L | E | M | I | L | M | U | T | T |
- Yesterday's answer 7-3

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	