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







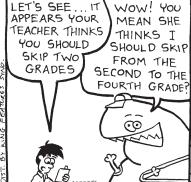




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

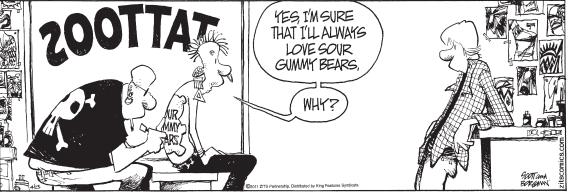


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Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Hints help find a rental house

Dear Heloise: I have a few hints for people who are looking for a HOME TO RENT. There are so many out there, and it's hard to know which one is the best fit.

- Some landlords take care of the lawn for you, and some don't. If you don't have a lawn mower or other yard equipment, you will want to take this into account.
- Furnished or unfurnished? Your landlord may not have the capability to take away and store a washer, dryer or refrigerator that is already in the house. If you have one, this may be a problem.
- Have pets? It might be best to find a house that doesn't have carpeting. Dogs can put some wear and tear on certain types of carpet, and you may end up having to pay for it to be replaced.
- Is an alarm system important to you for security? Be sure to factor this into your decision.
- How much can you afford? Be sure to consider whether utilities are included. - Erin in Indiana

Good advice all around! - Heloise

REPURPOSING OLD TIE RACK

Dear Heloise: I repurposed a wooden necktie rack. It has 22 wooden pegs and a small hook at each end of the rack. The rack is attached to the wall in our dressing room. My casual, everydaystyle necklaces hang neatly and safely out of the way but are easy to get to. The "fancy" jewelry still goes in the jewelry case. I wear my necklaces more when I don't have to hunt for them. - Mary, via email

OUILTER'S STORAGE

Dear Heloise: As a new quilter, I felt like I was spending a small fortune to get started: new sewing machine (mine was 30 years old), fabric, notions, patterns, classes, etc. The best tip I got came from the first class I attended. Rather than spending money on a nice plastic box to contain completed blocks before piecing, I purchased a new, unused pizza box from our local pizzeria for 25 cents! - Debbie, via email

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Our family takes a vacation at least once a year, and here is one of my favorite, easy-to-do travel hints. I take along plenty of anti-germ gel. I use it when we get into our motel/ hotel room for door handles, toilet flusher, light switches, etc., to eliminate any germs that may have survived.

I also pack several plastic grocery bags for bathing suits, towels or shoes that may not be completely dry when we are ready to leave. At the next stop, I do a load of laundry to prevent moldy clothes. - Samantha S., via email

QUICK BIB

Dear Heloise: In taking care of an elderly lady who needed a bib, I cut a hole just large enough to fit over her head in the middle of an old towel. - B.G. in San Antonio

(c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc. MIGHT PURCHASE: SOLDIERS' FOLGERS.

Bridge • Steve Becker

You are West, and the bidding has South West North East North **♠** K 4 2 **♥**AJ63 ♣K 10 5 2 West **♠** Q J 10 7 **♥**874 **♦** J 9 5 2 **4**98

You lead the queen of spades, won by South with the ace. Declarer cashes the ace of diamonds, plays a low trump to dummy's jack — to which East follows with the nine and then trumps the queen of diamonds. Declarer next cashes the K-Q of trumps, East discarding two diamonds, and then plays the king and another spade, East and South following suit to both spades. You win the spade with the ten. What would you lead now?

Test Your Defensive Play

A simple count of the three suits declarer has played thus far tells you that he started with precisely three spades, five hearts and one diamond. His other four cards must therefore be clubs. Although you can't be sure precisely which clubs South has, you can assume from the bidding that he must have the ace.

Having gotten this far, you place South with the A-Q-x-x, A-J-x-x or A-x-x-x of clubs. In the first and third cases, it doesn't matter whether you lead a club or give declarer a ruff-and-discard by returning a spade or a diamond. Declarer makes the slam in the first instance and doesn't in the third, regardless of what you do.

This leaves you with the remaining possibility - that declarer might have A-J-x-x, in which case his hand originally looked like:

- A 9 3 KQ1052 [H]
- [D] A

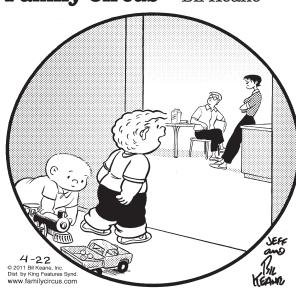
AJ74 [C]

It is only after you take the time to visualize declarer's possible club holdings that you find the correct play. After winning the spade with the ten, you continue with the jack of spades (or a diamond). This allows South to ruff in one hand and dis-

card a club from the other, but he must then guess which way to take the two-way club finesse after he ruffs. He might guess right and he might guess wrong, but that is much better than handing him the contract by returning a club after winning the

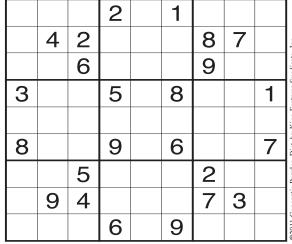
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"You guys don't have to spell things, just go ahead and talk words. We're not really listening."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

	9	1	5	Ιδ	ь	2	4	/	ੋ
	4	8	3	7	5	1	2	9	6
	2	6	7	4	3	9	8	1	5
	1	5	9	3	2	8	6	4	7
	3	4	2	9	7	6	1	5	8
	6	7	8	5	1	4	3	2	9
	8	2	4	6	9	7	5	3	1
	5	9	1	2	8	3	7	6	4
	7	3	6	1	4	5	9	8	2
Difficulty Level ★★★									

Cryptoquip

H RYEUMKUIHC HJMWG GHAULS

IHEY MT GULZ, TWEEZ RYG

EMKYLGX DUSNG JY IHCCYK

S M M K D M W X Y A Y Y R U L S . " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: INSTANT COFFEE PRODUCT THAT PEOPLE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

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Caroline

42 Keep an

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down

50 Superla-

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of "30

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tive

51 Tina

48 Chow

39 Old

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

41 Morning

verb suffix 1 Copy, for moisture 3 Magic short 43 Rage 6 Aviv 44 Sicilian potion preceder spouter 4 Wander 5 Orange 9 Hallow-45 "Virtue een time is its variety own —" (Abbr.) 6 Walk 47 Barnum's 12 Group quietly 7 Rever-**30** Figs. character first name 49 Robber 13 Lemieux berate 52 Slithery 8 Floral milieu neckwear fish 53 Perfor-9 Trip follower mance around 54 Put an mourning the world?

item

57 Impetu-

DOWN

1 Scale

15 Period of (Var.) end to 55 Prior to compan-**56** Ballbearing

16 Ripa **18** Not staccato 20 Staffer

ACROSS

21 Picnic intruder 23 "Xanadu" band **24** Say

25 Abound

27 Rental contract **29** "West Side Story" actress truth

35 Martin's partner

31 Absolute 37 Yon folks 38 Squads

Yesterday's answer 4-22

33 39 49

54