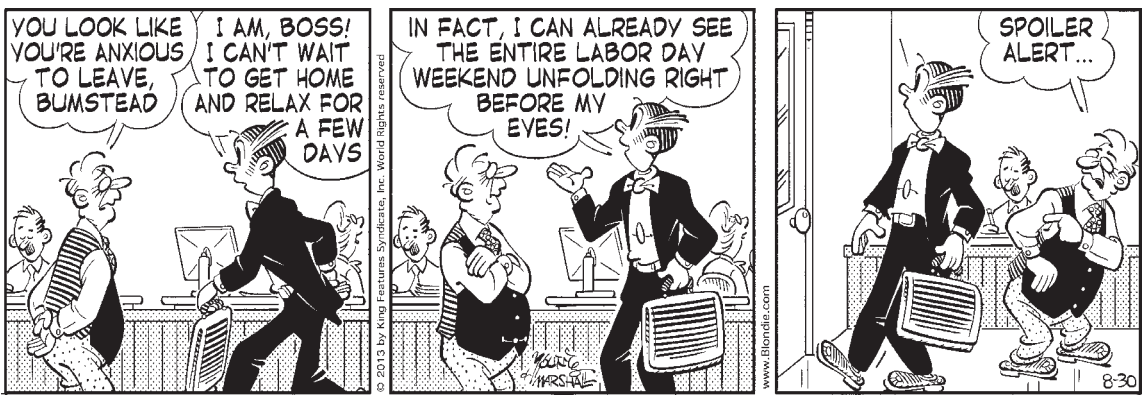
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

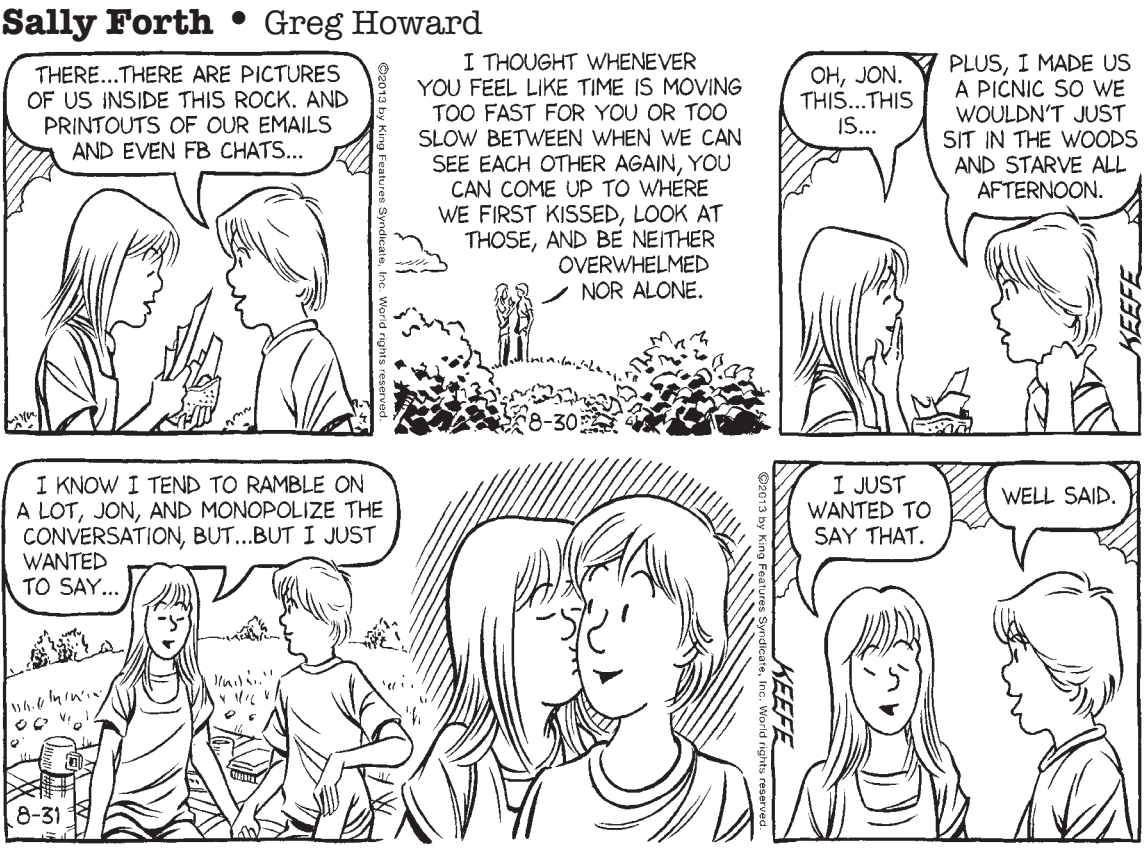
Blondie • Chic Young



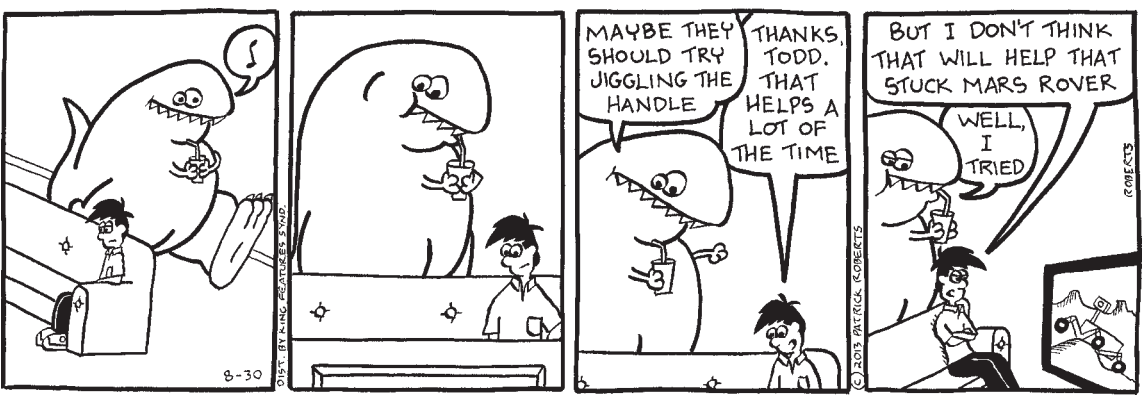
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

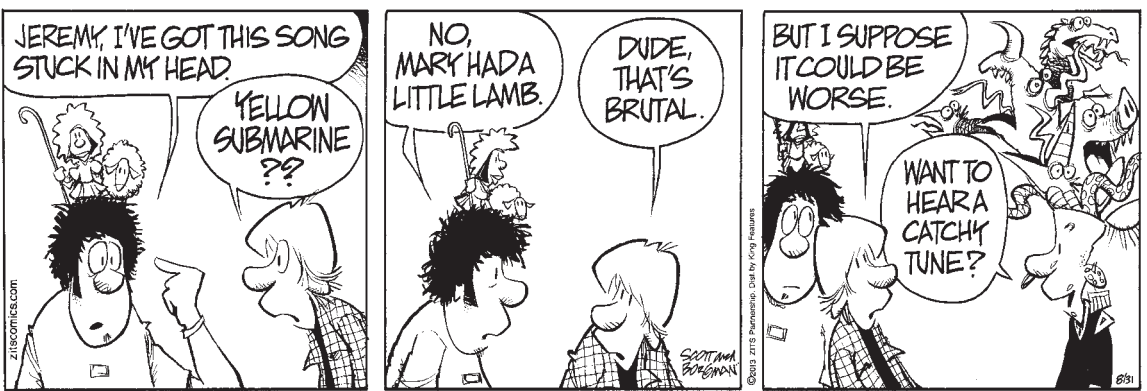
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Dirty wallpaper can be cleaned

Dear Heloise: I was wondering if you had a solution to clean wallpaper? Thank you very much. – J.S., via e-mail

You bet I do, and it's using a cheap cleaning solution that you can make at home. If your wallpaper is washable, it's as simple as a few drops of mild liquid dishwashing soap and a gallon or so of water. Apply to the wall using a damp sponge, and do only one small area at a time. Then wipe off with clean water and dry.

To test if your wallpaper is washable, try in a small, hidden area first and allow to dry. If you notice any changes in the wallpaper – e.g., it darkens or the colors run – then you cannot "wash" the wallpaper.

If your wallpaper is not washable, contact the installer or manufacturer to find out its recommendations. If you have any leftover wallpaper, the information might be located on the roll.

Another way to help keep your wallpaper clean is to vacuum it regularly. Use the brush attachment or a microfiber cloth to remove any dirt and debris. Hope this helps! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I enjoy your column. A reader recommended safe ways to bring seashells into the country while traveling. That reminded me of one of my tricks of traveling.

I take four pencil boxes with me when I travel -- not the long and narrow boxes, but rather the plastic boxes that are approximately 8 inches by 4 inches. You can buy them at any office-supply store. I pack them with socks, underwear, etc. As I travel and purchase delicate keepsakes, I wrap them up and store them in the boxes. I've been doing it for years, and I always get my delicate keepsakes home without a scratch! – Steven W., Sacramento, Calif.

YELLOW-STAIN FOLLOW-UP

Dear Heloise: There may be hope for the woman who wrote about yellow stains on her vinyl floor left by rubber-backed carpets. I had this problem, and have avoided rubber-backed rugs.

The once-unsightly stain is no longer noticeable. Perhaps time is the major player, but could sunshine have helped? My floor is gray tones, not off-white, but the yellow rectangle was once highly visible! – A Reader, Ishpeming, Mich.

Yes, sunshine may have helped. However, it also can hurt, and may darken or yellow some vinyl, depending on how much sun and/or top coating. – Heloise

SCREEN BRIGHTNESS

Dear Heloise: I like to play games on my phone before going to bed, but the screen can be very bright, especially in a dark room.

It is really easy to change the brightness of my screen, so I do that when I am ready to lie in bed. On my phone, under the "Settings" menu, there is an option to change the brightness. In the morning, while I am getting ready, I just adjust the screen back to bright before I leave for the day. – Hannah in New Jersey

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Your partner opens Two Notrump (20-21 points, balanced distribution). What would you respond with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ J863 ♥ J52 ♦ Q74 ♣ J62
2. ♠ J32 ♥ AQ8 ♦ KJ64 ♣ Q96
3. ♠ 85 ♥ AJ8743 ♦ 732 ♣ 54
4. ♠ Q97 ♥ Q52 ♦ AJ6 ♣ K832
5. ♠ K1076 ♥ 86 ♦ Q875 ♣ Q105

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. Since partner has 20 or 21 points, it could be argued that your combined holding might be 26 points, so you should raise two notrump to three.

But another factor must also be considered – namely, that partner will have trouble reaching dummy for any finesses he may need to take. This lack of communication is likely to prove fatal even if partner has 21 points. While it is true that 26 points usually produce a good play for game, this is frequently not the case when one player holds practically all of his side's points.

2. Six notrump. This is strictly a matter of arithmetic. Partner's 20 or 21 points added to your 13 bring your combined total to 33 or 34 points, which is what you ordinarily need for a small slam. You should therefore bid six without further ado.

3. Four hearts. While you have only five points in high cards, your six-card suit is worth several points more in terms of playing strength. You can probably win five or six tricks with hearts as trump, and your prospects should be appraised in that light. The four-heart bid should be treated by partner as a shutout. If you play Jacoby Transfers, you would bid three diamonds and raise partner's forced three-heart response to four.

4. Four notrump. This is not Blackwood; rather, it is a raise in notrump inviting partner to bid slam with a maximum, and to pass with a minimum. Holding 12 points, you have no way of telling whether your combined total comes to 32 or 33 points, so partner is asked to make the final decision.

5. Three clubs. You certainly have enough points for game, but before committing your side to playing in three notrump, you should check via Stayman whether partner has four spades. If he does, four spades will prove to be the superior game contract in the majority of cases.

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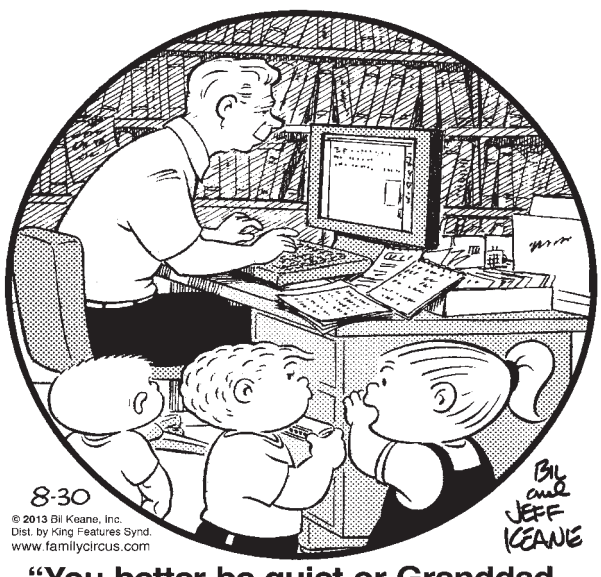
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"You better be quiet or Granddad will leave you out of the family history he's writing."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/30

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/29

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Cryptoquip

HAUH CRQQZJ XW ZTH XB U DTMQXG DQUGR MROOXBO CZV MQTRDVXBHW. JZTQL EZT WUE AR'W DQUB-AUBLQXBO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FAMOUS ACTRESS CAME DOWN WITH MANY THROAT INFECTIONS, WOULD PEOPLE CALL HER MERYL STREP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Exist
4 Trot
7 "The emperor — clothes"
12 Started
13 Sapporo sash
14 Cockeyed
15 Lemieux milieu
16 X, often
18 Vagrant
19 Win every game
20 Basra's land
22 Every last bit
23 2012 Best Picture Oscar winner
27 Grecian vessel
29 Join up
31 Winter warmer
34 Shipping container
35 "Angels We Have Heard —"
37 "See ya"
38 Italy's silhouette
39 Carte intro
41 Pre-diploma hurdle
45 Obliterate
47 Actor Stephen
48 Counter-culture mag since 1974
52 "Entourage" role
53 Scent
54 Venomous viper
55 Yang counterpart
56 Squads
57 Pigs' digs
58 Witness

DOWN
1 Proof of innocence, maybe
2 Happen again
3 Plant swelling
4 Writes in the margins
5 "Star Wars" role
6 Third Hebrew letter
7 Padlocked fastener
8 Fool
9 Tackle moguls
10 Pos. opposite
11 Possess
17 Slithery ones
21 Throwing-game ring
23 Match
24 Genetic abbr.
25 Understood
26 Inseparable
28 Old garment
30 Unfriendly
31 Male swan
32 Lennon's lady
33 Comical Margaret
36 Mata —
37 Most contemptible
40 Actor Lorenzo
42 MRIs' ancestors
43 Eagle's home
44 Down East
45 Greek vowels
46 Catch sight of
48 Chapeau
49 Incense
50 — long way
51 "Let me think ..."

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-30

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							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		