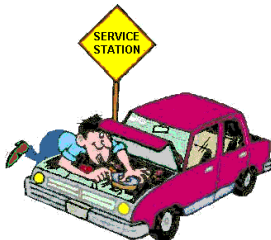


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## Packing as God Intended

"Do we have to pack light, or can we pack as God intended a girl to pack?" my 15-year-old daughter asked as we readied for our trip. Somewhere between marriage and the years I traveled with small children, I learned to pack the bare minimum for myself and tried to pass that technique on to my kids as they got older. My motto was, "Be a no-fuss-no-muss traveler." I took only that which was practical — ugly but comfy shoes, loose clothing, very little makeup, brush, toothbrush and a good book. I didn't take my favorite shampoo because most hotels have a shampoo/condition combo. I left



behind perfume and lotions and jewelry because ... well, it's just not practical. On a trip, I could get ready almost faster than my husband and son and be out the door and on my way to a day full of sightseeing. I looked homely, yes, but boy was I proud of how much stuff I didn't cram into my suitcase. This all worked fine until we went on vacation with my best friend and her daughter. When my daughter walked into their hotel room and watched as they unpacked their suitcases, she stood with her mouth wide open. They brought

hair-care products, perfume and jewelry, makeup and multiple outfits with matching shoes, as well as their own pillows from home. My daughter turned to me and said, "Mom, we pack like guys." Our friends smelled good each night at dinner, and their hair and makeup looked beautiful. They packed femininity with them. I went back to my room and looked at the contents of my suitcase — so sparse, tidy and boring. My daughter was right; we packed like my husband and son. And although I'm still an advocate of packing light, our trip with friends reawakened in me something I knew as a teen: It's fun to be a girl — even when you are on a trip. "Next vacation," I said to my

daughter, "we're packing like girls." And so we did. And it didn't take up any more room than packing like a guy — OK, well, maybe a little more room, but not much. We took all the curling irons, perfumes and shampoos. We threw in pretty outfits with matching shoes. I don't think my husband recognized his traveling companions. The tomboys were replaced with real girls, and we cluttered the hotel room with our frilly, good-smelling items from home. These days I'm more likely to say, "Let's pack as God intended a girl to pack." Write to Taprina Milburn in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	2			3		8	1
		1		2			4
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Russian Proverb




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