Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Blondie • Chic Young

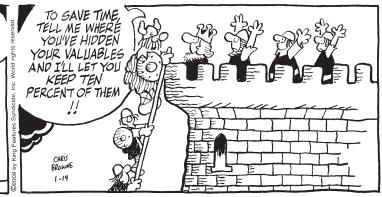






Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters







Sally Forth • Greg Howard











Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Heloise helps 'kitcheneering'

A GOOD CUP OF JOE

Dear Readers: For many of us, enjoying a MORNING COFFEE (with a newspaper) is an important part of the day. Here are a few things you can do to make sure your next cup is the best it can be:

- Start with fresh, cold water.
- Use the right grind for your coffee maker.
- Measure the correct amount of coffee, which is usually 1 tablespoon per 6 ounces of water. Experiment until you find the strength that's right.

• Keep the coffeepot clean! Many people just give the pot a quick rinse, but over time this causes the oil from the coffee to build up and creates a rancid taste! Clean the pot with hot, soapy water as often as you can, at least after every third or fourth use. Many pots, filter baskets and lids are dishwasher-safe, too.

To remove heavy deposits, run full-strength vinegar through a brew cycle. Heloise Update: Pour the hot vinegar back in and let it sit for 20-30 minutes. Then turn on, let it run through a second time and follow with several cycles of plain water. Did you know vinegar has a zillion money-saving uses? It does; cleaning appliances, washing windows and windshields, and more. For an alphabetical list of green hints using cheap old vinegar, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (59 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: If your teakettle has lime deposits built up on the bottom, fill it with full-strength vinegar, then boil for several minutes. Let it sit, then scrub if necessary. Rinse well afterward. - Heloise

NO MESS

Dear Heloise: I hated making sausage patties because the fat stuck to my hands and was very difficult to remove. To solve the problem, I dampen my hands with a little water before handling the sausage and remoisten if the sausage begins to stick. The reason it works so well is because oils and water repel one another. You can make patties the size and thickness you want very quickly and save money by buying sausage in the roll instead of pre-sliced. - Joyce Allen, Palestine, Texas

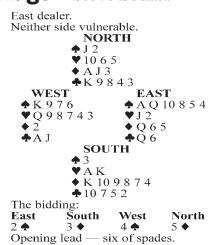
GROCERY BAGGING

Dear Heloise: For readers who buy more groceries at a time than can be carried in a recyclable bag, I have my cold items bagged in paper and the rest in plastic. This way, I can unload the things to be put the refrigerator first, and I'm not sorting through bags to find which ones have frozen items. - Valerie Campbell, Las Vegas

FROM A GIFT BAG TO A LUNCH BAG Dear Heloise: Often I have found myself over-

whelmed by the number of small and mediumsize gift bags I accumulate. Some of these are not in perfect shape, but need to be put to some use before discarding. I use them as a replacement for the brown lunch bag. Each one can be used several times. – Kathy T., Kenosha, Wis.

Bridge • Steve Becker



The One and Only Way

In many deals, declarer must base his plays on the assumption that the opposing cards are distributed in a certain way, because if they are not, he cannot succeed. Once the declarer has placed the cards in the position he needs them to be, all that remains is to execute his plan.

Take this case from the 2008 New England Knockout Teams. North-South bid aggressively 1 to reach a very shaky five-diamond contract. 2 North's raise to five diamonds was a two-way action: The contract might make opposite the right hand, and there was also no assurance that four spades could be defeated.

East won the opening spade lead and continued a spade. South, Martin Fleischer, could see that to have any chance of making the contract, the opposing clubs would have to be divided 2-2, and West would have to have the ace. Then there was also the matter of not losing a trick to the queen of diamonds. With an eye toward resolving both issues si-

multaneously, Fleischer ruffed East's spade return, cashed the A-K of hearts and then led a club toward dummy. West rose with the ace and returned the heart queen, ruffed by South after East discarded a spade. Continuing with his original premise – that the

contract could not be made unless the clubs were 2-2 – Fleischer next led a club to the king and was gratified to see both opponents follow suit. Only one problem remained – how to handle

the diamonds – but this was no longer really an issue. East had already turned up with exactly two clubs and two hearts and, presumably, six spades for his weak two opening, so he had to have three diamonds. Fleischer therefore cashed the ace of diamonds and led a diamond to the ten to bring in his game.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Which color? The purple or the green?'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

2	8	9						
1			2			7		
6		7		3		2	9	
	9			2				
		6	5		8	3		
				4			1	
		4		1		8		3
	7				6			3 5
8						4	6	9
Difficulty Level ★★★							1/14	

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 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.

1	2	4	5	7	8	9	6	3
7	3	5	9	2	6	4	1	8
6	8	9	3	1	4	2	7	5
5	9	3	2	6	1	7	8	4
4	1	6	7	8	3	5	2	9
2	7	8	4	5	9	1	3	6
3	4	1	8	9	7	6	5	2
8	6	2	1	4	5	3	9	7
9	5	7	6	3	2	8	4	1
Difficulty Level * 1/1:								1/12

Cryptoquip

HE AKO TSBN QNPRA XJHZZNJP

KOZEHZP ZK QOZ KD, H

JNXRKD AKO WHTLZ XSGG ⊕

ZLNW BSJWHDZP' TSJWNDZP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERYBODY STARTED TO CALL THE CITY'S BRAVEST ICE CREAM PARLOR EMPLOYEE A SCOOPER HERO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

27 Blackbird DOWN

1 Super-

15 Singer

Sumac

ACROSS

1 Ventilate 28 Off

	Veritiate	20	OII			Oupci		Oumac
4	Be		the			market		Likely
	a		perpen	-		section	20	"
	couch		dicular		2	"No		Doubt-
	potato	30	Upper			harm		fire"
7	Peru's		limit			done"	21	Center-
	capital	33	Child-		3	Apace		fold,
8	Partook		hood		4	Esthetic		maybe
	at a		game			taste	22	Draw
	banquet		played		5	Finish		forth
10	Man		in a		6	Para-	23	Tradi-
	of	circle				phernalia		tional
	morals?	36	Bucca-		7	Plumbing		music
11	Invest		neer			problem		style
	officially	37	Not as			Pooch	24	Got
13	Not		plentifu	I	9	Small		too
	mincing	38	Eldrick			antelope		big for
	words		Woods			Noshed	25	Bank-
16	— out a	39	Sicilian		12	Ap-		roll
	living		spoute			proaches	26	More
	Find		Witnes	S	14	Rock		pleasan
18	Water	41	Kid's			guitarist	28	Old
	barrier		query			Lofgren		saw
	Cohort	S	olution	tim	e: 2	21 mins.	29	Private
20	Actress	R		МА	T	SELF		student
	Sorvino	Y	A L E	A G	Α	I L I E	30	Hack-
21	Diarist	E T		D E		ANDED MBOSS		neyed
	Samuel	3 1		ΕY	_	PAR		Cruising
23	Some	D E		N O	R	D A N A		Apiece
	silver-	0 \ W A		E K	-	D O N I J O H N	34	Singer-
	ware		D I P	D	ΑГ	RE		actor
25	Go	A N		A R A	_	S I A M		Kristoffe
	limp	-	E N	R A	T	S I A M A N T I	٥-	son
26	Strictly		RO	A R	С	M E E T	35	Swear-
	entre —		Yester	day's	s ar	nswer 1-14		word

