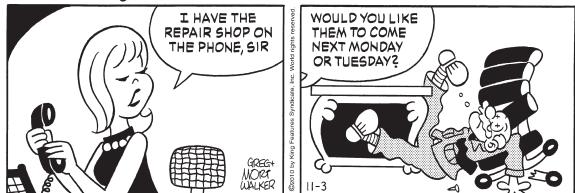
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters





Dear Heloise: I have found a great tip - leave the pit in whatever dish you make with AVOCA-DOS, and the dish will not brown. Thank you for your great hints. - Jeannie M., via e-mail

Jeannie, this is an old hint that many people use. However, the Heloise update is that the pit does not keep guacamole from turning brown. Oxygen is the villain that causes avocados or guacamole to brown. Leaving the pit in the avocado will protect only what the seed touches. Better to press plastic wrap over the surface to keep air out.

Here in Texas, guacamole is a staple of Mexican food. The California Avocado Commission (www.avocado.org) has some great information on its website. You might have heard that avocados are high in fat, and they are, but it's good fat! One-fifth of an avocado (about 1 ounce) has about 50 calories and 4.5 grams of fat. A plate of Tex-Mex food looks lonely without a dollop of guacamole! - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise P.O. Box 795000

San Antonio, TX 78279-5000 NO MUSTARD, NO PROBLEM

Dear Heloise: Our family has a favorite recipe that uses Dijon mustard. I was out of that ingredient one day, so I substituted spicy brown mustard. It worked great, and no one could tell the difference! It is also cheaper than Dijon mustard. Willa Coe, San Clemente, Calif.

EASY CLEAN

Dear Heloise: When I have roast pans or skillets that require scouring to clean them, I put water and a small amount of dishwashing liquid in them, put them on the stove, and let the residue cook off. Then they are easily washed with just a sponge or cloth in the dishpan. - Nancy in Wilmington, Del

LEFTOVER STORAGE

Dear Heloise: I read the suggestion to put a plastic bag into food-storage containers. I have a better idea: Get a dry marker to mark the container. The marking can be wiped off when it's dry. If you wash the container, the marking won't come off while it's wet, but a plastic scrubber will take it off easily. - Claude Bedell, Mission Viejo, Calif.

TWO BOXES OF OATMEAL

get quick oatmeal reminded me: I buy two boxes of oatmeal at a time. The first box we add to the instant packets to "unsweeten" them. The second box I food-process to use in place of some of the flour in most of my recipes. Muffins are particularly improved by the added texture/fiber.

Another thing I do to get more whole grain: I W V I buy both white and whole-grain flour and mix about 1 part whole grain flour to an equal amount of white flour. - B.J. Raver in Pennsylvania **SPICE DATING**

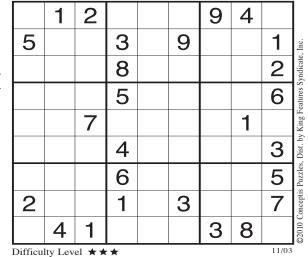
Dear Heloise: Wonder how long you have had a

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How much money will I get from the button fairy if I put this under my pillow?'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

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Cryptoquip

SWQI ALXWI YHAVHJV TQRR Dear Heloise: Your advice to blend oatmeal to QJO QDYIZQRLQJ EVZYHJ'Y EQJTZVQY HZ IWOZHLF? 🕀 XRQJF FHSJ DJFVZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE OLD SWAMI IS EVER HOPEFUL FOR THE VERY BEST OUTCOME, I WOULD SAY HE'S OPTI-MYSTIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals L

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

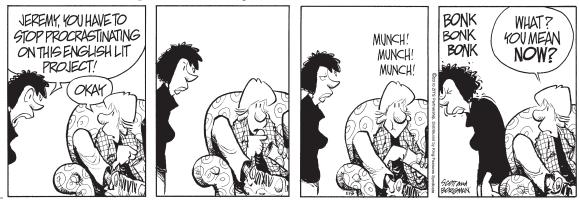
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Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



spice? I take a marker and put the date on the top of the lid the day I open it. I can tell at a glance how old it is. - Alice in Texas

(c)2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable NORT J 8 5 2 V A 6 3 A 7 4 10 9 2	
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♥K97	
◆ J 10	
♣AK83	763
The bidding:	
	West North
	Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — king	g of diamonds.

Hot Potato

Perhaps you won't agree with South's offshape notrump bid or North's raise to three, but that's the way the bidding went. Besides, on this deal the play's the thing, so let's get on with it.

West led the king of diamonds, which won, and continued with the queen, which also won. Another diamond forced dummy's ace, and East had to find a discard.

Now if you were East and saw only dummy's hand and your own, what would you discard? It might seem odd, but the proper discard is the queen of clubs! If you make this play, South goes down two; if you don't, South makes the contract. All he has to do is to lead a club from dummy and duck when you produce the queen. Eventually he scores five clubs, a diamond, two hearts and a spade.

A very good case can be made for discarding the queen of clubs. If South has the A-K-J, the queen is worthless. And if South lacks one of these honors, West must have the ace, king or jack as a potential entry to his diamonds. It follows that retention of the queen cannot serve a useful purpose, and, in fact, it is an albatross around your neck.

When the hand was actually played, East did not discard the queen of clubs, electing to part with a spade instead.

But the Fates were extremely kind to him. Declarer, looking neither to the right nor the left, led a club to the king at trick four, paying no attention whatever to East's play of the queen.

South then continued with the ace, hoping the jack would fall, but it didn't. He could then do no better than play a third club and go down two, thus proving that two wrongs sometimes make a right.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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