

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



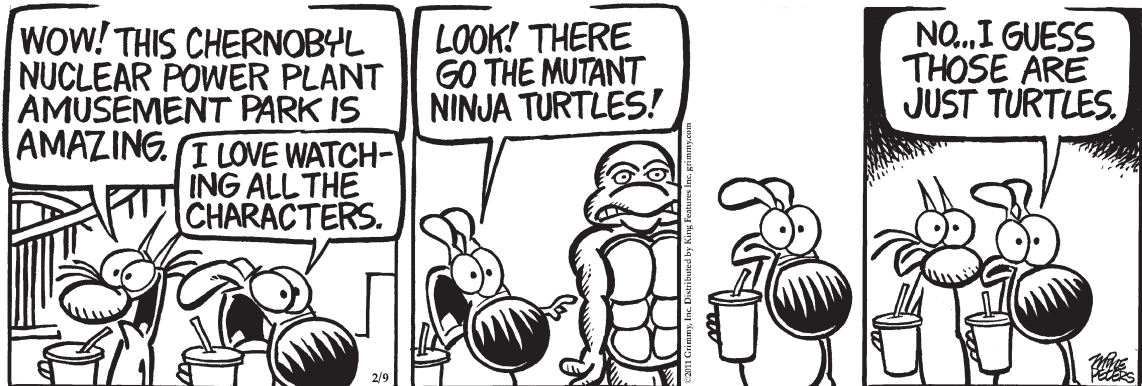
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



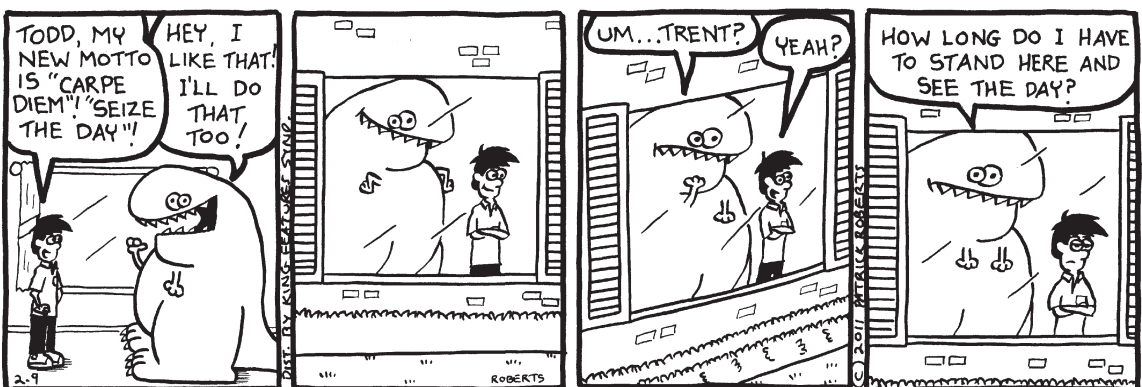
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Simple dessert delicious as well

Dear Heloise: I make the simplest DESSERT, and everyone loves it – chocolate caramel pecan pretzel bites. I take caramel-filled chocolate candy and place it on a square pretzel, with a whole pecan on top of the candy. I preheat the oven to 350 degrees and cook them about 4 minutes. When I pull them out of the oven, I push the pecan down into the candy, then put them in the refrigerator for to harden again. They are so delicious! – Luke C. in San Antonio

We tried them here in the office, and they are delicious, plus so easy to make! Make them for your sweetheart this Valentine's Day. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

FREEZING MEATBALLS

Dear Heloise: I was making meatballs to freeze for later use. I cooled them, then put them in egg cartons and into the freezer. When they were frozen, I put them in a freezer bag. Now I can just take out the amount I need for my meal. I am a widow and live alone, so this works great for me. – Wanda Brees in Indiana

Good idea, but make sure you line the carton with plastic wrap or wax paper for food safety. Raw or cooked food should not come in contact with an egg carton because of the potential of bacteria transfer. – Heloise

PERFECT PANCAKES

Dear Heloise: I find my gravy ladle invaluable for making pancakes and waffles. It's much easier to scoop the batter out with than a regular spoon. It also makes silver-dollar-sized pancakes for kids! – Kim in Virginia

REFRIGERATOR REPAIR

Dear Heloise: I had done without water from my ice and water dispenser on my refrigerator for almost three months. I realized that if I unplugged my refrigerator and let it sit for a few hours, maybe the water unit would thaw and I could use my front water dispenser. I now have both water and ice again without paying a repairman. – Ann from Abilene, Texas

MIXING COLD BUTTER

Dear Heloise: When a recipe for dough calls for cutting and mixing cold butter into flour, such as in pie crust and some filled-cookie recipes, I found that if you use your hand grater and grate the butter (butter must be cold -- out of the refrigerator) just as you would cheese, the butter mixes with flour so much easier and faster. Been reading Hints From Heloise for 40 years and am still learning new things! – Sue in Plainsboro, N.J.

Sue, thanks for the nice words, and I hope you keep reading the column. We tested your hint in the office, and it's a winner! – Heloise

KEEP YOUR DISHES

Dear Heloise: Taking a dish or two to an impromptu get-together? Don't risk losing track of the dishes themselves. I just press one of my return-address labels on each piece, and they always get home again. -- Phyllis Maguire, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 19 4
♥ 5
♦ A Q 10 2
♣ 7 6 5 3 2
WEST
♠ Q 6 2
♥ K 10 9 8 4 3
♦ 4
♣ K Q J
EAST
♠ K 8 7 5 3
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ 9 7
♣ 10 8
SOUTH
♠ A 10
♥ A 2
♦ K J 8 6 5 3
♣ A 9 4
The bidding:
South 1♦ West 1♥ North 2♦ East 2♥
Opening lead — king of clubs.

A Two-Edged Sword

In notrump play, declarer often refuses to win the opening lead even though he has the ace of the suit led. This refusal to win the trick, called a holdup play, usually occurs when declarer is under attack in a suit where he is relatively weak. The ace is withheld in the hope of disrupting enemy communications.

The holdup during suit play is much less common, but it can be just as effective as the holdup play in notrump. For example, take this deal where South gets to five diamonds and West leads the king of clubs.

If South takes the king with the ace, he goes down one against best defense. Whenever declarer leads a club, West wins with the jack and shifts to a low spade. East's king forces the ace, and declarer winds up losing three tricks – two clubs and a spade.

But if South refuses to win the king of clubs, he makes the contract regardless of what West does next. Suppose West plays another club. South takes the ace, draws trumps and returns a club. Dummy's clubs thus become established and take care of South's spade loser.

Now suppose West shifts to a low spade at trick two. Declarer wins East's king with the ace, draws trumps and returns a spade, establishing dummy's jack as a parking place for his second club loser.

Observe that there is no risk attached to ducking the king of clubs. Even if East has only one club, South cannot lose more than two tricks. If West continues with a club, it makes no difference whether or not East ruffs; either way, declarer cannot be stopped from establishing dummy's fifth club as his game-going trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“My bread is stuck in the basement.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

BZGN LH ZB LFA, HZGLKP

HNGZFN ELANBR LH QZERLLBP

RTZR'P GKQT PGZFFNE

RTZB BLEGZF: GDBD GLKPN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN BRASS PLAYER TAKES AN AFTERNOON BREAK, MAYBE IT COULD BE FOR TEA AND TRUMPETS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	27 Music genre	2 "The Thin Man"	15 "Help!"
1 Buddy Peculiar	28 Whiskers	4 Having seniority	19 Existed
7 Miss America's ID	30 Mauna — of an "overnight success"	3 Room fellows	20 The whole enchilada
8 Sailing boat	36 Engine type	4 Having seniority	21 Left one's seat
10 Heart line?	37 Skit show	5 Foolish fellows	22 Apple variety
11 Least active	38 Mother-of-pearl	6 Active one	23 Kitten's sound
13 Button-woods, e.g.	39 Dregs	7 Protein-rich bean	24 Neat
16 Oom follower	40 Your stands	8 Fathered 9 False	25 Chances, for short
17 Coffin	41 Cen. fractions	10 Venomous viper	26 Non-native, to Hawaiians
18 Game with "Skip" cards	12 Takes care of	14 Pig's remark	28 "The Garden of Earthly Delights" artist
19 Make one's way	1 Parade		29 Abrasive powder
20 Tosses in			30 Exists
21 Ignite			31 Burden
23 Casual shirts			32 Big hatchet
25 Singer Redding			34 Warmth
26 Throw forcefully			35 Scoff

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-9

		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									32	
33			34					35		
	36							37		
								38		
								39		
								40		
								41		