

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

DOODLY-NOOP!

SOMEBODY'S TEXTING ME.

AAAAAUAUUUUUGGGGGGGHHHHHHH!

I THINK THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM AT HOME.

CAN WE GET A DOGGY BAG FOR THE WINE?

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

YOUR PRIVATE AIR TRANSPORT IS READY TO TAKE YOU TO THE PENTAGON, SIR

I FINALLY GOT THE RESPECT I DESERVE!

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE THIS TO GET TO D.C.?

ABOUT A WEEK

Blondie • Chic Young

BUMSTEAD, I'M IN A SLUMP, BOSS... I THINK I MAY'VE LOST LIKE YOU'VE MY SWAGGER BEEN SLEEP. WALKING ALL DAY!

YOUR SWAGGER?! BUMSTEAD, YOU NEVER HAD A SWAGGER TO BEGIN WITH!

WHY ARE YOU WALKING FUNNY, DAG?

I'M TRYING TO PROVE SOMETHING TO THE BOSS

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

I'D CHECK THE TRASH CANS...THE QUEEN IS IN THE MIDDLE OF SPRING CLEANING...

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

MY MOM FOUND ME A DATE FOR VALENTINE'S. THIS IS CARLA.

YES, CAHLA.

NO, CARLA

CAHLA

SHE'S A BOSTON TERRIER.

YES, BAWST IN.

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

I TOOK YOUR ADVICE, PUT MYSELF BACK OUT THERE AND GOT A DATE!

THAT'S GREAT NEWS, ALICE! FOR WHEN?

NEXT TUESDAY!

NEXT...YOU'RE GOING ON A FIRST DATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY?

ISN'T THAT FANTASTIC! IT'S LIKE A HIGHLY ABBREVIATED ROMANCE NOVEL!

ALICE, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD HE ASKED YOU ON A FIRST DATE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

OH, HERE WE GO...

EVERY TIME SOMEONE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT OR EXCITING OR SPONTANEOUS, YOU HAVE TO RUIN IT WITH YOUR "ADVICE."

THAT "ADVICE" IS WHAT STOPPED TED FROM TRYING TO COPY ICARUS WITH A HOMEMADE HANG GLIDER.

YOUR HUBBY'S A LOST CAUSE, SAL. JUST LET HIM BE.

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

WELL, YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BACHELOR WHEN ALL YOU CAN AFFORD IS RAMEN NOODLES

YEAH, BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY QUITE GOOD ONCE YOU ADD THE HOT WATER!

MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD HOT WATER

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

I THINK MY LIPS ARE TOO SKINNY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SNOOCH!

GOOD ANSWER.

I'M MOST ELOQUENT WHEN I DON'T SPEAK.



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Fudge recipe an old favorite

Dear Heloise: I cannot locate my HELOISE FUDGE RECIPE. Could you please reprint it? I would appreciate it very much! – Renee B., via e-mail

It's been a long time since this Heloise favorite recipe has been printed, so I am happy to oblige, Renee! To begin, gather the following ingredients:

- 4 1/2 cups granulated white sugar
 - 1 (12 ounce) can evaporated milk
 - 3 (6 ounce) packages chocolate chips
 - 1 (10 ounce) package mini- marshmallows
 - 1/2 cup butter or margarine (regular, not any low-fat or diet type)
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 2 cups chopped nuts (optional)
- Mix the sugar and milk in a large, heavy saucepan. Slowly bring the mixture to a rolling boil, and let boil for 7-8 minutes while stirring CONSTANTLY. Remove the pan from the heat, then add the chocolate chips, marshmallows and butter. Mix only until the chips and the marshmallows are melted (DON'T overmix). Next, add the vanilla extract and nuts (if using). Spread the mixture in a large, 13-by-9-inch ungreased pan. Let cool, and then you can enjoy this delicious fudge! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

FREEZING COOKIES

Dear Heloise: I freeze my cookies in metal tins, which only allow for one layer. So much space in the tin is wasted, along with space in the freezer.

Then I thought of this idea: I use the three-legged disc that you get in your delivered pizza. (Its purpose is to keep the box away from the pizza.) I place two to four of these discs between the cookies on the bottom layer. I place a piece of tinfoil- covered cardboard, cut to the size of the tin, on the discs and put a second layer of cookies on. The best part is that the discs are free!

For round cookies (such as buckeyes), I freeze them on a cookie sheet, then transfer to freezer bags for storage. – I.M., Newton Falls, Ohio

PIE-CRUST HINT

Dear Heloise: In addition to where the oven rack sits, a reason for a pie crust not baking properly is the time and temperature. I learned long ago to first preheat the temperature to 425 degrees every time. Place the pie in for 15 minutes and then turn to the temperature that the recipe calls for. Works every time! – Shirley S., Fort Wayne, Ind.

My Heloise Central assistant agrees with you! Just a reminder, though: If you are concerned about the edges burning, place aluminum foil around the edges and remove it for the last 10-15 minutes for that light-brown edging. – Heloise

COOKING TIMER

Dear Heloise: I bought an outdoor timer you can program for the hour you want on/off to turn my slow cooker into a smart one that will turn on and off when I want it to. – Sue W., New Bloomfield, Pa.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 2
♥ A 4
♦ Q J 8
♣ A Q 10 5 3

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ 7 2
♦ A 10 9 4 2
♣ J 9

EAST
♠ A K J 6 4
♥ 9 6
♦ K 5
♣ 8 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ Q
♥ K Q J 10 8 5 3
♦ 7 6 3
♣ K 6

The bidding:
West Pass
North 2 ♣
East 1 ♠
South 2 ♥
Opening lead — ten of spades.

The Philosophy of Defense

The principle that declarer's first aim is to make the contract has a corollary -- namely, that the defenders' first aim is to defeat the contract. It follows that there is a great similarity between declarer's approach to the play and a defender's approach to the defense.

When declarer is playing a contract, he dismisses from consideration any opposing distributions that would lead unconditionally to defeat. Instead, he concentrates solely on those distributions that would allow the contract to be made, and he plans his play accordingly.

A defender prepares his defense along similar lines. Although he cannot see declarer's hand, he should dismiss from consideration any holding that would render the contract indefensible -- that would amount to giving up. Instead, he should try to picture hands declarer might have that would render him vulnerable and then take direct aim at the vulnerable spot.

Getting down to cases, consider this deal from East's viewpoint. He wins the spade lead with the king, South contributing the queen. If East continues with a spade, South makes 12 tricks.

But East should not lead another spade at trick two since there is nothing to be gained by that play. East's goal is for his side to score four tricks, and, given the bidding, his own hand and the dummy's holding, this goal is not attainable if declarer has the ace of diamonds.

He therefore credits West with the ace, and once East does so, the best defense becomes self-evident. So he shifts to the king of diamonds, continues with the five and ruffs his partner's diamond return to defeat the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

Let's go, Mommy. It's STILL your move.

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/08

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.

Cryptoquip

FHP'Q ZNZP QGUPC OVHXQ

AHTIUPD RZ QH IHPLXRZ THHQ

NZDZQOVWZL. U FULWUCZ

QGZR, AHT VZZQ'L LOCZ!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TEAR-JERKING OLD SONG ABOUT A FAMOUS FONDA LOOKING BACK ON HER CHILDHOOD: "SENTIMENTAL JANIE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| ACROSS | 26 Discourteous | DOWN | 1 Expenditive | 12 Track components |
| 1 Prof's degree | 27 Debtor's letters | 2 Grant or | 14 Legal wrong | |
| 4 Pismire | 28 Trap | Jackman | 15 Agent | |
| 7 Rock music's | 30 Upper surface | 3 Dweller | 19 Clamptett | |
| 8 Circus performer | 33 Sooner | 4 Similar | 19 patriarch | |
| 10 Straight-en | State's second-largest | 5 Wanderer | 20 Packed away | |
| 11 More frosted | 36 Grow | 6 Castor or | 21 Yell | |
| 13 Sunflower | 37 Occupied | 7 Advertis-ing | 22 Grand | |
| State's largest city | 38 Needle cases | 8 Grouch | 23 Ringlet | |
| 16 Powell co-star | 39 Square | 9 Snuggle up | 24 Came up with | |
| 17 Gerry-mannered | 40 Suitable | 10 Piercing | 25 Humor | |
| | 41 Lair | tool | 26 Lawn care tools | |

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-8

	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			