

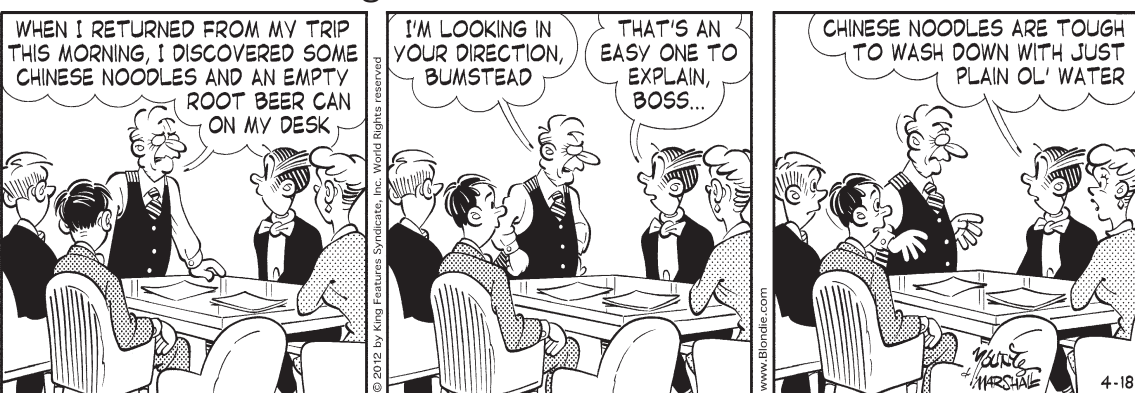
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



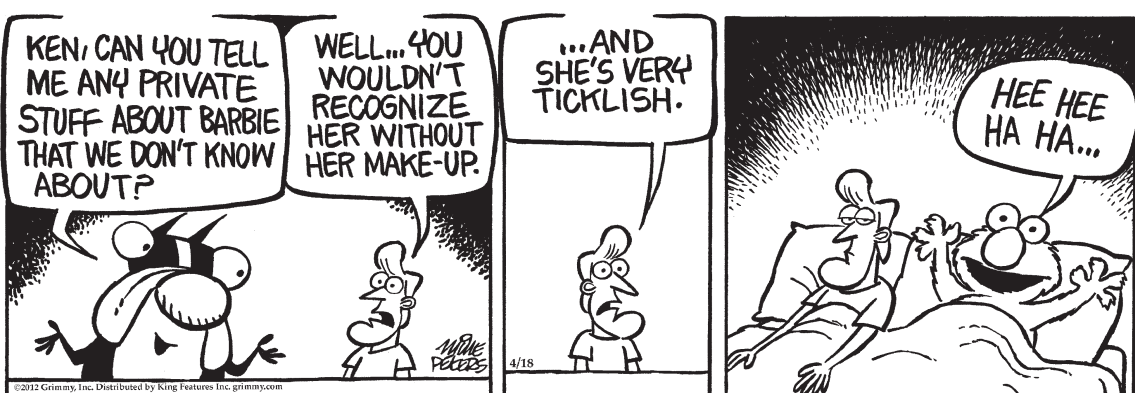
Blondie • Chic Young



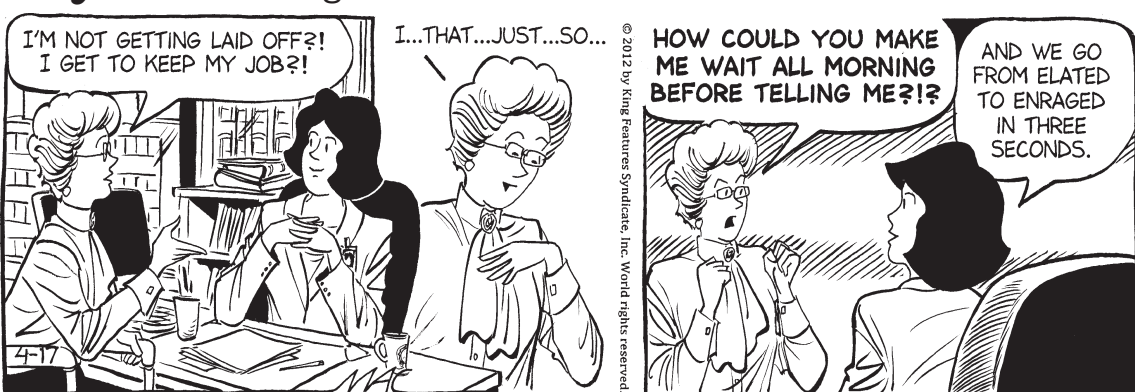
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise
Chopsticks serve in myriad ways

Dear Readers: Wow! I asked you for hints on using chopsticks, and boy, did you respond!

• Carol S., via e-mail, wrote: "I am a quilter, and many times I use chopsticks as a guide tool to help direct the fabric through the feed dogs (the metal teeth on the sewing machine - Heloise). Also, when turning something inside out that you want to have nice corners, use the chopsticks to smooth out the seams and form the corners."

• Mia P. in California wrote: "I use chopsticks to stir small items that I'm dyeing."

• Tony in California wrote: "As a clock repairman, I use chopsticks to hold various washers and parts to polish the brass. They do not break easily and are tapered to hold the part nicely."

• Kathy G., via e-mail, wrote: "I use chopsticks to stir iced tea if I add sugar or lemon. A quick rinse and wipe with a paper towel, and it goes back in the drawer."

Thanks one and all! - Heloise
SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
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SOFTENING BREAD
Dear Heloise: I bake bread a lot, and sometimes the crust on a fresh loaf hardens to the point of not being able to cut the bread. It doesn't often happen, but when it does, I wrap the loaf in a damp cloth and put it in a plastic bag overnight. By morning, the crust is soft, and cutting is no problem. - Joyce in Vienna, Va.

I love fresh-baked bread with some orange marmalade and a cup of coffee. My hint? I use a serrated bread knife. - Heloise

RECYCLE
Dear Readers: Who doesn't enjoy a taste of chocolate after a meal or as a treat during the day? Have you ever thought about the aluminum foil that the chocolates come wrapped in?

One major manufacturer uses more than 100 square miles of aluminum foil every day to produce just one type of treat. Aluminum foil can be recycled, so consider recycling these wrappers from now on. - Heloise

HEALTHIER CHOICE
Dear Heloise: As a busy mother of four boys, it is difficult to find things both tasty and healthy. Macaroni and cheese is a favorite, but nobody needs so much saturated fat. Instead of butter, I use 3 tablespoons of olive oil, and instead of dairy milk, I use soy milk.

For additional health, I buy the whole-grain pasta. Instantly, I have a dinner that is easy to make and easy to eat. - Margaret, via e-mail

REUSE
Dear Heloise: When you buy cookies or crackers with dividers in them - rinse and dry to use as drawer dividers. I use them in my bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and sewing room. They are free and come in many sizes and shapes. - Shirley M., Springfield, Ill.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A J 7 2
♥ 5 4
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A 7 5 3
WEST
♠ K 10 9
♥ A J 7 2
♦ 6 2
♣ Q 10 8 4
SOUTH
♠ Q 8 4
♥ K 9
♦ A K Q 10
♣ K J 9 2
EAST
♠ 6 5 3
♥ Q 10 8 6 3
♦ J 9 8 5
♣ 6

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠
Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead - two of hearts.

Everyone Starts With 13 Cards

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads his fourth-best heart, the deuce. You win East's queen with the king, and you see only seven sure winners - one spade, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs.

There are several ways to try to acquire one or two more tricks. The jack of diamonds might fall if you cash the A-K-Q, making your ten a trick; you might gain a trick by taking a spade finesse; and you might gain two tricks if the clubs are divided 3-2 and East has the queen.

No harm can come from first cashing the A-K of diamonds. When you do, both defenders follow suit, but the jack does not appear. You then try the clubs, leading the deuce to the ace and a low club back. When East shows out, your chances in that suit go down the drain.

Next you lead a low spade to the jack. When the finesse wins, you acquire your eighth trick. You could then lead a diamond toward your Q-10, but you'd be faced with a tough decision if East followed low. You wouldn't know whether to play the queen or the ten, and either play could sink you if you guessed wrong.

A much better idea is to cash dummy's ace of spades first. There are two great advantages to this play. One is that West's king might fall on the ace. The other is that if the king does not fall, you'll then know much more about West's hand.

In the actual case, West plays the ten of spades on the ace. This doesn't do your queen any good, but it does tell you that West - who is now known to have started with three spades, four hearts and four clubs - could not have had more than two diamonds originally.

Accordingly, you next lead a diamond from dummy and play the ten, supremely confident that the finesse will produce your ninth trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-18
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

KUTOZ FTV PYQZGVOXG
RUOFI ZGOZ ONXY XHTTIX QH
ZGT GTONLFK YW XYPT
HOLFWQN XYUTX: RNLXZTULFT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS WHOLE ROW OF AIR OUTLETS MIGHT BE MISBEHAVING. IT'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE VENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Painter
5 One time around
8 Over-confident
12 Do as you're told
13 Man-mouse link
14 Lima's land
15 Tofu
17 Falls behind
18 Divest
19 Compact piano
21 Money
22 Mel of baseball lore
25 Probability
28 Iodine source
30 "Rocks"
33 Finger's charge
34 Cars
35 Centille call
36 Peninsula st.
- DOWN**
1 Unruly groups
2 Encourage
3 Ca-
4 degree
5 "Skip to My -"
6 Timetable abbr.
7 Cushions
8 Bowler's problem
9 Interim
10 Incite
11 Sudden wind
16 Book-keeper (Abbr.)
20 Band in Boston?
22 Gull-like bird
23 Excited
25 Vacationing
26 Tierra Fuego
27 TV Super-man portrayer
29 Hang around
31 Miller Sebastian
32 A billion years
34 Wan
38 Secondary route
40 A million grams
42 Possess color
43 Changed
44 Continental coin
45 Sharp rebuke
47 Erstwhile Peruvian
48 Merganser duck
49 Fork-tailed fier
52 Before
53 Pump up the volume

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-18

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		42		
43	44			45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53				
54						55				56	
57							58			59	