

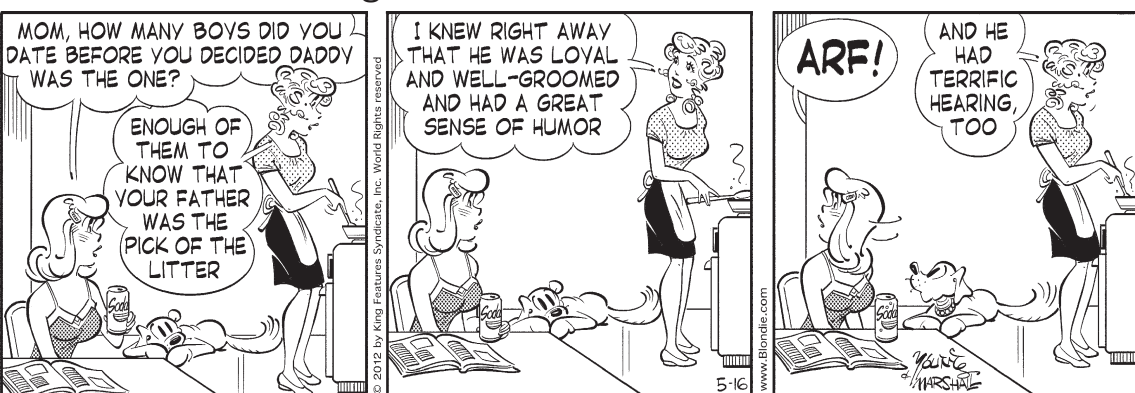
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



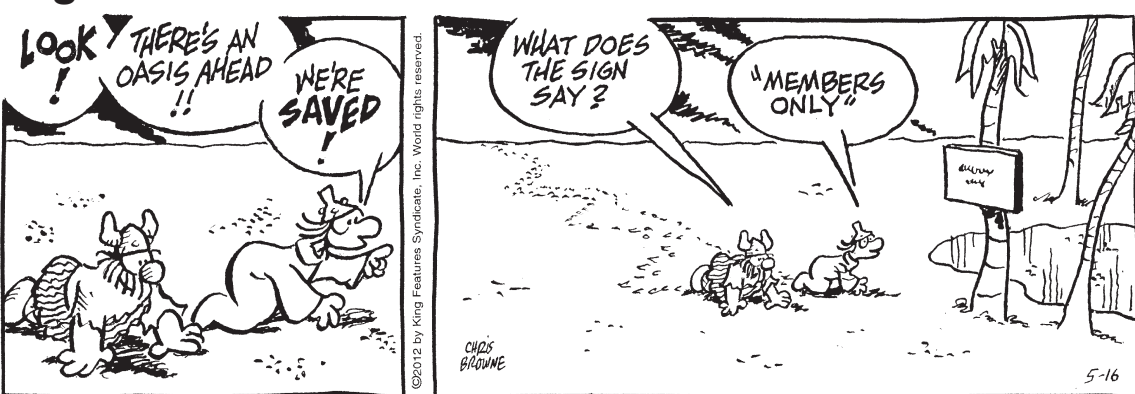
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



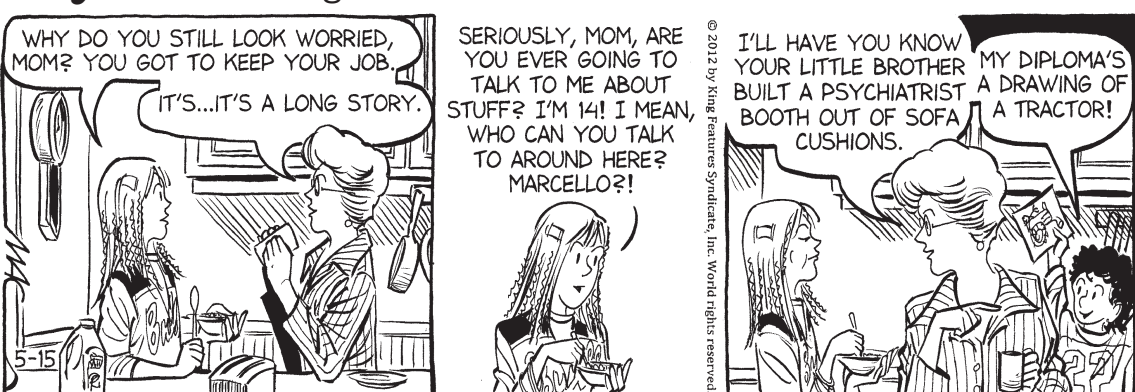
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



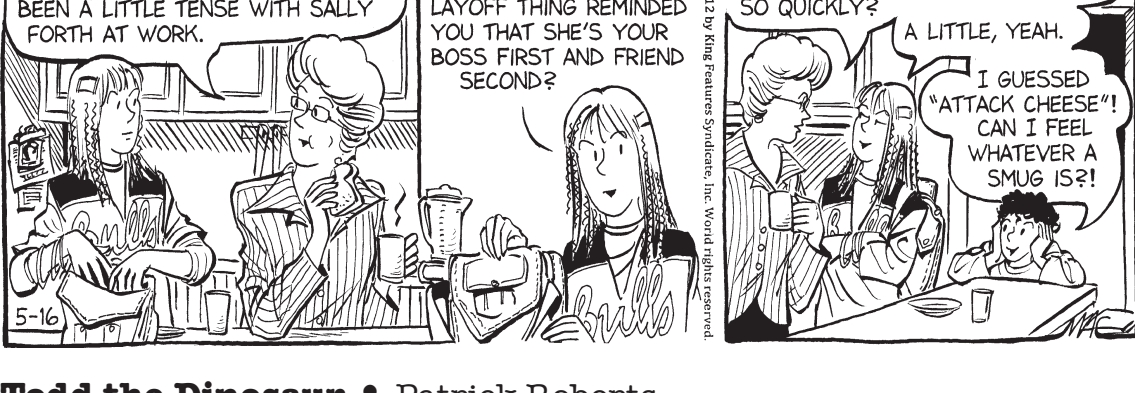
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Hardened salt knows no cure

Dear Heloise: I would like to know if there is any way to soften iodized table salt once it has hardened. — Elaine, via e-mail

Hmmm — a good question, especially if you live in a high-humidity area. There is no recommended way to soften iodized table salt once it has “caked,” which is caused by age and moisture, according to our source. A major manufacturer suggests throwing the salt away, but will offer a coupon if you call the company. Table salt usually is pretty cheap, too!

While on the topic of table salt, do you know what is added to salt to keep it from sticking together? The answer is calcium silicate, which is an anti-caking, odorless, tasteless, white substance that is mixed in with the salt.

Canning and pickling salt contain no additives at all, so they are even more likely to lump and harden when exposed to moisture. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
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San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
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REHEATING EGGS

Dear Heloise: To heat a hard-cooked egg (Heloise here: with no shell) in the microwave, push a wooden toothpick through the center. Place it on a microwave-safe plate or paper plate, with the toothpick pointed up to prevent the egg from exploding. Thirty seconds usually is enough time to make a tasty, warm egg. — Marcia in Manistee, Mich.

Marcia, this is a new hint! We had a lot of fun testing it in Heloise Central. Do be sure to cover the egg with a paper towel, just in case. — Heloise

P.S.: Saw a note posted on a microwave at a motel: “Do not heat hard-boiled eggs in the microwave!”

BROWN SUGAR

Dear Heloise: Instead of putting bread in the bag with brown sugar to keep it soft, put the sugar in a freezer bag without the original wrapping. Flatten it out while it is still soft and pack it down. Keep it in the freezer, and if it gets too hard, put it in the microwave for about half a minute.

You can measure and pack the sugar, when needed, from the outside of the bag. No sugar on your hands, and no soggy bread to pick out of the sugar. — T.O., via email

MAKING BREAD

Dear Heloise: My family enjoys the taste and smell of fresh-baked bread made in the bread machine. What we don't like is the amount of crust the bread machine produces. So we use the bread machine for the hard part, the mixing and kneading, but take the dough out of the machine before the baking starts and bake it in the oven. My mother mentioned this process for making bread to a friend, and the friend hadn't even thought of that possibility. — Linda in Bellevue, Neb.

LETTER OF LAUTER

Dear Heloise: When someone is trying to lose weight, he or she complains about losing it first in the face, and I have just discovered why.

It's from chewing all those leafy or raw and hard-as-a-rock, low-calorie vegetables. — Carolyn Moore, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 9 7 5 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ A

WEST
♠ Q 10 6
♥ J 10 9 7 3
♦ A
♣ Q J 6 4

EAST
♠ J 8 4
♥ K 8 5
♦ K 4
♣ 9 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A 3
♥ A 4
♦ J 10 9 7 6 2
♣ K 10 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♥
Pass Pass 4 ♦ Pass
5 ♦
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

The Vanishing Trick

There are many ways of arranging for a losing trick to disappear, but some of these are far less obvious than others.

Take this case where West leads a heart against five diamonds. Declarer plays dummy's queen, hoping West has led from the king, but when East covers the queen with the king, what could have been an easy assignment now appears to be an impossible one. It now seems he must lose two trumps and a heart and go down one.

But if South gives the matter serious thought, he should conclude that there is still a legitimate chance to make the contract. So he wins the heart with the ace, cashes the A-K of spades and ruffs a spade.

When the spades turn out to be divided 3-3, declarer's chances rise considerably. He next leads a club to the ace and returns the nine of spades.

With the opposing trumps situated as they are, there is nothing the defenders can do to stop the contract. If East discards, South pitches his heart loser, and West can do no better than ruff with the ace. East later scores a trump trick, but South takes the rest.

If East ruffs the nine of spades with the four, South discards his heart loser all the same. East wins the trick cheaply enough, but when he returns a heart, declarer ruffs and leads a trump. The A-K of trumps then come tumbling down together, and again the contract is home.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/16

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

Cryptoquip

Y DZVCN QTEEYZJ CZ ADZYL

QXZEW EC WTOH X ADJKDD

EOXE RODZ Y RDXK EODL

Y HXBB YE VDXZ EODKXQN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COUPLE OF SWEETHEARTS WHO DON'T SURVIVE AFTER FALLING INTO PAVING GOO: TAR-CROSSED LOVERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gratuities e.g.
 - 5 Scott Pelley's network
 - 8 Nile serpents
 - 12 Nut companion
 - 13 Pendulum's place?
 - 14 Halt
 - 15 Use a telescope, maybe
 - 17 Story
 - 18 Check recipient
 - 19 Bone innards
 - 21 Eastern potentate
 - 24 Scepter
 - 25 Nuisance
 - 28 Expansive
 - 30 Grecian vessel
 - 33 Stolen
 - 34 Notes from the boss
 - 35 Seek damages
 - 36 "CSI" evidence
 - 37 Catch sight of
- DOWN**
- 38 Mulligan, e.g.
 - 39 Fish eggs
 - 41 Protected
 - 43 Will subject
 - 46 Poetic feet
 - 50 Gossip
 - 51 Top film of 1977
 - 54 Merriment
 - 55 Help
 - 56 Leading man?
 - 57 BPOE members
 - 58 Work with
 - 59 Longings
 - 4 Avenue keeper (Abbr.)
 - 5 Book-keeper
 - 6 Occupation, for short
 - 7 From — to stern
 - 8 The Jetsons' dog
 - 9 Hoagy Carmichael classic
 - 10 Game on horseback
 - 11 Jet forth
 - 16 Jewel meas.
 - 20 — and crafts
 - 22 Folk-singer
 - Burl
 - 23 Freeway exits
 - 25 Third degree?
 - 26 A billion years
 - 27 Space program?
 - 29 Nutritious bean
 - 31 Wish otherwise
 - 32 Fresh
 - 34 Encounter
 - 38 Shipping lane
 - 40 Author Joyce Carol —
 - 42 Evergreen type
 - 43 Advantage
 - 44 Window ledge
 - 45 Birthright
 - 47 Put together
 - 48 Cereal choice
 - 49 Doctrines
 - 52 "— the season ..."
 - 53 Summery quaff



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		