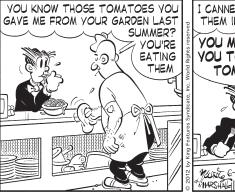


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



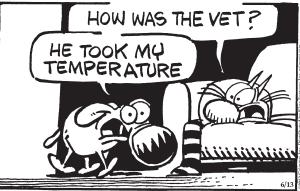




Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters





Sally Forth • Greg Howard









Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Hints can help instant coffee

Dear Heloise: I am writing to ask if you know the best way to make a "good" cup of instant coffee. Many years ago, your mother printed some hints concerning instant coffee, and it did help! Joyce S., Findlay, Ohio

Joyce, you made me smile thinking of my mother, the original Heloise (1919-1977). Here are some hints for you to try: Always start with fresh, cold water. Boil the water. Add the correct coffee amount, according to the brand's directions, to a cup, add water and stir. Try using a small whisk or even a fork to stir it, instead of a spoon, and add a pinch of salt. For more hints and recipes on coffee and tea, send for my Heloise's Flavored Coffee and Teas pamphlet. To order, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If lemons are too expensive, but you still want the flavor in your tea, just add half a teaspoon of powdered lemonade mix! – Heloise

CONTAINED CAKE

Dear Heloise: My hint has to do with the tall, plastic cake containers that you get when you buy a layer cake or angel-food cake at the supermarket. When the cake is gone, these containers can be washed, dried and kept for taking your own cakes to bake sales and church functions. The tall covers stack inside each other to make it easy to store until needed. The labels can be removed by soaking. The cake will stay fresh, as these containers lock together. - Sandy in Lubbock, Texas

CLEANING OVEN RACK Dear Heloise: Please help. I am looking for a

way to clean my oven racks. - Narvella in Cleveland Yuck! They can be pretty dirty and a chore

to clean. Put the dirty oven racks inside a large, sturdy, plastic garbage bag, and spray both sides with oven cleaner. Close up the bag and let it sit for several hours or overnight in a safe place so children and pets don't get to it. Carefully discard the bag and rinse the racks clean with water. Rarely does it take any scrubbing (if you've covered the racks well with oven cleaner). Hope this helps. – Heloise P.S.: Work in a well-ventilated area, or even

better, take them outside.

HELPFUL HINT

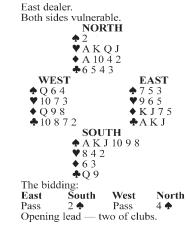
Dear Heloise: I read your column every day H W T and love all the hints that are shared. I thought I'd share this one: I was opening a can of soup with the "easy-open lid," but my problem was that it really wasn't so easy! I used a handle on a wooden spoon to slip through the hole and put some leverage on it, and, with very little pressure, the lid started opening. – Charlotte H., via e-mail

SCRAMBLED EGGS

Dear Heloise: When cooking scrambled eggs, spray the spatula with oil before stirring the eggs in the pot. This will keep the eggs from sticking to the plastic, metal or wooden utensil. - Molly, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker



The Logic of Defense

Despite the uncertainties the defenders face during the play, they can nearly always achieve the best result possible with the cards they hold if they put their minds to it.

Take this case where South got to four spades as shown, and West led the club deuce. East cashed the A-K, catching declarer's queen, and continued with a club. South ruffed and played the A-K and another trump, West taking the queen. Declarer won West's diamond return and cashed dummy's hearts, discarding a diamond to make four spades.

The contract would have failed, however, had East made the proper return of a diamond instead of a club at trick three. Declarer would then have lost a diamond trick, in addition to two clubs and a spade, and gone down one. It may be argued that the diamond return by

East at trick three, from a holding of K-J-7-5, is much easier to make when you see all four hands instead of two, since South might have had the queen. But, even so, the diamond return is absolutely correct under the circumstances. All that is needed to reach this conclusion is to

assume that South, for his weak two-bid, has a six-card trump suit in addition to the Q-x of clubs he has already shown up with. It follows that declarer has no more than five cards in the red suits, and, no matter how these are distributed, they will eventually be taken care of by dummy's five high-card winners if declarer is allowed to proceed at his own pace. Consequently, no harm can come from return-

ing a diamond even if South has the queen. At the same time, the diamond return is essential in nearly all cases where declarer does not have the queen. The club return, by contrast, cannot gain no matter what South's hand is and so should be excluded from consideration.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How do I know which is the front and which is the back of my sock? There's no label in it."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

	6	1	9					
9				3		4	5	
9 5 8			2		1			
8		9		1	2			
	3		5	6		2		
		2	5 3		7	9		
	9			5	8		2	6
	8					7	3	
						5		
Difficu	lty Lev	el ★★	*			-		6/13

This is a logic-based num-

ber placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 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.

6	3	8	7	4	9	5	2	-
4	7	1	5	8	2	6	9	3
9	2	5	6	1	3	7	4	8
1	6	9	4	5	7	3	8	2
2	8	7	3	6	1	4	5	Ç
3	5	4	2	9	8	1	6	7
5	1	2	8	7	6	9	3	4
8	9	6	1	3	4	2	7	Ę
7	4	3	9	2	5	8	1	6
Difficulty Level ★								

Cryptoquip

YJVE WZ EBD GDDPDCX GBDC

OARYKH ZDDK KAPD

SWMMKACS FWKX FWRZWVE

ZWWX: AFD-FVDJR OTCXJH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A RECLUSE PUT A TOP ON THIS CONTAINER TIGHTLY, I'D IMAGINE IT'S HERMIT-ICALLY SEALED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y

2 Smutty

matter

22 One way

to stand

master-

work

whale

43 Floating

44 Notion

47 Prima

48 Don

45 Unsettled

donna

Juan's

mother

49 Shrek,

ice mass

42 Killer

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

39 Book-

keeper

ACROSS

1 Church

section	(Abbr.)	3 Graceful	by:
5 Pump	41 Winter	bird	23 Bosc and
up the	forecast	4 Portu-	Bartlett
volume	43 Two-piece	guese	25 Sch. org.
8 Blue	suit	pre-euro	26 Conger,
hue	46 Marconi's	money	for one
12 Columns'	medium	5 Foreman	27 Between-
crossers	50 Actress	foe	meals
13 Grazing	Falco	6 Chaps	activity
land	51 Contro-	7 Senate	29 Soon
14 Crooned	versial oil-	staffer	31 Pond
15 One	extraction	8 Pale	carp
use for	method	9 Duck-	32 ld coun-
a GPS	54 Land-	speak	terpart
17 Tresses	lord's due	10 One	34 Musial of
18 Boredom	55 Enjoyment	11 Taj	baseball
19 Volcanic	56 Always	Mahal	38 Blew
spewings	57 Lady —	city	reveille
21 Faucet	58 Still	16 White	40 Michel-
problem	59 Stupefy	wine	angelo

20 Leave

cocktail

at the

altar

action 30 Eisenhower 33 X rating? 34 Point of

view 35 Yuletide beverage **36** — carte **37** Novice

24 Squid

squirt

25 Mexican

28 Trans-

money

premium

38 Exchange S U

1 Johnson

of comedy

52 Regret 53 Pismire Yesterday's answer 6-13 30 31 35 39

55