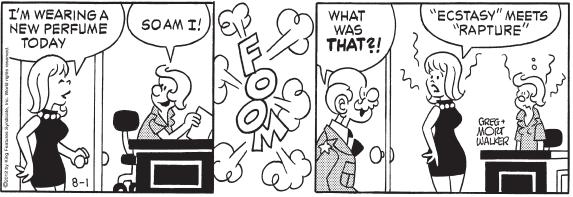


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Heloise Hints from Heloise Now filter out coffee problems

Dear Heloise: I always wet a paper coffee filter before inserting it in the coffee maker. This way, it adheres to the sides of the filter chamber and does not fold over once the coffee starts percolating or dripping. It prevents the coffee grinds from floating down into the coffeepot. - Susan B., Edison, N.J.

A hint that prevents one of those little annoying things can start the day off right. This is good for all coffee drinkers. I start my day with coffee and have coffee-blend recipes you can make yourself, such as Mocha, Vienna and Orange, in my Heloise's Flavored Coffees and Teas pamphlet. To order, send \$3 with a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee & Tea, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. After dumping the used filter and grounds, put a new filter in the coffee maker so it's ready for the next time. - Heloise

CONDIMENT COMBINATIONS

Dear Readers: Many of us have a hodgepodge of fast-food condiment packets. In a college dorm or traveling on the road, these packets can be essential in making a few extra staples:

• Ketchup + soy sauce = barbecue sauce

• Soy sauce + sugar packets = teriyaki sauce • Crushed red pepper + soy sauce = hoisin

sauce

• Ketchup + crushed red pepper = cocktail sauce

• Mayonnaise + relish = tartar sauce

Enjoy the taste of convenience turned homestyle! If you have a wacky combination, write to let me know at: Heloise/Condiments, Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or e-mail me at Heloise(at)Heloise.com. - Heloise

BE MORE SPECIFIC

Dear Heloise: Why not encourage the next generation of cooks by stating in recipes the kind of onion and measurable quantity? There are so many sizes and varieties of onions, and the amount and taste can make or break a recipe. "Chop one onion" doesn't cut it. If ingredients are vague on a recipe, only experienced cooks can figure it out. - Joan P., via e-mail

You do have a valid point. Many times, the size or kind of onion may not make a difference (if it's a pot of chili or soup, for example), but with some recipes, it might. Thanks. - Heloise

MARSHMALLOW MAGIC

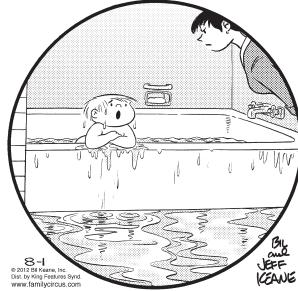
Dear Heloise: To keep brown sugar soft, I use two large marshmallows in a small bowl of about kitchen counter. Just drop the marshmallows in and keep the bowl covered tightly. No need to stir the sugar. - Lana D. in North Carolina

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH ***** 8 6 5 ♦ A I 7 6 5

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I was just doing my Michael Phelps imitation.'

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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This is a logic-based num-

ber 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.

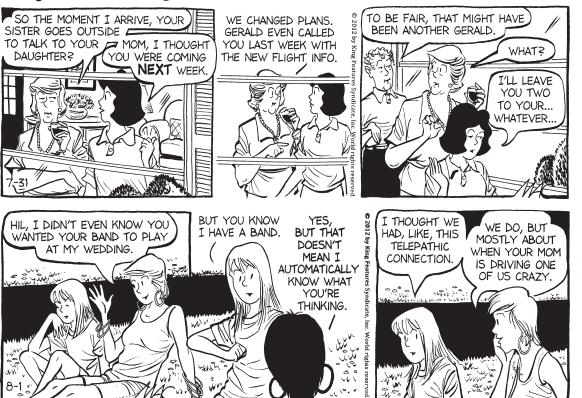
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Cryptoquip

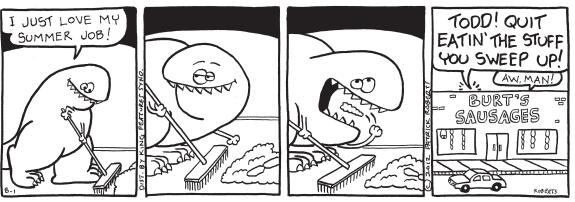
KRAB Y XVSEVBCO KDBA DW EUUC, XVG GUU SAC, DG 3 cups of brown sugar that I keep handy on my ISUXYXQO WIABG KYO GUU QUBE DB GRA GYBBDB XUUGR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOSCOW HAS AN INVIGORATING EFFECT ON US. EVERY TIME WE ARE THERE WE GET A RUSSIA ENERGY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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100 Percent Efficiency

This deal occurred in a high-level pair championship. At all five tables where the hand was played, the contract was three notrump, with South as declarer, and at each table South found the winning line of play to make the contract.

Despite the identical outcome at each table, it 2 is safe to say that many declarers facing exactly 24 the same situation would have gone down. Superficially, there seems to be nothing to the play, 28 but that's exactly what makes it so easy to go wrong.

It appears to be normal to win the opening 3spade lead with the queen, play the queen of diamonds and finesse. But in the actual deal, this approach proves fatal after East takes the queen 3° with the king and returns a spade. When the diamonds turn out to be divided 4-2 rather than 3-3, South can do no better than go down one.

But the correct method of play -- adopted by all five expert declarers -- makes the contract and, in fact, produces 10 tricks. Instead of leading the queen of diamonds at trick two, South should enter dummy with a club and lead a low diamond toward the Q-2!

What can East do in that case? If he rises with the king, South scores four diamond tricks. If East plays low instead, declarer wins with the queen and leads a diamond to the ace, felling East's king. South then continues with the jack and another diamond, and once again scores four diamond tricks.

Declarer should reason that if the opposing diamonds are divided 3-3, it makes no difference whether he starts the suit from his own hand or from dummy. But if the diamonds are 4-2, South does better in the long run by initiating the suit from dummy.

True, if either opponent has four diamonds to the king, declarer's play does not matter -- he goes down either way. But if West has four without the king, as in the actual deal, leading the first diamond from dummy is an absolute must.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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