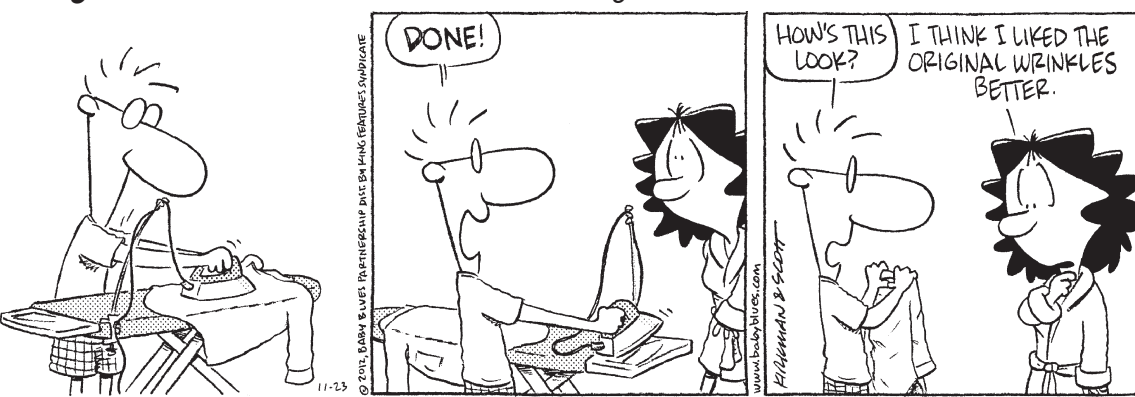


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



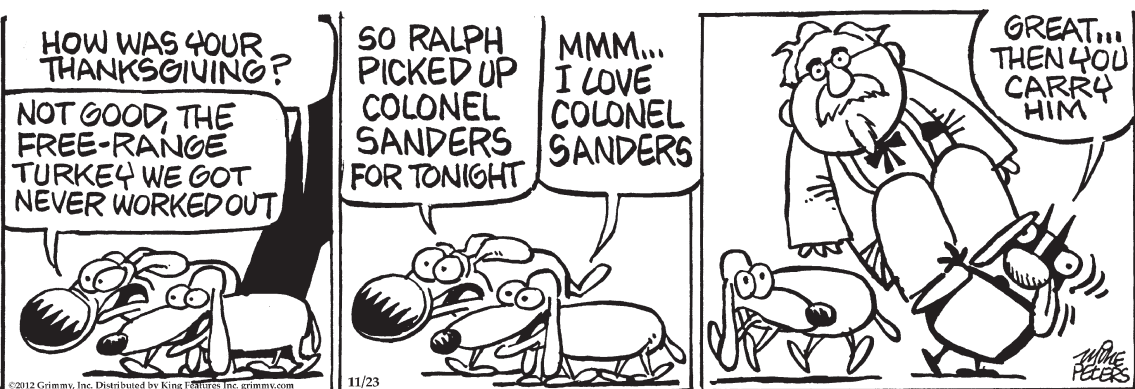
Blondie • Chic Young



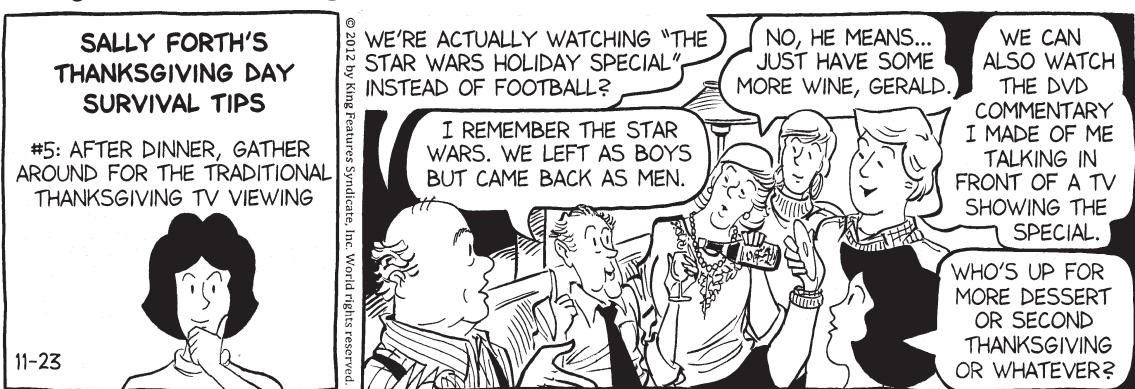
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



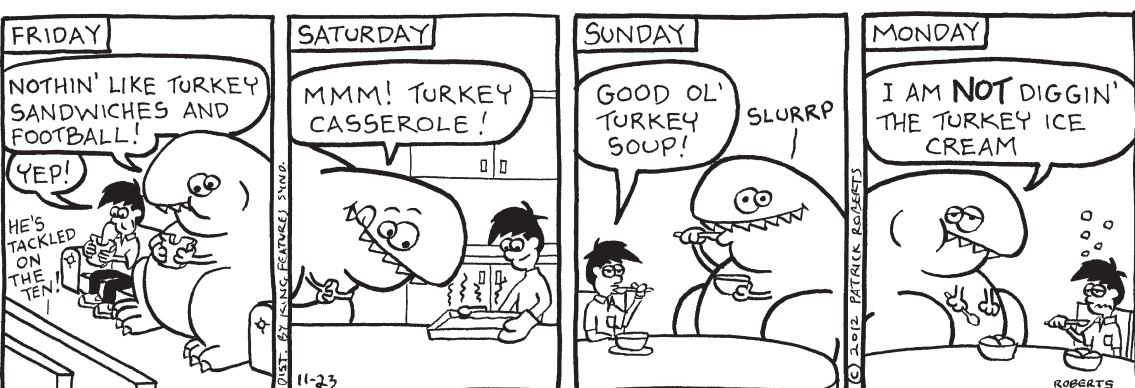
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



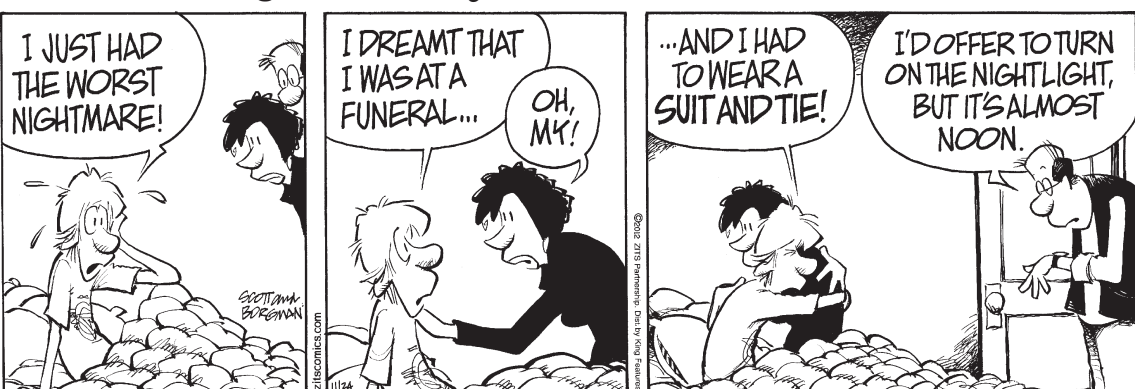
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Readers share uses of litter tubs

Dear Readers: You are so creative! So many of you wrote in about reusing cat-litter tubs. Here are a few more of the amazing things you do with them:

- Diane in New Jersey wrote: "Use them to store sand/salt for icy driveways and walkways. They are much easier to carry than the awkward bags that sand and salt come in."
- Kathleen in Arkansas wrote, "I use them on my deck to store hand tools."
- Eileen, via e-mail, wrote: "We get our cat litter at a pet and feed store here in California that sells by the pound. We take in our own containers to refill, and it costs a fraction of buying the already-filled tubs."
- Victoria in Texas wrote: "I use old cat-litter containers as a slow-watering mechanism for trees. Simply use a nail to put five or six holes in the bottom, then fill them with water and place them around the root systems of trees."
- Sharon, via e-mail, wrote: "I use mine to collect rainwater."
- Edie in Illinois wrote: "We use them in our greenhouse as supports for shelving and outdoors as support for potting-bench shelving."

Thank you for all the letters and great hints, and I really love the one about buying cat litter at a feed store! — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

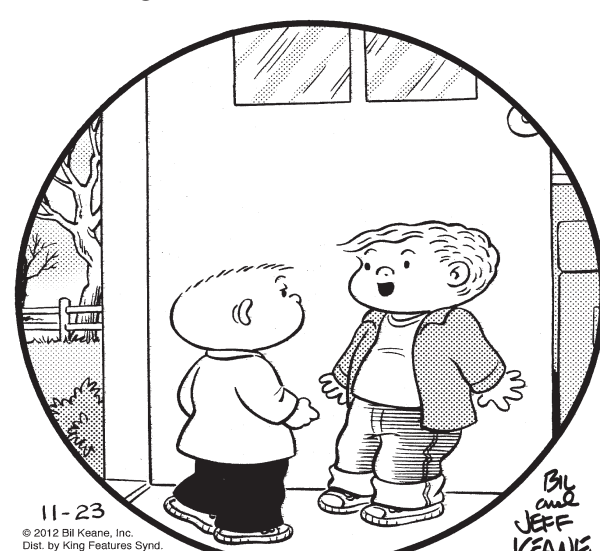
EXTRA CHARGE
Dear Heloise: I often forget to charge my cell-phone, and it will lose power in the middle of my day. I had an extra cellphone charger at home. I brought it to work and leave it in my desk. That way, if my phone is dying, I can charge it at work and get through the day. — Sandy in Utah

TRAVEL HINT
Dear Heloise: In response to the tip about night lights at motels, another idea would be a "glow stick" that children usually have during Halloween. Glow sticks come in packets, are inexpensive and the light lasts for many hours. They have a variety of colors, so you could choose a colored one for a "soft" light, or a clear or yellow one for a brighter light. They can be hung by the string included, or just laid on a countertop. They also are excellent to have on hand for power outages and are safer than candles. — Becky in Louisiana

PAYDAY DUTIES
Dear Heloise: I have found a system for paying bills that has helped me to never miss a payment. I get paid every other Friday. On paydays, I sit down and pay all the bills that need to be paid in the next two weeks. I utilize online banking, so everything is paid on that Friday, and then for the next two weeks, I am not stressing about whether I have to make a payment. I know everything has already been paid. — A Reader, via e-mail

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I'm gonna hold the door open till Mommy comes and plays her 'IN OR OUT' game."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

H D E M B I D B S R C V Q Y V S A R I
N G N R M M Z E O X V M X B W A N M F Z
H R Q X B D E Y M B G , I D E G
G F E Q S E G D H R G R I R O F M B G G C V A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THE POPULAR FOLKSINGER BECAME AN AVID BEEKEEPER, HE CHANGED HIS NAME TO BURL HIVES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the K-Q of clubs, which you duck, and then the jack, on which South shows out. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ K J 10 5
♥ A K 8
♦ A Q
♣ A 9 4 2

EAST
♠ Q 8 2
♥ Q 6 5 4
♦ J 7 4 3
♣ 8 6

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the five of hearts. You win South's nine and return a high heart. North takes the ace and returns the heart eight, which you win, South having discarded two diamonds. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ K 10
♥ K Q J 10 4 3
♦ K 6
♣ J 8 6

EAST
♠ J 7 5
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A 4
♣ A K 10 9 3

Test Your Play
1. If North has the ace of spades, you cannot make the contract, so you must assume South has the ace.

However, it would be wrong to lead a spade at this point because South would win and most likely return a diamond. You would then be faced with the critical decision as to whether to take the diamond finesse or rely on a 3-3 heart break instead — and you would have no way of knowing which to do.

You can avoid this dilemma by first cashing the A-K-Q of hearts. If the suit divides 3-3, you cash the fourth heart and then force out the ace of spades to assure nine tricks. If the hearts turn out to be divided 4-2, you can then fall back on the diamond finesse to try to make the contract.

By testing the hearts before attacking spades, you give yourself two chances to succeed instead of just one.

2. There is a possibility of scoring the rest of the tricks by taking a club finesse, but there is also the possibility of going down if the finesse loses to the queen and South returns a spade, putting you in position to lose two spade tricks.

You can guarantee the contract against any lie of the cards by crossing to dummy with a diamond and leading a low spade toward your hand. Let's assume South follows low and you lose the ten to the queen.

This is no great hardship because whatever North returns, you win and next force out the ace of spades, establishing dummy's jack as a trick on which you can discard a club. The most you can lose with this approach is a heart and two spades.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Several scenes	4 Track circuit	7 Root for	12 Feathery accessory	13 Actress Thurman	14 Sill	15 Branch	16 Joey and his parents?	18 Hi-tech SFX	19 Be philanthropic	22 Author Brown	23 Got up	27 Vast expanse	29 Successful horticulturist	31 Upright	34 Pint fraction	35 Hitting sound	37 Plead	38 Gardener, at times	39 Hosp. section	DOWN	21 PBS curmudgeon	23 Coarse	24 Possess	25 Moment	26 Before	28 And the like (abbr.)	30 Fish eggs	31 Biblical verb suffix	32 Pi	33 follower	36 Chicken	37 Ammo unit	40 Staff leaders?	42 Wicker-work willow	43 Loud	44 Upper crust	45 Wagers	46 Pace	48 Tier	49 Raw rock	50 Sapporo sash	51 Round Table address
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Yesterday's answer 11-23

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	