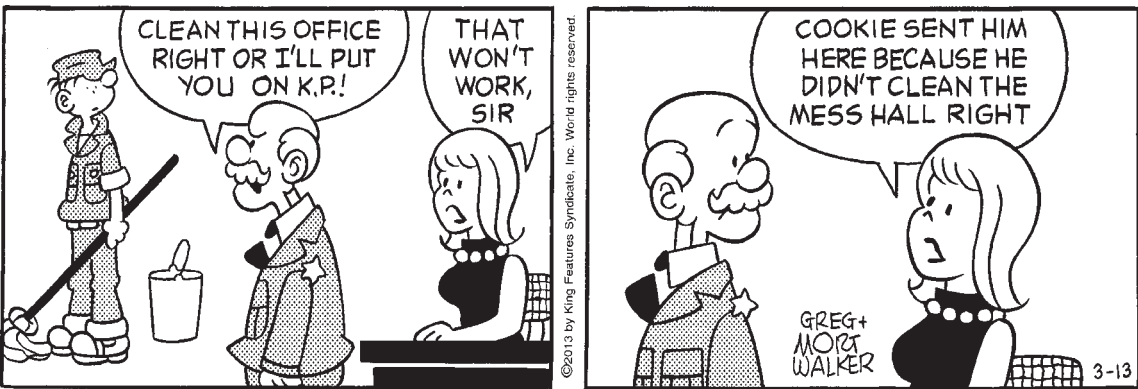


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



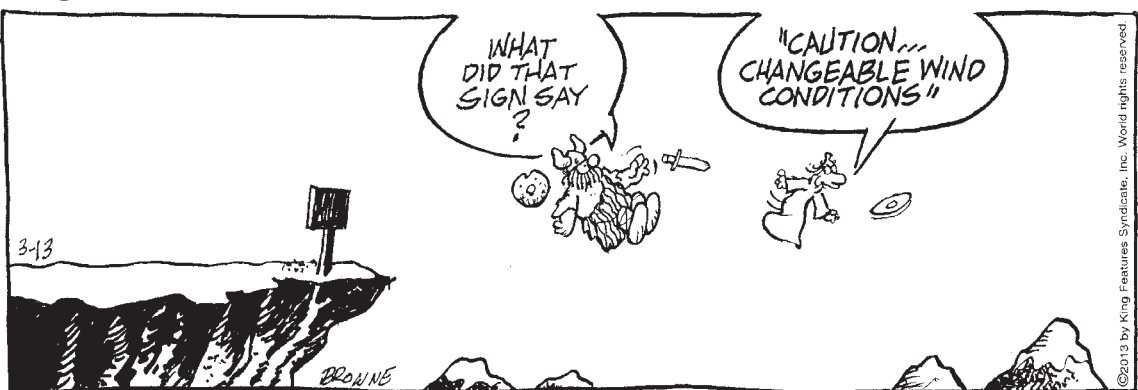
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



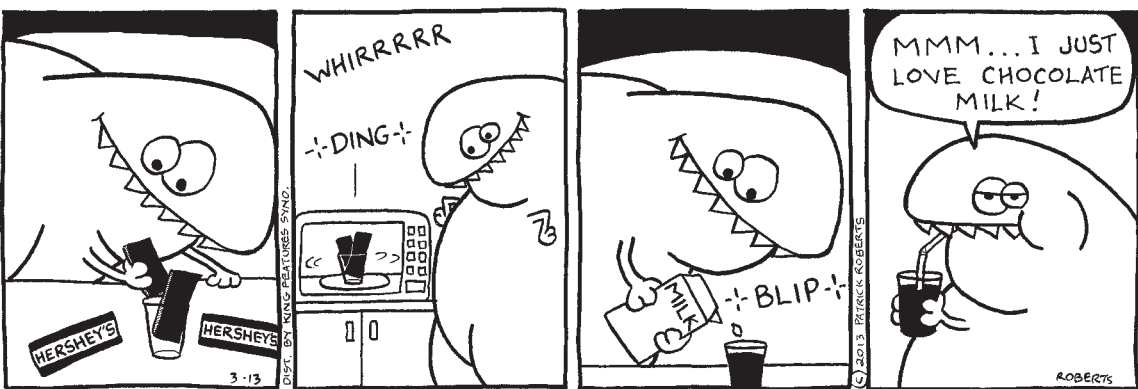
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



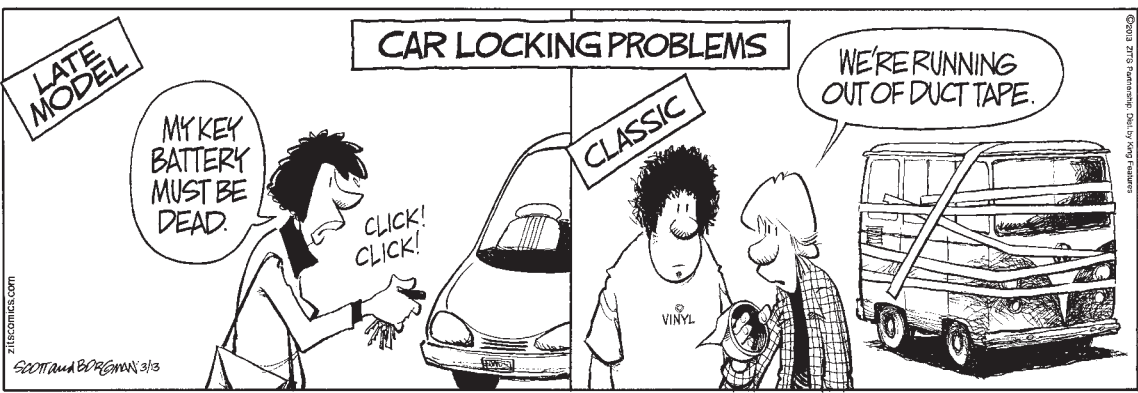
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Liquid or dry, does cup matter?

Dear Heloise: Is there a difference between liquid and dry measuring cups? I know there are cups made for wet ingredients and ones for dry ingredients, but does it really matter which one I use? – Linda W. in Indiana

A cup is a cup by liquid or dry “volume.” A liquid measuring cup typically is glass or plastic so you can see through it, and the measurements are written on the side. It has a spout with a handle on the side for pouring. A 1- or 2-cup probably is the most-used cup in American homes. I have three: two 2-cup ones and one 1-cup one, and two sets of dry measuring cups.

Dry measuring cups may be made of plastic or metal and have a flat top. These usually come in sets starting with 1/4 cup, 1/3 cup and up to 1 cup. Some are attached by a ring. They are designed for you to fill with dry ingredients and then use a knife or spatula to level it off.

However, it may matter which one you use, particularly when baking. Most baking uses measurements that are precise, and it is difficult to measure dry ingredients accurately in a liquid 1- or 2-cup measuring cup. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

SLICED BUTTER

Dear Heloise: I am a butter lover. Knowing when to take the butter out of the refrigerator so it will be spreadable is something I have never been able to master. Softening it in the microwave doesn't work for me, either.

I use my cheese slicer for my butter. This slicer is the planer or server type, not the wire type. It will slide across the top of the stick of butter and produce long, thin sections that melt quickly and evenly for my toast, pancakes and waffles. I use what is left over for cooking. – Susan R. in Virginia

NO MESS

Dear Heloise: I always have green olives in my refrigerator. I use my melon baller, which has a small hole in the center, to get the olives out of the jar. I can do this without contaminating the brine. I also am able to drain the brine because of the small hole, leaving me with just the olives, and no messy liquid everywhere. – Diane J., via e-mail

OIL COATING

Dear Heloise: When I make bread recipes calling for 3 tablespoons of honey or molasses, I find it exasperating to wait for the first tablespoon to drain so I can add the next. If the recipe also calls for oil, I add the oil first, then measure the sweetener using the now-oil-coated spoon. It pours out in a flash. – Mary D. in Virginia

ADD OATMEAL

Dear Heloise: I read your hints often, and I have something to share with your readers. I use oatmeal instead of breadcrumbs when I make meatloaf or salmon patties. It works well, you don't even taste the oatmeal, and it's healthy. – E.S. in Louisiana  
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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♥ K 10 4  
♦ Q J 8  
♣ J  
♠ K Q J 9 5 3

**WEST**  
♥ 6 3  
♦ K 10 6 5 2  
♣ 9 7 6 5 3  
♠ 4

**EAST**  
♥ A 8 5  
♦ 7 3  
♣ Q 10 8 4 2  
♠ A 10 2

**SOUTH**  
♥ Q J 9 7 2  
♦ A 9 4  
♣ A K  
♠ 8 7 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♣

Opening lead — four of clubs.

The Long-Term View

A defender has the same obligation as a declarer to plan the play of a hand. His one goal -- to defeat the contract -- should take precedence over all other considerations.

Consider this case where West leads the four of clubs, won by East with the ace. It is not difficult for East to deduce that the club lead is a singleton, as there is no other club holding West can have that would justify his lead of the four.

But if East impulsively returns a club, declarer makes the contract. South loses only a club, a club ruff and a trump. Furthermore, East should realize that a club return is very likely to produce this result.

Instead, East should shift to a heart at trick two. He must assume that unless his partner has the ace of diamonds or a heart trick (either the ace or king), there is little hope for the defense. He should reason that an immediate club return can be postponed until later in the play, but that returning a heart cannot be delayed.

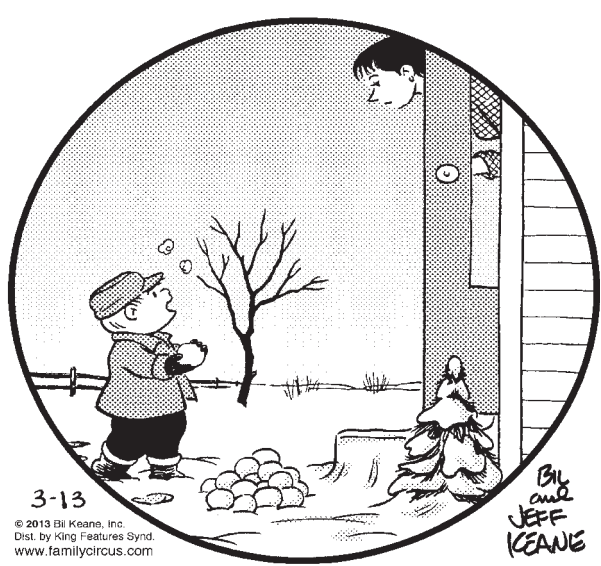
Once East returns a heart, South has had it. If he finesses, as he almost surely would do, West wins with the king and returns a heart.

Declarer wins with dummy's jack and leads a spade. East rises with the ace and returns a club. West ruffs and returns a heart for East to ruff, and South finishes down two.

The long-term view, formulated at the outset, pays off in the end. All East need do is to think about the hand as a whole before impulsively returning a club at trick two.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

3/13

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

VMKL S CKNDRL BLREBJLI

FRVL CJLD FKEJFKD HR

VKSN S MSH, J IZKDD JH

DMRZPF OK S ORVPKN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS A RECENT MOTHER, THAT NOCTURNAL FLYING INSECT DEFINITELY HAS A LOT OF HUNGRY MOTHS TO FEED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Long sandwich
  - 4 Loathe
  - 8 Den
  - 12 Web address
  - 13 Pianist
  - 14 Competent
  - 15 Swelled head
  - 16 India's movie industry
  - 18 Happen again
  - 20 Thanks-giving veggie
  - 21 "Show Boat" composer
  - 24 Club used in sand traps
  - 28 Robin Hood's forest
  - 32 Night light
  - 33 Tin container
  - 34 Japanese wrestlers
  - 36 Movie trickery, for short
  - 37 Declare
- DOWN**
- 1 Litigious one
  - 2 Incite
  - 3 United nations
  - 4 New Testament book
  - 5 I love (Lat.)
  - 6 Up to
  - 7 — May Clampett
  - 8 Marshals et al.
  - 9 Blood-group letters
  - 10 Dockworkers' org.
  - 11 Roulette bet
  - 17 Deviate off course
  - 19 Kiev's country (Abbr.)
  - 22 Libertine
  - 23 "— is an island"
  - 25 Erté's style
  - 26 Full of energy
  - 27 Oklahoma city
  - 28 "The Lion King" villain
  - 29 Own
  - 30 Organic compound
  - 31 Amount of medicine
  - 35 Fame
  - 38 Hot dog
  - 40 Like some humor
  - 42 Feline
  - 45 "— the night before ..."
  - 47 Smear
  - 48 Otherwise
  - 49 Clarinetist's need
  - 50 Space
  - 51 Fish eggs
  - 52 Santa — winds
  - 53 Frequently, in verse
  - 54 Raw rock

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

Yesterday's answer 3-13

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
50	51	52			53	54			55	
56					57				58	
59					60				61	