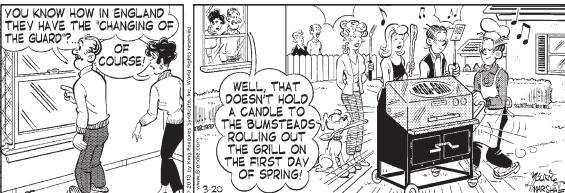


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Dear Heloise: Winter seems to call for a hearty soup. I use orzo, quick barley or mini gnocchi to thicken soups. They are a nice change from adding instant potatoes. - Mary in New Mexico

Mary, thanks for the hint! Your suggestions are perfect as a quick substitute rather than the old standbys! By adding any of the ingredients you listed, you can control the amount of liquid in the soup and make it heartier. Soups make such great economical meals, which is why I collected my favorite soup recipes and put them in my Heloise's Spectacular Soups pamphlet. To receive one, you just need to send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/ Soup, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To save money, instead of using meat (as a protein) in soup, replace with beans, dried peas or lentils. Open a can of beans, rinse well with water, drain and add to the pot. - Heloise

BREADCRUMBS

Dear Heloise: I hear a lot about panko breadcrumbs and notice them more often in the stores. How are they used in cooking? - Betty S., via e-mail

Panko breadcrumbs can be used just like ordinary breadcrumbs. Add to meatloaf, crab cakes or meatballs as a binding agent, or use as a topping on your favorite casseroles or soup. Finally, of course, use to coat foods like chicken or fish.

Panko (Japanese for "breadcrumbs") is made from special bread that has no crust. Because of the delicate texture, they are very crisp, and are lighter than ordinary breadcrumbs. Most panko is unseasoned, so you can add your own spices and flavors to what you are cooking. Go ahead and give them a try! – Heloise

FRIED DRESSING

Dear Heloise: There wasn't enough space in my oven, and my slow cooker did not work when I was making turkey dressing.

Guests were arriving, and I came up with this hint: I took my frying pan out and sprayed it with oil. I placed the homemade dressing in the pan, turning it often while frying until it was nice and brown. Guests said the dressing was delicious, and nobody knew the difference. – Patsy W. in Colorado

BUTTERMILK SUBSTITUTE

Dear Readers: No buttermilk in the refrigerator and you need it now? Before you run to the store, look in your kitchen for vinegar or lemon juice and whole milk. Place 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in a liquid measuring cup, and add whole milk to the 1-cup line. Let this sit at least five minutes to "curdle," then stir and ta-da – buttermilk. - Heloise

P.S.: In a pinch, you can even use 1/2 cup milk A A U U A W A U U A . with 1/2 cup yogurt.

NO SPLIT

Dear Heloise: Before I open a bag of chips or a snack, I put a strip of tape around the top of the bag. It keeps the bag from splitting down the side. – Mike R. in Oregon

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Are you sure you can eat that WHOLE cookie all by yourself?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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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.

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Cryptoquip

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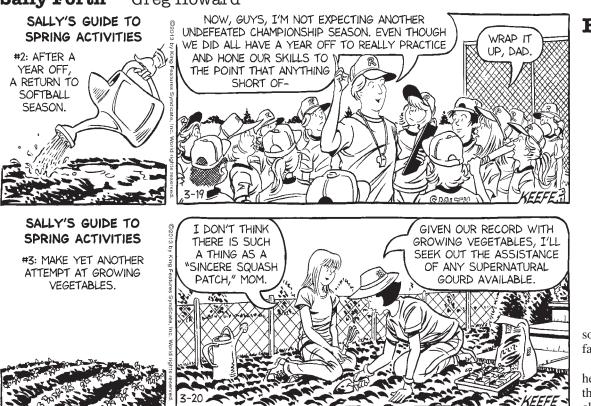
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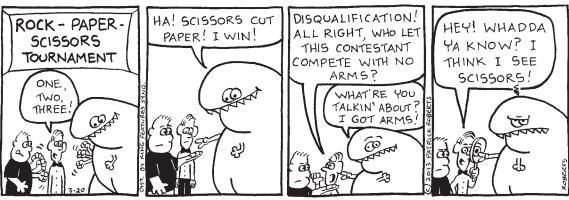
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD A PERSON CALL THE VEGETATION ENVELOPING THE OLD WHEAT STOREHOUSE? GRANARY GREENERY.

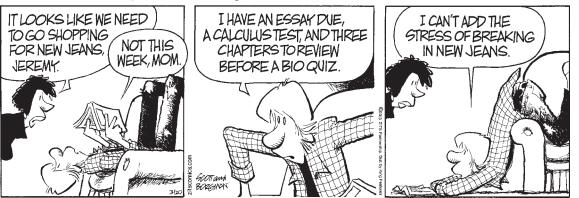
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals E



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Bridge • Steve Becker

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2 🔶	Pass	2 👻	Pass
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Opening	g lead — t	hree of he	arts.

Keep Your Eye on the Ball

Declarer should not allow himself to become so distracted by a minor aspect of the play that he fails to see the deal as a whole.

Consider this case where South got to four 25 hearts as shown and West led a trump. East took the trick with the ace and returned a trump to declarer's king.

South was quite pleased with this development, since the defenders had failed to cash their spade trick while they had the lead. Not the type to disregard such good fortune, declarer quickly cashed the diamond ace, led a heart to the jack and disposed of the spade three on the diamond king. He then turned his attention to the club suit, losing the king to West's ace.

Had the clubs broken 4-3, South would have 36 gotten home safely, losing only two clubs and a trump. As it was, though, West's five clubs proved too great a hurdle to surmount, and declarer finished down one, eventually losing three club tricks to West. In all, he scored five heart tricks, two diamonds and two clubs.

Considering that South had started with 10 ironclad tricks, this was not a good result. Had he not been so anxious to get rid of his spade loser and instead taken the time to properly assess his prospects, he would have seen that the spade discard was, in reality, a red herring.

The critical misplay came at trick four, when declarer, in his desire to reach the diamond king, led a heart to dummy, depriving himself of the ability to ruff a club later on. Had he simply led the king of clubs after cashing the diamond ace, he could not have been stopped from scoring five hearts in his hand, the A-K of diamonds, two club winners and a club ruff in dummy for a total of 10 tricks.

(c)2013 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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