

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

Pomegranates open in water

Dear Heloise: I love pomegranates, but I often have trouble removing the seeds without bursting them. Is there an easier way to remove them, and is it OK to eat the white part of the seed (the whole seed)? – Angela G. in Ohio

Pomegranates are so tasty and add color to many dishes. Arils (the red seeds) can be eaten, including the white part. Removing the seeds is easy, too. Cut off about an inch of the top of the fruit. Looking down, you'll see sections to pull apart. Fill a bowl with water, place the sections in it and gently pull out the seeds, and they will sink to the bottom.

Throw out the rest, and strain the seeds. Now you can just pop them in your mouth to enjoy, or store in a container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. – Heloise

P.S.: Pomegranates (whole) will keep for about one month on the counter or two in the refrigerator. So, stock up when they are at a good price.

The name "pomegranate" comes from Middle French, and literally means "seeded apple." It also is referred to as a Chinese apple.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

SAVING SPINACH

Dear Heloise: I usually buy fresh spinach to put in my omelets, but sometimes it goes bad before I can use it all. By chance, I took some fresh spinach, dropped it into a small, plastic bag and placed it into the freezer (rinsed and patted dry – Heloise).

It kept longer, and when I pulled it out, I broke it into pieces by crunching the bag. Wish I knew this years ago! – Karen B., via e-mail

CONTAINING SUGARS

Dear Heloise: Brown sugar and powdered sugar are sold in boxes or bags, which I find messy. I avoid the mess while employing the environmental principle of repurposing.

I use an empty container of Parmesan cheese (washed) for powdered sugar. The container has openings on top, with small holes for sprinkling and a bigger one for spooning.

For brown sugar, I clean a used, plastic coffee container. One designed to hold 11-12 ounces of coffee is the best size. – Bill C., via e-mail

SQUEEZE OPENING

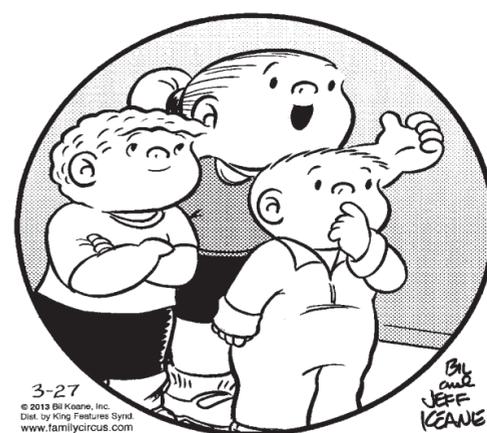
Dear Heloise: If you have trouble opening dishwasher-detergent boxes with the metal pour spout, just squeeze the sides of the box by the spout. It leaves just enough space to pull it down. – Nancy P. in California

BETTER KNIFE

Dear Heloise: The other day, I was making a recipe that called for two acorn squash, cut in half. My butcher knife was not working. So, I used a pumpkin carving knife instead, and that worked amazingly. – J.M. in Wisconsin

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-27
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"Isn't it time to put out our EASTER TREE? The Easter Bunny's gonna need someplace to put our presents."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/27

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.

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

Cryptoquip

O A G T Q A G X V K T J F F X
L R N K V K G C Q A J Q F J N D G P J W W
I V L I F F R Q G C P G Q J F, K Q O J W
N G J F F X J N G V K T K T D P I P G T Q.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FURNITURE UNITS USED BY SMALL DONKEYS FOR KEEPING APPAREL ITEMS IN STORAGE: BURROS' BUREAUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Swindle
5 Poke
8 Elliptical
12 Arm
13 Acapulco
14 Arrived
15 Resilience
17 Former
18 Legislative
19 Memorizes
21 Ph. bk.
22 Sicilian
23 Scarlet
26 Vigor
28 Depend
31 Item on stage
33 Bro or sis
35 Teen's
36 Haggard
38 Prized
40 "Eeww!"

DOWN
41 Uncate-
43 Last
45 Shed
47 Advance
51 "Money
52 Zest
54 Air
55 Old
56 Hammer
57 Pur-
58 Away
59 Being, to
1 Long
2 Hint
3 Soon
4 Wor-
5 Family
6 Curve
7 "Britain's
8 French
9 Charge
10 "— for All
11 Camera
12 part
16 On
20 Biblical
23 Spinning
24 Before
25 Sleeping
27 Glutton
29 Wilde-
30 "A
32 Columns'
34 Game
37 Superla-
39 Carte
42 Thicket
44 Curtain
45 Branch
46 Birthright
48 Change
49 Dogfight
50 Unit of
53 Charged

Yesterday's answer 3-27

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			59	

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9
♥ K J 3
♦ A K J 9 6 3 2
♣ 9 8

WEST
♠ A J 8 2
♥ Q 9 5 4
♦ 8 5
♣ Q 6 4

EAST
♠ Q 10 7 4 3
♥ 10 7 6
♦ —
♣ A K J 10 3

SOUTH
♠ K 6 5
♥ A 8 2
♦ Q 10 7 4
♣ 7 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 3♦ Dblc
3 NT Dblc Redblc
Opening lead — two of spades.

A 5,150-Point Decision

Consider this deal played in a national championship some years ago. The identity of the East-West pair has been omitted, as they probably would not relish the publicity.

North opened the bidding third-hand with three diamonds, and East doubled for takeout. South decided to muddy the waters by bidding three notrump, which West doubled to indicate his scattered values. North redoubled to show that his pre-emptive three-diamond bid was exceptionally strong, and, surprisingly, everyone passed.

West had no clear-cut opening lead. He was in the unfortunate position where any lead he made — whether a spade, a heart or a club — might easily turn out to be very right or very wrong. After great thought, West elected to lead a spade, and this proved to be disastrous.

Declarer took the spade with the king, cashed seven diamond tricks, led a heart to the ace and then — with nine tricks already in the till — led another heart and finessed the jack. As a result, he made three notrump redoubled with two overtricks for a score of 1,750 points!

If West, by chance, had happened to select a club as his opening lead, the outcome would have been altogether different. Assuming best defense thereafter, East-West could have collected five spade tricks and five club tricks, and declarer would have finished with only three tricks instead of 11!

Pointwise, East-West would have been plus 3,400 instead of minus 1,750, or 5,150 points better off — all as the result of one play! It's certainly not often that one play costs a side that many points. Perhaps the lone saving grace is that East-West were playing only for glory and master points, and not for dollars and cents.

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