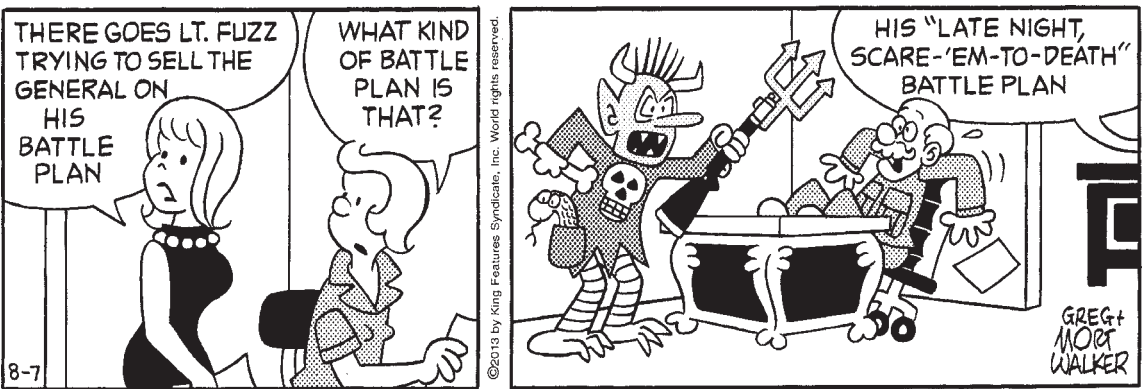


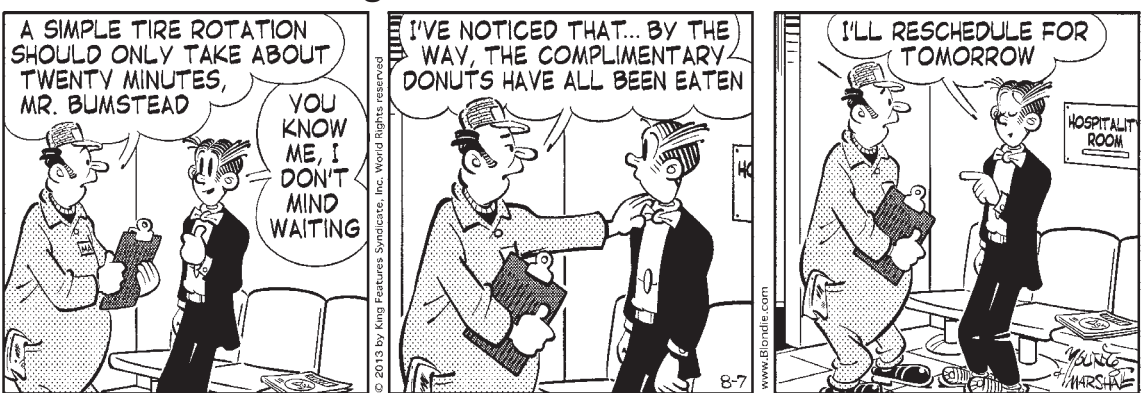
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



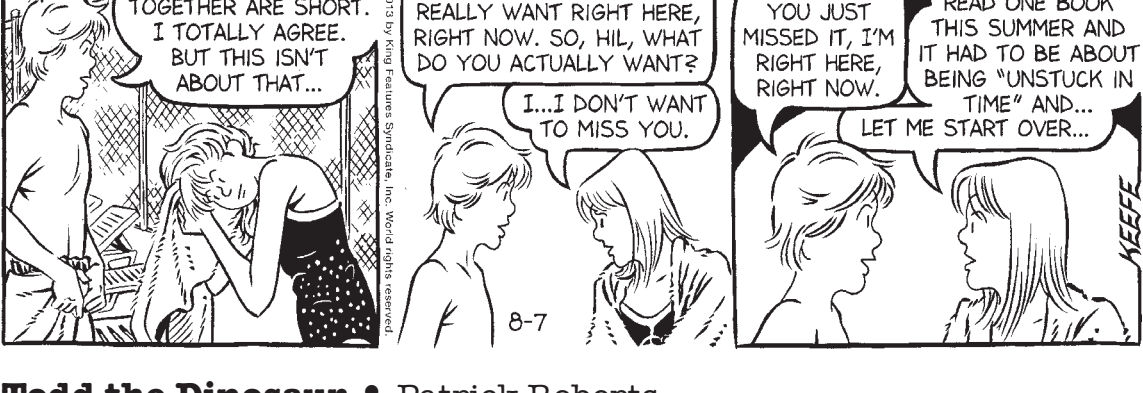
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Pink salt comes from Himalayas

Dear Heloise: I saw pink salt in the store the other day. What is it, and how is it used? – Lydia N., via e-mail

The pink salt you are seeing in stores is Himalayan salt, which is found deep within the Himalayas. The beautiful pink color comes from the mineral content.

You can buy the salt in plates, slabs, cubes and fine or coarse grain. Use the fine- or coarse-grained salt like regular table salt for foods. The slabs and plates are available to serve sushi or other appetizers on. – Heloise

P.S.: If you just like the color (pink salt can be very pricey), you can make pink salt by adding a few drops of red food coloring to regular table salt. Put the salt in a bowl and keep stirring until it's the color you want.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
POTATO POSSIBILITIES

Dear Heloise: Most people are used to a baked potato served with sour cream and butter. However, I really enjoy baked potatoes and all the different ingredients you can stuff in them to make a meal, especially if you have leftovers. Try adding the following to a baked potato the next time you want a quick but filling meal:

- Leftover chicken or beef in a barbecue sauce, topped with some cheese and scallions.
- Leftover taco meat, sour cream, salsa, olives, lettuce and cheese.
- Leftover chili, sour cream and cheese. – M.M., New York

STEAMING VEGETABLES

Dear Readers: To keep as many vitamins in vegetables when cooking, try steaming or microwaving them rather than boiling them in water. Vegetables cooked on the stove at high temperatures can lose up to 30 percent of their vitamins! Whenever possible, eat your vegetables raw or lightly steamed. – Heloise

COUPLE OF HINTS

Dear Heloise: I save the juice or syrup from canned fruit and use it in place of sugar or syrup in cocktails. My favorite is to add mandarin orange juice to margaritas in place of sugar. It sweetens the drink, adds flavor and blends instantly. Cherry juice adds sweetness, flavor and a pretty color to lemonade. – Lisa Z. in Oregon

COLORED EGGS

Dear Readers: If you enjoy eating a lot of hard-cooked (hard boiled) eggs, sometimes it's hard to tell which eggs are which. Try this hint: Add some food coloring and vinegar to the water when boiling the eggs. Now you'll know the colored eggs in the refrigerator are hard-boiled, even when it's not Easter! -- Heloise

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-7

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"My toes are lovin' these warm summer days!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/07

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

WPZJDM TDGTHHRGGVTBBZ

WQ GWJP TF WXR VJPR JD

WXR GFPJDOBJDM PEJD, WXEW

MTZ YEG GWQOJDM YRW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLOTHES-CLEANING BUSINESS BEGUN BY FAMOUS LONGTIME FOOTBALL COACH TOM; LANDRY'S LAUNDRY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Arrived
- 5 Soviet space station
- 8 Carpet style
- 12 Valhalla VIP
- 13 Historic time
- 14 Top-rated
- 15 Sweater type
- 17 Speck
- 18 Love affair
- 19 "The House of the Seven —"
- 21 Authentic
- 24 — tail (cocktail)
- 25 Pinnacle
- 28 Swallow hard
- 30 Talk on and on
- 33 Old French coin
- 34 Paycheck extra
- 35 Back member
- 36 Scale
- 37 Food thickener

DOWN

- 1 Imogene of comedy lore
- 2 Leading man?
- 3 Spanish surrealist et al.
- 4 Hang in there
- 5 "Family Guy" daughter
- 6 401(k) alternative
- 7 Pealed
- 8 Ballroom favorite
- 9 Thug
- 10 Initial chip
- 11 The Bee —
- 16 Anger
- 20 Roadie's burden, in part
- 22 Enthusiastic, plus
- 23 Moon-related
- 25 Donkey
- 26 Pigeon's comment
- 27 Golfer's do-over
- 29 Tempt
- 31 Birthday stat
- 32 Violinist's need
- 34 Worm, often
- 38 Alaskan bear
- 40 Foolish
- 42 Doo follower
- 43 Door-frame piece
- 44 Margarine
- 45 Urban pall
- 47 Shrek is one
- 48 Incurison
- 49 Concludes
- 52 Wall climber
- 53 Rotating part

MEW SMILE COD
AGO PORES ORE
CONFIDANT NAN
HECTOR STIR
ILO TNT EPODE
FANG SNAF SNI
INFRA NAB TIT
LOSS YEASTS
SLIGHT OAR
TIC CONFUCIUS
EAT ALOFT IRE
MRS NEWSY INN

Yesterday's answer 8-7

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.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 3
 ♥ Q J 10 3
 ♦ A Q 10 4
 ♣ 9 7 2

WEST
 ♠ 9 6 5 4 2
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ 9 6 5 3
 ♣ J 6

EAST
 ♠ 10 8 7
 ♥ K 9 4
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ A K Q 5 3

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

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

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The Art of Wishful Thinking

Many players find defense a disagreeable chore that is not nearly as stimulating as being the declarer. Despite this, the fact remains that defending well is more important in the long run than good declarer play, for the simple reason that you are ordinarily a defender twice as often as you are a declarer.

Assume you're East in today's deal and partner leads the jack of clubs against four hearts. You don't have to be an exceptional defender to overtake the jack with the queen and continue with the K-A of clubs. West discards a low spade on the third club, and the question is what you should do next.

Before attempting to answer this question, you first try to analyze what you already know about South's hand based on the clues available to this point. You know from the play thus far that declarer started with precisely three clubs, and you know from the bidding that he has four or five hearts.

You also know, or should know, that South has the A-K of spades, the ace of hearts and the king of diamonds, plus at least another jack! How do you know this? Because South opened one notrump (no less than 15 points) and has to have all of those cards to have a proper notrump opening.

Does this mean that you can't beat four hearts, since you can see that the finesse in that suit will work for declarer whenever he attempts it? You can't really answer that question at this point because it all depends on whether your partner has the eight of hearts!

And so, hoping for the best, as you always should, you lead another club at trick four. This works out beautifully when your partner, bless him, ruffs with the eight of trumps, forcing declarer to overruff with dummy's ten. As a result, you become certain to score a trump trick no matter how declarer proceeds, and the contract goes down one.

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