

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



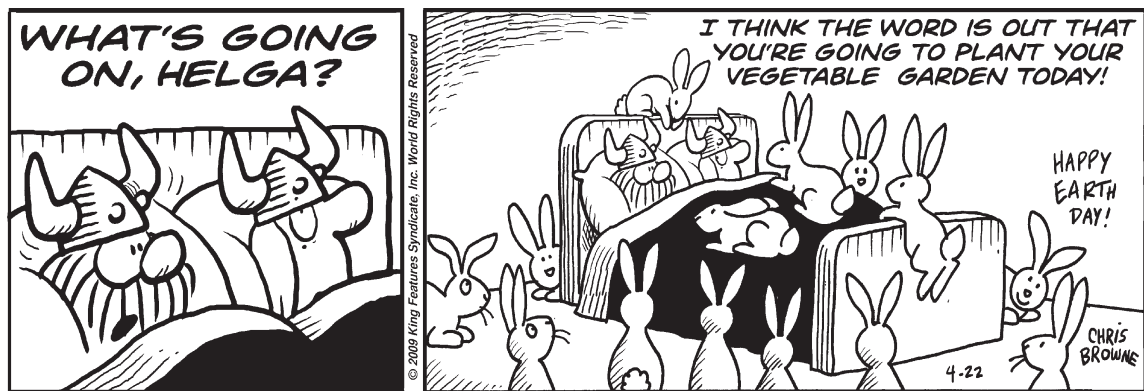
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



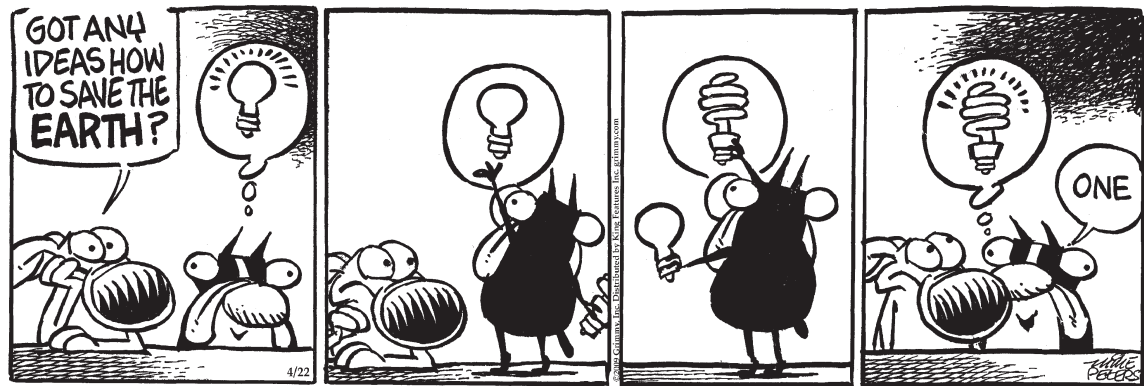
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



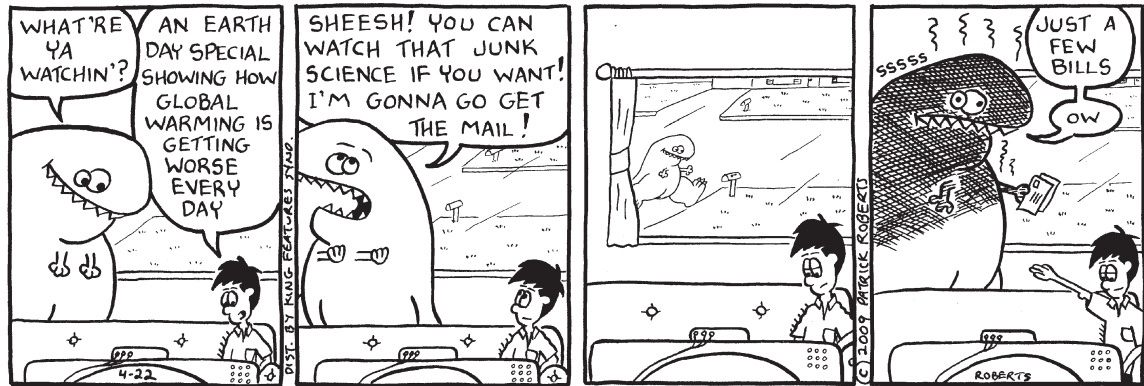
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



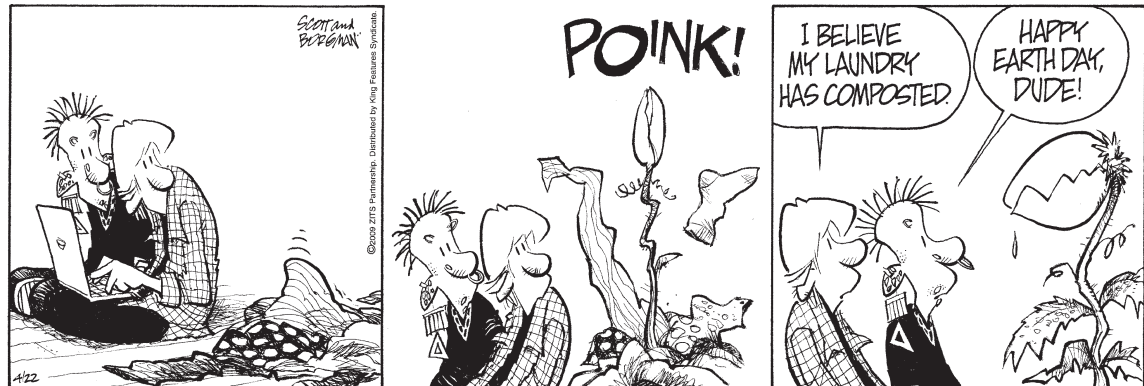
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise
Save money with homemade

Dear Readers: SAVING MONEY is No. 1 on everyone's mind these days, but you don't necessarily have to sacrifice taste when preparing a favorite dessert. In fact, with my quick and easy graham-cracker crust recipe, you can have homemade taste for less than you'd spend on a store-bought brand.

You'll need only three ingredients:
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup melted butter or margarine
1 cup graham-cracker crumbs

Make the crumbs by crushing about 8 whole graham crackers in a closed plastic bag with a rolling pin or by using a food processor. Then mix the sugar, melted butter and graham-cracker crumbs together. Press the mixture into the bottom and sides of an 8- or 9-inch pie pan. Keep refrigerated until you're ready to use it. Doubling the crumb-mixture recipe works well for cheesecakes made in a springform pan. — Heloise

HANDY COOKING SPRAY
Dear Heloise: If I spray a little cooking spray in my strainer when I am cooking pasta, the pasta does not stick. Saves pasta and scrubbing of the strainer. — Jimmie Haurly, Zachary, La.

HEALTHY EATING
Dear Heloise: Due to high cholesterol, I have to eat "fake" eggs, which are not very fluffy. Now I add about 2 tablespoons of low-fat cottage cheese to 1/4 cup of fake eggs and stir over low heat. They come out fluffy and light, and taste great! — Raul Kottler, Oak View, Calif.

I do egg-sactly the same, and it's a nice way to "fluff out" an egg-white omelet, too. — Heloise

LOOKING OVER BLUEBERRIES
Dear Heloise: My mother-in-law taught me to "look over" dry beans, peas and nuts for stones by pouring a single layer on a clean, flat surface. Yesterday, I was having trouble trying to sort fresh field-picked blueberries for stems, etc. I got a tray and poured a single layer of berries, and the job was done quickly. I rinsed them well, drained in a strainer, packed and froze them. They are really good frozen. — Dixie Howard, Huntsville, Ark.

POTATO PEELING
Dear Heloise: My wife asked me to peel some spuds for dinner. They were small, round, red potatoes. So I would not nick my finger with the peeler, I peeled about 1/4 of the end of the potato, then stuck a fork deep into the peeled end. Then I held the fork, and my fingers were no longer in the peeler's way! — Brian, via e-mail

SUGAR SUBSTITUTES
Dear Readers: There are several things you can use in place of sugar, if you watch sugar intake:
• Fresh fruit or vanilla can be added to plain nonfat yogurt.
• Ground cinnamon adds flavor to applesauce or baked apples.
• Cinnamon, vanilla or other extracts help flavor coffee.
• Sweet potatoes taste good with pumpkin-pie spice and butter substitute. — Heloise
(c)2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ Q J 10 8 5
♥ 10 7 4 3
♦ 4
♣ A 9 5

EAST
♠ A 9 7
♥ 2
♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 3 2
♥ K 9 8 6 5
♦ A K J 6
♣ K 10

The bidding:
South 1♥ West 2NT North 3♥ East Pass
3♥ Pass 3♥ Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Never Is a Long Time
General rules are helpful in the bidding and play of many hands, but they can be self-defeating when they are applied indiscriminately. The player who blindly follows "standard procedure" is sure to stumble occasionally because he does not recognize that there are valid exceptions to many rules.

Consider this deal where West muffed a chance to defeat four hearts. He led the queen of spades, followed by the jack and another spade. When South ruffed and then led the ten of clubs, West made the mistake of following low. After the ten held, declarer cashed the A-Q-J of hearts, led a diamond to the king, drew West's last trump and cashed his remaining diamonds to produce 10 tricks.

Had West been more alert, he would have defeated the contract by taking the club ten with the ace and returning a spade. True, this would present South with a ruff-and-discard — he could ruff in one hand and discard from the other — but West was in position to know that the ruff-and-discard would not help declarer; on the contrary, it could only harm him.

All players are taught to avoid yielding a ruff-and-discard like the plague, but this broad advice is not intended to cover every conceivable case and should surely have been ignored by West in the present deal.

West should realize that if the spade is ruffed in dummy, his ten of trumps will become a trick, while if declarer ruffs in his own hand instead, West will (unless South started with six hearts) then have more trumps than declarer and will eventually score a trump trick. The dictum against yielding a ruff-and-discard — and for that matter the advice to play second-hand low — should not be applied when the violation is clearly beneficial to the defense.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-22 © 2009 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Z P H P H X R G H M I Z R M Y
C O R R A U D R Y Z J T R F H E Z M C
E R O S I F Z V G Z J F V S , Z O R I A D M
J F R ' J T R Z M C J H U U F D - X D O Z I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSE A PIG IS MAKING ITS WAY ACROSS THE STREET. WOULD YOU CLAIM YOU SAW A PORK IN THE ROAD?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Overly theatrical
5 Pitcher's chapeau
8 Memo writer's "Now!"
12 Eastern bigwig
13 Actor Tognazzi
14 "Monopoly" pair
15 Buck
17 Bullets
18 Switchblade
19 Wet
21 Notion
24 Work with
25 Equitable
28 Culture medium
30 Eve, originally
33 "— Lay Dying"
34 Eugene O'Neill specialty
35 Geological period
36 Emeril's interjection

DOWN
1 Barrel
2 Infamous
3 "La Boheme" role
4 Gain
5 Prompt
6 Earlier
7 Frogs' hangout
8 Either of two presidents
9 One with a silly smile
10 Pinnacle
11 Laborer
16 Started
20 Emanation
22 Have coming
23 Marble variety
25 Poke
26 Dos
27 Clear up
29 In the thick of
31 401(k) alternative
32 Cove
34 "Phooey!"
38 Groups of species
40 Some of the family
42 Whale group
43 Jurist Robert
44 Actress Falco
45 "The Thin Man" dog
47 Got bigger
48 Mad king of literature
49 Vortex
52 Charged bit
53 Witticism

Solution time: 21 mins.

YES REBUS ASH
ALE AGENT LIE
MYANTONIA ODE
OTT TINSSEL
FLOWER SNIT
LIP DIG SPLAY
AMID PAS SANE
BOORS GUT DNA
NANA PRAYER
SHEBOP PIG
TEE ONEOFOURS
EAR PEARL SUE
MRS SAUTE AGE

Yesterday's answer 4-22

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									38	
			39	40		41	42			
43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54					55			56		
57					58			59		