

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

MOMENTS OF Household Terror #67

Finding a capless marker in the dryer.

Nooooooooooooooooooooo!

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

I'LL TAKE THE CHECK

LET ME TAKE IT THIS TIME, BEETLE

YOU'RE KNOWN AS "MISCELLANEOUS" ON MY EXPENSE ACCOUNT!

Blondie • Chic Young

YOW! MR. B.!! MY FOOT'S ASLEEP, WHAT'LL I DO?!!

WOW, THANKS MR. B.!

DON'T MENTION IT, ELMO

OH, NO! NOW MY OTHER FOOT'S ASLEEP!!

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

THERE'S NO HOPE FOR US!

NO FOOD! NO WATER!

AND A THOUSAND MILES FROM CIVILIZATION!

CHEER UP HAGAR! IT COULD BE A LOT WORSE!

HOW COULD IT BE WORSE?!

WE COULD BE TWO THOUSAND MILES FROM CIVILIZATION!

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

GRIMM, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME...IT'S THIS RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME.

IT'S LIKE I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER MY LEG!

WELCOME TO MY HELL.

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

SALLY'S MIDSUMMER RECAP #2: TED IS STILL ANALYZING HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH ARIA

I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH ARIA, BUT NOT IF SHE MISTAKES IT FOR SOMETHING ELSE. BUT WE'RE BOTH ADULTS AND SHOULD KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE. HOWEVER, SOMETIMES ONE CAN PERCEIVE THINGS ONE WAY ONLY TO--

SOMEWHERE, IN AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE, ANOTHER VERSION OF ME IS THROTTLING YOU INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

SALLY'S MIDSUMMER RECAP #3: HILARY AND FAYE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEIR VACATION.

THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF NOTHINGNESS.

WELL, THAT'S IT. WE HAVE OFFICIALLY HIT A CREATIVE LOW POINT.

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

OH YEAHHH! OH BABY! MMMM!

GET HIM OUTTA HERE! HE'S BEEN OGGLING THE HAMS AND PORK CHOPS!

I WAS NOT!

I AM LEERING AT THE HAMS AND PORK CHOPS. BIG DIFFERENCE!

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

MEKSHWA FUMS BGLMPPH SCHU PLORMSHULPNIN!

HA! HA! I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT ONE!

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK, DENNIS!

SCHORMZ.

DAD, HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING THAT KID SAYS?

ORTHODONTISTS SPEAK FLUENT "BRACE."



Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Refrigerate cooked meat

Dear Heloise: My sons and I have this running disagreement. I keep COOKED MEAT out on the stove or counter if it will be used again the same day.

When I was growing up, we kept leftovers from Sunday lunch for supper and nothing happened, and there was no air conditioning. I need to know what is the safe amount of time to leave cooked meat out. Thank you. – Pat Z., Warren, Ohio

Safe is relative! What is the temperature in the kitchen? What is the food? How was it prepared? Leaving cooked food out on the counter or stove until the next mealtime isn't a good idea. The rule of thumb is generally to put cooked meat and poultry dishes into the fridge as soon as possible to avoid problems.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, many deaths and food-related illnesses can be attributed to food being left out on the counter at room temperature! Food should be refrigerated promptly, no matter what the season, because bacteria grow so rapidly at room temperatures. The safest place for leftovers is the fridge. – Heloise

ROLLED CANDY

Dear Heloise: My husband and I both like the little brown rolls of chewy candy. But sometimes they are so hard! Just put a couple in the microwave for a second or two (on low power – Heloise) and they will soften right up! – M.J., Santa Ana, Calif.

Yummy! Just be careful, as the candy could be very hot! And don't heat longer than a second or two. – Heloise

GRAPE BUNCHES

Dear Heloise: After buying bunches of grapes, wash them and then hang them from your banana stand. It makes for easy access, and the grapes last longer without going soft. – Kimberly Walker, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

GIVE THAT EGG A SPIN

Dear Heloise: I read your hint about putting food coloring in the water when boiling eggs to distinguish them later from raw ones. I have an instant test that always works. Spin the egg around on a flat surface. Fully cooked eggs will spin swiftly; raw eggs will wobble or not spin. – Jan, Modjeska Canyon, Calif.

We have had so many respond to this hint! Mary from South Dakota also marks her cooked eggs with an "X" (use a pencil only -- Heloise) so she can easily distinguish them from the uncooked ones when storing. – Heloise

SPILED ICE

Dear Heloise: To pick up spilled ice from the floor, dampen a hand towel and run over the cubes. This prevents them from skidding all over the floor and makes cleanup very simple. – Joy Stupl, Conroe, Texas

MEAT GRINDER

Dear Heloise: When I place my meat grinder on my dining-room table, I place several layers of paper toweling down first and then attach the grinder clamp. This protects the table surface, and all is well. – K.M., Baltimore

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

AKJ652

K83

KQ8

J2

WEST

84

AQJ97642

9

A6

EAST

AQ1073

105

76532

4

SOUTH

9

—

AJ104

KQ1098753

The bidding:

West 4♥

North Pass

East Pass

South 5♣

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

The Scissors Coup

There is a play in bridge called the scissors coup, but you don't have to know the name of the play to execute it; you can reap the benefits just the same if you make the play without knowing its name.

Take this case where you reach five clubs on the bidding shown and West leads the nine of diamonds. It's not difficult to judge that the lead is a singleton, so all your thoughts should be devoted to trying to stop West from getting a diamond ruff.

Note that if you win the diamond in either hand and lead a trump, you quickly go down one. West takes the ace of clubs, puts East on lead with a spade and ruffs the diamond return to bring a sad end to the affair.

But if you're more careful, you can short-circuit the impending ruff and make the contract. All you have to do is to win the first diamond in dummy, lead the king of hearts and discard your singleton spade on it!

It costs you nothing to make this play. You're simply substituting a heart loser that you don't have for a spade loser that you do have. But the reward for exchanging these losers is that you wind up making the contract instead of going down, since West can no longer reach his partner's hand to secure the diamond ruff.

In effect, discarding a spade on the king of hearts serves as a scissors that cuts the vital link of communication between West and East and enables you to avert the threatened ruff. The scissors coup – whether you know what it's called or not – provides a neat solution to the dilemma.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



7-8

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"Mr. Coverly didn't want any animal crackers. He says he's a vegetarian."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/08

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/01

Cryptoquip

ASKRWNS QWT KQIZRUE BN
MREBUP QHH SIZMQESSN
XVQ RX R XBIS, B NWZZQNS
BX'N ASBUP ZRBTSY YQVU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT TOOK MANY YEARS TO FINALLY CORRECT THE MISTAKE, SO I CRIED "IT'S THE END OF AN ERROR!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Make up your mind

4 Syndicate boss

8 Applaud

12 Neither mate

13 On in years

14 "Clue" weapon

15 Work with

16 Excellent

18 Bundle of wheat

20 Long lunch?

21 Brat's stocking stuffer

24 Receded

28 Uneaten

32 Thy

33 Puncturing tool

34 Painter of ballerinas

36 Raw rock

37 Movie holder, once

39 PDQ

41 Abject terror

DOWN

1 Responsibility

2 Luxurious

3 Genealogy chart

4 9 Lives product

5 Past

6 Vigor

7 Probability

8 Ill-natured

9 Despondent

10 Gorilla

11 Apiece

17 Wish undone

19 Put on a show

22 State with conviction

23 On the up-and-up

25 Benefit

26 Modern money

27 Game show host

28 Fat Carey

29 Basin accessory

30 Take off

31 Anger

35 Hair cleaner

38 Computer type

40 Give it a go

42 Volente preceder

45 Writer

47 Frost

48 Wander

49 Shacks

50 Jazz style

51 Discoverer's call

52 Allen or Conway

53 —

54 Reaction to castor oil

Solution time: 27 mins.

ODD	I	K	E	A	L	I	M	O
A	N	A	N	E	R	O	V	E
F	A	I	R	D	E	A	L	V
F	A	I	R	D	E	A	L	V
Q	U	I	P					
H	O	U	S	E	M	O	O	N
O	K	T	E	F	A	I	R	G
O	R	R	S	I	D	L	E	N
F	A	I	R	P	L	A	I	S
			H	E	L	M	F	L
R	E	N	E	W		D	O	U
A	C	E	S		F	A	I	R
T	H	R	U		E	A	S	T
S	O	D	S		E	A	C	H

Yesterday's answer 7-8

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					60					61		

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