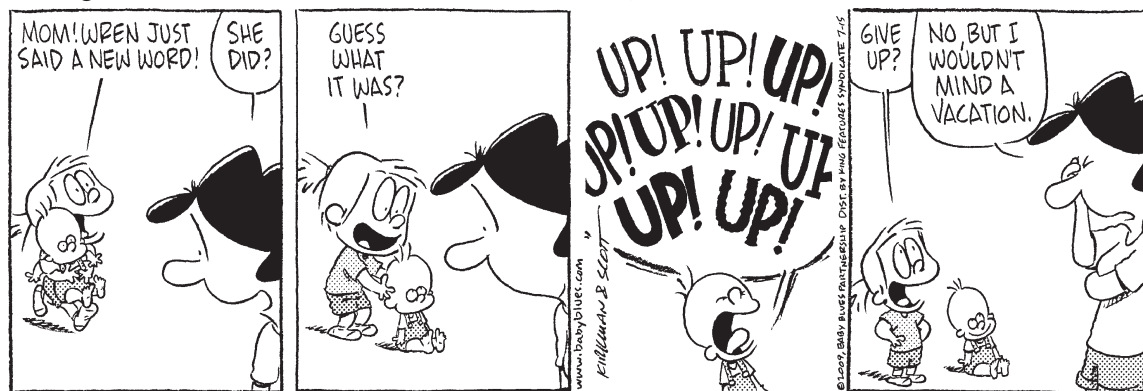


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



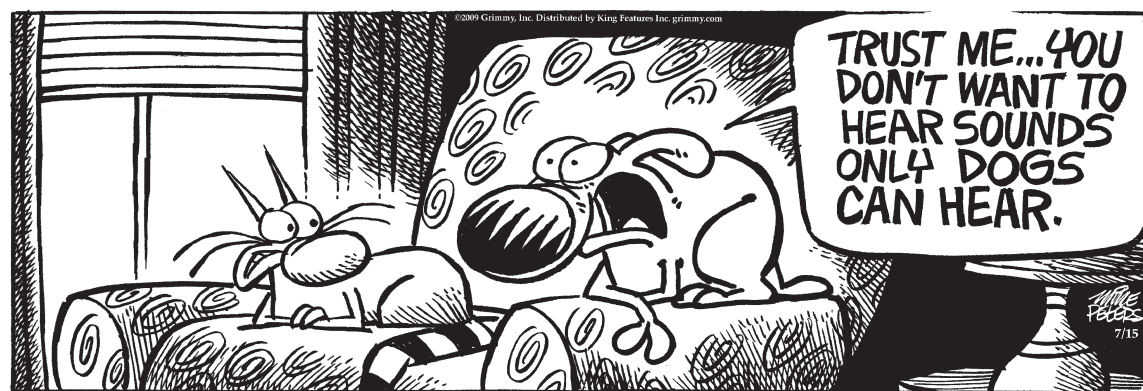
Blondie • Chic Young



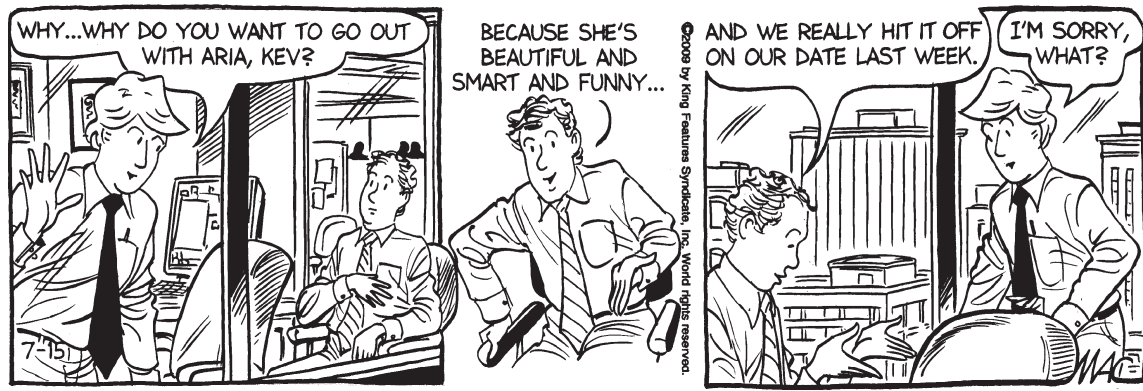
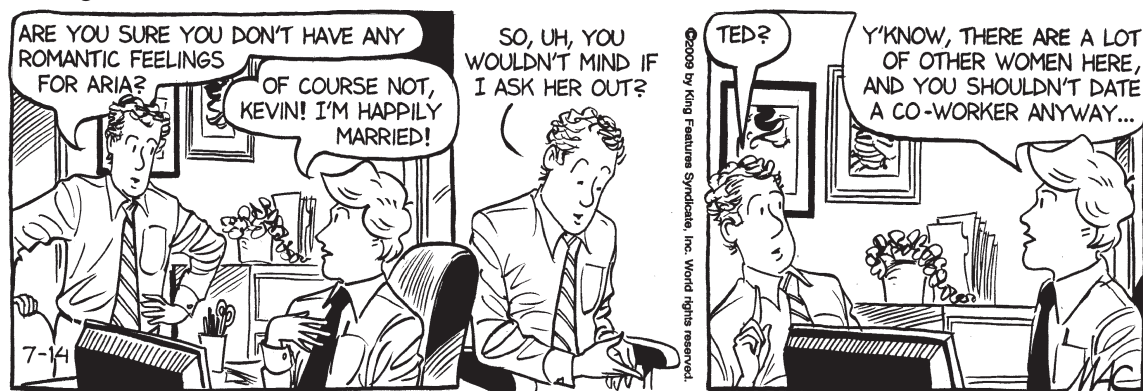
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Why use unsalted butter?

Dear Heloise: Why do so many recipes call for UNSALTED BUTTER yet still call for salt in the recipe? I already stock real butter, margarine and soft spread in my fridge and really don't see the need to have unsalted butter as well. It has been necessary for us to watch our salt intake, and I never use salt in my baking since there is already enough in the soda or baking powder. — Margaret Rasmussen, Hill City, S.D.

Margaret, salted and unsalted butter are exactly the same, except one has salt added! Seems obvious, I know! Salt was originally added (1/4 or 1/2 teaspoon of salt per stick) to help it last longer. Salted butter is probably what most people have at home, but unsalted is good for those on a low-sodium diet. If a recipe calls for salted or unsalted butter, either can be used.

You don't really need to adjust the salt asked for in the recipe if you use the unsalted. Unless you are using a lot of butter, there isn't very much in a portion size. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

EASY CLEAN

Dear Heloise: I keep a set of bath gloves in my kitchen. They are great for scrubbing pots and pans, and I also use them to clean my ceramic stovetop. They aren't too abrasive, and I can feel when things are clean. Give it a try! — Kathleen Laura, San Antonio

Kathleen, love your hint, and glad you enjoy reading my column in the Express-News, my hometown paper. Folks, visit www.Heloise.com to see the pet photos. — Heloise

SAVE MONEY

Dear Heloise: Stretch your food dollars, increase nutrition and save time: Canned soups can be expensive, especially when you have hungry teenagers to feed. I start with a can of a "chunky" type of soup as a base and add one can of beef or chicken broth (depending on the variety of soup), a can of protein-rich beans and 2 tablespoons of whole-grain couscous.

The beans add extra protein and fiber, the broth stretches the volume, and the couscous thickens the soup and adds yet more healthy fiber. Sometimes, I'll add a can of vegetable juice if I've started with a tomato-based soup. I vary the beans, such as cannelloni and kidney beans. By the time the soup is good and hot, the couscous is already tender. These home-blended soups are even better when reheated the next day. Delicious! — David G., Washington, D.C.

COUNTER CLEANING

Dear Heloise: Wipe off your kitchen counter with a dishrag. Then take a black dishrag and wipe it off again. You will see what all you've missed! It is amazing. It was an eye-opener. — Kathy, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: ♠10 9 5 2, ♥7 6 4 2, ♦K Q 5 3, ♣A J 8
WEST: ♠J 8, ♥A Q 9 8 3, ♦A 10 9 8 4, ♣A J 6 2
EAST: ♠Q 3, ♥Q 10 6 4 3, ♦J 5, ♣A J 6 2
SOUTH: ♠A K 7 6 4, ♥A K 9 5 2, ♦K 10, ♣7
The bidding: South 1♥, West 2♣, North 3♥, East 3♣, South 4♥, West Pass, North Pass, East Pass.
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Cooperative Defense

The uppercut is a colorful term used to describe a play made by a defender whereby he is able to promote a trump trick for his partner. It is a play that can be very profitable for the defense when the occasion arises.

South reached four spades on the bidding shown, and West made the normal lead of the ten of clubs. East took dummy's queen with the ace and returned the jack of diamonds. Declarer covered with the king, and West won with the ace and cashed the queen for the defense's third trick.

West now paused to consider where the setting trick might come from. He reasoned that if East had the queen or king of spades, the contract could be defeated provided East could be induced to ruff a third round of diamonds with either of those cards.

West was afraid that if he returned a low diamond at this point, East might ruff low, thinking declarer had the nine of diamonds. West also feared that if he led the nine instead, East might discard, since the nine was the highest diamond remaining.

Ultimately, it boiled down to a question of having faith in partner and hoping East would do the right thing regardless of which diamond West led.

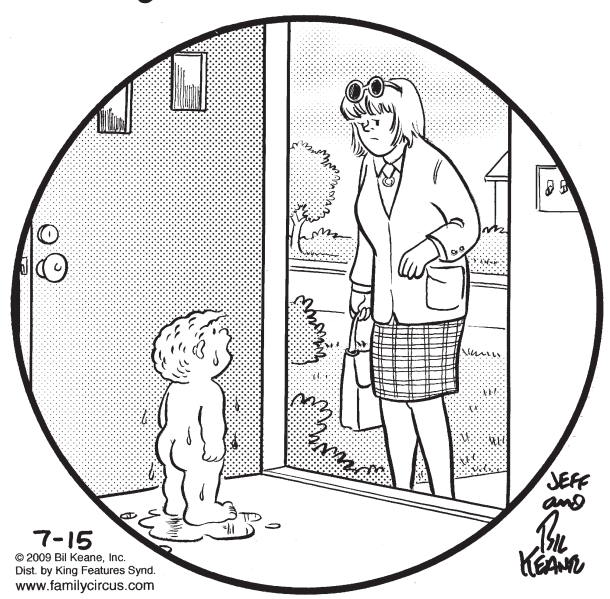
West made the proper technical return of the nine, hoping East would appreciate the situation, and East did not let him down. He realized that declarer had no more diamonds, since South had dropped the ten on the preceding trick.

East therefore ruffed the diamond nine with the queen. Declarer had no choice but to overruff, and West's jack became the setting trick.

East's play was clearly correct. He had nothing to lose by ruffing if declarer had the A-K-J of spades, and a good deal to gain if West had as little as the J-x.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My mommy's givin' me a bath, so maybe you can come back later?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

O JPM JF GHWPGF PS-UOIP
EM MNP ERRGOEAXP
XHAWPAMOHA. UP IOCKM KEU
PEXN HMNPC EM MNP JOSPC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY IMPORTANT STORY SIMPLY MUST BE TOLD, YOU COULD SAY IT'S AN IMPERATIVE NARRATIVE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Otherwise offering
5 Sushi
8 Rue the run
12 First slayer
13 Pint in a pub
14 Crucifix
15 Looker
17 North Sea feeder
18 Actor Davis
19 Connective tissue
21 Dalai
24 Ungraceful one
25 Doily feature
28 It takes the cake
30 Corn spike
33 Past
34 Rorschach images
35 Historic time
36 Solidify
37 Valhalla VIP
38 Mulligan, for one
39 "CSI" find
41 Moist
43 Secret Service agent
46 Run off to marry
50 Therefore
51 Trouble
54 Doves' home
55 Big bother
56 Men-only
57 Pianist
Dame Myra
58 infinitesimal
59 "Bonanza" role
27 Deli assortment
29 Sicilian spouter
31 "You — There"
32 Uncivilized
34 Wild porker
38 1984 Tom Hanks movie
40 Attendance count?
42 Kitten's call
43 Leave a good impression?
44 Old woman's home?
45 Spring occurrence
47 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
48 Carrots' partners
49 Work units
52 Praise in verse
53 Pirouette pivot

DOWN
1 Reverberate
2 Cambodia neighbor
3 Perches
4 Store fodder
10 Bum
11 Paradise
16 Afternoon social
20 A really long time
22 Jell-O creation
23 Duck
25 Trail behind
26 Time of your life?
28 Jitterbug
31 "You — There"
32 Uncivilized
34 Wild porker
38 1984 Tom Hanks movie
40 Attendance count?
42 Kitten's call
43 Leave a good impression?
44 Old woman's home?
45 Spring occurrence
47 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
48 Carrots' partners
49 Work units
52 Praise in verse
53 Pirouette pivot

Solution time: 21 mins.

EBB	STEAM	FLU								
LEO	AWARE	FLIS								
FLA	TITRES	ARE								
	OUT	AORTAS								
RES	ORT	SNIT								
ETH	NEW	SLAPS								
SCAT	ROE	EXEC								
THROW	ENT	ETA								
	PERU	GASSER								
SWEDEN	APE									
LOY	SHARP	TURN								
AVE	TILDE	FEE								
YES	SPIED	OPT								

Yesterday's answer 7-15

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			