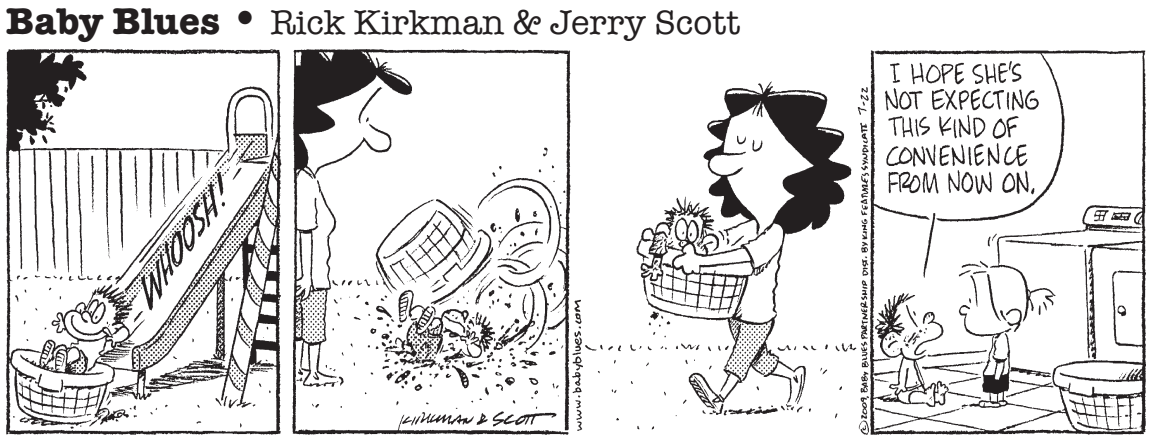
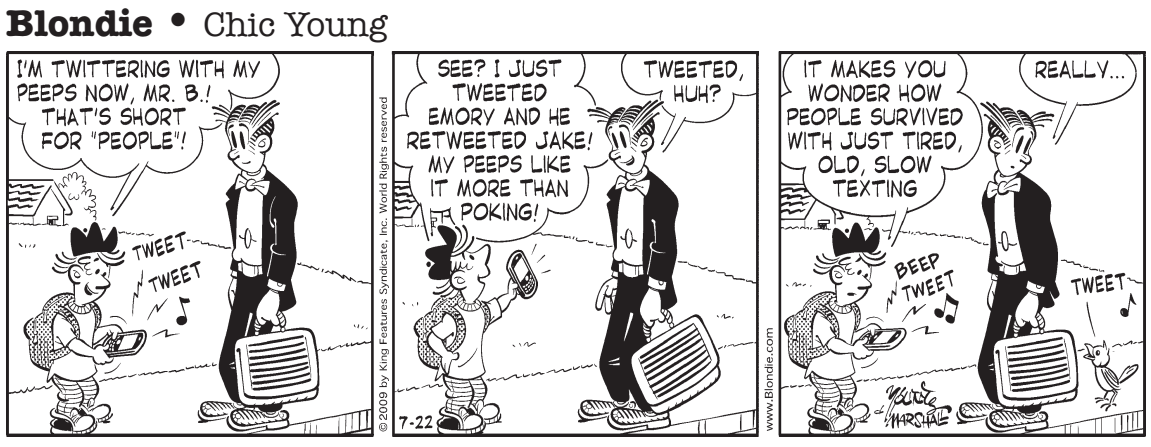
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

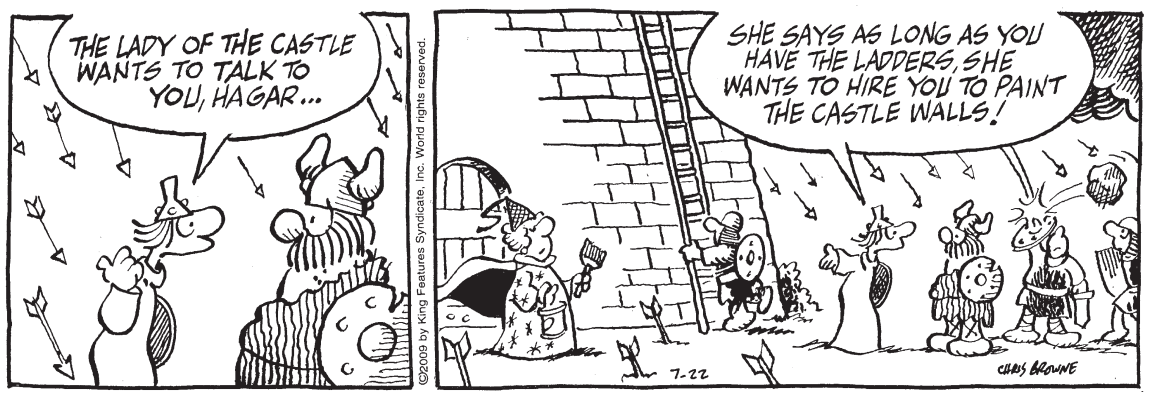


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young



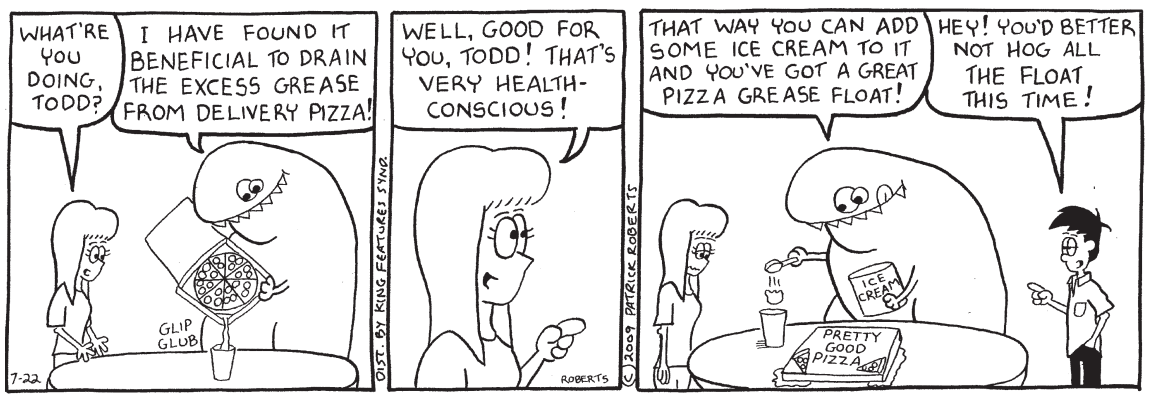
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

You need skill to season skillet

Dear Heloise: I once read how to season IRON SKILLETS to keep meat or foods from sticking to them. Would you please reprint the directions? – Doris Pittenger, Columbia City, Ind.

Doris, happy to oblige, and you are lucky if you have a good cast-iron skillet. When food starts sticking in the pan, this is the sign that the pan needs to be re-seasoned. Clean the inside of the pan in warm, sudsy water while using a plastic brush or scrubbie, then rinse with hot water and dry well.

Next, add a thick layer of unsalted vegetable shortening to the inside and outside of the skillet (cover well). Place the pan on a cookie sheet and bake it in an oven at 250 F for 1 1/2 hours. Be sure the shortening keeps the surface evenly coated. CAUTION: Wear an oven mitt – the pan will be HOT!

When done, let the pan cool (this will take some time), wipe away excess shortening and dry with a paper towel. Now you are ready to make a favorite recipe in the skillet! Before storing away, add a light coating of vegetable oil to the inside. If the pan is stored inside or on top of another pan, use a coffee filter or paper plate between them. – 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

GRILLING FOOD

Dear Heloise: I love to use my charcoal grill, and I am constantly finding new foods to prepare on it. One of my favorites so far has been prepackaged garlic bread. Simply place it on the grill, turning to heat both sides to the desired toast.

I have fire-roasted minced garlic (and grilled onions), which I mixed into hamburger patties. For both of these items, I used a fine-mesh screen as a cooking surface, which keeps the garlic from falling down into the fire. I bought one of the screens with a handle (check the kitchen section of a store – Heloise), which makes it convenient to put on or take off the fire. – J.R., via e-mail

CLEANING STOVE TOPS

Dear Heloise: I saw an article in your column about cleaning glass-top stoves. I have found that the best way is to never cook on a burner if it has a speck of anything on it. These stove tops are so easy to use because they never get dirty if they are wiped with a soapy cloth and rinsed every time they are used. If something is spilled and seems baked on, then a dab of one of those special stove-top cleaners gets everything off. – M.A. Scheel, Arlington, Texas

EASY ROLL

Dear Heloise: Am I the only one in the world who didn't know that in order to keep aluminum-foil or plastic-wrap rolls from escaping from their boxes, all you have to do is simply push in the "press here" tabs at each end of the roll to lock the roll in place? – Beverly, Buena Park, Calif.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 10 7 6 3
♥ 6 3
♦ 10 8 5
♣ Q 4

WEST
♠ Q 8
♥ A Q 10 7
♦ 6 4
♣ A K 10 8 3

EAST
♠ K 9 4
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ —
♣ J 9 7 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 5 2
♥ K J 4
♦ A K Q J 9 7 3 2
♣ —

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	5 ♦	Dble

Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Let's say you're declarer at five diamonds doubled and West leads the king of clubs. The problem is how to give yourself the best chance to make the contract. Of course, your plan should be based on viewing only the North-South cards, and not all four hands shown in the diagram.

Strangely enough, the answer is to start by discarding a spade on the king of clubs! Once you make this play you cannot be defeated, regardless of what West decides to do at trick two.

First, let's suppose West continues with the ace of clubs. In that case, you ruff, play a spade to the ace, ruff a spade high, enter dummy with a trump and ruff another spade high, thus establishing three spade tricks in dummy.

After you next cross to dummy with a trump, you discard the K-J-4 of hearts on the J-10-7 of spades and wind up making the contract with an overtrick. Of course, you don't make the overtrick if West cashes the ace of hearts at trick two, but, more importantly, you do make the contract.

Now let's suppose you ruffed the king of clubs at trick one, which seems the natural thing to do. In that event, you would go down one no matter how you continued. Sooner or later East would win a trick with the king of spades and return a heart to do you in.

What the hand demonstrates is that it is occasionally necessary to make an unusual play in order to prevent the dangerous opponent (in this case, East) from gaining the lead. It is easy enough to discard a spade on the opening lead; the hard part is to think of it.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Barfy and Sam are lucky. Bo Obama can't go anywhere without a Secret Service dog."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/22

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/20

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Cryptoquip

BW LDBRD MEBMW RVQWZAO BE BZ SURAUUS ZDMZ CVHTE GQEZ MHLMOE SVW CVAGMH WURTLUMA? ZBU-HMWS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE RULE-BREAKING HOCKEY PLAYER STARTS BANKING, I BET HE WILL OPEN A CHECKING ACCOUNT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Twilight of the —"
5 Vanna's companion
8 Highlander
12 Cruising
13 Ipanema is there
14 Plankton component
15 It'll get you nowhere
17 Bailout acronym
18 Page numbers
19 Cheers up
21 Type squares
22 "I advise against it"
23 Work unit
26 Go up and down
28 Relinquish
31 Body powder
33 Zero
35 Algonquian language
36 Texas cook-off dish
38 Calendar abbr.
40 Evergreen type
41 Lean (toward)
43 Wrigley product
45 Gas rating number
47 Didn't sit on the bench
51 Declaration of Independence starter
52 Nervously excited
54 Dumbo's "wings"
55 The Da Vinci coat?
56 Otherwise
57 Eyelid woe
58 Conger, for one
59 Coaster

DOWN
1 Big fishing hook
2 Norway's capital
3 Transaction
4 Composer Erik
5 Apply fake fingernails
6 Melody
7 Tinkered (with)
8 Evil
9 Making a commotion
10 Shrek is one
11 Eavesdroppers' equipment
16 "Who's buried in Grant's —?"
20 Myrna of Hollywood
23 List-ending abbr.
24 "Go, team!"
25 Tinsel-like
27 Auction action
29 Shelter
30 Morning moisture
32 Wash
34 Humorous hoax
37 Hostel
39 Zealous group
42 Crusoe's creator
44 Partners
45 Has bills
46 Converse
48 Holler
49 Gaelic
50 Turned blue?
53 Whopper

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-22

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				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			