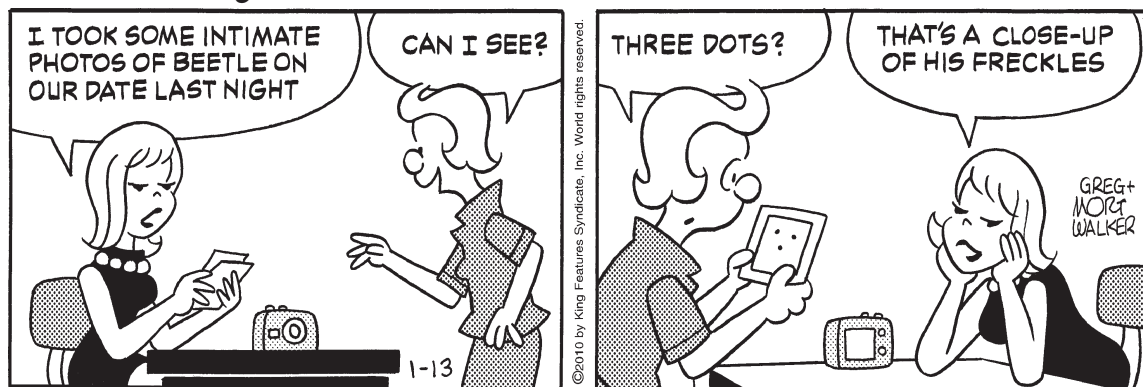


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



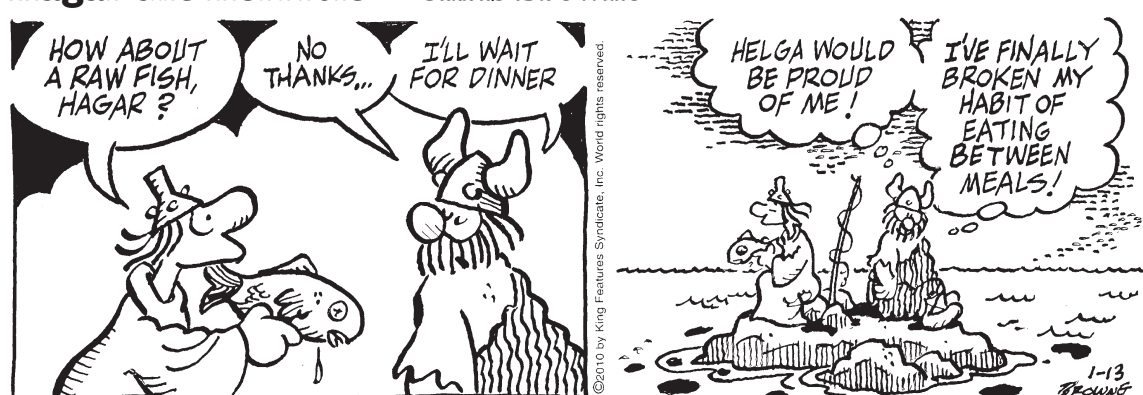
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



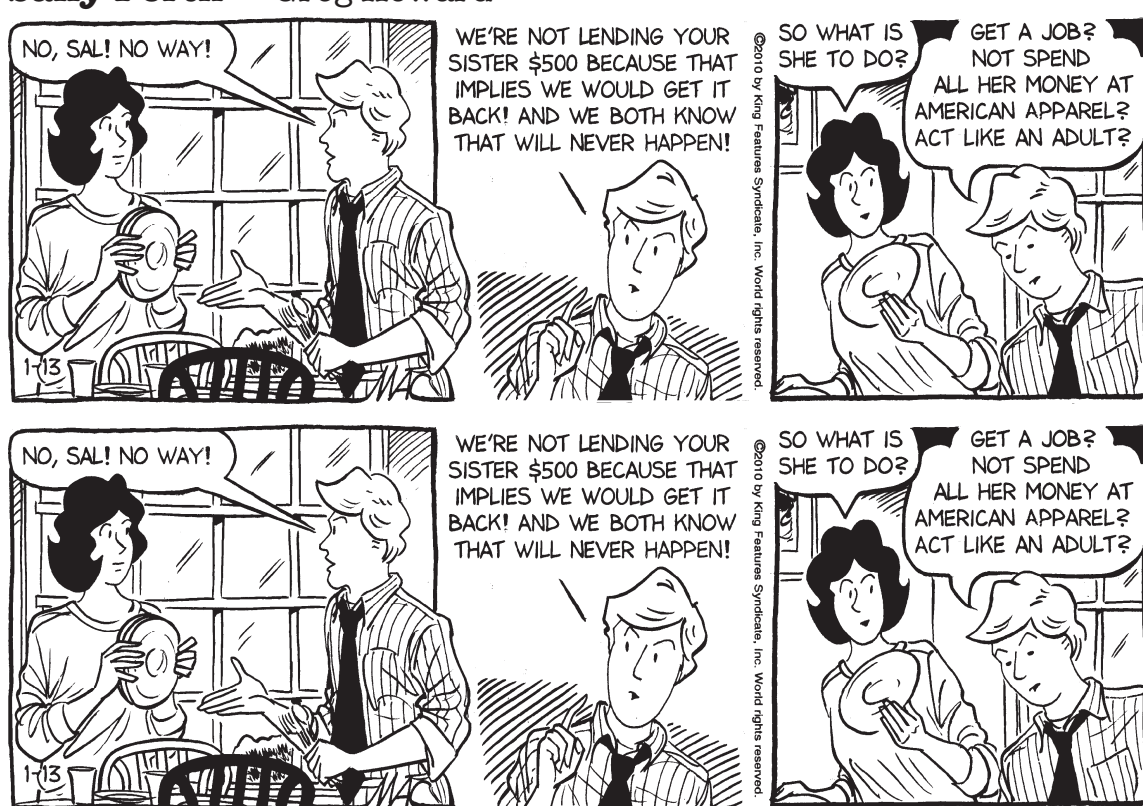
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Lemons on ice great for juice

Dear Heloise: I think I read in your column that there was a way to FREEZE LEMONS. If you would be willing to point me to that information, I would be most grateful. Thank you. – Kay Wagner, Billings, Mont.

Kay, lemons do freeze fairly well. Sometimes they can be a bit mushy when thawed, but the juice is still good! You can buy them when they are on sale, put them in a freezer bag and store in the freezer until needed.

When you need lemon juice, set the lemon on the counter to defrost or pop it in the microwave for a few seconds.

You also can slice fresh lemons, cover and freeze on a tray, then put in a freezer bag to store. Freezing lemon juice in an ice-cube tray works also.

Buy the perfect lemons by choosing ones that are firm and have smooth skin. Here's to enjoying lemons all year-round. – 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

SHOPPING HINT

Dear Heloise: I like to shop at stores that do matching of competitors' ads. Each week, when I receive the grocery ads in the paper, I scan the bargains, write the item and price at the top of each page, then circle or highlight the item that I want to match. I place one ad on top of the other and clip my grocery list and coupons to the ads I take to the store. This makes it easy to scan the items I want to comp and makes the ad handy if the checker needs to see the item. – Tamara D., Tupelo, Miss.

EASY MASHED POTATOES

Dear Heloise: Mashed potatoes for family dinners were always the least-fun dish to prepare. Cooking and making the potatoes, then trying to keep them hot – not to mention cleaning used utensils – was a pain.

Then I tried this: Make the potatoes as you normally would and keep hot. Now, lightly spray the sides and bottom of your slow cooker with cooking spray. Next, add 1/2 to 3/4 inch of warm milk to the bottom of the cooker and 3 to 4 teaspoons of butter or margarine. Do not stir. Spoon potatoes into the pot; do not stir at this time. Cover the pot tightly and turn to warm. At mealtime, remove the lid and stir potatoes into the milk and butter at the bottom of the cooker. You might need to add a bit more milk. Hot potatoes, and no last-minute stress! – Jackie Spence, Roswell, N.M.

Jackie, good hint! We checked with a leading manufacturer of slow cookers, and it advised to hold items in the slow cooker for a maximum of four hours. – Heloise.

SOFTENING BUTTER

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint for softening butter: If I forget to get butter out ahead of time to soften, I just grate it with a hand grater before mixing. This works beautifully. – Avery, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Planning the Play

Endplays seldom come about by themselves. Declarer must usually do at least some preliminary preparation to develop the end position he seeks.

Consider the present case where West leads the king of clubs against four spades doubled, then shifts to the king of diamonds at trick two. Declarer wins with dummy's ace and sees that if the missing cards are badly stacked against him, he could lose a spade and two hearts in addition to the club he has already lost.

South has no control over the trump loser if the spades are divided 2-0, so he should focus on holding himself to one heart loser instead of two. In line with this, he ruffs a diamond at trick three, the first step in the elimination process that he hopes will produce the desired result. Without this diamond ruff, South would lose the contract.

He next plays the ace of trumps, on which East shows out, and continues by ruffing a club, a diamond, a club and, finally, dummy's last diamond. Having eliminated all the clubs and diamonds from his own hand and dummy, South is ready for the coup de grace.

At this point, dummy has three hearts and two trumps, as does South, while West is down to three hearts, a club and the trump king. Declarer now puts West on lead with a trump. West wins the trick – the second for his side – but he is not happy. If he returns a club, he hands South a ruff-and-discard as well as the contract. And if he returns a heart instead, the outcome is exactly the same, since South then loses only one heart trick.

It pays to plan the play.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



1-13

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"How did my wisdom teeth get smarter than the others?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

KG GKBKXP HAKXPY JV
DZEQY LRJ QBHUQDQCL
XQUMRJJ, LRJ CKEQCL ZUQ
AZMKXP UQVZUZHCRX ZXBKQHL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE BORN IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH: PISCES PIECES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Bound
- 4 E-I connection
- 7 Snaky shape
- 8 The Little Mermaid
- 10 Hot box?
- 11 Approach the curb
- 13 Noted Texas musician/politician
- 16 South Bend's st.
- 17 Moves like a moth
- 18 Story of a lifetime?
- 19 Two-way
- 20 Deserve
- 21 Like Shirley Temple's hair
- 23 Coffin stands
- 25 Broadway award
- 26 Make fun of
- 27 Pretend
- 28 Expiate
- 30 Dandy
- 33 "Yakety Sax" musician
- 36 Poets' name for England
- 37 Tire pattern
- 38 Column features of the world's population
- 39 Leave a lasting impression?
- 40 Agent, for short
- 41 Request
- 2 Barnyard sound
- 3 Frolicsome
- 4 Some produce
- 5 Saint honored on Sept. 1
- 6 Maintained
- 7 He slew 25% of the world's population
- 8 Time for foolishness?
- 9 Of the loins
- 10 Schuss
- 12 Two-somes
- 14 TV chef
- 15 "Smoking or —?"
- 19 Parch on
- 20 "A mouse!"
- 21 Winter warmer
- 22 Incalculable
- 23 Former European capital city
- 24 Summer-time quencher
- 25 Bill
- 26 Reacts to a pun
- 28 In reserve
- 29 Scout unit
- 30 Particle
- 31 Colorful fish
- 32 Third degree?
- 34 Mountain transport
- 35 Scraps

DOWN

- 1 Pooch
- 10 Schuss
- 21 Like Shirley Temple's hair
- 23 Coffin stands
- 25 Broadway award
- 26 Make fun of
- 27 Pretend
- 28 Expiate
- 30 Dandy
- 33 "Yakety Sax" musician
- 36 Poets' name for England
- 37 Tire pattern
- 38 Column features of the world's population
- 39 Leave a lasting impression?
- 40 Agent, for short
- 41 Request

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	V	E	C	T	S	P	A	B	E	D				
D	I	V	A	R	U	E	C	A	R	E				
A	V	I	V	A	P	P	L	E	E	I				
M	A	L	I	B	U	S	E	T	T	E				
A	I	M	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I				
A	P	P	R	O	A	C	H	C	Z	A	R			
L	E	A	S	T	O	O	P	E	N	E				
P	A	N	T	A	P	P	E	N	D	I	X			
P	H	I	E	E	R	O								
L	A	I	R	D	S	L	I	G	H	T	S			
A	P	P	O	S	I	T	E							
K	E	E	N		L	I	S	O	T	I	C			
E	S	S	E		O	P	S				D	E	S	K

Yesterday's answer 1-13