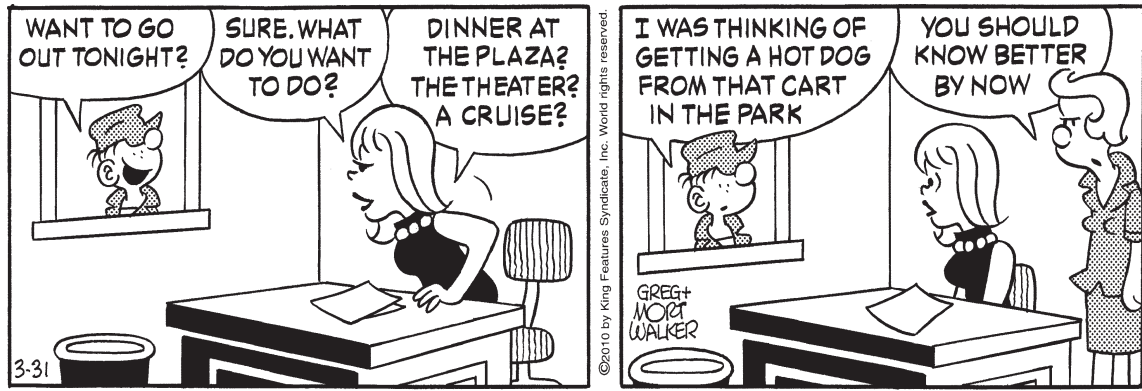


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



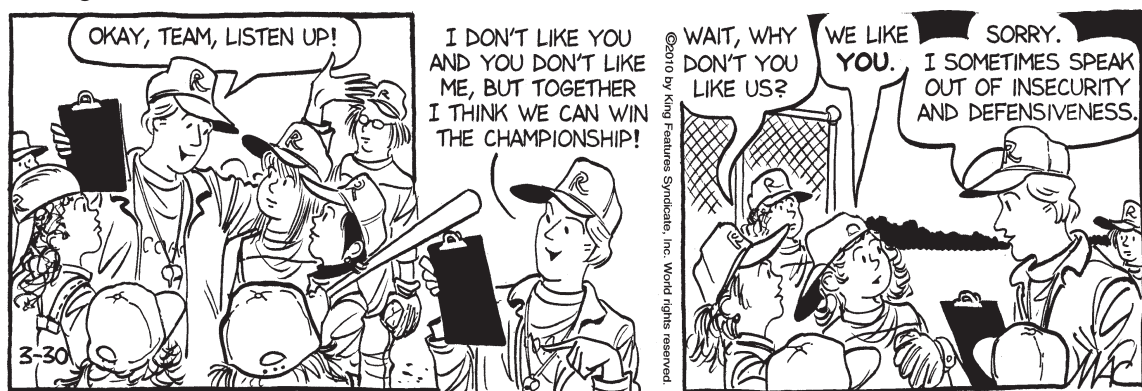
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



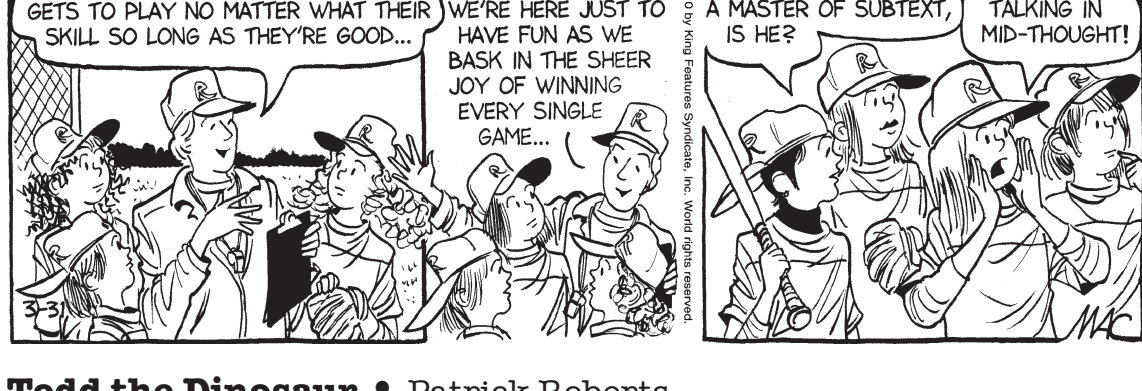
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Sanitizing sinks fights bacteria

Dear Readers: Your KITCHEN SINK may look clean, but it is still filled with harmful, icky bacteria! Bacteria like staphylococcus could still be lurking there and make you and your family sick. That's why it's important to not only clean the sink and countertops, but to sanitize them as well.

To do that: First wash and clean as usual with powdered or spray cleaner. Rinse well. Then go over everything again with a diluted chlorine-bleach solution. You can make your own by mixing a tablespoon of bleach with a gallon of water. Put the solution in a labeled spray bottle and use it to spot-clean the sink and countertops. This is only active when made fresh. Light and heat will cause the bleach to be ineffective. And keep in mind, diluted bleach will lose its strength after it's exposed to air, so for the best bacteria fighter, it's best to mix up a fresh batch as often as needed. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
MAKING BACON

Dear Heloise: I have a neat trick for frying bacon. Take four strips and cut them in half. Your 9-inch frying pan will hold them without the edges curling up. This way, it is simple to manage the strips. They lay flatter, are easier to turn and will fit a BLT, no problem! — Wilson Harris, Laredo, Texas

Nice hint, and here's another breakfast hint from Marjorie H. of Lebanon, Mo. She says: "I am fond of poached eggs, and I have one for my breakfast two or three times a week. I also like bacon with my eggs, but rather than frying bacon, I buy real bacon bits and sprinkle 1 tablespoon over my cooked egg. I have the bacon flavor without the mess." — Heloise

EASY CHOCOLATE DRIZZLE

Dear Heloise: Each year, our family has a cookie-making day. Through the years, I picked up a secret. Take a zipper-top plastic bag and pour in it a 12-ounce bag of chocolate chips with 1 tablespoon of shortening and heat for 45 seconds in the microwave, leaving the bag open. When finished, mash the chips until smooth. Snip a tiny hole in one corner and squeeze the bag to drizzle over cookies or pastry. — Mary, via e-mail

SWEET STRAWBERRIES

Dear Heloise: It was suggested to sprinkle cut strawberries with 1/4 cup sugar to enhance the flavor. For those who do not or cannot use sugar, an equal amount of any powdered artificial sweetener will have the same effect. — Jo in North Dakota

FOOD PREPARATION

Dear Heloise: When preparing food for several days or large gatherings, I sometimes run short on refrigerator space. I make extra "shelves" using heavy cardboard covered in foil. Placed over plates and dishes, these allow me to double- or triple-stack serving dishes. — Pat in Texas

PLASTIC BAGS

Dear Heloise: Resealable bags are great for getting rid of garbage. This keeps smells at bay. — Bob, via e-mail
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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Lose the Battle, Win the War

There are times when a defender must have the courage of his convictions and make a play that sacrifices a trick in the interests of defeating the contract. For a prime example, take this case where West had to play exceptionally well to achieve the desired goal.

West made the normal lead of a heart against three notrump. Declarer played low from dummy, and East won with the king. When East returned the ten of hearts, South followed low, whereupon West made the extraordinary play of the queen of hearts!

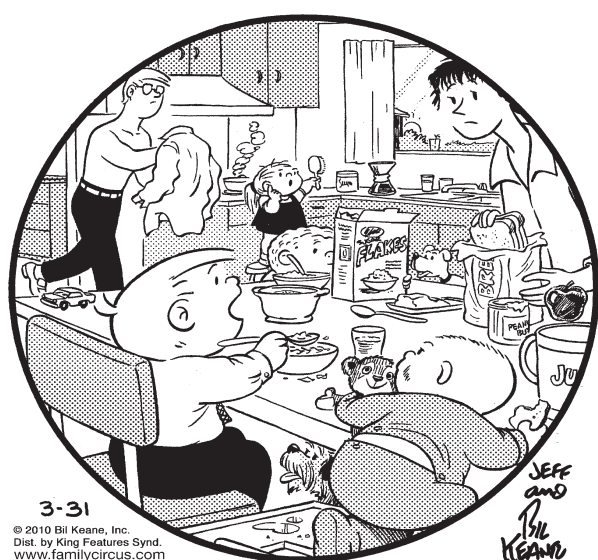
West knew that he was handing South an extra heart trick by overtaking his partner's ten of hearts with the queen, since declarer was marked with the heart jack. But West realized at the same time that if he allowed East's ten to hold the trick, his partner would be unable to lead a third heart to force out dummy's ace.

Declarer could do no better than win the heart queen with the ace, lead a club to his ace and return a diamond. West followed low, of course, and dummy's ten won the trick.

South's only remaining hope now was to find the clubs divided 3-3, so he played the king and another club. But when the clubs proved to be divided 4-2, he had to go down one.

Now let's go back to trick two and see what happens if West doesn't overtake East's ten of hearts with the queen. The ten wins, and East probably shifts to a low spade at trick three. Declarer wins, forces out the ace of diamonds and winds up with nine tricks consisting of four diamonds, two spades, two clubs and a heart.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-31
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/31

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

Cryptoquip

H V I S M S B N U ' F I S E H X

"BND GHJCM I SV SJ" SGXDI

LCKKDB ECML, H EQDFF

BNDU 'I LD BSBS 'F BQBQF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD GAME SHOW IN WHICH A PLAYER WON BY CREATING THE BEST-TASTING PICKLE: "LET'S MAKE A DILL."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Unit of cultural information
5 "Flying Down to —"
8 Gospels' follower
12 Director Reitman
13 Work unit
14 Exceptional
15 Red flier
17 Very dry, as champagne
18 Guarantee
19 Chopin pieces
21 Church furniture
22 Information
23 Killer whale
26 Used 21-Across
28 Childhood disease
31 Pinnacle
33 Meadow
35 Angry
36 Throat affliction
38 Pismire

DOWN
40 Tend the lawn
41 Act
43 Society newbie
45 Treeless tract
47 What some guests become during a wedding
51 Sea eagle
52 Sweater type
54 Story-teller
55 Yoko of music
56 Creche figures
57 Privation
58 Yang counterpart

9 Spice in Indian cuisine
10 Verifiable
11 Collections
16 Enrages
20 Highland hat
23 Chances, for short
24 On a pension (Abbr.)
25 Cuban port city
27 Afternoon social
29 Expert alternative
30 Stitch
32 Guardian
34 Half a pair of the fireplace
37 Energy
39 Take care of
42 Luring device
44 Goodyear symbol
45 Vend
46 56-Across, e.g.
48 Thicken-ing agent
49 Carry on
50 Quick cut
53 Blackbird

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-31

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		