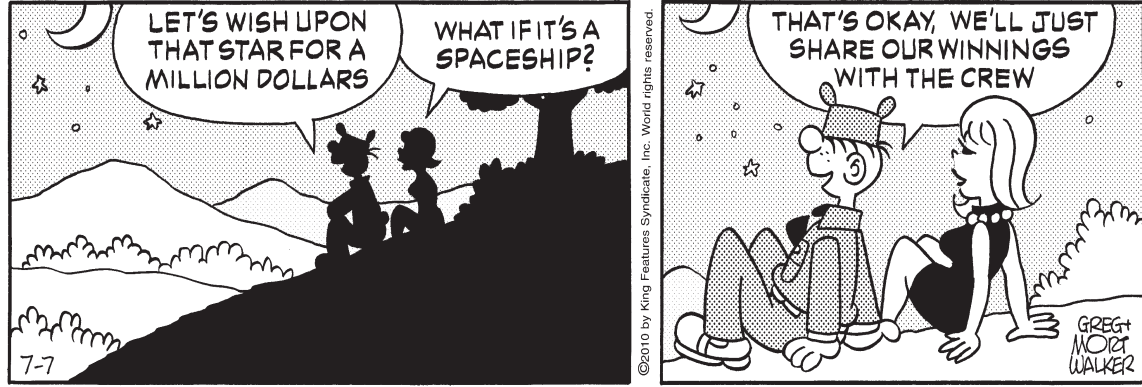


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



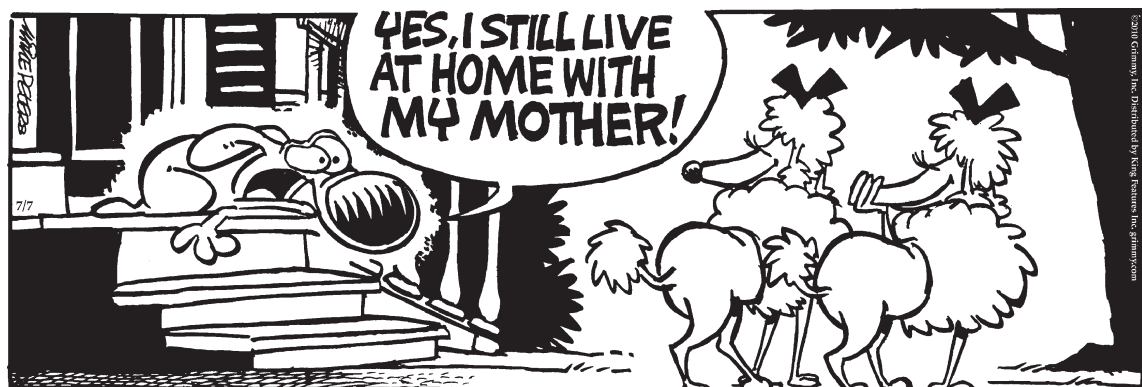
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



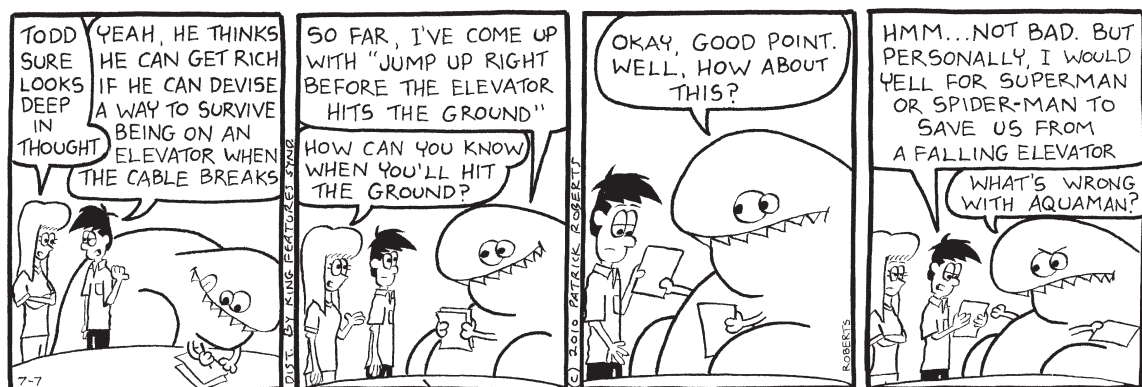
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



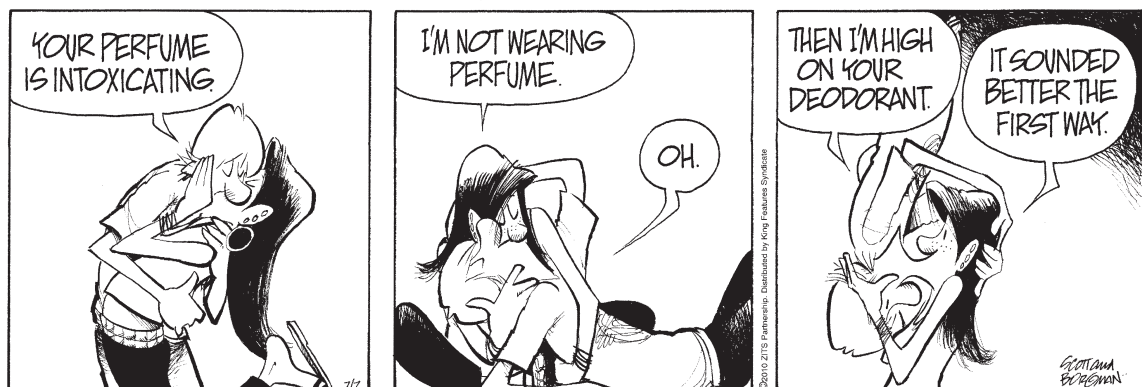
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

To ship cookies, take special care

Dear Heloise: My son is on his second tour of Afghanistan. Knowing he likes chocolate cookies with peanut-butter chips, I came up with a way to SEND THE COOKIES OVERSEAS and not have them arrive in pieces. I put the cookie dough in cupcake liners, and I bake them in muffin tins. I pack the liners and cookies in potato-chip cans. Each can holds one dozen packed tightly. They arrive intact and stay fresh. — Bonnie Q. in White Haven, Pa.

Bonnie, any service person away from home loves home-baked goodies! The love and care that go into the project are very well-received. However, it's wise to do homework before shipping food items.

We checked with Treat the Troops, www.treatthetroops.org, an organization that bakes cookies just for servicemen and -women, and here is something to keep in mind: the time of year! Hot conditions, especially from May through October (depending on where you are sending from and to), can cause food items to spoil, so it's recommended to use candy-coated chocolate and peanut-butter morsels rather than chips. — Heloise

P.S.: Any more hints for sending goodies? E-mail Heloise(at)Heloise.com, and we will print as many as we can!

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

POTATO MASH

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint on what to do with leftover mashed potatoes. I decided to try freezing them. It turns out they taste just as good as fresh mashed. Now when I make mashed potatoes, I double the amount and freeze what's left over. I put them in a 1-quart freezer bag and flatten them out as much as possible. That way, I can break off just the amount I need. Now on holidays, I make the potatoes ahead of time and freeze them so I don't have the hassle of making them on the morning of the holiday. — Dick S., via e-mail

Cook once, eat twice! Sure enough, mashed potatoes can be frozen, according to our experts. — Heloise

MISSING LID

Dear Heloise: I use my slow cooker a lot. The plastic handle on the lid broke. When I checked with the manufacturer, the replacement lid was \$10, plus shipping and handling. That seemed like just too much! So, I went to a thrift store and found a slow-cooker lid, and it cost less than \$1! What pleases me most is the time and energy I saved, and I don't feel like anyone took advantage of me! — S.B., via e-mail

FRESH PEACHES

Dear Heloise: I enjoy fresh peaches on my cereal, so I always cut up and freeze sliced peaches when in season. I place a portion size in a sandwich bag, and then place the small bags in a larger freezer bag (don't forget to get as much air out of the bags as possible). Then I just remove a sandwich bag, thaw, and I'm ready to enjoy a bit of summer! Works for any fresh fruit you enjoy. — A Reader, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 6
♥ K 4
♦ A K J 8 3
♣ J 9 5
WEST
♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ A 9 6 3
♦ 5 2
♣ Q 8 3
EAST
♠ J 5 4 3
♥ J 2
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A K 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10
♥ J 10 8 7 5
♦ Q 6
♣ 10 7 4
The bidding:
South Pass West 1♦ North Pass East Pass
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Opening lead — two of spades.

The Philosophy of Spad Defense

Many situations arise during the play that strongly challenge the imagination of a top-notch defender. Take this case where West passed two extremely difficult tests successfully. He led a spade, declarer winning East's jack with the ace and returning a low heart at trick two.

It may seem automatic for West to follow low at this point, in keeping with countless similar situations encountered previously. But West was a very fine player who was rarely caught napping.

He had already fully processed what had happened at trick one. The jack was obviously the highest spade East had, revealing not only that South had the A-K, but also the ten. (East would have played the ten from J-10.)

In addition, declarer's heart play at trick two — totally ignoring dummy's diamonds — was convincing evidence that the latter suit did not need to be established because it was already good.

Having made these inferential observations, West realized that if he ducked declarer's heart lead at trick two, South would quickly dash home with nine tricks.

At the same time, viewed from an entirely different perspective, West saw there was a strong likelihood that his partner held the A-K of clubs! He drew this conclusion by recalling that South had passed originally, was known to have the A-K-10 of spades and by implication also held the queen of diamonds plus some heart values. He therefore could not have the ace or king of clubs.

So West rose with the heart ace at trick two and played the queen and another club to sink the contract. He correctly led the queen first rather than the three to forestall the possibility that East might cash the A-K of clubs and block the suit.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/07

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.

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

Cryptoquip

UDDK EGCA VDQ G IGRAQO

VGCDTZ VDQ YGNHEU DESO

BYA NAQO VHEAZB LDDRHAZ:

LQTCI KA SG LQTCI.

Yesterday's **Cryptoquip**: WHEN CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERS WEAR HAIRPIECES, I SUPPOSE THEY MIGHT BE WHIGS' WIGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 44 Meadow 46 Milk dis-penser? 50 Mecca for fans, maybe 55 Water (French) 56 Language of Pakistan 57 See 58-type Across 58 With 57-life Across, Scarecrow's TV partner 59 Agrees silently 60 Eyelid woe 61 Inseparable

DOWN 23 Florida city 25 Barber-shop prop 26 Vicinity 27 Den 28 One of the tenses 29 Capri, for one 30 Pinnacle 31 Horse of a different color? 35 Cause of great affliction 38 Seal's cousin 40 Conclusion 42 Collection 45 Requests 47 Show-room sample 48 Deserve 49 Bit of trickery 50 Baltimore newspaper 51 Expert 52 Peculiar 53 Nipped 54 Whatever amount

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-7