

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



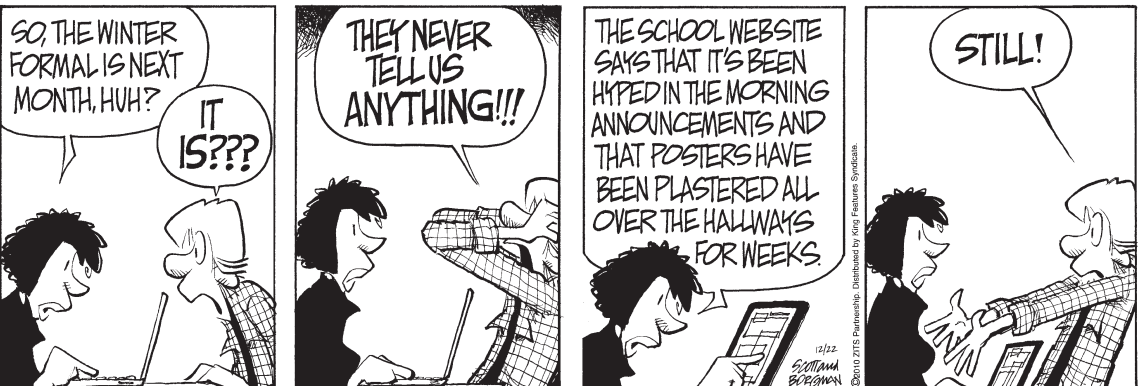
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Mix simplifies hot chocolate

Dear Heloise: Please print the Heloise HOME-MADE HOT CHOCOLATE recipe again. I wanted to make it for the holidays. I read your column every day. Thank you. – Judy in Virginia

Judy, it's my pleasure. Here's what you'll need:
2 cups powdered milk
1/4 cup cocoa
1 cup confectioners' sugar
Dash of salt
1/3 cup powdered nondairy creamer
1 to 2 tablespoons malted milk powder (optional)

Combine these ingredients thoroughly and store in a tightly sealed container. To serve, spoon about 4 tablespoons of the mix into a mug, fill with boiling water and mix. You also can use equal amounts of sugar substitute and malted milk powder instead of the creamer to make a richer-tasting drink, but then use only 1 tablespoon and an 8-ounce cup. Enjoy! – 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

A COUPLE OF KITCHEN HINTS

Dear Heloise: A couple of things that I have not seen in your daily column that I have found to be efficient are:

- Keep a 5-pound bag of sugar in the freezer to keep it from clumping.
- Use an iced-tea spoon to reach mayonnaise when it's at the bottom of the jar. – Marian Ison in San Antonio

NATURAL PEANUT BUTTER

Dear Heloise: When I read the hint about shaking the jar of peanut butter to get the oil to mix, it made me want to share what I found to work best. With a new unopened jar that is at room temperature, with the oil on top, turn it over for about one hour. That's just enough time for the oil to start working its way back through. After the hour, open, stir and then store in the refrigerator. Stirring is much easier. Don't leave it inverted for much longer or you end up with too much oil at the "top" again. – Leslie in Houston

CRACKING WALNUTS

Dear Heloise: When I pulled out my nutcrackers this year, I found that they were not doing a good job of cracking some extra-strong walnuts. I retrieved a new pair of slip joint water pump pliers, commonly called "channel locks," from my workshop. They adjust to suit any size nut, the teeth do not slip, and they have much more mechanical advantage than ordinary nutcrackers. – L.Q. in Florida

SPAGHETTI SAUCE

Dear Heloise: When I make spaghetti sauce, I use bottled sauce and add my own extras. To get the last of the sauce from the jar, I pour the wine that I am going to use for the sauce into the jar, put the lid back on, shake it and pour it all into the sauce pot. – Diane Makin in Grizzly Flat, Calif.
(c)2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 9 4
♥ A Q 10 7 3
♦ 8 7 5

WEST
♠ K 8 3 2
♥ A 6
♦ J
♣ K Q J 10 9 2

EAST
♠ A 9 6 5
♥ 7 5 2
♦ 9 4 2
♣ 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 10 7 4
♥ K Q 10 8 3
♦ K 8 6 5
♣ A

The bidding:
South: 1♥ West: 2♦ North: 2♦ East: Pass
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

A Spot Card Shows the Way

The opportunity to use certain specialized defensive signals does not come up very often. But when the proper occasion arises, these methods can be used to devastating effect.

Consider this deal from a team contest where both North-South pairs reached four hearts and both Wests led the jack of diamonds.

At the first table, South played low from dummy, East followed with the deuce, and declarer won with the king. A low heart was then led toward dummy. West, seeking a diamond ruff, put up the ace and had to decide how to try to reach his partner's hand.

With all the cards in view, it is easy to see that a spade shift would have succeeded. But from West's seat, a spade lead looked extremely risky, while a club return appeared harmless. So West opted for the safer lead of the club nine. East would win with the ace if he had it, while the nine would force out the ace if South had that card.

Unfortunately, South produced the ace, drew trumps and conceded two spade tricks – making four.

At the second table, East gave his partner far more help. Fully attuned to the fact that his partner was interested in a diamond ruff, East played the nine of diamonds on the first trick. Under the circumstances, this could hardly be construed as a come-on signal in diamonds, so it had to be interpreted as suit-preference, directing West to lead the higher-ranking of the two remaining side suits (spades and clubs) if he gained the lead.

Accordingly, when West took his ace of hearts at trick two, he shifted to a spade. East won with the ace and returned a diamond for West to ruff, and the king of spades put the finishing touch on a well-defended hand.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“... When the shepherds came they had a place to park their sheep.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

MJCTWHTP DVYNKTG TMCVQ

OZCOGZ HIC GCSZ QC SNYNQ

T K Z J Q T N X N X W N T X

DZQJCOCGNY: “IZGGC, WZGIN!”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WEALTHY PEOPLE CLEAN ESTATE HOUSES, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE MINDING THEIR MANORS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Request
 - 4 Movie pig
 - 8 Interoffice note
 - 12 Writer Buscaglia
 - 13 In due time
 - 14 Ahma-dinejad's land
 - 15 Coffee vessel
 - 16 Runner
 - 18 Source of igneous rock
 - 20 Spotted
 - 21 Spheres
 - 24 Parade
 - 28 Confirm
 - 32 Harvard rival
 - 33 — carte
 - 34 Baghdad resident
 - 36 Sailor
 - 37 Hard work
 - 39 Flood
 - 41 Rio Grande feeder
 - 43 Casino cubes
- DOWN**
- 2 Antitoxins
 - 3 “King —”
 - 4 Rival of Captain Morgan
 - 5 Santa —
 - 6 “— voyage!”
 - 7 Con-cludes where can —?”
 - 8 Carnival area
 - 9 Historic period
 - 10 Wrestling surface
 - 11 Inseparable
 - 17 “— the Walrus”
 - 19 Miss Piggy's pronoun
 - 22 Adriatic Sea port
- Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 12-22

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					60					61		