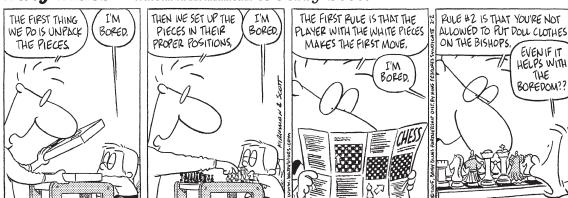
### **Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



#### Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





#### **Blondie** • Chic Young







#### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

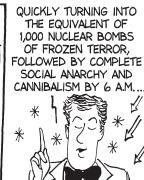


#### **Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



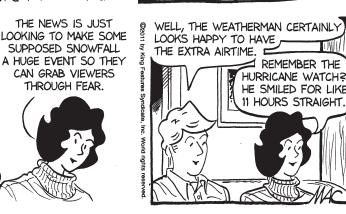
# Sally Forth • Greg Howard





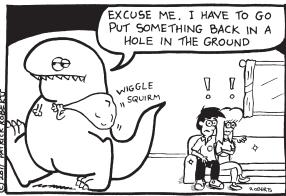






# **Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts





**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









# Heloise

Hints from Heloise

# Distilled water best for baking

Dear Heloise: I would like to give you this little hint: Never use TAP WATER to make bread. The chemicals kill the action of the yeast. Use only bottled water. - Marlene E., via e-mail

You need to know what is in your tap water to be the most successful when baking bread. Many cooks do use distilled water or bottled water when baking from scratch. It can't hurt! - Heloise

#### **QUICK GREENS**

Dear Readers: Here's one of my favorite hints: I keep a can of peas (this works with green beans as well) in my refrigerator for an easy "pea salad" at mealtime or when unexpected guests arrive.

I drain the peas or green beans, add some sliced green olives stuffed with pimentos, chopped onions or hard-boiled eggs, and mix with a little mayonnaise (I use low-fat), then salt and pepper to taste. You can add anything that may appeal to your family. Be creative and enjoy! - Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:** Heloise

P.O. Box 795000

San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

### SUBSTITUTES FOR OIL IN RECIPES

Dear Heloise: Not only is applesauce a good substitute for oil in cake recipes, but so are yogurt (plain or flavored), mashed bananas, pureed peaches and pumpkin. I use a quick-bread recipe that calls for 1 cup of oil. I pour a couple of tablespoons of oil in the bottom of the measuring cup and fill the remainder with whichever of the above I have on hand. I use the same for pumpkin bread, banana bread, zucchini bread and applesauce bread. I use only whole-wheat flour and lots of spices in everything I bake. Healthy really does taste good! - Pam W., via e-mail

# FREE COOLING ELEMENT

Dear Heloise: We recently had a blizzard hit our area, depositing more than 25 inches of snow. The foul weather did not prevent us from hosting a large family get-together. In the past, we always used store-bought ice cubes to keep beer, soda and wine cold in a cooler in our kitchen, from which our guests could serve themselves.

This time, I decided to use some of the snow from outside to keep the beverage bottles and cans in our cooler cold. The snow worked just fine. Using the snow saved energy and money, but still did a great job! - Allen in New Jersey

#### **LÜNCH KITS**

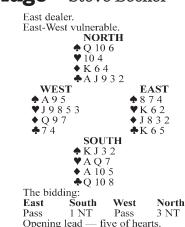
Dear Readers: How about using those leftover plastic lunch-kit containers to repack lunches? Cut up fresh vegetables for one section, with ranch dressing to dip in another. Some fruit,

crackers and cold cuts or pasta salad also can make lunch fun and exciting! - Heloise **CHOCOLATE** 

Dear Heloise: I make a lot of chocolate-dipped goodies, and I found that using a double boiler and standing at a hot stove was cumbersome. I came up with the idea of using my slow cooker. It melts the chocolate and remains at dipping consistency during the whole process of dipping goodies. – Lynda H., via e-mail

(c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

# **Bridge** • Steve Becker



# **A Question of Priorities**

There are so many seemingly contradictory rules which are supposed to guide declarer during the play that it is not at all surprising that many players sometimes become confused.

For instance, one source might advise developing your strongest suit, while another might advocate developing your longest suit. Someone else tells you to count your winners, and another says to count your losers, and so on, ad infinitum.

All such advice, though offered in good faith, is intended to be merely general and should be categorically rejected whenever following the general rule seems unwise. In most deals, the goal is to make the contract, and this takes precedence over mere generalities. One should always try to avoid a result where it can later be said that the operation was a success, but the contract died.

Take this case where declarer wins East's king of hearts with the ace at trick one. What should he do next? Should he attack spades or clubs? Undoubtedly, many declarers would immediately tackle clubs, the longer suit. If they did, they would finish down one. East would win with the king and return a heart, establishing West's suit, after which South could not score more than eight tricks.

Declarer should, however, lead spades first not because they're shorter, longer or more solid, but because leading spades first assures the contract. The only real threat is that East has the king of clubs and West has five or six hearts and the ace of spades as an entry. West should therefore be disarmed as soon as possible, and that is the reason for attacking spades first.

When West takes the ace of spades, he returns the jack of hearts, which you, of course, duck. You win the next heart and then try the club finesse. True, it loses – but you make four notrump.

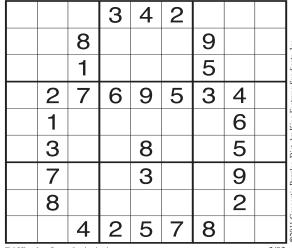
(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

### Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy just told me we DON'T get presents on Groundhog Day.

# Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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

	7	8	9	1	4	6	2	5	3
	5	1	4	3	2	8	9	6	7
	3	2	6	9	5	7	8	4	1
	1	6	2	7	8	9	4	3	5
	9	7	5	2	3	4	1	8	6
	4	3	8	5	6	1	7	2	9
	6	9	3	8	7	2	5	1	4
	2	4	7	6	1	5	3	9	8
	8	5	1	4	9	3	6	7	2
Difficulty Level ★									1/3

# Cryptoquip

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

VG VOGJO IOGIFO YOG ZOV

NFF HGVOQAQL

MPIAQTMJQ IWBTVWNVMGB

WJNZQ, M JNX "TGPPN LGYB!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN A CERTAIN BIG SAUDI ARABIAN CITY, IS COMPUTER STORAGE SPACE MEASURED IN MECCA-BYTES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals O

# **Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

33 Whatever 58 Syco-

16 Vicinity

part

Altar

counter-

Tavern

affirmative

Pontifical

Tackle's

Gabor or Longoria

team-

mate

Saw-

buck

Most

Stein-

squad

living

Sir's

— out a

companion

Journal

jotting

**Boasts** 

Take on

Buster

Brown's

Vail

gear

On

dog

**50** Garbage

barge

53 Colora-

2/2/11 9:16:32 AM

debonair

brenner's

**ACROSS** 

dance

group

31 Commo-

1 Morse	amount phant's	<b>20</b> Id
code	<b>35</b> Apiary reply	CO
compo-	structure 59 Gush	pa
nent	<b>36</b> Palin forth	<b>23</b> Ta
<b>5</b> Crony	book,	24 Alt
8 One	"Going <b>DOWN</b>	aff
of the	—" <b>1</b> Arp's	tive
Three	38 Water style	<b>25</b> Po
Bears	barrier 2 Ostenta	- <b>27</b> Ta
12 Japanese	40 Metal tion	tea
aborigine	container 3 Break	ma
13 Actress	41 Create suddenl	y <b>29</b> Ga
Yasbeck	43 Appre- 4 Like	Lo
14 Vaccine	hend mid-	<b>30</b> Sa
type	45 No longer August	bu
15 Theatrical	stubbly weather	<b>32</b> Mc
17 Romance	47 Pure gold 5 Kneecap	o de
novelist	has 24 6 French	<b>34</b> Ste
Roberts	<b>51</b> Flying toy friend	bre
<b>18</b> Have	52 Having a 7 Stretchy	sq
high	topic synthetic	c <b>37</b> —
hopes	54 Eye part 8 Ruler	livi
<b>19</b> Fruit	<b>55</b> Regret <b>9</b> Scented	<b>39</b> Sir
juice	<b>56</b> Energetic <b>10</b> Former	CO
extractor	<b>57</b> Denomi- filly	ior
<b>21</b> N.J.	nation 11 Winged	<b>42</b> Jo
neighbor	Solution time: 21 mins.	jot
22 Taj Mahal	EGG EBB PRAM	
city	DROPTAR AURA	
23 Bridge	DANA ALIIINCH OBEYS LEWD	90
declara-		<b>46</b> Ta
tion	WASTRELSHIVA	48 Or
26 Hearty	HOOTBIDEVER	
brew	I N F E R Z I P P E R S	
28 Square	MEANIE POI	do

Yesterday's answer 2-2 tions tion 55