Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





Blondie • Chic Young







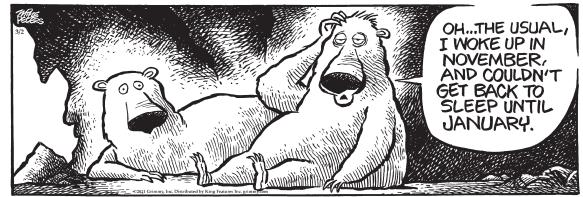
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne







Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

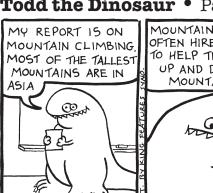






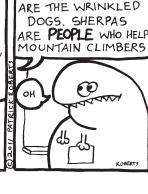


Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









TODD, SHAR-PEIS

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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THANKS, DAD.



IT SEEMS LIKE



Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Cupcake letters spell greetings

Dear Heloise: I went to my best friend's 3-year-old's BIRTHDAY PARTY. Instead of the mom baking a cake, she made cupcakes and decorated each one with a letter. When finished and the cupcakes were placed together, they spelled out "Happy Birthday Boston" (the birthday boy's name). One had the number "3" on it, since that was how old he was turning.

Depending on how many people are attending, extra cupcakes can be made and decorated with different designs. She used stars, rockets, etc. These extra cupcakes can be placed between the "Happy Birthday," or they can be arranged around it. They were great for picture-taking and were adorable.

Assign someone with baby towelettes to wipe the children's faces and hands, because the frosting can really make a mess. - Ruth in Texas

Love this idea, and we are posting the picture on my website, www.Heloise.com! Great idea for any party where a cake would be served. And with frosting now sold in tubes, it's much easier to decorate cupcakes. - Heloise

MATCHSTICK VEGGIES

Dear Heloise: I was so happy to discover matchstick carrots and matchstick broccoli. (Readers, these are julienne or sliced very thinly, and are a bit pricey. - Heloise) In addition to using them in salads, I zap them in the microwave, season and eat as a delicious vegetable dish. You also can toss them into casseroles and soups. Now I wish someone would come out with matchstick sweet potatoes. - Gloria in North Little Rock, Ark.

Gloria, you can slice most any veggie into small, thin pieces. Remember, though, just like "baby" carrots, they do not grow that way, so start slicing away at those sweet potatoes! - Heloise

POTATO SOUP

Dear Heloise: What to do with left-over scalloped potatoes? I make potato soup. Put the potatoes in a big pot, add milk and heat. Delicious. (Better than freshly made potato soup.) - Marjorie in Fillmore, Calif.

PANCAKES

Dear Heloise: My family loves pancakes for Sunday breakfast. To keep the twins from arguing over whose pancake is bigger, I came up with a solution. I use a meat baster to "squeeze" the pancake batter onto the hot griddle - perfectshape, same-size pancakes every time. - Vicki () White in Arkansas

FRESH MARSHMALLOWS

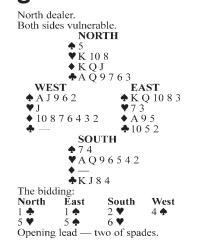
Dear Heloise: To keep marshmallows from being wasted, just put the marshmallows in a plastic zippered bag and keep it in the freezer. It just takes three to four minutes to thaw. For a creamy treat, place a frozen marshmallow in your hot chocolate. - A Reader in New Mexico

HOT PLATE

Dear Heloise: I bet this is not a new idea to many, but it was an "aha" moment for me. I had a casserole dish hot out of the oven. Passing it with hot pads would have been cumbersome, so I put the hot dish on a platter that we could easily hand around the table. Problem solved. – Jo M., via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker



A Matter of Faith

This deal, which occurred in a duplicate game many years ago, is most remarkable in that a different result was achieved at nearly every one of the 13 tables where it was played.

When North-South bought the contract, they played in four, five or six hearts, or five or six clubs, doubled in some cases.

When East-West played the hand, they were in five or six spades, doubled in every case.

The North-South pairs who bid and made slam in hearts earned the best scores in their direction. The East-Wests who sacrificed in five or six spades achieved good scores, going down 200 or 500 to prevent the opponents from making a vulnerable game or slam.

Only one East-West pair found the way to set six hearts. The bidding went as shown, with West deciding not to sacrifice against six hearts because he thought he had a reasonable chance to defeat the slam. And defeat it he did. He boldly led the deuce of

spades at trick one, won by East with the queen. The fact that West had underled the ace of spades – a highly risky maneuver against a slam – was not lost on East, who was certain that his partner had a very good reason for such an unusual lead. He therefore resisted the natural impulse to

try to cash the ace of diamonds. Had he played the ace, of course, South would have ruffed and taken the rest of the tricks to make the slam. Instead, demonstrating supreme faith in his

partner, East returned a club, fully expecting his partner to be void in that suit. West happily ruffed to defeat the slam, and the defenders earned themselves a well-deserved top score.

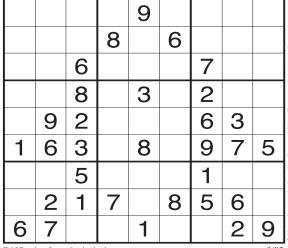
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"But I'm not too sick to watch TV. I'm just too sick to go to school!"

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 Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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

Cryptoquip

VTZG O SWVYWA PZBL WNB

AZPP TOVOEEOG WG

ELPOGQ, E LNMMWLZ EB

SWNPQ YZ OG WOTN VOTWW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT SCOUNDREL IN SEOUL IS A LIFETIME FELON, I TEND TO THINK OF HIM AS A KOREA CRIMINAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T

2 Staircase 23 Joad

7 Scabbard 27 Frenzied

and

24 "--Were

Kettle

King"

crew

29 Haul

30 Work

unit 32 Advanc-

ing

34 Lens

created

by Ben

37 D.C. VIP

39 Heming-

way

42 Fulton's

44 Canoe

45 Author

46 Verve

city

49 Tugboat

noise

50 Engrave,

in a

way

3/2/11 10:04:59 AM

power

source

material

Janowitz

48 Taj Mahal

Franklin

nickname

Jason's

25 Any of

compo-

nent

3 Comic

4 Drag

(Var.)

5 Habitual

contents

6 Plead

8 Portu-

guese

money

faced

water

spout

nurse-

maid

11 Moist in

16 Hebrew

month

20 "- -la-la!"

the morn

10 Asian

9 Ugly-

pre-euro

Danny

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

41 Hasn't

1 Seeks paid yet 43 "Great!" answers 45 Rent **5** Couric's network payer 8 "Zounds!" 47 Sedative 51 Winged **12** Beehive State 52 Snail, on 13 Chop a French 14 Unchanged 15 Bogart-Bacall movie 17 Animal's stomach kin 18 Swimsuit 57 Picnic

ACROSS

menu **54** Tennyson poem 55 Alias abbr 56 Gator's invaders

measure

days

DOWN

1 Divina

birds

Solution time: 21 mins.

brand 19 Red-58 Wire orange 59 "Thirty fish

21 Skillet 22 Old fogy 23 Actress Zadora 26 Edge 28 Cardgame rulebook

31 Frizzy coiffure 33 Taxi 35 Insult 36 Highway warnings 38 Go down slightly 40 Early bird?

53 Schuss Yesterday's answer 3-2

