Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



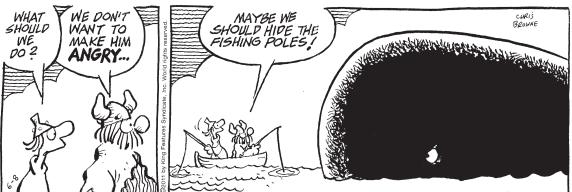
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



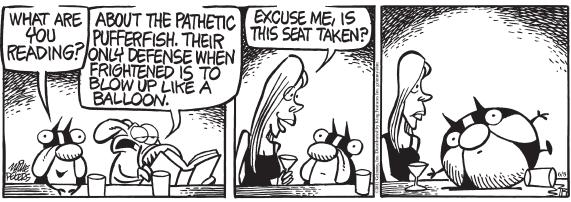
Blondie • Chic Young



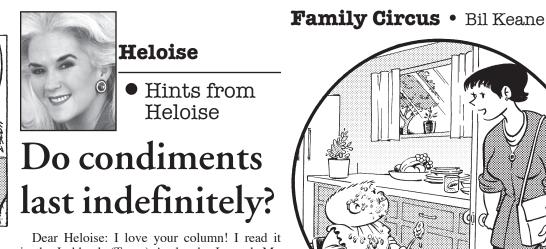
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



in the Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal. My question: We get a lot of CONDIMENTS from fast-food places. How long can they be kept, and do they need to be refrigerated? - Sharon S., Lamesa, Texas

Unopened packets do not need to be refrigerated. However, keeping them in the refrigerator will preserve the quality longer. Avoid extreme temperature changes (for example, being kept in a car). Since there are no expiration dates on the packets, a general rule of thumb is to discard after six months. If you open them and they smell bad, throw them out. - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise

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

LEFTOVER CHOCOLATE

Dear Heloise: I love your column in our daily paper. Keep up the good work. I have a hint for you if you can use it. When I have chocolate left over from a holiday or something, I put it in the fridge. When I make frosting, I grate the chocolate into the frosting so it won't be wasted. Thanks again for your column in the paper. - Ann Hager, Rugby, N.D.

EARLY-MORNING COOKING

Dear Heloise: I am definitely not a morning person, but family members are, and since they exercise first thing in the morning, they want a hearty breakfast! So I make several batches of the dry ingredients for muffins, biscuits, pancakes and cocoa. Each is stored in a bag labeled with tape that says something like "425 degrees 20 minutes. To one cup dry add 3 TBS butter and 1 cup milk."

When I wander into the kitchen for my coffee, I see the bag, the bowl and the pan set out the night before and can, at least, turn on the oven before coffee. - Laura Emerson, Trail Lake, Alaska

UNSALTED NUTS

Dear Heloise: One day, I discovered I had bought unsalted nuts instead of salted. I did not want to wait until I went back to the store to exchange them. I came up with this solution:

Open the can and lightly sprinkle with popcorn salt. Put the lid back on and shake lightly. You can always add more, but it is better to start with just a little. You now have salted nuts! If there is a sale on unsalted nuts, you can take advantage of the sale price. - Carol, Springfield, Ill.

BACON HINT

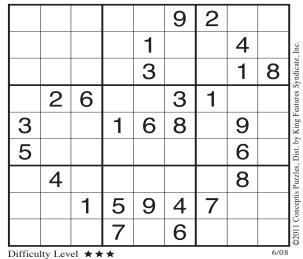
Dear Heloise: My husband and I don't use a pound of bacon before it goes bad. Now when I open a package of bacon, I pull out a sheet of waxed paper, about 18 inches long, and place a strip of bacon on a short end, fold it over, place another strip of bacon, fold it over and so on, until the last strip of bacon, and then I place it in the freezer. No need to thaw out before using. Just peel a strip of bacon off the paper and cook! -Trish, Springfield, Ill.

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"Hi, love! I'm afraid I'm going to have to just blow you a kiss this time."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

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Cryptoquip

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals I



OKAY, GUYS, I MADE A FINAL EXAM GUIDE FOR EVERY COURSE.



AND PRACTICE QUESTIONS. SO IN A WAY YOU ALREADY STUDIED.

THEY INCLUDE CORE

CONCEPTS, CRUCIAL FACTS

I JUST RETAINED ALL THE

YEAR. DIDN'T YOU?

INFORMATION OVER THE SCHOOL

WAIT, WHEN

DID WE START

CALCULUS?



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Bridge • Steve Becker

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Play It Again, Sam

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, and this is especially true in the play of a slam contract.

This deal occurred in a match between Great Britain and Norway. When the Norwegians held 24 the North-South cards, they reached six clubs with minimum fanfare as shown.

Certainly the contract was not bad; in fact, it 28 was rather good. The slam depends at worst on 32 a heart finesse, and without a heart lead, South would make 12 tricks if the opposing spades are divided 3-3.

But West did lead a heart, nullifying the possibility of establishing dummy's fourth spade. With 34 declarer immediately confronted by the heart situation, he finessed the queen, lost to the king and 36 later lost a spade trick to go down one.

No one will ever know whether South would have made the slam had he played differently, but there is no doubt that he misplayed the hand. He erred when he played the queen from dummy on the opening lead. Instead, he should have played the eight!

To appreciate the advantage of this play, imagine you're East and the eight is played from dummy. What would you do? Remember - you see only the dummy's cards and your own. It might not be so easy to play the nine instead of the king. South could have the jack -- especially in view of his failure to finesse the queen. And if you do decide to play the king, South then has 12 ironclad tricks.

Declarer loses nothing by trying the eight. If West has the king, the finesse can be taken just as advantageously later on. Playing the eight gives East a chance to go wrong and therefore is the right play.

There's many a slip "'twixt the cup and the lip!"

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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