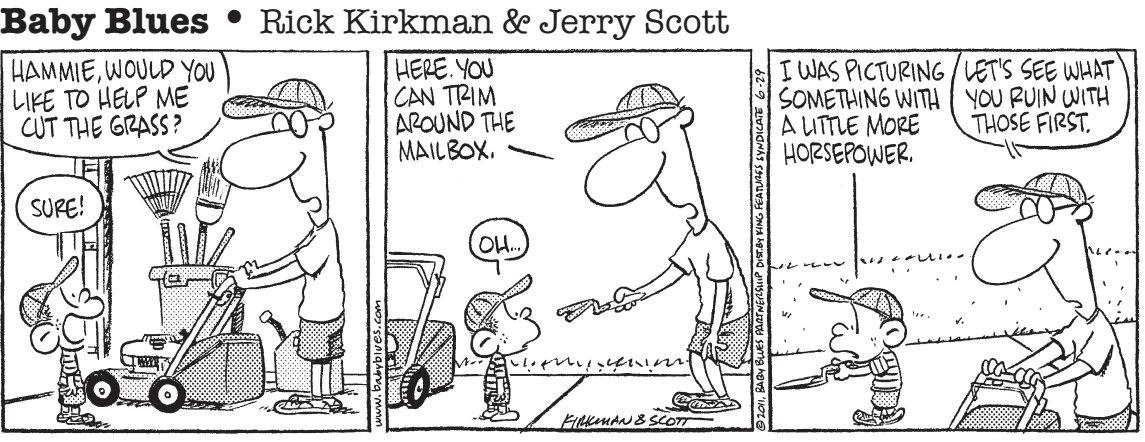
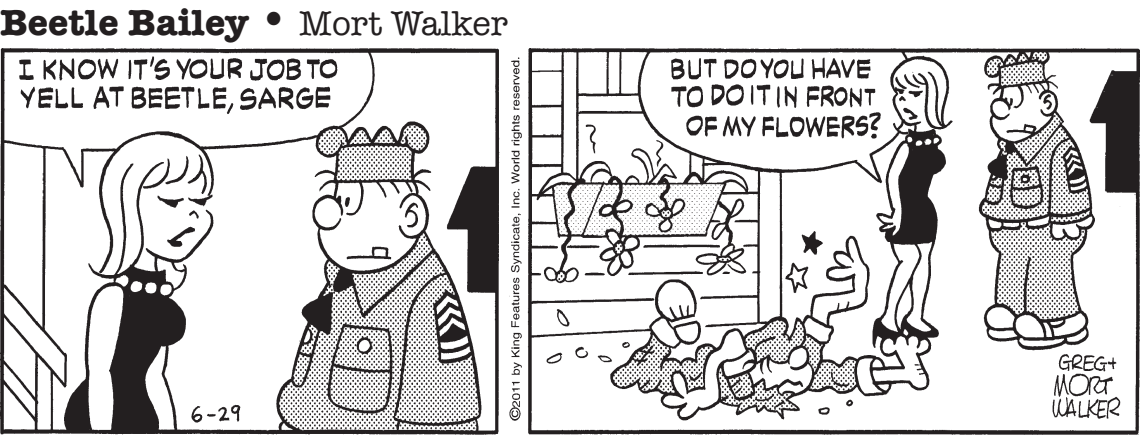
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

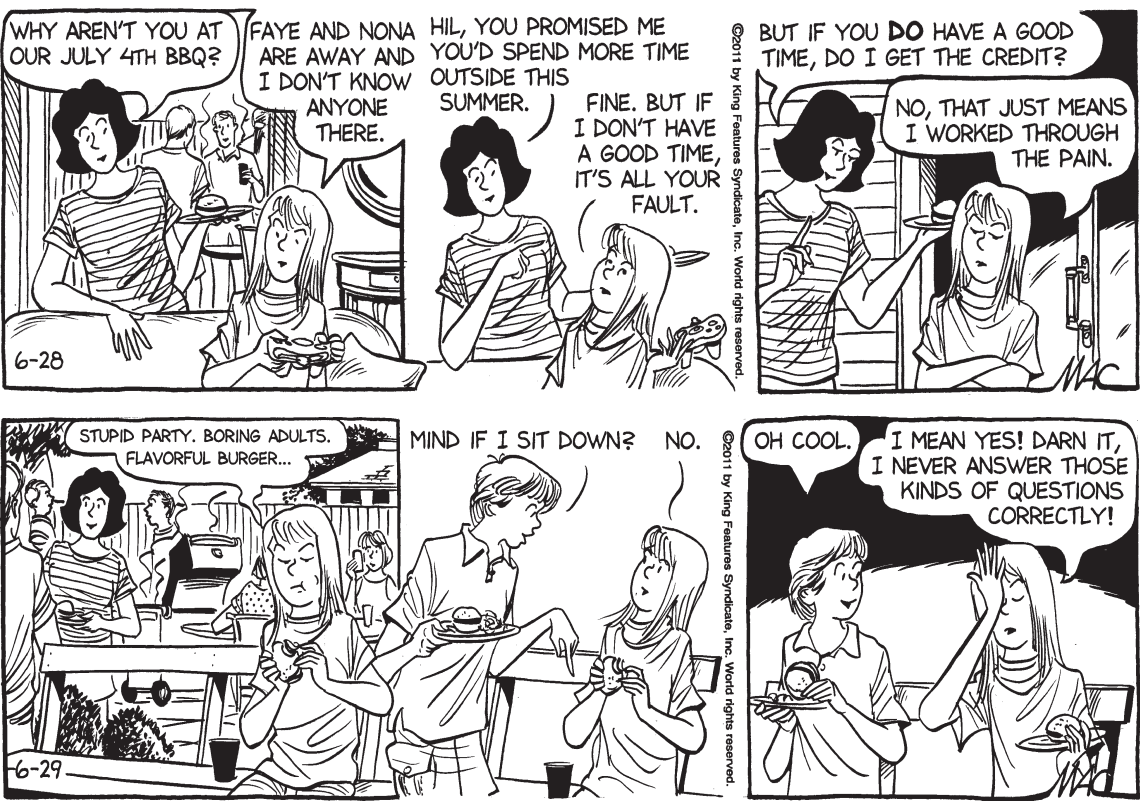


Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

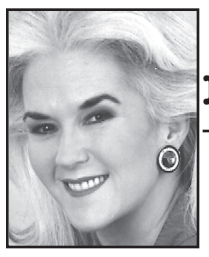
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Fridge keeps zip in cold ketchup

Dear Readers: I've been sharing "Blast From the Past" hints and information from readers who have written in through the years. Here are some more favorite hints. – Heloise

STORING KETCHUP

Dear Heloise: Can you help put an end to an argument between my husband and me?

After a BOTTLE OF KETCHUP has been opened, shouldn't it be kept in the refrigerator? – A Reader, San Antonio

The age-old question of cold ketchup! We took your question to a leading manufacturer, and here's what it had to say.

The manufacturer's recommendation is that once condiments like ketchup and mustard have been opened, they should be refrigerated to help maintain the flavor. They both are shelf-stable because of the acid level. However, how long should you keep it, and what is the temperature of your kitchen or pantry? Most of us do keep it in the refrigerator, though.

The experts say to refrigerate ketchup after opening for best results. What do you say? Let me know. Write to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000; fax to 210-HELOISE (435-6473); or email Heloise(at)Heloise.com. -- Heloise

'SHOWER OF CASSEROLES'

Dear Heloise: On the eve of elective surgery, my friends had a dinner party for me. Not only did that distract me from the operation, but at the end of the evening, there was an insulated cooler full of frozen casseroles. Each guest had "showered" me with a delicious dish, which my husband and I are now enjoying as I recuperate. My friends are so clever and generous. I just wanted to share their idea with your readers. – Linda R., Manhattan, Kan.

SWEET-SMELLING FRIDGE

Dear Heloise: The other day, after cleaning out my fridge, I wanted to put some baking soda in it as a deodorizer. Guess what? I was all out of baking soda. I remembered my mom said that a few charcoal briquettes (Heloise here: Don't use briquettes that have lighter fluid on them.) placed in a plastic dish would work just as well. They did! – Natalie G., Colorado Springs, Colo.

NO CRUSHING

Dear Heloise: I am a cashier at a local supermarket, and here's a hint that I've always meant to send to you: When buying strawberries or other crushable fruit, trap some air in the bag and tie it shut. This forms an air pocket around the "crushables" so that they can't fall between the cans in the grocery sack. – Jayne S., San Antonio

BAKING INGREDIENTS

Dear Heloise: When baking, I put all the ingredients needed on the counter near the mixing area. As each item is added, I return the capped or bottled container to its proper place on the shelf. – A Reader, via fax

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ K Q 8 7
♣ A K J

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ 8 7 5 3
♦ 6 4 2
♣ 6 5 3 2

EAST
♠ Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ K Q J 6
♦ —
♣ 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ 4 2
♥ A 10
♦ A J 10 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	7 ♦	

Opening lead — nine of spades.

From the Mailbag

Dear Mr. Becker: I been reading your hands a lot lately, and I figure you must play pretty good. I just wanted to ask your opinion on a hand we had at the club yesterday.

The way I look at it, my partner shouldn't have bid seven, but he did. This don't make no sense to me, because here we've got a 700-point rubber stashed away and another 750 for a little slam, and he takes a big gamble to lose the whole caboodle just to try to make a grand slam. This don't look like good percentages to me.

But I'm in seven anyhow, and now I have to try to make it. The problem is, I got this heart loser and no place to put it, unless maybe I can con these two guys out of it.

This fellow sitting East, his name is Charlie Four Cents, can't beat his way out of a paper bag. If I can give him the business, I got a chance, because he really don't know nothing from nothing.

So I start pulling trumps after winning the first spade and keep on pulling them till I don't have any more left. I'm hoping maybe Charlie will get mixed up. Next, I take the A-K-Q of clubs, and when I play the queen, Four Cents starts looking worried.

You see, the dummy by now has got only the K-3 of spades and nine of hearts, and Charlie don't know what to throw on the club because he's got the Q-J of spades and K-Q of hearts.

Believe it or not, Mr. Becker, he threw the queen of hearts away and made my A-10 good, and we waltzed off with the grand slam! I tell you, he don't even know what time of day it is. Should my partner have bid seven? Yours truly, Butch.

Dear Butch: I don't think so, but I wouldn't squawk too much if I were you. Just keep on playing your cards the way you did here, and Four Cents will be down to no cents in no time at all.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"... but I wasn't through with today yet."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/29

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 6/27

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Cryptoquip

PKHIA ROA LKIA UVAPKTAHR OZP RZNAH KBB, PALAVZB UAXUBA IZBB OKD ROA PKINAHAT-KH-IXDDZHT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASSUME THESPIANS WHO HAD LEARNED THEIR CRAFT FROM ACTRESS PAULA WERE PRENTISS' APPRENTICES.

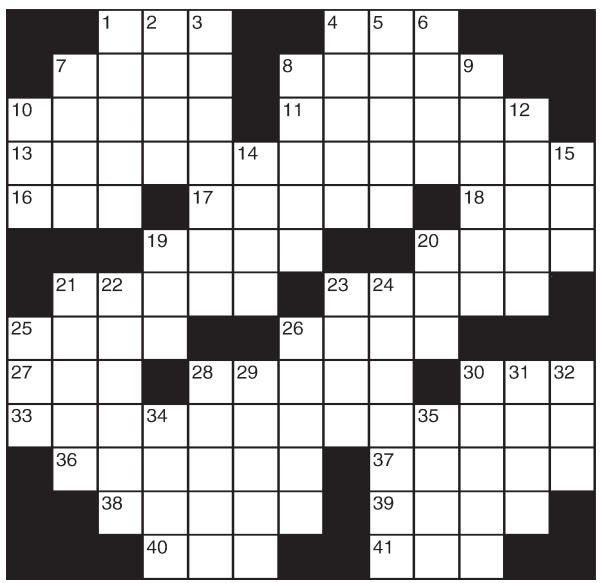
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Rotating part
4 Existed
7 Deep-sea predator
8 Move to one side
10 Adversary
11 The external world
13 News crew member
16 Work with
17 Judicial apparel
18 "— was saying, ..."
19 Sheepish comments
20 A long time
21 Choir's rendition
23 Cheney's successor
25 Salamander
26 Sell
27 Raw rocks
28 Irving Berlin's "Blue —"
30 Afternoon social
33 13-Across' offering
36 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
37 Bracelet adornment
38 Short fishing line
39 Slight amounts
40 James Bond, e.g.
41 Pigpen

DOWN
1 Minotaur's home
2 Pinnacle
3 Pertaining to a city election
4 7-Across, e.g.
5 Jam ingredients?
6 A size too small, maybe
7 Individuals
8 Uppity sorts
9 Battlefield prioritization
10 Ostrich's cousin
12 Ruhr Valley city
14 Wander
15 "— the season ..."
19 Cudgel
20 Toss in
21 Shimon of Israel
22 Workout garb
23 Milwaukee product
24 Entomologist's subjects
25 Promptly
26 Spreading fast on YouTube
28 Drag (Var.)
29 "An American in Paris" star
30 Sycophant
31 Blunders
32 $ dispenser
34 Sawbucks
35 Terrific, in rapspeak

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-29