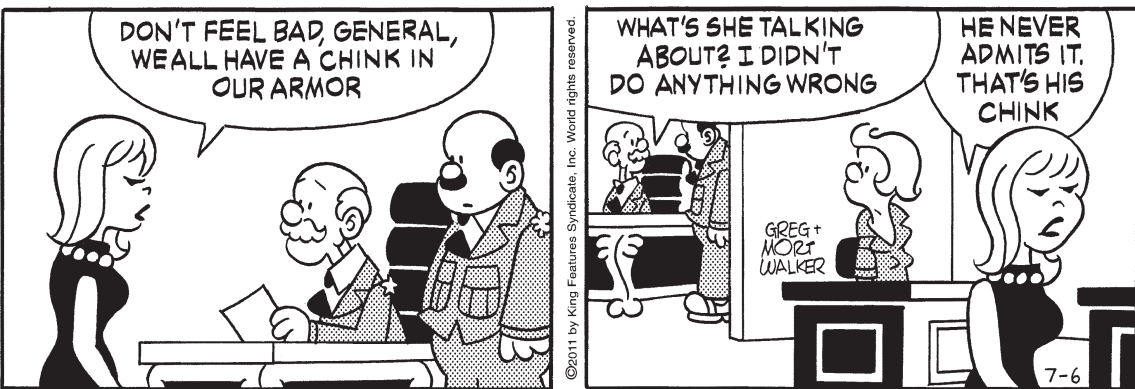


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



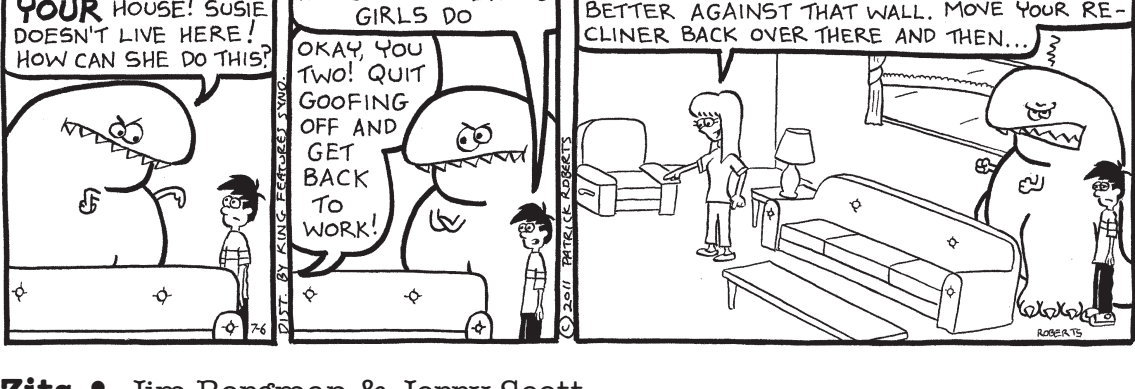
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Wooden bowls take seasoning

Dear Heloise: I have a WOODEN SALAD BOWL with four smaller bowls. It has been in the cupboard for quite a while, and I would like to know how to sanitize it for use again. — A Reader, via email

Wood bowls can last for years and look lovely with just a little care. I have some of my parents' that are more than 50 years old! Clean them using a mild detergent and warm water, making sure to rinse and dry thoroughly. NEVER put wood items in the dishwasher or allow them to soak in water. If you want to sanitize them, a very mild solution of bleach and water should do the job. Mix 1 tablespoon of bleach with 1 quart of water, wipe on, let sit 20 minutes, rinse and dry.

Season the bowls by using a paper towel to spread a layer of mineral oil over them. Let soak in overnight. When the wood dulls, it's time to re-season. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com
SAVING BACON

Dear Heloise: On my days off, I love making breakfast for myself, including bacon. Being single, a pound of bacon goes bad before I use it up. Now, before I open the package, I use a large knife and cut it down the center. I make two more cuts on either side, giving me six rows of 2-inch pieces. I put each row into a plastic snack bag, then into a quart freezer bag and freeze. I take one bag out when needed, and the bacon thaws and cooks up quickly. — Deborah R., Belle Vernon, Pa.

LAST DROP

Dear Heloise: Our grandson was visiting us recently and was fixing a glass of chocolate milk for his son. The squeeze bottle of chocolate syrup was empty (he thought). I told him to give the bottle to me, poured some milk in and gave it a good shake. Another glass of chocolate milk! — Ruby B., Delhi, La.

PANKO BREAD CRUMBS

Dear Heloise: What are panko bread crumbs, and how are they used? — Velma J., via email
Panko (the Japanese word for bread crumbs) is being used more frequently in cooking these days and is available in more grocery stores.

Panko is specifically baked to make airy, crisp crumbs. The crumbs are then toasted for a slight crunch. They generally are unseasoned so that you can add your own flavors. They are good for any recipe you have that calls for bread crumbs as a coating for food or as a topping on your favorite casseroles. — Heloise

STAY PUT

Dear Heloise: You can lay a paper towel, or half of a paper towel, on the counter and put a few drops of water in the center of the towel. This will keep your cutting board from slipping, and you can throw it away when the juice of what you are cutting creeps under the board. — Andrew D., Lexington, Ky.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ A J
♥ K Q 9 8
♠ K Q 10
♣ A Q 8 4
EAST
♦ K 9 5 2
♥ 5 4
♠ 9 8 3
♣ K J 7 6

WEST
♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ 3
♠ J 7 5 4 2
♣ 10 2
SOUTH
♦ 7 4
♥ A J 10 7 6 2
♠ A 6
♣ 9 5 3
The bidding:
South West North East
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass
3♥ Pass 6♥
Opening lead — six of spades.

A Double-Edged Sword

It's not difficult to make six hearts on this deal after West leads the six of spades. You win the spade with the ace, play the K-Q of trumps and cash three diamonds, discarding your spade loser on dummy's third diamond.

Next you trump the jack of spades, lead a low club toward dummy and, if West follows low, play the eight. In the actual case, East wins the eight with the jack but is stymied. He is forced to return a club into dummy's A-Q or yield a ruff-and-discard by returning a spade. Either way, you're home free.

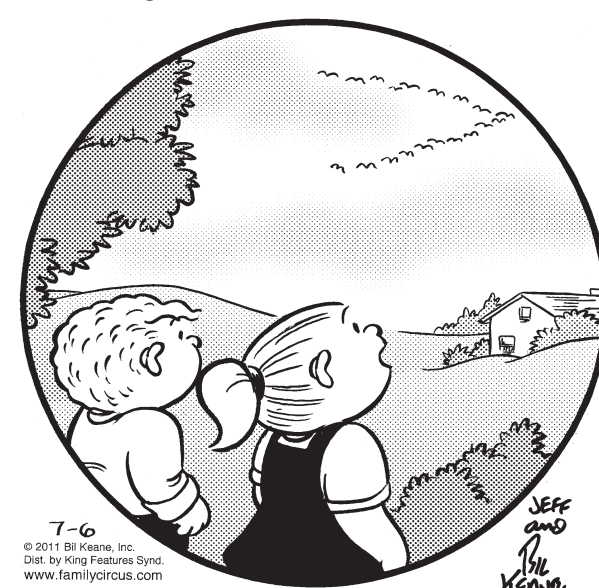
By clearing your own hand and dummy of spades and diamonds at the outset, you ensure that you cannot be defeated regardless of the location of the king, jack or ten of clubs. The element of luck is totally eliminated.

Now let's suppose that West's opening lead had been the ten of clubs instead of a spade. This would have foiled your chance to endplay East in the manner shown, but it still wouldn't stop you from making the slam. You'd win the club with the ace, cash the K-Q of trumps and A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding the five of clubs from your hand, then lead the four of clubs toward your only remaining club, the nine.

East would win the club with the jack and could safely return a spade, but you'd still have the Q-8 of clubs in dummy to lead through East's K-6. This would enable you to establish a club trick in dummy on which you'd eventually discard your spade loser, and in that way you would also make the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/06

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

Cryptoquip

RSQVLXS PLN JPQVJ IVTQS
QJLR HX NSVJJC XUVJJ
HAX ZVANPTX LXLVJJ
QVJJ HA V QPUZVQA IHXQP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD A POEM PENNED ABOUT A FAITHFUL DOG FROM ITS LOVING OWNER BE NAMED "HIS MASTER'S VERSE?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Go up and down
4 Gulf War missile
8 Mop the decks
12 Beerlike brew
13 Architect Saarinen
14 "Yo- — and a ..."
15 Shelter
16 Sinatra classic
18 Decorator's theme
20 "A mouse!"
21 Castle protection
24 Mediteranean sailing ship
28 One's hands and knees
32 Limping
33 Conk out
34 Loses moisture
36 Auction offer
37 Colorless
- DOWN**
39 Sane
41 "— alive!"
43 Zhivago's love
44 Dandy
46 Standard
50 "Get on the train!"
55 Crafty
56 Rind
57 Queue
58 Id counterpart
59 List-ending abbr.
60 Exam format
61 Novelist Brown
3 Borscht
4 Red
5 Lobster specialty
6 Web address
7 Be too fond
8 Israeli money
9 "Holy mackerel!"
10 "Eureka!"
11 Lad
17 Whammy
19 Global
21 Soothing ointment
22 Emanation
23 Vibrato
25 Infant
26 Eastern potentate
27 Relinquish
28 Does arithmetic
29 Old Italian coin
30 Secrecy thwarted
31 Actress Ward
35 Fruit pastry
38 Happen to
40 Owns
42 Weep loudly
45 Ralph Lauren label
47 Second-hand
48 Bit of plankton
49 Rhone city
50 Mimic
51 Allow
52 Meadow
53 Melody
54 Genetic stuff

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	A	F	I	B	I	S	B	O	I	L			
F	R	E	E	F	A	L	L	Z	I	O	N		
E	R	R	S	O	Z	O	N	E					
T	I	B	I	A	R	O	B	E					
N	O	B	O	E	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L	
N	E	O	B	U	L	L	I	R	N	A			
E	X	T	R	E	M	E	S	L	E	I	S		
F	L	I	R	T	M	E	E	T					
L	O	D	E	F	R	E	E	K	I	C	K		
A	B	E	L	B	O	N	N	M	O	I			
P	O	S	Y	I	N	D	I	E	O	N			

Yesterday's answer 7-6

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		