

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



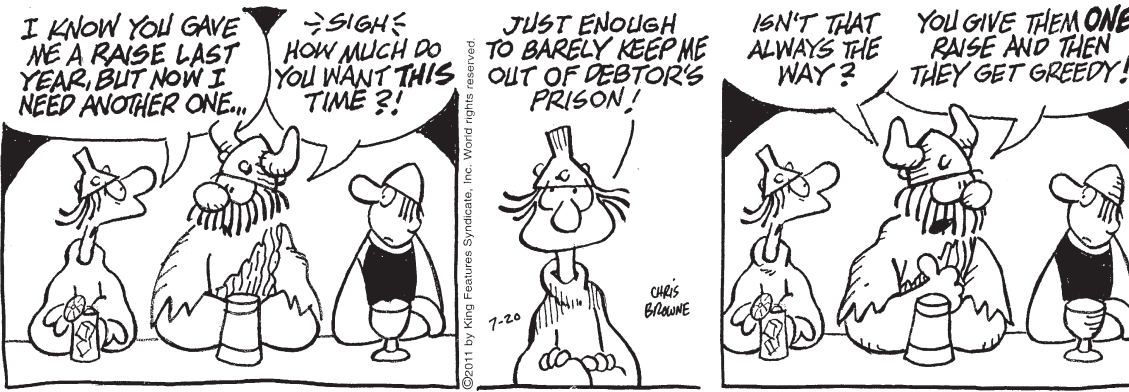
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



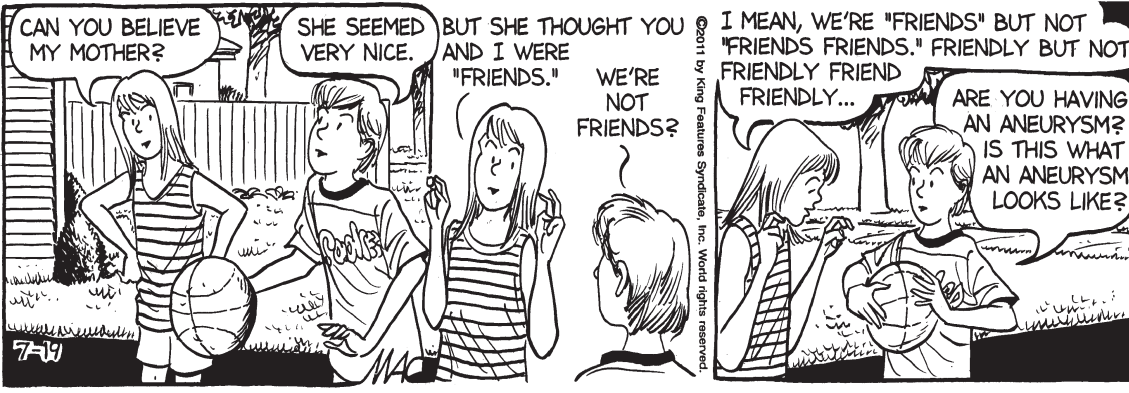
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



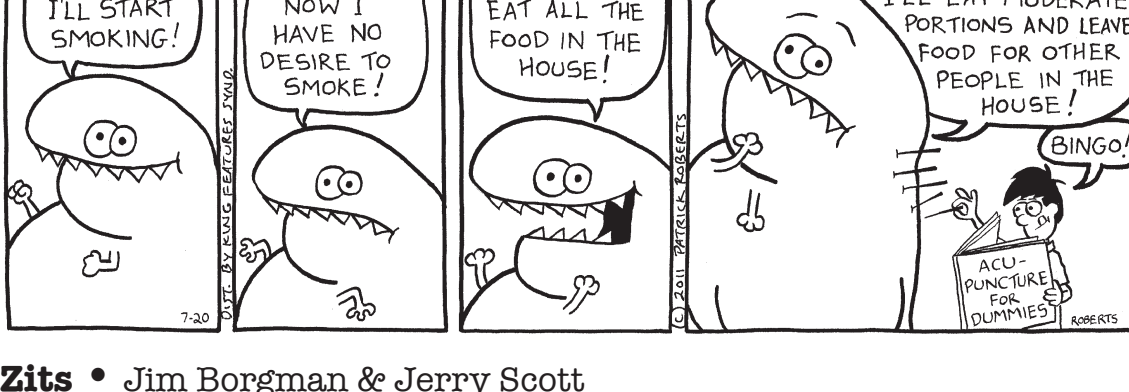
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Clean up jars with soap, water

Dear Heloise: I like to recycle — glass, foil and plastic. How do you clean an EMPTY PEANUT-BUTTER JAR? I usually try to wipe out the dregs, then fill it with hot, soapy water and a little ammonia. It still doesn't work. Do you have a hint? — Elaine B., Boynton Beach, Fla.

First, if you are recycling the jar, then rinsing it or washing it out should be enough. However, if you want to reuse the jar for storage and want it cleaner (because an oily residue will remain at first), persistence is the key. Hot water and dishwashing soap will work, but it may take several washings.

If you plan on reusing the peanut-butter jars to store other food, be aware that people with allergies to peanut products should not eat anything stored in the jars because of possible cross-contamination. — Heloise

P.S.: Many food containers, such as those used for mayonnaise, spaghetti sauce and margarine, are perfect for leftovers.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

WINE-BOTTLE LABELS
Dear Heloise: In the Houston Chronicle, you had a hint for removing labels from wine bottles. When I wish to remove a label, I use a hair dryer. I heat the label slowly from one end to the other and pull it off as I go. The heat softens the glue and makes it a breeze. — Cathy M., Spring, Texas

PIZZA-CUTTER USES
Dear Heloise: I read your column on other uses for pizza cutters. Here's mine: Make pizza-slice-shaped cutout cookies. Roll the cookie dough flat, and use a large, round pan or bowl to cut out a big circle shape of dough. Then use the pizza cutter to cut "slices" that can be decorated to look like watermelon slices, candy corn or even pizza! — Becky, via email

KEEP TRACK
Dear Heloise: Sometimes I lose track when I'm cooking. For example, when I'm measuring cups of flour into a bowl, I'll look at a half-filled bowl and wonder, Is that 3 cups or 4? More than once, I've had to pour it back into the bulk container and start again.

I can keep that from happening by counting out loud. Something about hearing it spoken aloud makes it stay with me longer. I probably sound a little nutty while I cook, but what's the harm? — Lisa Scott in Florida

POPCORN ON SALADS
Dear Heloise: Evidently, my taste buds are changing and rejecting packaged croutons as too spicy for the palate and too hard in texture. Making homemade croutons is not always convenient, but definitely is worth the effort. An alternative includes topping a salad with natural gourmet microwave popping corn in a mini bag. It's ready by the time the salad is ready. My favorite additions are salt and cracked-pepper popcorn. Crumbled french-fried onions also are delicious. — Margarette Mattern, via email

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 3
♥ A 10 3
♦ 10 8 7 5
♣ 10 6

WEST
♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ J 9 7 6 4 2
♦ 2
♣ J

EAST
♠ 10
♥ K Q
♦ 6 4
♣ A K Q 8 7 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 4
♥ 8 5
♦ A K Q J 9 3
♣ 9 5

The bidding:
East 1♣ South 1♦ West Pass North 3♦
4♦ 1♦ Pass 5♦
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The Magic Number
It may seem redundant to remind a player that at the start of play everyone at the table has 13 cards, but it is surprising how often this fundamental fact is overlooked.

Consider this deal where South reached five diamonds as shown, and West led the jack of clubs. East overtook the jack with the queen and cashed the king, West discarding a heart. East then shifted to the king of hearts.

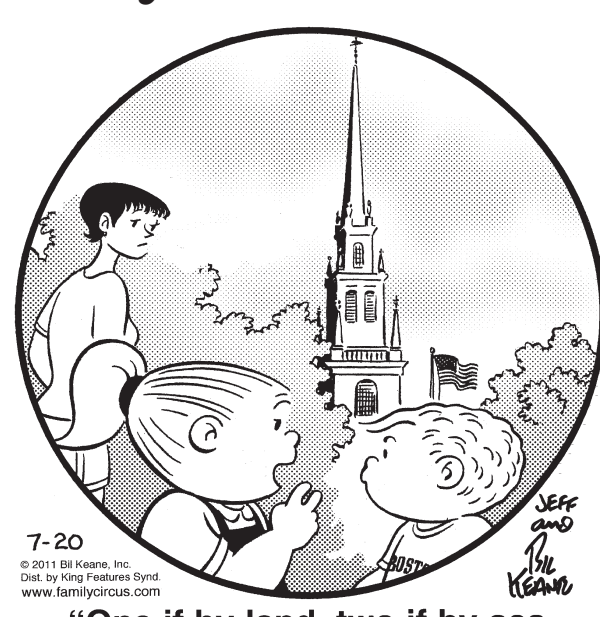
Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the A-K of trumps and led the four of spades to the ace, on which East dropped the ten. South now had to decide whether East's ten was a singleton or whether he had been dealt the J-10 doubleton.

Had declarer cashed another high spade at this point, he would have been defeated. After East showed out, there would have been no way to develop an extra spade trick, and South would eventually have lost a heart to go down one.

But declarer carefully reviewed what had happened thus far and concluded that it was far more likely that East's ten was a singleton. So he crossed to his hand with a trump, led the nine of spades and let it ride (it would not have helped West to cover). Dummy's fourth spade then took care of South's heart loser, and the game was home.

Declarer had a virtually sure thing going for him when he opted for the spade finesse. To that point, East had turned up with eight clubs, two diamonds and presumably the K-Q of hearts (it would make no sense for East to shift to the king of hearts at trick three unless he also had the queen). Therefore, East started with only one spade — the ten he had produced on the first round of the suit.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



7-20
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/20

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.

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

Cryptoquip

TY EXP BGJKXXA XY G
WXJJTF-KGCKTUI QWTQABDG
BGKKE, T VXPNF IPDCC EXP
GKD GU GVYPN YGNGYDN.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOW THAT HE'S

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THE LONE STAR STATE'S DEEP SECRETS THAT ARE NOT YET EXPOSED? TEX-ARCANA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Greek cheese
5 Chatroom
8 Birds, to Brutus
12 Shake-speare's river
13 Anger
14 Bound
15 Backbone
17 Killer whale
18 Store grain
19 Slow tree-dwellers
21 Round Table address
22 Stereo hookup
23 Rest-room, for short
26 \$ dispenser
28 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
31 Detail
33 Thee
35 Meditative exercise

DOWN
1 No. 1 choice (Sl.)
2 Divisible by two
3 Rocky peaks
4 Those opposed
5 Freedom
6 Bobby of hockey lore
7 Dog walker's need
8 Without friendliness
9 Dizzying symptoms
10 Apiece
11 Hot tubs
16 Director Kazan
20 Falsehood
23 Fleur-de-
24 One-time link
25 Polygonal points
27 Cattle call?
29 In bygone days
30 Shaft of light
32 Constant sufferers
34 Remove a lightbulb
37 Japanese theater
39 Sodium chloride
42 Beelzebub
44 Consider
45 Small songbird
46 Carry on
48 Farm fraction
49 Futile
50 "Desire Under the —"
53 Environmentally friendly

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-20

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		