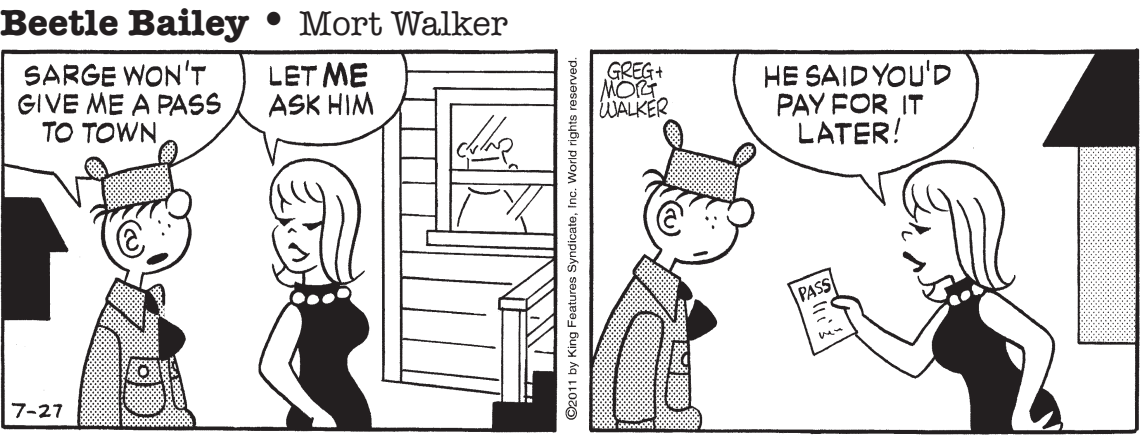
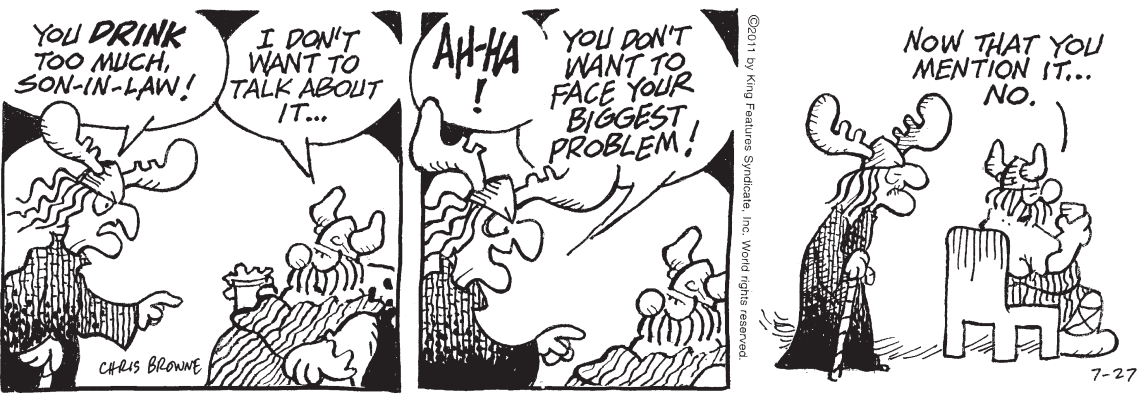
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

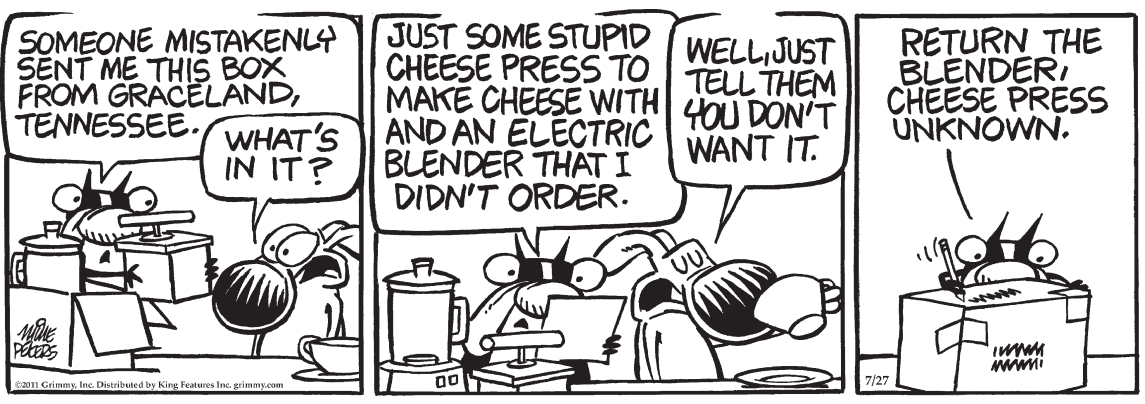


Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

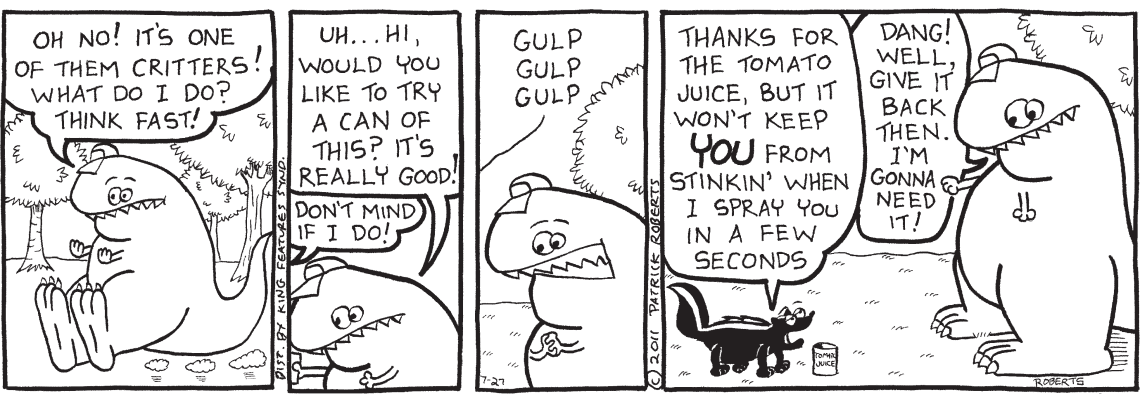


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

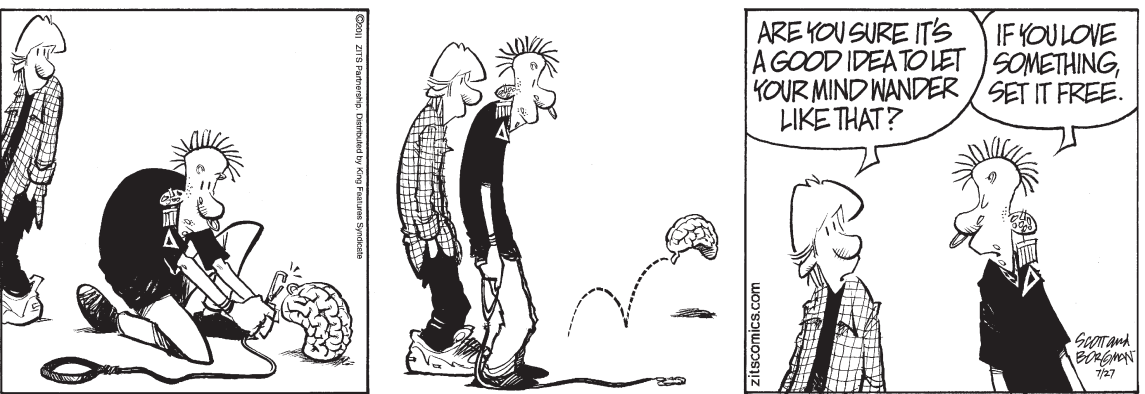


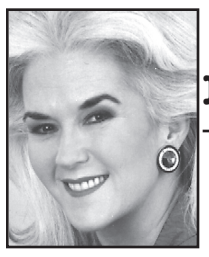
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Favorite hints cover food ideas

Dear Readers: Here are some FAVORITE FOOD HINTS from Heloise Central:

• Store herbs on a revolving shelf and alphabetize them so they are easy to locate. Don't store spices above the stove or dishwasher. The heat and steam can cause them to deteriorate quickly.

• Save large shaker containers (like Parmesan cheese) to put sugar, flour or powdered sugar in.

• Want a healthy snack? Toast a piece of whole-wheat bread, spread just a little peanut butter on, and grate some Granny Smith or other tart apple over the top.

• Add a slice of bread to a package or container of cookies to keep them from getting hard or to help soften them up.

• Can't remember if you salted the water for pasta? Add a few grains of black pepper (just enough to see) when you salt the water.

• Substitute club soda for water when making a German chocolate cake. The cake will end up moist and delicious! – Heloise

CAKE DONE?

Dear Readers: When you run out of toothpicks and need to check the doneness of a cake, use a piece of uncooked spaghetti. This works just as well as toothpicks – no batter on the spaghetti means the cake is done. – Heloise

CLOUDY GLASSES

Dear Readers: The all-time most-often-asked question? What to do about cloudy drinking glasses. Don't have the problem now? Clip this column in case you need it.

Soak the glasses in warmed (not boiling) household vinegar for about an hour. Then use a nylon-net scrubbie to get rid of leftover cloudiness. My Heloise's Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More pamphlet contains many money-saving hints. To receive it, mail $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (64 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. An easy way to clean plastic miniblinds is to use a solution of half white vinegar and half water. This will cut through grit and grime. – Heloise

NICE SMELL

Dear Readers: There are many things that you can put down a disposal to make it smell better. Some examples:

• Lime, orange or lemon rinds.

• Mint leaves left over from iced tea.

• Vinegar from cleaning the coffee maker. – Heloise

CONE STOPPER

Dear Readers: This is a great hint to keep ice cream from dripping out the bottom of your ice-cream cone. Put several small marshmallows in the bottom of the cone before putting the ice cream in. Saves you from a mess. – Heloise

SHORTENING HINT

Dear Readers: If you still grease cake pans the old-fashioned way, with solid shortening, here's a tip to make it a little less messy: Put your hand in a plastic sandwich bag, then spread the shortening. Just throw away the bag when you are done. Easy cleanup! – Heloise

(c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9 4
♥ K 10 7
♦ 7 6
♣ K Q 10 8 5

WEST
♠ 3
♥ A Q J 8 5 3 2
♦ K 5
♣ A 7 4

EAST
♠ K Q J 10 8 6 5
♥ 9 6 4
♦ Q
♣ 9 2

SOUTH
♠ 7 2
♥ —
♦ A J 10 9 8 4 3 2
♣ J 6 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	3 ♠	5 ♦	Dble

Opening lead — three of spades.

Thirteen – the Magic Number

In many hands, the ability to count to 13 is all that is needed to find the winning play. Take this deal from a team contest where at both tables, South wound up in five diamonds doubled. Both declarers won the spade lead, played a diamond to the ace and then led a club.

At the first table, West feared that the club might be a singleton, so he put up the ace and tried to cash the ace of hearts. But declarer ruffed, conceded a diamond and claimed, discarding his losing spade on one of dummy's winners.

At the second table, West was not so quick to grab the ace of clubs at trick three. Instead, he reasoned as follows:

South was known from the bidding and play to this point to have started with eight diamonds, two spades (assuming East had seven for his pre-empt) and the club he was now leading. If he had only one club, then he had to have two hearts. In that case, West would eventually score tricks with the ace of hearts and king of diamonds, and East would get a spade trick since dummy's clubs could never be established. Thus, no harm could come from holding up the ace of clubs initially.

After West ducked, East dropped the nine of clubs on the king, beginning a high-low to show that he held only two clubs. Declarer's hand now became an open book: eight diamonds, two spades, three clubs and, therefore, no hearts.

South did the best he could by conceding a diamond to West's king at trick four, but West found a brilliant reply. After taking the king, he exited with a low club! Declarer won and led his last club to West's ace, whereupon West returned the ace of hearts. South ruffed, but eventually lost a spade to East for down one.

Observe that if West leads anything but a low club after winning the king of diamonds, declarer makes the contract.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane

"It's not lit 'cause it needs new batteries."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/27

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/25

Cryptoquip

AISA IOYAUDOE NSLJXSEAJDOLF ZMSLA ZDUKJEWY UKK YNWMMY. O FJWYY OA'Y SL UMXSEAUDR UMK XSEAUDR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FILM ABOUT A GROUP OF FEDS WHO SIMPLY COULD NOT LEARN ANYTHING NEW: "THE UNTEACHABLES."

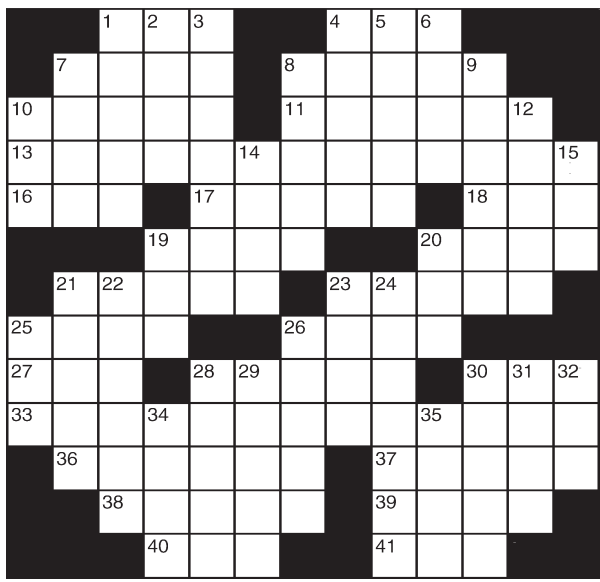
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Weird Al" Yankovic song composed solely of palindromes
4 Airport org.
7 Comical Carvey
8 Finnish bath
10 Nip
11 Root vegetable
13 Glimpse
16 Franken and Gore
17 Necessities
18 Victory
19 Long cut
20 Carry on
21 Explosion
23 Baby kangaroos
25 Fedora feature
26 Praise to the skies
27 Really long time
28 Adjust
30 Tikkanen of hockey
33 Horripilated
36 "Heavens!"
37 Crook's pseudonym
38 Near-quart
39 Welshman or Scot
40 Slight amount
41 Crucial

DOWN
1 Model Tyra
2 Formerly
3 Nassau's island group
4 Challenge mockingly
5 Irrational numbers
6 Heche or Hathaway
7 Rotary phone part
8 Hide
9 Pilot's route
10 Sch. group
12 Aspirin targets
14 Sudden rush of wind
15 Potent stick
19 Group of whales
20 Scarlet
21 Meditate gloomily
22 Window frame part
23 Scoff
24 Rural area of Australia
25 Plead
26 Surgery tool
28 Heart line?
29 Having a cupola
30 Poet Dickinson
31 Lovers' quarrel
32 Fool
34 Walking pace
35 Beekeeper played by Peter Fonda

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-27