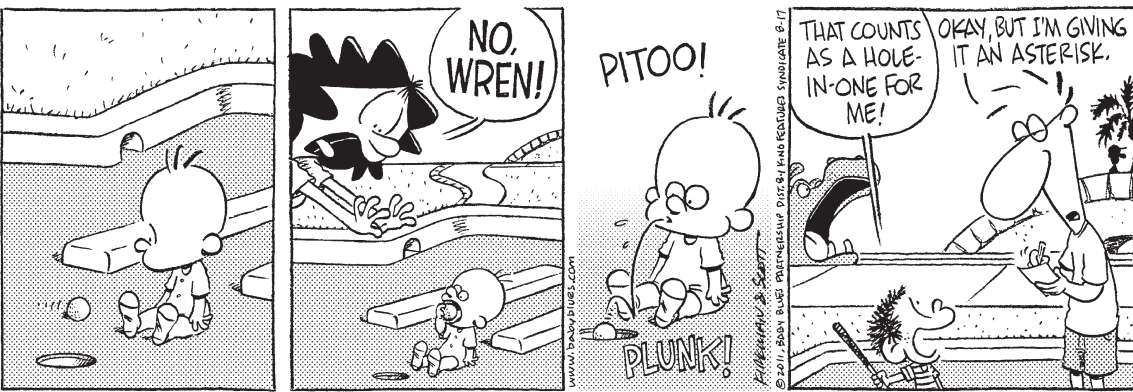
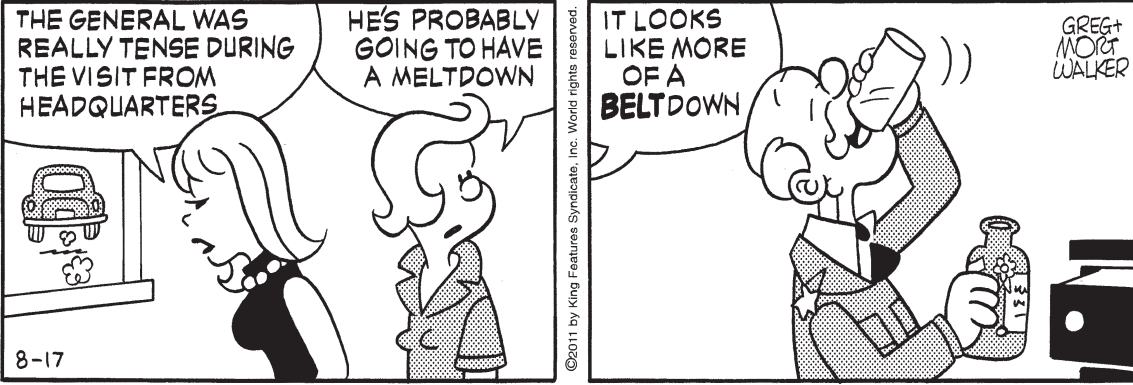


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



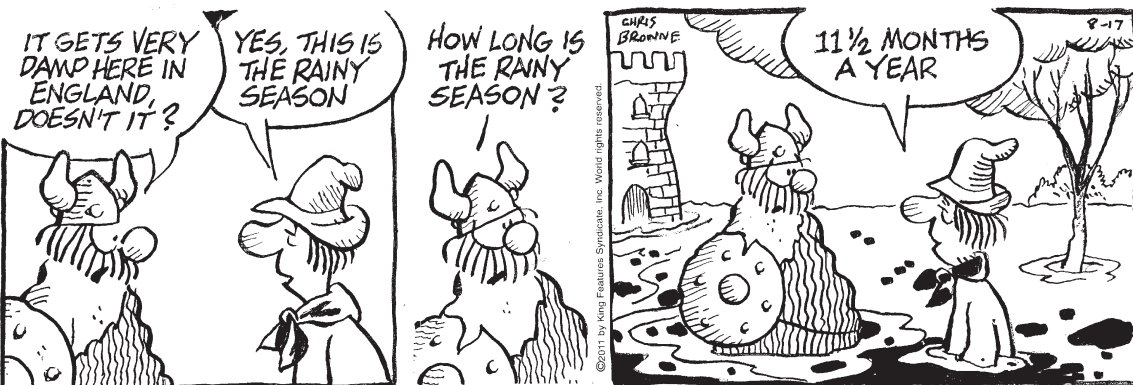
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



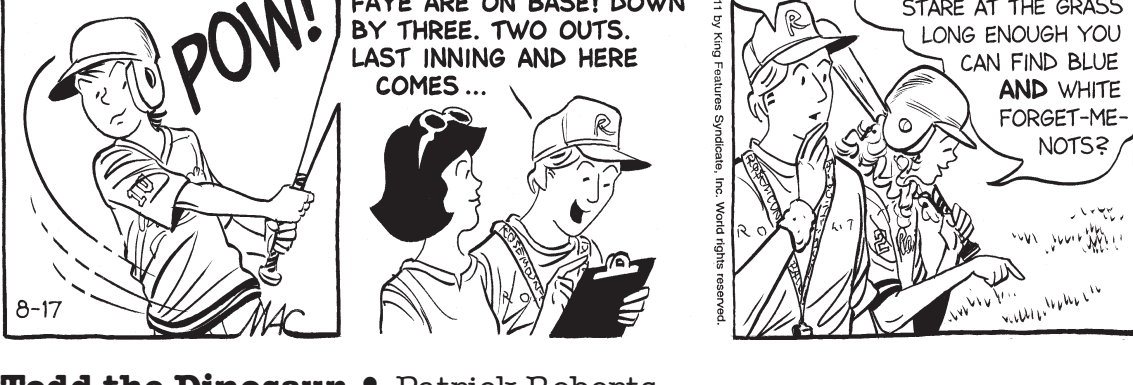
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



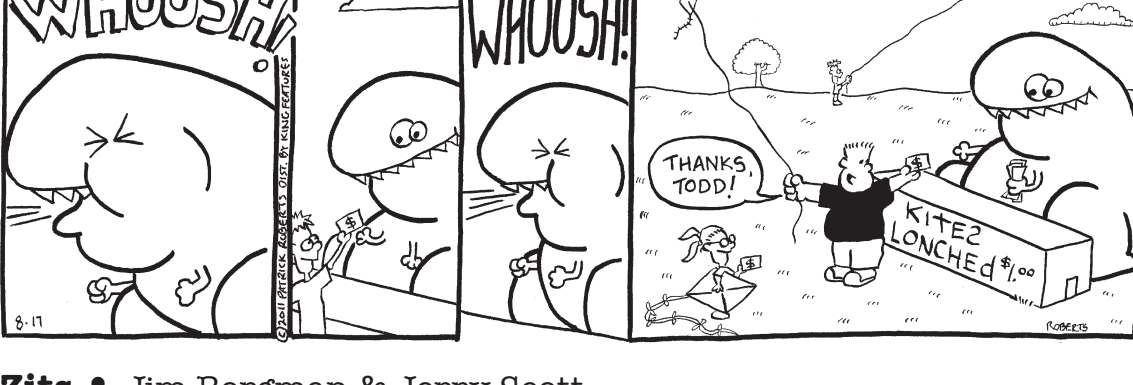
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



**Use care to clean cast-iron skillet**

Dear Heloise: I have an old CAST-IRON SKILLET, but it's dirty. I know you're not supposed to use soap and water on it, so what's the best way to remove the old grime? Also, what is the best way to re-season it for future cooking? — Dolores King, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dolores, you are right — for general cleaning, the combination of dish soap and water is not recommended!

So, if you're just cleaning it after cooking, use only hot water, and NEVER put it in the dishwasher. Use a nylon scrubbie or plastic brush only, and dry completely. DON'T air-dry, because this could cause rust. When dry, put in a little bit of solid vegetable shortening or oil and wipe it around until the surface is completely covered.

If your skillet needs to be re-seasoned because food is starting to stick or the skillet is gummy, here's what you need to do:

Use hot, soapy water and give the skillet a good scrubbing. Then rinse and dry completely, and season it with some melted solid vegetable shortening on the inside and the outside. Set the oven temperature to 350-400 F. Place the skillet upside down on top of a cookie sheet. It needs to "bake" for an hour. Then turn off the oven and let the skillet cool completely before removing it from the oven. — Heloise

P.S.: A good cast-iron skillet is worth its weight in gold! Cornbread tastes like your grandmother's when baked in one!

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**  
Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**READER'S FAVORITE HINTS**

Dear Heloise: I read your column daily in the (Spokane, Wash.) *Spokesman-Review*. I hope my hint will be helpful:

- When a recipe calls for crumbled bacon, I take the required amount of bacon strips, cut crossway about every 1/3 to 1/4 inch, and then cook the pieces. When cooked, I remove it from the pan with a slotted spoon onto a paper towel. No messy fingers!
- I save rubber bands that come on the newspaper. I put one around a ball of yarn or a spool of thread. When I use a partial package of frozen veggies, I roll up the remainder and put a rubber band on it. I wrap a rubber band around the ends of a clothes hanger to prevent slipping.
- When adding liquid detergent to the washer, first rinse (don't dry) the measuring cup with water. The cup will clean up easier. The same principle works in the kitchen when measuring oil or shortening for baking.

Keep the tips coming! — Norma O., via email

**COFFEE FILTER**

Dear Heloise: If you are looking for something to cover just about anything in the microwave, try a paper coffee filter. It works and can be shaped to cover. — Jim Phillips, League City, Texas

You also can use a paper plate in a pinch if a coffee filter is not handy. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ QJ84  
♥ 763  
♦ 874  
♣ 953

**WEST**  
♠ 1097  
♥ KJ92  
♦ —  
♣ AKQ1072

**EAST**  
♠ 6532  
♥ 854  
♦ 963  
♣ J84

**SOUTH**  
♠ AK  
♥ AQ10  
♦ AKQJ1052  
♣ 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♦ 3♦ Pass 3♦ Pass  
3♦ Pass 3♦ Pass  
5♦

Opening lead — king of clubs.

**Sylvia Rides Again**

Sylvia always wanted to play in the toughest game in town. She'd walk into the club, look over the four or five tables in progress and promptly hie herself to the one where the experts were playing.

The day this hand came up she had cut into a table with four experts who had each won some 20 or more regional and national championships. Sylvia got to five diamonds as shown. West led the king of clubs and continued with the ace, which Sylvia, in a grandiloquent display of trump strength, ruffed with the ace. She then cashed the king of diamonds and A-K of spades.

At this point, the deuce of diamonds fell out of her hand faceup on the table. A brief discussion ensued, East contending that the deuce was a played card which Sylvia could not withdraw.

Sylvia's nature was such that she was always willing to abide by the rules of the game. Besides, she hated arguments, and though she wasn't sure the laws required her to play the deuce, she agreed to do so.

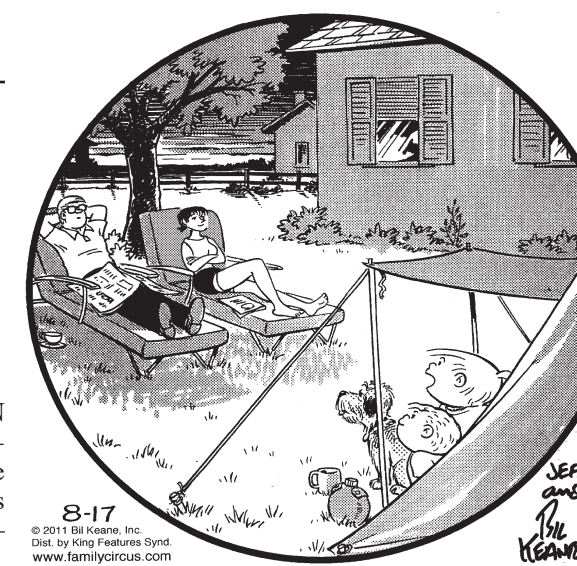
East won dummy's seven of diamonds with the nine and returned a heart. About this time, it dawned on Sylvia that a wondrous thing had occurred. So she went up with the ace of hearts and led the five of diamonds to dummy's eight. The Q-J of spades then took care of her Q-10 of hearts, and she made five diamonds.

Later analysis revealed that if Sylvia had trumped West's ace of clubs low at trick two, or if she had not led a low diamond to dummy's 8-7 at trick six, she would have gone down.

Everyone in the club marveled at the outcome and also agreed that East should be credited with a magnificent — albeit inadvertent — assist.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"It's almost dark, Mommy. Shouldn't you and Daddy be goin' in the house now?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/17

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.

**Cryptoquip**

JW G K Q Y L G T K Y S H N L G T L  
Y Q Y J A R G H D K Y O W R R Y H D Y J  
V M R F T L S V O S H D M V H S G R G K A :  
W T L Y N - T L Y N F J W G H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NAME OF A COMMERCIAL PASSENGER BOAT WITH AN ARRAY OF PROMINENT WARNING BLASTS: THE TOOT FERRY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals W

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Neighborhood
  - 5 List-ending abbr.
  - 8 Food
  - 12 Donated
  - 13 Islander's neckwear
  - 14 Huron or Michigan
  - 15 Eave, e.g.
  - 17 Wife of Geraint
  - 18 Mensa member
  - 19 Old sayings
  - 21 Superlative ending
  - 22 Nevada city
  - 23 Part of the load for 47-
  - 26 That guy
  - 28 Cut at an angle
  - 31 Clay-rich soil
  - 33 Two-timer
  - 35 Show-room sample
- DOWN**
- 1 Awe-struck
  - 2 Carry on
  - 3 Still
  - 4 Eagle's nest
  - 5 Stretchable
  - 6 X rating?
  - 7 Stogie
  - 8 Removed dirt
  - 9 Drinker's woe
  - 10 Dust
  - 11 Feet
  - 12 Chances, for short
  - 16 "Be quiet!"
  - 20 Society newbie
  - 23 Priestly garment
  - 24 Extinct bird
  - 25 Seder time
  - 27 Chart
  - 29 Ostrich's cousin
  - 30 High shot
  - 32 The 3 in 3-2 = 1
  - 34 Sadden
  - 37 Varnish ingredient
  - 39 Penniless
  - 42 Picture
  - 44 Expire
  - 45 "Hi, sailor!"
  - 46 "— Las Vegas"
  - 48 Comical
  - 49 Wife of Osiris
  - 50 Catch sight of
  - 53 Bigwig, for short
- Solution time: 21 mins.**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | B | S | A | S | C | O | L | A |   |   |   |   |
| L | A | I | C | G | O | O | I | B | E | X |   |   |
| O | S | L | O | O | A | K | T | I | G | E |   |   |
| G | H | O | U | L | R | U | B | Y |   |   |   |   |
| W | A | L | T | N | I | P | M | I | S | F | I | T |
| I | C | E | R | Z | E | S | G | L | T | I | D | E |
| T | R | A | Y | S | T | A | J | I | S | L | E |   |
| T | R | A | Y | S | P | A | T | C | H | E | S |   |
| T | E | R | C | E | L | W | O | K |   |   |   |   |
| L | I | A | O | S | Y | E | A | E | A | S |   |   |
| D | I | E | U | D | N | A | R | U | N | E |   |   |
| A | R | A | B | G | O | P | S | T | A | N |   |   |
| M | E | T | S | E | W | E | O | P | T |   |   |   |
- Yesterday's answer 8-17

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		