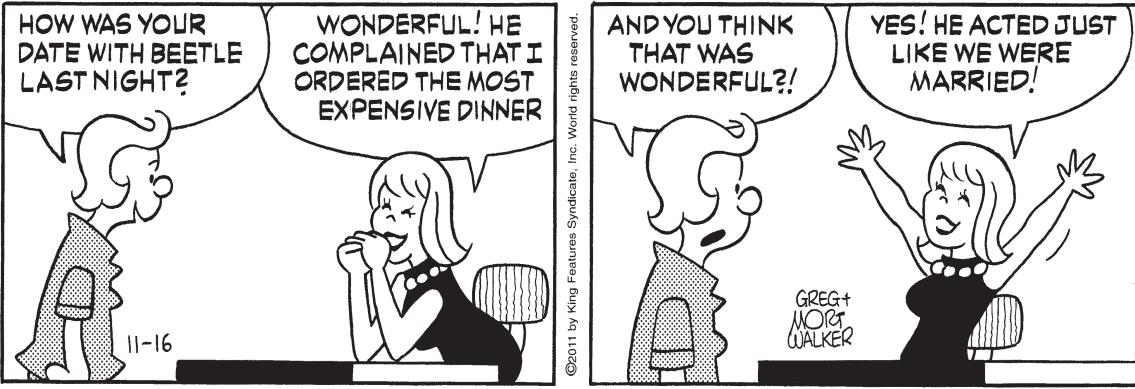


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



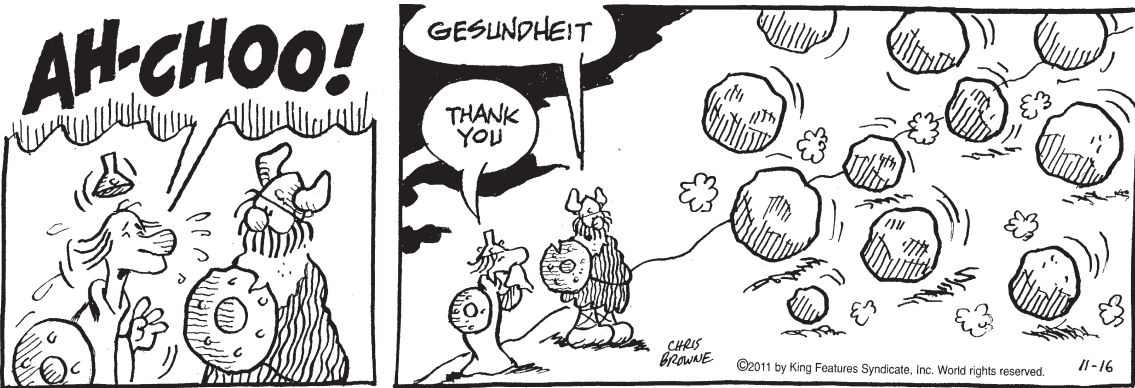
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



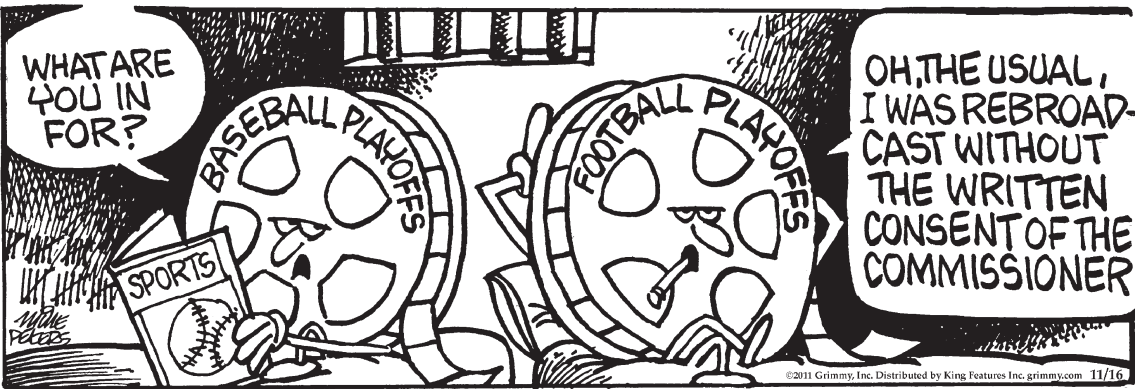
Blondie • Chic Young



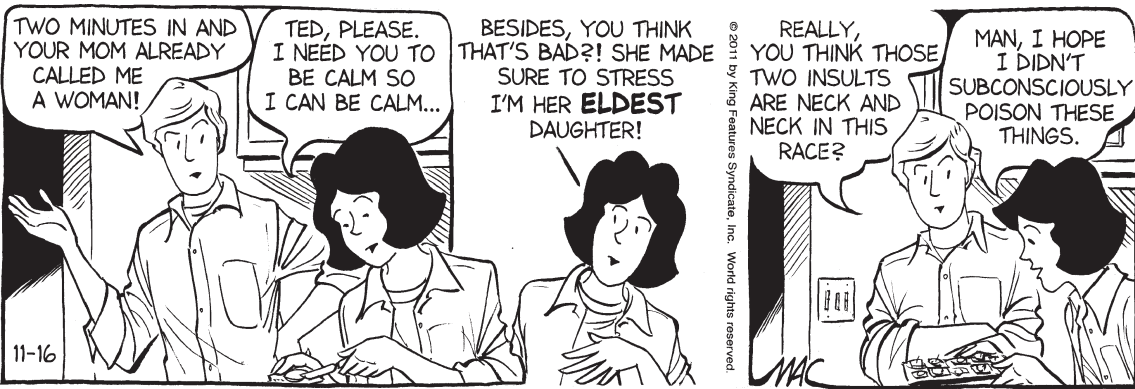
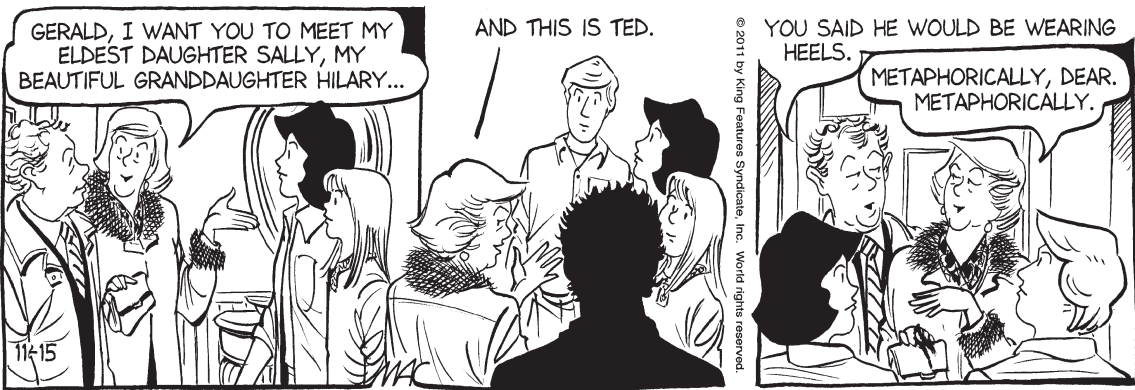
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



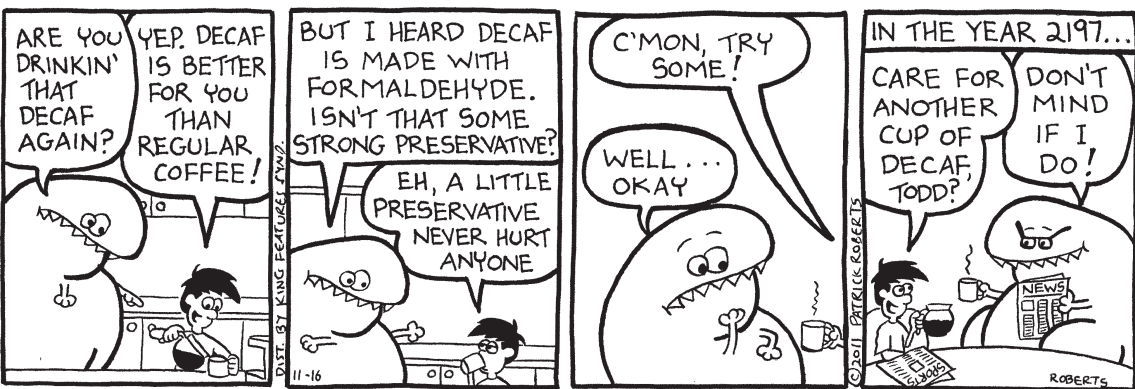
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



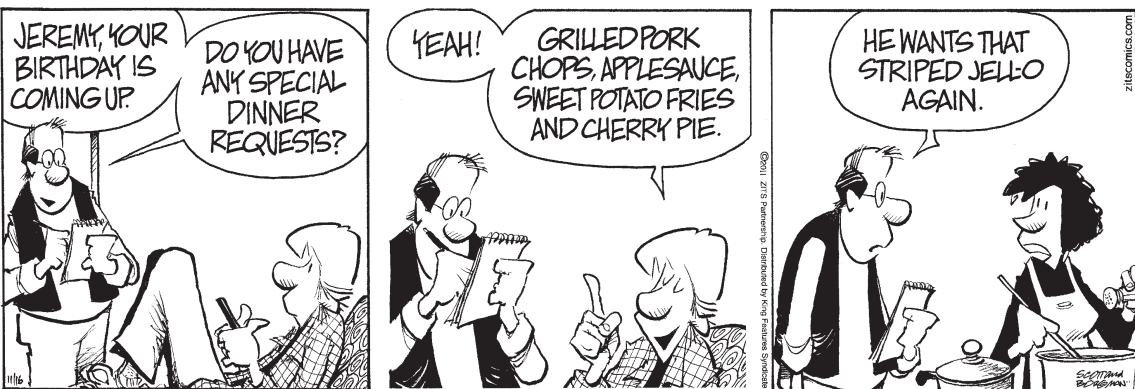
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Seasoned salt a moneysaver

Dear Heloise: Could you give me your recipe for SEASONED SALT? I made it before, but I can't find my recipe. — Connie W., via email

This is a great seasoning that will save you money when you make it yourself. If you are watching your salt intake, you can use a salt substitute in place of the salt. You'll need:

- 1 cup salt (or salt substitute)
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon well-ground celery seed
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried, well-ground parsley flakes

Mix ingredients together. Store in a container with a tightfitting lid to keep out moisture. A glass spice jar that has a plastic lid with holes is perfect for keeping this seasoning within reach on the dinner table. If making a double or triple batch, use an empty, plastic Parmesan-cheese container. I have other easy and low-cost recipes for seasonings and more in my Heloise's Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet. To receive a copy, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (64 cents) envelope to: Heloise/SSS, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. You've run out of celery for your favorite tuna or chicken salad? Try chopped coleslaw or water chestnuts for that added crunch. — Heloise

TEST YOUR HELOISE HINT IQ
Dear Readers: What popular meat was once thought of as a throw-away portion of beef?

- tongue
- fajitas
- stew meat.

If you grill, you probably know — it's fajitas, also known as skirt steak. Any Mexican restaurant here in South Texas has fajitas on the menu, and now they are known nationwide.

This meat is from the flank area of a cow. It has been served in these parts since the late '60s. It is delicious when grilled over mesquite wood (which we have a lot of here in Texas). — Heloise

NO DRINK
Dear Heloise: I am an empty nester. I have never been a big milk drinker and end up throwing away half-used cartons of milk.

I now keep powdered milk in a plastic bag that I've written directions on for mixing with water to make a cup, quart or gallon. Now, when I'm baking, I mix up the amount I need, and I also put a couple of tablespoons of powdered milk in my cereal and add cold water from the fridge. I no longer waste milk. — Joyce, Vienna, W.Va.

PREVENTING STAINS
Dear Heloise: I ruined several plastic containers with stains from spaghetti sauce. I bought glass bowls that come with plastic lids. As an added precaution, I place plastic wrap between the food and the lid to keep food from staining the underside. — Evelyn H., South Bend, Ind.

(c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 9 4
♥ J 10
♦ J 10 9 6 5 3
♣ 10 2
WEST
♠ J 8 6 5 2
♥ Q 8 4
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ 7
EAST
♠ 10 3
♥ K 9 7 5 2
♦ 4
♣ K J 9 8 6
SOUTH
♠ A Q 7
♥ A 6 3
♦ K Q
♣ A Q 5 4 3
The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — five of spades.

A Stitch in Time Saves Nine
The Rule of Eleven usually offers a greater advantage to the defenders than to the declarer, but it is nevertheless a two-edged sword that either side can utilize.

Assume West leads his fourth-best spade, the five, against three notrump. South deducts that number from 11, which tells him that North, East and South together have six cards higher than the five.

Since South sees two of those cards in dummy and three in his own hand, he knows that East has only one card higher than the five. Declarer follows low from dummy and wins East's ten with the ace. He then plays the K-Q of diamonds, which West, of course, ducks.

South has only one certain entry to dummy — the king of spades — and if he uses it to establish the diamonds, he will be unable to cash them later. So South leads the spade seven at trick four, and, after West follows low, he finesses the nine.

The finesse, fortified by the Rule of Eleven, succeeds. Declarer then leads the jack of diamonds and — with the spade king still in dummy as an entry — makes the contract.

Declarer should play this way even if he has never heard of the Rule of Eleven. But if he is familiar with the rule and knows when and how to apply it, he will find bridge much easier to play.

Note, however, that if West is alert, he can defeat the contract. He should anticipate declarer's planned spade finesse and thwart it by playing his jack when South leads the seven! This play restricts dummy to one entry and renders the contract unmakeable.

In cold analysis, the jack of spades is clearly West's proper play. He knows South has the spade queen because East failed to play it at trick one. Since the jack is subject to a finesse in any case, West should play it in an effort to limit dummy to only one entry.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“... I'm too close to the ground.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/16

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

Cryptoquip

MXLLDMT Z EADSCMW IZM Z
MWDST WIZW'M MXQQTMMEXA.
PCHIW IT QAZCP WIZW
NXMCOTMM CM NADDPCHO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GROUP OF SNAKELIKE FISH WHO ARE OUT PRACTICING THEIR ROLLER-SKATING SKILLS: EELS ON WHEELS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 "Bam!"
4 Altar affirmative
7 Consequently
8 Dodge
10 Decorate
11 Eateries
13 Good thing with a bad element
16 Pigpen
17 Beethoven's "Für —"
18 Slithery squeezer
19 Chow
20 Galley supply
21 Nervous laterally
23 Hum-dinger
26 Finished — Baba
27 Accumulate
30 Witticism
33 Ambivalence of a sort
- DOWN**
2 Shrek is one soundly?
3 Is
14 Sad
15 Petrol (about)
19 Wildebeest
20 Praise in
21 Dutch flower
22 Panacea
23 Mediocre
24 As an alternative
25 Felon's flight
26 Curses
28 Fess up
29 Where-withal
30 Web surfer's need
31 Responsibility
32 Recipe meas.
34 Needle case
35 Bygone Peruvian

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-16

