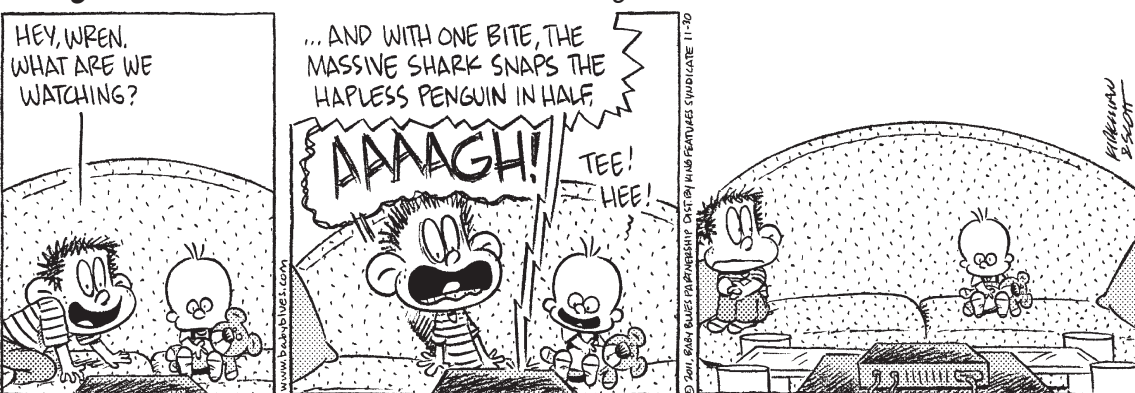
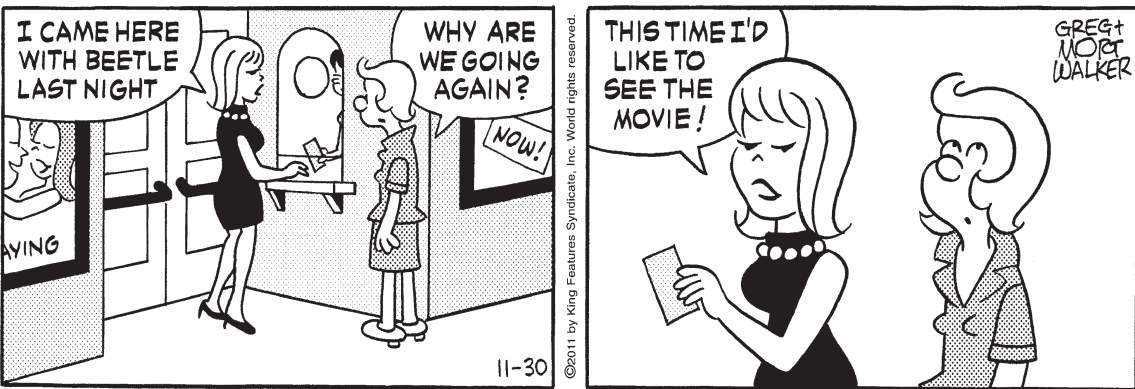


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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

Salt-free recipe makes soup base

Dear Heloise: I am trying to find the recipe for the CREAM SOUP that can be used in place of a can of mushroom soup. I want to make a chicken casserole, and I can no longer use canned soup because of the high sodium content. There is salt in everything, I have discovered. — Dortha K., Great Bend.

Salt is not an added ingredient in this Heloise's Non-Fat Cream Soup recipe, which can serve as a base for any cream soup you make. For the chicken bouillon powder, there are salt-free versions available. You will need:

- 1 cup nonfat dried milk powder
- 1 tablespoon dried onion flakes
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons chicken bouillon powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Mix these ingredients together and store in an airtight container. Then, when you want to make your soup, you will add:

- 2 cups cold water
- 1/2 cup of the main ingredient (for example, mushroom for a mushroom cream soup)

In a large saucepan over medium heat, place the water and pre-made mix, heating until it is thick. Then add the main ingredient of your choosing and cook until done. You always can add more water if the soup becomes too thick. Finish by seasoning to your own taste. This recipe is included in my pamphlet of All-Time Favorite Recipes. For a copy, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (64 cents) envelope to: Heloise/All-Time Favorites, Box 795001, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5001. If you are counting calories, try using nonfat dried milk powder in your recipes that call for whole milk. — Heloise

HELOISE UPDATE
Dear Readers: To remove stubborn coffee or tea stains from cups and mugs, the older hints are to use a denture tablet, table salt or baking soda. There is a Heloise Update: Take about a tablespoon of dishwasher detergent powder, put it in the cup or mug and add boiling water. Let it sit for five to 10 minutes. When the time is up, with no scrubbing necessary, the stain usually is gone. — Heloise

BAKING HINT
Dear Heloise: This hint has saved many a pie crust: Take a tinfoil pie plate and cut out the middle circle, leaving the edge in a ring. Place the ring over the unbaked pie crust and bake, removing the last 10 or 15 minutes of baking so the edge of the pie crust gets light brown. I have two sizes of pie plates -- one tinfoil plate for each size. — Helen K., San Antonio

HANDY DRAWER
Dear Heloise: I have a small section of a drawer in the kitchen reserved just for tools that I use. I have found that the MOST useful of these items is a pair of needle-nose pliers. They are fabulous for removing the coverings on just about any container. Give it a try, you'll be hooked. — Jane Christensen, Baton Rouge, La.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6 2
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ K J 7 4
♣ K 7 4
WEST
♠ K Q J 10 9 7 4
♥ 9 4
♦ 3
♣ Q J 8
EAST
♠ 8 5 3
♥ J 10 7 6 2
♦ 8 5
♣ A 9 2
SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 10 9 6 2
♣ 10 6 5 3
The bidding:
East Pass 1♦
South South 5♦
West West 3♠
North North 4♦
Opening lead — king of spades.
Two Chances Are Better
In many hands, you can make the contract only if a particular card is favorably placed. But in some cases, you can make the contract even when that card is badly placed, provided you play correctly.

Assume you're in five diamonds and West leads a spade. You see at once that the contract depends on not losing three clubs tricks. If West has the ace, you can easily make the contract by leading a club to the king at some point. But it would be wrong, as a matter of principle, to stake everything on this one possibility. Instead you should try to think of a way to make the contract even if East has the ace of clubs.

Accordingly, you win the spade, cross to dummy with a trump and ruff a spade. This is the first step in a plan to strip dummy of spades and hearts in an effort to endplay East later on.

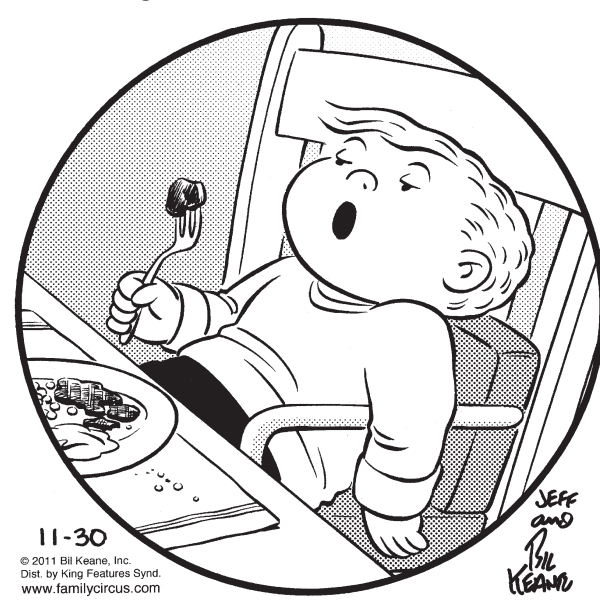
You next play another trump before cashing the A-K-Q of hearts, on which you discard a club. As it happens, West shows out on the third round of hearts. This is a highly significant development, as it means you can no longer be defeated regardless of where the ace of clubs is located.

You lead the eight of hearts from dummy, and, instead of trumping East's ten, you discard another club from your hand. This forces East to return a club or yield a ruff-and-discard, either of which hands you the contract.

Note that this method of play also succeeds if East has just four hearts. Note further that at no point do you give up on the possibility of West's having the ace of clubs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Who decided liver was a good thing?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/30

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.

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

Cryptoquip

ZKEQAEU EVUPA DRIKC D
RADQC IO RKELAZ CVDC
YIKWL RA TKJCA TKJYM IZ
JCQ OAAC: "UDM RA ZJPRWA."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY DETAILED FORMAL TALK ABOUT THE METHODS OF MAKING BEVERAGES BUBBLY: AN AERATION ORATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Mosque
5 Scale member
8 Equipment
12 Hardy cabbage
13 Commotion
14 World's fair
15 Went boom
17 Newspaper page
18 Supermarket section
19 Undergo without yielding
21 Exam format
24 Still, in verse
25 Make tea
28 Took to the skies
30 Festive
33 Actor Harrison
34 Animal stomachs
35 Away from WSW
36 Pump up the volume
37 Base runner's goal
38 Tosses in
39 Historic period
41 Venomous vipers
43 What to call an English nobleman
46 Puppeteer Lewis
50 Norway's capital
51 Atoned for
54 Coaster
55 Central
56 Fashion
57 Danson and Nugent
58 Eggs
59 Heroic verse
60 Mimic
11 Took the bus
16 "— the ramparts ..."
20 Information coiffure
22 Frizzy
23 Camel's cousin
25 Bikini half
26 Sleep phenom
27 Kicked out of school
29 Rams fans?
31 Moreover
32 "Certainly"
34 Burn somewhat
38 Fats Domino's "Ain't That —"
40 Crucifixes
42 Omega preceder
43 Lion's share
44 Capri, for one
45 Show-room sample
47 On
48 Start over
49 Mid-month date
52 Louis —
53 Black-Berry, for ex.

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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		