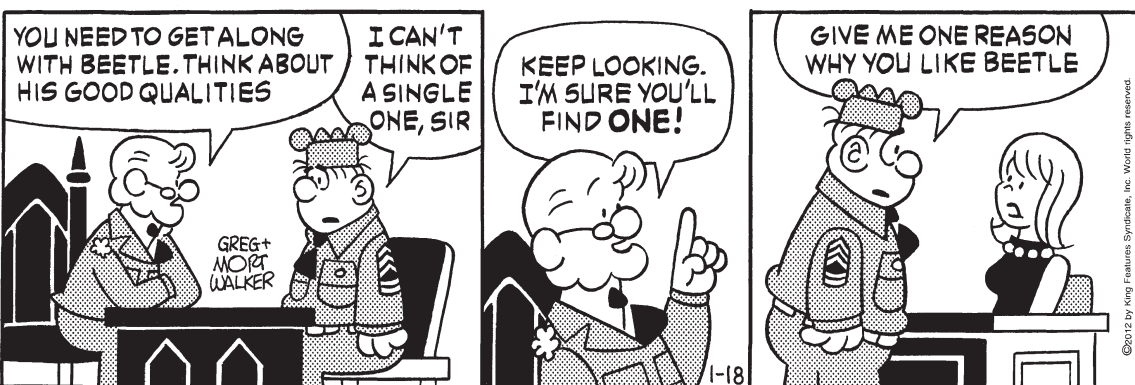


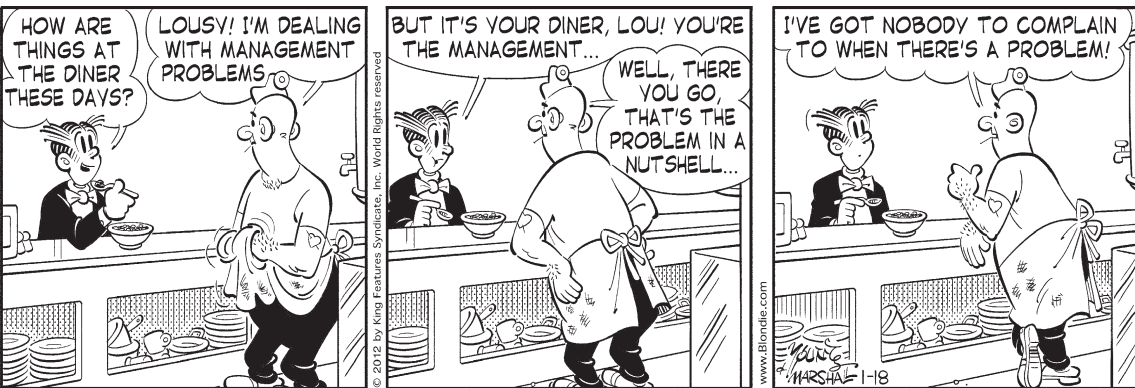
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



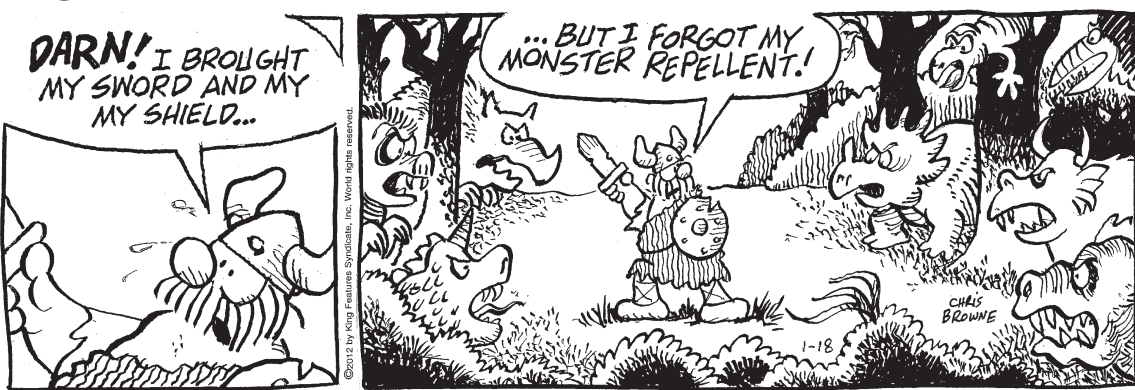
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



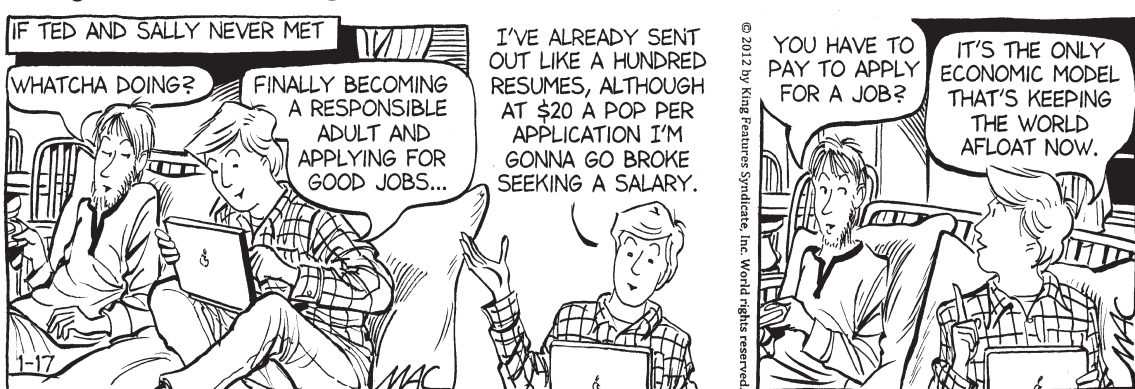
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Cooking oils not all the same

Dear Heloise: What are the differences among vegetable oil, canola oil, corn oil and olive oil? How should EACH OF THESE OILS be used, and can they be substituted for each other in recipes? – Debbie, via email

Good question, and it can be confusing! The main difference is what each is made from. All are “vegetable” oils, except for the olive oil.

Vegetable oil is made from soybeans. It is good for all-purpose cooking and baking because of its light taste.

Canola oil is made from canola seed and also has a light taste, which makes it good for all types of cooking. It is a healthy choice for using in dressings and marinades.

Corn oil is made from corn. It is good for deep frying and rich in flavor.

Olive oil is made from olives, which are actually a FRUIT from the olive tree. It has a fruity, full-bodied flavor, but every olive will create different-flavored oil depending on the olive used and where it was harvested.

In baking, oils can be a substitute for melted butter, margarine or shortening in recipes. You can substitute and experiment with the oils in all of your cooking. Let your taste be the guide for how you use them. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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GINGER HINT

Dear Heloise: I use fresh ginger in brewing tea and cooking. However, I have found that as a root it deteriorates quickly, even in the refrigerator. So, I peel and grate all of the ginger at once, measure it in half teaspoons onto a plate, freeze it, put the frozen lumps into a plastic zip bag and store them in the freezer. The ginger is ready to brew or cook with the next time I need it. – Jamie D. in Houston

I love ginger, too! Freezing ginger does work well, and it can be stored up to six months this way. Refrigerator storage requires wrapping the leftover, unpeeled ginger tightly in paper towels and placing in a sealable plastic bag. The ginger will store up to three weeks this way. – Heloise

SUGAR CONVERSION

Dear Heloise: I would like to know how many cups there are in 1/2 pound of powdered sugar. I have recipes that call for a pound or 1/2 pound of sugar and don't know what that equates to in cups. Thank you. – Allie, via email

The answer, Allie, is 1 and 7/8 cups. Just a reminder: Powdered sugar (also known as confectioners' sugar) should be sifted before placing it into your measuring cup and then leveled off with some type of flat surface. – Heloise

HANDY TWO-TINED FORK

Dear Heloise: My all-time favorite Heloise hint was to use a large, two-tined fork when breaking apart ground meat in a skillet. Since my skillet of choice is a large, two-generations-old, cast-iron skillet, I still use this technique. – Barbara Evans, Ventura, Calif.
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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ A
♥ AK 9 6 4
♦ 4 2
♠ A 10 8 3 2
WEST
♥ J 10 3
♦ 8 5 2
♠ K 10 8 3
♣ K Q 4
EAST
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ J 10 7 3
♠ 5
♣ J 9 6 5
SOUTH
♦ Q 9 8 6 4
♥ Q
♠ A Q J 9 7 6
♣ 7
The bidding:
East Pass South Pass West Pass North 1♥
Pass Pass Pass 3♦
Pass 3♦ Pass 4♦
Pass 4♦ Pass 5♦
Pass 6♦ Dbl
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Silence Is Golden

There are two basic rules that govern whether or not to double the opponents when they reach their final contract. One is that you should not double if it might allow the enemy to run from a contract they can't make to one that they can. The other is that you should not double if, by doing so, you give declarer vital information that enables him to make a contract he would not have made otherwise.

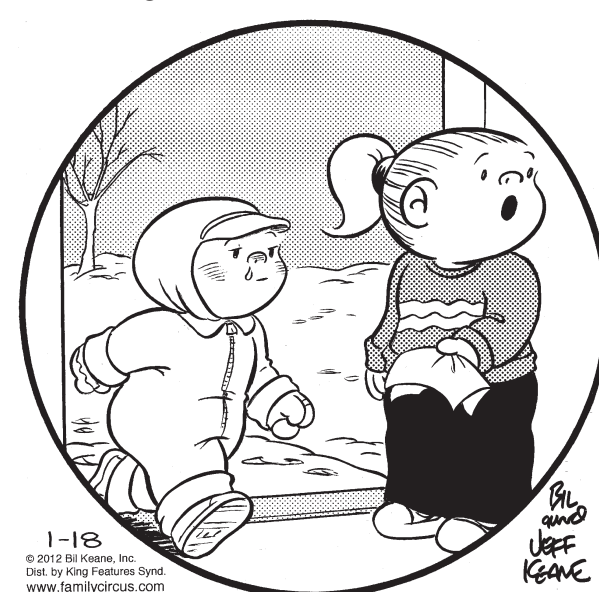
Consider the present case where West got greedy and doubled six diamonds because he thought he had two sure trump tricks. Had he passed instead of doubling, he almost surely would have defeated the slam. But after West let the cat out of the bag by doubling six diamonds, declarer made the slam by playing as if he could see through the backs of the cards.

South won the club lead with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of spades, then led a heart to the queen and ruffed a spade in dummy. After discarding two spades on the A-K of hearts, declarer ruffed a club in his hand, ruffed his last spade in dummy and then ruffed another club.

Nine tricks had been played to this point, and declarer had won them all. South's last four cards were the A-Q-J-9 of trumps, while West had the K-10-8-3. For the double to make any sense at all, South had to assume that this was the actual position.

Accordingly, declarer led the queen of trumps at trick ten. West made the correct play of ducking the queen, but South continued with the jack. West took the jack with the king, but then had to concede the last two tricks to declarer's A-9.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

AW M PRTMU PVASBD NVRFYES

MVSAEKBD WRV ERUDYTBV

VBNRVSD, XRY TALZS DMX

DZB'D M KMFx AU VMSAUL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EPIC FILM ABOUT SOME BIRDS AROUND ARUBA AND NEIGHBORING ISLANDS: "PARROTS OF THE CARIBBEAN."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 \$ dispenser
 - 4 Two-way
 - 8 Use a really old telephone
 - 12 Payable
 - 13 Therefore
 - 14 A Great Lake
 - 15 "CSI" evidence
 - 16 Karate level
 - 18 Popular condiment
 - 20 That girl
 - 21 Stanley Gardner
 - 24 Light-headed
 - 28 Winter road hazard
 - 32 Pop
 - 33 Help
 - 34 Urban palls
 - 36 Chum
 - 37 Huff and puff
 - 39 Shiner
 - 41 Bewilder
 - 43 Concept
- DOWN**
- 5 It starts with "http"
 - 6 — Khan
 - 7 Ness or Lomond
 - 8 Scattered odds and ends
 - 9 Anger
 - 10 Have a bug
 - 11 Allow
 - 17 St. Bernard's load
 - 19 Moment
 - 22 Arm or leg
 - 23 Meat contaminant
 - 25 Ninny
 - 26 Crucial time
 - 27 Harvard's rival
 - 28 Ali —
 - 29 Spring-like tune
 - 30 Commo-tions
 - 31 "Zounds!"
 - 35 Land-scapes
 - 38 Online video
 - 39 Online equipment
 - 40 Singer
 - 42 Diving bird
 - 45 Old woman's home?
 - 47 Reindeer, probably
 - 48 Shrek, for one
 - 49 Night light
 - 50 Short-order sandwich
 - 51 Whopper
 - 52 "I — Camera"
 - 53 Peculiar
 - 54 Journal

Solution time: 21 mins.

ASIA	EGG	SHAG							
RENTFREE	COCO								
PANTRIES	AONE								
EON	TEMPER								
PRONG	BURP								
HELD	TARRIES								
DAG	URGES	VAT							
MARRIES	WILE								
HAUL	MALTA								
NAPALM	EAR								
ADAM	PASTRIES								
NONE	HATTERAS								
AGES	SUE	NAUT							

Yesterday's answer 1-18

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				60					61	