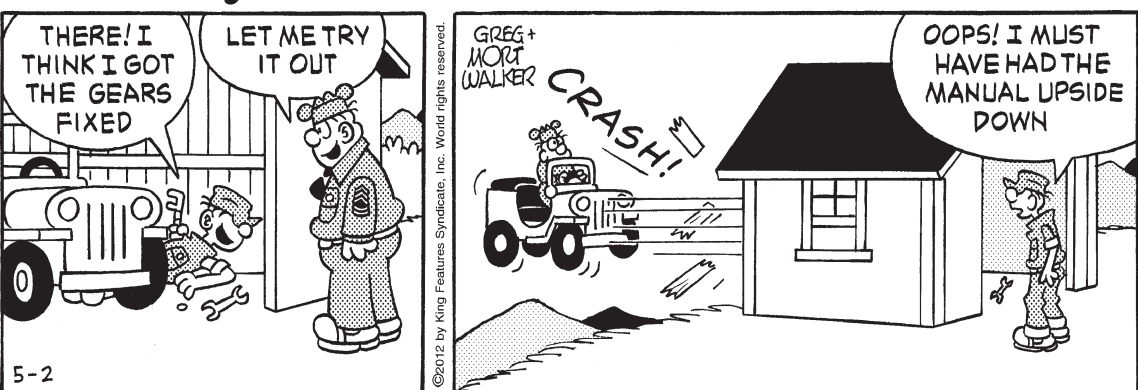


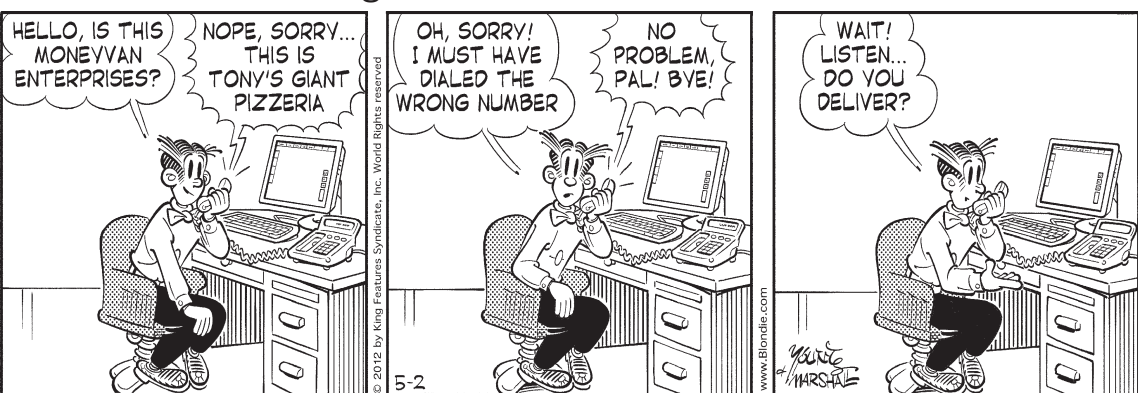
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



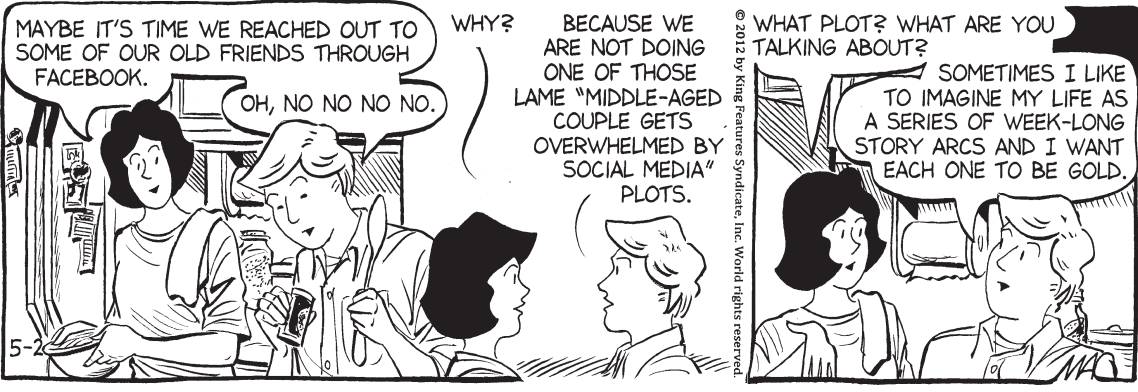
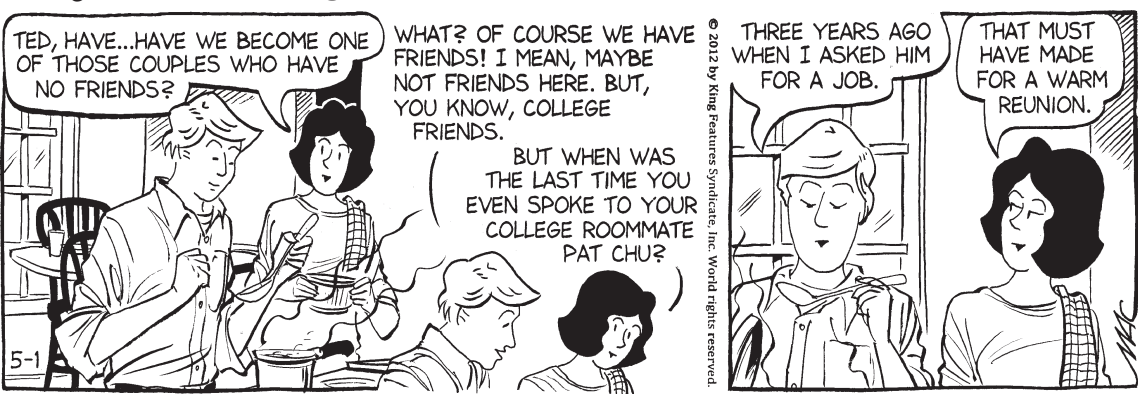
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



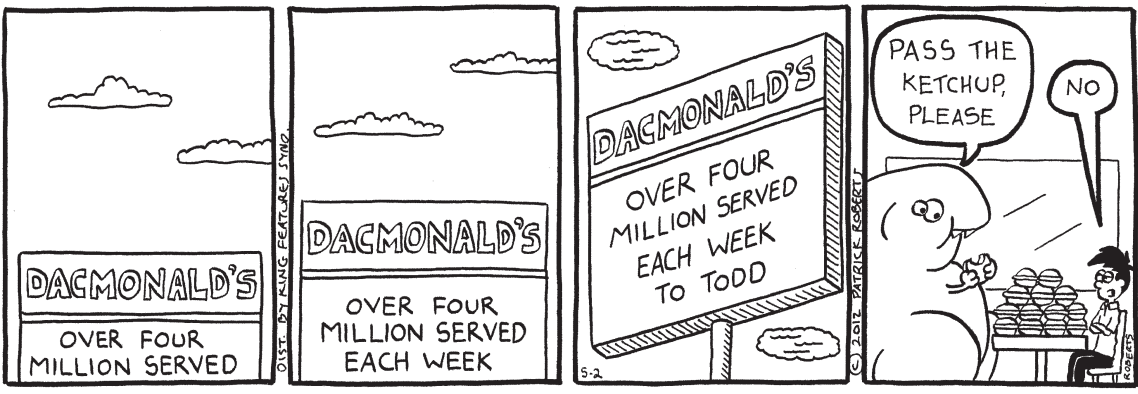
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



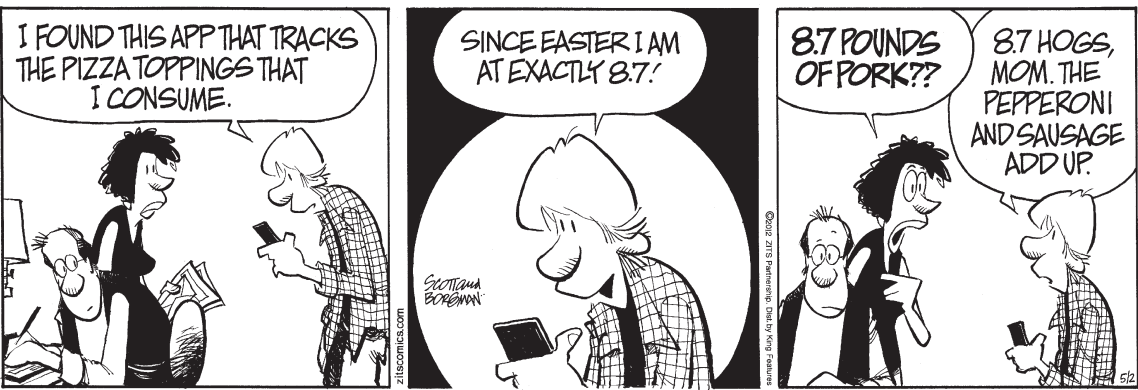
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Cook noodles apart from soup

Dear Heloise: I read your hint about adding rice, noodles or macaroni to stretch soup to make it more of a meal, and I had to pass along my suggestion. Cook the rice or pasta separately, then add it to the soup at serving time. This accomplishes several things. First, if you cook the rice or pasta along with the soup, it absorbs the liquid. You can keep adding water to the soup, but it will just get thicker and thicker.

Keeping the rice or pasta separate allows you to control the thickness and flavor of the soup.

Also, if you have little ones, adding cooled or cold pasta or rice will cool the soup quickly to a manageable temperature. Love your column! — Chris in Monmouth, Maine

Good hints, Chris, and you're right — this is a good way to control the amount of "soup," too. Soup can be a delicious, quick dinner. Add salad and some bread, and your meal is complete. Want to try some of my favorite soup recipes? All you need to do is send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, Box 795001, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5001. Make a large batch of soup and either share with family who live nearby or with neighbors, or freeze to enjoy another night. — Heloise

PERFECT PINEAPPLE

Dear Readers: Is a "baby" pineapple really a baby (as in a pineapple that has been picked while small)? No! It is grown and picked as it is meant to be, which is about 4.5 inches high (not counting the leaves). Produced mainly in South Africa, these Queen Victoria pineapples are known for their sweet and tart quality and bold flavor.

What makes these pineapples unique? The entire pineapple flesh is edible, including the core. So, next time you want some pineapple, give this variety a taste! — Heloise

ENTERTAINING EGGS

Dear Heloise: I was planning to scramble a couple of eggs. When I opened the cupboard to get my skillet, I noticed my electric sandwich maker and thought I would give it a try.

I scrambled the eggs in a bowl, poured them into the base of the unit and closed the lid. In a short time, I opened it and was delighted to find four golden-brown triangular egg puffs. They were light and tasty, easy to remove, and looked terrific on the plate. — Pete B. in La Habra, Calif.

Pete, I was doubtful but tested your hint in a waffle maker, and it worked! Fluffy, delicious eggs ready in about two minutes, and almost a waffle pattern. — Heloise

PEPPER REMINDER

Dear Heloise: Sometimes I would forget if I had salted or seasoned something I was cooking. Now I always salt/season first before I add the pepper. If I see pepper in my food, then I know it's been salted/seasoned already. — Glenda L., via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A J 7 2
♥ 8 6
♦ A J 9 2
♣ K 3 2

WEST
♠ 9
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ 8 6 5 4
♣ 10 9 7 5

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 7
♣ Q J 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 8 5 3
♥ K J 10
♦ K 10 3
♣ A

The bidding:
North 1♦
East Pass
South 1♠
West Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The Better Way

Looking at the North-South hands, you can see that six spades is unbeatable regardless of how the opposing cards are divided, provided that — and this is a big proviso — declarer knows which opponent has the queen of diamonds. In that case, declarer can collect six spade tricks, two clubs and four diamonds (by means of a finesse or a drop) to make the slam.

But in real life, the location of the crucial queen is not known to declarer. If he stakes everything on a diamond finesse and misguesses which opponent has the queen, he goes down, since at least one heart trick must be lost.

An alternative line of play is for declarer to avoid the diamond guess altogether by discarding his third diamond on the king of clubs. But as he gets rid of one headache, he acquires another, since he might then lose two heart tricks.

There is, however, a reasonable chance of avoiding two heart losers if the latter approach is adopted. If East has the A-Q, only one heart can be lost. If the heart honors are split, declarer will have to guess whether to play the jack or king when he leads a heart toward his hand. This is essentially a 50-50 proposition. Of course, if West has both honors, declarer has no chance on this line of play.

There is no sure way to guarantee 12 tricks, but the best chance, percentage-wise, is to draw trumps and cash the K-A of diamonds, hoping to drop the queen, roughly a 1-in-5 proposition. This works in the actual deal, and the slam is home.

If the queen does not appear when the K-A are played, declarer can discard his remaining diamond on the king of clubs and then tackle the hearts. In this way, South gives himself two chances to make the slam instead of just one.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



5-2

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"It'll be okay, Mommy. PJ will tell you where he hid your keys just as soon as he learns to talk."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/02

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

Cryptoquip

OWMIU W QK WM Q GUQHLL
IRUUGEYH EGQKU CE KWMX,
ICYHX LCY OQL W'K WM
VRU OYMORWMU OVQVU?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THAT MARSUPIAL BEAST HAMMERING NAILS NOISILY SHOULD REALLY BE CALLED A CLANG-AROO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Gorilla | 1 Pond |
| 4 Parisian | 10 Past |
| 7 Entreaty | 12 Rot |
| 8 "Excavating" | 14 — up (admit) |
| 33 Bombastic | 15 Lair |
| — | 19 Old |
| 10 Drilling | Olds- |
| 11 Caught | mobile |
| 13 Exempted, in a sense | 20 Parched |
| 16 Raw rock | 21 Muffler |
| 17 Take another meeting | 22 Servitude |
| 18 "Rocks" | 23 Couturier |
| 19 Hurry | 24 Chanel |
| 20 Campus VIP | 24 Different |
| 21 Wine-glass features | 25 Ovum |
| 23 Popular Indian | 26 Whines |
| 25 Vocal comeback | 28 Botanical |
| 26 Shetland, e.g. | swelling |
| | 29 Cut |
| | into |
| | cubes |
| | 30 Auto- |
| | mobile |
| | style |
| | 31 "E |
| | Pluribus |
| | —" |
| | 32 Summer, |
| | on |
| | the |
| | Seine |
| | 34 Approach |
| | 35 Loosen |

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-2

