

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



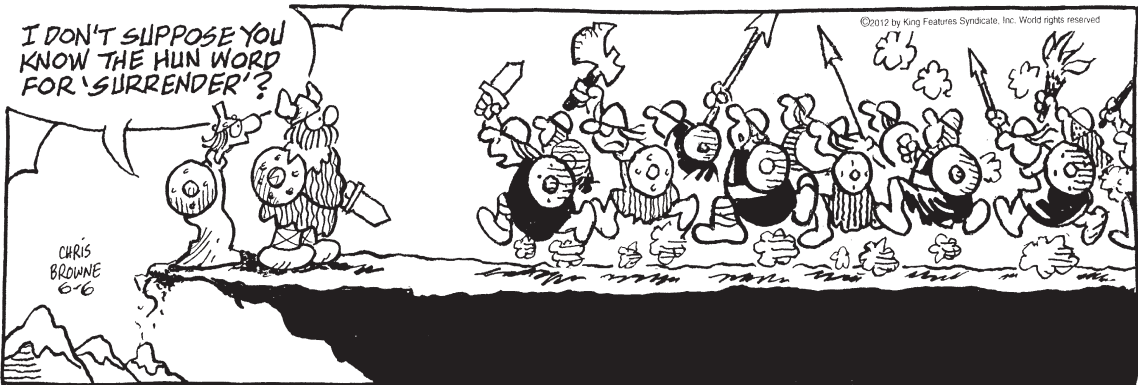
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



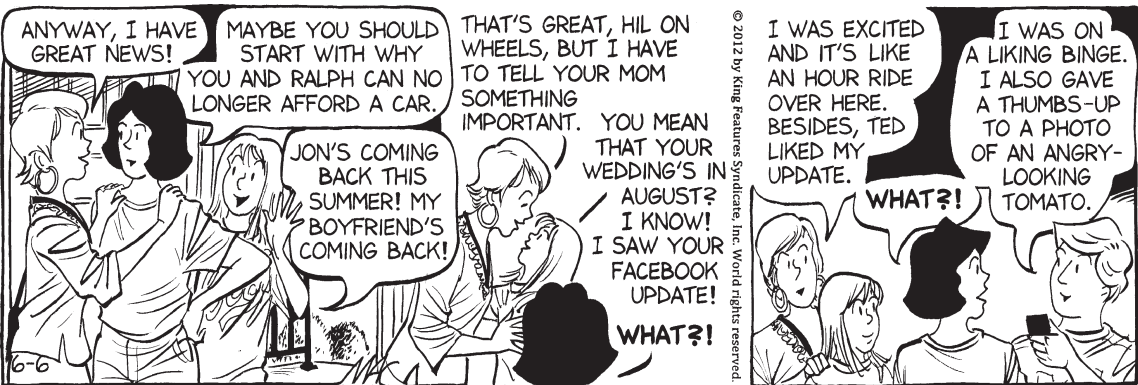
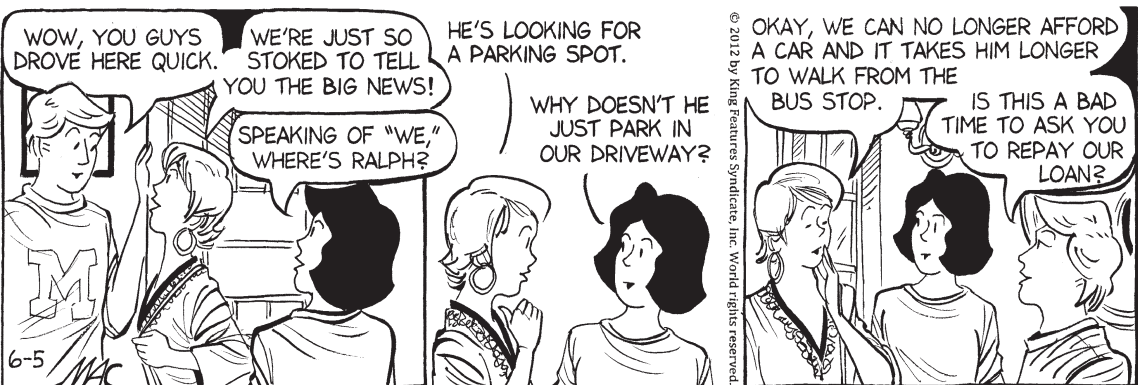
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



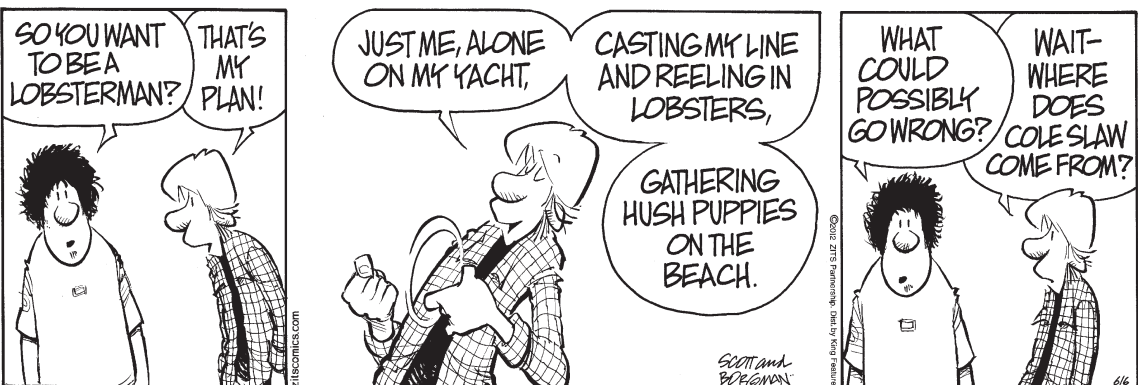
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Slice sprouts through the core

Dear Heloise: To lessen the cooking time for Brussels sprouts, I slice an "X" into the root end of each sprout. As I do this, I give the knife a little twist. You can hear the leaves in the core tear apart just a bit. This gives the hard core of each sprout more exposure to the boiling water. — Dana F., Spokane, Wash.

Dana, fresh brussels sprouts are tasty! This is the recommended way to prepare sprouts before cooking because the leaves tend to cook faster. Cutting the core helps it cook more evenly with the leaves, but don't overcook sprouts! — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
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TESTING BAKING POWDER

Dear Readers: Baking powder usually lasts six months to a year after being opened. However, when in doubt about whether it is still active, do this quick and easy test.

Take 1 teaspoon of baking powder and place it in a cup of hot water. If the baking powder starts to bubble, you will know that it is still good to use! — Heloise

SIFTING FLOUR

Dear Heloise: I have been sifting a 5-pound bag of flour and returning it to a canister or the bag all at one time. This saves a step when baking. — Ellen in Florida

Ellen, a great way to think ahead. However, most all-purpose flours manufactured today are sifted before packaging. But once brought home, the flour may have condensed or settled, and if so, it will need to be sifted again.

You have to read the recipe carefully, because if it says "1 cup sifted flour," then the flour needs to be sifted before measuring. However, if the recipe says "1 cup flour, sifted," then the flour is sifted after measuring. You sift flour to get out any lumps and aerate it. Aerating dry ingredients, like flour, helps them accept liquids more easily and evenly. — Heloise

FREEZING CELERY

Dear Heloise: I have learned celery can be frozen. This is good for soups and stews, although I have put it in my turkey stuffing, too. I place the stalks in the blender with water, chop, then drain. After it is drained, I put it in a gallon freezer bag and flatten it out. This makes it possible to break off the amount you need when cooking. — Pat H., via e-mail

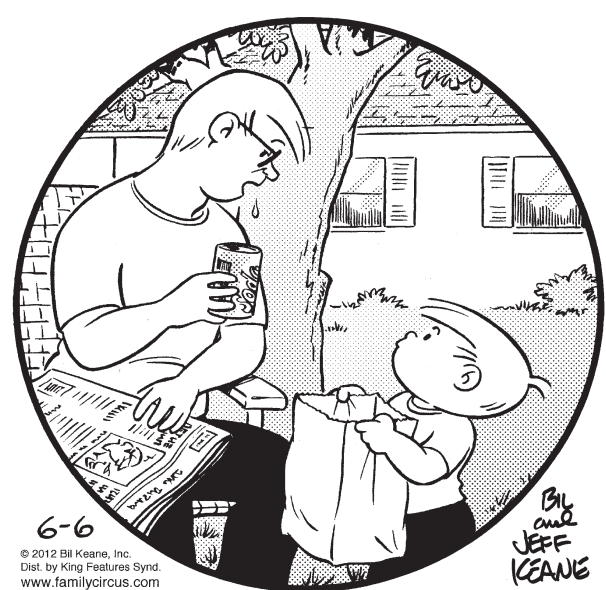
This is one way to freeze celery, but by draining it you are losing a lot of nutrients. — Heloise

GREAT GRAVY

Dear Heloise: My mom taught me to use cold liquid to mix my flour or cornstarch and then whisk it into the hot liquid — never a lump! — Janet C., Ellicott, Colo.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I know it's important to recycle, but shouldn't I finish drinking it first?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/06

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.

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

Cryptoquip

ZFVRJ HKVUHIDJ DHO KVQR
H U J I J L V T S A Q H D D Z F J
U H Q J S A Z J F U H A . O J V O D J
L H D D Z F J T O V T - S U H A S H A R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVEL ABOUT THE VERY SMART PURCHASE MADE BY A PROMINENT NAVIGATOR: "GOOD BUY. COLUMBUS."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Little devil
4 Julie of "The Talk"
8 Pokes
12 Sheepish remark?
13 European capital
14 Nastase of tennis lore
15 Under the weather
16 Learning
18 Trusty mount
20 Family
21 Disencumbers
24 Physicist's fundamental particle
28 Holiday
32 Harvard rival
33 Japanese sash
34 —
36 Carnival city
37 Healthy state
39 Site

DOWN
1 Wading bird
2 50-Down ingredient
3 Wan
4 List
5 Scuttle
6 Ostrich's kin
7 Bottle feature
8 Small bus
9 Foreman foe
10 Life story, briefly
11 D.C. title
17 Pick a target
19 Historic time
22 Use a rotary phone
23 Gomorrah's sister city
25 Rani's raiment
26 Hodge-podge
27 Night light?
28 Wedding exchange
29 Aid and —
30 "Arrivederci"
31 Respectable
35 Corrode
38 Diet-friendly
40 However, in verse
42 Meadow
45 Dance lesson
47 Schnozz
48 "American —"
49 Honeycomb compartment
50 Hearty brew
51 Cistern
52 Eggs
53 "— not choose to run"
54 Lubricate



Yesterday's answer 6-6

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | |

Bridge • Steve Becker

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

It's All Very Logical

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads the king of diamonds. Your potential losers are two spades, a diamond and a club, but there's a chance of escaping a spade loser if the clubs are divided 3-3 or, failing that, if East has the ace of spades.

Your best play is to duck the king of diamonds at trick one. You hope West will shift to a spade or lead a low diamond, which you'd let run to your jack. Either of these plays would solve your problem immediately.

But West shifts to a trump, which you win with the nine. It is here that you make your bid for fame and glory. You lead the jack of diamonds, and when West covers with the queen, you let him hold the trick!

This unusual maneuver is not an act of charity on your part; rather, it is an avoidance play designed to prevent East from gaining the lead later with a club and playing a spade through your king. Nothing can be lost by allowing West to win the diamond jack with the queen, as you are merely exchanging a club loser for a diamond loser.

The great advantage of ducking West's diamond queen is that you can now try for a 3-3 club division without running the risk of East gaining the lead with a club.

Regardless of what West does next, you are home. Let's say he plays another diamond. You discard a club on the ace, cash the ace of trumps and A-K of clubs and ruff a club. When the suit divides 3-3, you enter dummy with a trump and discard a spade on the seven of clubs to make the contract.

Observe that if you fail to make the avoidance play, you go down one against correct defense. Observe also that even if the clubs fail to divide evenly, you can still get back to dummy with a trump to try leading a spade to the king as your last resort.

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