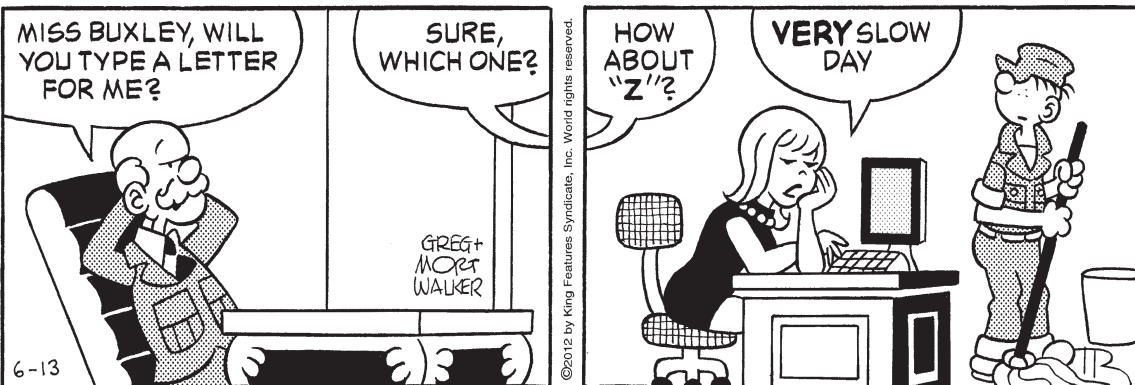


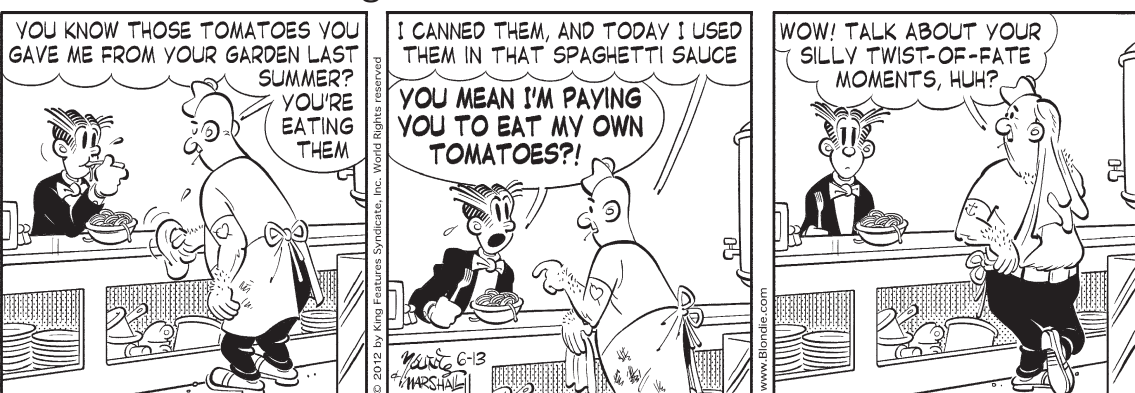
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



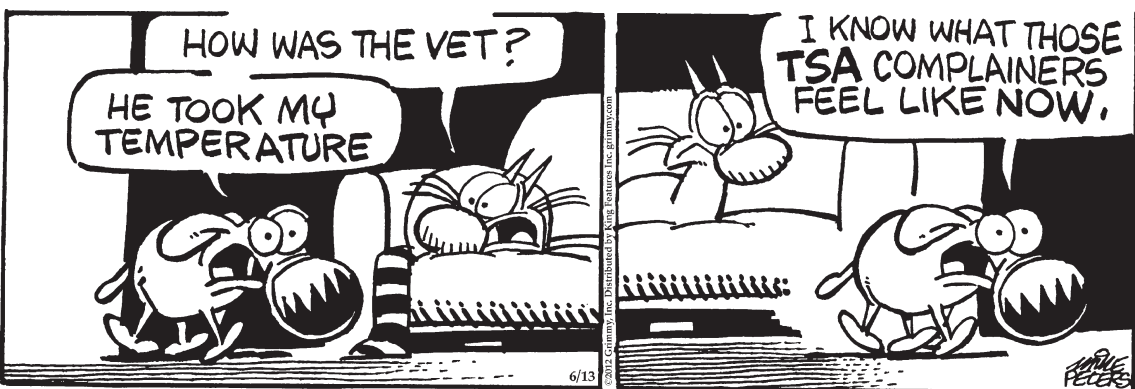
Blondie • Chic Young



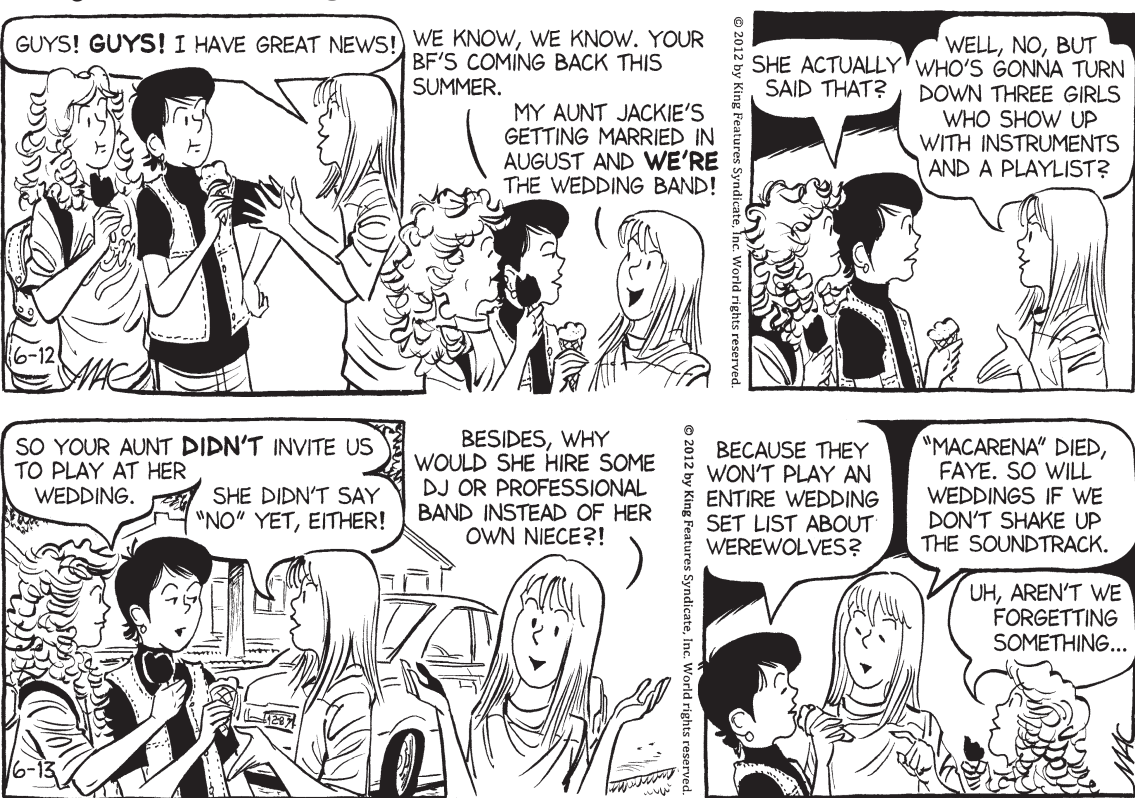
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hints can help instant coffee

Dear Heloise: I am writing to ask if you know the best way to make a "good" cup of instant coffee. Many years ago, your mother printed some hints concerning instant coffee, and it did help! — Joyce S., Findlay, Ohio

Joyce, you made me smile thinking of my mother, the original Heloise (1919-1977). Here are some hints for you to try: Always start with fresh, cold water. Boil the water. Add the correct coffee amount, according to the brand's directions, to a cup, add water and stir. Try using a small whisk or even a fork to stir it, instead of a spoon, and add a pinch of salt. For more hints and recipes on coffee and tea, send for my Heloise's Flavored Coffee and Teas pamphlet. To order, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If lemons are too expensive, but you still want the flavor in your tea, just add half a teaspoon of powdered lemonade mix! — Heloise

CONTAINED CAKE

Dear Heloise: My hint has to do with the tall, plastic cake containers that you get when you buy a layer cake or angel-food cake at the supermarket. When the cake is gone, these containers can be washed, dried and kept for taking your own cakes to bake sales and church functions. The tall covers stack inside each other to make it easy to store until needed. The labels can be removed by soaking. The cake will stay fresh, as these containers lock together. — Sandy in Lubbock, Texas

CLEANING OVEN RACK

Dear Heloise: Please help. I am looking for a way to clean my oven racks. — Narvella in Cleveland

Yuck! They can be pretty dirty and a chore to clean. Put the dirty oven racks inside a large, sturdy, plastic garbage bag, and spray both sides with oven cleaner. Close up the bag and let it sit for several hours or overnight in a safe place so children and pets don't get to it. Carefully discard the bag and rinse the racks clean with water. Rarely does it take any scrubbing (if you've covered the racks well with oven cleaner). Hope this helps. — Heloise

P.S.: Work in a well-ventilated area, or even better, take them outside.

HELPFUL HINT

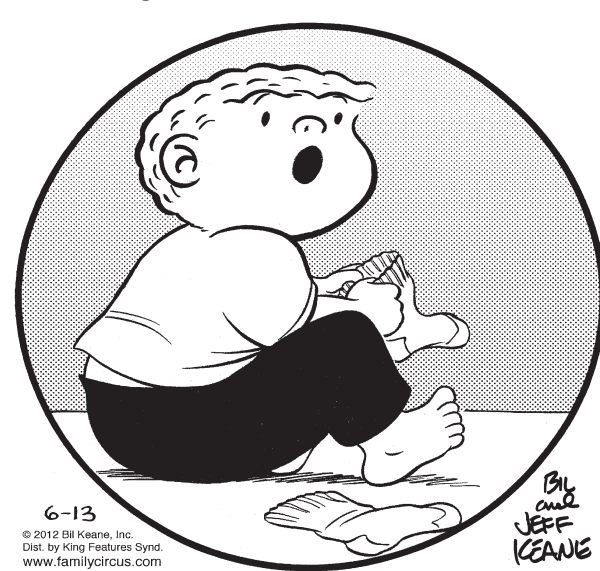
Dear Heloise: I read your column every day and love all the hints that are shared. I thought I'd share this one: I was opening a can of soup with the "easy-open lid," but my problem was that it really wasn't so easy! I used a handle on a wooden spoon to slip through the hole and put some leverage on it, and, with very little pressure, the lid started opening. — Charlotte H., via e-mail

SCRAMBLED EGGS

Dear Heloise: When cooking scrambled eggs, spray the spatula with oil before stirring the eggs in the pot. This will keep the eggs from sticking to the plastic, metal or wooden utensil. — Molly, via e-mail

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How do I know which is the front and which is the back of my sock? There's no label in it."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/13

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.

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

Cryptoquip

YJVE WZ EBD GDDPDCX GBDC

HWT OARYKH ZDDK KAPD

SWMMKACS FWKX FWRZWVE

ZWWX: AFD-FVDJR OTCXJH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A RECLUSE PUT A TOP ON THIS CONTAINER TIGHTLY, I'D IMAGINE IT'S HERMIT-ICALLY SEALED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Church section

5 Pump up the volume

8 Blue hue

12 Columns' crossers

13 Grazing land

14 Crooned

15 One use for a GPS

17 Tresses

18 Boredom

19 Volcanic spewings

21 Faucet problem

24 Squid squirt

25 Mexican money

28 Trans-action

30 Eisenhower?

33 X rating?

34 Point of view

35 Yuletide beverage

36 — carte

37 Novice

38 Exchange premium

DOWN

2 Smutty matter

3 Graceful bird

4 Portuguese pre-euro money

5 Foreman foe

6 Chaps

7 Senate staffer

8 Pale

9 Duck-speak

10 One Taj Mahal city

11 Taj Mahal city

16 White wine cocktail

20 Leave at the altar

22 One way to stand by

23 Bosc and Bartlett

25 Sch. org.

26 Conger, for one

27 Between-meals activity

29 Soon

31 Pond carp

32 Id counterpart

34 Musial of baseball

38 Blew reveille

40 Michel-angelo master-work

42 Killer whale

43 Floating ice mass

44 Notion

45 Unsettled

47 Prima donna

48 Don Juan's mother

49 Shrek, e.g.

52 Regret

53 Pismire

Yesterdays answer 6-13

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

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		