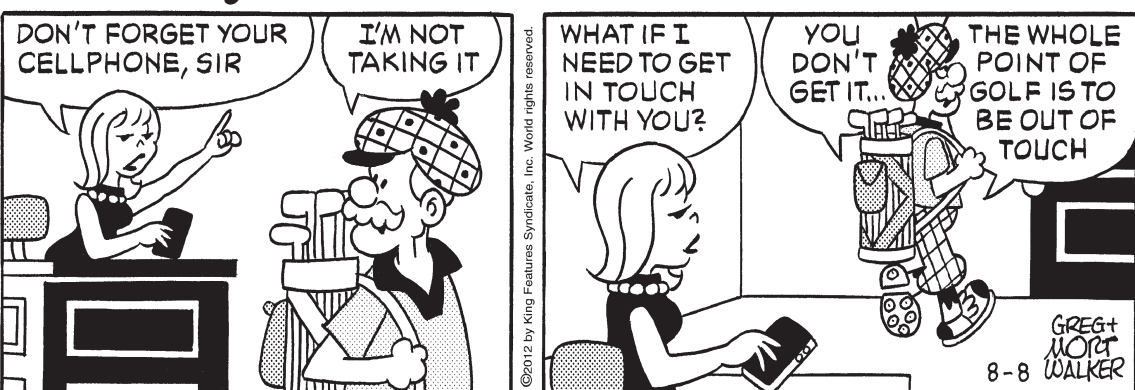


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



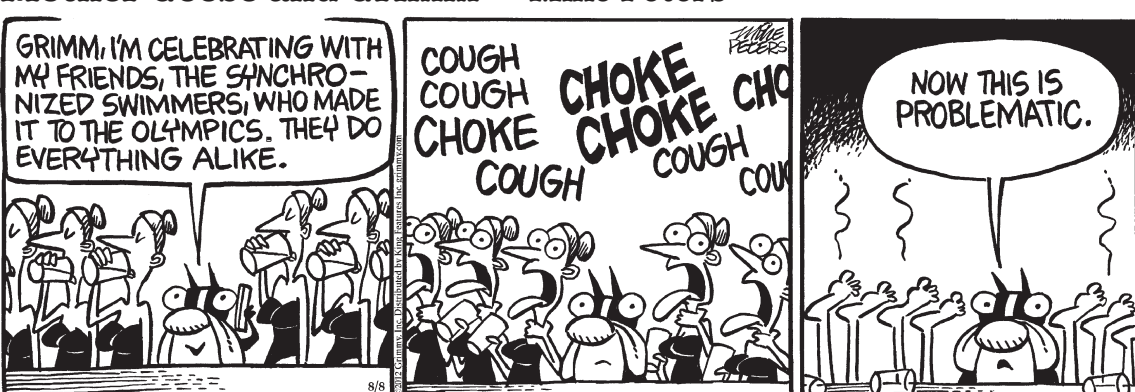
Blondie • Chic Young



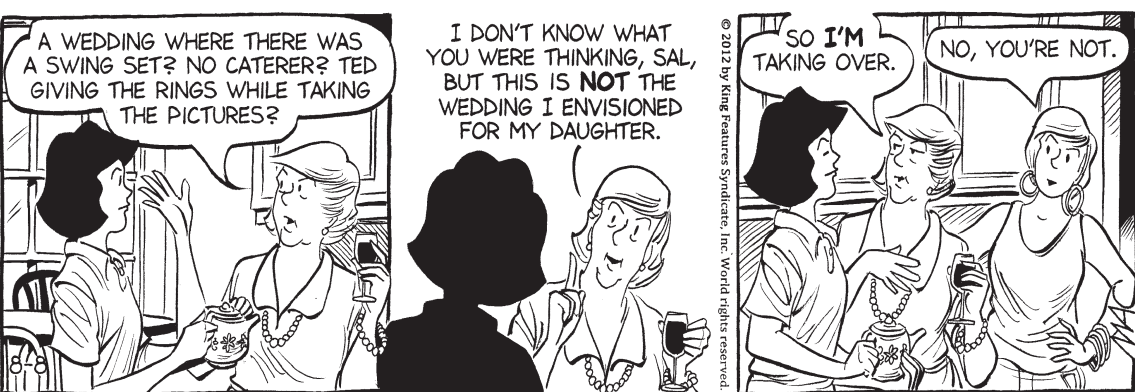
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



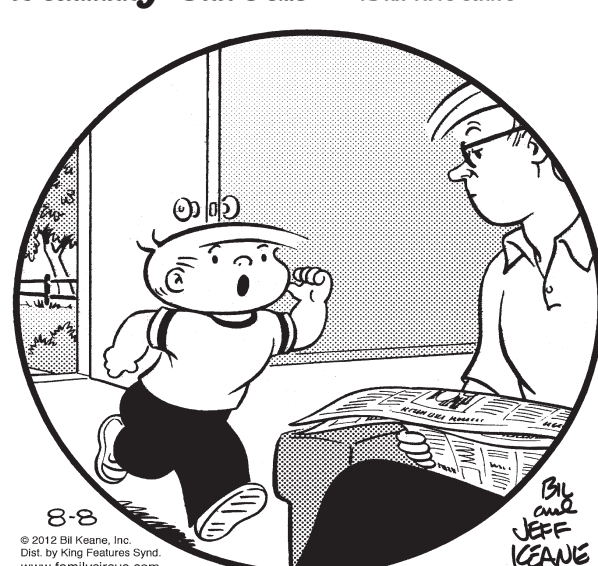
Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Family Circus • Bil Keane



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Tool, technique gets corn off cob

Dear Heloise: I read the column about cutting hard-boiled eggs, fruits for salads and things for side dishes. After reading, I wondered if there is a certain knife or something for cutting fresh corn off the cob. — Laura H. in Louisiana

There are products available, such as corn peelers or zippers. As the name states, the peeler is run along the sides of the cob. The zipper is a tool shaped like a circle on the end, and it goes completely over the cob, getting all the kernels off in one pressing-down motion.

Here's a hint to try if you cannot find or do not want a special tool: Carefully hold the cob on the inside ring of a bundt cake pan and, using a knife, you can cut the kernels off, allowing them to be caught in the pan. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

FROZEN CILANTRO

Dear Heloise: Is there any way to freeze fresh cilantro? I cannot use it before it spoils, and I would love to have it handy in the freezer. — Gina, via e-mail

Gina, I have the same problem. You can freeze cilantro, either whole or chopped up. Just be sure you store it in an airtight container. It is not recommended that you thaw cilantro before using, so try freezing it in ice-cube trays with a little water or a favorite stock. When needed, add the entire ice cube to your cooking.

When buying cilantro, look for leaves that are dark green, firm and crisp. Wash before using or freezing in a bowl of cold water. Gently move it around with your hand to get the dirt out. Be gentle, because the leaves are fragile. — Heloise

SEPARATE PASTA

Dear Heloise: I was making goulash for a group of people. As usual, I overmade the hamburger and sauce mixture. I boiled the elbow-shaped noodles in a separate pan. This enabled everyone to have as much sauce and noodles as he wanted. I was feeding a group of guys, and they really liked this arrangement. — Debbie K., via e-mail

BETTER MEATLOAF

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint to help cut down on the grease when you make meatloaf: Line the pan with stale bread or rolls. The bread soaks up the grease, and the meatloaf pulls off the bread easily after it is baked. This even makes cleanup easier! I have been doing this for a while, and it works every time! — K.K. in Pennsylvania

VEGETABLE-JUICE HINT

Dear Heloise: A previous reader, Patricia, wrote that she makes a bowl of low-sodium soup using vegetable juice. My granddaughter came up with a jazzed-up version. She adds cheese and basil, and calls it a tomato basil soup. It is quick and delicious. I like to throw in a handful of oyster crackers for added crunch. — B.N. in Arkansas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

The Blackwood Convention

Blackwood is one of the best conventions ever devised, but it should not be abused or it might defeat its very purpose. There are several delicate nuances connected with Blackwood that must be appreciated for the convention to be fully effective. Consider this case, which shows how too rigid an application of Blackwood can do more harm than good.

North quite naturally bid two clubs — showing his best suit — after South opened one spade, whereupon South went directly to four spades, indicating a self-sufficient suit. North had the values to bid six spades straightaway, but in order to test the possibility of a potential grand slam, he decided to use Blackwood.

After South showed one ace by bidding five diamonds, North bid five notrump, ostensibly asking for kings. By logic as well as universal agreement, this bid guaranteed that the partnership had all four aces. South then showed two kings, and North signed off in six spades, which South passed. Thus the laydown grand slam was missed.

The fault in not reaching seven can be attributed to South, who should have bid seven spades over five notrump. He should have paid more attention to how many tricks he was apt to make rather than telling partner how many kings he had.

When North bid five notrump, indicating no aces were missing, South could count seven spade winners, at least three clubs and the two red aces for a total of 12 tricks. But because North had bid clubs, there was an excellent chance that the club suit would provide a 13th trick — just A-J-x-x or A-x-x-x-x was all North needed to have.

Even in the sequence shown, South had a chance to recover. After North bid six spades, South could still have carried on to seven at his next turn.

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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/05

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.

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

Cryptoquip

K S U F W N T F U F H M H M R ' U

P N H U V U F V X K I H V U A W Q

Q H M F H C V M H I V C U W E K U E F

H U ' M K I W N T F A V P N H X K S V R U

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THESE GUYS ON THE ANNUAL CANOEING TRIP ARE TALKING NONSTOP, ARE THEY KAYAKING IT UP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Gumbo need
5 Recede
8 "Take — Train"
12 Bar
13 Regret
14 Dinner for
15 Braggart
17 Verifiable
18 Bristles
19 Sports venues
21 Village People
24 Under the weather
25 Founder of Apple
28 Clarinet's cousin
30 System of beliefs
33 Piercing tool
34 Families
35 Born
36 "The Matrix" role
37 Departed
38 Encounter

DOWN
39 Personal question?
41 Agenda heading
43 Stations
46 Mountain air?
50 Valhalla
51 Direct source of
54 Use a paper towel
55 Guitar's kin
56 Declare
57 Require
58 Just out
59 Maintained
1 Hard cabbage
3 Laugh-a-minute
4 Forever
5 Pitching stat
6 Prickly seedcase
7 Hotel
8 Sum
9 Uncom- promising
10 Seamstress' case
11 On the briny
16 Height of fashion?
20 Father's Day gifts
22 "Unforgettable" singer
23 At the stern
25 One of the Brady bunch
26 Have bills
27 Glass- maker's device
29 Aware of furniture
31 Get a glimpse of
32 Citi Field player
34 Coagu- late
38 Bread
40 Sharp- ened
42 Coloring agent
43 This way
44 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
45 Whirled
47 Jackknife, for one
48 Organic com- pound
49 Lascivi- ous
52 Eisen- hower
53 Church perch

Yesterday's answer 8-8

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			