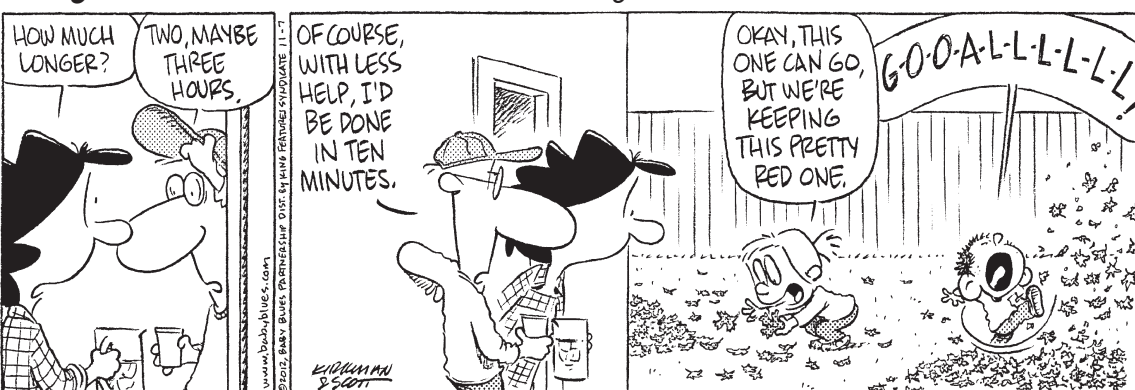
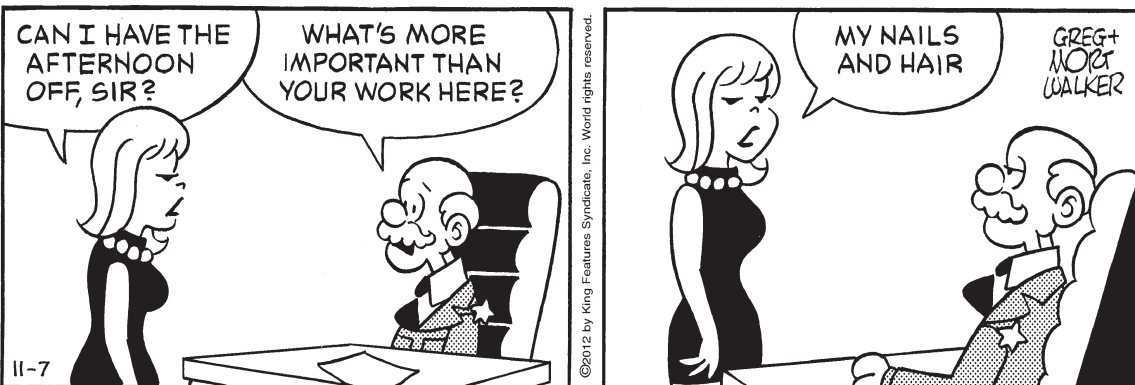


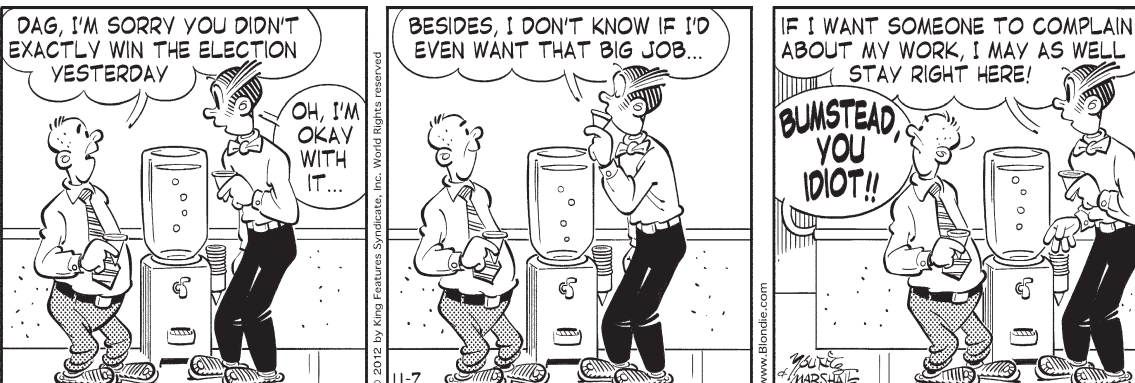
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



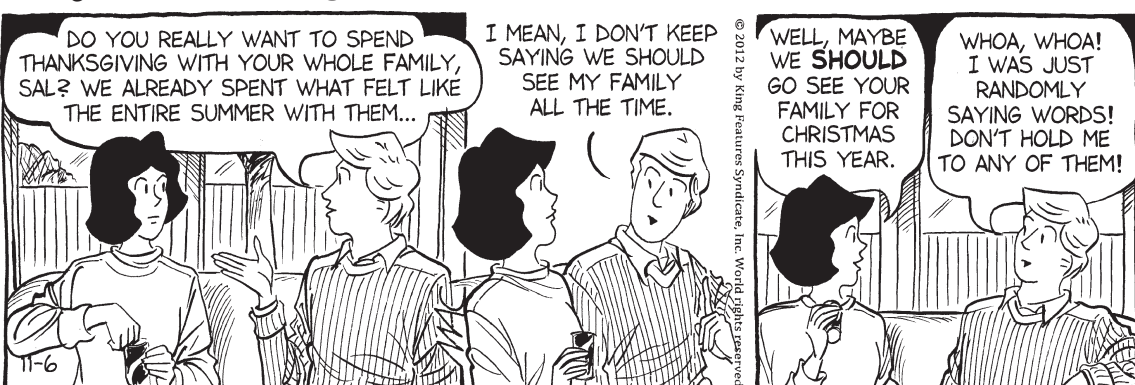
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



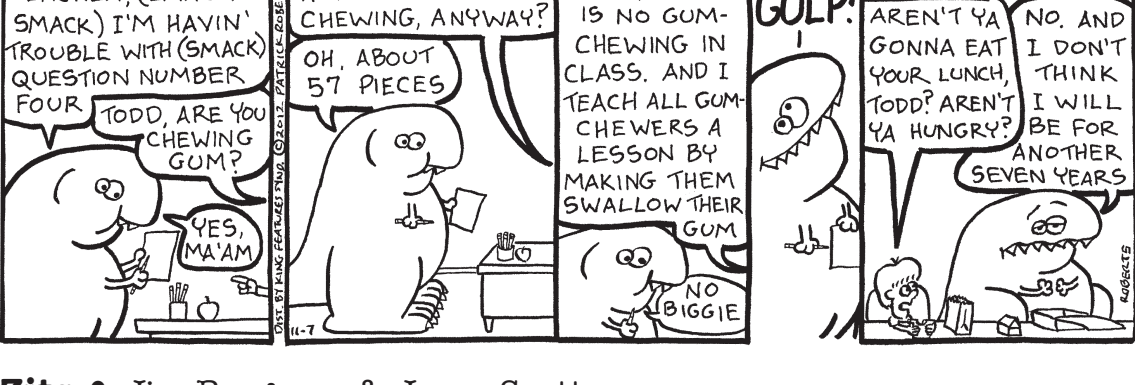
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Green or red, pepper is pepper

Dear Readers: Is a green bell pepper the same "fruit" as a red bell pepper? Yes! Available in colors of green, orange, red, yellow and even purple, these beautiful fruits (that's right – it's a fruit, not a vegetable) are available year-round.

When picked while they are green, these peppers are considered "not ripe." The longer they are left on the plant, the sweeter they become, and the color changes from green to yellow, orange and then red.

Really! Who knew? Not me! Not only are they great to cook with, but they are even yummier when eaten raw, with or without a dip.

Another healthy, tasty hint: Peppers are a great source of vitamins A and C, and red peppers contain twice as many vitamins as the green ones and are the sweetest-tasting! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

GRAPEFRUIT SPOONS

Dear Heloise: My son and I use a grapefruit spoon to scrape out seeds and insides of peppers instead of knives. – Geraldine T. in Milwaukee

You've discovered one of the many things I use a grapefruit spoon for! They work well on grapefruits, but are perfect for seeding peppers and cucumbers. Section the meat not only of grapefruit, but also of oranges and kiwi fruits. Another hint: Use the spoon to remove pits from peaches, apricots and other fruits. – Heloise

WASHING POTATOES

Dear Heloise: If I am baking potatoes for a crowd, couldn't I put them in the dishwasher? Would that get them clean enough? – Mary I. in Dallas

No – just the spray of water and high temperature of water won't clean them. The dishwasher will not clean all the crevices a potato has. The Food and Drug Administration recommends simply washing fruits and vegetables under running water, with no soap or special produce wash. To make sure the potatoes are clean, you should gently scrub them with a vegetable brush. – Heloise

ABSORBING FAT

Dear Heloise: I like to make sure browned, crumbled meat is completely drained. First, I do the initial draining. After a brief time for cooling, I fold a paper towel into a square and place it at the bottom of a clean bowl to one side. I pour the drained, crumbled meat into the bowl and lean the bowl on its side, with the paper-towel at the bottom. The paper towel will absorb the remaining fat in just a couple of minutes. – Mary A., Vancouver, Wash.

FOOD BINDERS

Dear Heloise: I am a part-time caterer. When making crab cakes, salmon cakes or other foods that list breadcrumbs as an ingredient, I use instant mashed potatoes instead. They are a good binding agent, and no one guesses "potato." – Brittany S., via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ A Q J 4
♦ J 5
♣ K 9 3

WEST
♠ K 9 3
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 9 7 6 2
♣ 7 4

EAST
♠ J 8 5 4
♥ 10 9 6 5
♦ A K 8 4
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ 7 2
♦ 10 3
♣ A Q J 10 8 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
5 ♣ Opening lead — six of diamonds.

A Matter of Priorities

A simple finesse is essentially a 50-50 proposition, and as such its success or failure is primarily a matter of luck. When confronted by a finessing situation, a declarer should first look for an alternative line of play that might improve on or eliminate the luck factor. But when there is no choice, declarer should bear in mind that some finesses are more advantageous than others.

Consider this deal where many declarers might instinctively go wrong. West leads a diamond against five clubs, and East cashes his K-A before shifting to a spade.

It is tempting to finesse the queen of spades, but it would be wrong to do so. The fact is that a spade finesse, whether successful or not, has nothing to do with the chances of making five clubs. Taking a spade finesse would jeopardize the contract without increasing the possibility of making it.

The outcome depends, pure and simple, on whether West has the king of hearts. Therefore, declarer should put up the ace of spades at trick three, draw two rounds of trumps and take a heart finesse. If it succeeds, he returns to his hand with a trump and takes another heart finesse, then discards the queen of spades on the ace of hearts to make the contract.

It is true that if your only concern were to make two spade tricks instead of one, you would finesse the queen of spades. But here the goal is to make five clubs, and that overrides the question of making two spade tricks.

It is also true that if East has both major-suit kings, you can go down only one by finessing the spade return at trick three, but that is immaterial under the circumstances. Making the contract is the principal consideration.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"All our summer shade is falling down!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/07

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

Cryptoquip

ARYM DIS MYF C MYA

ACEE XINQYV, J VRJMQ DIS

NISEF ZTIGCGD ZSTNRCXY

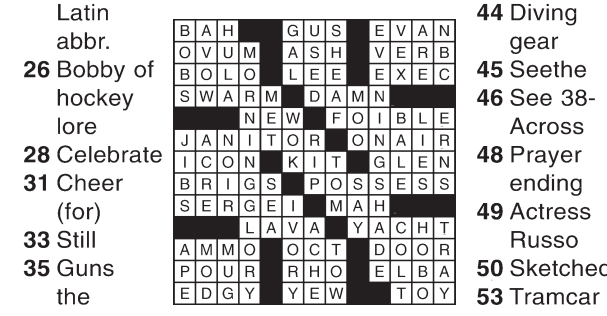
IMY CV CMD ISVEYV XVITY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHARMING OLD MUSICAL ABOUT A BELOVED BREWED BEVERAGE WITH HEALTH BENEFITS: "OF TEA I SING."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Emanation
 - 5 Comedian
 - 8 Edinburgh dweller
 - 12 Quarrel
 - 13 — budget
 - 14 Color quality
 - 15 Think about
 - 17 Erstwhile Peruvian
 - 18 Mean
 - 19 Animal shelter
 - 21 Corroded
 - 22 H.H. Munro's pseudonym
 - 23 Handy Latin abbr.
 - 26 Bobby of hockey lore
 - 28 Celebrate
 - 31 Cheer (for)
 - 33 Still
 - 35 Guns the engine
- DOWN**
- 9 Underhanded one
 - 10 Fairy tale starter
 - 11 Blue hue
 - 16 Grooving on
 - 20 Listener
 - 23 Work unit
 - 24 Pirouette pivot
 - 25 Magician
 - 27 Agt.
 - 29 First lady
 - 30 Leary's drug
 - 32 Platitudes
 - 34 Coached
 - 37 Type measures
 - 39 Probability
 - 42 Pie nut
 - 44 Diving gear
 - 45 Seethe
 - 46 See 38-Across
 - 48 Prayer ending
 - 49 Actress
 - 50 Sketched
 - 53 Tramcar contents



Yesterday's answer 11-7

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
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
		41			42		43		44	
45	46						47		48	49
51					52	53				
54					55				56	
57					58				59	