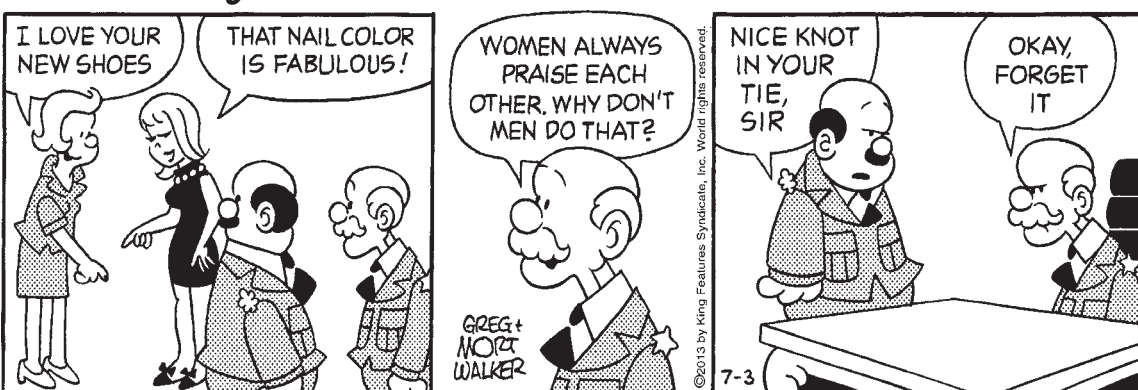


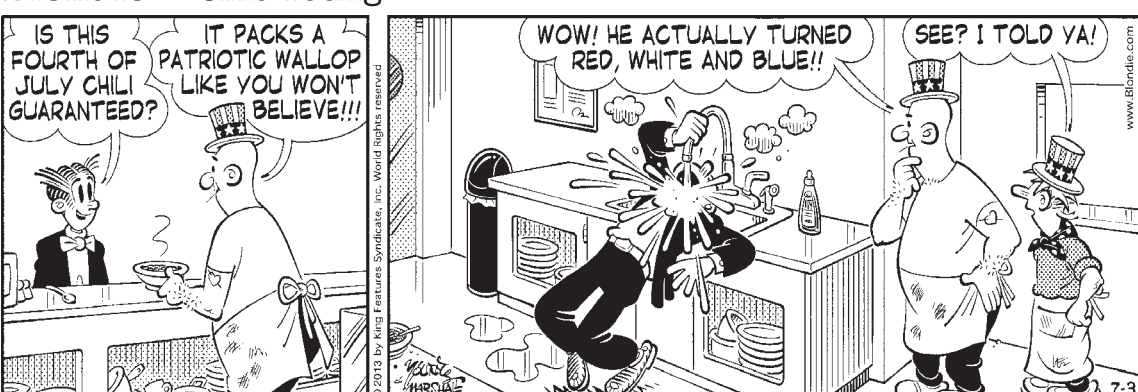
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



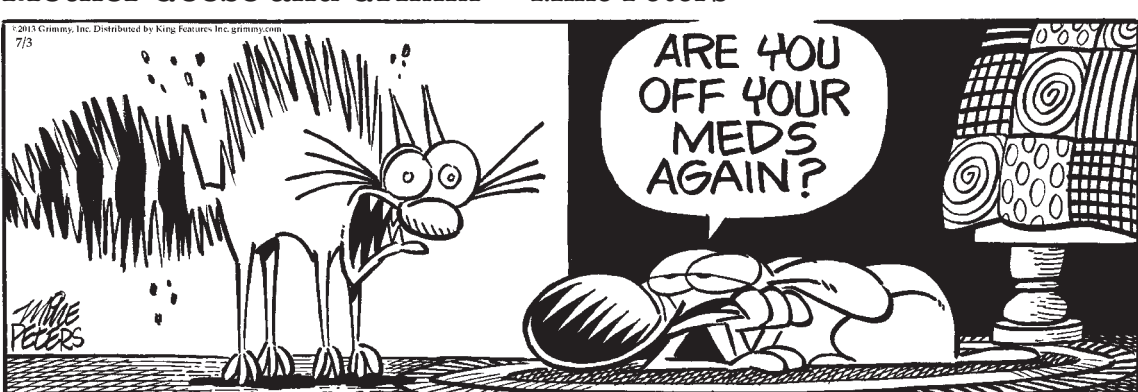
**Blondie** • Chic Young



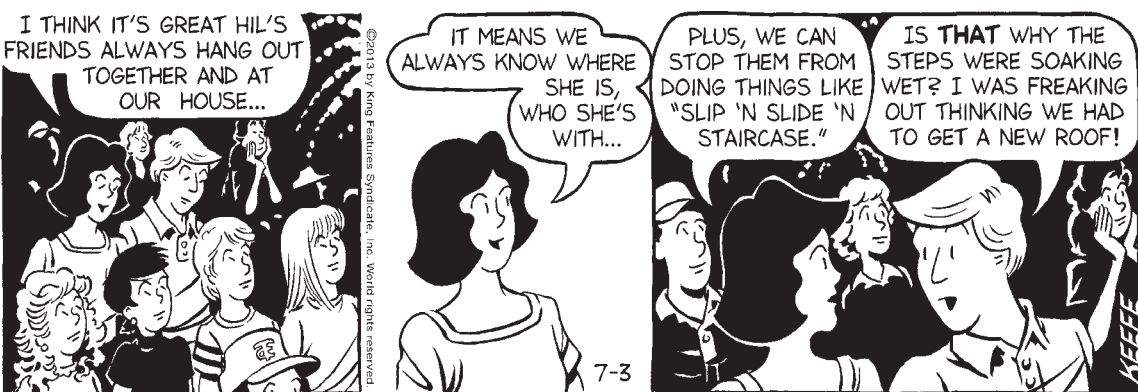
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Hints to help cut food costs**

Dear Readers: Saving money never goes out of style. With groceries costing more and more, here are some simple hints to cut costs the next time you go to the grocery store:

- Plan your meals for the week, using coupons or items that are on sale in the store's weekly flier.
- Go on the computer to check manufacturers' websites for online coupons, especially on the most expensive name brands you use.
- Try a meat-free meal once a week, because meat tends to cost the most.
- Buy meat in bulk, especially when on sale. Freeze in portions you can use for later meals.
- Be sure to stock up on items you use all the time when you find them on sale (if they can be frozen or you have space in the pantry for them).
- Share a warehouse membership with a friend. Split the cost of items you can both use.
- Never shop on an empty stomach. That's how you end up with purchases that you don't need!

— Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

Dear Heloise: With the Fourth of July almost here, I am planning my usual menu of hot dogs and hamburgers for friends and family members. Since I have grilled so many hot dogs through the years, I have discovered this easy hint.

I take two skewers and stick them through up to five or six hot dogs at a time. Now, with one motion, I can evenly cook multiple hot dogs, and they will not roll off the grill rack. — Michael S. in Tennessee

**SMOKED PAPRIKA**

Dear Heloise: I am tempted to buy smoked paprika when I see it in the store. However, I am really not sure how to use it. Do you know anything about this spice? — Carly F., via e-mail

Smoked paprika is made from sweet, red bell peppers. The peppers are smoked over wood to create a smoky flavor before being ground up. It's much more flavorful than plain paprika, so you won't need to use so much in your cooking. Add it to any egg or meat dish, or even rice or potatoes. — Heloise

**REMOVING FAT**

Dear Heloise: I used to have a fat separator, but it cracked and had to be thrown out. Before I could purchase a new one, I made homemade gravy one night, forgetting that I no longer had the separator. No problem, though. I just let the pan drippings sit a few minutes in a cup until the fat rose to the top. I then used my turkey baster to collect the fat and place it in a can, to be disposed of later. This worked so well that I may do without a fat separator in the future! — Melanie D., via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 7 4  
♥ Q 10 9 5  
♦ A Q 10  
♣ 9 6 3

**WEST**  
♠ K J 9 6 3  
♥ 6  
♦ 9 6 4 2  
♣ K 7 5

**EAST**  
♠ A 8 2  
♥ 7 3 2  
♦ 8 5 3  
♣ Q 10 8 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ 10 5  
♥ A K J 8 4  
♦ K J 7  
♣ A J 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass  
Opening lead — six of spades.

**Two Birds With One Stone**

Assume you're East and partner leads the six of spades against four hearts, dummy following low. You win with the ace, and South produces the five. What do you do next?

Before making a decision, you try to figure out how the spades are divided. This is not exactly a herculean task; assuming the six is West's fourth-best spade, the Rule of Eleven tells you that South has just one spade higher than the six, and he hasn't played it yet. You also know it can't be the king, since your partner would have led the jack, not the six, from the J-10-9-6(-3).

It is clear that you should not return a spade at trick two, since if South started with only two spades, this would serve only to establish dummy's queen as a trick on which declarer can take a discard. And, given the dummy, that discard is almost certain to be a club.

You must therefore shift to a club at trick two -- before declarer can establish the queen of spades as a trick -- and the only real problem is which club to lead.

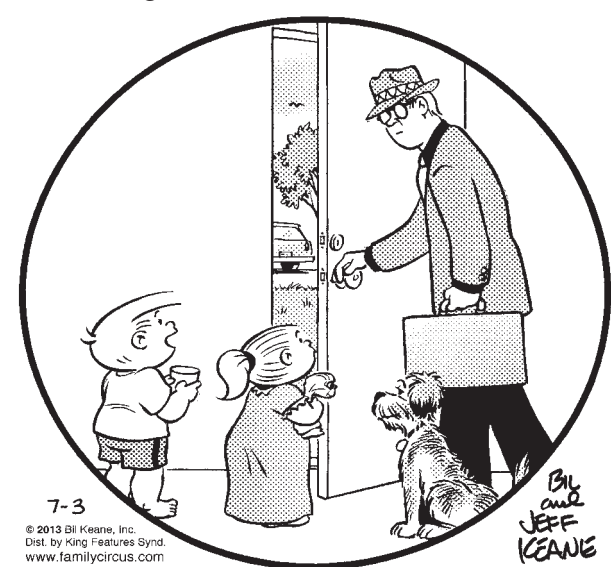
If you return the four in the actual layout, South makes the contract by playing low from his hand, forcing your partner's king. Declarer is similarly successful if you return the queen, which South wins with the ace. The only return that stops the contract is the ten. Declarer must then lose two spades and two clubs, whatever he does, and go down one.

The ten play is easy enough to justify if you make the reasonable assumption that partner must have either the king or ace of clubs for the contract to be defeated. The ten is led to trap declarer's assumed jack and, at the same time, to neutralize dummy's nine, which is "surrounded" by your Q-8.

If it turns out that declarer has the A-K-x of clubs, returning the ten will not succeed -- but in that case, neither would anything else.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/03

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

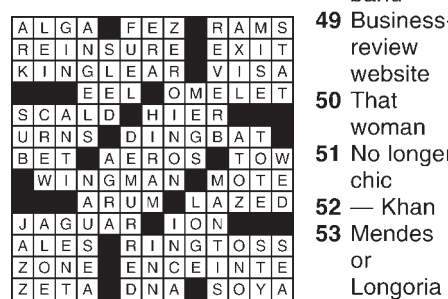
FOCJ ACLAMC OIHC HCWB  
XTIMM AIMTX IJR ZNJSCWX  
FOIG KLVMR BLV KIMM  
GOCT? XMNSOG LZ OIJR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WERE MAKING A SKETCH OF SOMEBODY'S INHALATION, I CLAIM THAT YOU'D BE DRAWING A BREATH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Med. watchdog org.
  - 4 Base-ball's "Georgia Peach"
  - 8 Church section
  - 12 Long. crosser
  - 13 Finished
  - 14 Poly-nesian figurine
  - 15 Commo-tion
  - 16 Conduit of a sort
  - 18 Phi
  - 20 Beta —
  - 21 Singer Guthrie
  - 24 Perfum-ery com-pound
  - 28 Entree
  - 32 Carryall
  - 33 Illustrations
  - 34 Arrange-ment
  - 36 "CSI" evidence
  - 37 BBQ sauce option
- DOWN**
- 1 Criticism of the Tiber
  - 2 Word from the nursery
  - 3 On
  - 4 "— die many times before their deaths"
  - 5 Lab eggs
  - 6 Stake work"
  - 7 Raised
  - 8 Maximally
  - 9 Actress Zadora
  - 10 Tackle moguls
  - 11 Aachen article
  - 17 Regret
  - 19 Skillet
  - 22 Com-mitted perjury
  - 23 Town at the mouth of the Tiber
  - 25 — list
  - 26 Sicilian volcano
  - 27 Harvest
  - 28 2-Down's counter-part
  - 29 Saharan
  - 30 "— never work"
  - 31 "Quiet!"
  - 35 Troop group
  - 38 Scatter
  - 40 Govt. lender
  - 42 Greet the villain
  - 45 Junk email
  - 47 Molecule parts
  - 48 Small band
  - 49 Business-review website
  - 50 That woman
  - 51 No longer chic
  - 52 — Khan
  - 53 Mendes or Longoria
  - 54 Director Howard



Yesterday's answer 7-3

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		