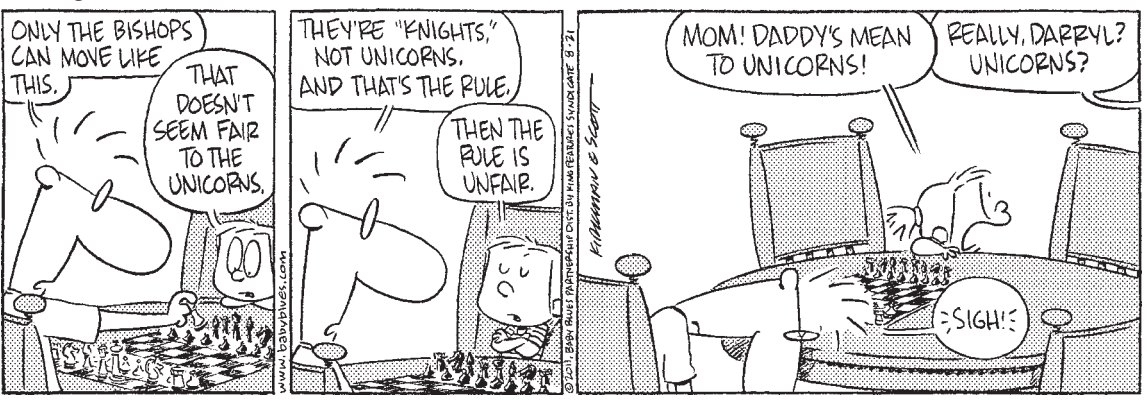
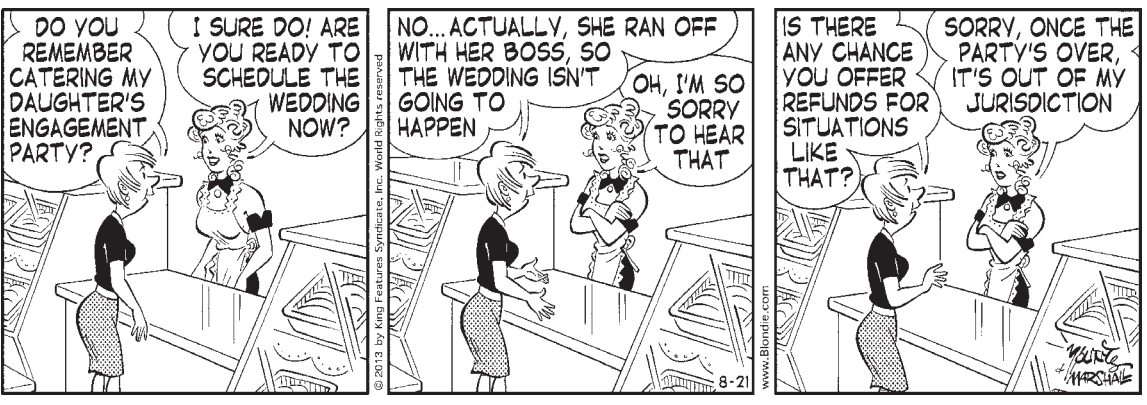
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



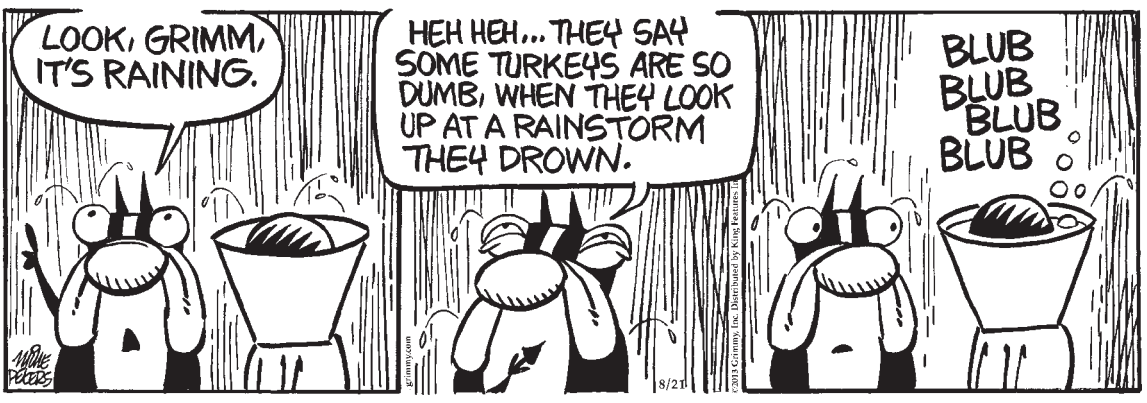
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

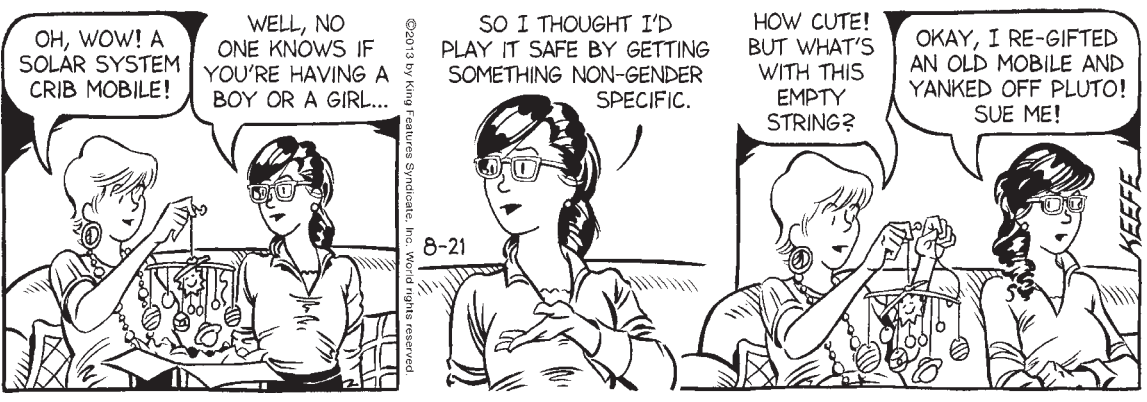


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

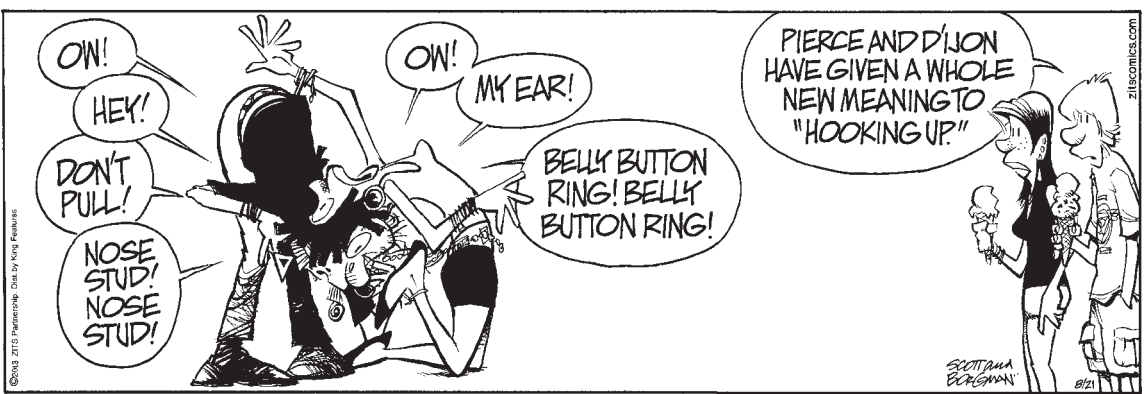


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Cinnamon seasons butter

Dear Heloise: Could you please reprint the Heloise recipe for cinnamon butter that was in our newspaper and that I forgot to save? Thank you very much. – Judy, via e-mail

Happy to share this Heloise recipe for all readers to enjoy. It is such a tasty addition to your morning toast, bagel, waffles or pancakes. You just need the following ingredients:

1/2 pound of butter or margarine (not diet)
3 tablespoons of cinnamon
1/2 pound of powdered sugar

Mix all of the ingredients using an electric mixer. Once well blended, place the butter in a container or old margarine tub, and store in the refrigerator. For even more delicious, favorite recipes like Heloise's Olive Nut Dip and Heloise's Apricot Preserves (one of my favorites), order my All-Time Favorite Recipes pamphlet. To receive one, send $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/All-Time, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Cinnamon-sugar is a great addition to French toast. Combine 3 cups of sugar with 1/2 cup of ground cinnamon. Store this mixture in a container with your spices. – Heloise

DRIP PANS

Dear Heloise: After replacing my stove's drip pans for the umpteenth time, I had an epiphany. I was setting my self-cleaning oven to clean overnight, and I placed the grimy drip pans inside. In the morning, I just had to wipe them down, and they were good as new. – Natalie Schuldt, via e-mail

Readers, be sure to check your oven's manual. You can leave oven racks in and place the electric range drip pans inside the oven when self-cleaning. But do this only if your manual recommends it, and be aware that the racks may change color and be hard to slide out. – Heloise

BASIC BAKING

Dear Heloise: Being a military wife, we move often. I have learned that no two ovens cook at the same temperature. Familiar recipes need new cook times.

When making a meal or baked good, start checking it 20 minutes earlier than you expect it to be done. Keep checking every five minutes to ensure that you catch the proper cook time. Once you have that recipe's time, you can adjust cook times for your other recipes. – Kimberly J., Abilene, Texas

ANNATTO SEED

Dear Readers: Cleaning out my spice cabinet, I found a jar of annatto seed (also known as achiote seed) and couldn't remember why I'd bought it! Used in Latin American and Mexican cooking, it adds rich yellow and orange colors to foods. The seeds can be added to soups and stews, and rice, pork or fish dishes, providing a peppery flavor. Try some in your next dish! – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q
♥ K 8 6 3
♦ A K 5 2
♣ A 9 4

WEST
♠ J 10 8
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 9 7 3
♣ Q 7 5

EAST
♠ 9 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 5
♦ 8 4
♣ J 10 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A 4
♥ A J 9 7 2
♦ Q 10 6
♣ K 8 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 ♥

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Baiting the Trap

It stands to reason that the more opportunities you give a defender to make a mistake, the more often he will accommodate you. Good declarer play might therefore be said to include not only sound technique, but also the ability to induce errors by the defense.

Consider this deal where South is in six hearts and West leads a spade. Declarer wins in dummy and cashes the K-A of trumps, East showing out on the second round. The contract is now in danger because, in addition to a trump loser, South might lose a club trick.

Declarer might be tempted to rely solely on a favorable diamond division, hoping the suit is divided 3-3 or that either defender has the singleton or doubleton jack. In all of these cases, South could discard his club loser on dummy's fourth diamond.

But it would be a mistake to tackle the diamonds at this point. It is much better to first try putting West on lead, because he might not find the best defense. Accordingly, after cashing the ace of spades, declarer concedes a trump to West's queen.

Now let's imagine you're West and see only dummy's hand and your own. You'd know you can't afford a spade return, which would give declarer a ruff-and-discard. You would therefore have to decide whether to lead a diamond or a club.

It's impossible for you to know at this point that a club lead is safe and a diamond lead is fatal. Percentagewise, a low diamond return appears to be the safer play. This loses only when South has both the queen and ten of diamonds, while a club return loses whenever South has the K-J-10, K-J-x or K-10-x.

Since there are more club combinations than diamond combinations that could hand declarer a trick, you are much more likely to lead a diamond at trick six. If you do, it costs you a vulnerable slam.

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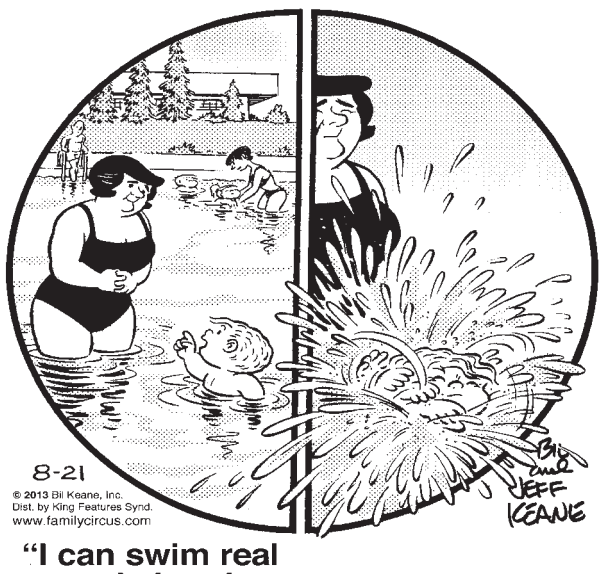
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I can swim real good already, Grandma — watch!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/21

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/19

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Cryptoquip

F P Y H V K P U S ' K U N D J K K U F I P S J M G U S P H B Z S O U B C U B S O P K P N H G C U B K , U M J V I T K H Z Z J V Y H B ' S C P S H M J G T U B P T C P M U K P .

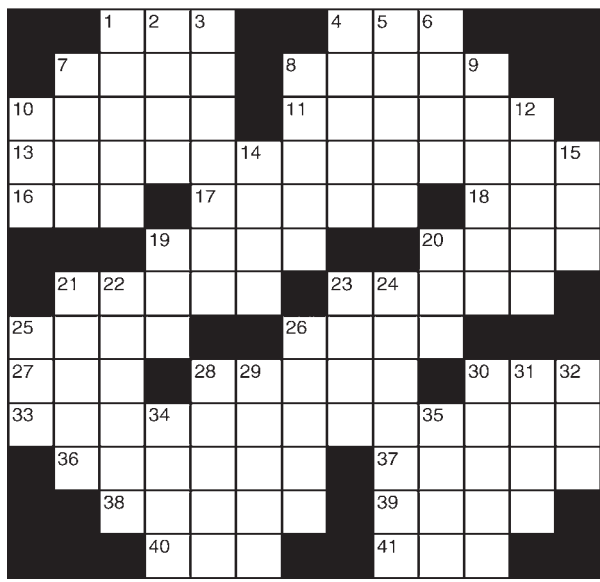
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THIS ARTICLE IS SO FULL OF REDUNDANCIES, I'D DEFINITELY SAY THAT IT'S REPEAT-REPLETE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bill
4 Pitch
7 Operatic soloist
8 Bygone form of copying
10 Wizard's declaration
11 Extraterrestrials
13 1904 St. Louis event
16 Franken and Roker
17 Author Joyce Carol —
18 "Golly!"
19 Vail gear
20 Cribbage scorers
21 Holy war
23 City in Bolivia
25 Mysterious character
26 Needles' mates
27 Toss in
28 Emulate Scott Hamilton
30 With it
33 Equitable
36 SpongeBob's place
37 Dark
38 Foolish
39 Citric drinks
40 Trawler need
41 "The Thin Man" actress

DOWN
1 Multiplied by
2 Acknowledge
3 Shoulder-borne launcher
4 Señorita's wiggle?
5 Off
6 Coral structure
7 Willy Wonka's creator
8 Soda shoppe treats
9 Wild ass
10 Call — day
12 Persistent attack
14 Incursion
15 In medias —
19 That girl
20 Macs' counterparts
21 Prototypical frenemy?
22 Privately made movies
23 Perches
24 Tipping the scales, maybe
25 U.K. flyers
26 Rice field
28 Black
29 Prepared to propose
30 Actor — Joel Osment
31 Spring flower
32 Favorite
34 Picnic spoiler
35 Loosen

W	I	D	E	■	P	A	D	■	A	C	E	R
A	R	I	A	■	O	N	E	■	S	O	L	O
F	I	S	T	■	R	I	N	G	T	O	S	S
T	S	H	I	R	T	■	T	U	R	K	E	Y
■	■	■	N	O	L	A	■	Y	A	W	■	■
R	I	N	G	L	I	N	G	■	Y	A	W	L
P	R	O	■	L	E	V	E	E	■	R	I	O
M	E	N	D	■	R	I	N	G	L	E	T	S
■	■	S	I	P	■	L	O	G	O	■	■	■
O	R	E	G	O	N	■	V	O	L	L	E	Y
R	I	N	G	T	O	N	E	■	L	O	R	E
A	P	S	E	■	V	A	S	■	E	V	I	L
L	E	E	R	■	A	Y	E	■	D	E	E	P

Yesterday's answer 8-21