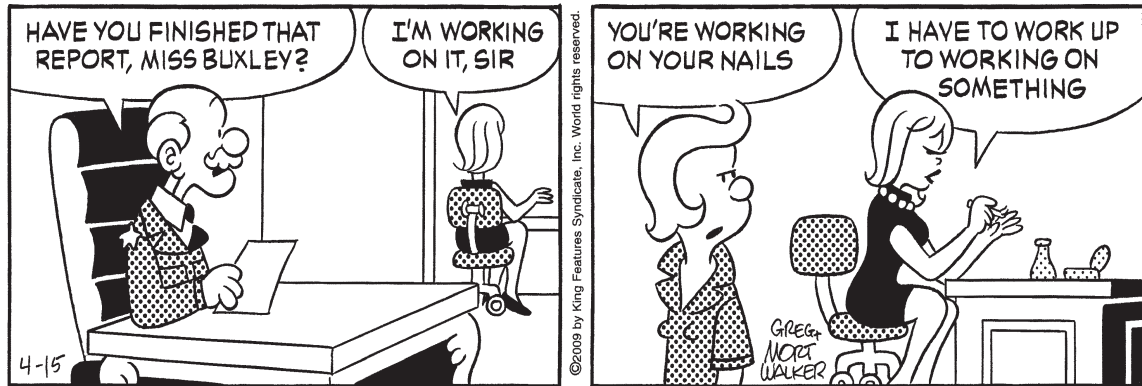


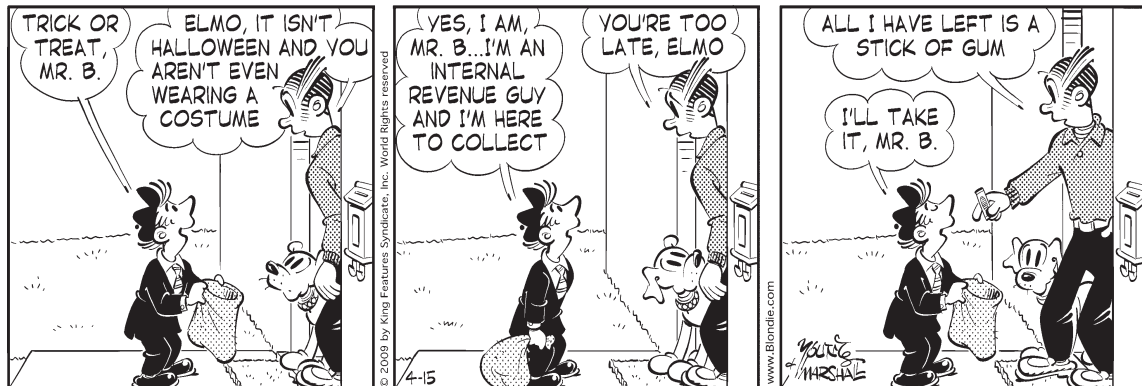
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



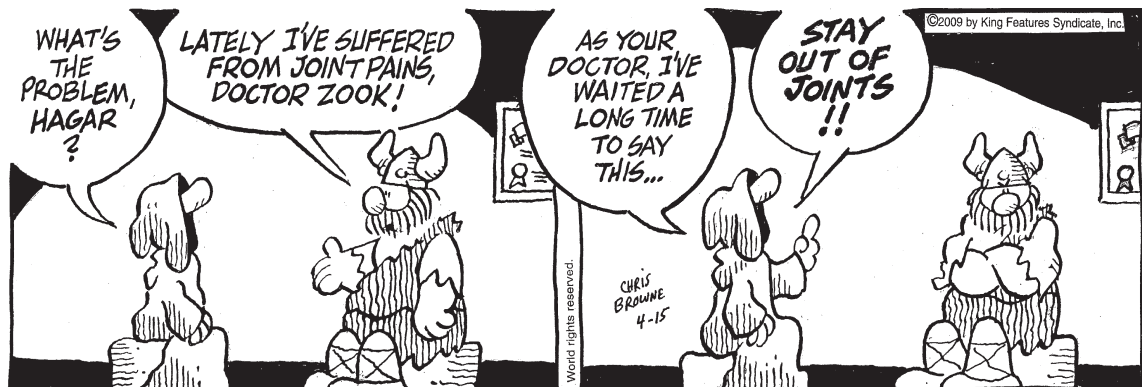
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



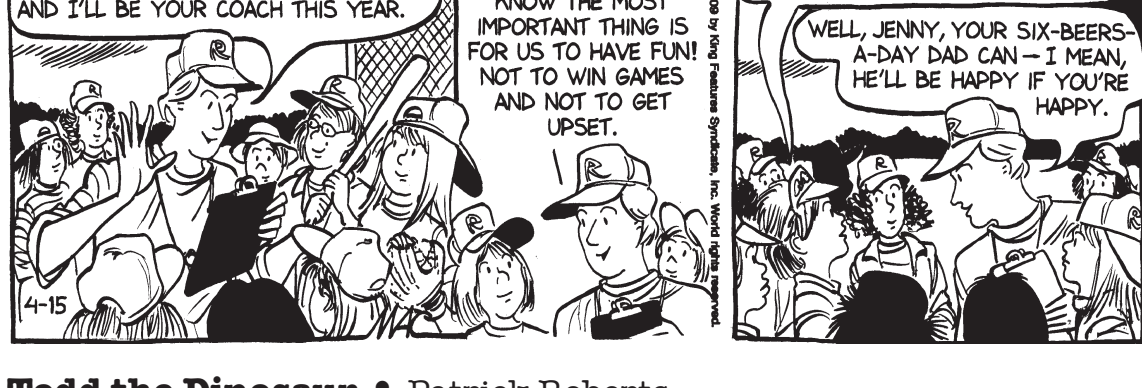
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



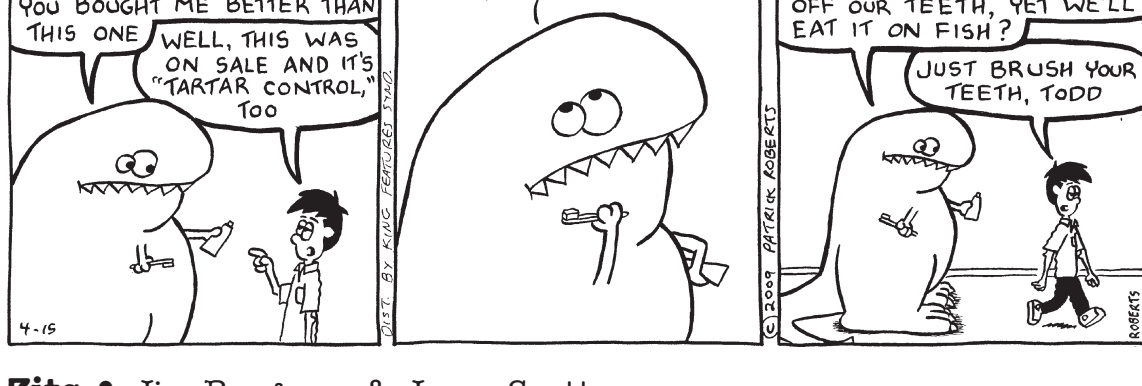
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Here's some handy substitutes**

Dear Heloise: The other day, I needed some sour cream and realized I didn't have any. I found that if I mixed 1 cup of plain yogurt and 1 tablespoon of white vinegar together, a sour-cream SUBSTITUTE was created! - Deidre H., Washington, D.C.

You're right, Deidre, this will work in a pinch as a substitute for sour cream. Please keep in mind that substitutions may change the texture and flavor. We thought we would share other substitutions that might come in handy:

- No baking powder? For each teaspoon needed, mix 1/4 teaspoon baking soda and 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar.
- No cornstarch? For each tablespoon needed, use 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour.
- No unsweetened baking chocolate? For one square, mix 3 tablespoons un-sweetened cocoa powder and 1 tablespoon cooking oil or shortening.

Keep these on hand, and you can avoid a trip to the store. - Heloise

**SAVING CALORIES**

Dear Heloise: I love cake and brownies. Here is a way to save hundreds of calories. Just substitute applesauce (no sugar added) for the total amount of oil. I use those small 1/2-cup serving sizes. It works with any boxed cake or brownies. That's it! You can't taste it, and it's very moist and healthy. - Linda, San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Linda, applesauce can indeed be used in place of oil in many recipes. Keep in mind that the texture could be different because of the substitution. - Heloise

**SOFTENING SUGAR**

Dear Heloise: I have passed this on to many appreciative friends because it works beautifully. When brown sugar turns into a hard block, just cut a slice of fresh orange peel and put it in with the sugar in an airtight container. The next morning, the sugar is soft and pliable again.

Now, can you give me a hint for white granulated sugar that has turned hard? We live in a moist, oceanfront community, so moisture is always a problem. -- Jan Leetch, Connecticut

One way to soften granulated sugar is to put the bag onto a cookie sheet. Turn the oven on the lowest setting, and be sure to watch it closely. Turn the bag once. Once the sugar is softened (or when it's new), store it in an airtight container or a sturdy, plastic zippered bag, since humidity is what causes sugar to harden. -- Heloise

**SMOOTHIES**

Dear Heloise: I love smoothies, but I always feel guilty about ingesting so many calories. Then I got the idea to divide the smoothie up into small plastic cups with lids and freeze. When you get an urge to have a smoothie, simply defrost one of the cups and enjoy. Tastes delicious! -- Elizabeth, via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 10  
 ♥ Q J 7 2  
 ♦ 10 9 8 4  
 ♣ A 10

**WEST**  
 ♠ 8 6 4 2  
 ♥ 5 3  
 ♦ A J 6  
 ♣ Q 9 6 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 9 7 3  
 ♥ A 4  
 ♦ 7 5 3  
 ♣ J 8 5 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 5  
 ♥ K 10 9 8 6  
 ♦ K Q 2  
 ♣ K 7 4

The bidding:  
 West North East South  
 Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥  
 Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥  
 Opening lead — two of clubs.

**Who Does What to Whom?**

You don't have to have a slide rule to be a good defender, but it helps greatly to know a thing or two about standard defensive conventions.

For example, take this deal where West led a club against four hearts. Declarer won East's jack with the king and played a trump, taken by East with the ace. Back came the seven of diamonds, South's king losing to the ace, and West returned a club to dummy's ace.

Declarer played a trump to his hand, led the jack of spades and finessed. East took his king and returned the five of diamonds, but South went up with the queen and later discarded his diamond loser on dummy's third spade to make the contract.

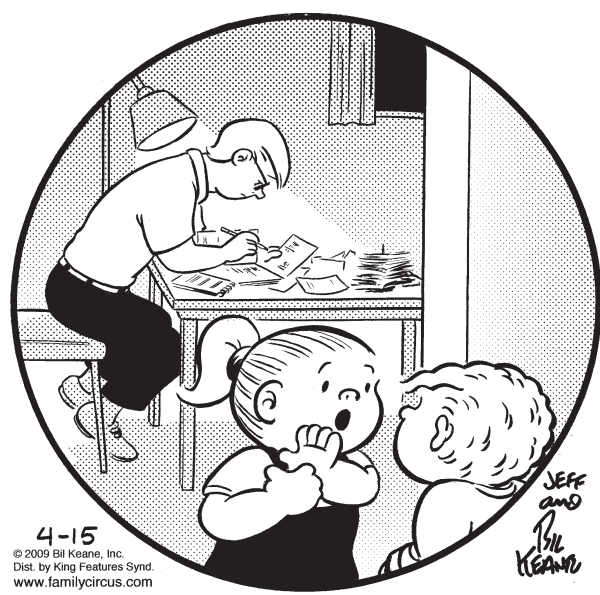
West stumbled badly on defense when he won the king of diamonds with the ace at trick three. East's seven-of-diamonds return, in accordance with convention, should not have been difficult to read as "top-of-nothing," that is, indicating a doubleton or tripleton diamond holding headed by the seven. This meant that declarer held either the K-Q-x or K-Q-x-x of diamonds, so there was no urgency about taking South's king with the ace.

Had West ducked the king, South ultimately would have gone down one. When East later gained the lead with the king of spades, his diamond return would have allowed West to score the A-J to set the contract.

Incidentally, South likewise erred in the play of the hand. He should have led the jack of spades at trick two, not a trump. If the spade finesse succeeded, the contract would become foolproof, while if the spade finesse lost, declarer would simultaneously acquire an extra spade winner that would prevent his losing two diamond tricks. There was consequently much more to be gained by tackling spades before trumps, and had declarer recognized this, the defense's chance to set the contract would never have come to pass.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"We gotta be quiet 'cause Daddy's doin' homework for our Uncle Sam."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/15

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

SLZR M XLQRZIZ KGP QI GSRZK

NB M YQNZYMR WGTRYMQR

PTQKZ, WQPLY BGT XMCC

QY M ILZOV M ILMO-VZQ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING THAT THE BIG BLACK BIRD IS ACTING LIKE A COWARD, WOULD YOU SAY IT'S A CRAVEN RAVEN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Book-keeper (Abbr.)  
 4 Harvest  
 8 "The Amazing —"  
 12 Clumsy sort  
 13 Beige  
 14 Vivacity  
 15 "CSI" evidence  
 16 Claim  
 18 Match  
 20 Attempt  
 21 Church service  
 24 Famous  
 28 Count  
 32 Unclothed  
 33 Before  
 34 Berate  
 36 Zero  
 37 "Zounds!"  
 39 Pretend to be  
 41 Decorator's theme  
 43 Ice cream holder  
 44 Jungfrau, for one  
 46 Dutch cheese

**DOWN**

50 Specify as a condition (Abbr.)  
 55 Rep. or Dem.  
 56 Aching  
 57 Bread spread  
 58 Choose  
 59 Sport  
 60 Hammer-head part  
 61 Ultra-modernist  
 17 Coffee shop vessel  
 19 Ostrich's kin  
 22 Anatomical  
 23 Unemotional  
 25 Albacore, e.g.  
 26 Tend texts  
 27 Drop a line?  
 28 Abound  
 29 Jason's cell  
 30 Tempo  
 31 Ticklish  
 35 Castle's jail  
 38 Nappy  
 40 Writer  
 42 Winter ailment  
 45 Sit down heavily  
 47 "Once — a time"  
 48 Nitwit  
 49 Choir member  
 50 Away from NNE  
 51 Pirouette pivot  
 52 Savings-plan acronym  
 53 Hearty quaff  
 54 Place-kicker's prop

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 4-15