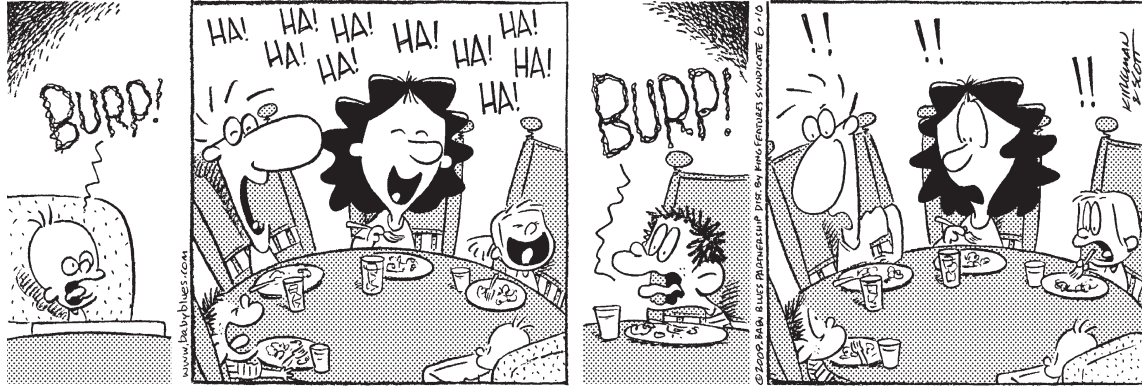
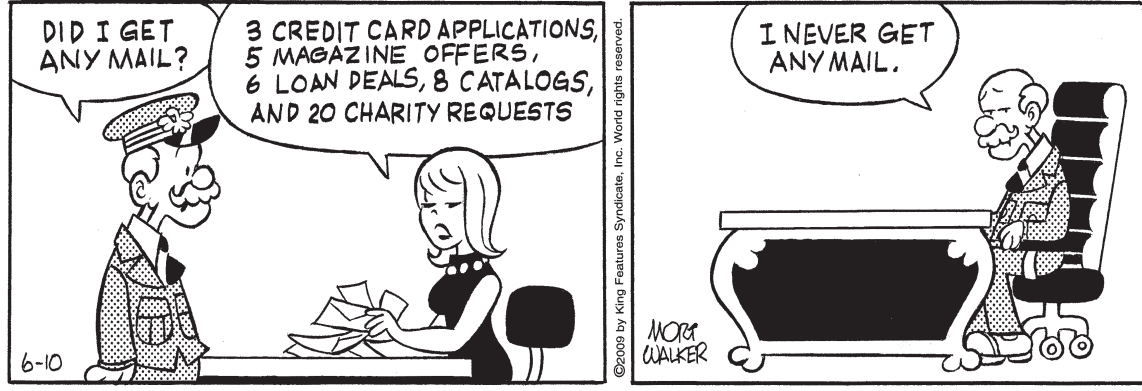


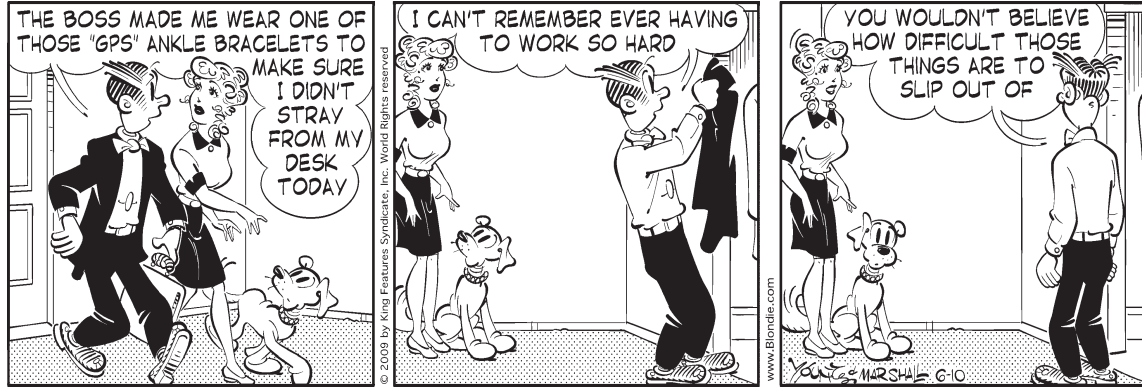
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



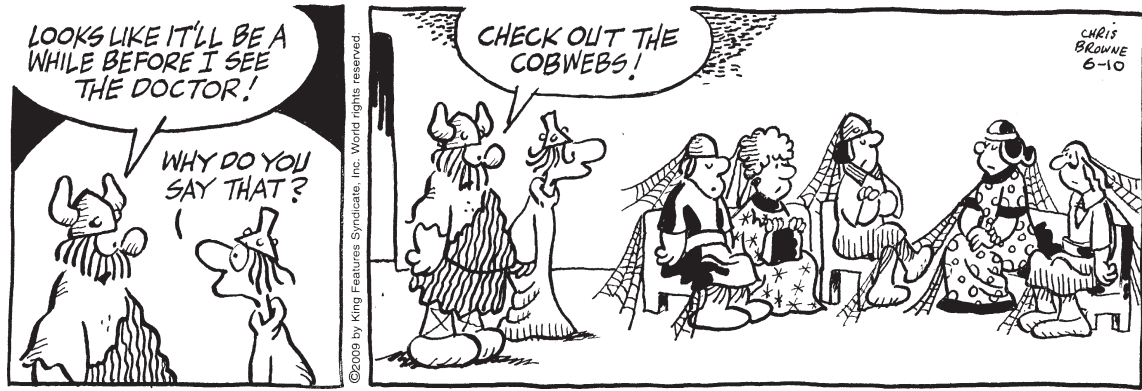
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



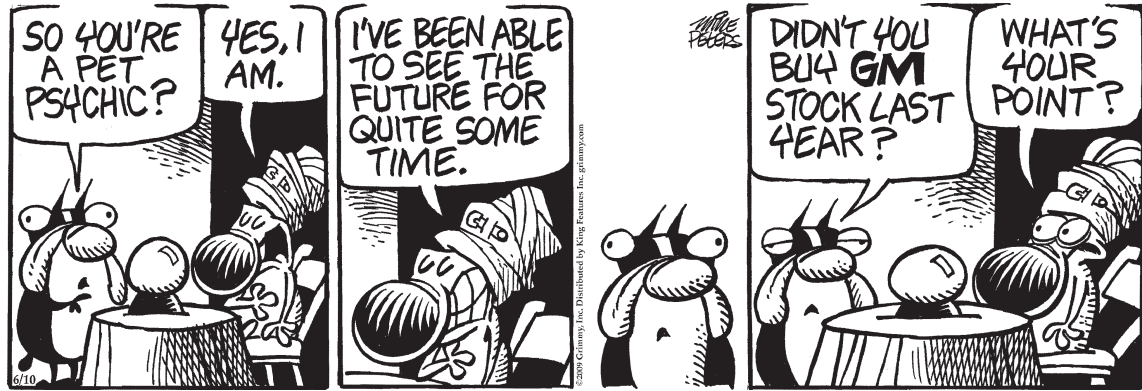
Blondie • Chic Young



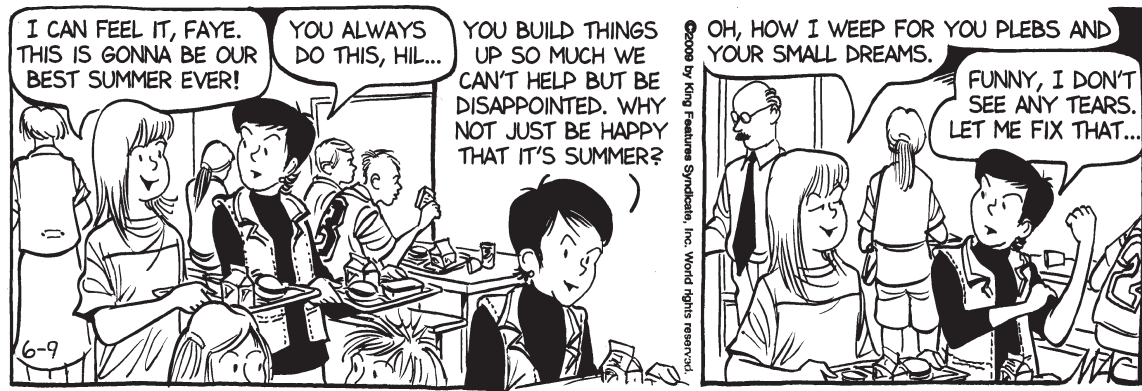
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



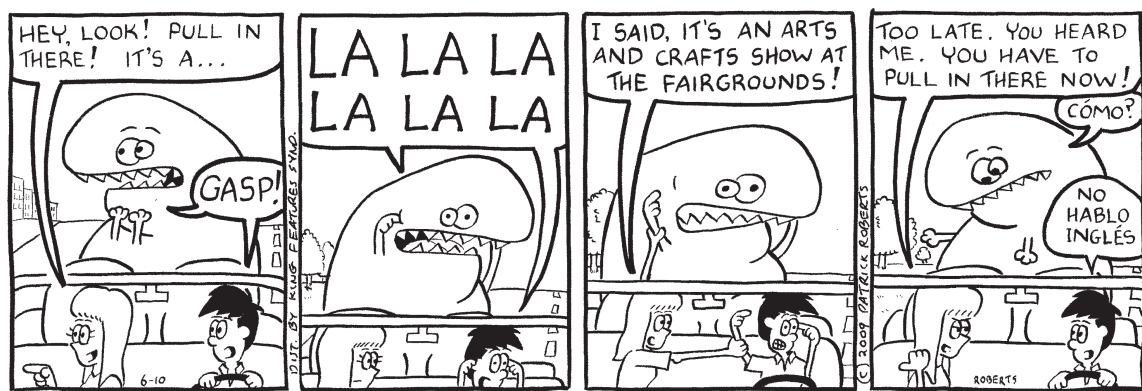
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Soda cleans microwave oven

Dear Heloise: How do you get a FOOD STAIN out of a microwave? – Debbie Brown, Texarkana, Ark.

Practically every home and office has a microwave, but the truth is that keeping it stain-free is a constant chore. Of course, the best thing to do is clean a food spill ASAP!

Just add 2 to 3 tablespoons baking soda to 1 cup water in a large, microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 2 or 3 minutes, or until the water boils. You must leave the microwave door closed for about 10-15 minutes, since the water is superheated and could scald!

The steam softens the gunk so you can wipe it away. If a tough stain like spaghetti doesn't budge, try rubbing it with a soft cloth, water and baking soda. The baking soda will help get rid of smells, too. Baking soda is one of my all-time-favorite multipurpose cleaners. It's cheap, safe, and you usually have it on hand. I have put together great money-saving hints using baking soda around your home. To receive a copy of the six-page pamphlet, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. This great pamphlet also includes recipes for Toffee Cookies, Carrot Cake and Pumpkin Bread. Baking soda also can be used to scrub the sink or even nonstick pans without scratching. – Heloise

EASY CUTTING BOARD

Dear Heloise: I read your hints in The Hutchinson (Kan.) News. When I don't want to drag out my larger cutting board to prepare veggies, I grab the plastic lid from a clean, empty margarine tub and use it as my cutting board, and the tub serves as my garbage bowl. – Linda, Scott City, Kan.

CLEAN CAN OPENER

Dear Heloise: I am writing to remind people of the importance of keeping their can openers clean. The wheel of the opener can be a collector of all kinds of "gunk." We sometimes fail to realize that food from the can we are opening seeps out and collects on these wheels and can build up into a nasty mess. A small toothbrush and liquid detergent will do the trick. It doesn't take very long and is a healthful thing to do. – Ann H., Ocean City, Md.

This is a good reminder. It's very important to keep appliances clean, not only for health reasons, but also to keep them working properly. – Heloise

YUMMY ALMONDS

Dear Heloise: I find soaking almonds in a glass of water overnight, or at least a couple of hours, makes them easier to peel. It also makes them soft and juicy and easy to eat without damaging your teeth or dentures. They split easily when you want to chop them up for a recipe. – Daisy from North Carolina

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Bridge Is a Psychological Game

To know what an opponent has and what he is thinking, and to then put this knowledge to good use, is the mark of a very good player. Sometimes you have to put yourself in the opponent's shoes to get the best result.

This deal is an exercise in card-reading and psychology. Suppose you're sitting East, defending against four hearts. West leads a diamond, and you take two diamond tricks. What would you lead now?

When the hand occurred, East returned the six of spades! As a result of this play, he defeated the contract.

Of course, South could have made 11 tricks once the spade was led, and anyone reading this column would surely do so after seeing the East-West hands. But to understand why declarer went down, you have to imagine you're South and see only the North-South hands.

From South's viewpoint, the spade play at trick three has all the earmarks of a singleton. Why else would East return a spade into dummy's A-Q-J when he has a natural club return?

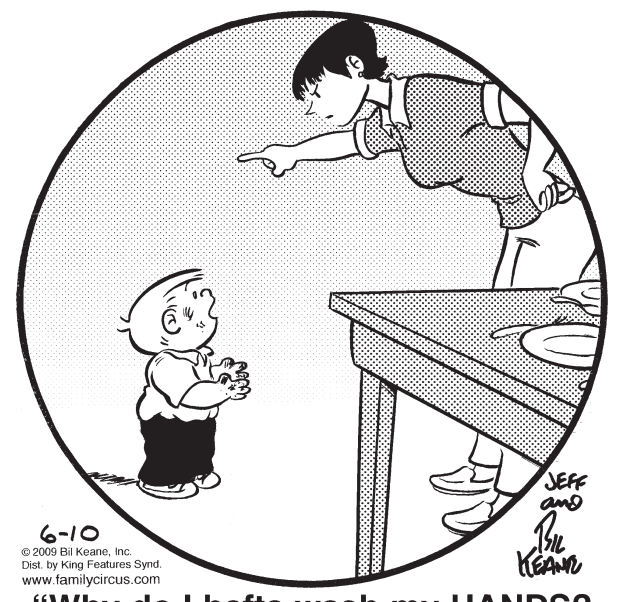
So when you win the spade in dummy and lead the queen of hearts, and East follows low, it seems risky to finesse, because if West has the king, he'll take it and give his partner a spade ruff to defeat the contract.

You therefore go up with the ace of hearts and return a heart. East takes the king and leads a club. You win and confidently take the spade finesse, but East, the rascal, produces the king, and down you go. If you're not too upset by what East did to you, you congratulate him for his fine play.

East's spade return makes lots of sense when you think about it. He knows South must have the A-K of clubs for his opening bid, and that a club return is therefore futile. If South is left to his own devices, he is sure to take a heart finesse and make the contract. East's only hope, therefore, is to try to divert South from the winning line of play by giving him something else to think about.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Why do I hafta wash my HANDS? I'm eating with a knife and fork."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/10

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.

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

Cryptoquip

BGZ GJFHX BTUH O ZTIXHY
WGD FG NOKQ DN FBTF
NIGXSHY JGIQ UHIW KTIHJDCW?
FOXH TXY FOXH TSTOX!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I MADE A PUN INVOLVING THE NAMES OF AVIAN FLIERS, MIGHT YOU CALL THAT A PLAY ON BIRDS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Chicago" lyricist
4 Sailor's septet?
8 Alpha follower
12 Sticky stuff
13 Radius companion
14 Congregant's cry
15 Branch
16 Classic sitcom
18 Opening night
20 Moray, e.g.
21 Mineral-hardness scale name
24 Buzzing instrument
28 Simon & Garfunkel song
32 Carve or Delany
33 Egg cells
34 Frighten
36 Ultimate, in a way
37 Allen and Conway
39 Uncle Sam's claim

DOWN
41 Use
43 Old dagger
44 Ball prop
46 Charlie Brown's sister
50 Tony Martin hit
55 Nay undoer
56 Exceptional
57 Stare open-mouthed
58 Aries
59 Culture medium
60 Mongol tent
61 Trio from Cincinnati?

DOWN
3 Flop on stage
4 "The Bachelor-ette"
26 Aware of contestants
27 Waikiki locale
28 Greek vowel
6 "I'll take that as —"
29 Tel — the Three Bears
31 Zen paradox
9 Outback bird
10 Sleuth (Sl.)
11 Whatever number
17 "A mouse!"
19 Ms. Thurman
22 Kachina doll maker
48 Slender
49 Thanksgiving veggies
50 George's brother
51 Joke
52 Historic time
53 Water (Fr.)
54 Spring mo.

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-10

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	