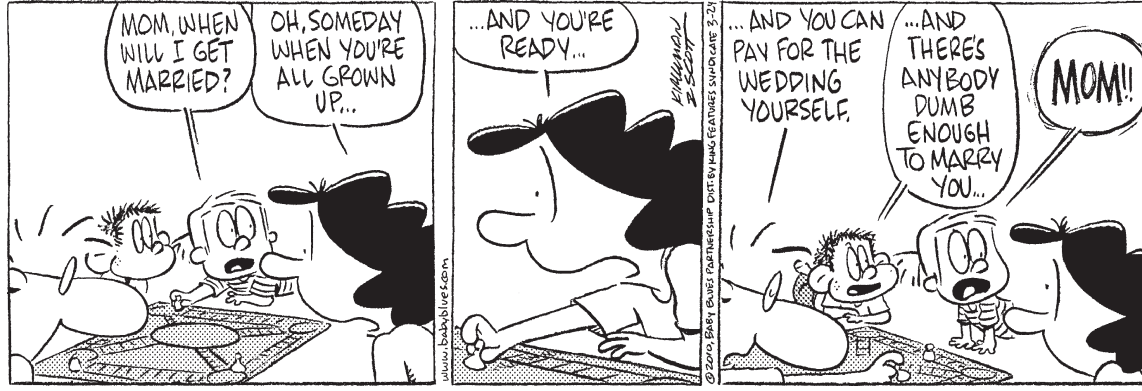


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



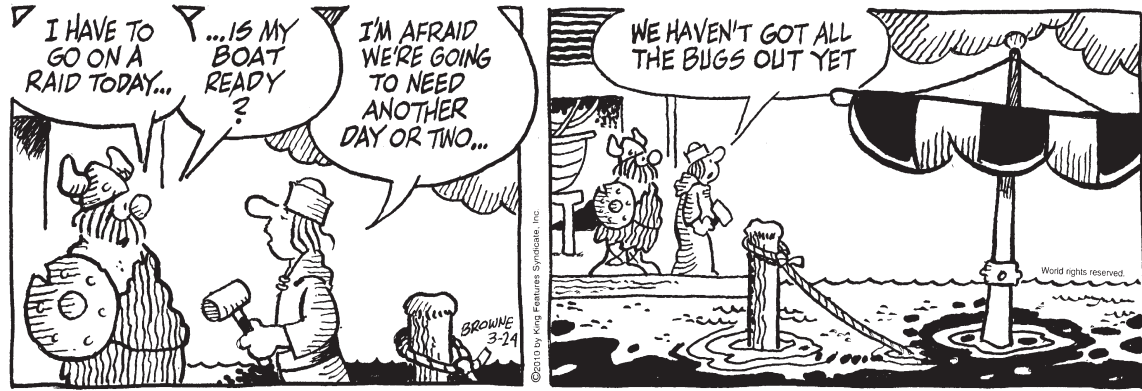
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



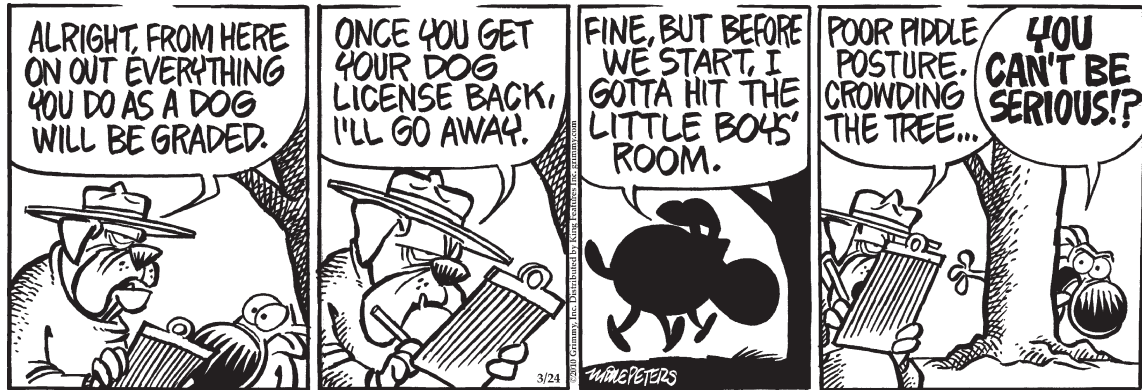
Blondie • Chic Young



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

Cut onions, yet avoid tears

Dear Readers: Want to avoid tearing up when you CUT UP ONIONS? Let's review Onions 101. Why do they make you cry? When you cut onions, that releases a gas, which reacts chemically to the water in your eyes and causes you to cry. Take these steps to help prevent onion tears:

- Store onions in the refrigerator for several days, or put them in the freezer for just 30 to 45 minutes before slicing. When you cut onions cold, they are less apt to induce tears.
- Put a piece of bread, a toothpick or a wooden match between your front teeth while you mince onions. It will remind you to breathe through your mouth instead of your nose (like when you snorkel or scuba-dive).
- Use swimming goggles when you tackle onion cutting – really!

Here's to no tears! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

TURKEY SOUP

Dear Heloise: Thank you for your terrific column, which I read daily in the Orange County (Calif.) Register. Here's my hint: I enjoy homemade turkey soup but don't enjoy cooking a large turkey to obtain the bones. Last week, my supermarket was selling roasted one-half turkey breasts. Those bones were enough to make a nice potful of soup. And I also "cheated" on the veggies. I bought a tray of already-chopped and -cleaned celery, carrots, broccoli, red onions and grape tomatoes. All I added of my own were the seasonings. As a bonus, my home smelled wonderful for the next three days. It brought back memories of my grandma. Thank you again for all your help. – T. Maldonado, Laguna Woods, Calif.

FLAVORED SYRUP

Dear Heloise: I save jelly and jam jars, and when they are almost empty, I pour pancake syrup in them and heat slightly (lid off) in the microwave, replace the lid and shake slightly. I have flavored, warm syrup for my pancakes and French toast. – Chrissy Kulp, via e-mail

EASY BREAD CRUMBS

Dear Heloise: Last night, I needed bread crumbs for a breaded chicken recipe and discovered I had none in the cupboard. But I did find a package of bruschetta we received in a gift basket recently. Still in the pouch, I pounded them into crumbs with my meat pounder. It saved the day, and because the bruschetta was seasoned, I didn't have to add any extra spices. This would work well with croutons, too. – Cristina from California

BROWN-SUGAR MEASURING

Dear Heloise: After I buy brown or powdered sugar, I immediately transfer it to a plastic zipper bag. When I need to measure some, I insert the cup into the bag, fill it, and then use the side of the bag to pack it down. Saves cleanup. – Donna, via e-mail

'SLOPPY DOGS'

Dear Heloise: I read your column all the time and just love your hints! I read the hint about sloppy Joes in hot-dog buns. We've been doing them for quite a while, and we call them "sloppy dogs." – Jeri, Merrillville, Ind.
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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 6 2
♦ J 10 7 5

WEST
♠ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ 8 7 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 9 4

EAST
♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ K Q 6
♦ 9 8 7 4
♣ A 3

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

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
3♦ Pass 3 NT Pass
Opening lead — six of spades.

The Play's the Thing

You can't play bridge by rote. For example, take this deal where West leads a spade against three notrump. Let's say declarer wins with dummy's king and immediately attacks clubs in order to develop his longest suit.

However, this doesn't work out well. East takes the ace and returns a spade, and South eventually goes down one with normal play, the defense scoring five tricks before declarer can score nine.

Now let's go back to trick two and have South play the hand differently. Instead of leading a club, he leads a diamond to his jack. It might seem odd that declarer's first move is to take a diamond finesse that, even if it wins, gains him only one trick, whereas attacking clubs initially produces four tricks.

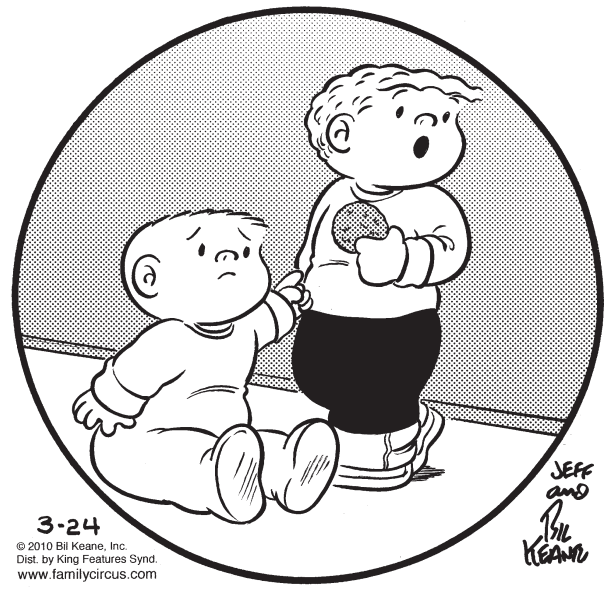
Nevertheless, a diamond to the jack at trick two is the right play because it guarantees the contract 100 percent, while leading a club at trick two jeopardizes the contract.

This is because, if the finesse wins, South can next establish clubs to assure nine tricks, while if the finesse loses, West cannot safely return a spade, giving declarer time to collect at least 10 tricks.

Ordinarily, declarer tries to establish the suit that offers the best source of tricks, but this rule should not be followed blindly. In the present case, declarer should depart from the rule because a diamond to the jack at trick two cannot fail to make the contract, whether the finesse wins or loses.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-24

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"Is it my job to teach PJ 'bout sharing?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

Cryptoquip

KY EBS MUDHZ TDUE WDHTKRE

A W D Q G B P D M W K Q F K G

CRDHGKQF, K ABSRZ GHE

MWHM'G H GMBPC BY HCCUBTHR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I TOTALLY MESSED UP THIS PIE CHART I AM CREATING, YOU COULD SAY I MADE A GRAPH GAFFE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 37 Part | DOWN | 20 On a |
| 1 Satan's minions | of a three-piece suit | 1 Bakery worker, at times | 22 Benedict XVI, e.g. |
| 5 Afternoon get-together | 38 Slamming sound | 2 Speck | 23 Unpleasantly plump |
| 8 Burn somewhat | 39 Expert | 3 Walk the floor | 25 Stick out or Soderbergh |
| 12 Paint layer | 41 Being, to Brutus | 4 Spielberg | 26 Raw rock |
| 13 LummoX | 43 Mourn | 5 Pirouette | 27 Secretly |
| 14 Sitarist's music style | 46 Third rock from the sun | 6 Pivot | 29 Doggie bag fill |
| 15 And so forth | 50 Sleeping | 6 Listener | 31 Quite some time |
| 17 "— Named Sue" | 51 Skin cream | 7 Where out there | 32 Journal |
| 18 "Superman" star | 54 Antitoxins | 8 Want really bad | 34 Micro-wave |
| 19 Wreak havoc on | 55 Pod denizen | 9 "Carmen" number | 38 Dam builder |
| 21 Big fair | 56 Tend texts | 10 Enthusiastic, plus | 40 Fragrant wood |
| 24 D.C. title | 57 Celebrity | 11 Martha of comedy | 42 Witness |
| 25 Become a member | 58 Knight's address | 16 Ritter of Westerns | 43 Glaswegian gal |
| 28 Reed instrument | 59 Lasso | | 44 Help hoods |
| 30 Moray, for example | | | 45 Reveille's opposite |
| 33 Samovar | | | 47 Give a makeover to |
| 34 La Scala show | | | 48 Stumble |
| 35 Kanga's kid | | | 49 Loathe |
| 36 Sleuth | | | 52 Mainlander's memento |
| | | | 53 Rowing need |

Solution time: 21 mins.

OFF	PATH	THE	SPY
PAL	IBSEN	QUA	
SQUANDERS	UMP		
RIO	BICEPS		
CUSTOM	SLOE		
ESQ	NEW	EAGLE	
DEUS	NOT	TEEM	
TIDOM	WEB	EAU	
GLEE	CLASPS		
WAGONS	HUP		
ILL	SQUIRRELS		
DUE	CURER	LAP	
EMS	HENRY	MBA	

Yesterday's answer 3-24

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		