

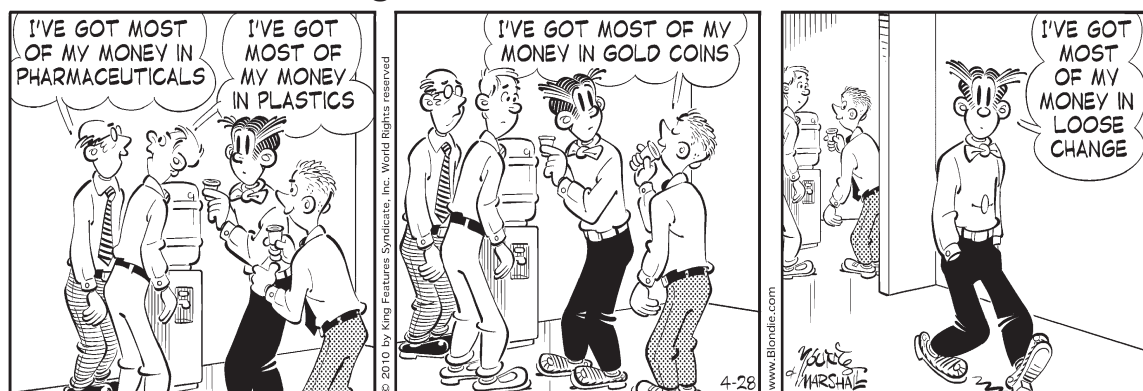
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



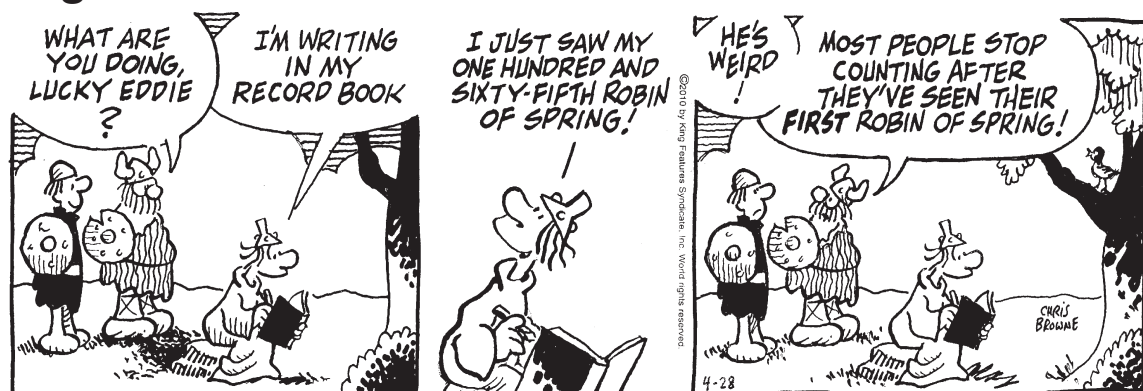
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



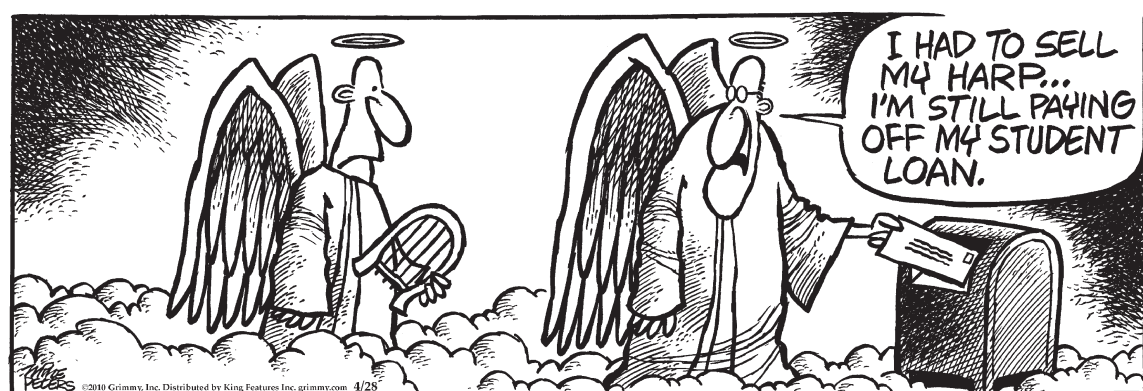
**Blondie** • Chic Young



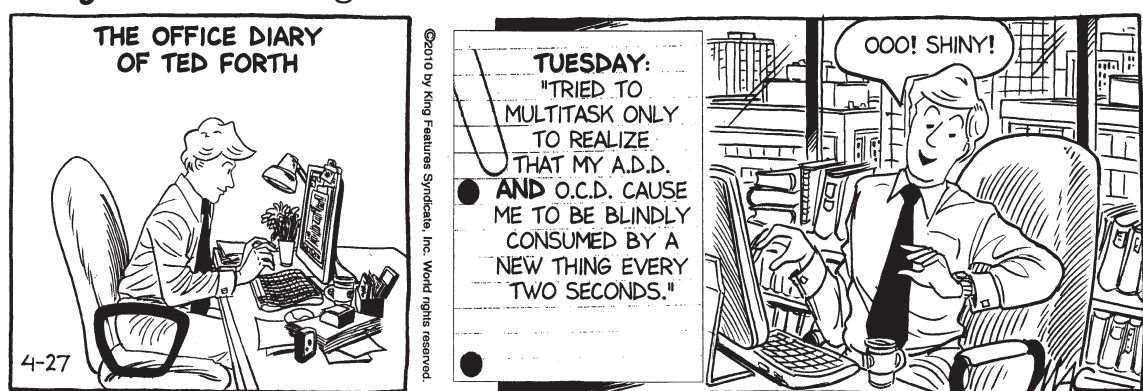
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



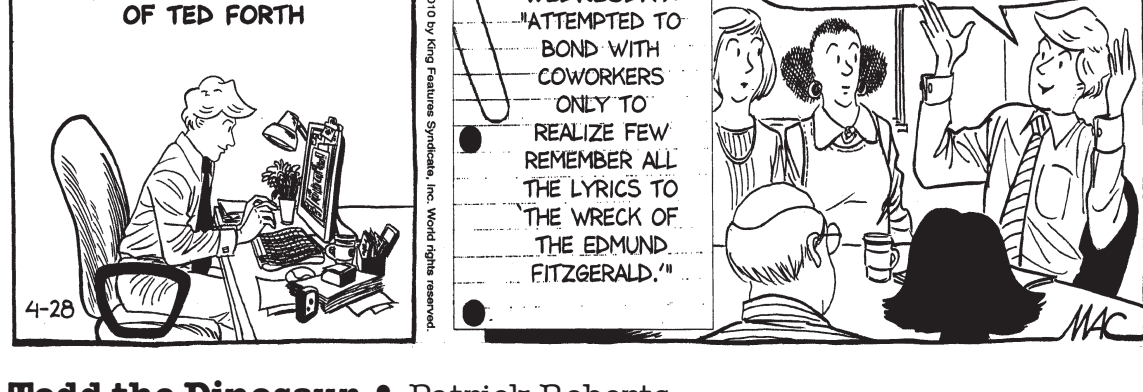
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



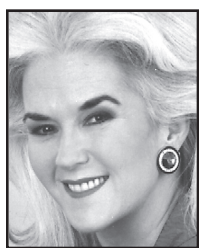
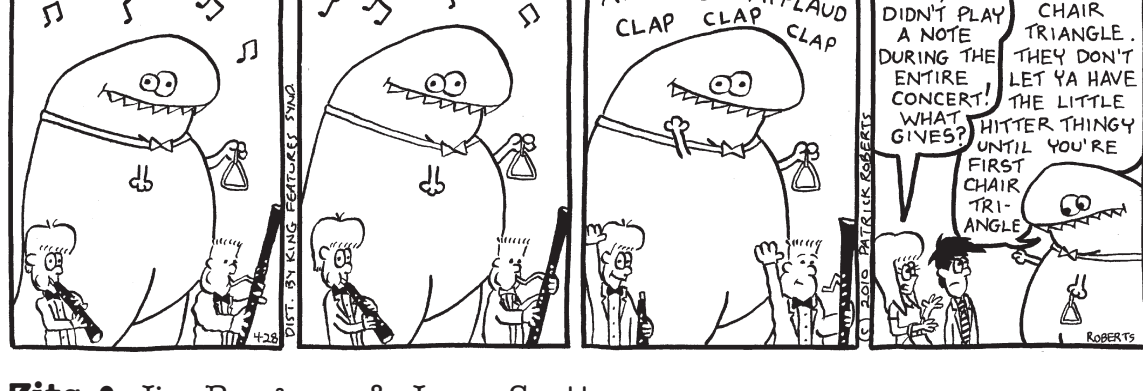
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise** • Hints from Heloise

**Pico de gallo recipe a winner**

Dear Heloise: I clipped your recipe for PICO DE GALLO from your column years ago, but have lost it. Can you please reprint that fabulous recipe? It was the best, original Texas pico de gallo ever! Thank you. – Eva, via e-mail

Dear Eva: I'm happy to reprint a yummy favorite that's especially popular here in San Antonio. Try it with tortilla chips, on baked potatoes, with eggs and so much more. Here are the ingredients:

- 1 cup coarsely chopped tomato
  - 1/4 cup coarsely chopped onion
  - 1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro
  - 2 or 3 fresh serrano peppers, minced (more if you like it hot, hot, hot!)
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Mix the ingredients together, and sprinkle with salt. The fresher the better, but it will keep in the refrigerator for a day or so. – Heloise

**HANDY SNACK HOLDER**

Dear Heloise: I use a tall hanging shoe holder in the pantry closet for my daughter's snacks and school lunch-bag items. I leave less-desirable items in compartments toward the top, where she can't reach quite yet, and the healthier stuff below. Now packing lunches can even be a group effort, as I tell her to get things from different compartments. – R.S., via e-mail

**HONEY DRIZZLE**

Dear Heloise: As you published, it is possible to reliquefy crystallized honey. Next time, mix some crystallized honey with chocolate syrup and drizzle over vanilla ice cream. Delicious! I learned this trick from fellow Coast Guardsmen in Alaska. – Dave Bowlus, via e-mail

**HOW TO SKIN A PINEAPPLE**

Dear Heloise: I enjoy fresh pineapples, and for the first time, I tried something different. Usually I slice off the top and bottom, set the pineapple upright and slice off the skin (covering). This time, I sliced off the top and bottom, then cut the pineapple in half, from top to bottom. I put this side down on the cutting board, and it was so much easier to remove the skin/ covering because I had so much more control.

Now I can't wait to buy another fresh pineapple. Thanks for all the columns and all the hints and recipes. Keep up the great work. – Dorothy, via e-mail

**COOKIE SHEETS**

Dear Heloise: I came upon a neat idea for my cookie sheets, cutting boards and muffin pans. I have deep kitchen cabinets. My pans, etc., were always falling over, or I would have to dig under for the bottom pan. So, I bought two large plate racks – wire holders with white plastic covering. I put one in front and the other in back to make a big holder going across. It is perfect, and all my pans are standing up now and are so easy to get in and out! – Jane Starks, via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ Q 4	♠ 7 5 3	♠ 7 5 3	♠ 7 5 3
♥ 8 3	♥ Q 9 6	♥ Q 9 6	♥ Q 9 6
♦ A 9 7 5 3	♦ J 10 8 2	♦ J 10 8 2	♦ J 10 8 2
♣ A 10 6 2	♣ K 7 4	♣ K 7 4	♣ K 7 4

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT  
 Opening lead — four of hearts.

**Choosing Between Options**

The most successful bridge players are not the ones who continually devise brilliant strategies, but those who make the fewest mistakes. The player who commits the fewest errors, bid after bid and play after play, usually comes out on top.

Today's hand is one on which many declarers would fail to make three notrump. This outcome, however, would be directly attributable to an error rather than good defensive play or bad luck.

The opening heart lead is taken by the king, and the question is whether South, who needs to develop four more tricks, should first attack spades, diamonds or clubs.

Diamonds should be dismissed outright because the suit lacks body and, more importantly, success would not be guaranteed even if the missing diamonds were divided 3-3.

In contrast, clubs and spades are certain to provide enough tricks for the contract, even if declarer loses the finesse in clubs. All South has to do is to make sure that the opponents don't score five tricks before he has taken nine.

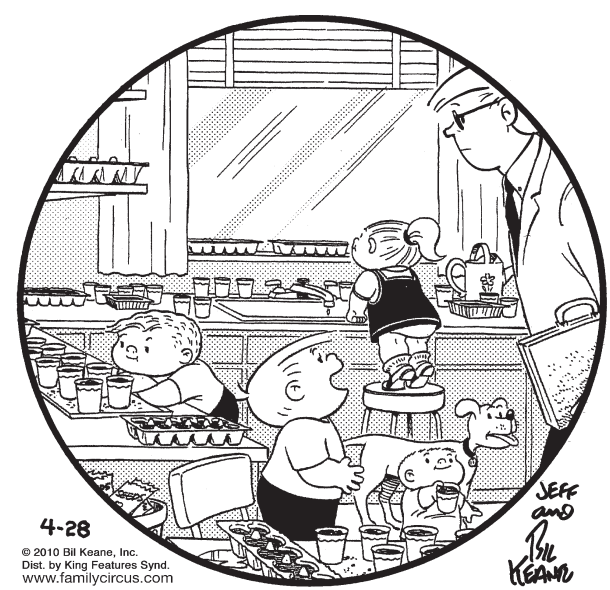
The sole threat is that West has five or more hearts and might eventually gain the lead to run the suit. But the only way West could gain the lead would be with the ace of spades. West should therefore be deprived of that potential entry while South still has a second heart stopper, so spades are attacked immediately.

In the actual case, West takes the first or second spade and returns a heart, ducked by declarer. A third heart is won by the ace, and the club finesse is then attempted. East wins, but since he cannot reach West's good hearts, the contract is home with an overtrick.

Note that if declarer attempts the club finesse first, East takes the king and dislodges South's last heart stopper. When declarer eventually leads a spade to try to develop the game-going tricks, West wins with the ace and cashes his remaining hearts to score a one-trick set.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/28 ©2010 Concepts Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Cryptoquip**

GUZJV MAUWS M YMAJK  
 GUSUYJDS KYJZJLE ZVYF  
 KMLEVYUWDHF UL LVZMKM  
 OJEOXMF: "XVMZJLE HMD ZVEMD."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SMALL BEACH VEHICLE LEADS ITS DRIVER TO AN UNHAPPY FATE, YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S A DOOM BUGGY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>36</b> Peak periods	<b>58</b> In addition	<b>16</b> Hammer's target
<b>1</b> GI on the run	<b>38</b> Catty remark?	<b>59</b> Nourish	<b>20</b> Peculiar
<b>5</b> Shelter	<b>40</b> Workout venue	<b>1</b> Priestly garb	<b>23</b> Speedometer stat
<b>8</b> Clarinetist Artie	<b>41</b> Sand	<b>2</b> Imperfection	<b>24</b> Actress MacGraw
<b>12</b> Fill with freight	<b>43</b> Fish eggs	<b>3</b> Stench	<b>25</b> Leftovers holder
<b>13</b> 401(k) alternative	<b>45</b> Bribe of a sort	<b>4</b> Clark's partner	<b>27</b> Silent
<b>14</b> — support	<b>47</b> Hardly plain	<b>5</b> Generous	<b>29</b> Whatever number time
<b>15</b> Lunch container	<b>51</b> Actress Jessica Hodgepodge	<b>6</b> Historic	<b>30</b> Sleep phenom
<b>17</b> Hindu royal	<b>52</b> Outerwear	<b>7</b> Two under par	<b>32</b> At each other's (fighting)
<b>18</b> Minute grooves	<b>54</b> "Ulalume" writer	<b>8</b> Fruit-filled dessert	<b>34</b> Photocopied
<b>19</b> Ventilating slat	<b>55</b> "Ulalume" pot	<b>9</b> Boxers punch practice	<b>37</b> Part of R.S.V.P.
<b>21</b> Round Table address	<b>56</b> Earthenware	<b>10</b> Zits	<b>39</b> Sported
<b>22</b> Whirlpool	<b>57</b> Small barrels	<b>11</b> Spinning sound	<b>42</b> Florida city
<b>23</b> Crazed	<b>58</b> Fruit-filled	<b>12</b> Zits	<b>44</b> The line
<b>26</b> Frown's flight	<b>59</b> Nourish	<b>13</b> Zits	<b>45</b> Prepare to travel
<b>28</b> Preclude	<b>60</b> Nourish	<b>14</b> Zits	<b>46</b> Lotion additive
<b>31</b> Basis for a whodunit	<b>61</b> Nourish	<b>15</b> Zits	<b>48</b> Competent
<b>33</b> Illumination measure	<b>62</b> Nourish	<b>16</b> Zits	<b>49</b> Story
<b>35</b> Highway division	<b>63</b> Nourish	<b>17</b> Zits	<b>50</b> "Zounds!"
	<b>64</b> Nourish	<b>18</b> Zits	<b>53</b> Charged bit

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 4-28