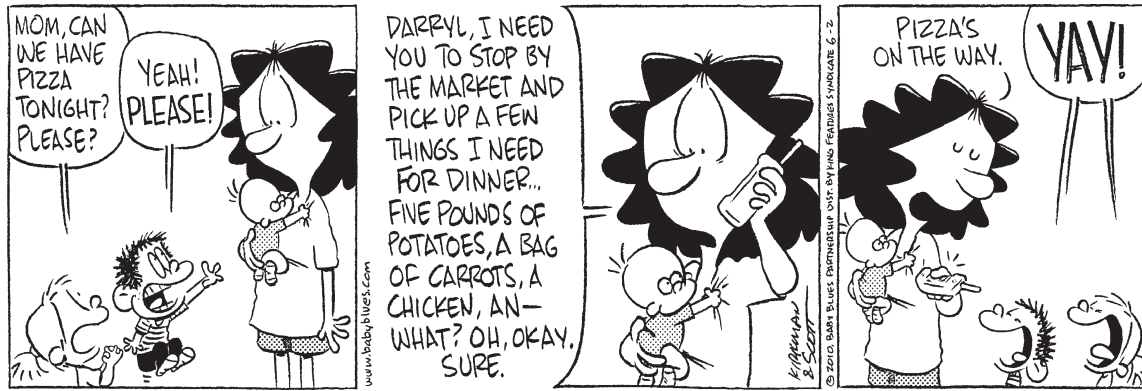
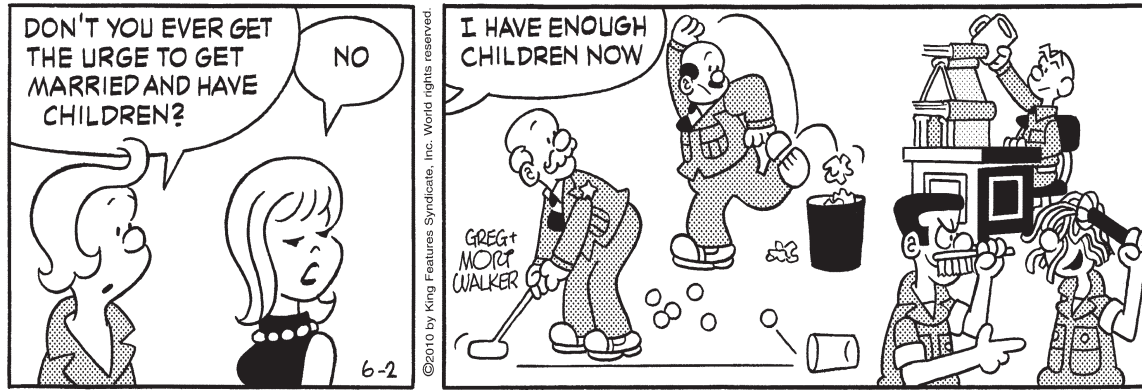


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



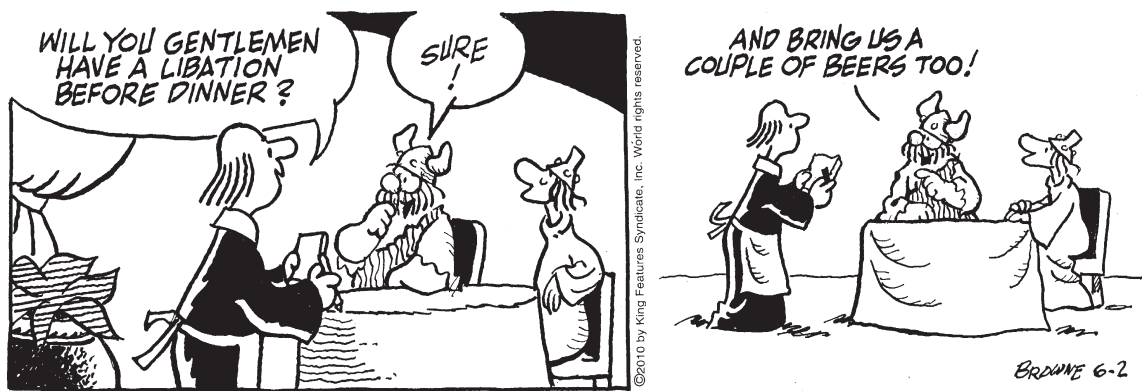
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



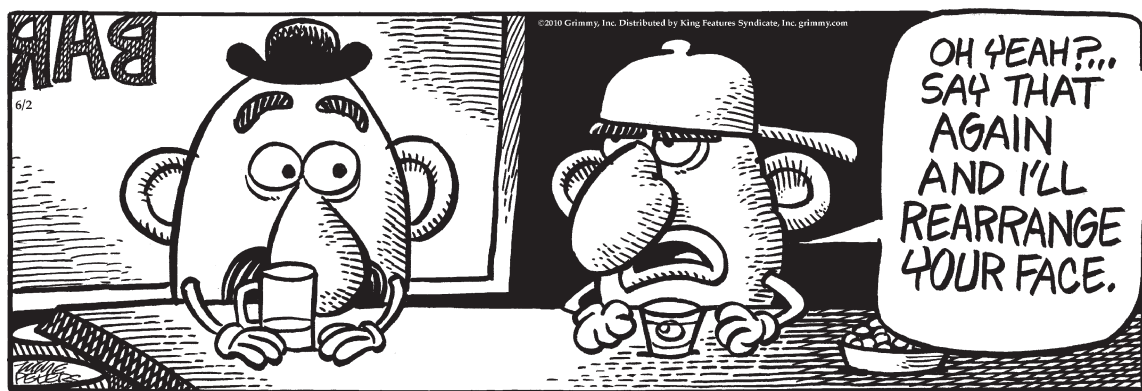
Blondie • Chic Young



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

Chocolate cake a tomato surprise

Dear Heloise: Years ago, there was a recipe for CHOCOLATE TOMATO CAKE that was wonderful. I lost the recipe that was published in The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger in one of your columns. Could you repeat this? Thank you in advance. — Ruthann, via e-mail

Ruthann, this is an old family recipe, and really is yummy. Place one 18-ounce box of dry chocolate cake mix in a large bowl, along with one 10-3/4-ounce can of UNDILUTED condensed tomato soup, 1 teaspoon of baking soda and two eggs, and NOTHING ELSE. Mix well, and bake according to the cake-mix directions. Frost with your favorite icing, or carefully pop some marshmallows on the top at the very end of baking. It's like marshmallow cream! If you would enjoy more Heloise cake recipes, including the Multi "Rainbow" Poke Cake and Red Velvet Cake, just send \$5 and a long, stamped (61 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Heloise/Cake, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Speaking of cakes, to cut your cake neatly, use a long piece of plain dental floss. — Heloise

'EGG-ZACTLY'-RIGHT HINTS
Dear Heloise: A reader mentioned putting a "smile" on hard-cooked eggs to tell them apart from raw ones.

Since my husband and I are now seniors, we use fewer eggs. When I buy a carton of eggs, I remove the date from the carton and tuck it in with the raw eggs, or I write, in pencil, the date on the top of each egg. Then I can tell how long I have had it. If I hard-cook eggs, I change the date to the date the eggs were boiled, and I add an X or put "hard cooked." — J.D., via e-mail

Speaking of easy egg ID, here's another hint, from Linda in Ohio. She says: "After Easter is over, egg-coloring kits are on sale for half-price or less. I purchase several and keep the dye tablets handy. Whenever I boil eggs during the year, I dissolve a dye tablet in a little vinegar and pour it into the water when they are almost done. Rinse the eggs as usual. The family never gets confused about whether they are picking up a hard-cooked egg or a raw one! And if there are stickers or other items in the box, I give them to our elementary school." — Heloise

CHEESE STORAGE
Dear Heloise: With the high price of cheese, there is a way to avoid mold for long periods of time. When I buy block cheese, I bring it home and immediately cut it up into smaller pieces. Then I double-wrap the smaller pieces in paper towels so that the moisture buildup is quickly wicked away from the cheese. I place it into resealable plastic bags, taking out as much air as possible before sealing.
Every time the cheese is taken out, I simply put on new paper-towel wraps and put it back into the same plastic sandwich bag. — John Encinio, Las Vegas
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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K 6 5 3
♥ K 7 2
♠ A K J 5
♣ K Q

WEST
♦ A 10 8 4 2
♥ J 8 5 4 3
♠ 9
♣ 7 5

EAST
♦ Q
♥ A Q 6
♠ 10 8 4 3
♣ 9 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♦ 1 9 7
♥ 10 9
♠ Q 7 6 2
♣ A J 10 3

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

Alert Defense
It is a bridge fact of life that a defender can never afford to relax. The nature of the game is such that it demands continuous concentration on the matters at hand.

Take this case where an inattentive West might easily allow declarer to sneak home at three notrump. However, the actual West was fully alert at the critical moment and delivered two successive blows that sank the contract.

West started by leading a low spade. Declarer could have made the contract then and there by putting up the king, but he instead made the more normal play of following low from dummy. East won with the queen and returned the nine of clubs to dummy's queen.

Declarer crossed to his hand with the queen of diamonds and led the nine of spades toward dummy. The moment of truth for West was now at hand.

West had paid careful attention to this point and had come to several conclusions. First, he knew from East's play of the queen of spades at trick one that declarer had the jack. Second, he knew from East's "top-of-nothing" return of the club nine that declarer had the A-J-10 of that suit.

This in turn meant that if West followed low to the spade lead, or covered the nine with the ten, declarer would score nine tricks — four diamonds, four clubs and a spade. So West put up the ace at trick four, but his task was not yet complete.

The next problem was to find a way to score three more tricks before South could regain the lead. This was possible only if East had at least the A-Q-x of hearts. But if West shifted to a low heart, declarer could simply play low from dummy to force East to win and thereby assure the contract.

So West made the highly unusual return of the jack of hearts, and declarer was undone. In practice he played low, and East scored the next two tricks with the A-Q for down one.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/02

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.

Cryptoquip

BZZMKHDW B WTJNPKNDU
BWNBU IBJTPZ B ANPUBHD
SNATDWNZUBDU, STNZ
ZMSBINS ZMHU B INS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME TRIGONOMETRY TEACHERS ARE HAVING A TALK OVER THERE. I THINK THEY'RE USING SINE LANGUAGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 26 Bank trans- 12 Alex Haley book
4 Fre- action 2 Grand-scale 14 Not, quantity
quently, in Yoko 27 John's tale 15 To the — degree
verse 28 TV 3 Subscrip- tion extension 19 Grafton's "— for Corpse"
7 Scruff airings 4 Smells "— for Corpse"
8 Speak 30 Spanish Mrs. 5 Be buoyant 20 Crib
off the cuff 33 Aries or Orion 6 Colora- tion transplant 21 Organ
10 Varnish ingredient 36 Undo a law 7 Bygone Dodge 22 Expiates
13 Focus 38 Big name com- pact container
16 Pismire in retail 8 Moving about field's favorite
17 Hula hoop site 39 Kvetches 40 Bug spray abbr. yellow shades 25 Medic food
19 Singer Vikki 41 Nippon's antithesis co. 10 Nipper's 26 Lounges
20 "Little Women" woman 21 "The — Show With Jon Stewart" 23 Ecstasy 25 Connect the —

DOWN 12 Alex Haley book
2 Grand-scale 14 Not, quantity
15 To the — degree
19 Grafton's "— for Corpse"
20 Crib
21 Organ transplant
22 Expiates
23 Fruit container
24 Gar- field's favorite food
25 Medic
26 Lounges
28 Place
29 Tin Wood- man's desire
30 Prolonged attack
31 Bucks' mates
32 More- over
34 Raced
35 Salver

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-2

	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									35		
	36								37		
		38							39		
										40	
											41