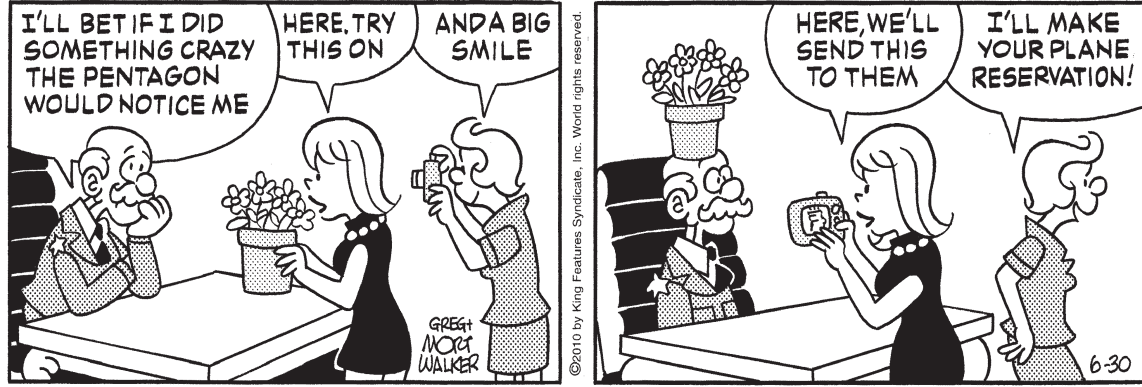


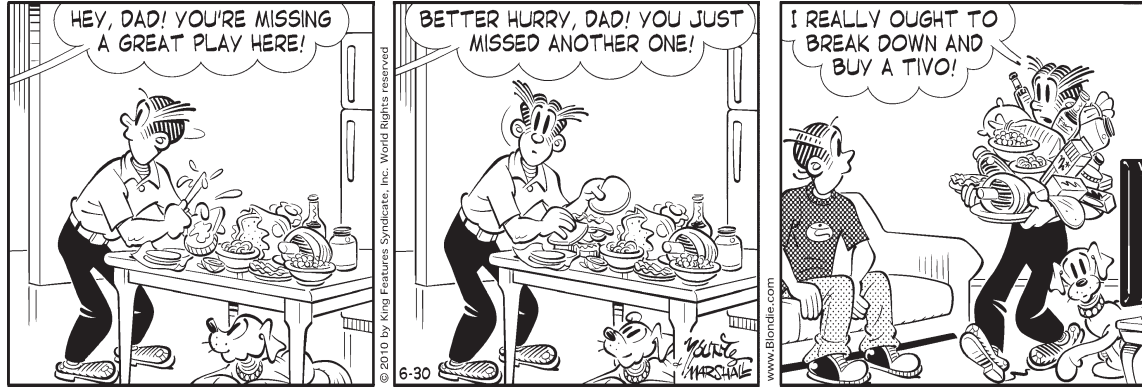
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



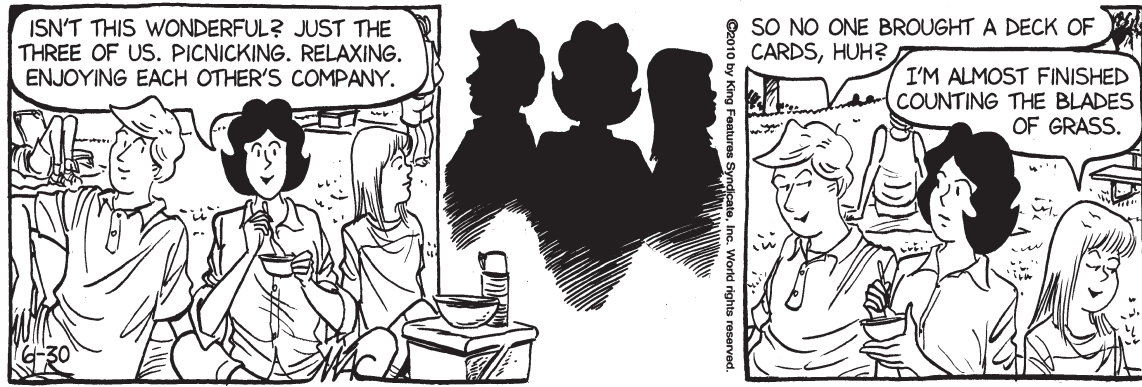
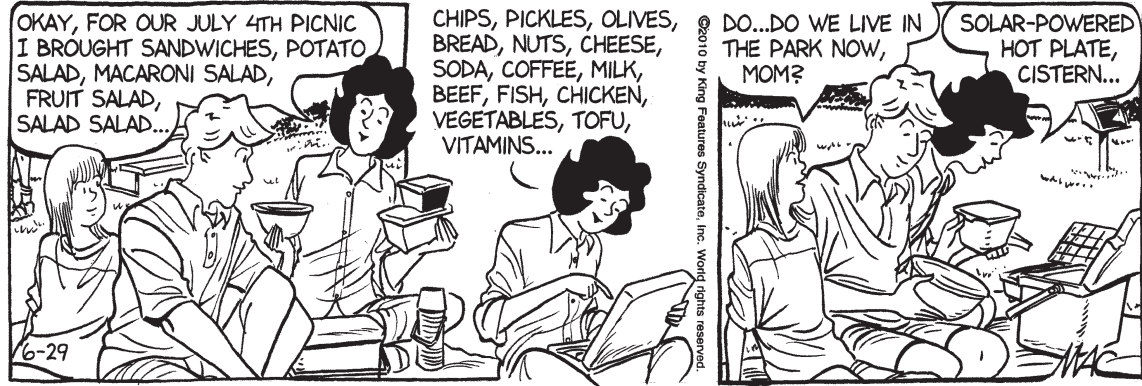
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



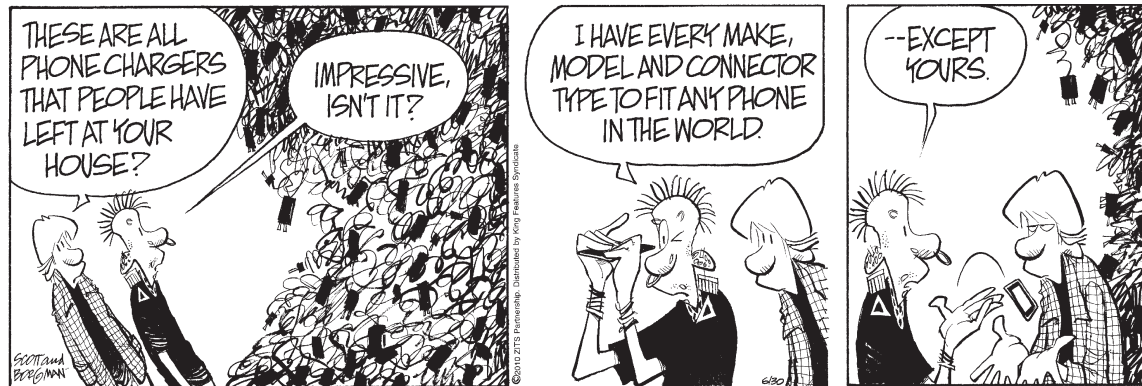
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Strawberries best when ripe**

Dear Readers: STRAWBERRIES are delicious and colorful, and they are a great snack! One cup of strawberries has about 46 calories and provides more than the daily requirement for vitamin C. They also are rich in antioxidants, and they are plentiful in the supermarket at this time of year.

Strawberries will not ripen after picking, so select berries that are bright-red – these are the sweetest berries. Don't get strawberries with any green or white on them. A dark-red shade means the berry is overripe, will be mushy and will soon spoil. In the supermarket, the ideal berry will be plump and shiny.

To wash just before serving, put them in a colander and run cold water thoroughly over the bowl. Pat dry with a paper towel.

To hull the strawberry, a favorite Heloise hint is to insert a drinking straw into the bottom of the berry. The core and the leaves of the fruit will slide right out.

Slicing the strawberry in an egg slicer makes for a pretty presentation, but you also can make yummy jams and jellies with your prepared strawberries. Enjoy!

By the way, how many seeds are on the average strawberry? Only about 200! – Heloise

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

**MAKING MEATLOAF**

Dear Heloise: My husband loves meatloaf, but I hate getting my hands messy mixing it by hand, and it's too heavy to stir with a spoon. I realized one day the mixture is about the same consistency as chocolate-chip cookie dough, so now I just throw all the ingredients into a big bowl and use my mixer to mix it up. Clean hands and a happy husband! – Chris Woodyard, Dayton, Ohio

**FRIED-MEAT SCRAMBLE**

Dear Heloise: When I need to scramble fried ground beef for a recipe, I mix into the raw beef the spices I need and then make a large patty, slightly smaller than my indoor counter grill. After cooking it to well-done, I crumble it and use it in my recipe or freeze it to use later. – Marie Lincoln, New Brunswick, Canada

**FRESHENING FROSTING**

Dear Heloise: I add a teaspoon of vanilla to canned frosting to freshen its flavor. This also works for brownie mix. Also try 1/2 teaspoon cherry extract in chocolate frosting when making a German chocolate cake, or 1/2 teaspoon mint extract in chocolate frosting on a vanilla or yellow cake mix. – Sarah, via e-mail

**COFFEE CANISTER**

Dear Heloise: By accident, I removed the label on an empty instant-coffee container and found I could use it as a small canister. The way I go through coffee, I soon had a collection of canisters. They also make nice containers to send my granddaughter little treats, and now she has a nice bunch of canisters, too. – R. Swaab in Texas  
(c)2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

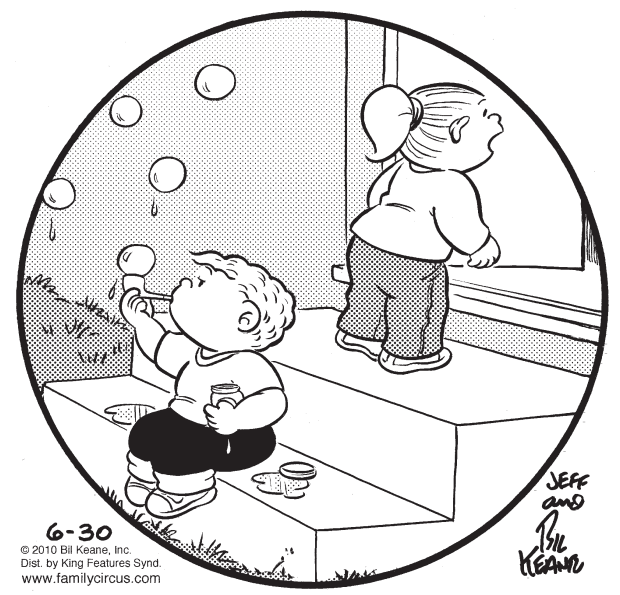
West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A K 4  
♥ A 5  
♦ A 7 6 5 4  
♣ Q 6 4  
**WEST**  
♠ —  
♥ K Q J 10 9 8  
♦ K Q J 10 9 8  
♣ J  
**EAST**  
♠ J 9 7 5 3 2  
♥ 4 2  
♦ 2  
♣ K 9 3 2  
**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 10 8 6  
♥ 7 6 3  
♦ 3  
♣ A 10 8 7 5

**A Horrible Nightmare**

Dear Mr. Becker: I suffer from nightmares – bridge nightmares, that is – and I've been having the same dream for many years now. I've seen quite a few psychiatrists about it, but they don't seem to be able to do a thing for me, whether they know how to play bridge or not. I'm not a particularly good player myself, but I play even worse when I'm asleep. What happens is that I'm always dealt the East hand – I recognize it each time by the four deuces – and my partner, the idiot, opens the bidding with two hearts. I don't think he has a genuine strong two-bid – even though he has 10 sure tricks in his hand – but that's beside the point. The bidding thereafter doesn't go the same way every time, but somehow South always winds up playing the hand in seven spades! I always double him – call it a compulsive double if you will – and he always redoubles and makes the grand slam. This comes to a tidy 3,140 points, and, frankly, I can't afford to lose that many points on one deal, even when I'm asleep. West invariably leads the king of hearts. Declarer takes it with the ace and returns the queen of clubs. I cover with the king, and South wins with the ace, catching my partner's jack. He then enters dummy with a diamond, leads the six of clubs and lets it ride. Next South repeats the finesse against my nine, cashes a high club, discarding a heart from dummy, and ruffs a heart with the four of spades. After that, with six tricks to go, he crossruffs the hand as I sit by helplessly undertrumping everything he plays. My hope is that by writing to you about this extraordinary hand, maybe the dream will go away. Cordially yours, Earl E. Rizer.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



“Mommy! Will you tell Jeffy to stop addin' to global warming!”

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Cryptoquip**

HBQGTGDD CPJ'O GUVGBQ QP  
YXKO NHVXWC ORGWWXKA  
X K H Y T G K B N R X K G  
TGAXPK: STXAXQQG SPTOGHJU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN AIRLINE OFFERS A MORNING MEAL, I RECKON THAT MIGHT BE A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Allow lady  
4 First Exiles name of 8-Down  
7 Hemingway sobriquet  
8 Gyro holders  
10 Invigorant  
11 Morals  
13 Arranges to win, maybe  
16 Last Greek consonant  
17 Procrastinator's reply  
18 Siesta  
19 Slithery  
20 Some paintings  
21 Mesa — National Park  
23 "Odyssey" sorceress  
25 Philbin's co-host  
26 Family member

**DOWN**  
3 Stopped the ball  
4 Church donation  
5 Different perhaps  
6 Hotel employee  
7 Cook-ware  
8 Heart-breakers' lead  
9 Pictorial  
10 Recipe meas.  
12 Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do  
14 Bargain event  
15 Some GI duties  
19 Historic time  
20 Scrap Tarzan's transports  
22 Geological periods  
23 Adorable  
24 Briefly  
25 Scepter  
26 Potok's "My Name Is — Lev"  
28 Wicker willow  
29 Say  
30 Plaintive poem  
31 Pond organism  
32 Can. neighbor  
34 Charlie Brown's nemesis, at times  
35 Eastern potentate (Var.)

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 6-30

