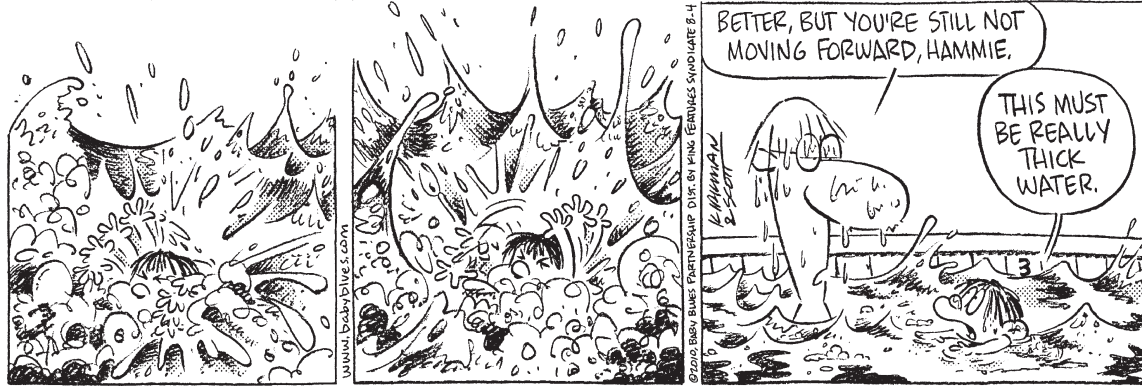


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



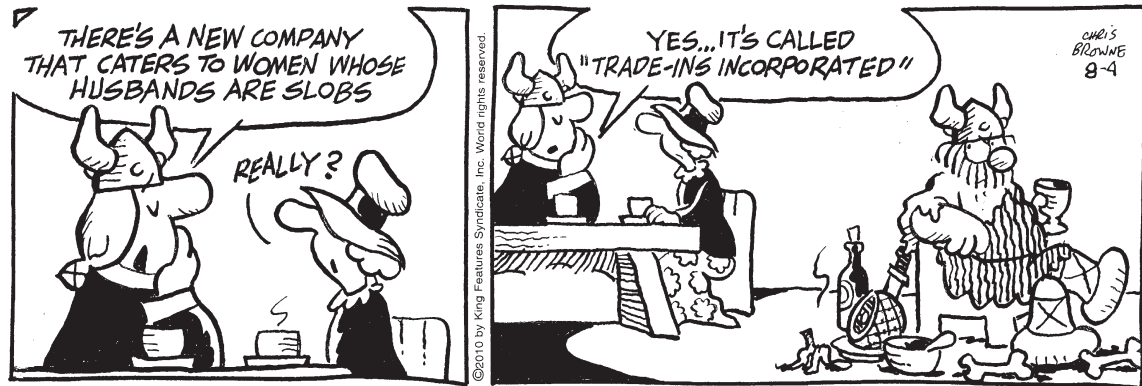
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



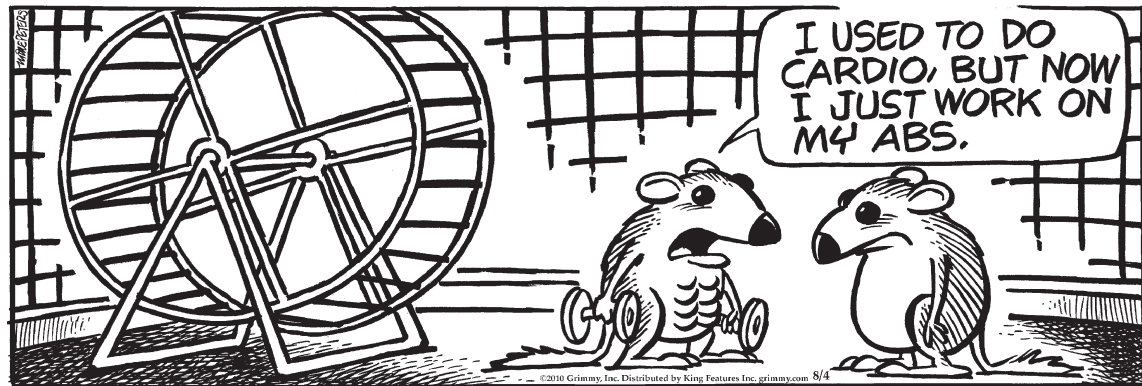
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



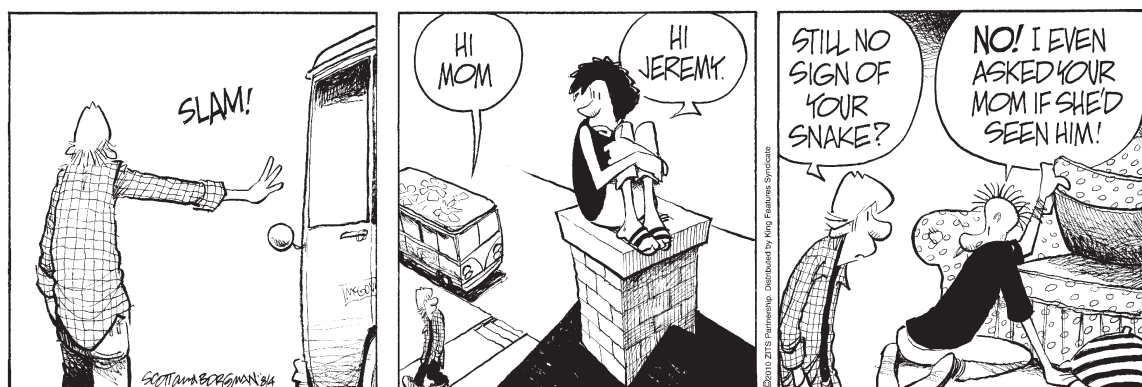
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Friendship tea makes sweet gift

Dear Heloise: Please print your recipe for HELOISE'S FRIENDSHIP TEA. I would like to make it for gifts and can't seem to locate the recipe. — A Reader, via e-mail

This is a favorite tea mix of mine, and it makes a great gift because you can put the ingredients in a pretty container. Here is what you need:

- 2 1/2 cups powdered orange-flavored breakfast drink mix
- 1 3/4 cups powdered instant tea
- 2 to 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 package lemonade mix (small packet, when mixed makes 2 quarts)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cloves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

Mix together all ingredients and store in sealed jars. To prepare, use 1 to 2 rounded teaspoons to 6 to 8 ounces of water, hot or cold.

You also can make a sugar-free version by using sugar substitute, diet powdered orange drink and sugar-free lemonade. The sugar-free version is more concentrated, so use about 1 teaspoon of mix per 6 to 8 ounces of water. Adjust the amount according to taste. There also are other delicious tea and exotic mixes in my pamphlet about coffees and teas. If you would like to receive one, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/C&T, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. You also will get some tea facts, brewing instructions and favorite hints of mine, such as adding lemon, peppermint drops or red-hot cinnamon candies to hot tea. — Heloise

STORE AISLE ID

Dear Heloise: I saw the hint in your column on making a list of the supermarket aisles. You can just take a picture of the signs with your cell phone and pull it back up when you get home. This will save having to write them down in the store. — Randy W. from Texas

NO CROUTONS, NO PROBLEM

Dear Heloise: Making homemade croutons is not always convenient. An alternative is topping a salad with microwave popping corn. Use a mini bag, which is ready in minutes. My favorite is salt and cracked pepper popcorn. — Margarette, via e-mail

EASY-SEE EXPIRATIONS

Dear Heloise: I read the letter from a reader about looking for expiration dates on food packages. Try using a highlighting marker to put a dot of color next to the date or even mark the whole date on the package when unloading from the grocery bag before putting things away. — Becky in Florida

FREEZING BACON

Dear Heloise: My sister Kathryn taught me how to save bacon from going bad. I buy around 3 pounds, lay the individual strips on cookie sheets and then freeze. After frozen, layer them on a piece of foil and put back in freezer, and just use individual strips as needed. — Rita in San Antonio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ A 5 4
- ♥ J 10 8
- ♦ A Q 10 7 5 2
- ♣ —

WEST

- ♠ Q J 9 6 3
- ♥ K 10 6 5
- ♦ Q 7 4
- ♣ J

EAST

- ♠ 10 7
- ♥ A Q 9 8 3 2
- ♦ 9 6 3 2
- ♣ 4

SOUTH

- ♠ K 8 2
- ♥ J 4
- ♦ A K 5
- ♣ K 9 8 6 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

The Better Way

Any declarer worth his salt will go to great lengths to avoid placing all his hopes on the outcome of a finesse. Instead he will seek an alternative that may render the finesse unnecessary.

Take this case where North-South wound up in five clubs after exploring and then rejecting the possibility of playing in three notrump. South won the opening spade lead with dummy's ace, drew a round of trumps, cashed the ace of diamonds and crossed to dummy with a trump. He then led the jack of diamonds and let it ride, losing to the queen. South still had to lose a heart and a spade, so he went down one.

Essentially, declarer gave himself about a 50-50 chance of making his game. If East had the queen of diamonds, he was home; if West had the queen, he was down. But another possibility existed, and while it was not certain to succeed, nothing could have been lost in the attempt.

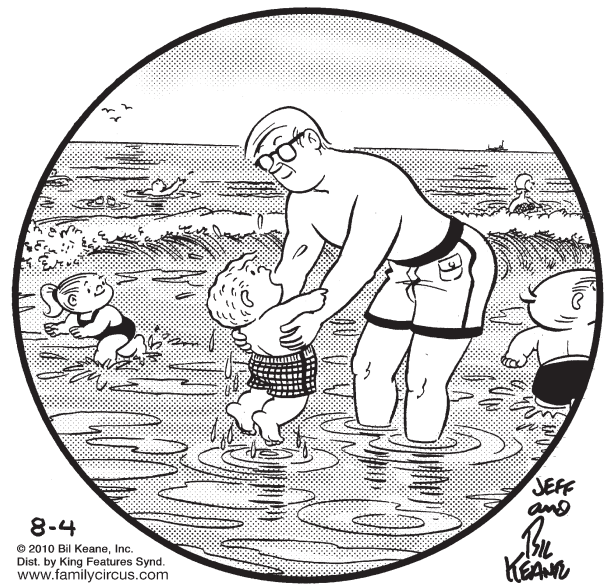
After winning the opening spade lead in dummy and drawing a round of trumps, declarer should next lead a heart. Let's assume East wins and returns a spade (no other return is any better). South wins with the king, ruffs his remaining heart in dummy and exits with a spade.

As it happens, West has to win this trick and is forced to hand declarer the contract. If he returns a heart or a spade, South can ruff in one hand and discard a diamond from the other; if West returns a diamond, dummy's jack wins. Either way, the contract is home.

There are, of course, no guarantees that the recommended approach will solve South's problem. But it will succeed as long as East is unable to win the third spade, which will happen whenever West started with five or six spades, the Q-J-10 or the Q-J-10-9. Furthermore, it costs nothing to try. Even if East can win the third spade, declarer still has the diamond finesse in reserve.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

DC VBERBPR'V CLPZDCGQ

DFRLV VNLWN NB ELJR HBG

DQQ, D'F VLH HBG'WR

ORNDPO PBNDBP VDZJPRVV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE MET WHILE WORKING AT THE CHAIRMAKING FACTORY. I HAVE TO SAY IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SEAT.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals N

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Lima's country	DOWN	22 Old name for France
1 Plead	39 Cell's ancestor	1 Gridlock sound	23 Pizarro's victims
4 Milky gem	41 Graceful young woman	2 Count	25 Actress
8 Vocal comeback	43 Marquis de —	3 Ashram leader	26 Verve
12 Water (Fr.)	44 Constrictor type	4 Eccentric	27 Assessment
13 Hill	46 Hindu prince	5 Standard	28 Chances
14 Frog's cousin	50 Solid hit	6 "The Greatest"	29 Do as I say
15 Misstep	55 Have special emphasis	7 Tax	30 Crumbly clay
16 Give	56 Concept	8 Cultural, in a way	31 Actress deposit
18 Downright	57 "Piggies"	9 Bill and —	32 Merrill
20 Thither	58 Simple card game	10 Scenery chaser	35 Speech
21 Creche trio	59 Bard	11 Praiser	38 Cheerful, as a tune
24 Gunpowder ingredient	60 Seeks damages	12 A billion years	40 Meadow
28 Ancestral place	61 Caustic solution	19 Sra., across the Pyrenees	42 Scuttle
32 Pop flavor			45 Macrame and origami
33 "The — Daba Honey-moon"			47 Cheek by —
34 "— di Lammer-moor"			48 Vacationing
36 Snitch			49 Present
			50 Back talk
			51 Altar affirmation
			52 Born
			53 Debtor's letters
			54 Victory gesture

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-4