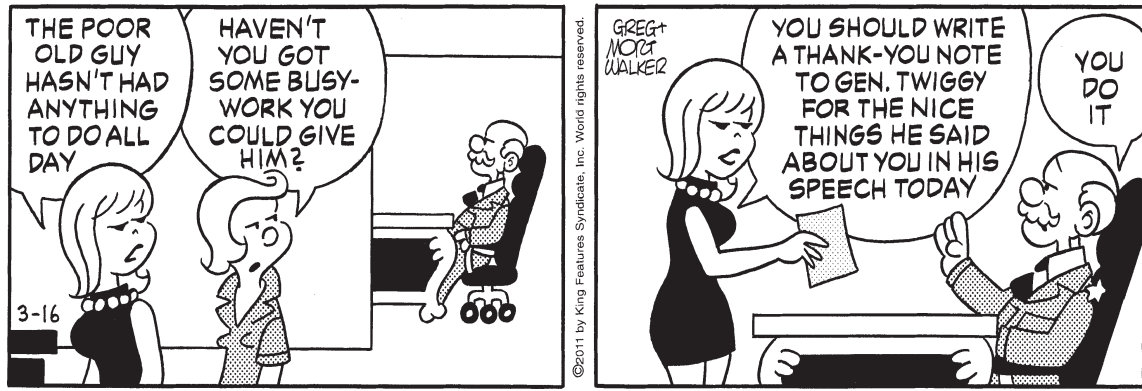


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



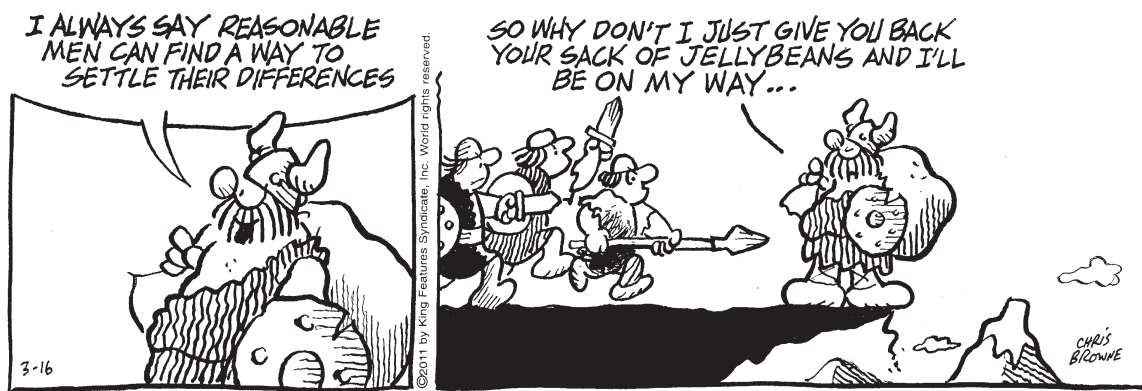
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



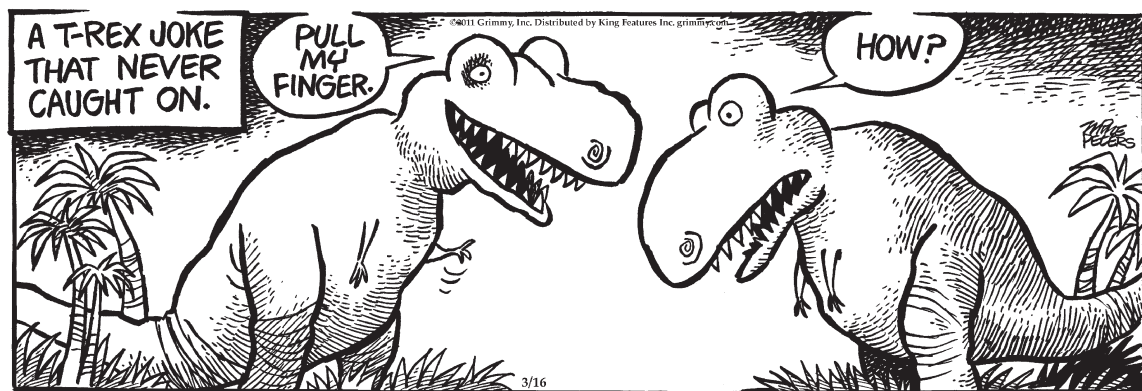
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



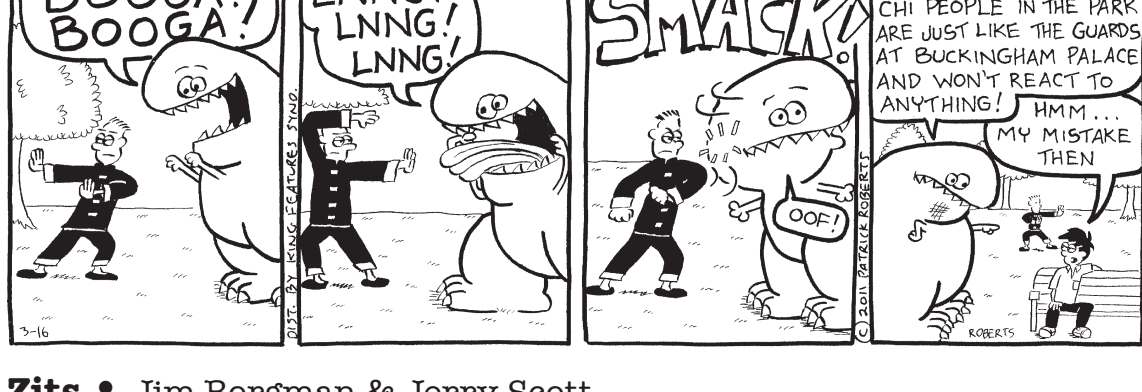
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Great recipes in men's mags**

Dear Heloise: I have discovered that men's magazines are a wonderful source for DELICIOUS RECIPES. The foods are easy to prepare, quick and healthy.

Many of them are made from around five ingredients or so, plus kitchen staples (salt, pepper, garlic, etc.), and come with nutritional information as well.

I love how easily the recipes are laid out, and pictures of everything help to clarify the directions. Lots of us today are novice chefs; that's why these magazines are nice to look at to get ideas. — S.D. from San Antonio

Many magazines — women's, men's and food — have easy-to-follow and tested recipes! — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**OVEN THERMOMETER**

Dear Heloise: The best cooking-utensil hint I ever received was to buy and use a separate oven thermometer. No matter how much you pay for that stove, whether it is gas or electric, never trust the oven temperature control. — Richard in Ohio

**SALAD TOPPINGS**

Dear Heloise: I have been eating salads because I have been trying to lose a few pounds. I usually like to add a few croutons to my salad, but once when I went to reach for them, the bag was empty. I wondered what else I could use and saw the container of fish-shaped cheese crackers, so I added a few to the salad. They were delicious and added a crunch. Yummy! — K.M., New Braunfels, Texas

**BETTER CHOICES**

Dear Readers: Fast food is convenient, but most of it can be high in sodium, fat and calories. Here are some hints to help you pick healthy foods:

- Go inside to order. Many restaurants post nutritional information, and you may be shocked by the numbers.
- Iced tea or water is a good choice for a beverage. Skip sodas.
- Most restaurants have "kids' meals," which are smaller servings and may include fresh fruit.
- Look for salad choices, but avoid creamy, high-fat dressings.
- Check out the company's website for nutritional information. — Heloise

**CANDY DISH**

Dear Heloise: Some brands of cherry tomatoes come in cute, small plastic containers. I wash one, dry it and fill it with a variety of wrapped treats like candies. — Margaret M. in Temple, Texas

**'KNEAD' SOME FLOUR?**

Dear Heloise: I have found an easy way to spread flour on my kneading surface for bread baking and cookie rolling: Use a small tea strainer with the fine metal mesh. A few gentle shakes dusted the surface, with no lumps. — Marie in Ohio

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

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

**All It Takes Is the Will to Win**

There are very few hands that demand a virtuoso performance by declarer for the best result to be achieved. In the great majority of deals, declarer's task consists mostly of determining what line of play offers the best percentage chance of succeeding, utilizing the clues that are almost always present and playing the right card each time it is his turn. This might sound like a tall order, but it is not really as difficult as it sounds — assuming that one has a desire to play well.

Take today's deal, for example. It is not an unusually difficult hand to play correctly, but many declarers would go down at three notrump — largely because they might proceed without giving the matter much thought.

The natural line of play appears to be to duck the first two spade leads and win West's next spade with the ace. After cashing four clubs and the A-K of hearts, South plays the ace and a low diamond toward the jack. But when it turns out that West has the king of diamonds instead of East, declarer winds up down one.

Actually, the contract is virtually a sure thing from the outset. There is no reason for declarer to run the risk that West has the king of diamonds. South can avoid that trap by ducking the king of spades at trick one but winning East's return of the jack. He then cashes four clubs and two hearts, as before, to bring his total to seven tricks. His five remaining cards consist of four diamonds and the nine of spades, while dummy has a spade, the queen of hearts and three diamonds.

Instead of playing a diamond at this point, South exits with the nine of spades. West takes three spade tricks, but is then forced to return a heart or a diamond, handing declarer his ninth trick.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



3-16

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"We're checking all our books for bookworms."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Cryptoquip**

NALD ULDWYDJ UG SDNQDULW

OVQDUT QHGSDW JQHWLD

HGNT, BGS'HL OHGRQRB

NLLWYDJ RLUNLLD UAL VYDLT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE MOVIE "ON THE WATERFRONT" HAD BEEN MADE UNDERSEA, WOULD IT HAVE STARRED MARLIN BRANDO?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals R

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Hurry  
4 Rescue  
8 Green  
Hornet's ally  
12 Raw rock  
13 Alternative to Windows  
14 "— the Mood for Love"  
15 Rowing tool  
16 Bell tower  
18 Crouch  
20 Peculiar  
21 Slapstick missiles  
24 More mature  
28 Asian country  
32 Bigfoot's cousin  
33 "The Greatest"  
34 Cancels out  
36 Once around the track  
37 Bowling ball's pathway  
39 Tea variety  
41 Tuck, for one

**DOWN**

43 Not crazy  
44 Tit for —  
46 Anticipate  
50 Soft cheese  
55 Travail  
56 Smell  
57 Met melody  
58 Shock and —  
59 Decisive time  
60 — to riches  
61 Sweet potato

**DOWN**

1 Menageries  
2 Baghdad's land  
3 Lima's land  
4 Vacuum cleaners' force  
5 Literary collection  
6 Energy pop  
7 World's fair  
8 Sympathetic  
9 "What Fool —?"  
10 Up to riches  
11 Indivisible  
17 Bother  
19 Police alert, for short  
22 Cabinet dept.  
23 Marnet of fiction  
25 Sandwich shop  
26 Handy Latin abbr.  
27 Ready for picking  
28 Young bovine  
29 Winged type  
30 iPod  
31 — mater  
35 Some Beethoven works  
38 Diner  
40 Kitten's call  
42 Lamb's pop  
45 Ski-lift type  
47 Vacationing  
48 "The Music Man" locale  
49 Abound  
50 Massachusetts cape  
51 Toss in  
52 Kiwi's extinct cousin  
53 Mound stat  
54 Equipment

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-16