

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



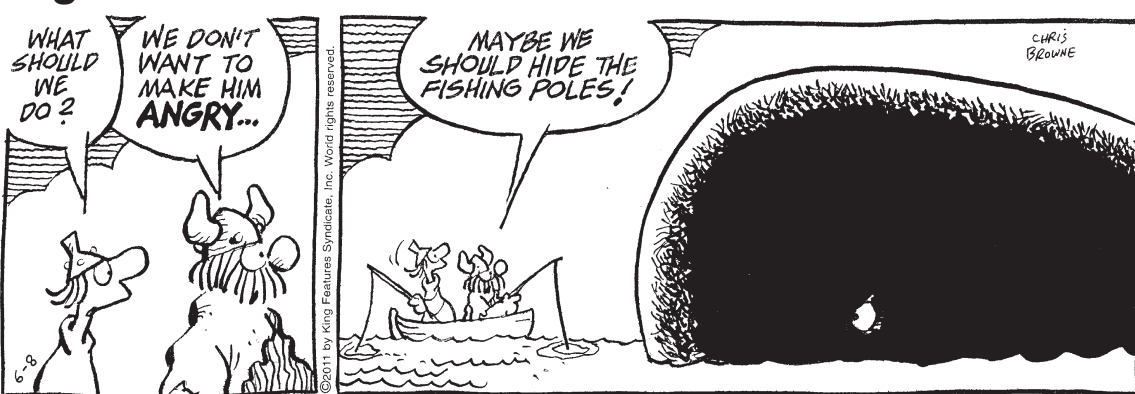
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



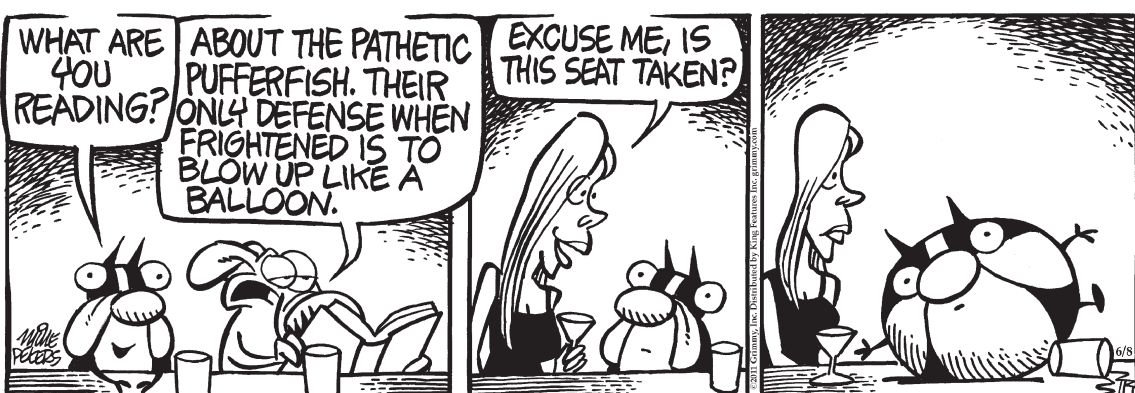
**Blondie** • Chic Young



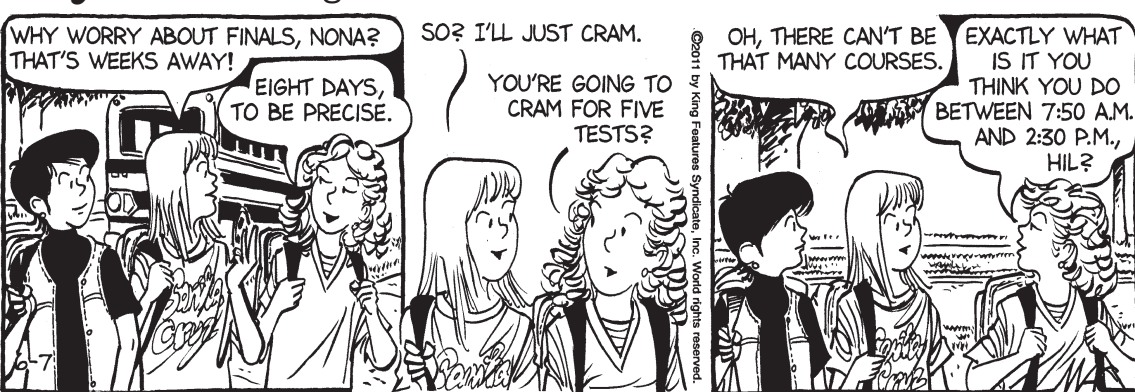
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



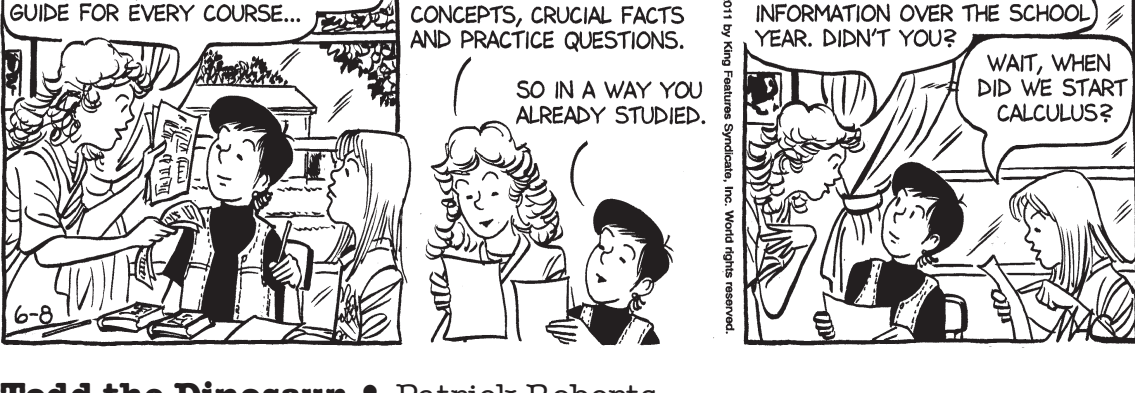
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



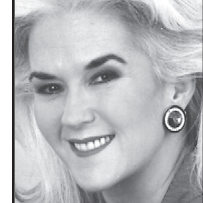
**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



• Hints from Heloise

**Do condiments last indefinitely?**

Dear Heloise: I love your column! I read it in the Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal. My question: We get a lot of CONDIMENTS from fast-food places. How long can they be kept, and do they need to be refrigerated? – Sharon S., Lamesa, Texas

Unopened packets do not need to be refrigerated. However, keeping them in the refrigerator will preserve the quality longer. Avoid extreme temperature changes (for example, being kept in a car). Since there are no expiration dates on the packets, a general rule of thumb is to discard after six months. If you open them and they smell bad, throw them out. – Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

**LEFTOVER CHOCOLATE**

Dear Heloise: I love your column in our daily paper. Keep up the good work. I have a hint for you if you can use it. When I have chocolate left over from a holiday or something, I put it in the fridge. When I make frosting, I grate the chocolate into the frosting so it won't be wasted. Thanks again for your column in the paper. – Ann Hager, Rugby, N.D.

**EARLY-MORNING COOKING**

Dear Heloise: I am definitely not a morning person, but family members are, and since they exercise first thing in the morning, they want a hearty breakfast! So I make several batches of the dry ingredients for muffins, biscuits, pancakes and cocoa. Each is stored in a bag labeled with tape that says something like "425 degrees 20 minutes. To one cup dry add 3 TBS butter and 1 cup milk."

When I wander into the kitchen for my coffee, I see the bag, the bowl and the pan set out the night before and can, at least, turn on the oven before coffee. – Laura Emerson, Trail Lake, Alaska

**UNSALTED NUTS**

Dear Heloise: One day, I discovered I had bought unsalted nuts instead of salted. I did not want to wait until I went back to the store to exchange them. I came up with this solution:

Open the can and lightly sprinkle with popcorn salt. Put the lid back on and shake lightly. You can always add more, but it is better to start with just a little. You now have salted nuts! If there is a sale on unsalted nuts, you can take advantage of the sale price. – Carol, Springfield, Ill.

**BACON HINT**

Dear Heloise: My husband and I don't use a pound of bacon before it goes bad. Now when I open a package of bacon, I pull out a sheet of waxed paper, about 18 inches long, and place a strip of bacon on a short end, fold it over, place another strip of bacon, fold it over and so on, until the last strip of bacon, and then I place it in the freezer. No need to thaw out before using. Just peel a strip of bacon off the paper and cook! – Trish, Springfield, Ill.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 8 6 3  
♥ A Q 8  
♦ J 10  
♣ A K 8 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 4  
♥ K 10 9 5  
♦ Q 8 7 5 4  
♣ 10

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 9 5  
♥ 6 4  
♦ A K 9  
♣ Q J 7 6 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 6 ♣  
Opening lead — two of hearts.

**Play It Again, Sam**

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, and this is especially true in the play of a slam contract.

This deal occurred in a match between Great Britain and Norway. When the Norwegians held the North-South cards, they reached six clubs with minimum fanfare as shown.

Certainly the contract was not bad; in fact, it was rather good. The slam depends at worst on a heart finesse, and without a heart lead, South would make 12 tricks if the opposing spades are divided 3-3.

But West did lead a heart, nullifying the possibility of establishing dummy's fourth spade. With declarer immediately confronted by the heart situation, he finessed the queen, lost to the king and later lost a spade trick to go down one.

No one will ever know whether South would have made the slam had he played differently, but there is no doubt that he misplayed the hand. He erred when he played the queen from dummy on the opening lead. Instead, he should have played the eight!

To appreciate the advantage of this play, imagine you're East and the eight is played from dummy. What would you do? Remember — you see only the dummy's cards and your own. It might not be so easy to play the nine instead of the king. South could have the jack — especially in view of his failure to finesse the queen. And if you do decide to play the king, South then has 12 iron-clad tricks.

Declarer loses nothing by trying the eight. If West has the king, the finesse can be taken just as advantageously later on. Playing the eight gives East a chance to go wrong and therefore is the right play.

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip!"

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

ES VWFCIWRP JTCHJV SETC-  
VJHTJEDY FHJCTEHQ UCTP  
HSSCMJEWJDHJCQP, FHPIC  
EJ'V JEDRCT-QWUEDY MHTC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE METAL BUCKLE ON THIS PANTS SUPPORTER HAS BECOME SO CORRODED THAT I CALL IT THE RUST BELT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
1 Wood-shaping tool  
4 Peruse  
8 This and that  
12 "Ostentatious?"  
13 Canal city  
14 Finished  
15 Hostel  
16 "No Place That Far" singer  
18 Summarize  
20 Calendar abbr.  
21 Sci-fi knight  
24 Grit one's teeth  
28 Arabian nomads  
32 Vocal come-back  
33 Lawyers' org.  
34 Dutch bloom  
36 Cage component  
37 Bigfoot's cousin
- DOWN**  
1 Eastern potentate (Var.)  
2 Finished  
3 Galvanizing material  
4 Aretha classic  
5 Historic time  
6 Melody  
7 Un-hearing  
8 Of cattle  
9 Eggs  
10 X rating?  
11 Day divs.  
17 Work unit  
19 1977 Steely Dan album  
22 — ex machina  
23 Relative by marriage  
25 Farm fraction  
26 Con's weapon  
27 Vagrant  
28 Puts into words  
29 First victim  
30 — tat-tat  
31 Paddock papa  
35 Sun-shade  
38 To the center  
40 Lustrous black  
42 Talk on and on  
45 Challenge  
47 "Metamorphoses" poet  
48 Schnozz  
49 "Desire Under the —"

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 6-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19				20			
			21				22			
28	29	30					31			
33			34				35			
37			38				39			
41			42				43			
			44				45			
50	51	52					53			
56							57			
59							60			