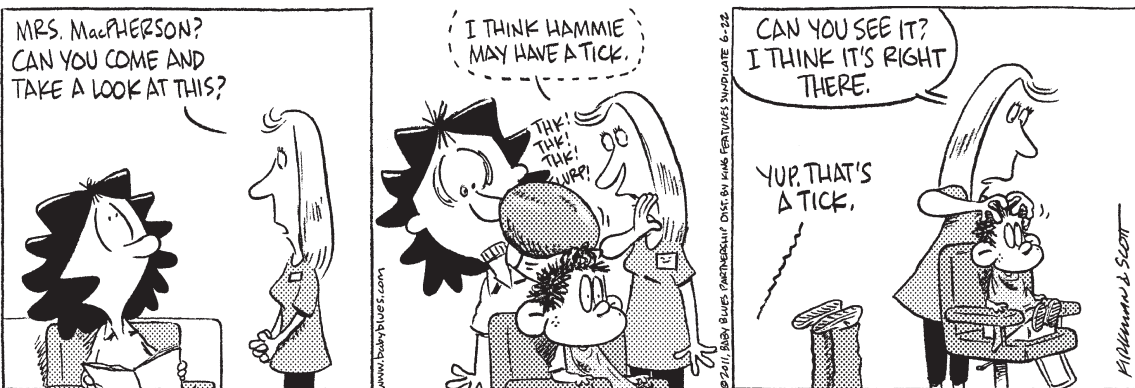


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



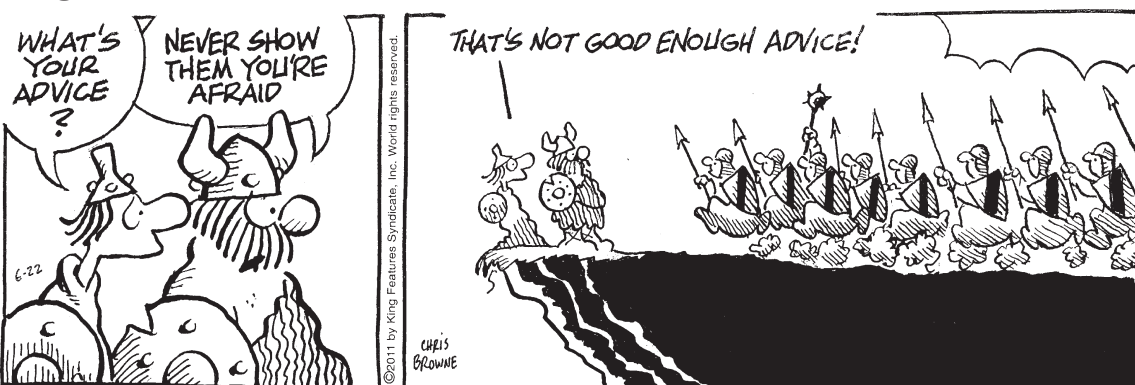
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



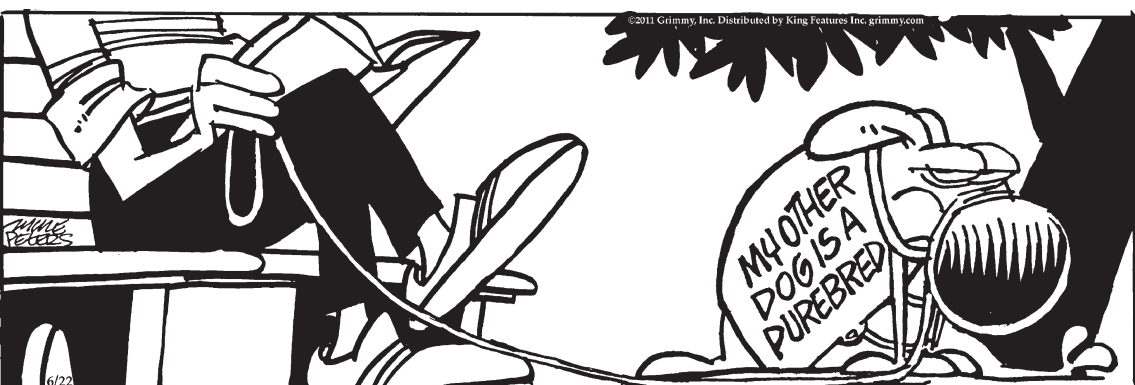
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**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

**Club waffles real family hit**

Dear Heloise: Several years ago, you had a recipe for WAFFLES MADE WITH CLUB SODA that would freeze really well. Is it possible to print the recipe again? – Rose D., Warren, Ohio  
 Rose, I would be happy to share the Heloise Club Waffle recipe, which is a real favorite with you and other readers, as it is one of the most requested. These are fun to make, and they save a few calories since you are eliminating the milk. Here is what you will need:

- 2 cups good biscuit mix
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/3 cups club soda

Combine the above ingredients with a large spoon, but don't overmix. Use the batter immediately, since if it sits, it will go flat. Add to a hot waffle iron and voilà – light, fluffy, yummy waffles for everyone to enjoy! Go ahead and use all of the batter to make pancakes or waffles. Freeze waffles for a quick, yummy breakfast later. Just reheat. – Heloise

P.S.: Try these on a Sunday when the family has time to watch!

**COFFEE HINTS**

Dear Readers: Start your day off with a cup of coffee? Here are some Heloise hints about storage that you might not know:

- The right storage is important in order to ensure a good cup of coffee. Most coffee experts say DO NOT refrigerate or freeze coffee beans or fresh grounds, because moisture will cause deterioration. A cool, dark location in an air-tight container (preferably opaque glass) is best. So, not on the counter next to the stove or by a sunny window. Light, heat, air and moisture are the culprits that will ruin the coffee beans and grounds!
- Purchase freshly ground coffee or beans in smaller quantities, since it's best when used within one to two weeks. Beans actually begin to lose freshness right after roasting! But that may not be practical for some.

Many people do freeze or refrigerate coffee and do not have a problem. So, if that works for you, then do it. Enjoy! – Heloise

**BROWNIE CUTTER**

Dear Heloise: It was from one of your columns that I originally learned to use a plastic knife to cut brownies neatly while still in the pan (whether glass, nonstick or other). However, when cleaning out my kitchen drawer filled with all the "extras" (measuring spoons, spatulas, etc.), I found the serrated plastic knife I'd bought for cutting lettuce and thought this would be a better choice. It can be washed and reused! – Belinda S., Hammond, Ind.

**BREAKFAST TOAST**

Dear Readers: Here is a twist for a quick and healthy breakfast or snack that I like to fix: I toast a piece or two of wheat or multigrain bread, spread a thin layer of peanut butter on it, then grate a Granny Smith apple over the top. A sprinkle of cinnamon adds a zing. Wow, is it delicious! Give it a try. – Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 9 4  
 ♥ K 9 8 6  
 ♦ A J 2  
 ♣ K 10 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q J 10 2  
 ♥ 7 4  
 ♦ 10 8 3  
 ♣ Q J 7 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 7 6 5  
 ♥ 5 3  
 ♦ Q 7 5 4  
 ♣ 8 6 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 8 3  
 ♥ A Q J 10 2  
 ♦ K 9 6  
 ♣ A 9 4

The bidding:  
 North 1♣ East Pass South 1♥ West Pass  
 2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass  
 Opening lead — queen of spades.

**A Sleight-of-Hand Trick**

It goes without saying that in hands other than those intended as a sacrifice, declarer should choose the line of play that gives him the best mathematical chance for the contract.

Consider this case where the defenders win the first two spades and continue with a third spade, ruffed by South. Declarer cashes the A-Q of trumps, and the question is what to do next.

If he leads a low diamond to the jack and the finesse succeeds, he makes the contract without further ado. However, the finesse offers only a 50 percent chance of success, and if it fails, the contract will almost surely fail with it. East simply returns a diamond, and South later loses a club.

Declarer should not adopt this approach, though. Instead, he should opt for a different course that raises his chances well above the 50-50 level. A much better line is to cash the A-K of clubs and play another club. One possibility is that East will win the third club, in which case South can claim the rest of the tricks, since East will be forced to make a losing return.

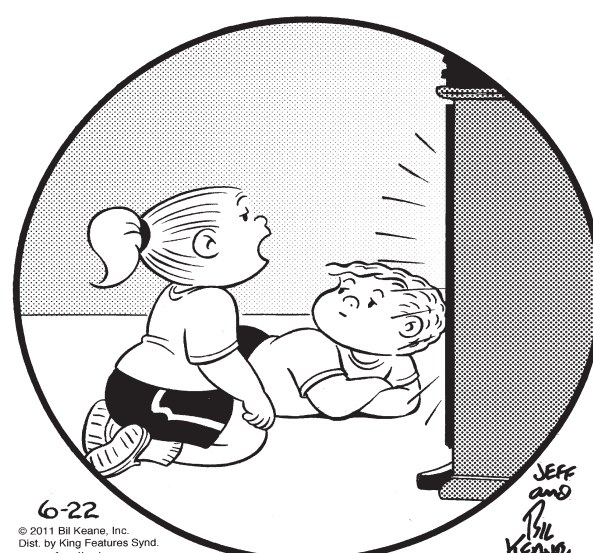
If West wins the third club, as in the actual deal, he must yield a ruff-and-discard or return a diamond – and if he has either the queen or ten of diamonds (or both), the contract also is secure.

If West has the queen, he is automatically dead. If he has the ten and leads it, covering with the jack eliminates the diamond loser, while if he leads a low diamond from the ten, declarer simply follows low from dummy, trapping East's queen.

Only if East has the queen and ten of diamonds – a 1-in-4 possibility – does the contract fail on this line of play, giving declarer much better than a 50 percent chance to get home safely.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



“Poor Daddy. When he was little he had to watch his favorite TV shows when they were actually on.”

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/22

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

**Cryptoquip**

GIX MSYX OXJUXO S MRJAVRO  
 XFF-ZSOXE EAOI AQ GIX  
 OISHX VY S OKXXUX ZSQE  
 QSLXE S OHSQAOI SJLKXG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT LONG GEOLOGIC TIME PERIOD WAS SO MONUMENTAL IN NATURE, I WOULD CALL IT AN EPIC EPOCH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Break suddenly
  - 5 \$ dispenser
  - 8 Actress Sorvino
  - 12 Luxurious city
  - 13 Carnival ending
  - 15 Not domestic
  - 17 Bridge out
  - 18 Checked out
  - 19 Old Portuguese money
  - 21 Praise in verse
  - 22 Carpet style
  - 23 Sapporo sash
  - 26 Lab goings-on (Abbr.)
  - 28 Dada artist Max
  - 31 Weaponry
  - 33 Anti-quated
  - 35 Of planes and such
  - 36 Phi Beta —
- DOWN**
- 1 Skewer
  - 2 Iditarod terminus
  - 3 Venomous vipers
  - 4 Pic
  - 5 Erte's style
  - 6 Dead heat
  - 7 Fashions enhancer
  - 8 Eyelash
  - 9 Attacked verbally
  - 10 Peruse
  - 11 — Domini
  - 16 Cincinnati team
  - 20 That boat
  - 24 Support system?
  - 25 Made better
  - 27 Under the weather
  - 29 Spanish Mrs.
  - 30 Gift from Santa
  - 32 Husband and wife
  - 34 Very inexpressive
  - 37 1970 Jackson 5 hit
  - 39 — nitrate
  - 42 Hindu destruction god
  - 44 Switch type
  - 45 Snatch
  - 46 Move, in Realtor-speak
  - 48 Met melody
  - 49 Repair
  - 50 Probability
  - 53 Hr. fraction

Solution time: 21 mins.

PEP	WAY	ALSO								
RUIN	ETA	NOON								
OREO	BOZ	YULE								
WORTH	POET									
	HUG	OTHERS								
JANITOR	CIVIL									
UPON	DAM	NICE								
LEDGED	JUGGLED									
EXEDRA	GIG									
	OATH	NOBLE								
DELIT	LAP	SELUL								
AVON	ARE	SEGA								
YEGG	SPA	DEN								

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		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
		41			42		43		44	
45	46					47			48	49 50
51					52	53				
54					55				56	
57					58				59	