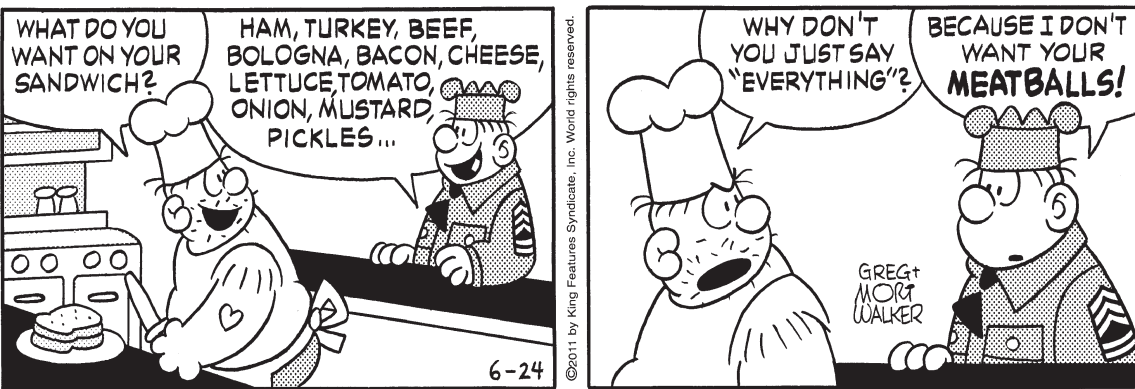


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



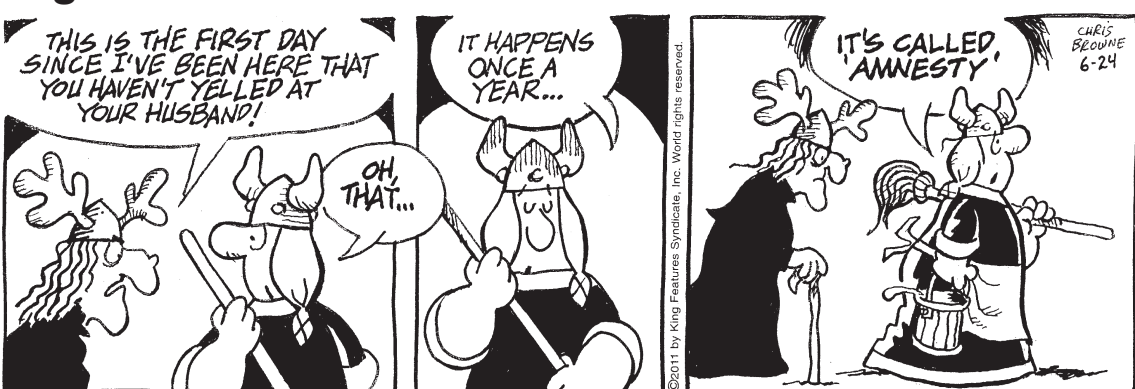
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



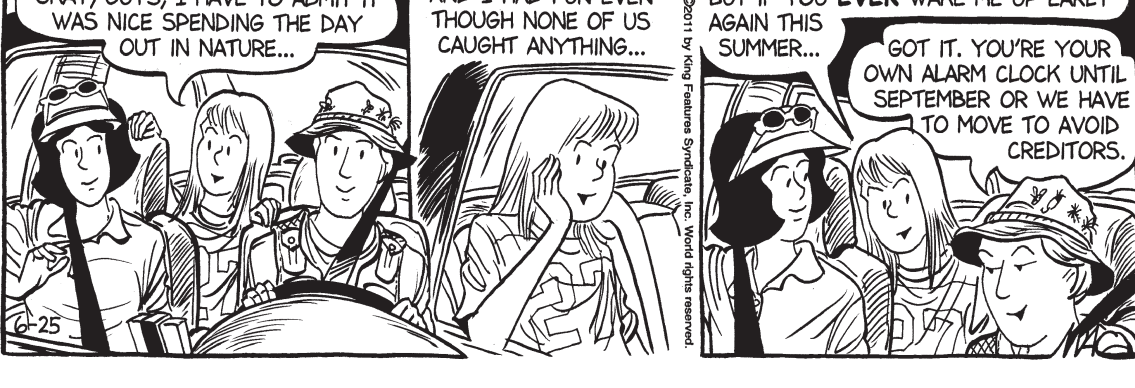
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



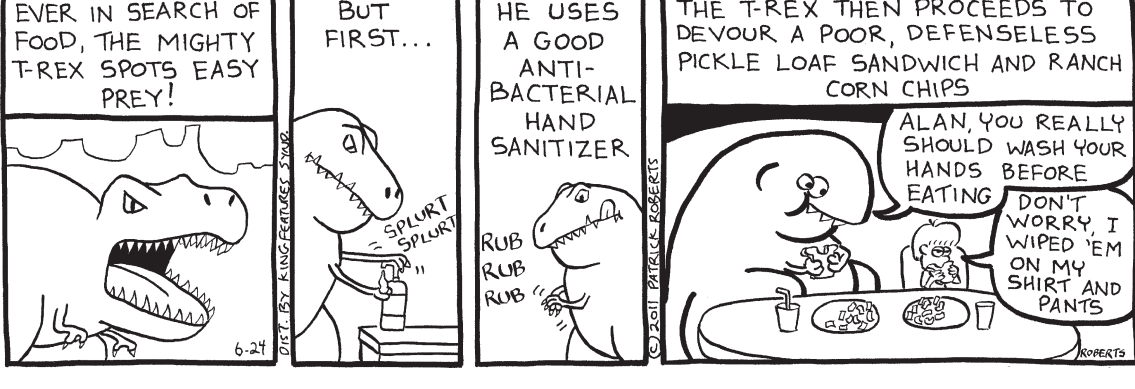
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Bedbugs came in dry cleaning

Dear Heloise: I have a big problem! I sent my king-size bedspread to the dry cleaner to be dry-cleaned. I got it back, and as I was putting it on the bed, a couple of dead BEDBUGS fell on my clean bed. I rolled up the bedspread immediately and put it back in its plastic container. Do I take it back to the dry cleaner, and if so, then will I be assured that all the bugs are gone? — Lynne M., Plano, Texas

First of all, you need to be sure that they truly are bedbugs. They often can be mistaken for fleas or ticks. The Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov) has a link on its website that can help you identify bedbugs. We checked with a couple of dry cleaners, and both said they would gladly dry-clean a bedspread again if this situation happened at their store. You certainly could take it to be cleaned again, but since the bugs that fell out were dead, it probably wouldn't do anything further. You may want to put the bedspread in the dryer on high heat (as an added protection), since heat is the only true killer of these pests, according to research. — Heloise

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

TRAVEL HINT
Dear Heloise: Before I go on a trip where I will be traveling through the airport and ending at a hotel, I always make sure to have several dollars in \$1 denominations with me for tipping. People in the service industry work very hard, and they appreciate a tip. I also always tip the folks who clean my hotel room. — Karon, via email

FOAM DISPENSER
Dear Heloise: I filled my foam soap dispenser per your advice. However, I need to let you know that you should not use any soap with particles in it. The little beads clog up the pump, and it will not work. They are difficult to remove. The soap needs to be clear. — Diana, via email

You're right. For others who want to do this, the ratio is 1 part soap to 5 parts water. — Heloise

CHECK PROTECTOR
Dear Heloise: Mistakenly write on the plastic check protector in your checkbook? Place a sticker or two on the protector, and it will remind you to move the protector between checks. — Suzanne Hackett, Texarkana, Texas

EASY TO HANDLE
Dear Heloise: I buy my shampoo in an extra-large size, which is too much to handle. So I purchased a pump from the beauty-supply store. The pump is too much to handle in our luggage on trips, so I purchased ketchup and mustard squeeze bottles from the dollar store. It's the perfect size, and is easy to fill. — Barb Walker, via email

A FRIEND
Dear Readers: When you are shopping at an independent or specialty store, get to know the staff. Salespeople often have the inside scoop on trends. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

These are double-dummy problems, which means you're allowed to look at all four hands while trying to find the solution.
1. You are declarer with the South hand at Six Clubs, and West leads the king of spades. How would you play the hand?

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 7 5 4 3
♥ A
♦ A K
♣ Q 3 2

WEST
♠ K Q J 2
♥ 8 7 6 5
♦ Q 6 5 4 3
♣ —

EAST
♠ A 6
♥ J 10 9 4 3 2
♦ J 7 6 5 4
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ K Q
♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ A K J 10 9 8

Two Double-Dummy Problems
1. About as good a way as any -- even if you don't see the East-West hands -- is to ruff the spade lead and play four rounds of trumps, discarding the ace of hearts from dummy! Then cash the K-Q of hearts, discarding dummy's A-K of diamonds! Your housecleaning done, concede the jack of diamonds to the queen, and the rest of the tricks are yours.
2. You are on lead with the South hand. Diamonds are trump, and you must win all six tricks. (This is not an easy problem to solve.)

NORTH
♠ A 8
♥ J 10
♦ J 2
♣ —

WEST
♠ K J
♥ A 9
♦ —
♣ Q 4

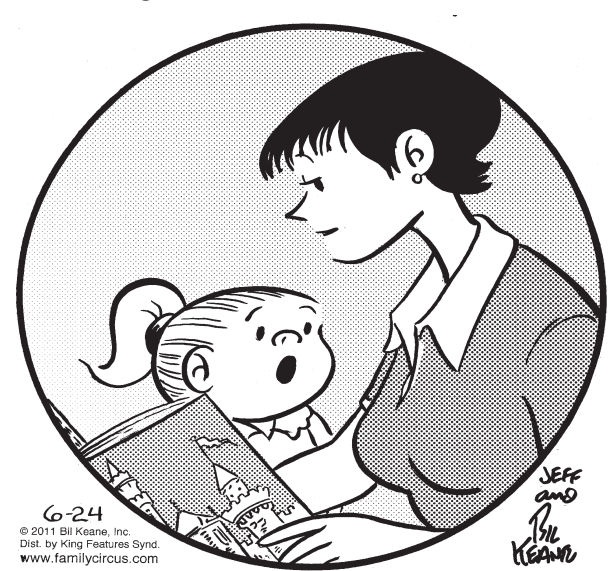
EAST
♠ Q
♥ K 10
♦ —
♣ 10 8 3

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ Q J
♦ —
♣ A K 9

2. Cash the ace of clubs, playing the jack from dummy as a preparatory move for a possible finesse later on. Next, ruff the queen of hearts in dummy and lead the jack of diamonds. East can do no better than discard the queen of spades as you also discard a spade. West, who cannot spare a spade or a club, is forced to discard the ace of hearts. When you next cash the ace of spades, East is squeezed and must either allow you to score the jack of hearts or the nine of clubs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



6-24
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www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/24

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.

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

VGKKNVEJR XNG EJYPTHPTP
TGZPOX IY HNGT EJ YCP
SNTJEJR, EV YCIY YCP
SPZZOP NH YCP JERCY?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RIGHT AFTER THE MILKMAN FINISHED HIS SPLENDID STAGE PERFORMANCE, HE TOOK A CARTON CALL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
40 Journey segment
41 Pueblo structures
45 Stereo bookings
48 Manicurist's concern
50 Alkali neutralizer
51 Out of the storm
52 Rage to film
53 Apportionment
54 Citi Field team
55 Started stupidly
20 Opposite of bellum
1 Physicist Niels
2 Highland hillside

DOWN
3 Penny organ
5 Hepatic organ
6 Con-sumed
7 Pennsylvania city
8 Gather gradually
9 Charged bit
10 Head of st.
11 Firmament
16 Stared stupidly
23 Tournament component
25 "Hey, you!"
26 Cleanse
27 Ottoman VIP
28 Acute
29 Drone
32 Summer dress
33 Bruckner or Chekhov
35 Mr. Six-Pack
36 Marsh plants
38 Coast
39 DHS Secretary Napolitano
42 Release money
43 Greenland
44 Snow transport
45 Scenery chews
46 Lemieux milieu
47 Healthy
49 Hearty brew

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-24

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				