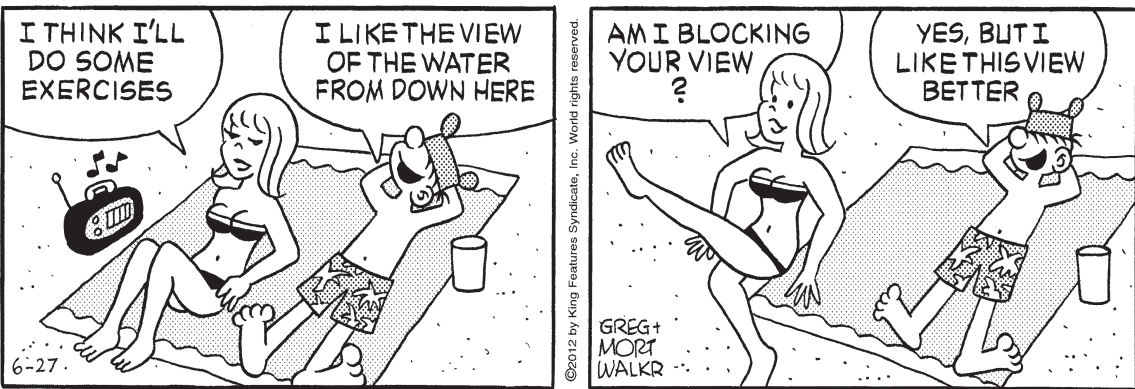


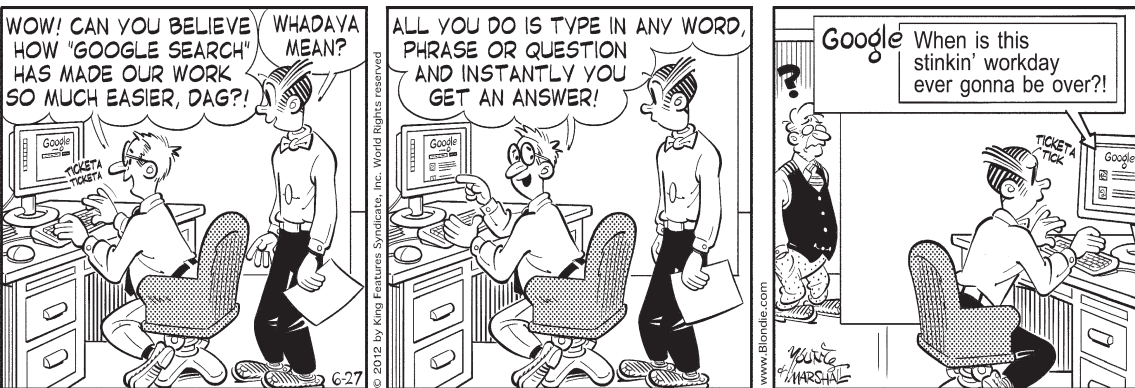
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



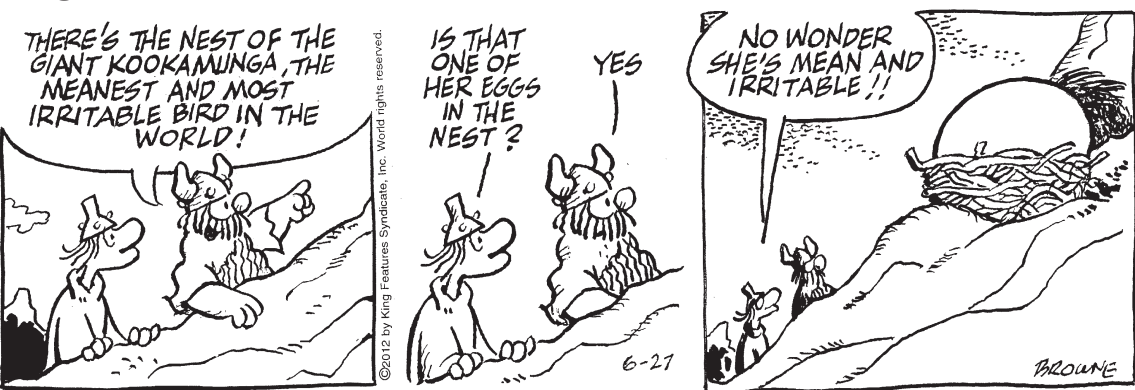
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



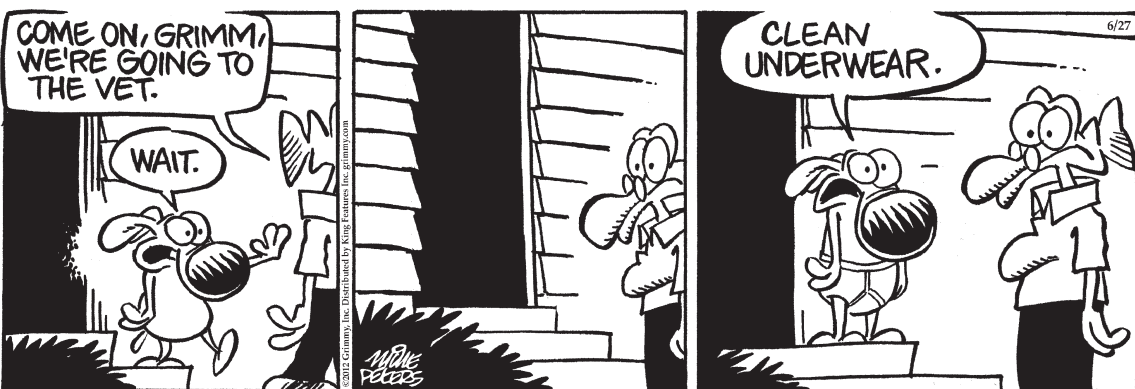
Blondie • Chic Young



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

Old sponges do more dirty jobs

Dear Heloise: Are there any recycling ideas for used kitchen sponges? I buy the kind with the sponge on one side and scrubber on the other. I use one for a couple of weeks (regularly disinfecting it with bleach), but hate to throw it away when I replace it. — Judy S. in Florida

Yes, Judy, there are a couple of things you can do. A lot of readers "downgrade" kitchen sponges and make them the bathroom sponge for cleaning the showers and toilets. Be sure to snip a corner to identify the sponge.

You also can use the sponge only for floor spot cleaning. Just make sure you remember what function the sponge is now serving, and place it where it isn't accidentally used for its old kitchen duties. Ick! — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
 Heloise
 P.O. Box 795000
 San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
 E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

LETTER OF LAUGHTER

Dear Heloise: I always see what you have to say in your column before I read the obits. Here's a hint: Make your husband's favorite meal, including dessert, before announcing a disaster! — Sarah C., San Antonio

Sarah, glad you read me before the obits, and hope you won't see me there! — Heloise

EGG CARTONS

Dear Heloise: I thought I would share some fun ways to use egg cartons. Just be sure that the egg cartons are clean and don't have residue before using them around the house:

- An excellent kindling (Heloise here: the paper ones — not the plastic or foam cartons) for those who enjoy grilling. The air space in the carton and quick-to-burn paper make an egg carton an excellent choice for starting your fire.
- Golf balls are just the right size for fitting into an egg carton, so you will know exactly where the balls are.
- Egg-carton cups are the perfect size for sprouting seeds. Put a little dirt in each cup, along with a seed. — Spencer M., via e-mail

BEAN DIP

Dear Heloise: Bean dip has become so pricey I have found a way to have the same great dip at a lower cost. I take a can of vegetarian refried beans and add 1 teaspoon of taco seasoning mix. Just stir it up and enjoy. The cans are twice the size of regular bean-dip cans, so I freeze half and thaw it in the microwave. — E.P. in Lubbock, Texas

Love it, and I do almost the same thing! I add some hot sauce or a teaspoon of chili powder. I always have several cans in the pantry to be able to fix dip quickly if needed. — Heloise

KEEP FRESH

Dear Heloise: My husband and I like to buy 2-liter bottles of soda, but have trouble drinking it before it goes flat. We have found that if you squeeze the air out and put the lid on tightly, the fizz stays much longer! — Mary M., via e-mail

(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ A K 3
 ♦ A K J 5
 ♣ Q 8 6

WEST
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ 10 8 6
 ♦ 10 9 8 7
 ♣ A J 9 2

EAST
 ♠ J 8 7 4 2
 ♥ 6 4 3 2
 ♦ K 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 6
 ♥ Q 9 7 5 4 2
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 10 7 3

The bidding:
 North Pass 1♥
 East 2 NT
 South Pass 4♥
 West Pass

Opening lead — ?

Sylvia Strikes a Telling Blow

Sylvia hadn't the vaguest idea about opening leads when she started to play at the club. She had become a member shortly before the regulation was passed requiring applicants to meet a certain minimum standard of skill. This was most fortuitous for Sylvia, because she was so deficient in most areas of the game that she never would have made the grade otherwise.

Despite her shortcomings, however, Sylvia did succeed in adding some life to the game by virtue of the fact that her inexperience, combined with the unusual workings of her mind, would occasionally bring her an unexpected triumph. This in turn would cause the membership to buzz with excitement over her latest exploit.

Consider this deal, which occurred early in her career. She had just finished playing the preceding rubber with South -- one of the club's finest players -- as her partner, and he had not yet fully recovered his equilibrium when this hand was dealt.

Sylvia was West and was on lead against four hearts. Most players would probably have led the ten of diamonds with her hand, but Sylvia had not yet come to understand the advantages of the top-of-a-sequence lead.

Instead, Sylvia led the jack of clubs! With any lead but a club, South would have romped home with 13 tricks, but against this inspired lead, South found he was up against more than he could handle.

He covered the jack with the queen, and East took the king and returned a club. Sylvia scored the ace and nine, and then, apparently unaware that the deuce was the only club left, led it. East ruffed with the jack of hearts, after which poor South could not avoid losing a trump trick for down one!

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

F P X K ' C C I C X J J E A X E R I V
 C T F M M H X K L E R J I H Q V
 K Q P L J X P Q , M I T I A Q R D J J E P
 P X K A D C F C I K J Q F - X H X E .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STEALTHY JAPANESE FIGHTING GUY WHO HAPPENS TO GET FRETFUL AN AWFUL LOT: A NINJA WORRIER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

28 Wails
 30 School part org.
 33 Golf landmark
 8 Sorcerer
 10 Durable wood
 11 Obliterated
 13 Jake and Elwood
 16 Foundation
 17 Kin of linen
 18 Also
 19 Accomplishment
 20 Fragment
 21 Scrub, as a space mission
 23 Old-hat
 25 Pitcher type
 26 Taverns
 27 Petrol

DOWN

2 Teen's complex-ion
 3 Unscrupulous lawyer
 4 Yuletide rendition
 5 Playing marble
 6 Dog-sledding
 7 Competent
 8 Deserve
 9 Boil
 10 Recede
 12 R2-D2, e.g.
 14 Lake vessel
 15 Bribe
 19 Support-ing
 20 Dol. fractions
 21 Prize
 22 Suit, old-style
 23 Sand form-ation
 24 Lack
 25 Ovum
 26 Chinese dogs, for short
 28 Deli turn-over
 29 English home-work, often
 30 Pound pieces
 31 "Star"
 32 Fool
 34 Prior nights
 35 Indigent

