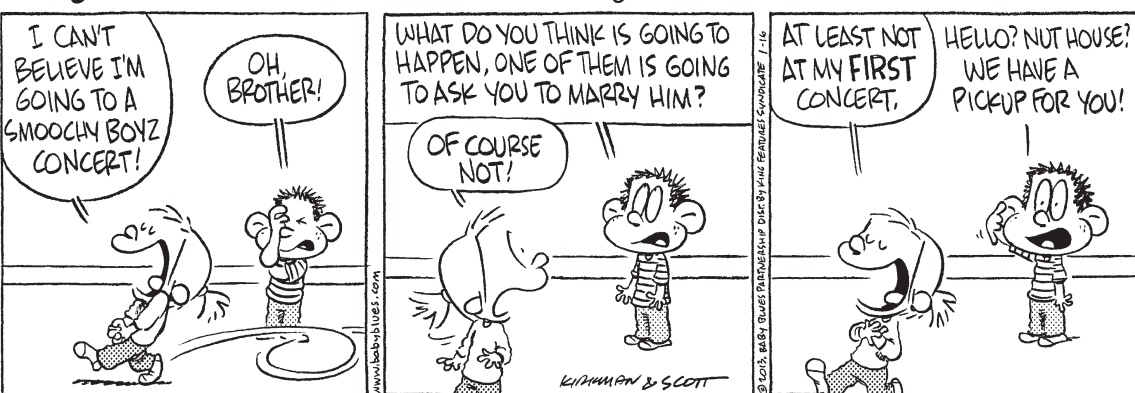
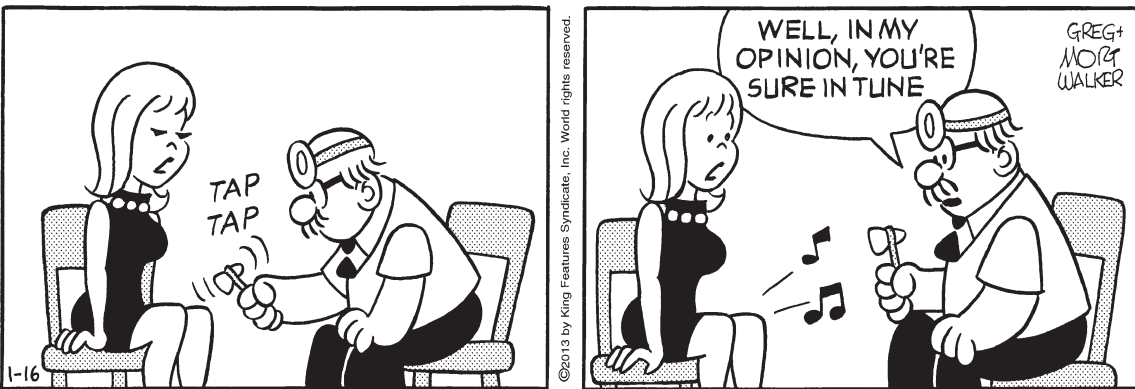


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



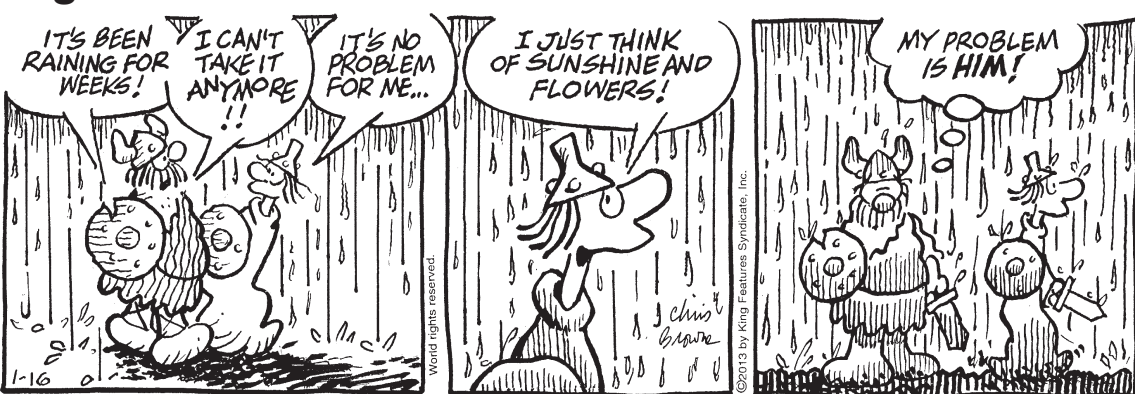
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



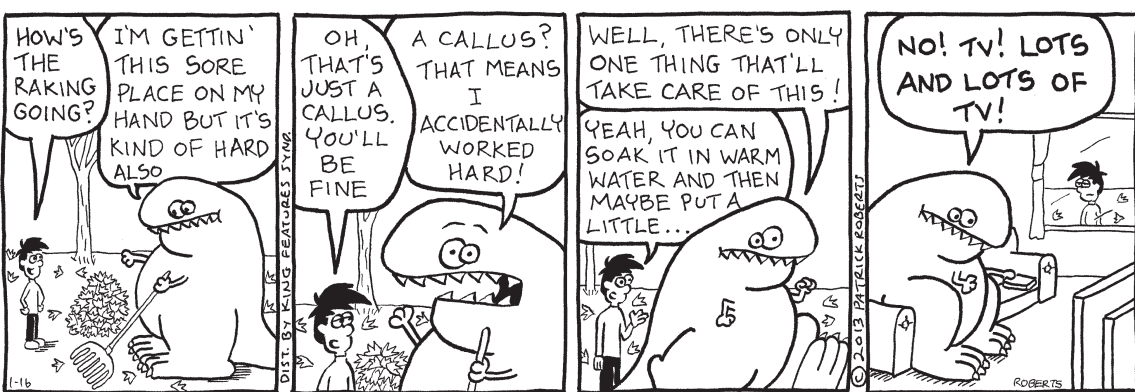
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



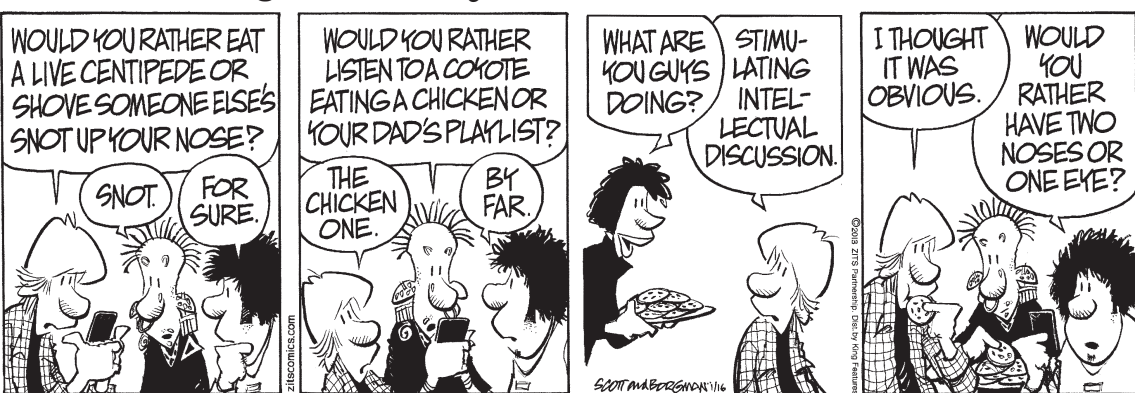
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Pre-warmed cup keeps coffee hot

Dear Heloise: I use a drip coffee maker, and my coffee loses heat as it sits in the cup. So, with the first cup, I pour hot coffee into it to pre-warm the cup. I then pour that cup back into the carafe and pour a second hot cup of coffee. The coffee stays warmer longer in the preheated cup, and the first cup is reheated in the carafe. — R.K., Columbus, Ohio

This is such a simple hint — I love it! Coffee and tea are so popular, and during the cold winter, a hot, delicious cup is the perfect treat, which is why I wrote my Heloise's Flavored Coffees and Teas pamphlet. To receive one, simply send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, Box 795001, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5001. Did you know January is National Hot Tea Month? When you make a cup of your favorite tea, stir it with a cinnamon stick for added spice flavor! — Heloise

HALF-AND-HALF

Dear Heloise: Recently, I used a recipe that called for 2 tablespoons of half-and-half. That left me with a nearly full carton. Since I'm not a coffee drinker, could you tell me some other uses for half-and-half? — Christi A., via e-mail

You can use leftover half-and-half for several things. Add it to scrambled eggs, as a substitute for cream in recipes, for chocolate ganache (an icing, decoration or glaze on desserts), or in favorite cream sauces.

You also can freeze it for up to two months. — Heloise

DON'T FORGET

Dear Readers: Here is a hint about groceries that works well in my home. When my husband or I use the last of a product, we tear off the label and leave it on the counter or put it in the clothespin attached inside the pantry door. Whoever goes to the grocery store first knows exactly what item size and brand to pick up. — Heloise

CORN BAGS

Dear Heloise: We buy our deer corn in bags that are reinforced plastic. Very sturdy! Does anyone out there reuse these bags? We use them to store items in the workshop/garage, but I have so many and would like to do something with them. Any ideas would be appreciated. — A Reader, via e-mail

They can be used to cover plants in the winter or collect leaves in. They are great as a stronger garbage bag. Also, they can be used as a second bag around birdseed or other animal food bags! — Heloise

TEA STAINS

Dear Heloise: My solution for removing tea stains from cups is using lemon juice. I buy the fake lemons with juice to leave sitting on my counter. After drinking the tea, I rinse the cup, then add a few drops of lemon juice, swish with a finger and the stain is gone. This is so simple. — Carol in Minnesota

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
Opening lead — five of hearts.

Born of Desperation

Desperate situations call for desperate measures. And although a measure born of desperation is not very likely to succeed, it might offer the only chance for survival.

Today's deal provides a case in point. There would have been no story if West had led a club against three notrump. South would have won with the jack and conceded a heart to secure nine tricks.

But West decided to lead a heart, explaining afterward that he had no side entry to his clubs even if they became established. Declarer played low from dummy and won East's nine with the king.

At this stage, South placed West with heart length, most likely including the ace. In that case, a ninth trick could be developed later by leading a heart toward the queen.

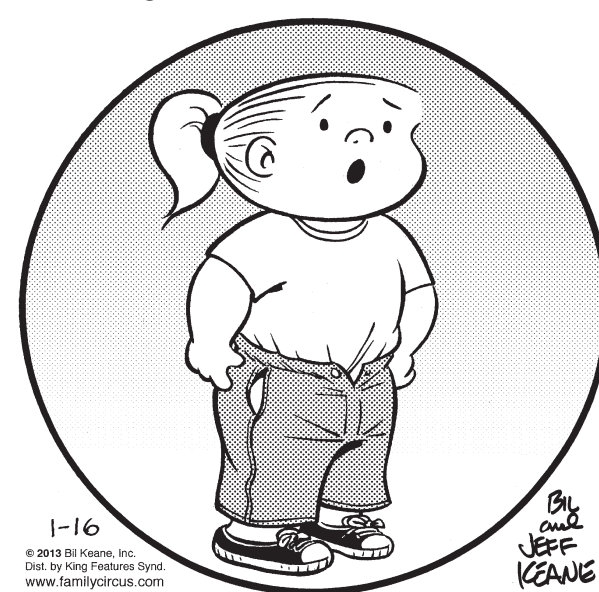
In the meantime, South reasoned, little harm could come from trying to score a trick with the jack of clubs. So at trick two, he led a club to the king and returned a club toward the A-J, planning to finesse. One can only imagine his shock when East showed out, discarding a diamond.

Since there was no point in playing the jack now — West would win and return a club to establish his suit — declarer put up the ace and mulled things over. If West had the ace of hearts, the contract could no longer be made, so South now had to assume that East held that card and could be employed. This would happen only if East could be forced into the lead with a spade without West winning a spade trick.

So after taking the ace of clubs, South cashed the ace of spades and four diamond tricks, East discarding a heart on the last diamond. Declarer then led a spade. East scored the K-Q-10 but had to lead a heart from the A-10 to dummy's queen at the end, and the contract was home.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/16

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.

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

Cryptoquip

UTXXIULMB C SIHWDH T.U.

XHDULGDME YCG UDOHDCJ

SDWCJD SIVDU, YD WLBYE

MCWD EYDW MLVIM'U OLVDMU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PIECE OF UNDENIABLE INFO IS ABOUT TO BE PRESENTED, THAT'S A HARD FACT TO FOLLOW.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rest-room, for short
 - 4 Back talk
 - 8 Blunders
 - 12 Yale student
 - 13 Friends, old style
 - 14 Manner of walking
 - 15 Gut level
 - 17 Sans siblings
 - 18 Feline
 - 19 Snake or lizard
 - 21 Untamed horse
 - 24 Apiece
 - 25 Second person
 - 26 Wheel center
 - 28 Basic assumption
 - 32 Piquancy
 - 34 Afternoon beverage
 - 36 Water conduit
 - 37 Come in
 - 39 Sprite
 - 41 Stitch

- DOWN**
- 2 Tin Man's need
 - 44 Alt-rock band, Bare-naked —
 - 46 Cheesy paper
 - 50 Make marginalia
 - 51 Vivacity, musically
 - 52 Hun opponent
 - 56 Enthusiastic
 - 57 Send forth
 - 58 Fish eggs
 - 59 Optimistic
 - 60 Antitoxins
 - 61 Agent
 - 2 Boxer Muhammad
 - 3 Baron's superior
 - 4 Draw
 - 5 Melody
 - 6 Celebrity
 - 7 Drag (Var.)
 - 8 Brag-gart's journey?
 - 9 Hindu princess
 - 10 Streamlet
 - 11 Eyelid woe
 - 16 Has the skill set
 - 20 Coatrack part
 - 21 Memory measure
 - 22 Reddish horse
 - 23 No longer stylish
 - 27 Spell-down
 - 29 Guests
 - 30 Duel tool
 - 31 Nightly telecast
 - 33 Earth science
 - 35 Every last crumb
 - 38 Carnival city
 - 40 Tex-Mex treat
 - 43 18-Across' ennead
 - 45 Follow relentlessly
 - 46 Slope
 - 47 Jason's ship
 - 48 Life stories, briefly
 - 49 Exemplar of thinness
 - 53 Round Table title
 - 54 Upper surface
 - 55 "Yoo-hoo!"



Yesterdays answer 1-17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16			19	20			
21	22		23		24					
25			26		27		28		29	30
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				60					61	