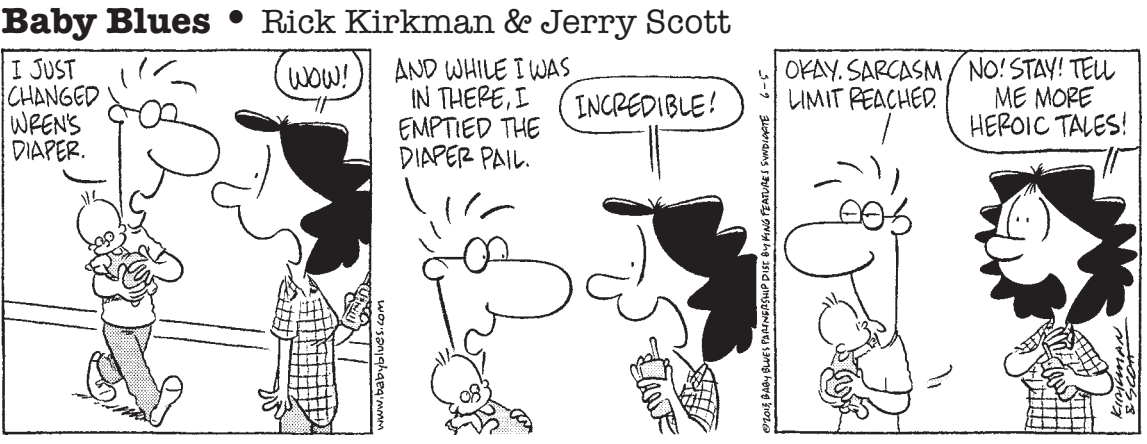
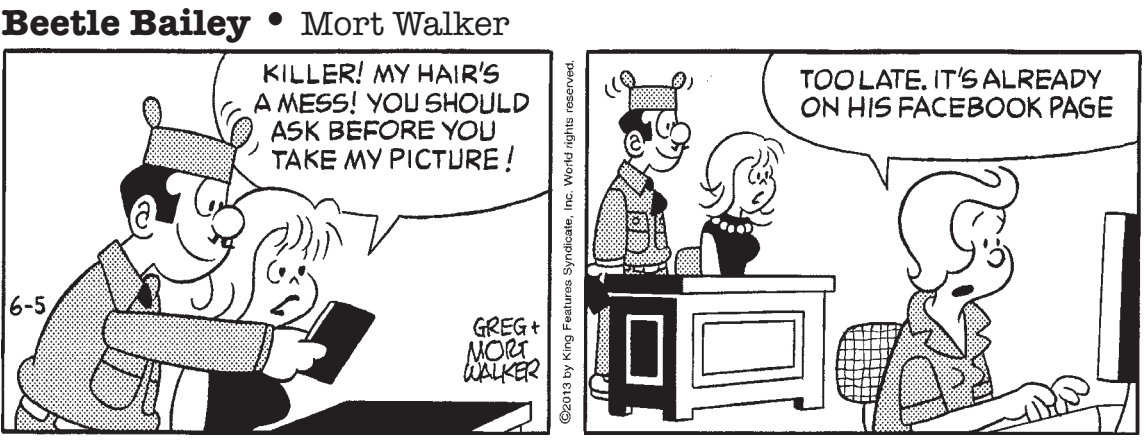
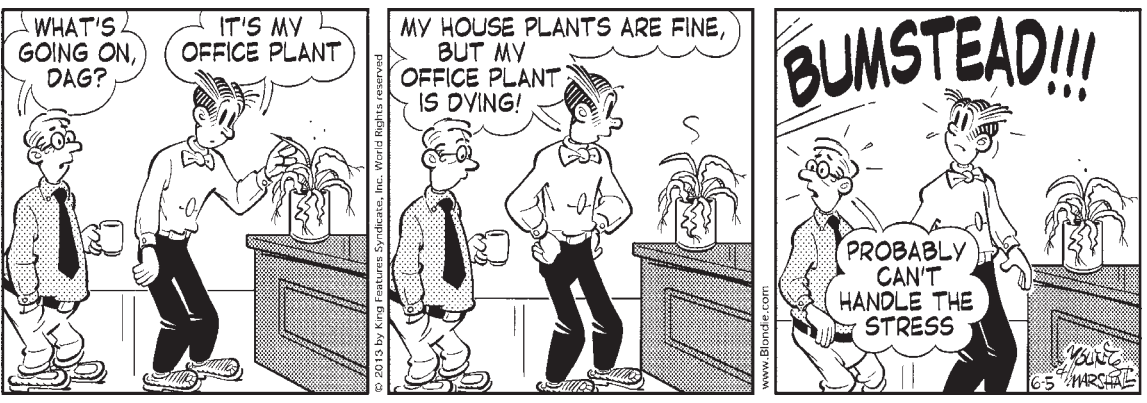
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



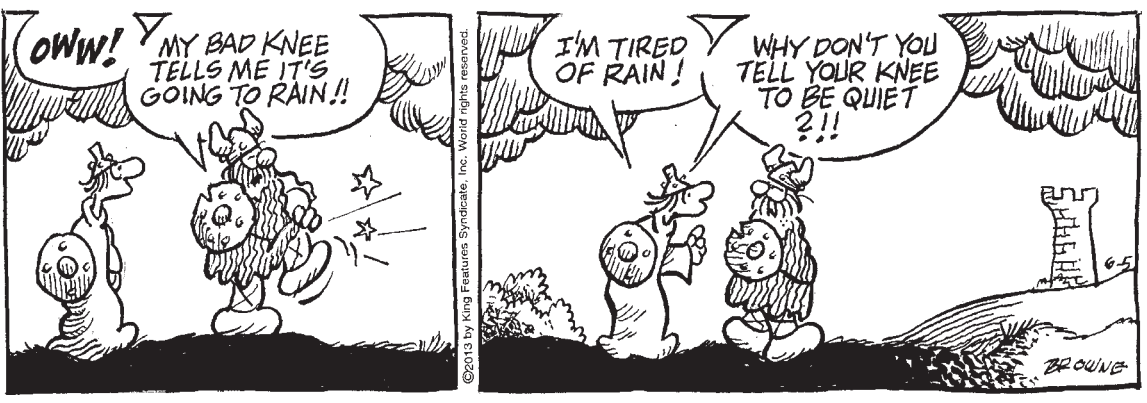
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



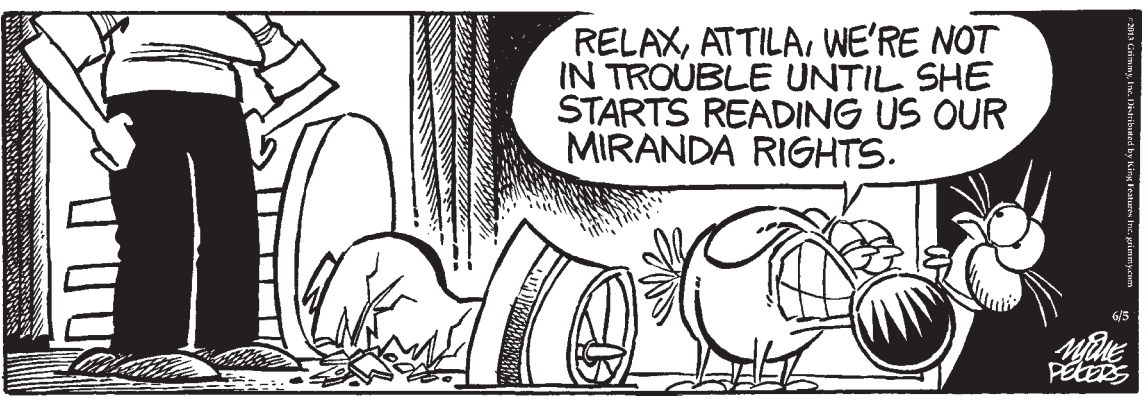
Blondie • Chic Young



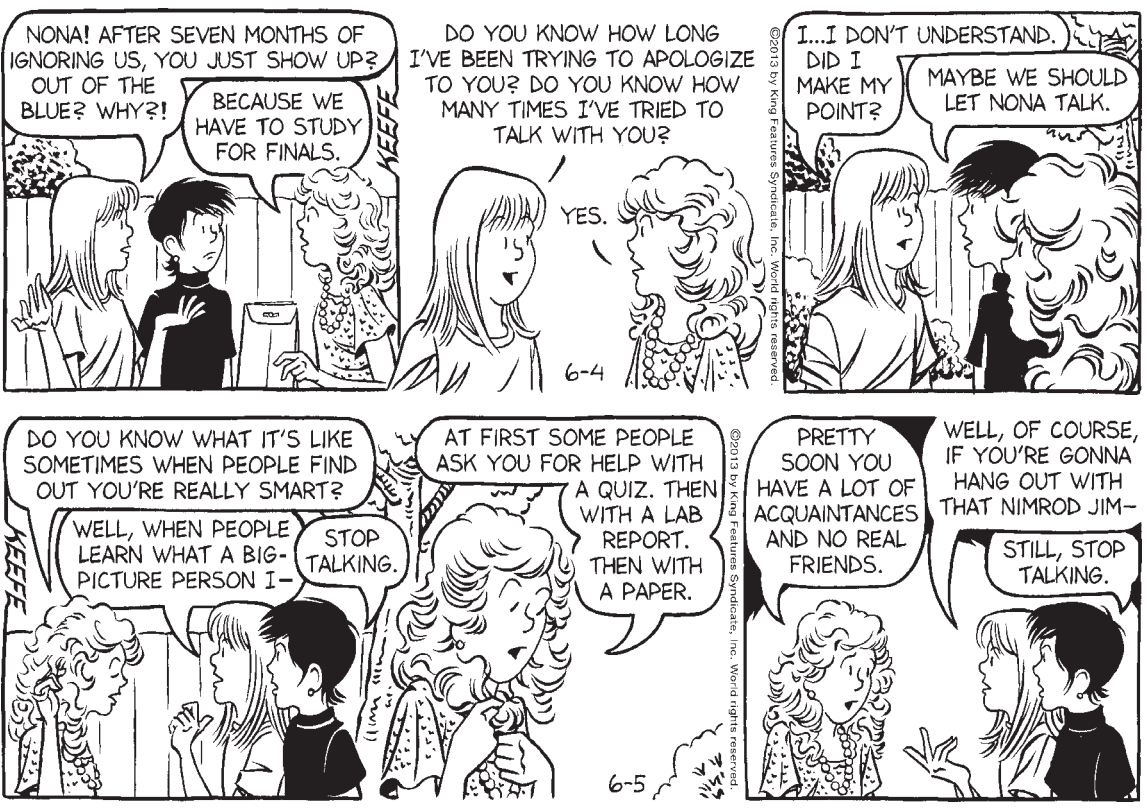
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



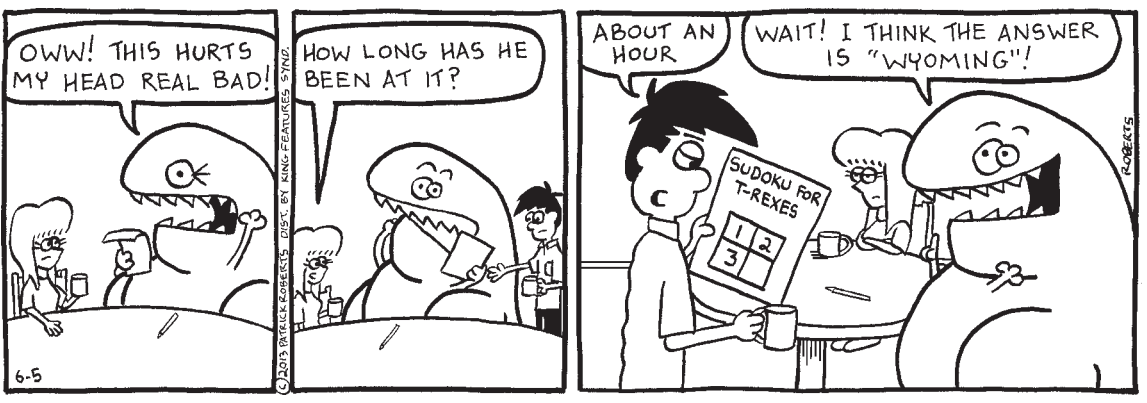
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Column's info may save lives

Dear Heloise: As a reader of *The Advocate* in Baton Rouge, La., I'm not being too dramatic when I say that you may have saved my adult daughter's life, or at the very least prevented an episode of anaphylaxis. She found out a few years ago that she's allergic to edible flowers.

Neither she nor I knew that capers were in this category until I read it in your column. That spurred further research, as it made us wonder what else out there is part of a flower that we don't know about. Thanks and appreciation, as you never know how you may help others in unexpected ways. – Glenda L. in Louisiana

P.S.: This is the second time you've helped us in this area. The other time was when you suggested carrying two EpiPens in case one malfunctioned.

Glenda, thank you for writing and sharing your story. Wow, who would have thought something as simple as "What is a caper?" would yield such great (and potentially lifesaving) information.

People often ask how topic ideas come about. Obviously from readers who send in questions or hints. But also, many ideas come from people I meet when traveling and giving speeches, or doing TV shows and working to plan a segment.

The caper question came from a reader. One of my assistants keeps them as a staple in her house, so she was happy to do the research. Guess what? No one in my office had a clue that capers are part of the flower family!

The epinephrine auto-injector idea came from the same assistant, who discovered that one of her daughters was deathly allergic to fire ants. The poor girl got bitten while at school and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Now she must keep the injectors at school and with her at all times.

If anyone reading this column is highly allergic and must keep an epinephrine auto-injector handy, you should have two available. Why? In case one doesn't work, you don't keep it in the required length of time or when used the pen malfunctions, etc.

Sometimes the "simplest" hint or question starts a journey discovering all kinds of interesting (and some not) information! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

BETTER TASTING

Dear Heloise: I eat a bran muffin every day. The store-bought muffins are dry, as are the ones I bake from a mix. What can I do to improve their taste and texture? – D.C.F. in Pennsylvania

There are a couple of things you can try when making your own from a mix. First, try substituting applesauce for the oil in the recipe at the same ratio (for example: 1 cup applesauce instead of 1 cup oil). Second, in place of liquid (milk or water), add that same amount of orange juice, apple juice or any other favorite juice. Experiment to see which tastes the best to you. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 8 4
♥ 9 5 2
♦ K Q J 9 5
♣ 10 3 2

EAST
♠ J 9 7 2
♥ 10 7 6 4 3
♦ 8
♣ 9 8 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 6
♥ A Q J
♦ A 10 3
♣ A K 7

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	3 NT	Pass	6 NT

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Exploratory Process

Counting out a hand might be thought of by some as a difficult exercise, but the fact is that the process is fairly easy, and anyone who can count to 13 should be able to meet the challenge.

Assume you're in six notrump and West leads the king of diamonds. When dummy appears, you can count 11 sure tricks, and your problem is to find a 12th. The only suit that offers any real hope of producing an extra trick is spades, where you have a reasonably good chance to make four tricks instead of three.

Scoring a fourth spade trick might appear to be simply a matter of finding the suit divided 3-3 or dropping the singleton or doubleton jack, but there's much more to it than that. To begin with, you should duck the king of diamonds as the first step in a campaign to learn all you possibly can about the distribution of the adverse cards.

Let's say West continues with the queen of diamonds, on which East discards a heart. The wisdom of holding off on the previous trick immediately becomes apparent because you quickly learn that West started with five diamonds and East with only one.

After taking the second diamond with the ace, you test the East-West distribution still further by cashing three hearts and four clubs, in the course of which you learn that West started with three hearts and three clubs, as well as five diamonds.

With 11 of West's 13 cards now accounted for in those three suits, he cannot have started with more than two spades. Accordingly, you cash the ace of spades, cross back to the king and then lead dummy's last spade. When East produces the nine, you finesse the ten with absolute certainty that it will win the trick.

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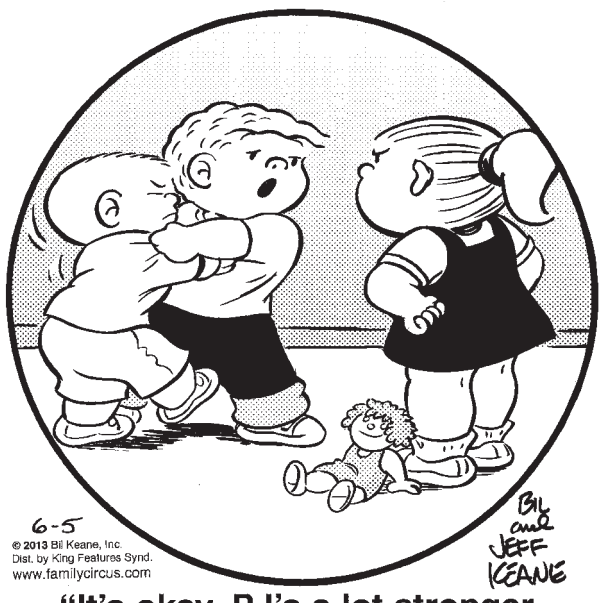
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"It's okay. PJ's a lot stronger than he looks."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/05

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 6/03

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Cryptoquip

Y B I B U A N M D U B F Y A E B C T B F A N B L A D U B P E Q L B L D T W B I A C B F N A P K A E F J F Y A K F N- F Y A L L M L A B J: "E B M W D C Q."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACCLAIMED AMERICAN NOVELIST WHO LOVES TO WRITE ALL ABOUT SOUP COOKED IN STOCK: PHILIP BROTH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Autumn mo.
4 "— Breckinridge"
8 Drag along
12 That girl
13 Quite some time
14 Shrek is one
15 Remiss
16 Flattery
18 Eye-related
20 Marry
21 Hen pen
24 Famous
28 Flowering vine
32 Clinton veep
33 Standard
34 Billow
36 Watch chain
37 Sister of Osiris
39 Grump
41 Eighth Greek letter
43 Rip
44 Historic period
46 Healthy
50 Dairy item
55 Aye opponent
56 Heap
57 Carte
58 Conk out
59 Choir member
60 Vail gear
61 On in years

DOWN
1 Norway's capital
2 Fellow
3 Libretto
4 Team animals?
5 Evergreen type
6 Caviar, really
7 From the start
8 Frank
9 — Khan
10 Web address
11 Albanian money
17 Coffee break hour
19 Lemieux milieu
22 Piece of work
23 1992 presidential candidate
25 Bean curd
26 Cupid's alias
27 Society newbies
28 Skewer
29 Launder
30 One of HOMES
31 Chills and fever
35 Dutch Renaissance scholar
38 Audiophile's setup
40 Expert
42 Joan of —
45 Weaponry
47 Loosen
48 Catch red-handed
49 Changed the color
50 Hot tub
51 Painter's medium
52 Last (Abbr.)
53 "A mouse!"
54 Blackbird

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

Yesterday's answer 6-5

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				■	60				■	61		