

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



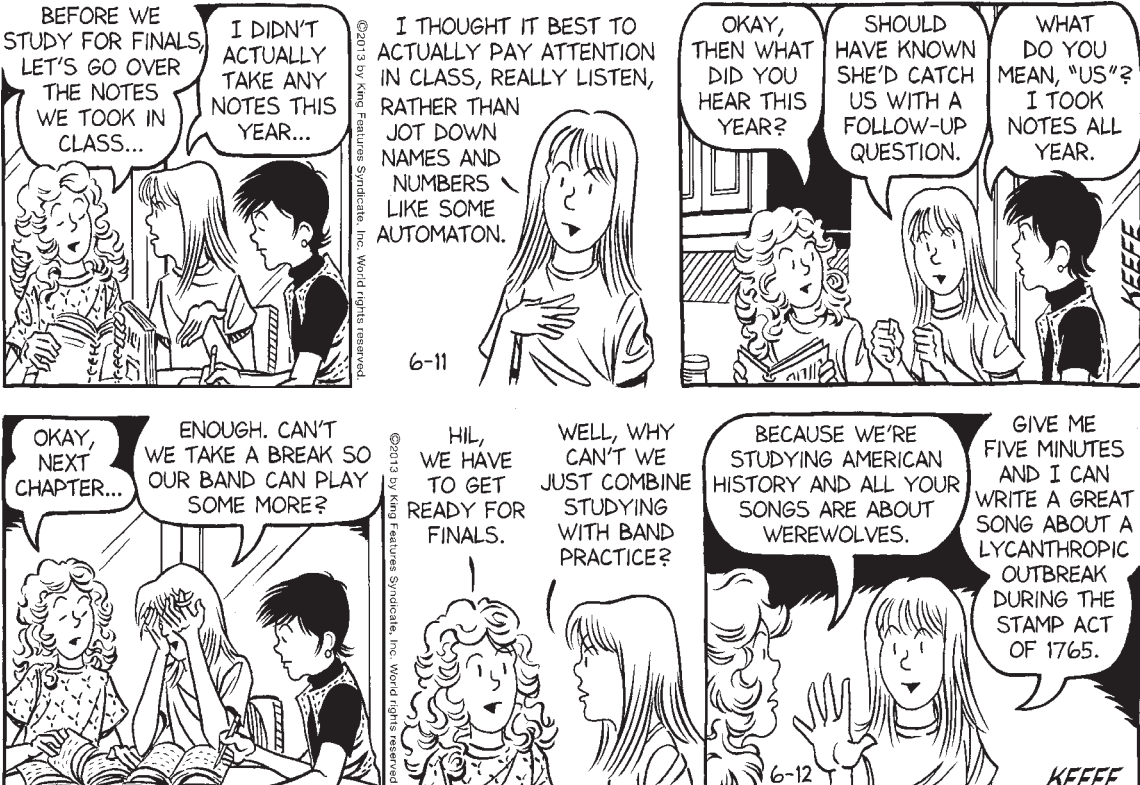
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Pre-cut foods cost you more

Dear Readers: If you are a busy, working mom or dad, it's quick and easy to buy fruits and vegetables that are already washed, cut up and ready to use. It does save time in the kitchen, but it costs more to buy produce, vegetables or shredded cheeses in these prepackaged servings. If you are on a budget and are watching your money, these items can put a big dent in how much you spend on food. Pre-cut costs a lot more than produce you buy whole! You are paying for the labor, packaging required and transportation to stores while keeping it fresh. Is the cost worth the time you are saving by staying out of the kitchen? It may or may not be. There are some examples where buying ready-to-use may be cheaper. For example: pomegranate juice. The juice is more costly to make yourself because of the number of pomegranates needed to get the same amount that you buy ready-to-drink. I've tried this, and it's a process. With fresh pomegranates available only a few months of the year, the only way to buy the seeds or juice the rest of the year is prepackaged. During your next shopping trip, comparison-shop, and check the price difference. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
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SPICE SUBSTITUTE
 Dear Readers: If you enjoy some "heat" in your cooking, then you most likely have cayenne pepper in your spice rack or cabinet. But what if you run out? Here are some easy substitutes:
 • Any bottled hot sauce.
 • Red pepper flakes (you even can grind them before adding).
 • Chili powder or dried chopped chilies.
 • Crushed Thai pepper.

If you are cooking for others and they are not as crazy about spicy food, hot sauce is the best choice. They can add as much, or as little, as they want right before eating. — Heloise

SEPARATING EGGS
 Dear Heloise: Is it better to separate eggs while they are cold or when they are room-temperature? — Cindy L., via e-mail

Good question! Most food experts agree that a cold egg is easier to separate, because the yolk won't "break" when cold. However, most recipes call for room-temperature eggs, so what do you do? Separate the eggs while cold and cover with plastic until they are room-temperature. — Heloise

SIMPLE SALSA
 Dear Heloise: Ever needed some quick salsa? Here is my hint: Drain the liquid from a can of diced tomatoes with green chilies. Take a small electric drink mixer and run it up and down a few times in the can. Voilà! Instant salsa. Also, the mixer fits nicely in the can, so you don't mess up another dish. — Roger S. in Texas

Love it! Perfect for chips and salsa at lunch-time in Heloise Central! — Heloise
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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 10 6 4 3
 ♥ 10 9 8 3
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ 7

WEST
 ♠ J 9 7 2
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ A K Q J 8 5 3

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A 8
 ♥ A Q J 5 4
 ♦ Q 10 9 3
 ♣ 4 2

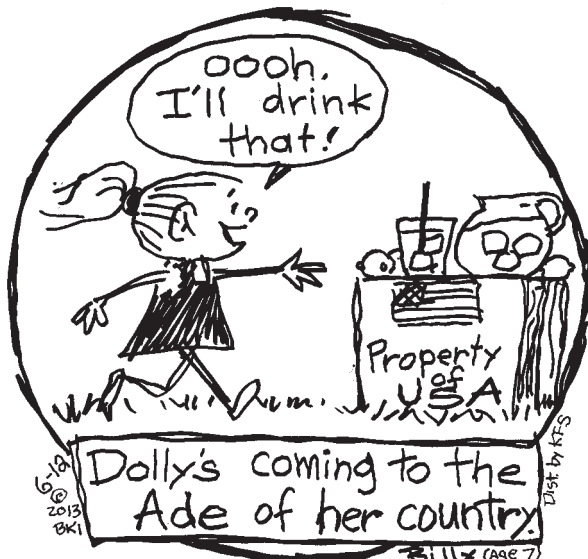
The bidding:
 West North East South
 1♥ 2♣ 3♦ 3♥
 4♣ 4♥ 5♣ Dble
 Pass 5♥ Dble

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Bridge Is a Logical Game
 Bridge is as much a game of inference and logic as it is of mathematics. Declarer can often deduce the distribution of the unseen hands by assessing what the defenders either did or did not do during the bidding or play. Take this case where West leads the king of clubs and continues with the ace. Declarer ruffs in dummy and loses a trump finesse to West's king. Back comes a trump, won by South with the jack. Declarer thereupon plays the ace and another spade and, after West follows low, finesses the ten! South then discards all four of his diamonds on dummy's spades and so makes five hearts doubled. Without the finesse, he would go down one.

How can South possibly know to take the second-round spade finesse? Is this just a matter of luck, or is there a sound basis for the deep finesse? The answer is that South knows the finesse will win. He reaches this conclusion by correctly interpreting the opponents' bidding and play. Let's see what South knows about the opposing hands when he reaches the point of decision at trick six. Declarer's only sure knowledge is that each defender had precisely two hearts. But South can also rationally conclude that West would have led a diamond at either trick two or trick four if he had one, and that his failure to do so proves that he is void of diamonds. This gives East seven diamonds, the two hearts he has already played and — since he raised clubs during the bidding — at least three clubs, leaving him with at most one spade. Therefore, West must have precisely four spades after East follows to the first spade. No other distribution is possible. (c)2013 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Little Billy continues to be a substitute cartoonist so Daddy can have the week off.

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

IOBNCDO M HNJXOT XU EUH
 FUH LCBF IOOZ XFO TMJOV
 TMDF FNT, M NDEOT
 "HFNX'D MJ MX ZUV LONX?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT LONDON JOCKEY'S HORSE IS JUST BEING TREMENDOUSLY BAD. IT KEEPS CHOMPING AT THE BRIT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Amor-phous mass
 5 Pouch
 8 Con job
 12 Portrayal
 13 Id counterpart
 14 Actress Jessica
 15 "The danger has passed"
 17 Borscht ingredient
 18 Shelton or Lively
 19 Chopping spree?
 21 Breakfast for many
 24 Jam ingredient?
 25 Treaty
 28 Teeny bit
 30 Cow's chaw
 33 Ostrich's cousin
 34 Small chalkboard
 35 Work with
 36 Suitable

DOWN
 1 Snatch
 2 Take to the hammock
 3 —
 4 St. Thomas
 5 Witness
 6 —
 7 Stopper
 8 Israeli indigene
 9 Unambiguous
 10 Help a hood
 11 Partner segment
 16 Journey
 20 Pinnacle
 22 Big bash
 23 Rise
 25 Pod

SP **AR** **AB** **S** **MP**
URN **RENEE** **EON**
MODERNIZE **CPA**
LAD **ESCH** **AW**
FAMINE **LALA**
OVA **TRY** **WANER**
COGS **SET** **DIVE**
TINNER **SOD** **ZED**
ECHO **TIMERS**
CATS **SUP** **ERA**
ALI **MESMERIZE**
VIZ **BAOIL** **DIN**
AITE **SAUCY** **OPT**

Yesterday's answer 6-12

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		