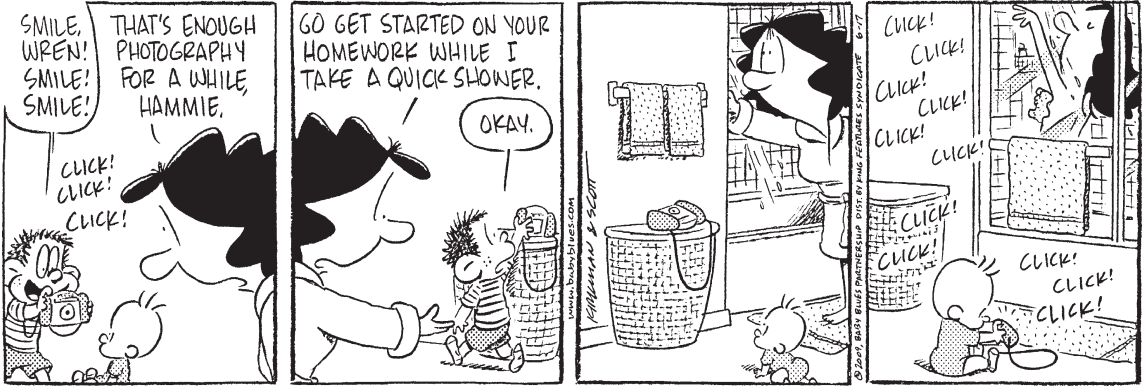


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



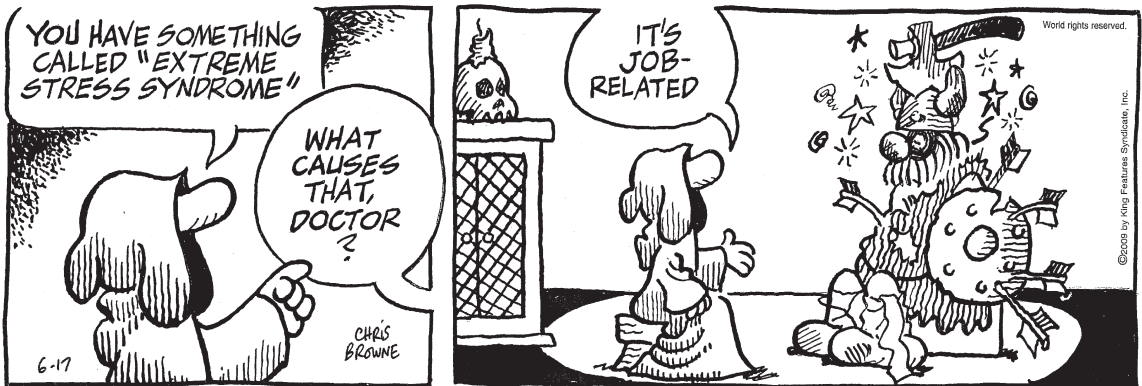
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



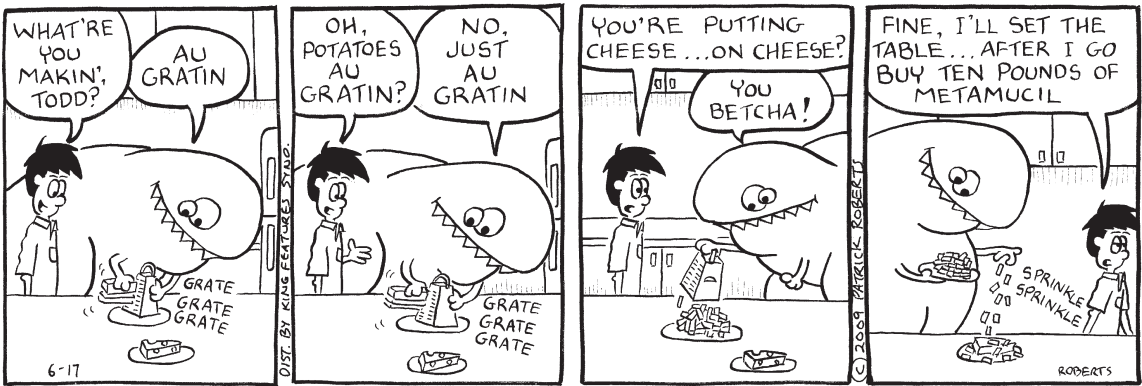
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



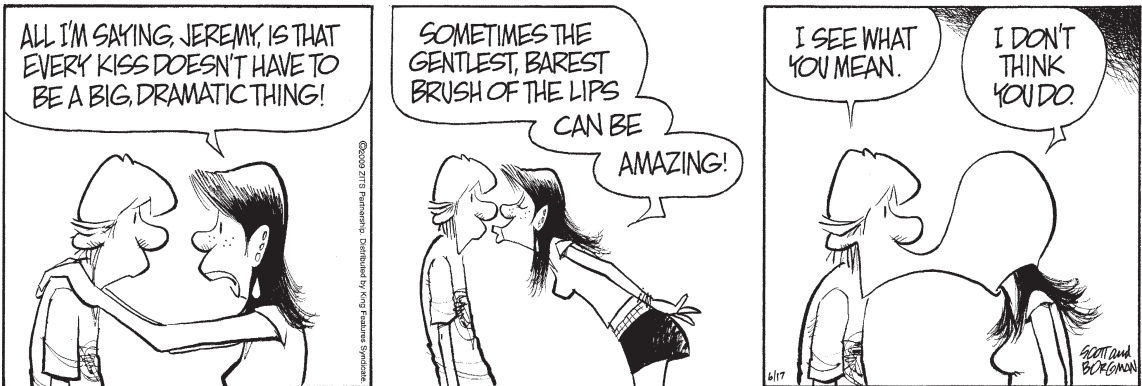
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

No sugar found in cocoa powder

Dear Heloise: Several recipes call for COCOA POWDER. In fact, one of your coffee recipes calls for this. Is this the same as cocoa? I have asked for cocoa powder in several stores, and they either don't have it or don't seem to know what I'm asking for. Can you please tell me where I can get cocoa powder? – Brandi, via e-mail

This is a good question! A major manufacturer told us that cocoa powder and cocoa are the same. The powder (it has no sugar added) is usually sold in a can and found in the baking aisle of the grocery store. So, you are safe using cocoa when a recipe calls for cocoa powder. One coffee recipe that I have is Mocha Coffee, and it is cheap to make. It is part of my pamphlet Heloise's Flavored Coffees and Teas. If you would like a copy, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. You can save \$5-\$20 a month (or more) by making a good cup of exotic coffee at home as little as one or two times a week. – Heloise

CLEAN HANDS

Dear Heloise: When making a meatloaf or porcupine meatballs and mixing the ingredients with your hands, put on thin medical gloves to keep the grease from getting on your hands. When finished mixing, just pull the gloves off and put in the garbage. Now you have nice, clean hands. This is especially good for females who have long fingernails and do not want stuff collecting under their nails. – D. Anders, Arlington, Texas

HANDY CONTAINERS

Dear Heloise: Please tell breast-feeding moms not to part with all those 4-ounce plastic milk storage bottles once their babies are weaned. They make wonderful containers for carrying salad dressing and other condiments in a packed lunch. Even better, I have found that they hold just the right amount of regular milk for a child-size bowl of cereal. I keep several filled bottles on my fridge door so that my 4- and 6-year-old can each help themselves to a bowl of cereal in the morning without requiring adult assistance to manage pouring from the big gallon jug. And the kids love being able to fix their own breakfast! – Valerie, Germantown, Md.

POT SCRUBBER

Dear Heloise: I've been using paper coffee filters for years and recently discovered that they make terrific pot scrubbers that don't scratch the finish on pots and pans.

One morning, I tried a wet paper filter to rinse cooked oatmeal from the pan and was quite surprised at how well it worked. – Becky, McLean, Va.

VEGETABLE CHOPPING

Dear Heloise: I've nicked my index finger a few times through the years while chopping vegetables. To prevent this from happening again, I now wear a sewing thimble on that finger while slicing and dicing. – Joe, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST EAST

South

The bidding:

Opening lead — ten of spades.

Playing the Odds

In many deals, the outcome hinges on declarer's handling of a particular card combination. In such situations, declarer should try to work out the approach that offers the greatest chance of success.

Take this case where South was in four hearts. He won the opening spade lead with the ace and led a heart from dummy. When East followed with the eight, declarer played the queen, losing to the ace.

South ruffed the spade return, but since he could not get to dummy to lead another heart, he had to lead one from his hand. This gave East two trump tricks, and the loss of a club at the end put the contract down one.

As can be seen, South would have made his game if he had played the nine on the first heart lead from dummy, which would have held his trump losers to two. The question, therefore, is whether the nine was the correct play, or whether declarer was merely unlucky.

To resolve such a problem, the first step is to omit from consideration all possible divisions of the missing cards where declarer's play makes no difference. Thus, South should immediately dismiss all 2-2 divisions, since only two trump tricks can be lost regardless of how he plays.

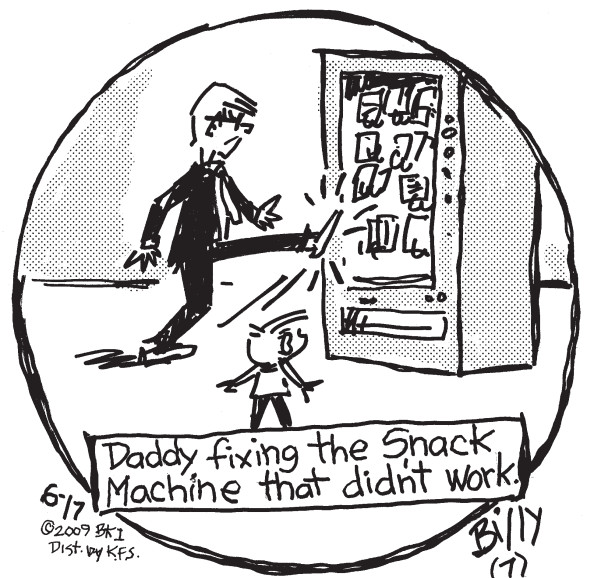
Similarly, if West holds the A-K-10, it won't matter what declarer does, as he is certain to lose three trump tricks. South likewise has no chance if the trumps are divided 4-0.

The only pertinent case — that is, where declarer's play does make a difference — is when the hearts are divided 3-1 and West has the singleton. Once East has followed with the eight, that singleton can only be the ten, king or ace.

Since there is twice as good a chance that West's singleton will be the ace or king rather than the ten, South should go with the odds and finesse the nine at trick two.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Seven-year-old Billy continues to fill in with his family observations.

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/17

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

HT XLV ABKJNK J OHEHJNVBK

BKFLYHNLBX TLB RHYAJBRHES

NBJYQ, UQJN UHCC XLV

AJCC HN? J RVOFCHES.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE GUST HAD BLOWN FOR A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF TIME, MIGHT YOU SAY IT WAS LONG-WINDED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Snare
 - Wager
 - Blue
 - material?
 - Apiace
 - Jamie
 - Fox
 - biopic
 - Christmas tree, often
 - Labyrinth
 - Initial stake
 - Military freshman
 - Choice
 - The same, in a bibliography
 - In medias
 - Cougar
 - Passport endorsement
 - AAA job
 - Lanka
 - Flavored like some mouthwash
 - Regret
 - B&B
 - "Born Free" lioness
- DOWN**
- Office part-timer
 - Bar
 - Dermatologist's case
 - Fear, plus
 - Lingerie item
 - Cologne-label word
 - Novice
 - Sudden onrush
 - Government department
 - "Do — others ..."
 - 3-Down sufferer, usually
 - Sen. Kennedy
- 20** Entreat
- 22** Mephistophelean doings
- 23** Capital of Belarus
- 25** Omega precursor
- 26** Coffee vessel
- 27** Mosque towers
- 29** Ollie's pal
- 31** Ump's call
- 32** Itty-bitty
- 34** Repast
- 38** Michael Jackson hit
- 40** "Imitation of Life" author
- 42** Outback bird
- 43** Top choice, for short
- 44** Always
- 45** Jannings of silents
- 47** Grown-up nits
- 48** Cambodia neighbor
- 49** Faxed
- 52** Wall climber
- 53** Born

Solution time: 21 mins.

ELM	AREAS	ANT
SEA	SAMBA	LOY
PAPAL	BULL	LOSP
LALEI	EMBRYO	
GASPED	ROOM	
YEP	PLY	NOBEL
MOOD	YES	META
SNOUT	NIB	LAC
NEWT	DROLLY	
DEBTOR	EAR	
URI	BEACH	BALL
NIL	ISLAM	PEA
KEL	TSARS	TOP

Yesterday's answer 6-17

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			