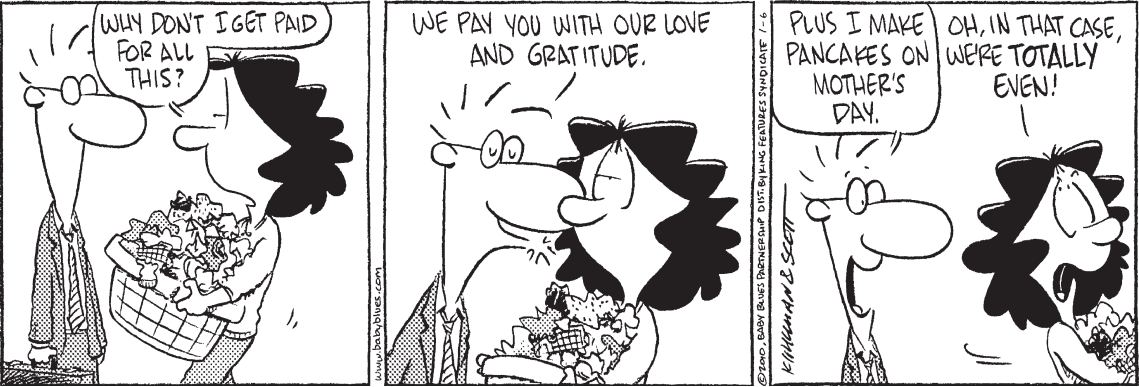


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



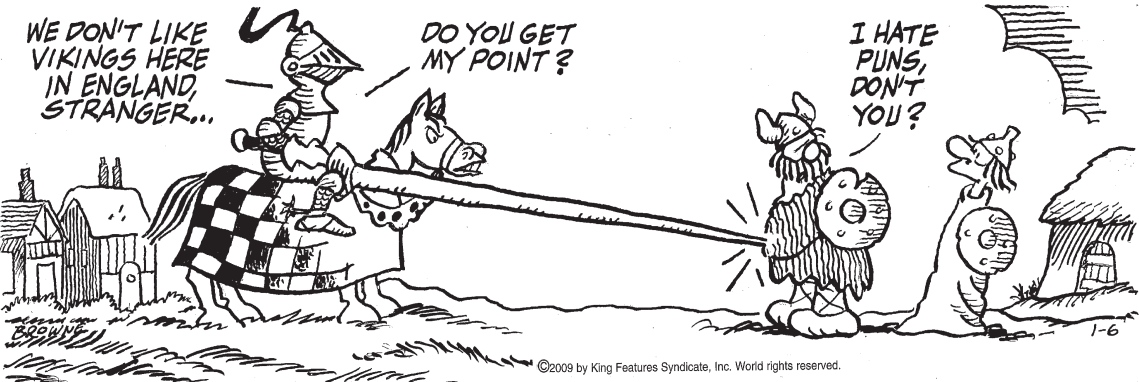
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



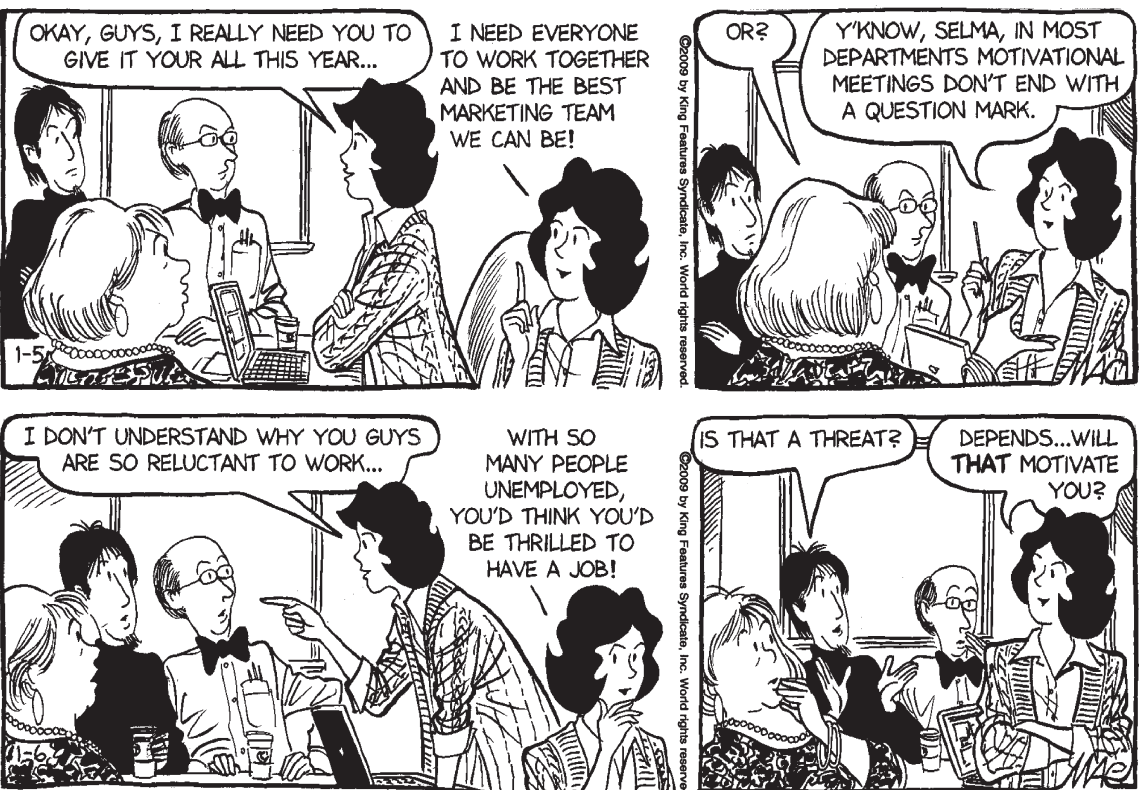
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



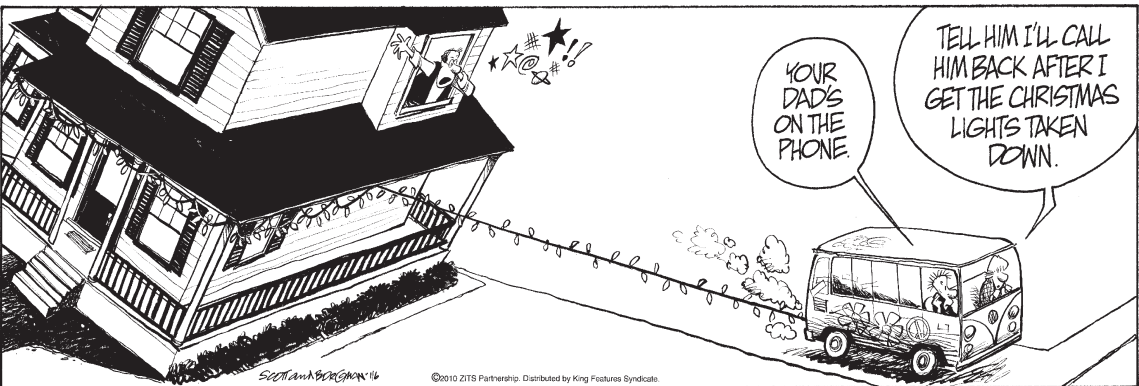
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

An easy cure for gray yolks

Dear Heloise: What causes the dark-green or gray RING AROUND THE YOLK of a hard-boiled egg, and how do you prevent this from happening? Much of the time, this seems to happen with eggs that I boil. – Margaret, via e-mail

Margaret, we checked with our friends at the American Egg Board, and here is what they had to say: “When you cook eggs at too high a temperature or for too long at a low temperature, the surface of the yolks may turn gray-green.” The dark ring around the yolk is ugly but safe to eat.

Here is the American Egg Board’s method of hard-cooking eggs: “Place eggs in a single layer in a saucepan. Add enough water to come at least 1 inch above the eggs. Cover and quickly bring to a boil. Then turn off the heat. Let the eggs stand, covered, in the hot water for about 15 minutes for large eggs (12 minutes for medium). Then run cold water over the eggs or place them in ice water. This stops the cooking process. Unfortunately, it’s almost impossible to cool eggs to this stage at altitudes above 10,000 feet.” – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

COOKING HINT

Dear Heloise: I read your column in the (Wichita Falls, Texas) Times Record News. To facilitate gourmet cooking for one person, I freeze small amounts of the following in plastic containers: basil pesto, chipotle chilies, lime juice, orange quarters, lemon pieces, tomatillo sauce, grated and cubed cheese, sauteed onions, and chopped bell peppers. – Jennie J., Wichita Falls, Texas

RECIPE CARDS

Dear Heloise: The other day, I saw my Aunt Kitty do something I thought I should pass on to you. She recycles small and medium greeting cards by turning them into recipe cards. She cuts off and discards the half with the written message and keeps the half with the picture or artwork on the front. She stores her new blank cards in her recipe box, where they are ready. – Laurie, Minneapolis

COLESLAW

Dear Heloise: I enjoy reading your column in the (Elkton, Md.) Cecil Whig every day. When I make coleslaw, I first put the dressing into a gallon-size zip-closed bag, then add the shredded cabbage (I buy mine pre-shredded). I close the bag, pressing out all the excess air, and then knead the dressing through the cabbage until it is all dispersed. It is then very easy to transfer the coleslaw into a nice bowl for serving. If I need to make a larger amount of the slaw, I just use a bigger bag. – Karen M., Elkton, Md.

EASY CLEANUP

Dear Heloise: I clean up my food processor, pizza cutter, knives, etc., that have been used to cut or shred cheese with cold water. It makes the cheese residue become solid and wipe right off. Of course, I then wash everything in hot, soapy water. – Sharon, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 4 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ K 7 5 2
♣ Q 10 5

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

EAST
♠ Q 9
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ Q 8 6 3
♣ 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ J 7 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A 10 4
♣ A J 9 3

The bidding:
East 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT
Opening lead — six of spades.

The Educated Guess

You have to do a certain amount of guessing in bridge, because that is intrinsic to the game. Even so, you should guess right far more often than you guess wrong.

Many so-called guesses can be resolved by adopting what is known as the percentage play. There is no guarantee that a percentage play will succeed; it is merely that the odds favor its success over the long haul.

For example, suppose you’re in three notrump and West leads the six of spades. How should you proceed? Observe that if you follow low, East wins with the queen and returns a spade, establishing West’s suit. When you later try a club finesse, you wind up down one.

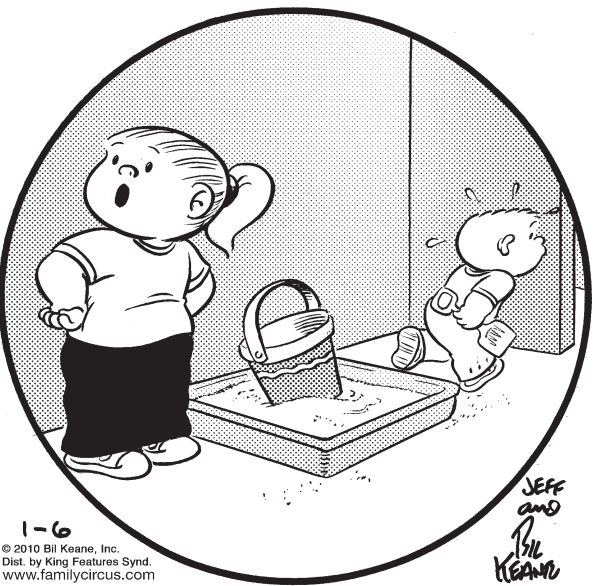
But if you go up with the ace of spades at trick one and then take the club finesse, you make the contract because the opposing spades are blocked and West can’t run his suit. As soon as you regain the lead, you have nine tricks.

The question, therefore, is whether declarer should know to make this play. Percentagewise, it is correct to put up the ace at trick one before trying the club finesse. True, you go down if it turns out that West started with five spades to the K-Q and the king of clubs, in which case you could have made the contract by playing low from dummy on the opening lead. Despite this possibility, you will be better off in the long run if you put up the ace of spades.

This is because there are many more hands where East will hold the K-x or Q-x than neither of the honors. If East does have the king or queen, you ensure the contract by playing the ace at once but jeopardize it by playing low from dummy instead. The ace is therefore the percentage play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

YAMMNYJUF LNA HPXP BN

HXJBP E YAMPX-RNUF,

FXEOPRL YPXJNAY RPBXPX,

JY JB E SEYYJOP SJYYJOP?

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: BECAUSE OF HEARING “ORDER IN THE COURT!,” SOMEONE REPLIED “BURGER AND FRIES FOR ME, PLEASE.”

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Now, on a memo

5 Early bird?

8 Oodles

12 Undraped

13 Ultra-modernist

14 “Forget it!”

15 Attack without restraint

17 Actor Rip

18 Long step

19 Duck-lings’ pops

21 Meadow

22 Ganges wrap

23 Curved line

26 Billboards

28 Male singing voice

31 Nitwit

33 Droop

35 Go nowhere

36 Capital of Jordan

38 Drops on the lawn

DOWN

1 Picnic invaders

2 Tallow

3 Hebrew month

4 Danger

5 Groups of nine

6 Compre-hend

7 Merchandise

8 Brightest star in Scorpio

9 Investi-gate

10 Shrek is one

40 Tramcar load

41 The era of Shak.

43 Catch red-handed

45 Orna-mental grating

47 Washing-ton neighbor

51 Stereo counter-part

52 Meet

54 Female singing voice

55 “Norma —”

56 Feline, to Francisco

57 Old Dodge model

58 MGM motto

59 Furry sci-fi critter

11 Oodles

16 Thought

20 Snitch

23 Lawyers’ org.

24 Data storage site

25 Inherit

27 Despon-dent

29 Rowing need

30 “Catcher in the —”

32 Increase rapidly

34 “Mapped” hereditary matter

37 Goose egg

39 Distort

42 Marty, in “Mada-gascar”

44 Ecu

45 Fed

46 Portrayal

48 Rodents do it

49 “Beetle Bailey” dog

50 Corner

53 Eg. and Syr., once

Solution time: 21 mins.

ODD	BRA	MAYA			
MORT	OER	IDES			
STAR	WAG	SOPH			
KEBAB	MOHS				
	NAB	TRIFLE			
MARSHAL	SOLED				
ARAM	TAN	NEED			
RIGID	SILVERY				
VASSAR	LEI				
	SMUG	DECOY			
KIWI	NOD	JAVA			
ECHO	ORE	OMAN			
NEON	NEW	ELK			

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			