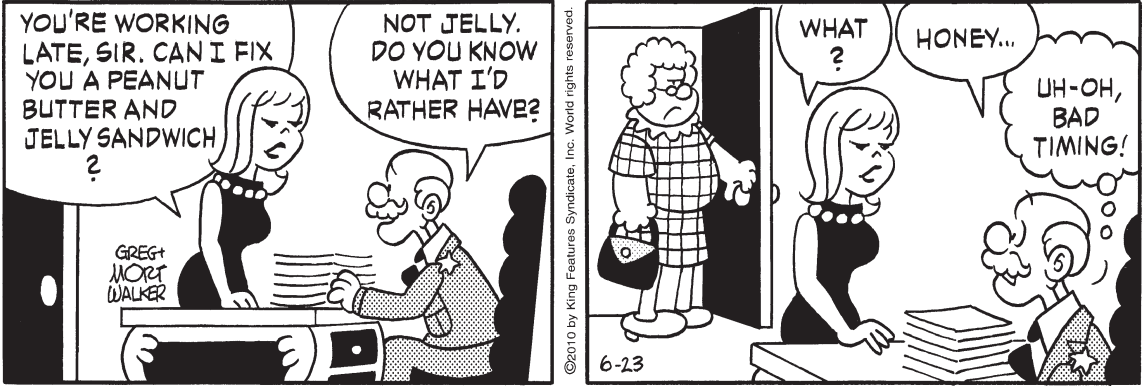


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



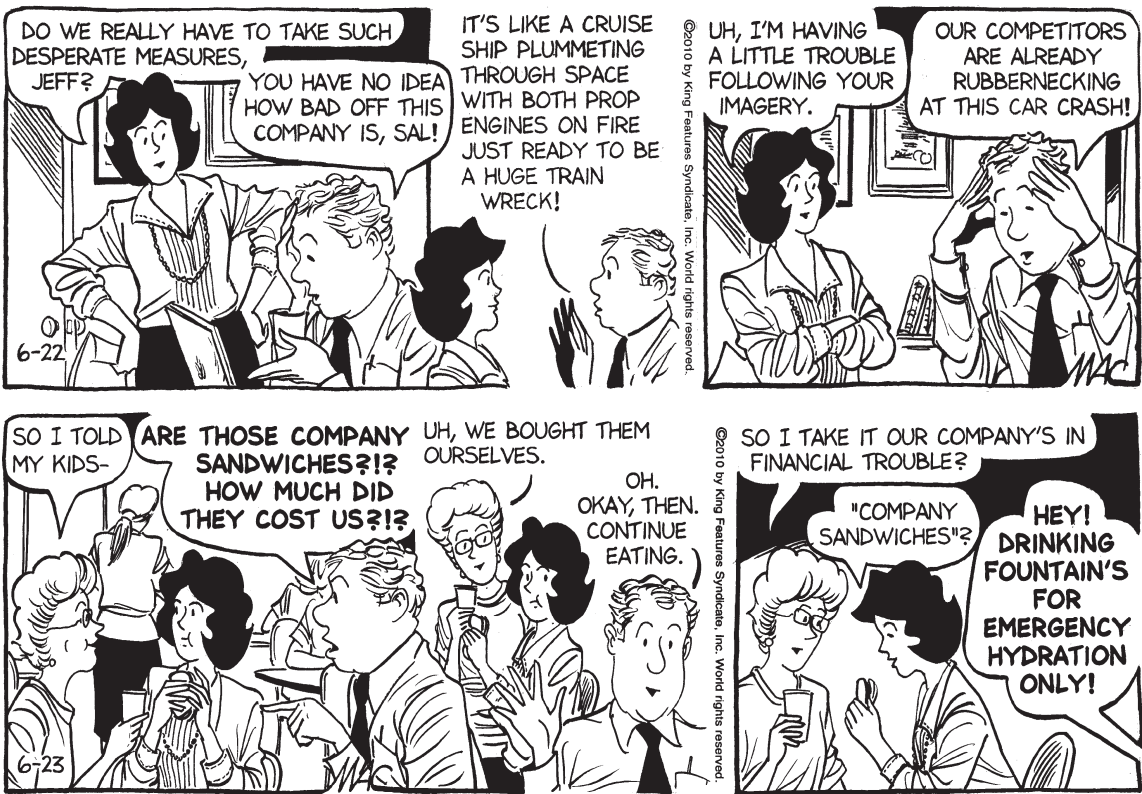
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Blending jelly makes it spread

Dear Heloise: Do you ever get frustrated trying to SPREAD A GLOB OF JELLY on a biscuit or toast? The jelly balls up and will not spread evenly. I thought there had to be a better way. I found a solution. (My wife says I'm always thinking.) I put jelly in a blender or food processor and blend to the consistency of thick gravy. The jelly softens very fast. Then I put it in a squeeze bottle. Now, I apply the jelly with no fuss or mess, and I don't even need a knife to spread it. — Roger, Littlefield, Texas

Roger, nice going! We tested this in Heloise Central (my office in my home), and it works. We put some apple jelly in the blender on high for about 10 seconds. The consistency changed a little — like you said, thick gravy. The jelly is now spreadable and squeezable. It would be delicious on toast, waffles or pancakes. Thank you for writing, and a big Heloise hug to you. — Heloise

**MARINATING BAGS**  
Dear Heloise: I always save my empty potato-chip and cereal bags. They are great for marinating meats and vegetables — disposable, and no extra dishes to wash! — Nora in Kentucky

**FLAVORED COFFEES**  
Dear Heloise: I enjoy flavored coffees, but find them too expensive. Powdered coffee flavors found in supermarkets are a nice substitute, especially when used in combinations.

For example, to duplicate the flavor of an almond-coconut-chocolate candy, I use chocolate, coconut and an almond-flavored coffee powder. Use differing amounts to suit your taste. I have done varying combinations, and hardly ever buy expensive coffees at coffee shops.

There is a cost to the powdered flavors, but the powders pay for themselves in a few cups of coffee. — Kathleen Lamprecht, Front Royal, Va.

Love your coffee hint, and what a great way to save money but still enjoy a tasty cup of coffee! For some exotic coffee recipes that are easy to make, order my Heloise's Flavored Coffees and Teas pamphlet. Just send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. For easy iced espresso, fill a 6-ounce glass or cup with ice. Pour in a cooled single shot of espresso and sweeten to taste. — Heloise

**OPEN, OPEN, OPEN**  
Dear Heloise: I open bottles and other hard-to-open things by using a single rubber glove to grip the lid. This works especially well on water bottles, which are hard to open. Works great and prevents a struggle. — Irma in Warren, Ohio

**POTATO MASHER**  
Dear Heloise: There's no way I would be able to crush the strawberries, raspberries, etc., when making freezer jam without my potato masher and a 9-by-13-inch cake pan or similar wide and flat container. What a timesaver AND a work-saver! — Paula in Oregon  
(c)2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 5  
♥ 10 4  
♦ A J 10 7 6 3  
♣ K J 4

**WEST**  
♦ K Q J 9 4 2  
♥ A Q 6  
♦ Q 8 2  
♣ 6

**EAST**  
♦ 10 7 6 3  
♥ J 8 7 3 2  
♦ K 9  
♣ 7 5

**SOUTH**  
♥ K 9 5  
♦ 5 4  
♦ A Q 10 9 8 3 2

The bidding:  
North 1♦ East Pass South 2♣ West 2♣  
3♣ Pass 5♣  
Opening lead — king of spades.

**Avoiding the Danger Hand**  
The most interesting hands for declarer are the ones where the contract is neither assured nor hopeless. These are the hands that test his mettle as he seeks the best path in an uncertain situation.

Take this deal where South reaches five clubs. As soon as dummy is tabled, he can see that the outcome is in doubt and that there is work to be done.

His initial assessment discloses that he has a diamond loser and possibly two heart losers, depending on the location of the ace. However, since West is very likely to hold the heart ace for his vulnerable overcall at the two-level, the loss of two heart tricks is a strong probability.

Declarer's next step is to formulate a plan that will enable him to avoid losing two heart tricks. There is an excellent chance to set up dummy's diamonds for discards, but East is apt to gain the lead with a diamond while this is being done, and his heart return will then sink the contract.

At about this point in his deliberations, it should occur to South that he may be able to establish the diamonds without allowing East to obtain the lead. Accordingly, he allows West's king of spades to hold the first trick!

This unusual play achieves the desired goal. It permits declarer to develop the diamond suit without interference from East. And it does so without the loss of an extra trick, since it merely exchanges a diamond loser for a spade loser.

Let's say West leads another spade. South discards a diamond on the ace, cashes the ace of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. A trump to dummy and another diamond ruff then establishes three tricks in the suit. The last trump is drawn, ending in dummy, and three hearts are discarded on the good diamonds to make the contract with an overtrick.

West can stop the extra trick by cashing the heart ace at trick two, but cannot defeat the contract after South's inspired duck.  
(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Boys have an Adam's apple, so girls have an Eve's apple.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

F Y S X W A K W A Z B H W F A

H J R R Y W F F U A H W F Y R W W U X K

B A K W L Y S A K W H U L , Y Z B J M R

X B S F Y R W L A K W P F A B B M P U A W F .

Yesterday's **Cryptoquip**: FAMOUS NOVEL FEATURING THE VIEWPOINTS OF SOME GOLDFISH: "THE WORLD ACCORDING TO CARP?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                  |                                  |                                   |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                    | <b>43</b> Sinbad's bird          | <b>59</b> Neither masc. nor fem.  | <b>20</b> Hasten                               |
| <b>1</b> Festive                 | <b>45</b> "Nip/Tuck" actress     |                                   | <b>23</b> Regis and Kelly's network            |
| <b>5</b> Craze                   | <b>47</b> No teetotalers, they   | <b>DOWN</b>                       |  |
| <b>8</b> Caspian Sea feeder      | <b>51</b> Shaving cream additive | <b>1</b> Cotton machines          | <b>24</b> Cattle call                          |
| <b>12</b> Pressing need?         | <b>52</b> Bribe of a sort        | <b>2</b> Met melody               | <b>25</b> Actress Mary, "America's Sweetheart" |
| <b>13</b> Screw up               | <b>54</b> Singer Vikki           | <b>4</b> Bracelet site            | <b>27</b> Moo — gai pan                        |
| <b>14</b> Pleasant               | <b>55</b> Biblical verb suffix   | <b>5</b> Scared                   | <b>29</b> Historic time                        |
| <b>15</b> Moniker                | <b>56</b> Taj Mahal city         | <b>6</b> Branch                   | <b>30</b> Began transport                      |
| <b>17</b> Reverberate            | <b>57</b> "Bye Bye Birdie" song  | <b>7</b> Frock                    | <b>32</b> Slip-on shoes                        |
| <b>18</b> Tar                    | <b>58</b> Perched                | <b>8</b> Dig up                   | <b>34</b> Beet recipe                          |
| <b>19</b> Like 007's martinis    |                                  | <b>9</b> Human-drawn              | <b>37</b> Blackbird                            |
| <b>21</b> Sprite opener?         |                                  | <b>10</b> Liniment target         | <b>39</b> Smee's captain                       |
| <b>22</b> Letter                 |                                  | <b>11</b> Ponce de —              | <b>42</b> Accepts uncomplainingly              |
| <b>23</b> Pump up the volume     |                                  | <b>16</b> Longtime Steelers coach | <b>44</b> Kind of heel or cigar                |
| <b>26</b> Drag behind            |                                  | <b>17</b> Coach Chuck             | <b>45</b> "— the Knife"                        |
| <b>28</b> Lucy's pal             |                                  |                                   | <b>46</b> Jai follower                         |
| <b>31</b> Seethe                 |                                  |                                   | <b>48</b> Wise one                             |
| <b>33</b> High-arc shot          |                                  |                                   | <b>49</b> Beige                                |
| <b>35</b> Aesopian also-ran      |                                  |                                   | <b>50</b> Old card game                        |
| <b>36</b> Winter warmer          |                                  |                                   | <b>53</b> Call — day                           |
| <b>38</b> La-la lead-in          |                                  |                                   |  |
| <b>40</b> Bankroll               |                                  |                                   |  |
| <b>41</b> Philosophy 101 subject |                                  |                                   |  |

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

WOW	WOK	QUAD
IRAQ	ADO	URG
MENU	SIR	ANON
PLEAT	NEAR	
	RAG	ASTERN
	PALTROW	SEPIA
	ALOE	DEB
	LEARN	BUSH
	MEMBER	GOO
	ATOM	BRAWN
DISC	OAK	SURE
NOOK	SKI	ETAS
ANTS	TEX	OPT

Yesterday's answer 6-23

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			