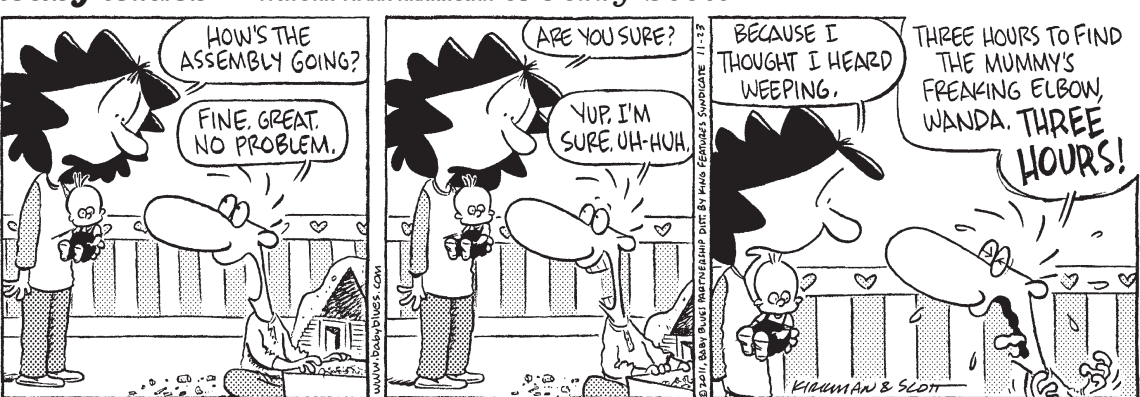
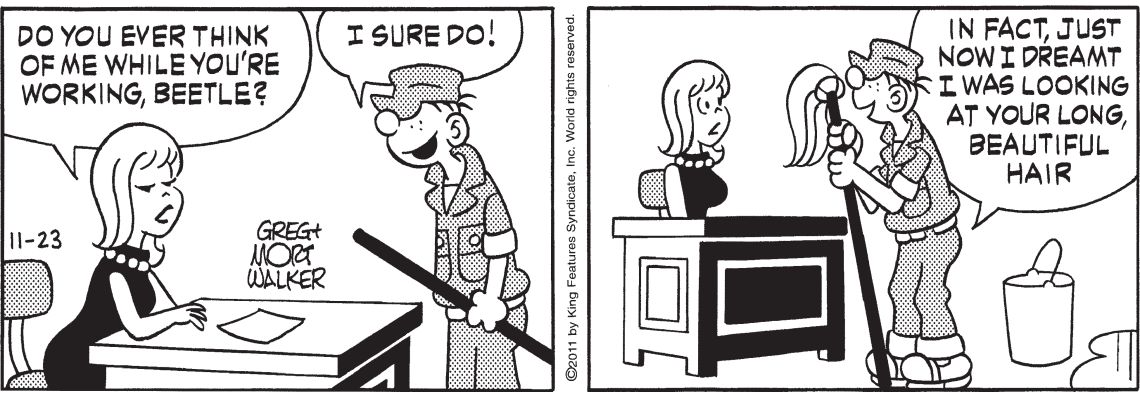


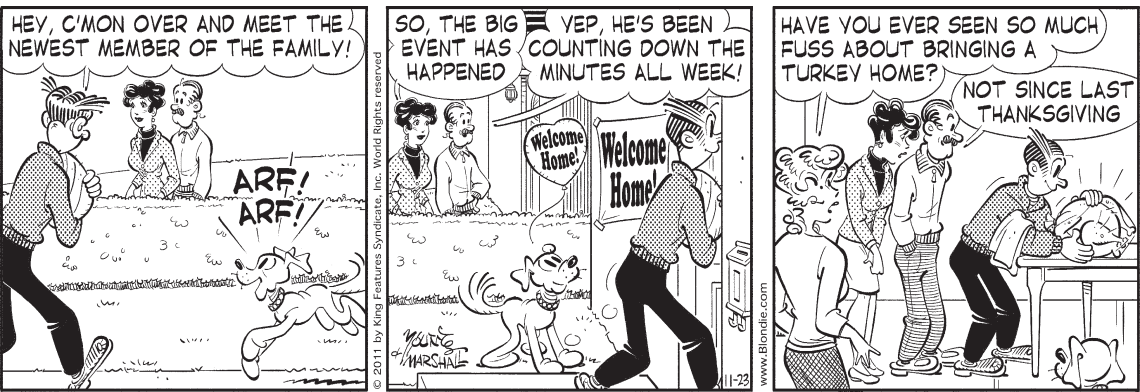
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



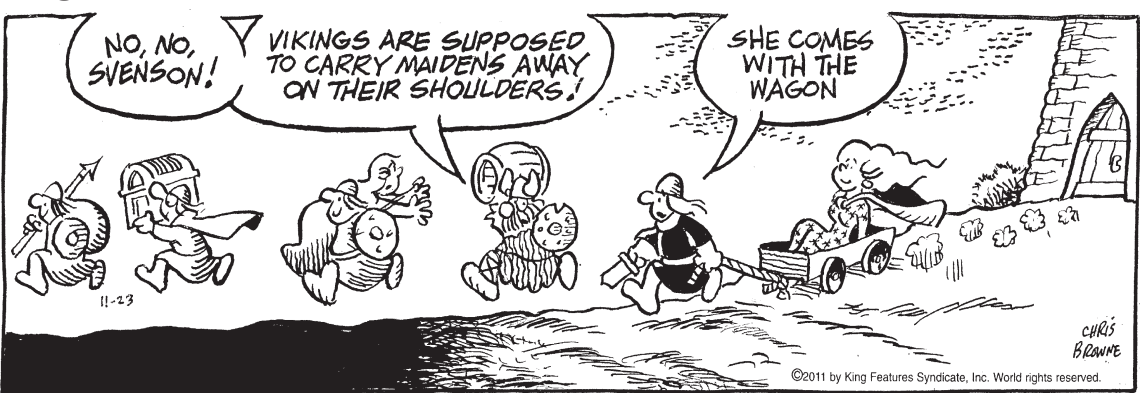
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



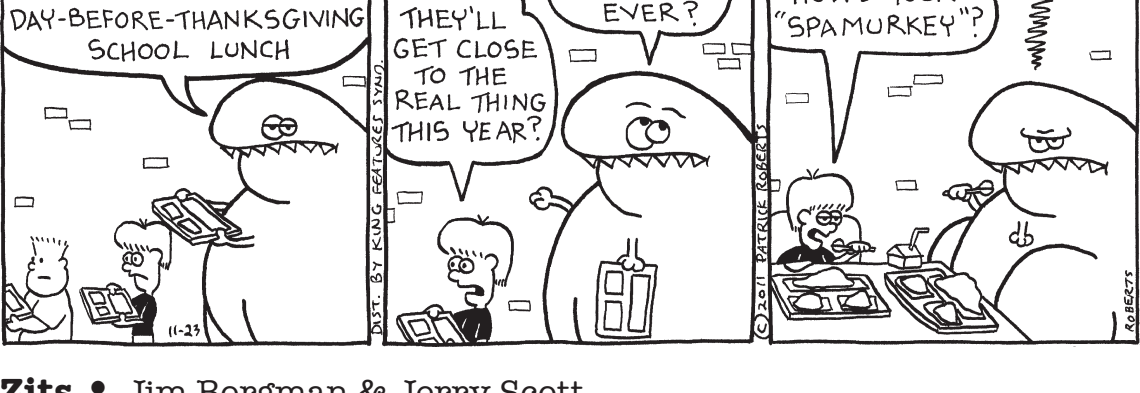
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott




Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Sweet packets can be compared

Dear Readers: There are numerous SWEET-ENERS available today as an alternative to sugar, but what makes each one different? Here are some hints to help you:

The pink packet contains saccharin (an artificial sweetener), which is much sweeter than actual sugar and has no calories.

The yellow packet, which also has no calories, is made from sucralose (an artificial sweetener), holds up well when heated and can be used in baking/cooking recipes.

The blue packet has aspartame as the main ingredient (another artificial sweetener) and, as with the others, has no calories.

The white-and-green packet, made from rebiana (part of a stevia leaf, found in Paraguay), also is a natural sweetener, but it is calorie-free.

Each packet has its own special ingredient. However, it comes down to taste as to which you like. Some are for baking and cooking, while others are not. If you are diabetic, the artificial sweeteners are a better choice than the ones made from natural sugars. — Heloise

P.S.: I've been using artificial sweeteners since they came out, and sometimes use one blue and one yellow for a sweeter taste, or one pink and one blue.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

SLOW COOKER

Dear Heloise: When I cook a meatloaf in my slow cooker, I spray a metal collapsible vegetable steamer with vegetable spray and place it in the slow cooker. I firmly stuff the meatloaf into the steamer and cook. The fat drips into the bottom of the slow cooker, leaving the meatloaf moist and fat-free. I just lift out the steamer, cut and serve. My family loves it. — Julie B., Brazil, Ind.

HELOISE'S TEST YOUR HINT IQ

Dear Readers: Do you have extra dinner plates that need to be stored? Which of the following can you put between the plates to keep them protected while in storage?

1. Paper plates
2. Rubber mesh
3. Coffee filters
4. All of the above

The answer is 4 — all of the above! — Heloise

EASY PIZZA

Dear Heloise: When I fix my frozen pizza, I turn it upside down while in the wrapper, remove the plastic from the back and cut the pizza all the way through. With the plastic still on it, I'll flip it over onto a cookie sheet lined with foil sprayed with cooking spray. I then take off the plastic. This makes it much easier to cut and handle. — Betty T., Orange, Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A J 4
♦ A J 10
♣ A K Q

WEST
♠ A K 3
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ Q 7 5 3 2
♣ —

EAST
♠ —
♥ 9 5 3
♦ K 8 4
♣ 9 8 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9 6 4
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 6
♣ J 10 4

The bidding:
West North East South
1♦ Dble 2♦ 2♠
3♥ 3NT Pass 4♣
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Sylvia Astounds Them All

It was duplicate night at the club, and, as usual, players were positioning themselves so that they would not encounter Sylvia during the game. It wasn't that they feared Sylvia's expertise; on the contrary, she was certain to hand out lots of presents during the session. What made them uncomfortable was the feeling that they had no control over the proceedings when Sylvia was at their table.

Unfortunately, only half the players — those who got there very early — were able to avoid her. The rest sat like so many ducks in a shooting gallery, hoping not to be victimized by one of Sylvia's legendary aberrations.

It didn't take long for lightning to strike. At the very first table, Sylvia, West, was defending against four spades after the bidding shown and led the king of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and returned a spade to Sylvia's king.

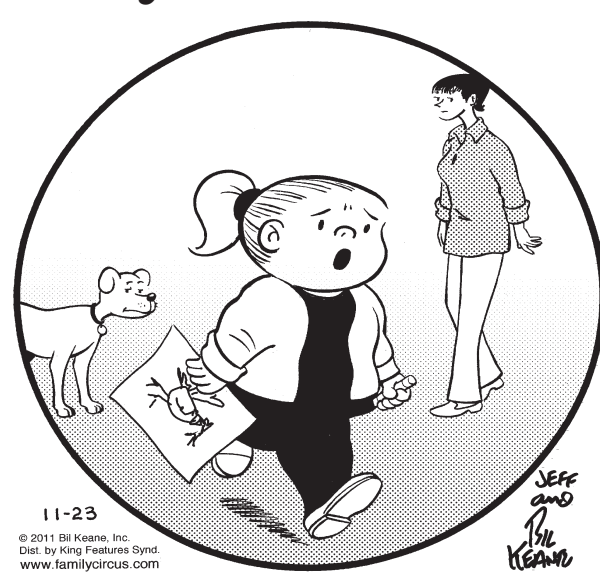
Calculating furiously, Sylvia concluded that her side could never legitimately score more than three tricks — two spades and a heart — since South couldn't have more than one diamond. Deception was therefore her only chance, she decided, so at trick three she returned the ten of hearts! South wasn't taken in, though; he won with dummy's jack and played a second spade to Sylvia's ace.

Sylvia was very disappointed that her ten-of-hearts play had not succeeded in fooling declarer. Recognizing that only a miracle could now defeat the contract, she next led the six of hearts! An astonished East won the trick with the nine and returned a club, which Sylvia ruffed to set the contract!

Not surprisingly, no other East-West pair defeated four spades, so Sylvia and her partner had a cold top. And a sadder but wiser South vowed that henceforth, he would be among the earliest arrivals for the club duplicate.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I'm glad this is a short week of school. I'm not very good at drawing turkeys."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/23

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

Cryptoquip

ZH ZCQ-VQPXKPHCHJ AZQVBW

RV FQS KPQLX ZHF

AZWZGPHRX ICJKO LP OPQIP

Z GPGGPQS GROGRBQQC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS THE BRAND NAME OF A BREAKFAST CEREAL WHOSE AD CLAIM TO MAKE PEOPLE SMART? ALL-BRAIN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 23 Jazz style |
| 1 Pump up the volume | 41 Arrangement | 25 43- |
| 4 Pool-room supply | 43 Machu Picchu's place | 2 Repast |
| 8 Vase-shaped jug | 44 Slithery squeezer | 3 Engine knock |
| 12 Maui souvenir | 46 Civil War victors | 4 King Arthur's realm |
| 13 Frizzy hairstyle | 50 Not merely embarrassed | 5 E.T.'s craft |
| 14 Tragic evidence | 55 Modern-day | 6 Blunder |
| 15 Proscribe | 56 Disturb | 7 Detergent |
| 16 Gave a sermon | 57 Advantage | 8 Film worker |
| 18 Seaweed, e.g. | 58 Freddy's street | 9 Oz bigwig, for short |
| 20 Mr. Sajak | 59 Old woman's home? | 10 Prior to |
| 21 Amorphous mass | 60 Merino, e.g. | 11 Roulette bet |
| 24 "La — Vita" | 61 Nay opposer | 17 Young fellow |
| 28 Additionally | | 19 Census statistic |
| 32 Streamlet | | 22 Egg |
| 33 Lawyers' org. | | |
| 34 Big brass | | |
| 36 Unruly bunch | | |
| 37 Daughters' counterparts | | |
| 39 Lien of a sort | | |

Solution time: 21 mins.

ALTS	SIR	SAGS
RELIANCE	CLUE	
KICKBACK	RARE	
KEG	ICARUS	
LIMIT SNOW		
ADAM	PADDLES	
BEY	TRULY WAS	
SOMEONE	PERU	
ERMA	AFERIE	
SALAMI	OWE	
PLUG	SIDEKICK	
AGNE	EVIDENCE	
SEAR	SEN	DAILY

Yesterday's answer 11-23

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				60				61		