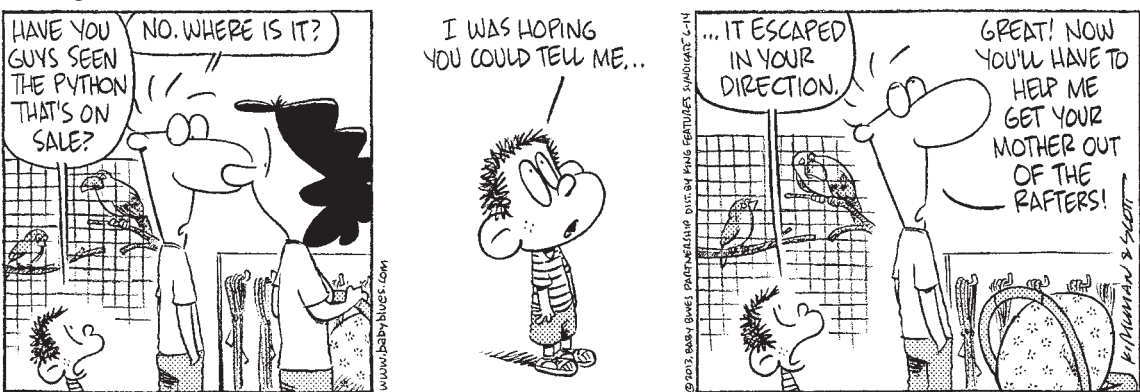
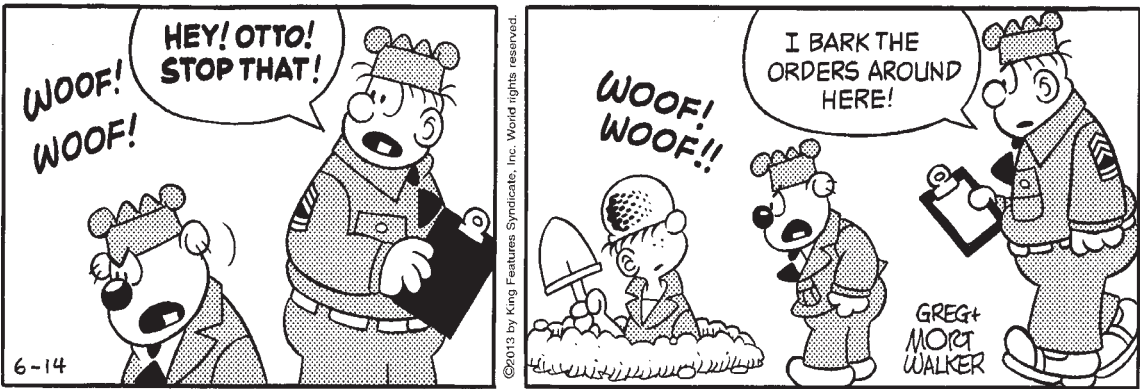


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



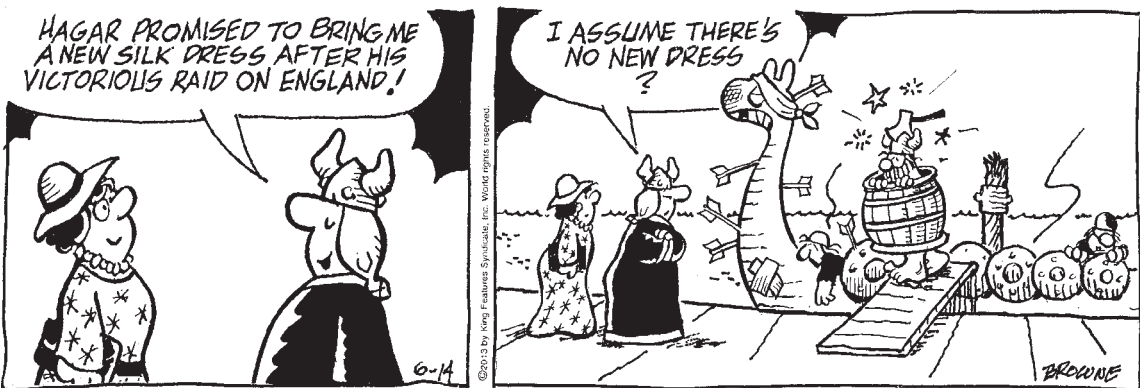
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



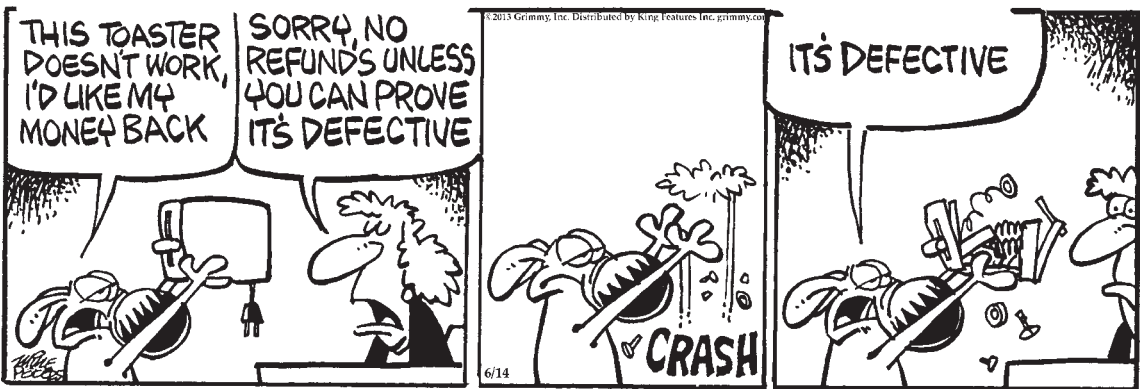
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



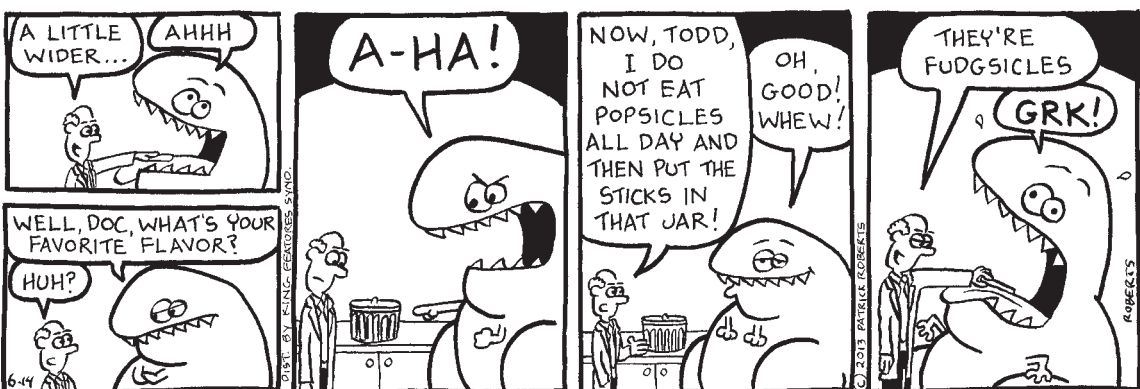
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



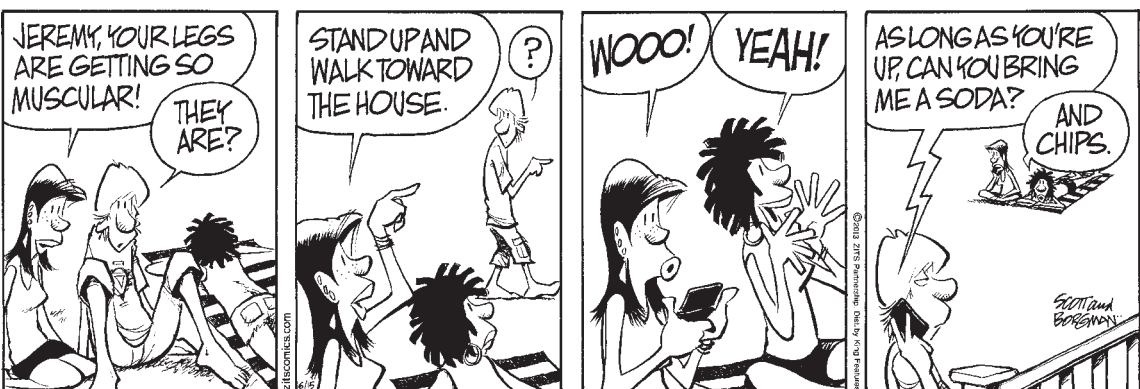
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Rugs stain vinyl yellow

Dear Heloise: Unsightly yellow stains have appeared on the off-white vinyl tile in my bathroom where the rugs had been. I got rid of the rugs, but I cannot get rid of the stains. Do you know of a method or product I could use to eliminate these stains without ruining the finish on the floor? – Kathleen W. in Michigan

Sorry to say, Kathleen, there isn't much you can do at this point. The rubber backing on the rugs is the culprit. Because vinyl and rubber don't mix, it creates a reaction and causes the vinyl to actually turn yellow.

Also, other things can react and cause stains. Be careful when placing items like flowerpots, rubber wheels, anything made of plastic, etc., on a vinyl floor.

When buying rugs, look for tags labeled "non-staining rubber backing," or stay away from rubber-backed rugs on vinyl or linoleum floors, as experts recommend. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Here are a few travel tips I find helpful:

- Put your driver's license (identity card) in a plastic cardholder, and wear it as a necklace so it's easily available at the airport.
- After checking into a room, wipe down the TV remote control.
- Carry a small flashlight to be kept at bedside.
- Save those perfume paper strips in magazines and take them along rather than liquid. – A Helpful Reader in the U.S.A.

Great hints! Thanks for the reminders. When you wipe down the remote, don't forget to wipe the door handles and light switches, too! I use the hand sanitizer I carry in my purse. – Heloise

BOX RECYCLE

Dear Heloise: Great hint about turning boxes inside out for mailing. Plastic mailing bags work the same way. If you are returning something you ordered, or are just mailing something else, you can turn the mailing bag inside out and tape your labels on the plain surface. – Bonita in Cleveland

OWNERS MANUAL

Dear Heloise: Here are some hints I use when buying an appliance: I keep a file of manuals. If the appliance has a serial number, I write it on the owners manual. I also attach the receipt, warranty card and other paperwork I was given upon purchase. That way, I have all the information I need if I must have it repaired. This has saved tons of hassle and frustration. – Craig in Indiana

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:  
North East South West  
1♥ Dble ?

What would you bid with each of the following hands?

1. ♠ 752 ♥ KJ64 ♦ Q10873 ♣ 10
2. ♠ 83 ♥ K862 ♦ 763 ♣ Q954
3. ♠ KQ984 ♥ 73 ♦ 952 ♣ J86
4. ♠ AJ7 ♥ Q92 ♦ J843 ♣ A73
5. ♠ 832 ♥ 10 ♦ AQJ872 ♣ 964
6. ♠ 965 ♥ 85 ♦ AJ954 ♣ J72
7. ♠ Q953 ♥ J6 ♦ K743 ♣ QJ4

Bidding Quiz

1. Three hearts. The usual rules that govern responses to an opening bid are suspended when an opponent intervenes with a takeout double. The guiding principle is that most responses that would have been forcing without the double are not forcing after the double.

Accordingly, the recommended three-heart bid – which would normally be game-forcing (or invitational for those who play limit raises) – becomes pre-emptive. Partner goes on to game only when he holds well above minimum strength.

2. Two hearts. This shows a weak hand with moderate trump support, but lacking the distributional features that a three-heart bid would imply.

3. One spade. This tells partner you have a five-card suit (or a very strong four-card suit) and that you lack the values for a redouble (see answer to No. 4). A one-over-one bid after an opposing takeout double suggests a hand in the six- to nine-point range.

4. Redouble. A redouble shows 10 points or more in high cards and does not necessarily guarantee support for opener's suit. Usually, the opener passes at his next turn to allow the redoubler a chance to bid over whatever action the opponents have taken. The essential message of the redouble is that the opener's side has the balance of strength and must therefore either buy the contract or double the opponents for penalties.

5. Two diamonds. Similar to No. 3. After a double, this indicates a strong suit and not much else, and is not forcing. Note that if the opponent had not doubled, you would not have enough points to bid two diamonds on your own (you would have had to bid one notrump instead).

6. Pass. This diamond suit is not good enough to bid on the two-level. If partner has a really good hand, he will indicate it at his next opportunity, and you can then take whatever action you feel is appropriate. For the moment, though, a pass is best.

7. One notrump. In general, the notrump bid over a double indicates seven to nine points and balanced distribution, which is exactly what you have. Concealing your values by passing could lead to a difficult bidding problem later on.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Another brilliantly drawn pun-and-ink cartoon by seven-year-old Billy.

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

RNU YHNZSNY PL IPJNRMY

UESZE YZSNRMSYMY YVC VIN

ZPGHTNMNTC YNTLSYE VRJ

JNGVRJSRO: OSGGN HSOY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD SAY SWINDLERS WHO USE LEGUMINOUS SEEDS TO PLAY THE SHELL GAME ARE TRAP-PEAS ARTISTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- |  |                                 |                                 |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                | <b>31</b> "Night-hawks" painter | <b>55</b> Actress Myrna Toss in | <b>10</b> Pie-in-the-face sound |
| <b>1</b> Former freshmen                     | <b>35</b> Edition               | <b>57</b> Tools for duels       | <b>11</b> Sail supports         |
| <b>6</b> Squid squirt                        | <b>37</b> Genesis maker         |                                 | <b>17</b> Winners               |
| <b>9</b> Doctrine                            | <b>38</b> Sings like Ella       | <b>DOWN</b>                     | <b>19</b> Supports              |
| <b>12</b> Construction piece                 | <b>41</b> Apprehend             | <b>1</b> Taste the tea          | <b>21</b> "Certainly"           |
| <b>13</b> Cattle call                        | <b>43</b> Promptly              | <b>2</b> Japanese sash          | <b>22</b> Mined find            |
| <b>14</b> IRS employee                       | <b>44</b> Sea eagle             | <b>3</b> Gotham City            | <b>24</b> Expert                |
| <b>15</b> 1492 ship                          | <b>45</b> Downy ducks           | <b>4</b> Detest                 | <b>26</b> Rewrite, maybe        |
| <b>16</b> SAT takers' equipment              | <b>47</b> Necklace ornament     | <b>5</b> Unctuous flattery      | <b>28</b> Winning               |
| <b>18</b> Pet rodent, often                  | <b>49</b> "Psycho" star         | <b>6</b> Mischievous            | <b>30</b> Fool                  |
| <b>20</b> Warmth                             | <b>52</b> Commotion             | <b>7</b> Yule refrain           | <b>32</b> Musingly thoughtful   |
| <b>21</b> Second person                      | <b>53</b> Tall tale             | <b>8</b> "—Tiki"                | <b>33</b> Swelled head          |
| <b>23</b> More, to Manuel                    | <b>54</b> Rod of tennis         | <b>9</b> Less friendly          | <b>34</b> Uncooked              |
| <b>24</b> Portion of a repair bill           |                                 |                                 | <b>36</b> One                   |
| <b>25</b> Great Lake                         |                                 |                                 | <b>38</b> Calyx component       |
| <b>27</b> Amulet                             |                                 |                                 | <b>39</b> Guiding principle     |
| <b>29</b> "Where the Wild Things Are" author |                                 |                                 | <b>40</b> Bother                |
|  |                                 |                                 | <b>42</b> Ball VIP              |
|  |                                 |                                 | <b>45</b> Oklahoma city         |
|  |                                 |                                 | <b>46</b> Harvest               |
|  |                                 |                                 | <b>48</b> Carte lead-in         |
|  |                                 |                                 | <b>50</b> "Golly!"              |
|  |                                 |                                 | <b>51</b> Storefront sign abbr. |

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	A	T	S	I	D	O	F	I	N	K
A	S	H	Y	N	O	V	A	N	O	N
N	E	O	N	E	E	U	N	D	O	
G	A	U	C	H	O	R	E	C	A	S
			H	O	V		N	E	T	
O	T	I	S	A	C	I	D	T	E	S
W	A	N		T	O	N		L	E	I
L	U	N	C	H	E	O	N		A	Y
		O	R	E			U	P	S	
J	O	C	U	N	D		E	I	T	H
A	L	E	E		O	W	N		R	U
M	I	N	T		F	A	D		A	Q
B	O	T	S		F	R	O		Y	O

Yesterday's answer 6-14

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				