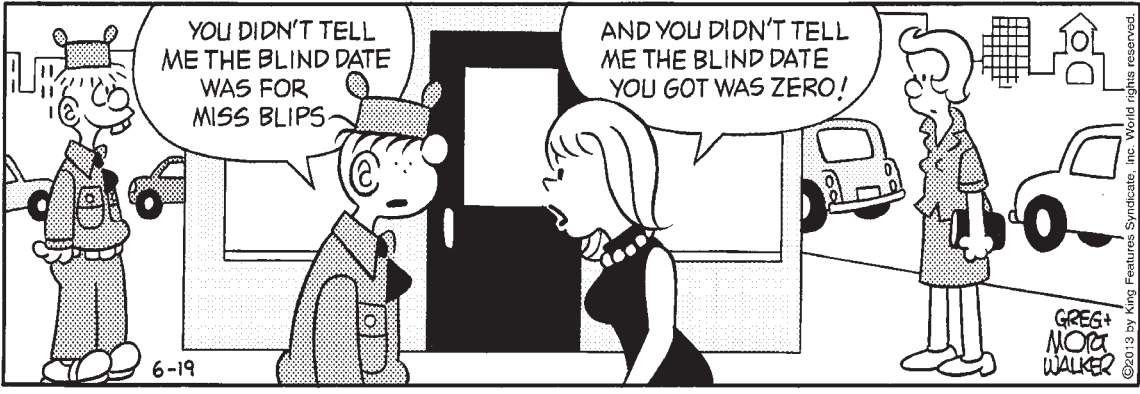


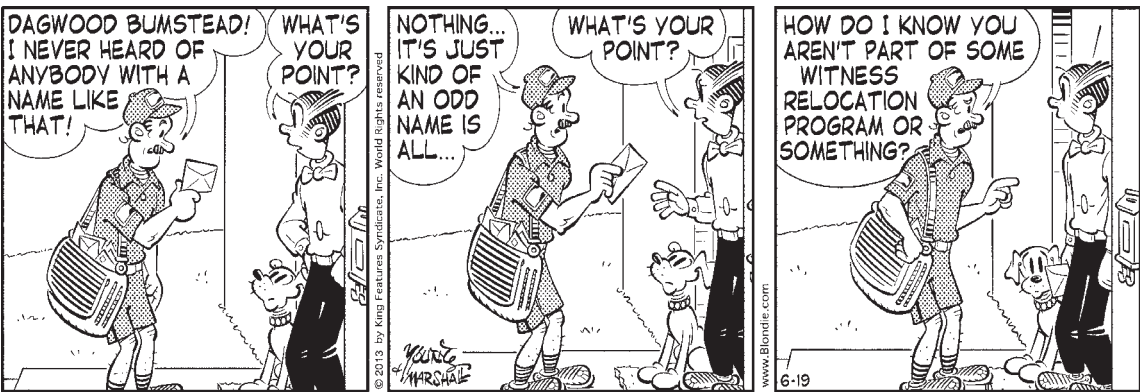
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



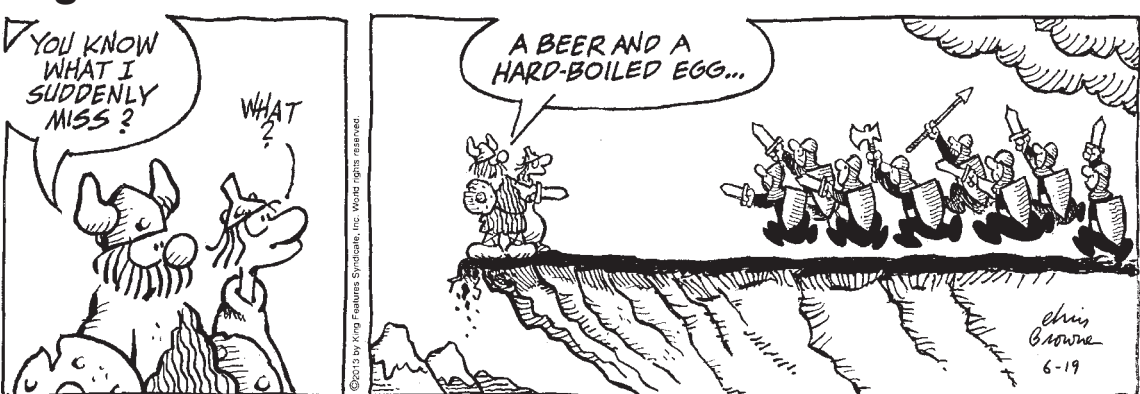
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



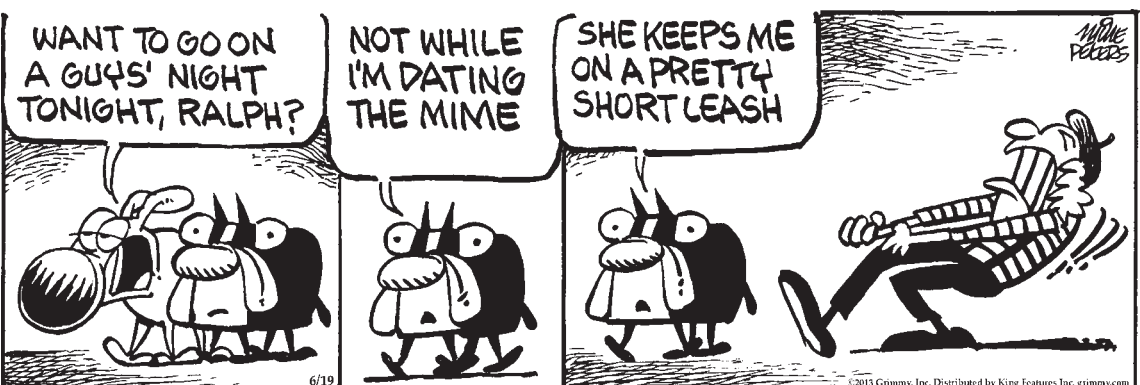
**Blondie** • Chic Young



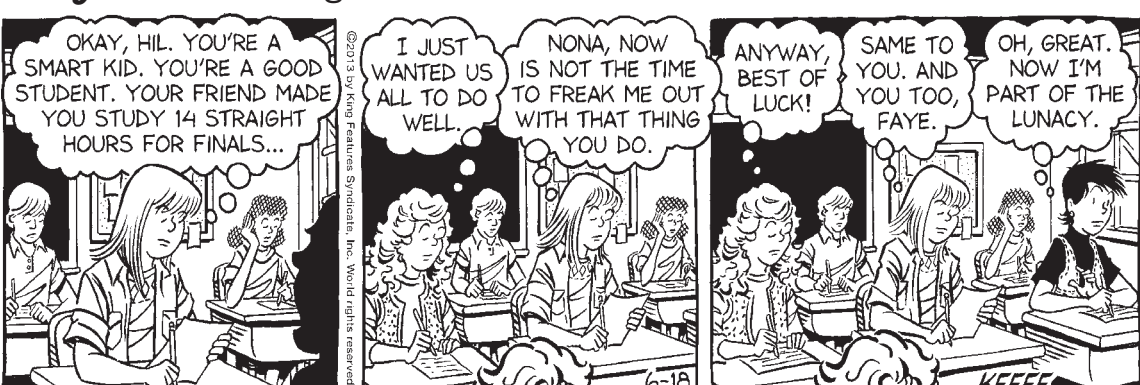
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



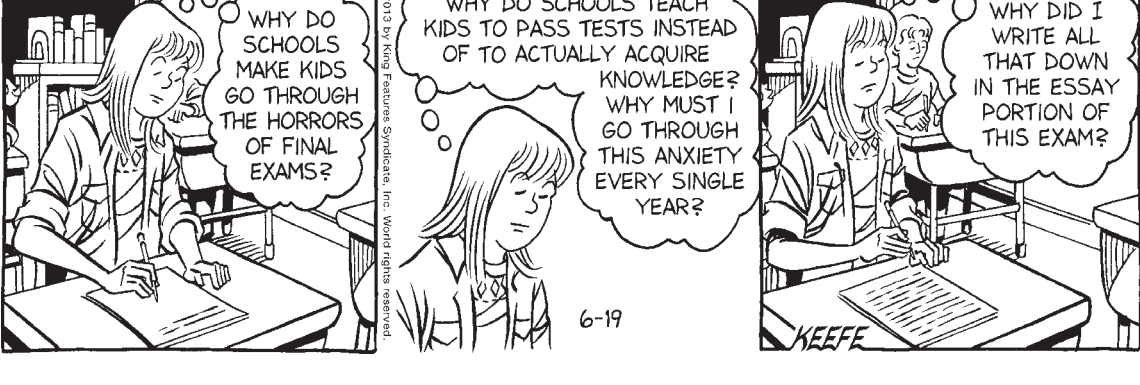
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



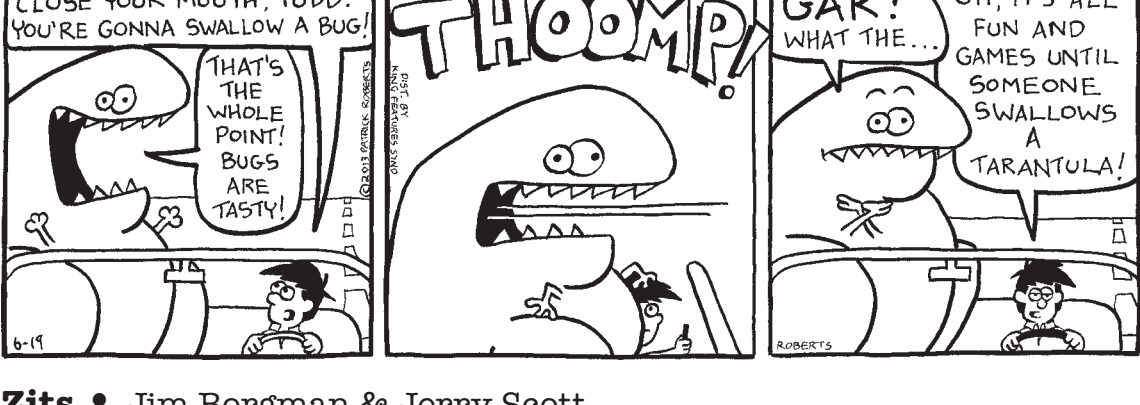
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**  
• Hints from Heloise

**Marshmallows can be unstuck**

Dear Heloise: I bought a bag of miniature marshmallows, which I stored in the pantry. I opened them three weeks later to use, and they were all stuck together in one big blob. It was a sticky mess getting them separated to use in my dessert recipe. How can I avoid this problem? — Ruth F. in Ohio

Just place them in a container with a tightfitting lid, or in a freezer-safe plastic bag, and store in the freezer. Remove from the freezer and let the marshmallows warm to room temperature before using.

If the marshmallows are stuck, pour a little confectioners' (powdered) sugar or cornstarch in the bag and shake to coat. The marshmallows should just break apart. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**  
Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**FLAVORED WATER**  
Dear Heloise: I love the different flavored waters, but they can be expensive. My hint is to make them yourself. I use bottled water and add sliced fruit (strawberries, raspberries, grapes, pineapple, lemon and lime), cucumbers, etc. You even can add mint leaves. Place the pitcher or container in the refrigerator for at least six hours to let the "additive" infuse into the water. — Linda B. in California

**COOKING ODORS**  
Dear Heloise: I have a hint for when cooking broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts and even poaching salmon. I rinse and trim a stalk of celery, cut it into thirds and add it to my liquids. It eliminates the cooking odors and does not impart a celery flavor to what I am cooking. I don't know how, but it really does work! — M.D., via e-mail

Many readers add different things to the water to avoid the odor, like lemon slices, but this is the first I've heard of celery! I tested this when cooking some fresh broccoli, and it did seem to help. And then there is my classic hint of setting a bowl of vinegar on the counter and turning the exhaust fan on while cooking odorous vegetables.

Have you ever wondered what causes the odor? It's the gas that is released as the vegetables are cooked. The longer the vegetables cook, the stronger the odor becomes, so, if you can, try less cooking time and see if there is less odor. — Heloise

**FORK DESIGNS**  
Dear Heloise: I love to bake. One of the easiest hints I have is to use a fork to make designs on cookies, cakes and lemon bars. Just by scraping the tines of the fork across the frosting or powdered sugar, you can create simple or intricate designs on baked goods. — Kelly D., via e-mail

**LOOKING FRESH**  
Dear Heloise: I have a hint so that you can go ahead and slice up those apples and pears the day before you need them without them turning brown. Just refrigerate them in lemon-lime soda. There's no need to keep fresh lemons on hand. — Kathi P. in Arkansas

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 9 8  
♥ A K 6  
♦ Q 7 5 2  
♣ 10 8 3

**WEST**  
♠ 5 3 2  
♥ J 10 5 2  
♦ J 10 9 4  
♣ 9 4

**EAST**  
♠ 4  
♥ Q 7 3  
♦ A K 8 6 3  
♣ 7 6 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q J 7 6  
♥ 9 8 4  
♦ —  
♣ A K Q J

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass  
7 ♠

\* strong, artificial  
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

**A 90 Percent Solution**  
A dummy reversal is relatively easy to execute; the only real difficulty lies in recognizing the opportunity to use it. Consider this deal where South is in seven spades and West leads a diamond. How should declarer play the hand?

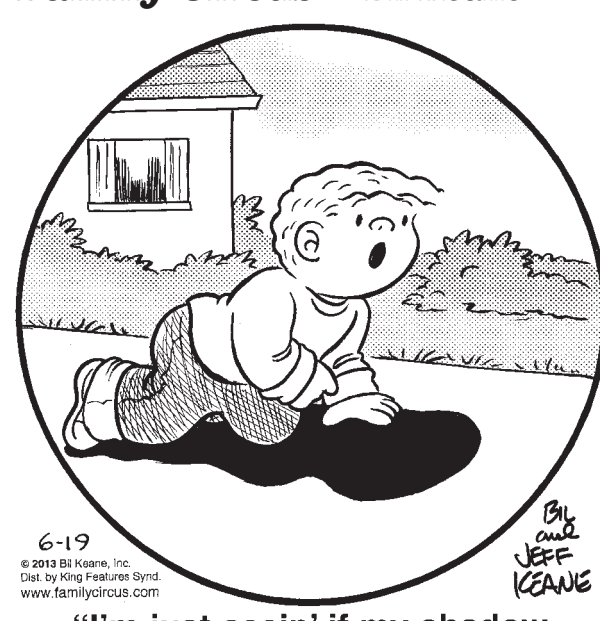
The most obvious approach is to ruff the diamond and draw two rounds of trumps, hoping they are divided 2-2. If this proves to be the case, the rest is easy enough. Declarer cashes his four club winners, discarding a heart from dummy, and eventually ruffs a heart in dummy to finish with 13 tricks. The objection to this method of play is that it depends almost entirely on finding the trumps divided 2-2, which is only a 40 percent chance.

But the alternative line of play — a dummy reversal — will succeed about 90 percent of the time and is therefore a much better plan of attack. It allows declarer to make the contract whether the opposing trumps break 2-2 or 3-1.

Accordingly, South ruffs the first diamond high, leads a trump to the eight, ruffs another diamond high and leads a trump to the nine. He then ruffs a third diamond and leads a heart to the king, followed by a fourth diamond ruff and a heart to the ace.

At this point, South has no trumps in his hand, having ruffed four diamonds and led trumps twice. When he next cashes the ten of spades, drawing West's last trump, he at the same time gets rid of his remaining heart and winds up taking the last four tricks with the A-K-Q-J of clubs. That's all there is to it!

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/19

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

KQFMA UBFV HCYOK ZCF J  
TAWMAQLA UA BK B LAWV  
DWBQFV TAWKCF, Q'Z YQOA  
JC DA OAAF HCW B ZBV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COUNTRY WELL-KNOWN FOR MAINTAINING AN AMAZINGLY LARGE STASH OF SUBMACHINE GUNS: UZI-BEKISTAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals D

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Cracker spread  
5 Easter entree  
8 "The Thin Man" dog  
12 Verve  
13 Past  
14 Use scissors  
15 Sudden temperature drop  
17 —  
Christian Andersen  
18 Dueller's ally  
19 Pass by  
21 Watch chain  
22 Foolish  
23 Andrews or Edwards, for ex.  
26 Path  
28 Gaggle members  
31 Conks out  
33 Joke  
35 Paint crudely  
36 "Yes we can" man  
38 Oft-tattooed word

**DOWN**  
40 Kan. neighbor  
41 Mr. Gingrich  
43 Tear  
45 Curvy-horned antelope  
47 Time of the mammals  
51 Churlish one  
52 Guiding principle  
54 Not working  
55 Under the weather  
56 Take-out phrase  
57 Start a garden  
58 Nutrition-al qty.  
59 Health centers

**1** Chest muscles, for short  
**2** Lotion additive  
**3** Body powder  
**4** The — of the line  
**5** Purse title  
**6** Khan  
**7** Motorized bike  
**8** Embarrassed  
**9** Crisp-pod legume  
**10** Super-market stack  
**11** Church section  
**16** Winter forecast  
**20** Drag along  
**23** Commotion  
**24** Little white lie  
**25** Tall thin person  
**27** Thanks-giving veggie  
**29** Seek damages  
**30** "Chicago" lyricist  
**32** Slendered  
**34** Ape  
**37** Piercing tool  
**39** Cinderella's horses, really  
**42** Long-snouted critter  
**44** Nuisances  
**45** Wading bird  
**46** Fashion  
**48** On  
**49** Infatuated  
**50** Cupid's alias  
**53** Anti-quoted

Yesterday's answer 6-19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
45	46								48	49
51										
54						52	53			
54						55			56	
57						58			59	