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Blondie



Pickles



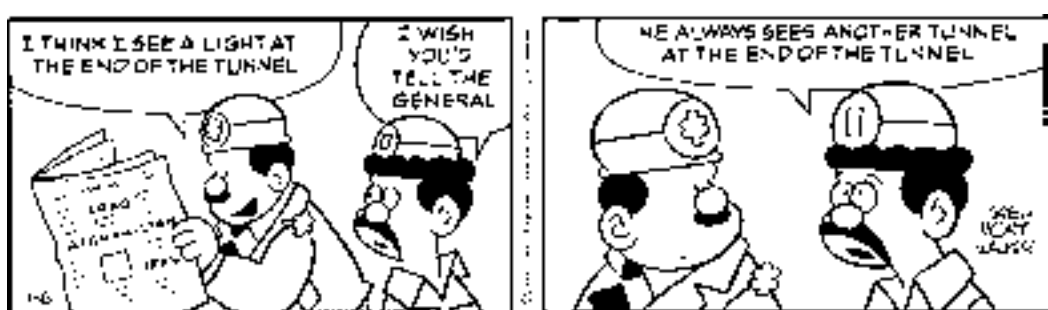
Garfield



Classic Peanuts



Beetle Bailey



Baby Blues



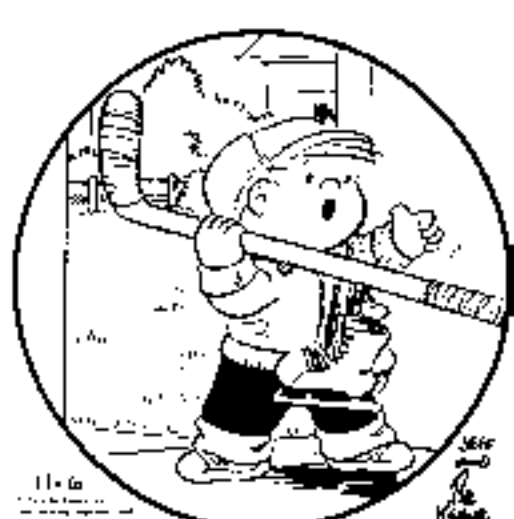
For Better or for Worse



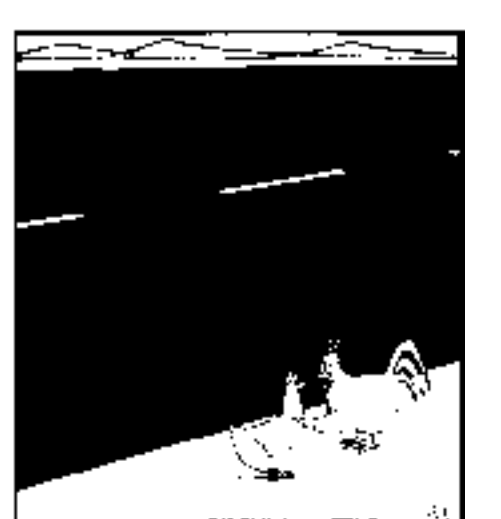
Zits



Family Circus



Rubes



Smacking child wasn't OK

Dear Annie: Last weekend, my daughter, my grandchildren and I attended an exhibition at a well-known museum in Chicago. While waiting to enter, I saw a boy about 8 years old trying to comfort his toddler sister, who was crying. The mother was not present. However, when she returned, she snatched the little girl away and slapped the boy viciously on his ear. He cried out in obvious pain and ran to a nearby wall, sobbing.

ANNIE'S MAILBOX



Your Problems

My daughter and I could not contain our shock and dismay, but we did not approach. The woman came after the boy and he ran. My daughter followed discreetly and heard the woman berating the child. He explained that he was trying to get his sister to stop crying, but the mother shouted that he had embarrassed her and should not have held the girl.

we saw them again, and the little fellow was still rubbing his ear.

This mother needs counseling. I would have notified security, but there were large crowds and a lot of noise, and I doubted they would help. Now, I feel I should have said something. At least let parents know they must not hit their children on the ear or head, or jerk them or shove them. If they are having problems with stress and child-rearing, there are social agencies that will help. — Indianapolis

instance, we would have approached the mother gently, said it was obvious her kids were a handful, and asked if she needed help. It is a tactic that can calm the mother down and let her know others are watching. It also shows the children that adults are willing to protect them. If the mother continued to be abusive, the next step would be to call the police.

Dear Annie: Is it proper to have a baby shower for a second or third child? Two of my cousins are having showers because this time around it's going to be a girl instead of a boy.

I already spent plenty on the showers for the first kids and don't feel it is right to expect people to spend any more. What's your take? — Out of Money

Dear Out: According to Peggy Post, it is OK to give showers for subsequent children, but only if the guest list is limited to very close relatives and friends, and any remaining guests don't include those who already attended a shower for the first child. And you can, of course, decline the invitation.

Dear Indianapolis: We pray this was a one-time loss of control on the mother's part. No matter how badly a child is misbehaving, hitting him, especially on the head, never makes the situation better. In this

A closet smell that won't go away

Dear Heloise: I recently bought a house, and the linen closet in the hallway has a musty smell and damp feeling. I placed baking soda in it to absorb odor and dampness, but it's not working. Help! I have to crack the door open sometimes to "dry" it out, and all my towels smell musty and damp. — C.M. Jerger, via e-mail

HELOISE



Hints

Yuck! Baking soda is a great odor neutralizer, but first, I'm concerned that you have to open the door to dry it out. If that works, that tells me either there is a water leak or

moisture coming from somewhere. You can try these hints:

1. Charcoal — either plain barbecue briquettes or activated charcoal, found in pet stores. Charcoal is great for neutral-

izing odors.
2. Cat-box filler — clay-type cat-box filler in a margarine tub. Litter is wonderfully absorbent and sometimes works as a last resort.

If these hints don't help, you'll need to be a detective and try to figure out what the dampness is and where it's coming from. If it persists, you should call a professional — it's not going to go away on its own! Also, if left alone, it could get worse and grow into black mold, which is extremely hazardous to your health. — Heloise

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Urban sunning	1 Dison-cumber
5 Fison-hower	2 Insep-arable
9 In olden days	3 With-out a computer
12 Farther down the page	4 Grate-lage's too
13 Six 8-Down	5 Ex-governor Palin
14 High-arc shot	6 Com-plete y
15 Postpone	7 Zen paradox
16 Slogan	8 With 13-Across, Christmas quaff
18 I niche	9 Similar
20 out ispp e-ments	10 Lost cause
21 Hawaiian garland	11 Not just as a pudgy
23 Smack meter	17 Releases
24 Cubic meter	19 Mustard variety
25 — It Fernan-lic?	
27 Athletes	
29 Bulf-little healer	
31 Out of reach, maybe	
35 Preven-tion measure	
37 Leak slowly	
38 Offspring	21 Fleur-de-
41 First	22 Superla five ending
43 Gratitude	24 Schuss
44 Ocean	26 Brick-lage's too
45 Back-bone-related	28 "SNL" alumna
47 Recommended safety	30 Sister
49 Hole accommo-dation	32 Phone to the president
52 Lemieux milieu	33 Subma-rine gun type
53 Rowing seed	34 Energy
54 Ol-	36 Pickled buds used as a garnish
55 Apiece	38 D-srobe
56 Boom times	39 Fragment
57 Part swe-ting	40 Rattle-snake's cousin

Solution time: 25 mins.
Yesterday's answer 11-6

Coming Up This Week



Audrey Lintner
Saturday
Blooming Dells



Library Line

Tuesday



Denise O'Dea
Tuesday
From the Desk of the Superintendent

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