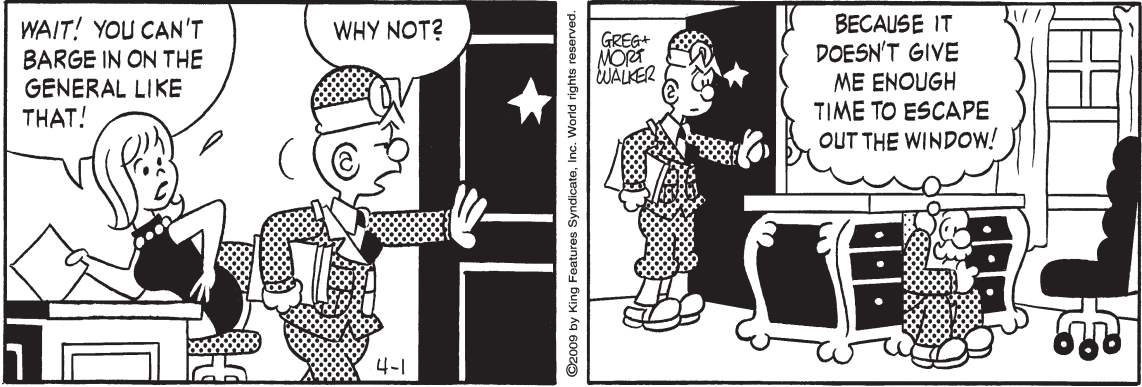


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



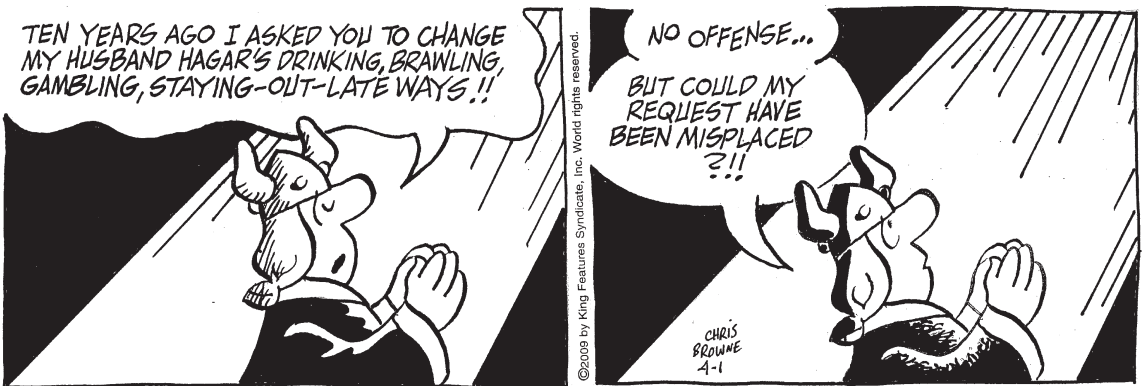
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



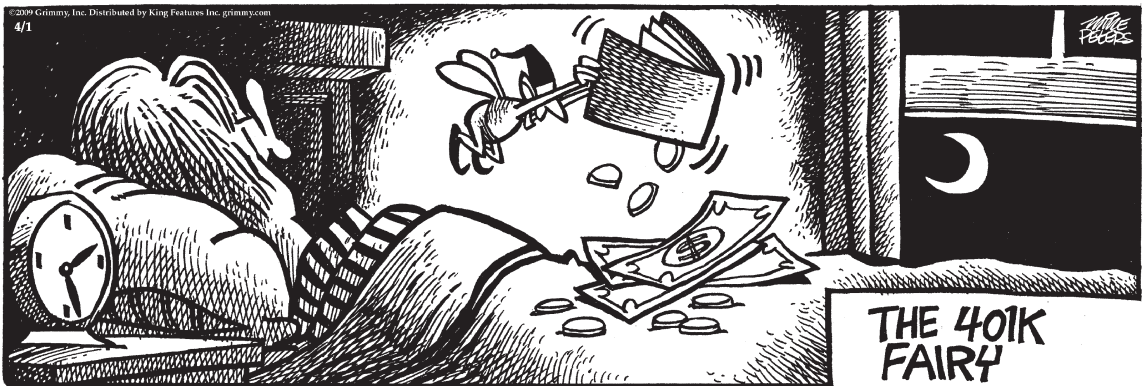
Blondie • Chic Young



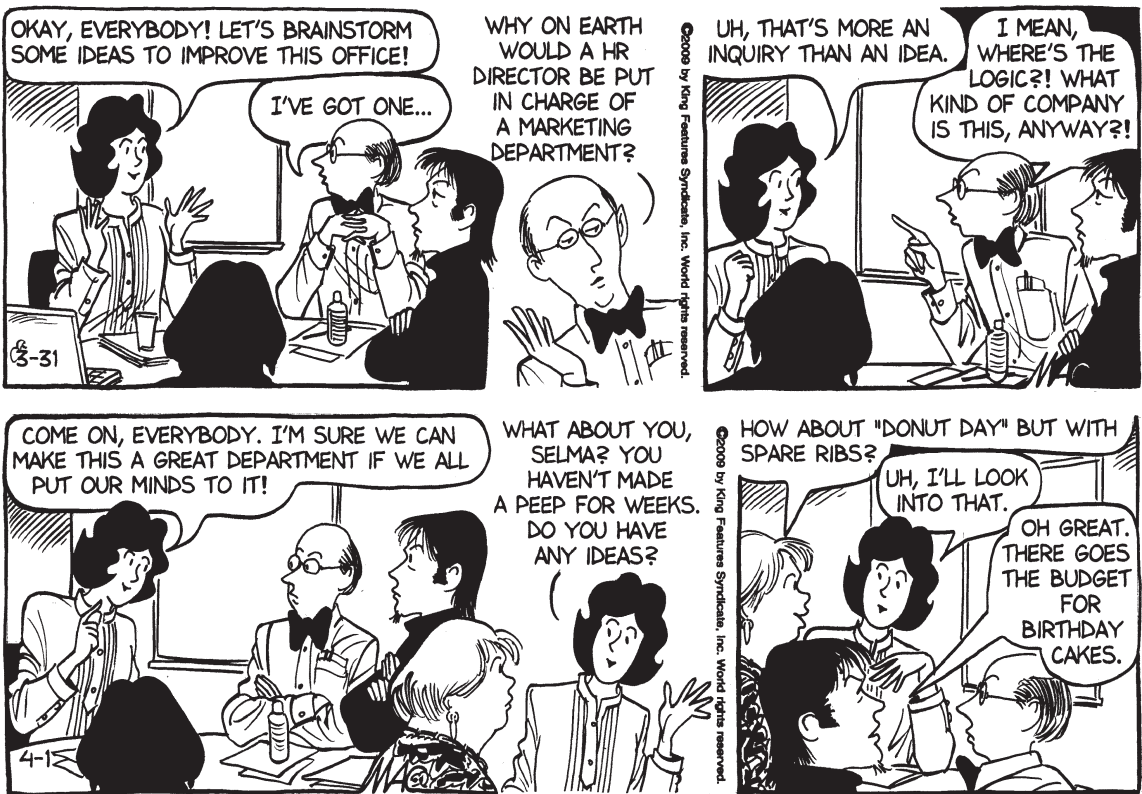
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



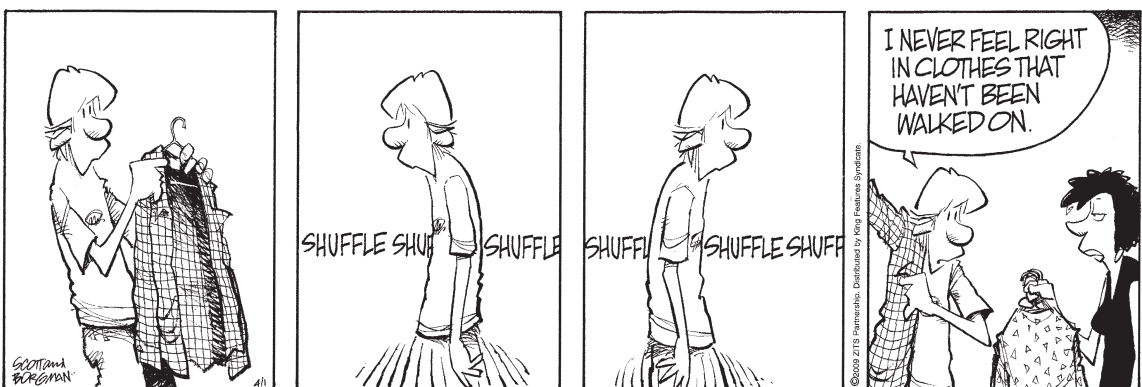
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Mocha smoothie new recipe twist

Dear Heloise: I read your article and saw your MOCHA COFFEE recipe. I have gotten your pamphlet and love the different recipes, and have given them as gifts. My daughter and her family have added a new twist to the mocha coffee. They make the recipe, leaving out the powdered creamer and using a cup of low-fat milk, adding ice cubes and blending it. She has told me that it makes the most fantastic smoothie. Hope your readers will try and enjoy. – Kay Hansen, Billings, Mont.

Kay, how nice of you to write about this delicious, tasty and cheap-to-make mocha coffee recipe. For readers who want to taste it, here it is: 1/2 cup instant-coffee granules 1/2 cup granulated sugar (or appropriate amount of artificial sweetener) 1 cup powdered milk or powdered creamer (nonfat creamer can be substituted*) 2 tablespoons (or more) cocoa powder Mix the ingredients together. For a cup of mocha coffee, just put 2 rounded teaspoons (less if using artificial sweetener) of the flavored blend into an 8-ounce cup and add boiling water, stirring well. *Note: Some nonfat creamers have sugar included, so you might need to adjust the sugar amount. Want to try cheap-to-make spiced, orange or chocolate extract coffee? All you need to do is just send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (59 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Did you know that you can freeze coffee (ground or whole beans) for up to six months? You can, so when your favorite brand is on sale or you have coupons, stock up and save money on your food budget. – Heloise

MAKING SOUP

Dear Heloise: I regularly make big pots of soup. I use a big pot with a metal colander insert to put chicken or turkey carcasses or bones in. When the stock is ready, I just take out the colander (using hot pads – Heloise) with all the bones in it, avoiding any getting into the broth. Then I set the pot in the fridge overnight so the fat hardens on the top and can easily be scooped off. Then it's all prepared to add veggies, seasonings and noodles or rice. -- Jean Milici, Torrington, Conn.

COOKING-OIL POURING

Dear Heloise: I like to use just a little cooking oil to fry something, but it's so easy to pour too much. A simple solution dawned on me. With my latest bottle, I punched a small hole in the seal instead of removing it. Now, I remove the cap and use the bottle like a squeeze bottle. -- John Chapman, Dallas

STAY-PUT TRASH BAG

Dear Heloise: One of my worst frustrations was the trash bag sagging down and trash falling out. To keep this from happening, my husband put a large binder clip on the front and one on the back to hold the bag on the trash container. – Frieda Gothard, Arlington, Texas (c)2009 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 2
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ K J 3

WEST
♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K J 8 5 4
♦ K 4
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ Q 5 4
♥ 10 9 7 2
♦ A 3
♣ 9 8 7 4

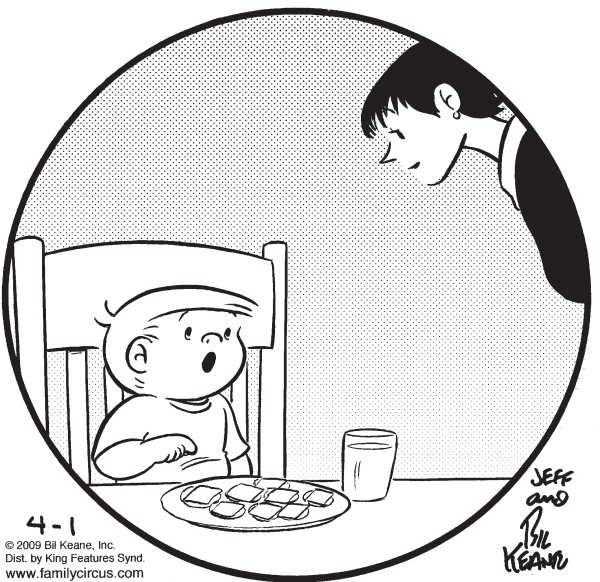
SOUTH
♠ 9 8
♥ A Q
♦ J 9 8 5 2
♣ A Q 10 5

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

Seek and Ye Shall Find

In some notrump contracts, declarer cannot afford to establish his long suit because by the time he does so, the opponents will have collected enough tricks to set him. In such situations, declarer must look elsewhere for the tricks he needs to get home safely. Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump. South wins with the queen and can count eight sure winners -- two spades, two hearts and four clubs. Understandably, his natural impulse is to try to establish the diamond suit. But if he gives in to this temptation, he is headed for certain defeat, since by the time the A-K of diamonds are driven out, the defenders will have scored at least three heart tricks and two diamond tricks. South must therefore find his ninth trick elsewhere. The only remaining source is in spades, where a simple finesse against the queen is available. If West dealt the queen -- an even-money shot -- finessing the jack will succeed, and declarer's troubles will be over. However, while this line of play raises South's chances from zero to 50 percent, it is still not the best approach. An even better plan, which improves his chances to 75 percent, is to lead the nine of spades at trick two and let it ride if West follows low. In the actual deal, the nine forces East's queen, so the jack of spades becomes declarer's ninth trick. (If West covers the nine with the ten, dummy's jack is played, and the eight becomes the ninth trick.) If the nine happens to lose to the ten, South can finesse the jack next time. This line of play succeeds whenever West was dealt either the ten or queen of spades, or both. Mathematically, the odds are about 3-to-1 that West has at least one of these cards. All South need do at the outset is to recognize the value of the 9-8 of spades. (c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“How much of a snack do I get to eat before it becomes a meal?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

A Z D G H K Q V K P E J D J Z D

B D G I D I Z W Q T T D W H Y W K A J Z

H K Q ' W D I D D L X G Y , H K Q P K Q V B

P W H " J Z E J ' I J Z D J Z X P L D J ! "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DID YOU HEAR THE GIRL IN THE BEACH BOYS SONG BOUGHT A CAR LOT AND CALLED IT RHONDA'S HONDAS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Band in Boston?
5 Derek and Diddley
8 Always
12 Couple in a gossip column
13 Trench
14 Start over
15 Horrible state
17 Mined-over matter
18 Battled
19 Lengthy list
21 Perch
22 Idle or Clapton
23 Wager
26 Church seat
28 Alkali neutralizers
31 Lone Star State sch.
33 Siesta
35 On
36 Craze
38 Wander about
40 Verily
41 Gospels follow-up

DOWN

1 Chan-teuse Edith
2 "Beetle Bailey" dog
3 Andean land
4 Clean Air Act targets
5 "Peter Grimes" composer
6 Chic no more
7 Fashion
8 Blue material?
9 Accuracy
10 Paradise
11 Optimistic
16 Chocolate fragment
20 Playwright Levin
23 Vagrant
24 Greek vowel
25 Stick-to-itiveness
27 Humorist
29 Buck's mate
30 Hot tub
32 Big Mac ingredients
34 Champion for a cause
37 Noshed
39 Carvey or Delany
42 Employees
44 Embroidery loop
45 Door-frame part
46 Met melody
48 Certain skirt
49 Fermi's concern
50 Muse's strings
53 Spoon-bender Geller

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-1

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
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		