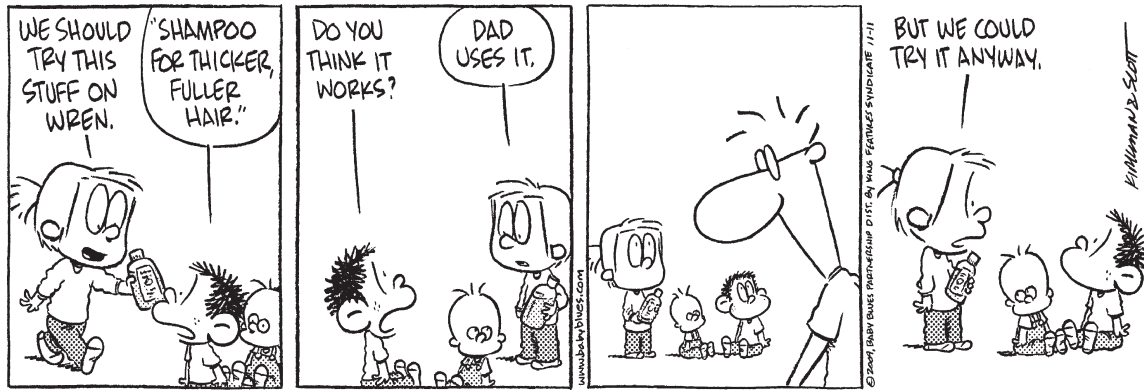
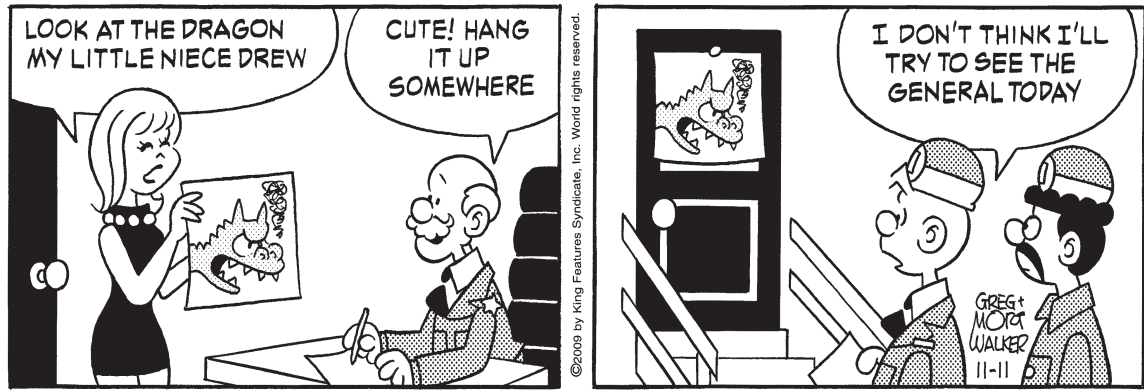


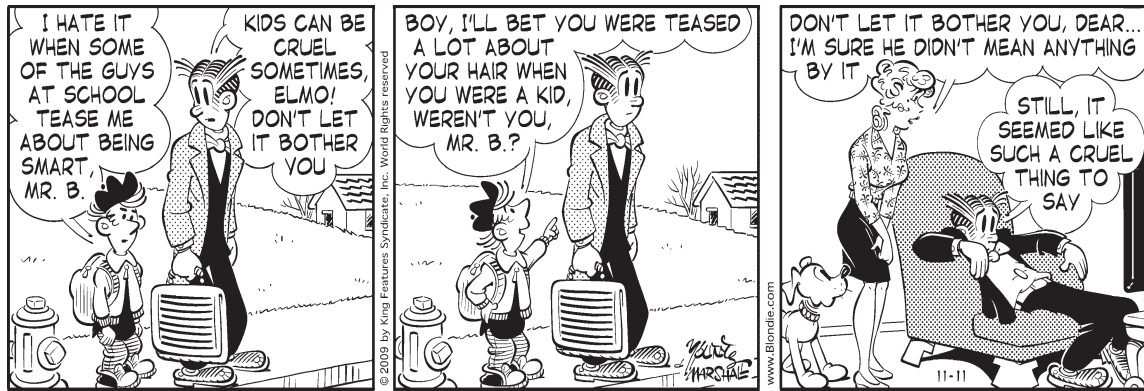
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



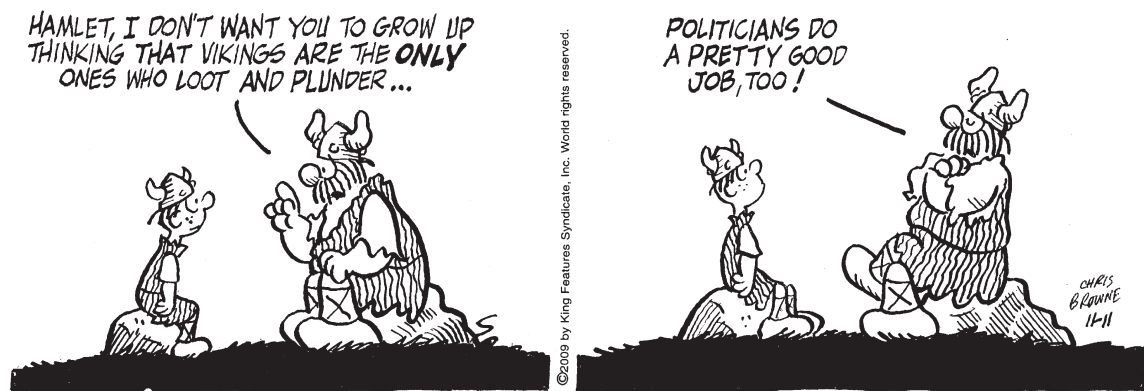
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



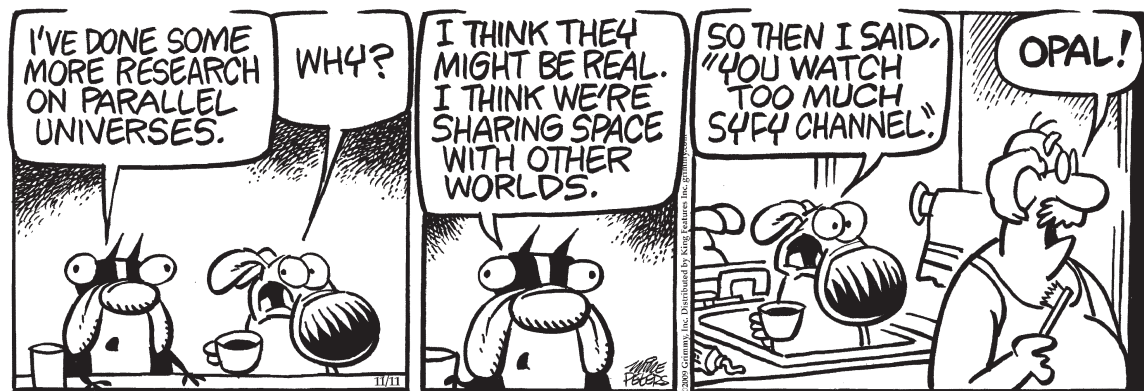
Blondie • Chic Young



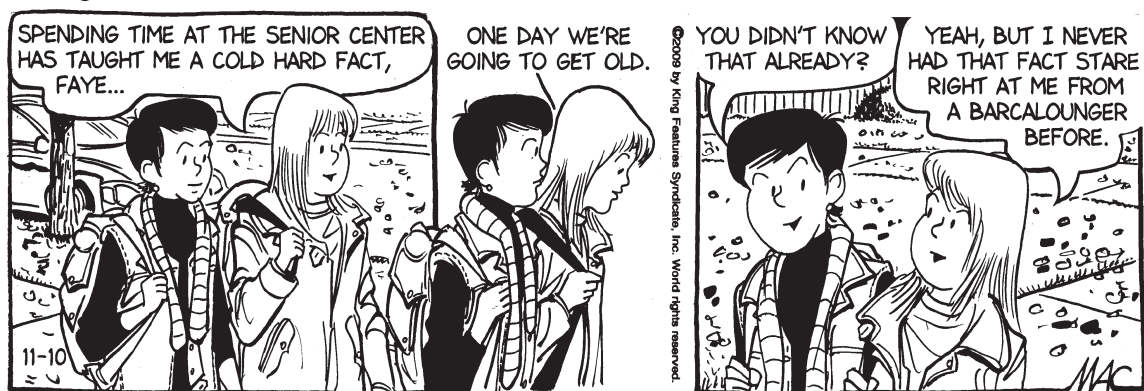
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



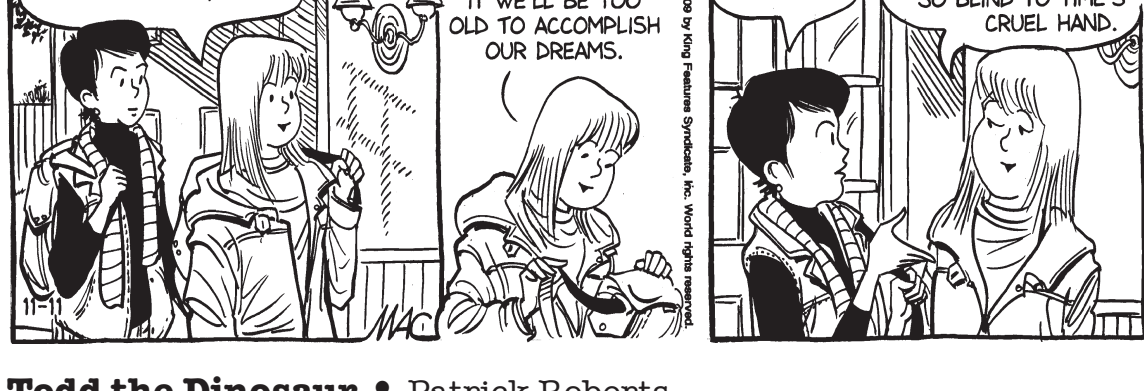
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



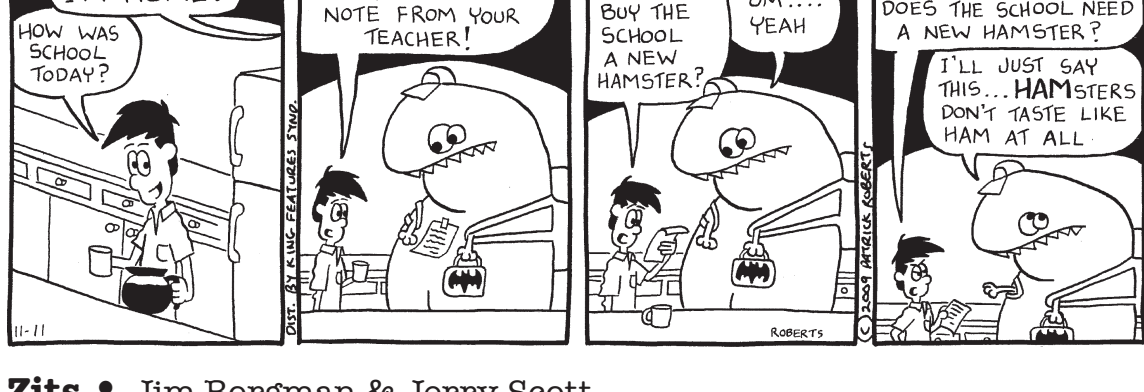
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Soda's not cure for brown fruit

Dear Heloise: I've heard that putting APPLE SLICES IN BAKING SODA will keep them from turning brown. Is this true? I have baking soda on hand at all times. I'd rather use that instead of purchasing lemon juice when needed. — Tracy, via e-mail

Tracy, baking soda will not keep apples from turning brown, as far as I know. The best thing to use is any citrus juice — lemon, lime or even orange juice — which most of us have on hand. The acid in these juices stops the oxidization.

Apples aren't the only things that turn brown once cut — pears, bananas, peaches and potatoes also do. You can simply put the slices in water until you need them.

Baking soda does have a multitude of other uses around the home. It's a cheap and effective cleaner and deodorizer. For money-saving hints and recipes, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To keep the garbage disposal smelling fresh, put a couple of tablespoons of baking soda down the drain once a week. — Heloise

OATMEAL ADDITIONS
Dear Readers: Hot oatmeal is wonderful on a cold morning! Here are some additions to consider: Add chopped nuts, chocolate or butterscotch chips, fresh or dried fruit (chopped), molasses or even a spoonful of your favorite jam. — Heloise

POTATO SALAD
Dear Heloise: I have enjoyed your articles for many years and have used so many of your hints and recipes. I started to make potato salad a few nights ago. Instead of boiling the potatoes, I put them in my microwave for about 12 minutes (time may vary with your microwave — Heloise), turning them once. I took them out, let them cool, and the peel came right off. I added the eggs, pickles, etc., and presto — delicious potato salad. No more messy pans for making potato salad. — Wava Patterson, Cleveland, Tenn.

Good idea! This is a good way to preserve the nutrients, too! — Heloise

MUFFIN CUPS
Dear Heloise: I save the plastic containers that muffin cups come in. I put baked muffins in them so they don't get smashed by the other things in my lunch bag. — Peggy Raiche, Colorado Springs, Colo.

HANDY BLENDER
Dear Heloise: I read your column daily and appreciate all the useful hints. Here is a timesaving hint that will help when frying hamburger for chili or sloppy Joes, etc.: Use a pastry blender while frying hamburger to keep it from "clumping" or staying together in large chunks. — Lonnie Blasko, Warren, Ohio

SHRIMP SCRAPS
Dear Heloise: I have found that clean paper coffee filters make great "bowls" to hold the shells when eating shrimp. I give each person his or her own filter, and this makes the cleanup oh so quick and easy. I put the filters in a plastic bag from a newspaper and freeze until trash day. — Ruth S., Rockport, Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 4 2
♥ Q 1 7 6
♦ A Q 5
♣ A K 3

WEST
♠ 8 6
♥ 10 9 5 2
♦ 9 8 6
♣ Q 9 7 2

EAST
♠ 7 3
♥ A K 4 3
♦ K J 10 4
♣ J 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 5
♥ 8
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 10 6 4

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ All Pass
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Spotty Play

Spot cards can play a key role in the outcome of many deals. The declarer who fails to give full weight to their value can easily bungle a makable contract.

Consider this deal where West led the ten of hearts against four spades. Dummy's jack was taken by East's king, and East exited with a trump.

Declarer drew trumps in two rounds and then played the A-K and another club. He hoped East would be forced to win, in which case any return would aid South's cause.

But West overtook the jack of clubs with the queen and shifted to the nine of diamonds. Declarer tried the queen, but it lost to the king. East returned a diamond, and South eventually lost another diamond for down one.

The final result can be blamed entirely on South's failure to appreciate his heart spots. Ten tricks are his for the taking if he wins East's trump return in dummy at trick two and leads the queen of hearts, forcing East to cover with the ace, ruffed by South.

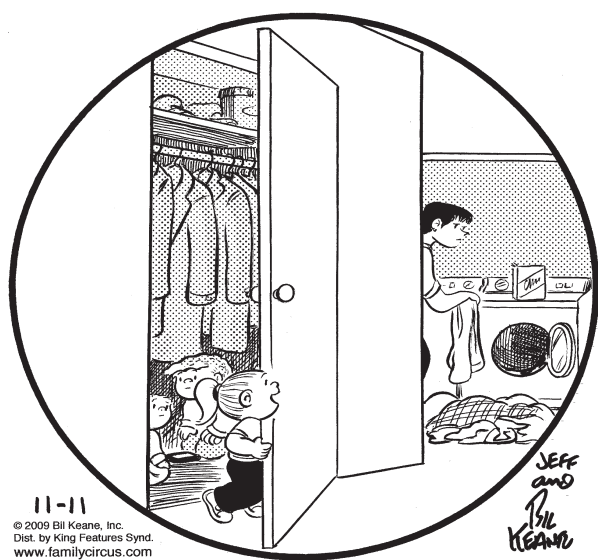
Declarer then draws trumps, crosses to dummy with a club and leads the seven of hearts. After East follows, South discards a club or a diamond.

West wins the seven of hearts with the nine, but declarer now has 10 tricks: six spades, the ace of diamonds, the A-K of clubs and the six of hearts, which has become the high heart.

All declarer need do is notice that after the 10-J-K-8 of hearts are played to the first trick, a heart trick can eventually be developed, since the Q-7-6 are left in dummy while only the ace and nine remain in the opponents' hands.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy! If you need us, we're in the closet watchin' Daddy's new phone glow in the dark."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/11

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.

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

Cryptoquip

BT E IMAGEBU APFMUG
VBQMN GP AMNBFM BU GRM
IEJBGEV PT PCEU, B NYJPNM
GREG'N E CYNIEG CYNQAEG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DOCUMENTARY FILM THAT FEATURES THE GRAND CANYON STATE'S CATTLE POPULATION: "GRAZING ARIZONA."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Mop
5 Shooter pellet
8 Impale
12 Verdi masterpiece
13 Rowing need
14 Melody
15 Grayish-white metal
17 Initial chip
18 Unrelenting
19 Root
21 Japanese pond carp
22 Scoots
23 Lawyers' org.
26 Apprehend
28 Parisian subway
31 Sawyer's pal
33 Gear tooth
35 Sweetie
36 Bellhop, often
38 Illustrations
- DOWN**
1 Ener-vates
2 Droop
3 Hebrew month
4 Dyeing technique
5 Firebird maker
6 Water element
7 Joust Heche protection
8 Dis-colored
9 Its volume
10 Con is W
11 Existed
16 PC picture
19 Youngsters
20 Pirates' quaff
23 Sternward
24 Story of a lifetime
25 Semiconductor ingredient
27 Feathery accessory
29 Bob's longtime partner
30 Killer whale
32 Cancels out
34 Old man
37 Deteriorate
39 Despot
42 Clinic goings-on
44 Fill the shelves
45 Persia, today
46 1492 caravel
48 Wrinkly citrus
49 Peruse
50 Remnants
53 Singer Sumac

Solution time: 21 mins.

ORE	OTT	CALF
DELI	FEF	OREO
DISC	FAX	EMIR
SNEER	KAHN	
CAB	SUBTLE	
CARRYON	GROAN	
ALOE	WEB	OUZO
ISAAC	WASTREL	
NORMAL	DOH	
CRAB	NERVE	
JUDO	DEN	RUES
AKIN	LEO	SNIP
GENE	ERR	ELY

Yesterday's answer 11-11

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		