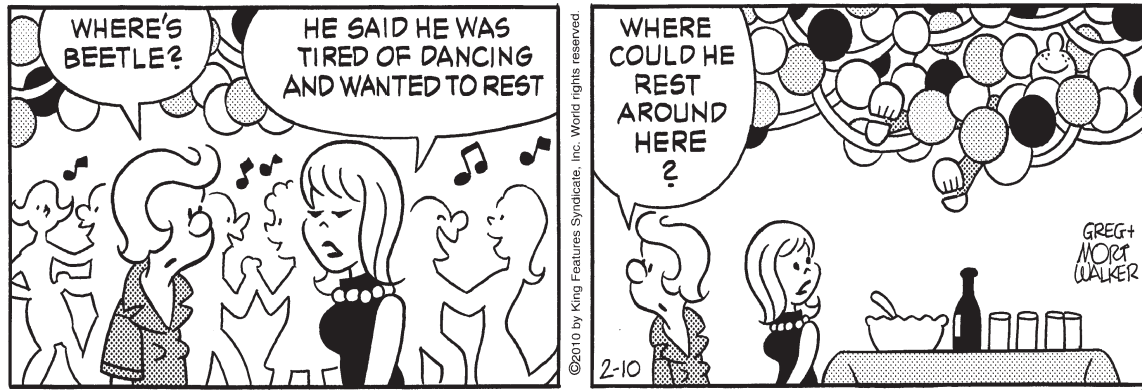


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



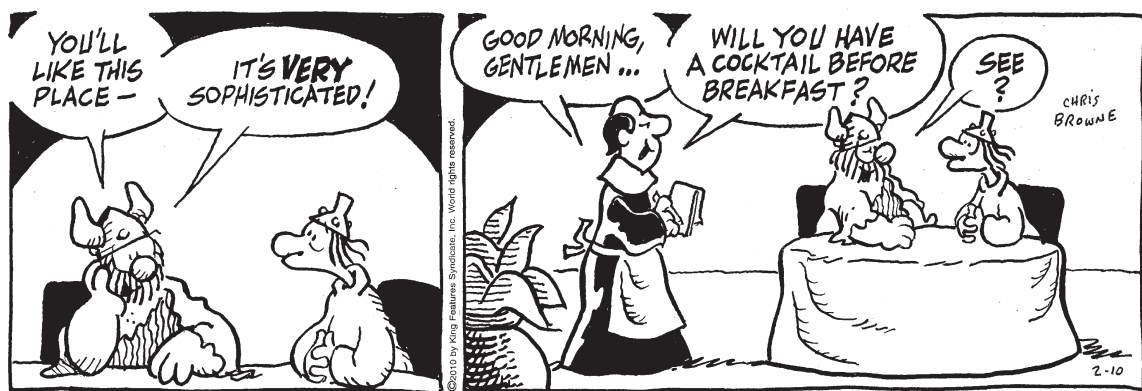
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



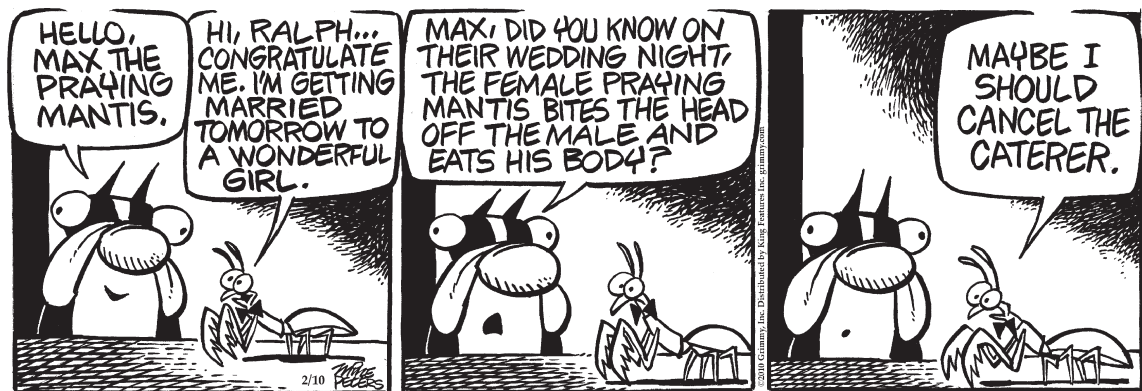
Blondie • Chic Young



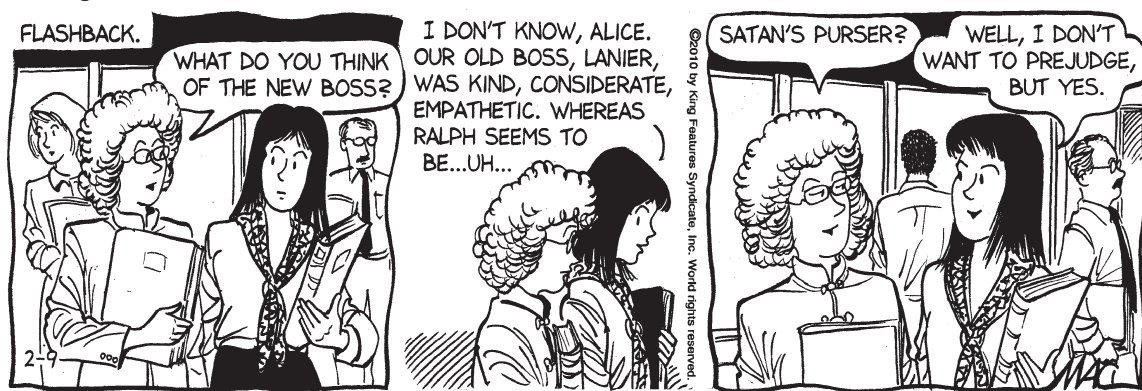
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



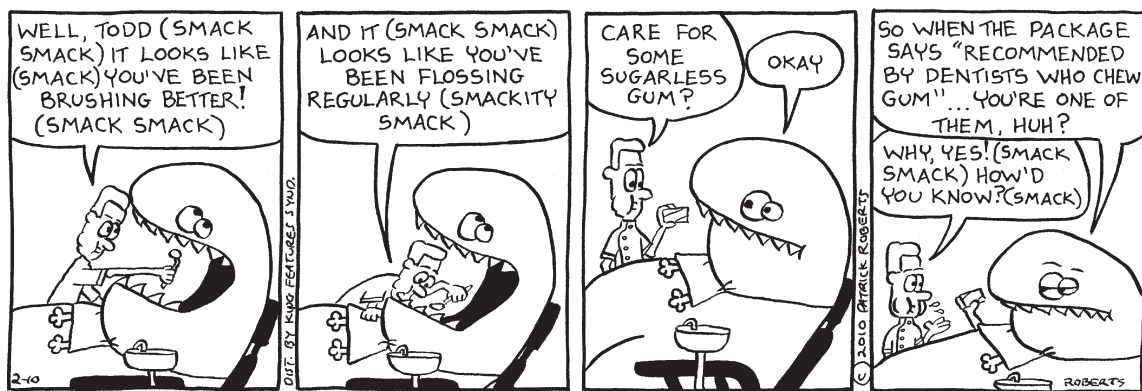
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Dear Heloise: I have a large JAR OF HONEY that has congealed. How can I save the honey or get it out of the jar? - Dorothy Stempin, via e-mail

It is natural for honey to crystallize over time, and you can do one of two things to bring it back to life. First, heat (not to boiling) water in a pan on the stove and place the jar (without the lid) in it. Remove the pan or turn off the heat, and the honey will become clear as it is reliquefying.

Or if the honey is in a microwave-safe container, place it in your microwave on a WARM setting for two to three minutes, stopping every 30 seconds to stir. Be careful not to scorch or boil the honey, because it will change the texture and flavor. - Heloise

P.S.: Don't keep honey in the refrigerator - the cold temperature will speed up crystallization. And here is a honey of a hint from Sharyn, via e-mail: "I couldn't find my honey dipper this morning, so I used a clean fork to get the honey out of the jar."

PANTRY ORGANIZATION
Dear Heloise: This is my hint for organizing pantry shelves: Small packets of gravies, soups, sauces and seasoning mixes, etc., are always slipping and sliding on my pantry shelves. When I shop, I see empty boxes that held those packages. I asked if I could have the empty boxes and was told yes. Everything fits perfectly. - Marilyn in Texas

POTS OF SOUP
Dear Heloise: When I make soup, I make a big batch. I use a good grade of meat, stock or broth, and use little or no water to make the soup very thick. I begin with a soup starter, then add lots of extras - anything you like can go into the soup.

Hint: To remove any grease from the top, I wait until it is no longer simmering, place slices of bread on top of the soup for just a few seconds, then turn the slices over. I lift the bread out right away onto a plate, and any grease is now in the bread. - Steward H., Longview, Texas

Did you know that you can make soup creamier by adding vegetable puree, rice or even mashed potatoes? And to give a bowl of soup eye appeal, add grated cheese, scallions or croutons. Want to try some of my family's and friends' recipes? Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If your soup is too hot to eat, throw in an ice cube or some frozen peas or corn. - Heloise

COOKIE RECIPE
Dear Heloise: When cookie recipes tell you to roll the dough into balls and dip in sugar, I put the sugar in a plastic bag and put in six to eight balls at a time, then gently shake. - Janet in Washington

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ K
♣ A Q J 10 5
WEST
♠ J 9 3
♥ K J 6 2
♦ A 7 4
♣ 8 7 3
EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ Q 10 9
♦ J 6 5 3 2
♣ K 9
SOUTH
♠ A K 10
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ 6 4 2

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

A Very Valuable Convention
A conscientious defender should try to decipher the meaning of every card his partner plays. This is especially true whenever partner has a choice of cards to play. In these cases, a good defender should ask himself why partner played the card he did play rather than another one he didn't play.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart to East's queen, which wins, and East continues with the ten, South playing the seven and West the six. East then leads another heart, on which South plays the ace and West the jack.

Declarer tries a club finesse, losing to the king, and East has the chance to be a hero or a goat, depending on whether he returns a diamond or a spade. If he chooses the wrong suit, South makes the contract.

Suppose East returns a spade, eschewing a diamond return because South opened the bidding with a diamond. In that case, declarer eventually scores four spade tricks, four club tricks and a heart for nine tricks all told. But if East returns a diamond, South goes down one, losing three hearts, a diamond and a club.

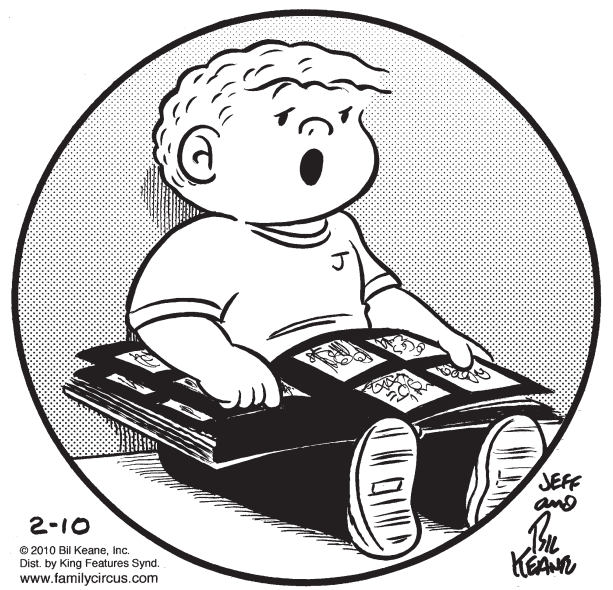
East's problem is not entirely a matter of guesswork, however. He should go back to the play at trick three when West, known to hold the K-J of hearts, elected to play the jack rather than the king on South's ace.

The jack play is significant to players familiar with the suit-preference signal. Since the K-J are equal in value at this point, West can indicate a preference for the lower-ranking suit (as between spades and diamonds) by playing the lower-ranking card, the jack.

If West had held the ace of spades instead of the ace of diamonds, he would have indicated his interest in the higher-ranking suit, spades, by playing the king instead of the jack at trick three.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-10
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www.familycircus.com
"Mommy, how old was I when I decided to be borned?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

VU X OFSNDH VN GDGXKKW
QHXPKE GD XZZ QO HQRPFNS,
WDQ RVIYIG NXW IF'N
NQUUFSVHY USDR VH-NQR-HVX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW WOULD ONE REFER TO BITS OF GOSSIP SPREAD BY A MOTEL'S PAYING GUESTS? THE ROOMERS' RUMORS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Puncturing unit
4 Shriver of tennis
7 Dog bane
8 December holidays
10 Water nymph
11 Gets out of bed
13 Scattered here and there
16 X rating?
17 Eco-community
18 Hearty brew
19 Car
20 Census statistics
21 Pizzeria need
23 Infants
25 Boat's floor
26 Employer
27 Scot's denial

DOWN
3 Spotted beetle
4 Adar celebration
5 Wonderland visitor
6 Work well together
7 No. 1 pick, for short
8 Google competitor
9 Refuse matter
10 Trawler need
12 Corporate department
2 Have on

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-10

	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		