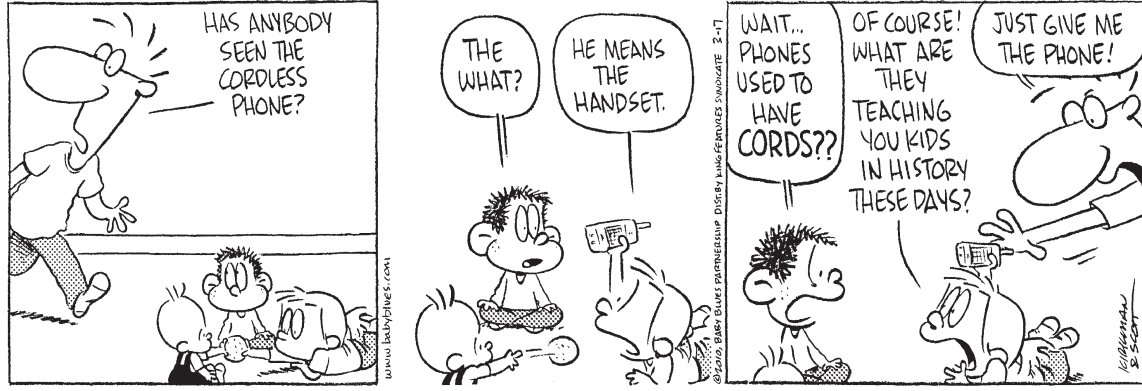
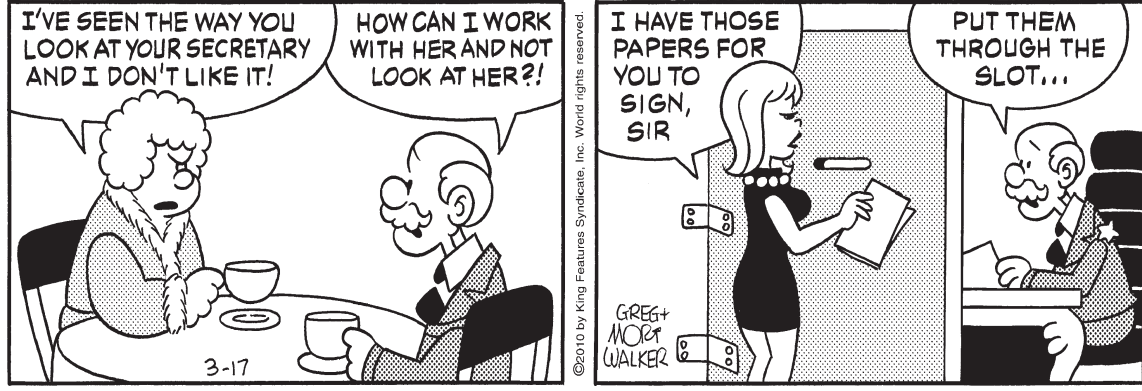


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



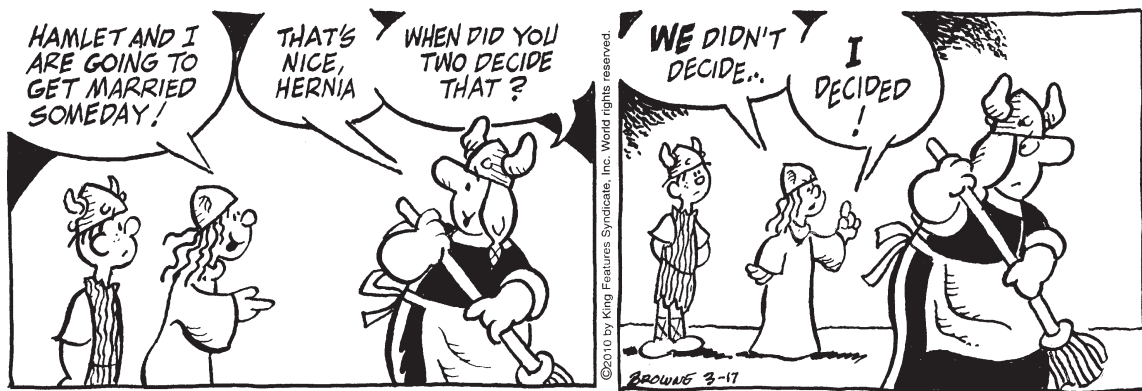
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



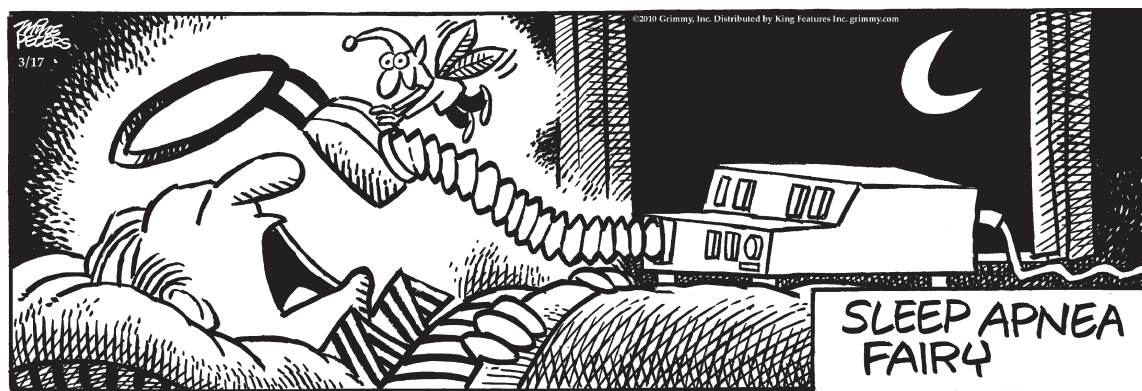
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



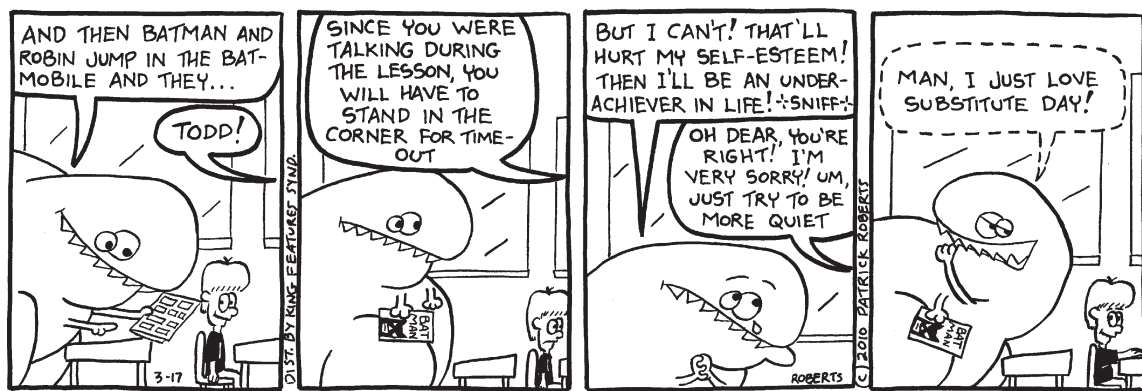
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Buttermilk lean, and that's a fact

Dear Readers: Doesn't BUTTERMILK sound like it's a rich, high-fat, decadent drink? Guess again. Buttermilk is LOW in calories and fat. According to the California Milk Advisory Board, one glass (8 ounces) of buttermilk has just 102 calories and 3 grams of fat, and 2 percent white milk has about 132 calories and 5 grams of fat. So, if you have ever wondered about buttermilk, it's not fattening! Buttermilk originally was what was left over after milk was made into butter. Yep, leftovers. Today, buttermilk is low-fat white milk that has had lactic acid added to it, which thickens the milk and gives it a velvety texture and a tangy flavor. Some dairies add tiny bits of butter to the milk to give it a slightly yellow "buttery" hue. — Heloise

EASY-TO-MAKE SOUP

Dear Heloise: My mother, like yours, never met a recipe she couldn't change and make better. I make a soup by cutting chicken, beef, etc., into small pieces, then adding veggies and either barley (my favorite) or rice before adding the broth or bouillon. Just a short time before serving, I mix about a cup of biscuit mix (prepared by package directions — Heloise) with a little flour and maybe some grated cheddar cheese, patting the dough out about an eighth of an inch and cutting into strips or triangular shapes — just like the old-fashioned dumplings. It's a very good, hearty soup. — A.F., via e-mail

Soup can be an easy and low-cost meal! For some really delicious soup recipes that are tried-and-true, you can have a copy of my soup pamphlet by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Toss extra ravioli or tortellini that you may have on hand into soup at the end of cooking to make the soup more like a meal. — Heloise

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Dear Heloise: It had always been a challenge to get jellied cranberry sauce out of the can due to suction. Having struggled with that every holiday season, and usually butchering the contents, I figured out a way to vent it and relieve the suction so the sauce would slide out easily. This past holiday season, I took a straw and pushed it down the center of the cranberry sauce, put my finger over the end of the straw and pulled it out. Voila — instant vent, and the jellied cranberry sauce slid nicely out of the can for easy slicing. — John Frazier, Fayetteville, N.C.

John, how "in-vent-ive" of you! Next time, just punch a hole in the bottom of the can with an ice pick, and the contents will slide right out. — Heloise

HEAD OF LETTUCE

Dear Heloise: To save a head of lettuce and prevent it from turning brown, I wrap it tightly with plastic wrap to prevent air getting to it. Use what you need and rewrap. — M.L. Sullivan, St. Augustine, Fla.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 9 7 2
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ K Q 8 3

WEST
 ♠ 10 5 4
 ♥ Q 9 7 6 3 2
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 9 4

EAST
 ♠ Q J 8 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A K Q 9 6 4
 ♣ 6 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 6
 ♥ A 10 4
 ♦ 8 7 3
 ♣ A J 10 7 5

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♣ Pass 1♠ 2♦
 Pass Pass 4♣ Pass
 5♣

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

An Arithmetical Process

No one can be a really good cardplayer unless he has mastered the art of counting out a hand. By this is meant the ability to deduce the exact distribution of the unseen hands from either the bidding or what transpires during the play.

This skill is not nearly as difficult to attain as might be thought. The secret lies mostly in reconstructing the opponents' hands as the play proceeds, paying particular attention to any trick where a defender fails to follow suit.

Today's hand provides an illustration of how easy counting out a hand can be. South reaches five clubs on the bidding shown, and East wins two diamond tricks before shifting to a trump.

Declarer's only problem is to avoid losing a heart trick. All his efforts should therefore be focused on trying to determine which opponent is more likely to hold the queen.

Accordingly, after winning East's trump return, South cashes a second trump, noting that each opponent started with two clubs. He then plays the K-A of spades and ruffs a spade, both defenders again following suit.

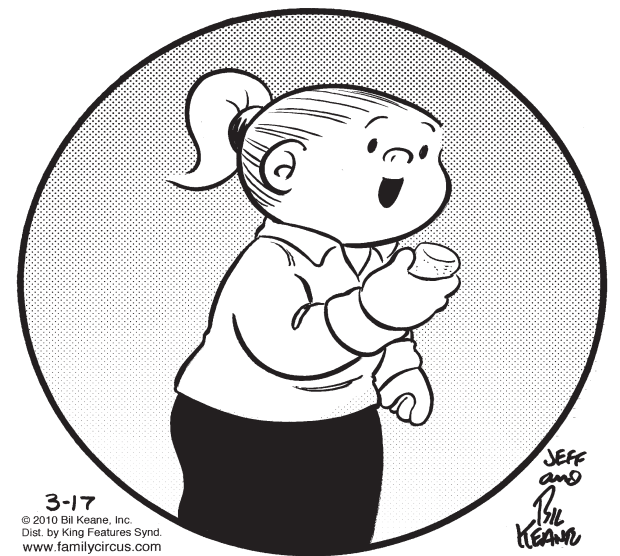
A diamond is now ruffed, West discarding a heart. Declarer makes a mental note that East began with six diamonds and then ruffs dummy's last spade. When East follows to this trick as West discards another heart, the picture becomes complete: East started with precisely six diamonds, four spades and two clubs, so he was dealt only one heart.

The rest is merely a mop-up operation. After ruffing the last spade, declarer cashes the ace of hearts to guard against the possibility that East might have started with the singleton queen.

When the queen does not appear, a heart is led to the jack. South doesn't even have to bother to see whether the finesse succeeds — the only way it could fail would be if East was originally dealt 14 cards.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-17
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/17

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

Cryptoquip

BK KYX YNIVXV' GXJO YBHI
 LINNHQGL JNGKXVK, ZX
 YXBIC VNQXMNCP IXQBIO

"QBP KYX MXVK QBGX ZHG."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THIS ITEM IS TOO LARGE TO FIT COMFORTABLY ON THE SHELF, I'D SAY IT'S IL-LEDGE-IBLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bashful
 4 Founder of analytical psychology
 8 Possess
 12 Verily
 13 Somewhere out there
 14 Culture medium
 15 Zero
 16 "Join us"
 18 River tributary, often
 20 Humor
 21 Cronies
 24 Starbucks option
 28 William Boyd's nom de Westerns
 32 Sitarist's rendition
 33 Work with
 34 Place
 36 Brooch
 37 Passel
 39 Annoying follower
 41 "M*A*S*H" setting
 43 Knighted woman
 44 "CSI" evidence

DOWN

6 "Platoon" setting, for short
 7 Got bigger
 8 Summer-time garment
 9 Past
 10 Moving truck
 11 Work unit
 17 Help
 19 Fuel economy org.
 22 Mississippi politico
 23 "Slammin' Sammy" of golf
 25 Mafia boss
 26 Not "fer"

Solution time: 21 mins.

ENDS	ASH	OUJAD			
MAUNALO	URS	ADAR			
SEBELIUS	ADAR				
AFT	ABRUPT				
PARKA	SPOT				
CLOY	SALAZAR				
TEL	SILAS	REF			
CLINTON	VEAL				
TURN	DIARY				
WASABI	BAS				
HULL	GEITHNER				
ETUT	HABANERA				
YOGA	TUB	UTAH			

Yesterday's answer 3-17

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				60						61	