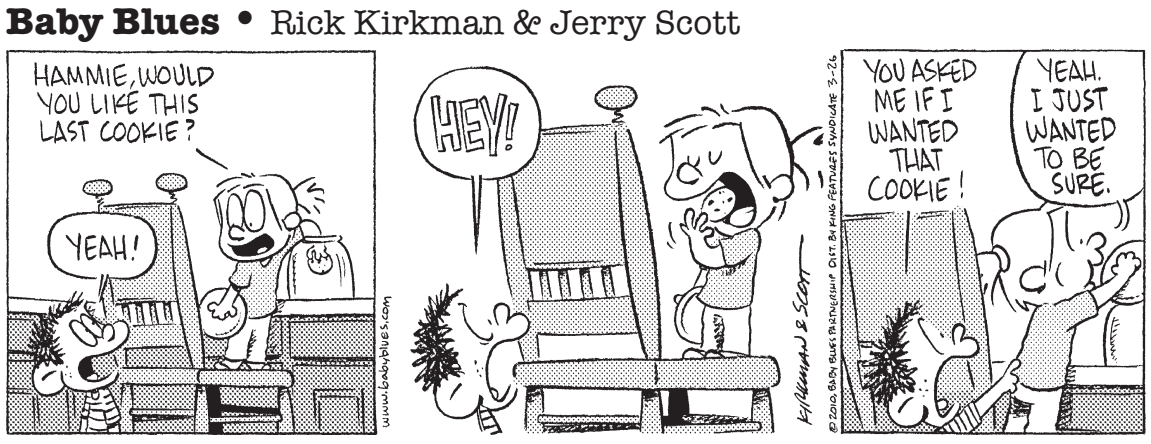
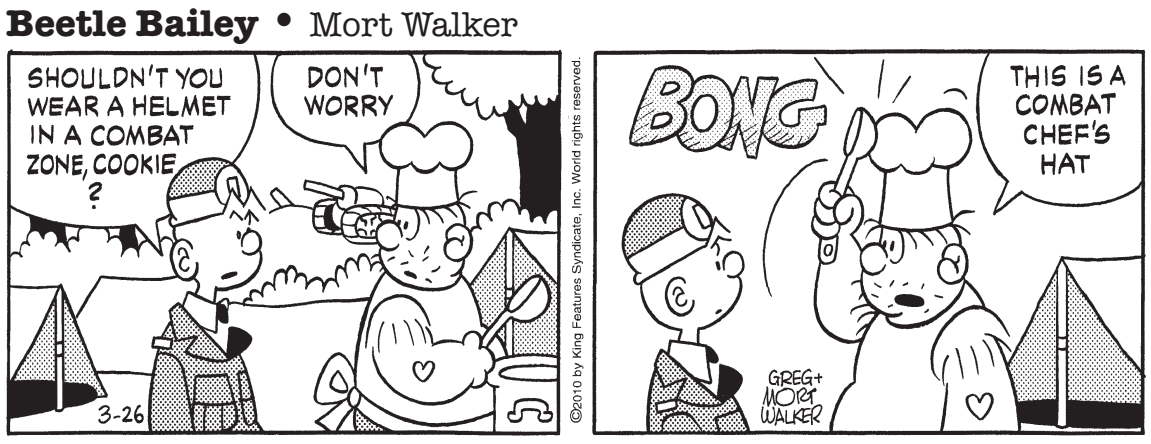
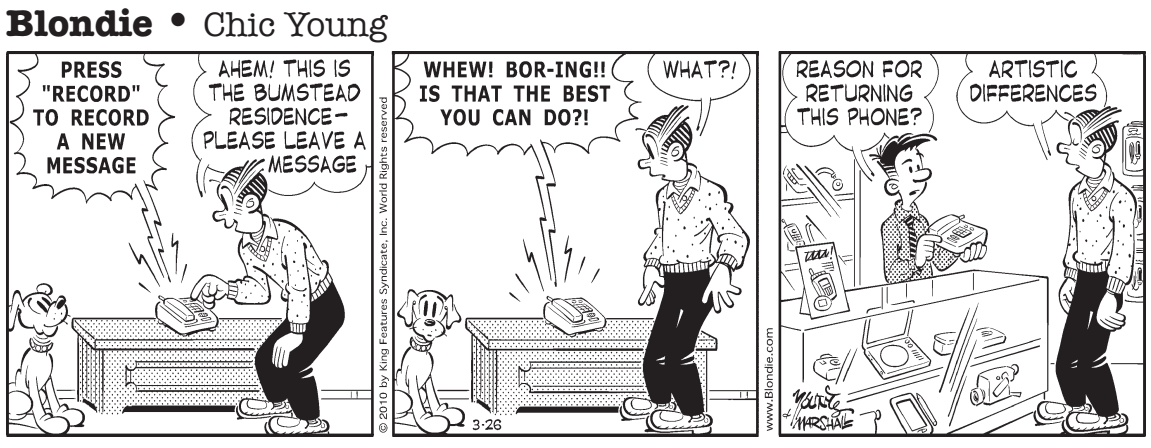
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



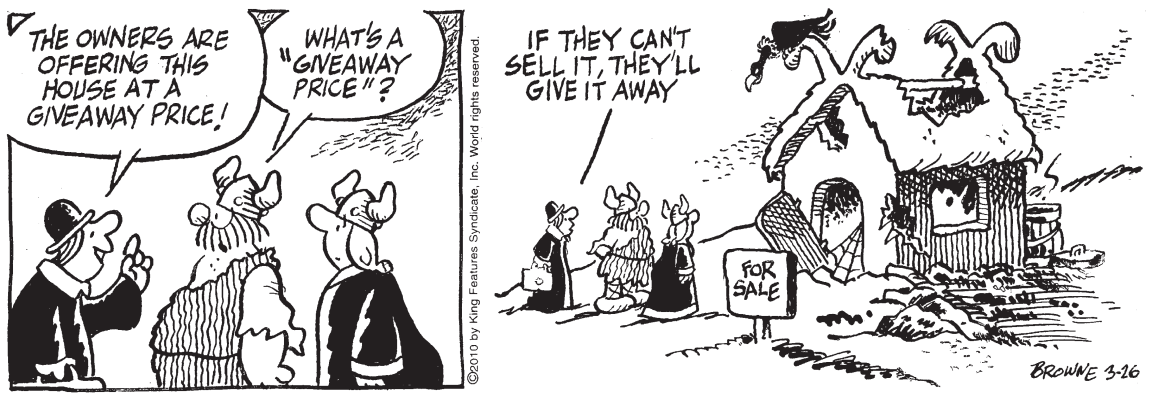
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young

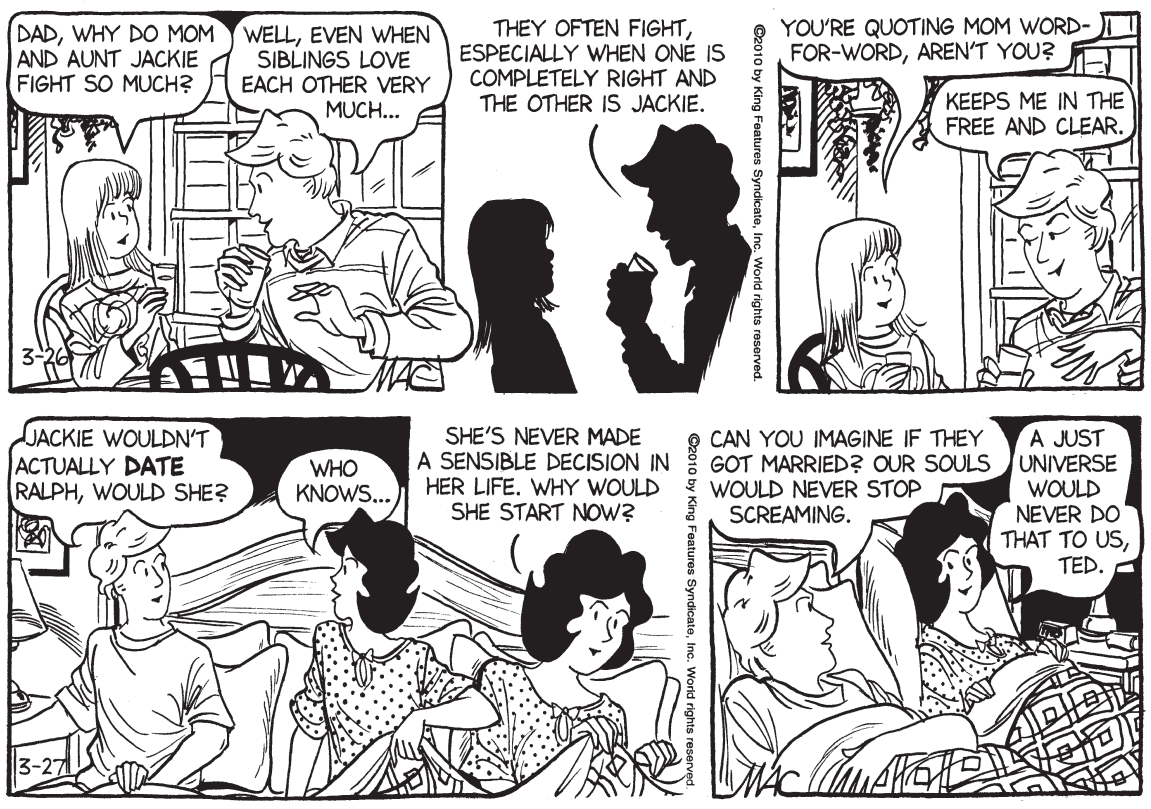


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

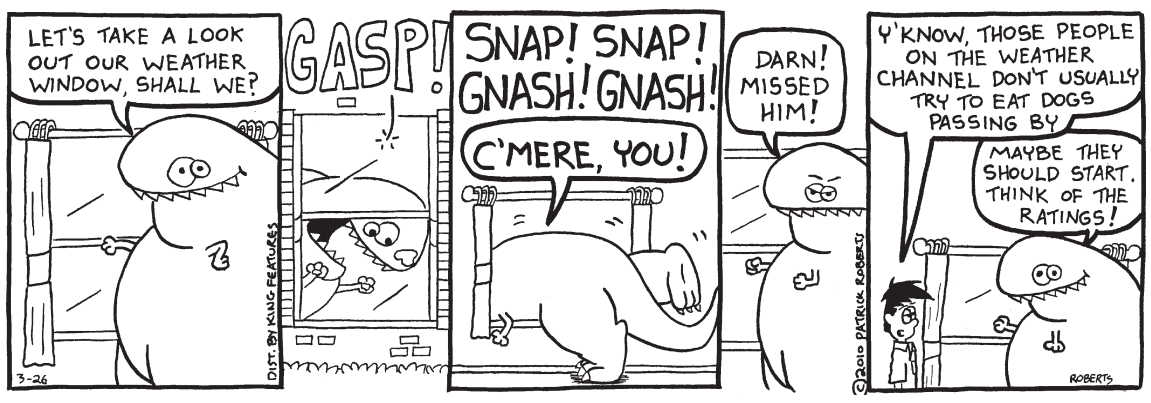


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Grease fires stop cold with soda

Dear Heloise: I read your article in the Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal about using baking soda on GREASE FIRES. Well, I was making candy, and it boiled over and started a fire.

Thanks to your article, I grabbed my baking soda and put it out. Saved my kitchen – not sure about my candy, though! – K.S. in Texas

Yikes! Making candy should be fun, not dangerous! Grease fires can be terrifying and, of course, hazardous. Keep a box of baking soda close at hand when cooking on the stove top. If there is a flare-up, first TURN OFF THE HEAT, stand back from the stove and lightly pitch a handful or two of baking soda at the BOTTOM of the flame; don't pour the baking soda on top of the fire, as this could cause the flames to spread. If the fire is in a deep-fat fryer, don't use this method – the situation might get much worse. Turn off the heat and cover the appliance with a big metal lid to smother the flames. In either case, stove top or deep fryer, if the fire gets out of control, call 911 – right away! Baking soda is a workhorse around the house and can save you money. For more helpful hints about baking soda, order my six-page Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes pamphlet by sending $5 and a long, self addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: Adding 1/2 cup of baking soda to your regular laundry detergent will boost cleaning power, and added to the rinse cycle it will remove stubborn odors. – Heloise

FAVORITE HINTS

Dear Heloise: I read your column every day in The (Spokane, Wash.) Spokesman-Review – thank you! Here are a couple of my hints:

• Black and navy pants look similar. Clip the corners from the tag in the back of the blue ones. Makes it easy to choose the correct pair when they're on a bathroom hook.

• Clear silicone caulking dots are good on cupboard doors, inside or out, to prevent contact with the frame or with another cupboard. – Annie Shiffer, Spokane Valley, Wash.

CLEAN RING

Dear Heloise: My diamond engagement ring was dirty, and no matter what I did, it never looked clean enough. One day as I was making my morning coffee in my espresso machine, I had an idea. I turned on the cappuccino-maker portion of the machine, which shoots a steady blast of steam. I put my ring on the tine of a fork and held it under the steam for a few seconds. It looked so sparkly and clean. Worked like a charm. – Frances, via e-mail

Sounds good, but if there are any loose stones or settings, you may end up with a "jewel" of a cup of coffee. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	?		

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ 8 ♥ Q953 ♦ AQJ75 ♣ 1094
2. ♠ A8 ♥ Q54 ♦ J62 ♣ K7643
3. ♠ Q95 ♥ J2 ♦ KJ73 ♣ AJ62
4. ♠ KJ63 ♥ 9 ♦ Q74 ♣ KQ985
5. ♠ J103 ♥ A10872 ♦ KQ94 ♣ 6

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Three hearts. Responses by a player who has previously passed are in an entirely different category from those made by a player who has not passed before. Obviously, a player who previously passed has denied the values for an opening bid. A player opening in third or fourth position is consequently not obligated to bid again if, in his opinion, there's no reasonable chance for a game opposite a passed partner.

In the given case, a two-diamond response, showing 10 or more points, therefore would not compel partner to bid again, as it would if South had not passed initially.

By the same reasoning, the jump-raise to three hearts is not forcing. Partner can pass whenever, in his judgment, he feels four hearts cannot be made. However, a jump to three hearts is much more likely to induce him to continue bidding than a two-diamond response.

2. Two hearts. This deliberate slight underbid is preferable to two clubs or one notrump, either of which partner might pass. The heart raise has a better chance of coaxing another bid from him because the announced trump fit will automatically increase the overall value of his hand.

3. Two notrump. Ordinarily, this would indicate 13 to 15 points, but after passing, the jump to two notrump shows 11 or 12 points, balanced distribution and stoppers in the unbid suits.

4. Two clubs. The practice of naming the longer suit first is followed here, as usual. You intend to bid spades next over partner's expected heart rebid. Partner is thus apprised that you have only four spades and greater length in clubs. Game is very unlikely if partner passes two clubs.

5. Four hearts. It would be unwise to risk a three-heart bid that partner might pass, since your hand is much more likely to produce 10 tricks than nine.

Reappraised in support of a heart bid, your hand becomes worth at least 13 points. This, added to partner's expected 13 or more, gives you the requisite 26 points needed for game, but only you know the combined total. It's far better to live slightly dangerously than to run the risk of missing a cold game.

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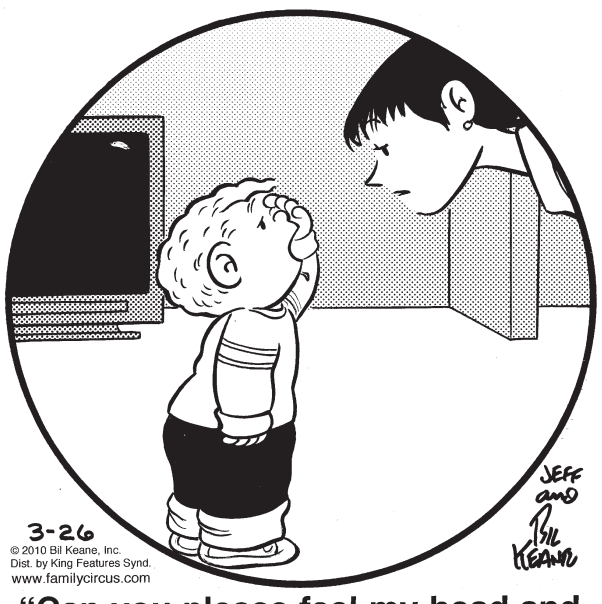
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Can you please feel my head and see if I'm gettin' a headache?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/26

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25

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Cryptoquip

EJEMKZQ JKG GWCCX CSZC HBEKZWPF SJV CJ SJZB MPVZQX KJPGJP WPSZIWCZPCF:

"EMCCWP' JP CSH IQWCF."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE AMATEUR SINGER REALLY LOVES TO GET GLOWING REVIEWS, YOU MIGHT SAY HE CRAVES RAVES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Hickory nut
6 Swindle
9 Timetable abbr.
12 Rib
13 Big bother
14 Place-kicker's pride
15 Change
16 Bungle
18 Pricey appetizer
20 Kennedy matriarch
21 Bonfire residue
23 Thither
24 Arts supporter?
25 Quarterback Flutie
27 Delicious
29 Wool provider
31 Rough with small waves
35 Stair part
37 Houston acronym
38 Senses
41 Journey segment
43 Gratuity
44 "— Ask of You"
45 Erse
47 Popular condiment
49 Temporary, as a committee
52 Rock producer Brian
53 Foolish sort
54 Drink loudly
55 Former veep Quayle
56 Most common English word
57 Dividing membranes

DOWN
1 Sch. org.
2 Wet wriggler
3 Acquire parity
4 Over the bounding main
5 Brash
6 Poolside shelter
7 Stench
8 Denier's word
9 Pal of d'Artagnan
10 Stir to action
11 Ward off
17 Coloring stick
19 Tittles
21 Oklahoma city
22 Scale member
24 Ordinal suffix
26 Vampire thwarter
28 Pile of rocks near a hill
30 Opposite of "trans-"
32 Mend
33 Omega preceder
34 Mouth, slangily
36 Pass
38 Photo-shopped, maybe
39 Dementieva of tennis
40 Rock legend John
42 Tumbler
45 Jet forth
46 Between jobs
48 Chapeau
50 Table scrap
51 IRS employee

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-26

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				