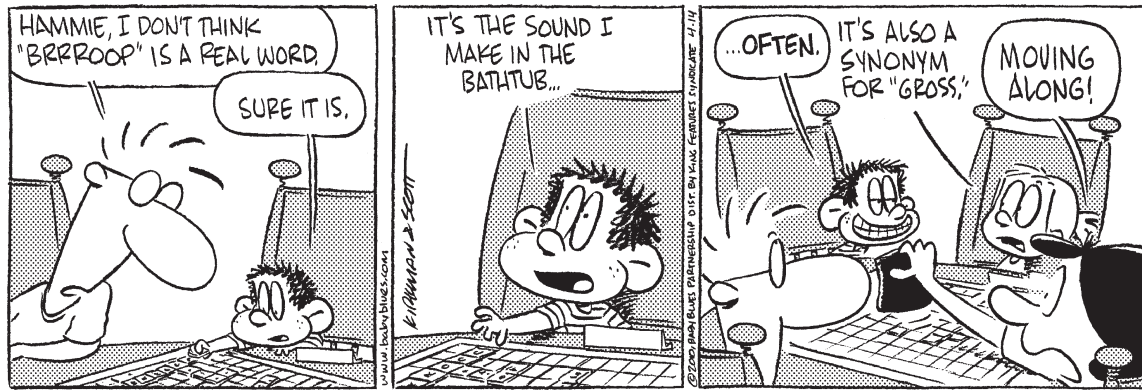


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



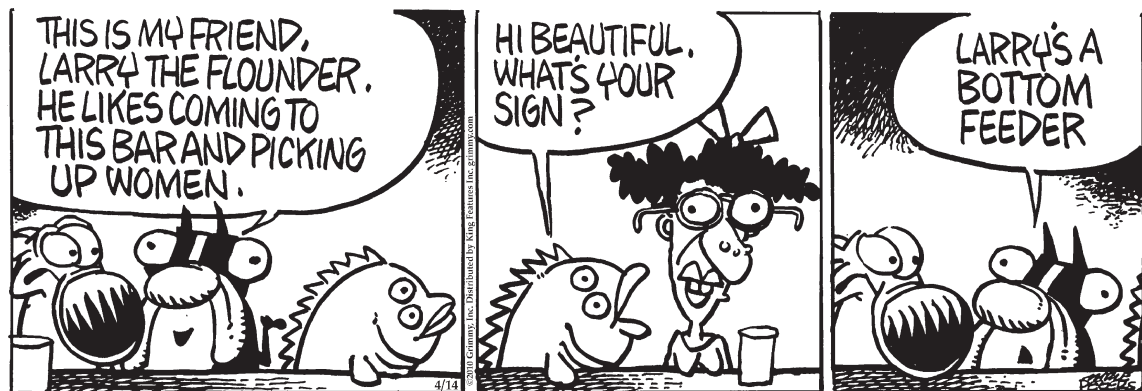
Blondie • Chic Young



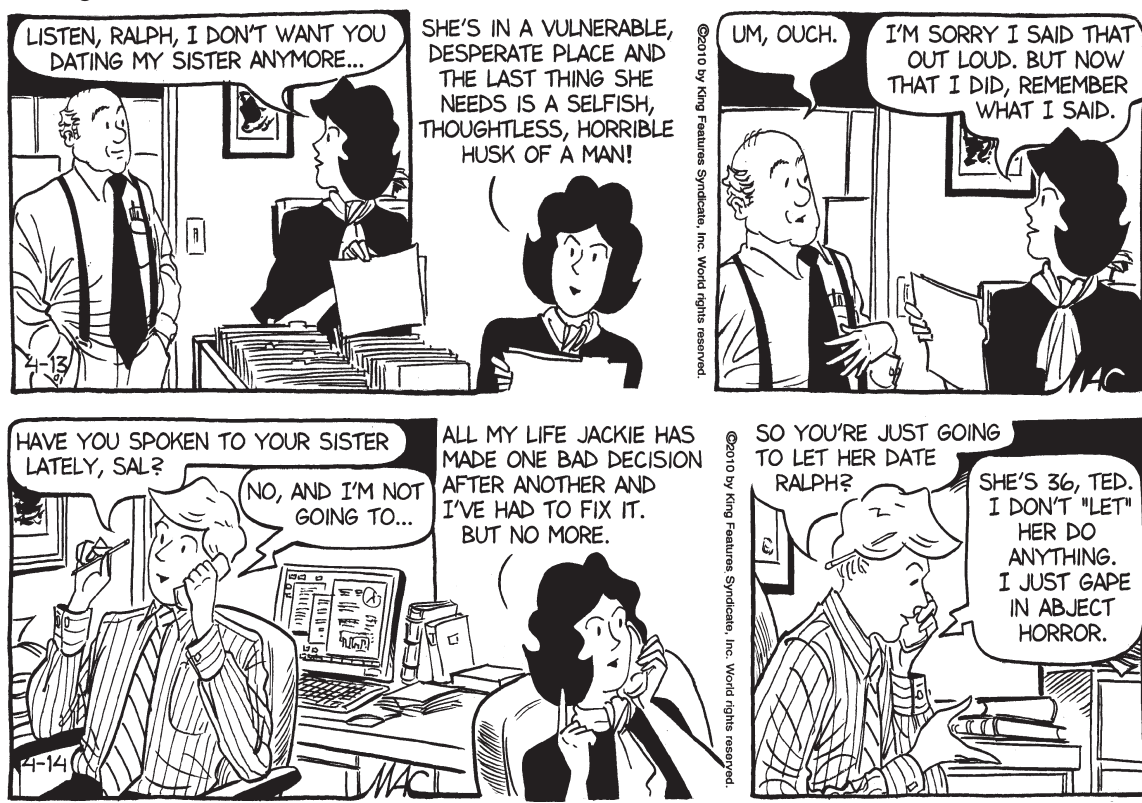
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



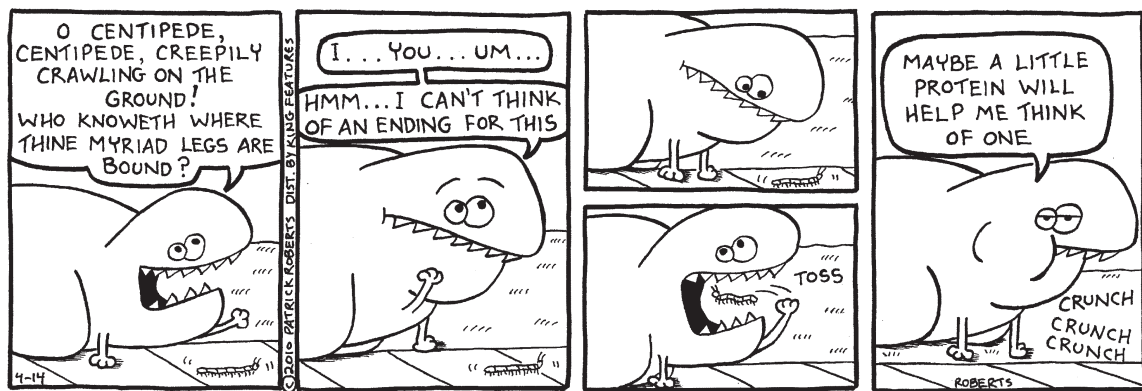
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



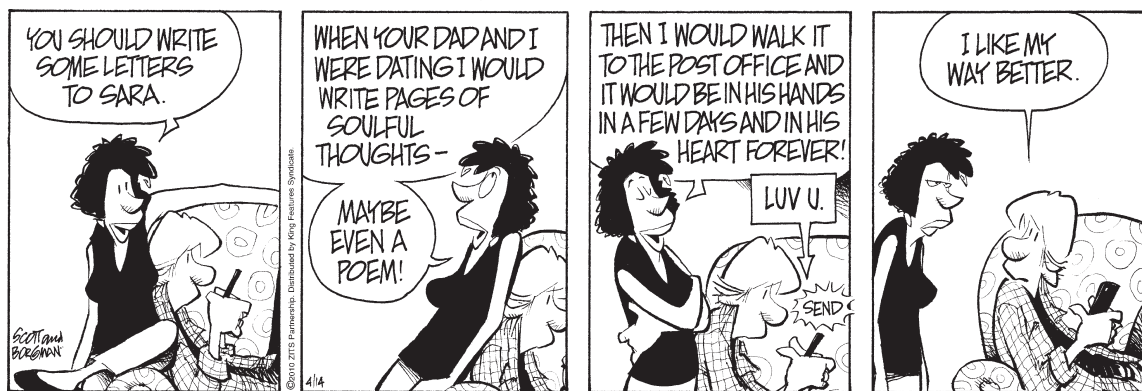
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Hints help bake the perfect cake

Dear Readers: Nothing says "Happy Birthday" like a HOME-BAKED CAKE! Through the years, readers have shared their helpful hints for baking the perfect cake. I'll bet there are a few hints you haven't heard. For instance:

- We've all used a toothpick to test for cake doneness. But for deep cakes, like angel food, a piece of uncooked spaghetti is long enough to go all the way through.
- When using powdered cake mix, put the water in the bowl first, then the dry mix. It helps prevent powder pockets on the bottom of the bowl.
- Let the cake cool for 10-15 minutes or so on a wire rack. Then run a spatula or knife around the edges to help loosen the cake from the pan.
- Place the pans on the same middle rack in the middle of the oven so each layer of a cake will bake evenly.
- And, no icing on hand? Place marshmallows on the cake just before taking it out of the oven, as a quick frosting for the top. — Heloise

RECYCLE AND REUSE
Dear Heloise: I am constantly washing my hands, especially when I am in the kitchen. Instead of throwing away the paper towel that I use to dry my hands, I let it air-dry and use it again to wipe up spills on my white tile kitchen floor. The roll of paper towels lasts three times as long! — Jeanne Pryor, South Orange, N.J.

FRESHENING BAGGED SALAD
Dear Heloise: Here's a hint for freshening up bagged salad. If you open a bag and it smells less than fresh but is not wilted, put the lettuce in a colander, sprinkle with a generous amount of baking soda and rinse with water until all the baking soda is gone. It will smell fresh again. — Amy, via e-mail

Although baking soda can be used to clean lettuce and other veggies, if the salad smells "funny," I don't think I would take a chance on eating it. Baking soda does have a zillion money-saving uses in your home. It can clean the microwave, deodorize the dishwasher and was even used to clean the Statue of Liberty! For more hints to cut your budget and even some yummy recipes, just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Baking soda is safe for the environment, and you can even use it to brush your teeth! — Heloise

HEALTHY MUFFINS
Dear Heloise: I bake healthy muffins for my husband, using flaxseed meal and oatmeal, fresh blueberries, etc. My quick tip for young bakers is to use the individual packs of flavored instant oatmeal. Sprinkle on top of each muffin before baking. Instant crunchy topping. Delicious! — Carolyn, Omaha, Neb.
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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K J 10 5
♥ K J 9 2
♣ K 3
♦ A Q 4

WEST
♦ 7 6
♥ 7 3
♣ J 6 5
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 2

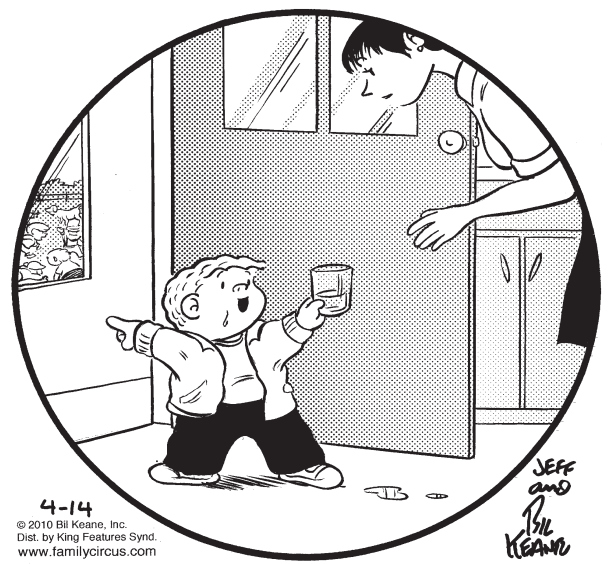
EAST
♦ A Q 4 3
♥ A Q 6 4
♣ 7 4 2
♦ 5

SOUTH
♦ 9 8 2
♥ 10 8 5
♣ A 10 9 8
♦ K J 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The Right Medicine
"Watson, how did you fare at the club today?" queried Sherlock Holmes as he stretched his legs before the fireplace.
"Holmes," replied the doctor sadly, "I fear that ill fortune still pursues me. Today I had no good hands save one, and that one, ironically, also contributed to my downfall."
"Tell me about it," said Holmes, exhaling a huge cloud of smoke.
The doctor laid out the hand and reviewed the bidding. "I assume you were East," said the sleuth, "and declarer won the club lead with the jack and attacked a major suit."
"Indubitably correct," Watson replied. "He played spades first."
"And you took the nine with the queen," continued Holmes, "and no doubt returned a low diamond, covered by the ten, jack and king."
"Precisely," Watson continued, "and when I won the second spade and led another diamond, declarer finessed the nine. After I next took South's eight of hearts with the queen, I played a diamond again — once more to no avail as declarer won with the eight to make exactly three trumps."
"Ah, dear friend," sighed Holmes, shaking his head, "you think but you do not reason. You should have returned the queen of diamonds rather than a low diamond at trick three!"
"But, but," Watson protested.
"Tut, tut," Holmes chided. "I am aware of the principle that says one must not lead a queen when lacking the jack. In the present case, however, logic surely supersedes convention. South is known to have the K-J of clubs and ace of diamonds for his bids. The only high card West can have is the jack of diamonds, and you should assume he has it. Once you play the queen, the contract is doomed. As soon as you obtain the lead again, you play another diamond to establish West's jack as the setting trick."
"Holmes," said the doctor, "you amaze me."
"Elementary, my dear Watson," the great sleuth replied.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/14
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.

Cryptoquip

LZRS AFA SZB "WSRV SVBD"
IUUFGVBV EWB SI MBS OILBV
SZVIEMZ ZFW BNBGSVFGRN
GIVA? R WOIGD ONEM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF REALLY DISHONEST FOLKS NEED GRIPPING TOOLS, I GUESS THEY SHOULD LOOK FOR LIARS' PLIERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Toward the stern
4 Cisterns
8 Serenades the moon
12 Cattle call?
13 October birthstone
14 Hollywood clashers
15 Hostel
16 Complete Lieu
20 Chest protector?
21 Nitwit
24 Enticed
28 Where sailors go
32 Wild wind
33 Blind shade
34 Viewpoint
36 Pen point
37 KFC additive
39 On "E"
41 Commander
43 Up to
44 Surprise cries

DOWN

46 Church council
50 "Speak up!"
55 Lawyers' org.
56 Small songbird
57 Franc replacement
58 Old hand
59 Odds' mates
60 Part of Muffet's meal
61 Storm center
1 Writer Kingsley
2 Type choice

3 Color quality
4 Puts a hex on
5 "Simpsons" store-keeper
6 Tit for — with
7 Eventual sculpture?
8 Nocturnal nipper
9 Past author
10 Thee
11 Erstwhile flier
17 Zero
19 German composer Franz
22 Norway's capital
23 Lollapalooza
25 Pealed Kazan
26 Society newbies
27 Hawaiian island
28 Works with
30 Via, briefly
31 Con
35 "War and Peace" author
38 Cleveland NFLers
40 Aviate
42 — Beta Kappa
45 Mulligan, for one
47 Church section
48 Do as I tell you
49 Social engagement
50 Have bills
51 Coffee vessel
52 Bill's co-adventurer
53 "Wha'dja say?"
54 Anger

Solution time: 21 mins.

OREO SSE PAWS
VERBATIM OBIT
APERTURE RELY
TION RATTLE
SALEM SINE
TRAN APTERYX
DIM IMOUT ARC
APROPOS BLAB
ONER JOEYS
NECTAR SET
ECRU APPETITE
SHUN GARROTTED
TODD ELY MANS

Yesterday's answer 4-14