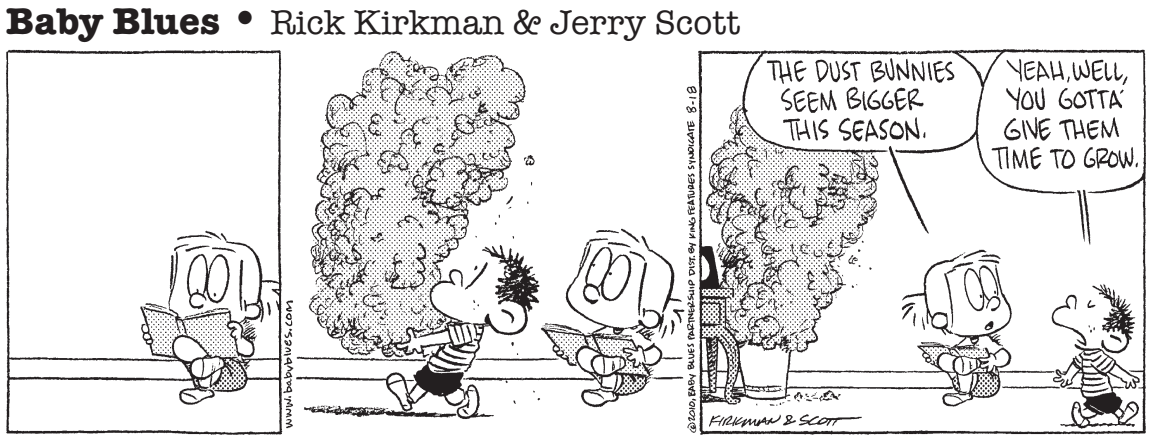
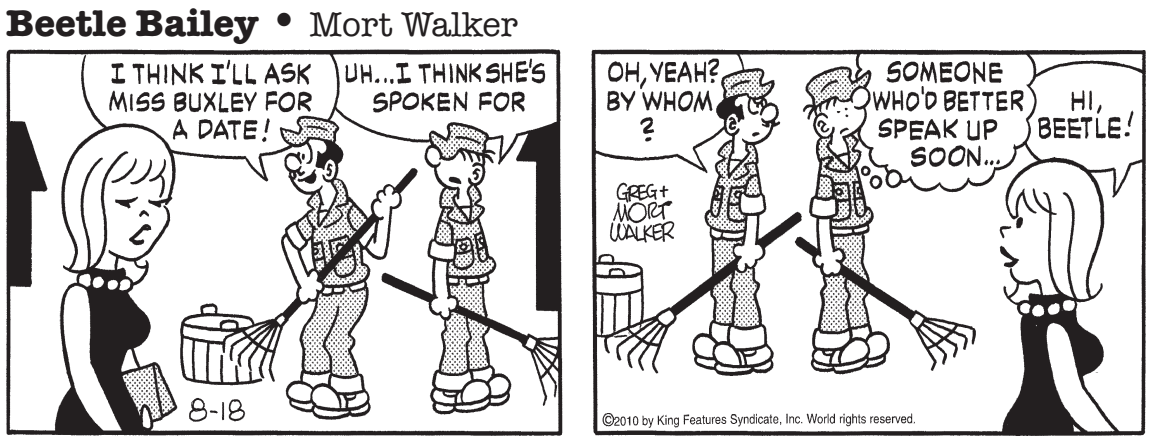
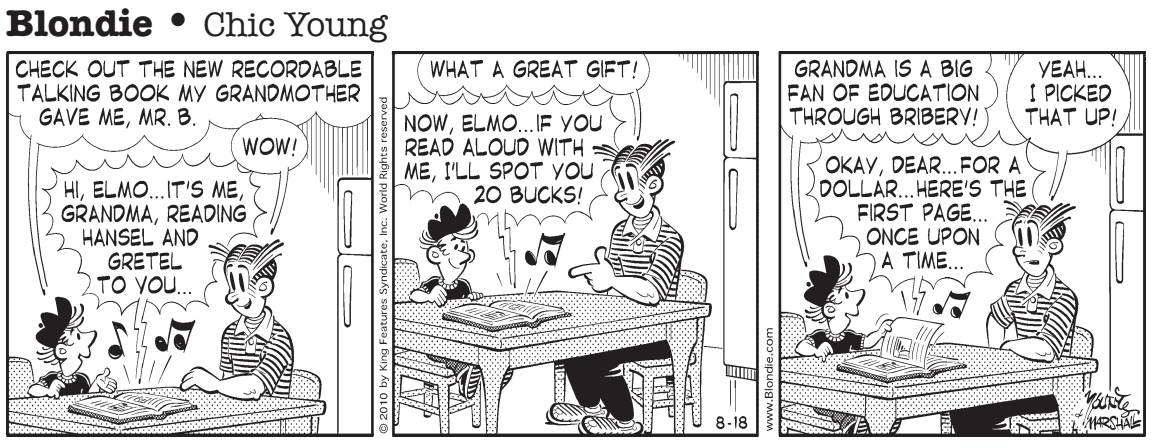
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



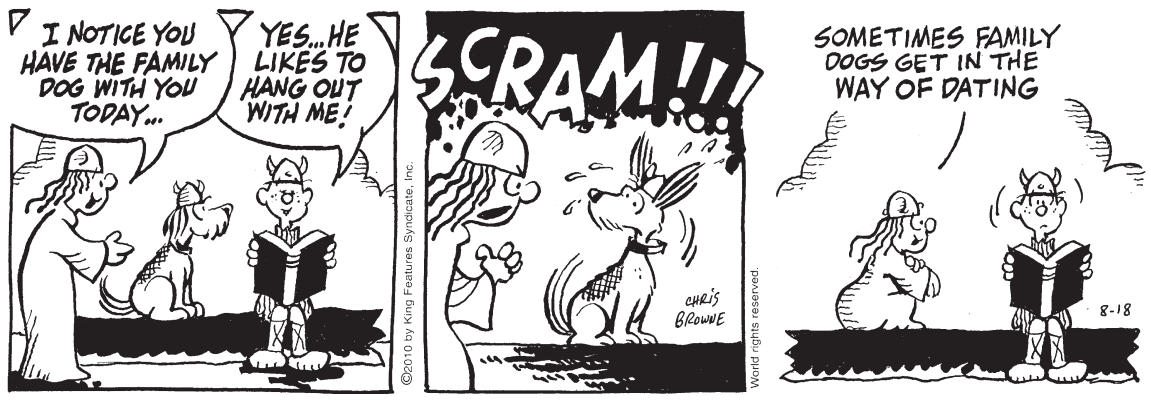
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



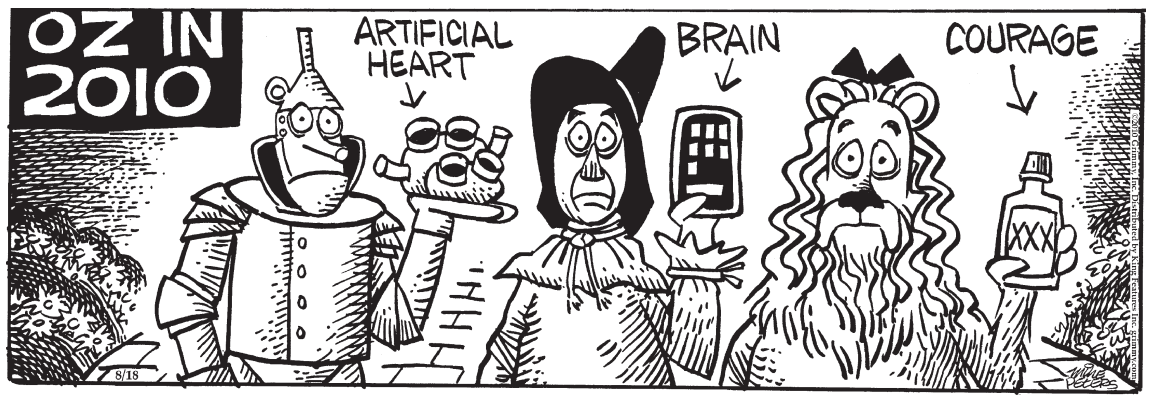
Blondie • Chic Young



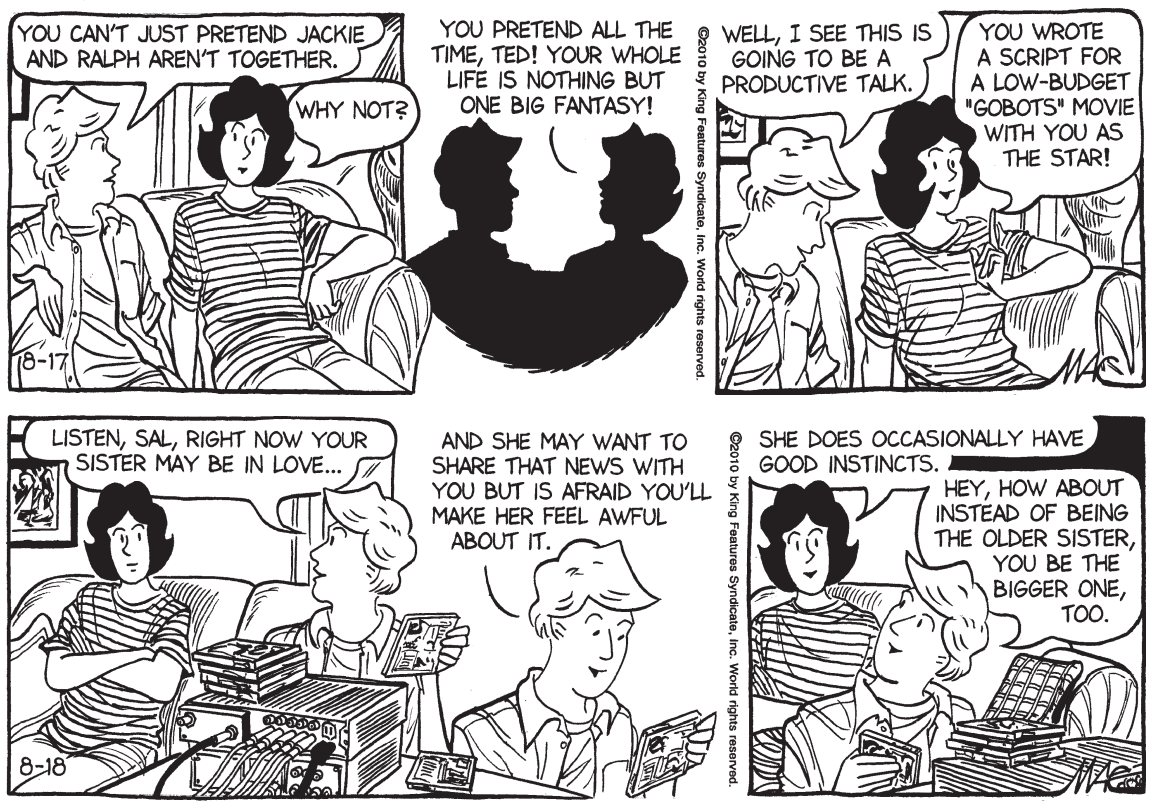
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



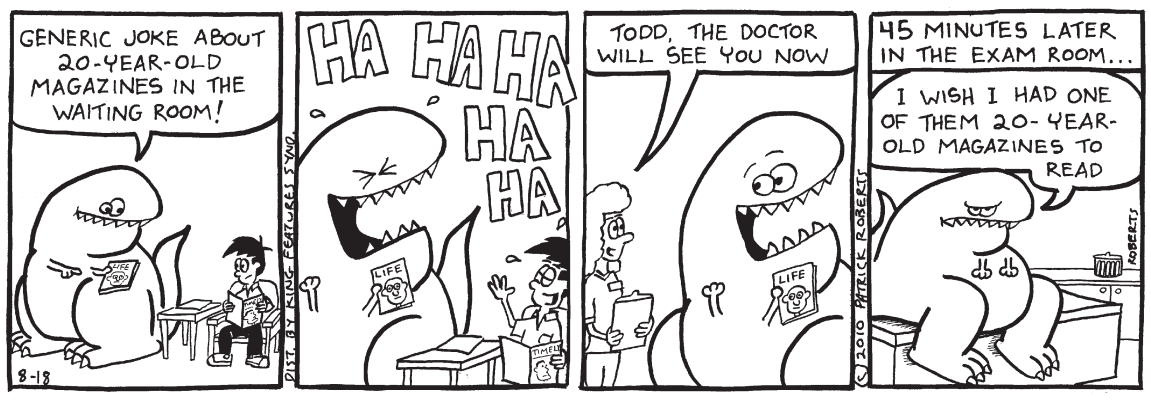
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



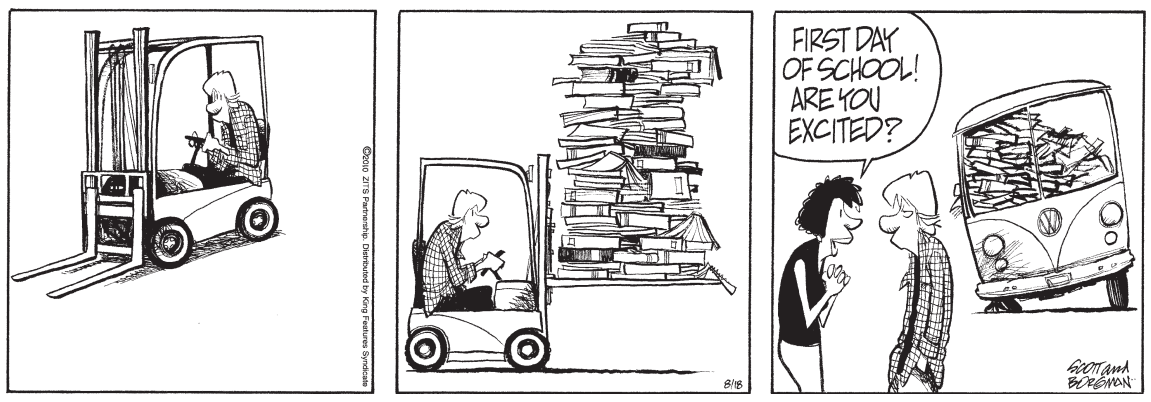
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Oatmeal change is quick and easy

Dear Heloise: I always buy QUICK OATMEAL, but this time I accidentally picked up regular oatmeal. I was wondering if there is a way I can convert the regular to quick. What do they do to it to make it different? – G.G., via e-mail

Yes, you can, and it will save you money, too! Regular oatmeal is the whole oat. Quick oatmeal is the same, but has been cut finer, which helps the oats cook more quickly. You can give whole oats a little whirl in the blender and make your own quick oatmeal. But don't overblend, or you will be left with oatmeal powder! If you do wind up with oatmeal dust, you can use it as a facial mask for oily skin! Add a little warm water to make a paste. Pat on clean skin, let it sit for five to 10 minutes, rinse, then wipe off with a warm washcloth and rinse again.

Want to know a sneaky way to add a little fiber to your family's diet? Add 1/4 cup or so of oatmeal to meatloaf, spaghetti sauce or a hearty-based stew like meaty vegetable. – Heloise

NO-WHINE WINE

Dear Heloise: Here's a household hint: When opening a wine bottle that has a cork and plastic covering, rather than a knife or a fingernail, use a potato peeler to slice open the plastic covering. Peel once from bottom to top. Works great. – Evelyn King, Kula, Maui, Hawaii

A GOOD HINT

Dear Heloise: Our household couldn't thrive without this idea: We stretch pieces of ordinary masking tape across the tops of refrigerator dishes and mark them as to contents and date. Saves us from eating old leftovers. – Don P., San Antonio

DOGGY BAG

Dear Heloise: My daughter's mother-in-law always keeps a small plastic bag in her purse. Many times she wants to take leftover meat home from restaurants, but doesn't want to have the large takeout boxes. It is less messy and definitely more convenient. I have started doing the same. It is amazing how many other things you need them for on the run. – Diana in Texas

Well, this is a "space-saving" hint, but I'm not sure if I'd want a plastic bag of leftover meat in my purse. Heaven forbid you'd forget it! – Heloise

FRESH BERRIES

Hi, Heloise: I used to layer fresh berries (especially raspberries and blackberries, although it works for strawberries as well) between paper towels, which helps them stay fresh longer. Then I discovered that just turning the box upside down when storing in the refrigerator seems to do as well. So easy! Saves waste and time. – Mary, via e-mail

EASY CUT

Dear Heloise: My toddlers think it's hysterical when I cut their food with my kitchen shears I use for vegetables and salad greens, but I can't think of a better way to do it. – Angie in Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 8 7 5 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ A K 4
♣ 8

WEST
♠ K 9
♥ A Q 10 9 8 6 3
♦ J 10 2
♣ 5

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

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ K 4
♦ 8
♣ A K Q J 9 7 6 4 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♣			

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

South Gives West a Bum Steer

The outcome of many deals is for the most part predictable, but in some cases one side or the other achieves a better result than would normally be expected.

For example, take this deal where South gets to six clubs on the sequence shown. It is true that six notrump with South as declarer is a much better contract; indeed, it cannot be defeated regardless of how the East-West cards are divided.

But theory and practice are two different things, and South wound up playing the hand at the practical contract of six clubs instead of the theoretically best contract of six notrump.

The slam would have gone down one but for an unusual play by declarer. West led the ace of hearts and would surely have led another heart had South followed suit with the four.

But declarer, concluding that West would lead another heart if he played his four on the ace, played his king instead! This made it difficult for West to continue with either the queen or a low heart, and, rightly or not, he switched to the jack of diamonds at trick two.

Declarer's brilliant falsecard thus enabled him to make the slam. Perhaps West should have led a second heart, but it was understandably difficult for him to assume that South had dropped the king, a winner, on the ace, instead of the four, a loser.

Actually, South could not have felt absolutely certain that his king play at trick one was correct. West's four-heart bid might have been based on six hearts rather than seven, and in that case the falsecard could have proved fatal. But South backed his judgment that West had a seven-card suit, and was handsomely rewarded for his imaginative play.

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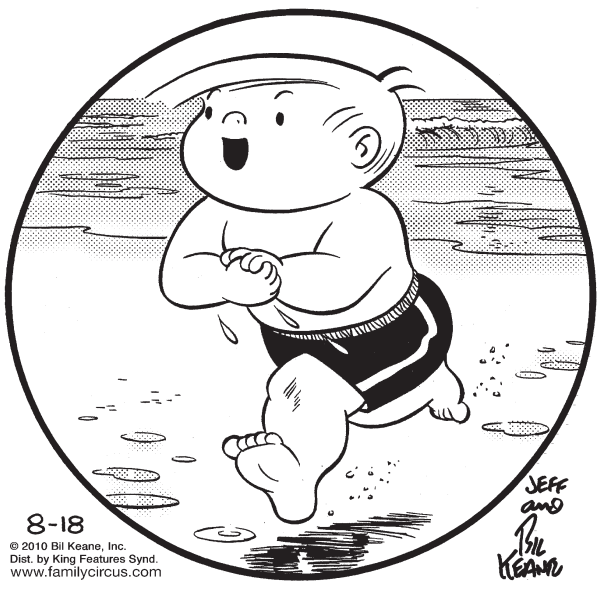
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"It's a sand crab, Mommy! Can we keep him?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/18

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/14

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Cryptoquip

K V G W E Y T H N X G O Y S W C H Y X E D B V G Y B O G C H D S O Y, K S I T C X G S X T G B E T T V H N E Y T G W C G O T G W C G O Y G W C G O? G L F V Z X V F I U R Z S W F Z L R V F.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OPEN-AIR VENUE FEATURING SPECIALTY VENDORS SELLING

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Masters activity
5 — Moines
8 Sapporo sashes
12 Actor Sharif
13 "Yecch!"
14 Relinquish
15 Too young
17 Acknowledge
18 Handgun
19 Portabello alternatives
21 Anat. or biol.
22 Twosome
23 — de deux
26 $ dispenser
28 Skill
31 Ignore
33 Sweet potato
35 Malaria symptom
36 Below (Pref.)
38 Burst
40 Work unit
41 Enamored (of)
43 Scot's chapeau
45 Whirl
47 The hot wings were too much for him
51 Fork option
52 Insurance
54 Desire
55 Praise in verse
56 Pickle flavor
57 Existed
58 Football meas.
59 Pastoral work

DOWN
1 Rise
2 All (Pref.)
3 Young fellows
4 Worries
5 Two-sidedness
6 Early bird?
7 A Stooge
8 Sweet potato
9 Drink
10 "American —"
11 Stitches
16 Cabo da —, Portugal
20 Erstwhile acorn
23 Omega preceder
24 — Arbor, Mich.
25 Right to vote
27 Chart
29 Scoundrel
30 Small barrel
32 Make wider
34 Reasons, in whodunits
37 Pismire
39 Walk the floor
42 Fake duck
44 — Gras
45 Food
46 Bygone times
48 Incursion
49 Unattractive, and then some
50 Find a buyer for
53 Peculiar

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-18

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			