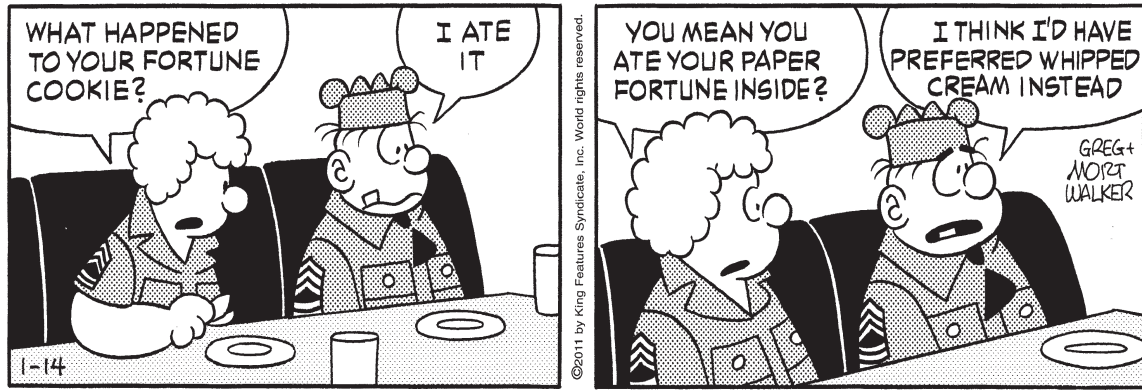


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



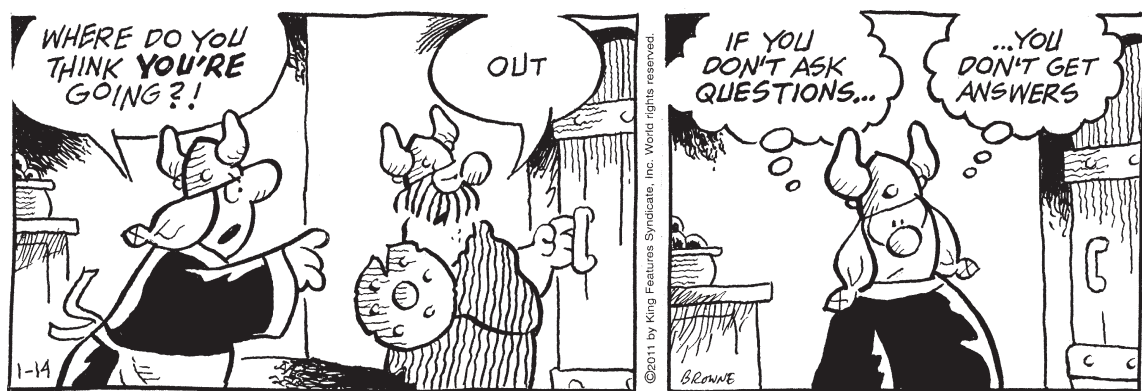
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



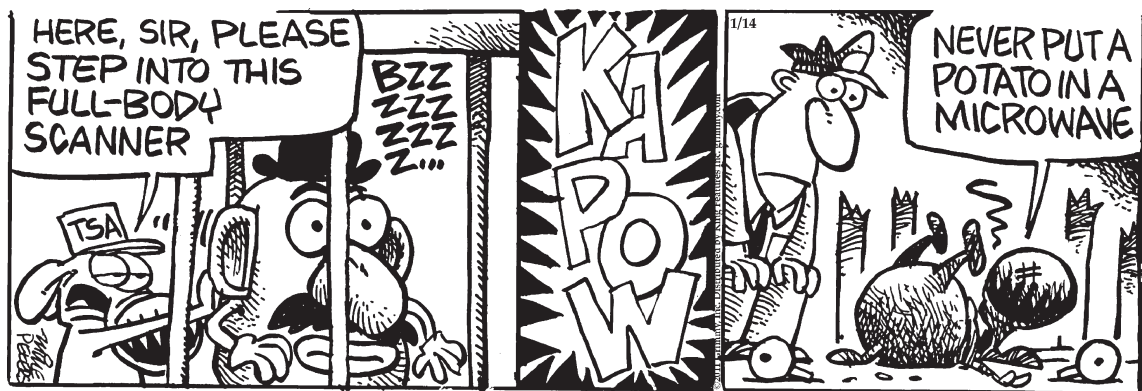
Blondie • Chic Young



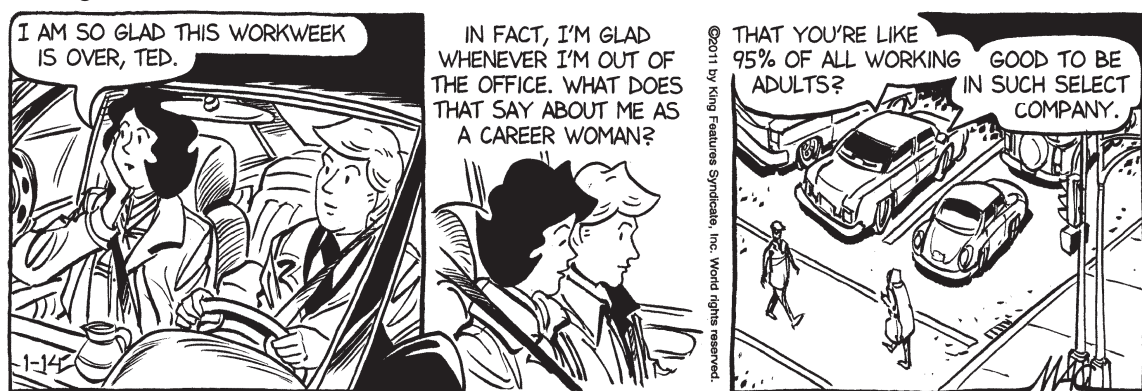
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



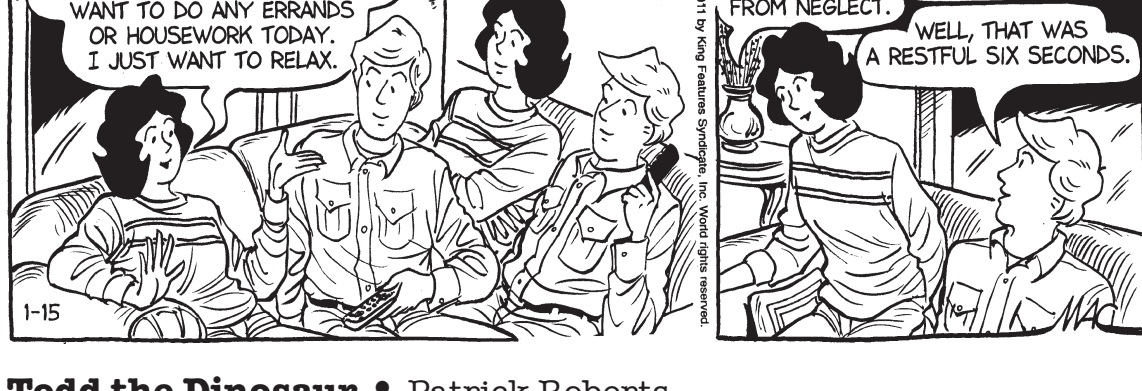
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



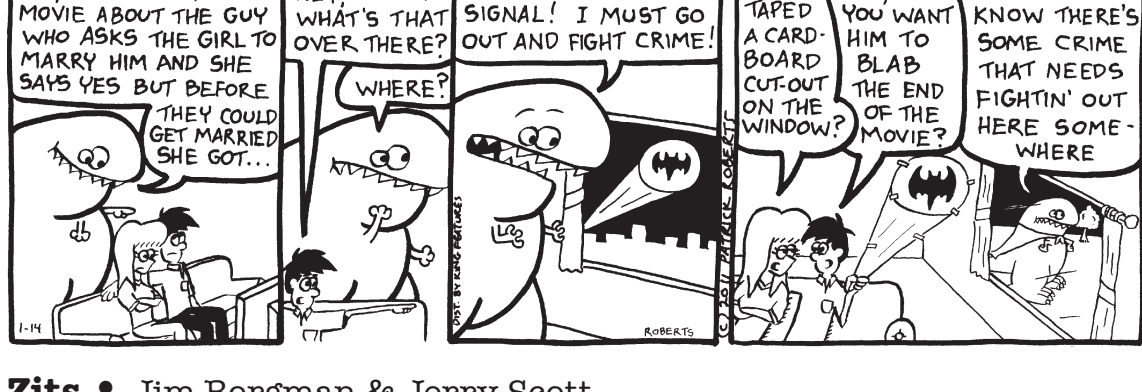
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Clips hold runaway sheets

Dear Heloise: During a recent weeklong stay at a motel, we were troubled by BOTTOM SHEETS that would not stay tucked in. Consequently, the mattress pad would shift around also, and we would be sleeping on the bare mattress by morning. After the first couple of nights, we secured the sheets with large binder clips that we carry for just such emergencies. — J.E., via e-mail

This is one way to avoid the problem! Usually the problem is because the hotel may use flat sheets for both top and bottom, or the pockets are not deep enough for a new "deeper" mattress. — Heloise

CAR-MAT CLEANING

Dear Readers: Rubber car mats can be cleaned very easily — remove and vacuum them. But for a more thorough cleaning, scrub the mats with a solution of equal amounts household vinegar and water. Rinse well and let dry before returning them to your vehicle. Vinegar is one of the most eco-friendly and cheap cleaners around! For a pamphlet filled with my favorite vinegar hints, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Keep a small spray bottle filled with an equal amount of vinegar and water (along with a microfiber cloth or a roll of paper towels) in your auto to quick-clean windows. — Heloise

LETTERS TO FRIENDS

Dear Heloise: I have many friends and family to whom I send greeting cards for birthdays and anniversaries. I have envelopes for each month of the year. On the left side of the envelope is the month on which the special occasion occurs, and on the right is either "B" for birthday or "A" for anniversary. At the beginning of every month, I take the cards I will need, address them and put them back into the envelope until the date I need the cards. — Pat in Ohio

EXTRA BUTTON

Dear Heloise: If you purchase a garment with an extra button attached to the tags (usually in a plastic bag), either keep the tags with the bag to identify the item, or write on the bag which item the bag belongs to. Keep the bags in a designated place, such as a slot in your jewelry tray, sewing kit, etc. If you are capable of sewing on a button, sew it on the inside of the garment. — Melanie, via e-mail

DRY-ERASE BOARD

Dear Heloise: I accidentally used a permanent black marker on my white dry-erase board and thought it was ruined. I needed something to clean off the marker without scratching up the finish. I finally decided to try the cleaner that I use for my glass cooktop, and it came right off with no scrubbing. — Phyllis Sporven, via e-mail

Bridge • Steve Becker

With both sides vulnerable, you hold the following hand:
 ♠ K94 ♥ 8 ♦ KJ954 ♣ AQ73

1. Your partner bids One Club, and you respond with One Diamond. Partner rebids Three Clubs. What would you bid now?

2. You open One Diamond, and partner responds with Two Notrump. After you bid Three Clubs, partner says Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

3. Your left-hand opponent opens One Heart, your partner overcalls with One Spade, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

4. Your partner opens Three Hearts, and the next player passes. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Four Notrump. A grand slam is highly likely if your partner has three aces, and the best way of learning whether he has them is by using Blackwood. There is very little risk attached to this bid, since partner is virtually certain to have two or three aces for his previous bids. If the response to four notrump is five hearts (two aces), you will stop in six clubs; if the response is five spades (three aces), you plan to bid seven clubs.

2. Pass. Your distribution is not ideal for notrump, but all you can reasonably do is pass. Your three-club bid warned partner against notrump, and he has said in effect that nine tricks in notrump are more likely to be made than 11 tricks in a minor. Partner should not be surprised that you have a singleton somewhere, as your three-club bid alerted him to that possibility.

3. Four spades. Partner should have at least five reasonably strong spades for his overcall, so to bid less than game would be an insult to his card play. True, you'd like to have a fourth trump, but the good Lord didn't deal you one. Your 13 high-card points and singleton heart more than compensate for this small flaw.

4. Pass. It normally takes two opening bids, or their equivalent, to make a game. You certainly have a sound opening bid, but partner doesn't — otherwise he would have opened with one heart. Opposite a pre-emptive bid, it is much more advisable to count potential tricks in the combined hands than to rely on point count. Here, partner would be expected to take six or seven tricks with his own hand, to which you can add two or, if you're very lucky, three, assuming normal distribution of the opposing cards. A reasonable prognostication is that partner will either make three hearts or go down one, so you should pass.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"...Grandma feeds me square ones and triangle ones and..."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/14

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QFS AQP KV WPHHQWS ITRI
 GRLLQIOW WTQPKV WIRGI
 KSRHOFD ATSFJSJG ITSM'GS
 DOJSF ITS TQH-HQGIPFOIM.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN STUDENTS EXIT THE ROOM AFTER CALCULUS CLASS, I WOULD OFTEN REFER TO THAT AS MATH EXODUS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Haven't paid yet
 4 Battery measure
 8 Sacred bird of Egypt
 12 Coop occupant
 13 Sandwich treat
 14 Staff member?
 15 Lots of power?
 17 Huffed and puffed
 18 First victim
 19 Appears ominously
 20 Christmas tree topper, often
 22 Someone who's gonna get it?
 24 Porter's "Let's —"
 25 Total abstinence from meat and dairy

DOWN

29 Curry of NBC News
 30 Stogie
 31 Old French coin
 32 Considered
 34 Clay-rich soil
 35 Young horse
 36 Insurrectionist
 37 Distorted
 40 Top-notch
 41 Actress Perlman
 42 Major French airport
 46 Layer of oil
 47 Cartel
 48 Meadow

Solution time: 25 mins.

DEAR TAR LAUD
 EDGE HIE ERGO
 LEON ODD ACHE
 ING EAR MASH
 WINTER TIME
 ATTAR HAM VAT
 FEEL CUT META
 ERE MOM EASEL
 WINDOWPANE
 ARAB EDWARD
 YOGA EMS ECHO
 EVEN LAO SEER
 PARK LOP TRAY

Yesterday's answer 1-14

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	
46								47		48
49								50		51