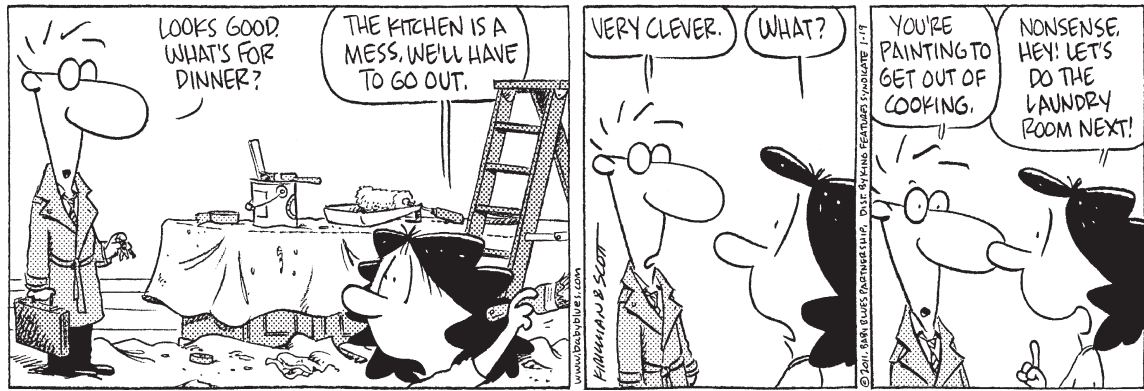


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



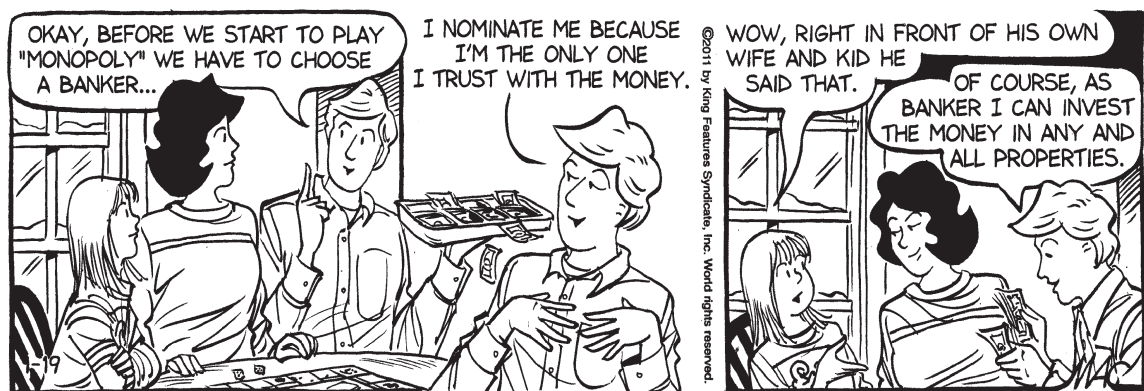
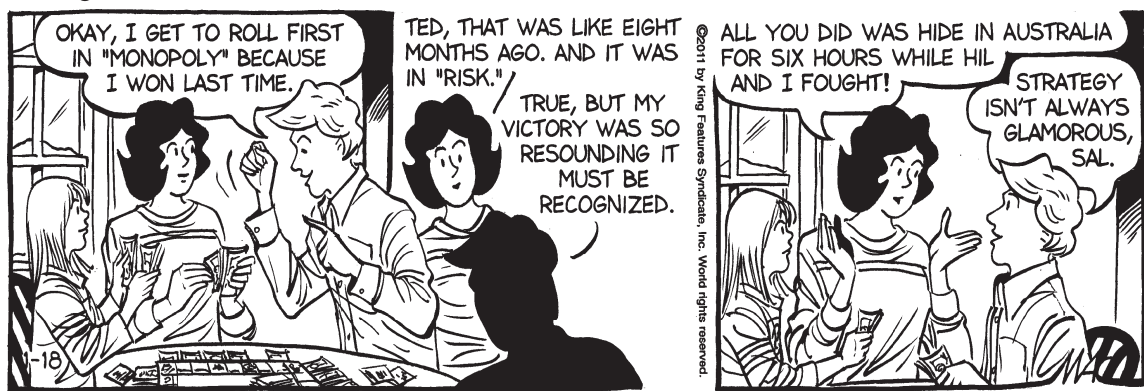
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



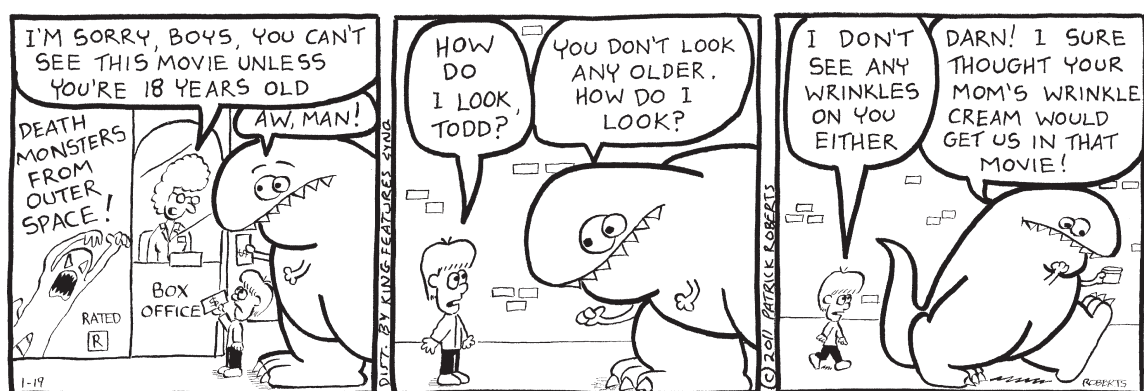
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



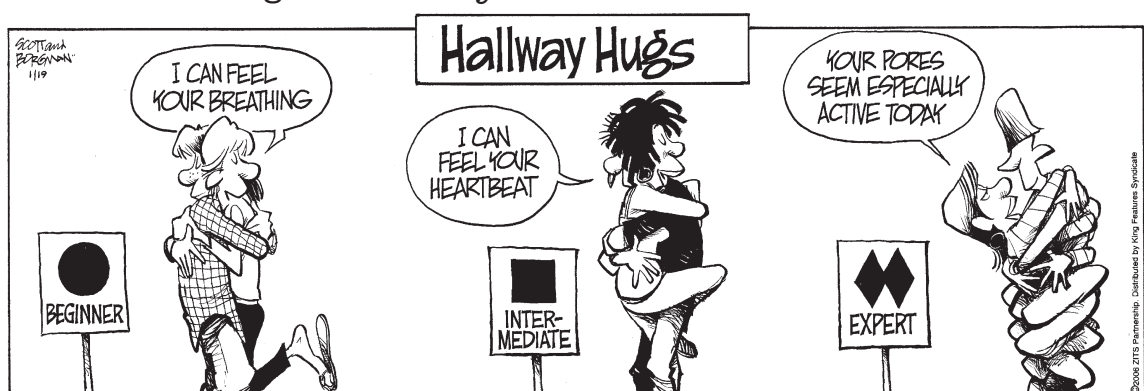
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Broiling pans now an 'extra'

Dear Heloise: Did you know that new ranges no longer include a BROILER PAN? My husband just bought me a new stainless-steel range with all the bells and whistles, but no broiler pan. When I called to tell the company it had forgotten to include the pan, I was informed that I could buy one. I checked all over town, and from what everyone told me, companies stopped including broiler pans a few years ago. So, if you use yours, hang on to it. — Louise in Dexter, N.M.

Wow! We checked, and how right you are! Who knew, especially if you haven't bought a range in years? Apparently, the manufacturers stopped including the pans about two years ago. However, the broiler pans can be purchased for anywhere from \$15 to \$20. Keep this in mind when choosing your next range. Definitely hold on to your old pan if you're getting a new range. Also, scour garage sales and thrift stores for extras. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
REMOVE STUCK-ON FOOD FROM SLOW COOKER

Dear Heloise: Being a single mom in the Army, I use my slow cooker a lot! The other day, I put a piece of brisket on low before going to work. I thought I added enough liquid, but by the time I got home to check (1.5 hours later), there was a blackened, dried mess! Most of the meat was edible, but now I have a caked, baked blackness in my ceramic pot that even overnight soaking won't budge. Do you have any suggestions? — Kelly, via e-mail

Kelly, a big hug for being a single mom and in the Army! Most manufacturers recommend washing with hot, soapy water. However, for burned or stubborn gunk that even baking soda used with a cloth or sponge doesn't remove, try using a rubber spatula. For models with a removable insert, you can put it in your dishwasher. However, if soaking has not worked for you, try filling your slow cooker with water and a small amount of dish soap, plugging the cooker back in and heating on high for about 30 minutes. In the future, you may want to use a disposable, plastic liner in the slow-cooker insert (available in most stores) to make cleanup even easier! Hope this helps, and thank you for your service! — Heloise

CUPCAKE LINERS, COOKING SPRAY
Dear Heloise: To keep your cupcake tin cleaner, lay out the liners on paper towels when spraying with cooking spray, then put them in the tins. — Rhonda, via e-mail

CEREAL CRUMBS FOR MEATLOAF
Dear Heloise: Every time I emptied a cereal box, the crumbs would go in the compost bin. Now, I strain the crumbs for larger pieces and then put them in an airtight container to use as crumbs in meatloaf, burgers and the like. Not only are these crumbs a fiber source, my family says my meatloaf is juicier and more tender. — Linda, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 6 3
♥ K 9 8
♦ A 9 8 6 4 3
♣ 7

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

EAST
♠ K J 10 9 7
♥ J
♦ Q J 7
♣ K 10 5 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 5 4
♥ A 7 4
♦ K 10 2
♣ A J 6 4

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 Pass Pass 3♦
1 ♠ Pass Pass 3♦
Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — eight of spades.

First Things First

The defenders usually have more to think about than the declarer, mainly because they can't see each other's hands. Conversely, declarer, with dummy's cards and his own in plain view, is in an ideal position to assess his strong and weak points and to take advantage of the knowledge he has and the opponents do not.

East had a problem of sorts when he won the opening spade lead with the king after declarer played low from dummy. But he correctly decided that there was no future in a spade continuation, and so he shifted to a low club, which sounded the death knell for the contract.

Declarer played low, West winning with the eight and returning a low club to East's king. There was no recovery for South, whatever he did, and he eventually lost a spade, three clubs and a diamond to go down one.

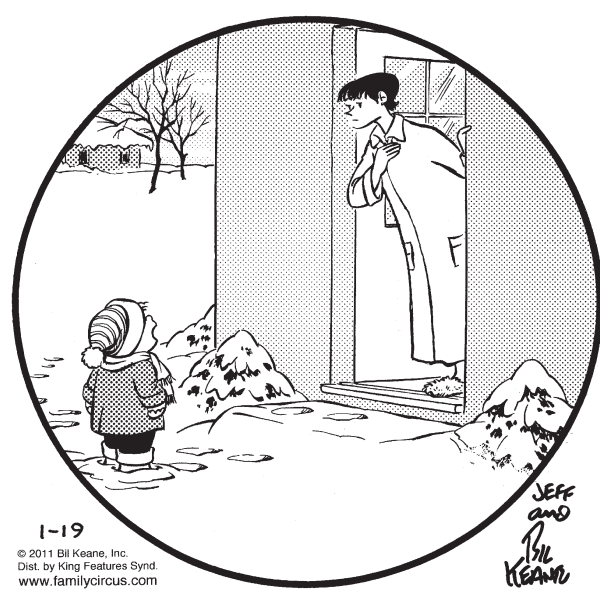
East unquestionably earned his success by abandoning spades and shifting to a club at trick two, but he should never have had the opportunity to beat the contract. South erred grievously when he played low from dummy on the opening spade lead. He was asking for trouble, and he got it.

Both the bidding and the opening lead clearly marked East with the king of spades, so it was unnecessary to try to protect the queen by playing low from dummy. There was more pressing business at hand.

Dummy's diamonds needed to be attended to before declarer's weak spot in clubs could be exploited. South should therefore have gone up with the ace of spades at trick one and attacked diamonds at trick two. After that start, South would have had no trouble scoring nine tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I wanna go over to Eric's, but the snow erased his sidewalk."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

X HWRK RHSD MHJ CZ QIDGXFQW

IDQC OXMZDM MDGSDO ZHC.

X VQGCXFJRQGRK ODMVXMD

FZXRRK FZXRD FZXRX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE PLAYS THE SAME HOCKEY POSITION FOR MANY YEARS, I RECKON THAT'S A LONG-TERM GOALIE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Lubricate 61 Lawyers' org. 22 "— the night before..."
1 Triangular sail 37 List-ending abbr. **DOWN** 23 Custom maker
4 PBS science show 39 Formally relinquish 2 Mideast nation 25 Furrow
8 Item on stage number 41 Page number 3 Suitor 26 Largest of the seven
12 Exist 43 Even 44 Loud dance 46 Proclamation 50 To start pre-maturely 7 He helped raise Cain 31 Boo-Boo's mentor
13 Newspaper page 46 Proclamation 50 To start pre-maturely 7 He helped raise Cain 31 Boo-Boo's mentor
14 Volcanic flow 50 To start pre-maturely 7 He helped raise Cain 31 Boo-Boo's mentor
15 Sheepish remark? 55 Twosome 8 Pesticide 9 Un-cooked unit 10 Eggs 11 Salary 17 Once 45 Section around the track 47 Concept 48 "— Your Enthusiasm"
16 1980 Robbie Dupree hit 57 Portrayal 58 Work unit 59 Wild and crazy 60 Couldn't keep a secret 19 Qty. **Solution time: 21 mins.**

EMUS OHO STAB
KILLOGRAM ARIA
ENTANGLE LIDS
PAY LLLAMAS
MOTET SEAM
EGAD ENTWINE
GRR SMUTS ORB
ENTEBBE MONO
EROS NAKED
CASHW ION
ODOR ENTRACTE
LAMA RELIGION
AMEN SOL EDGE

Yesterday's answer 1-19

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		
50	51	52				53		54		55
56						57				58
59						60				61