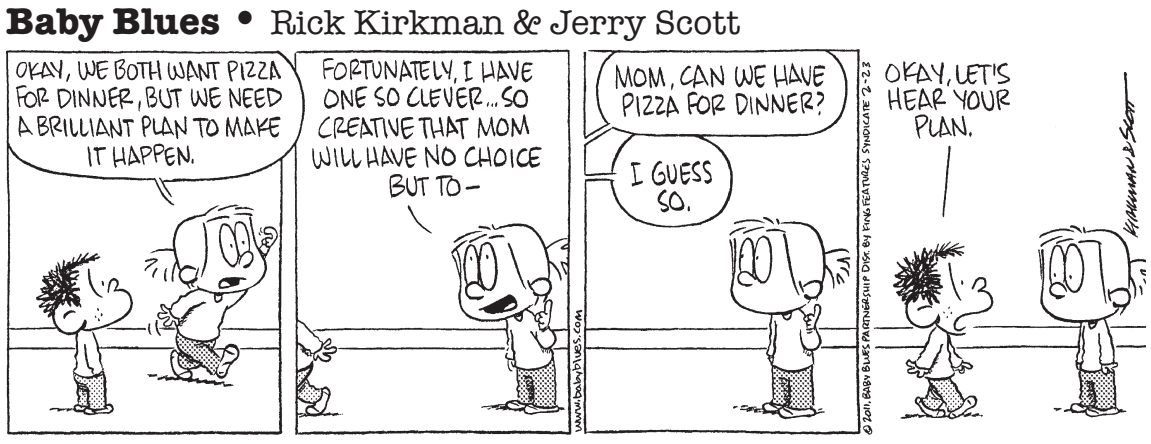
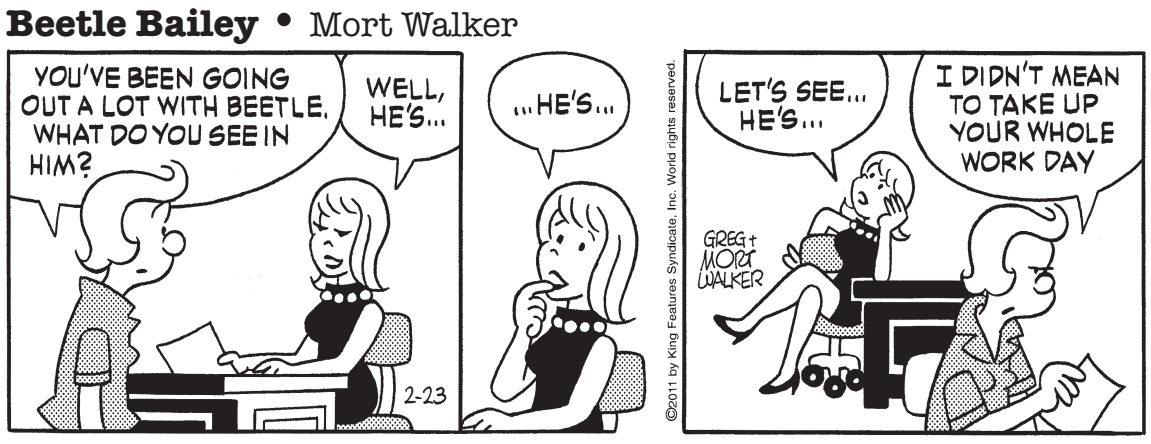
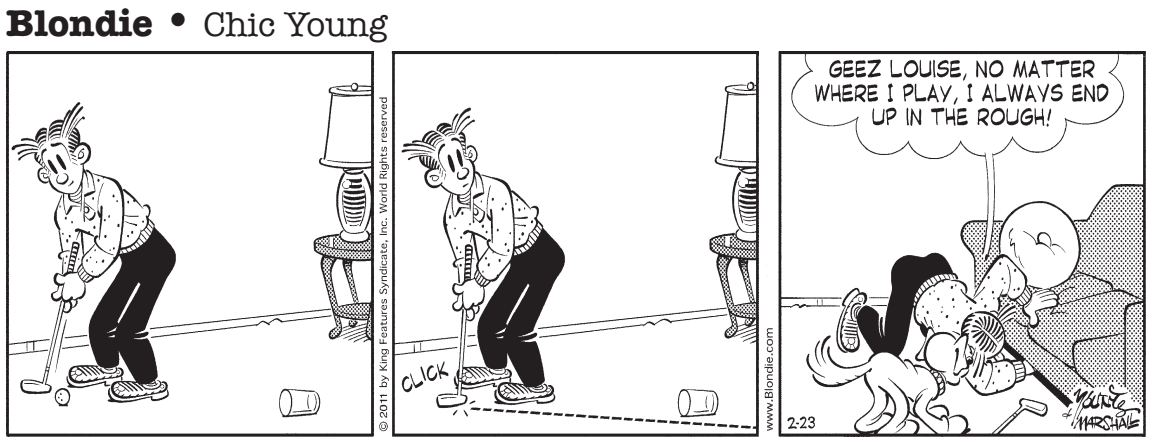
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



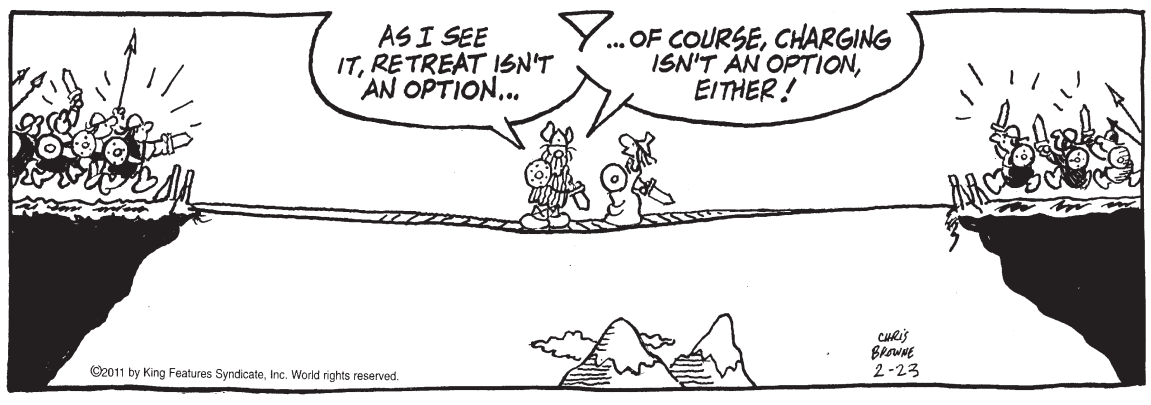
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



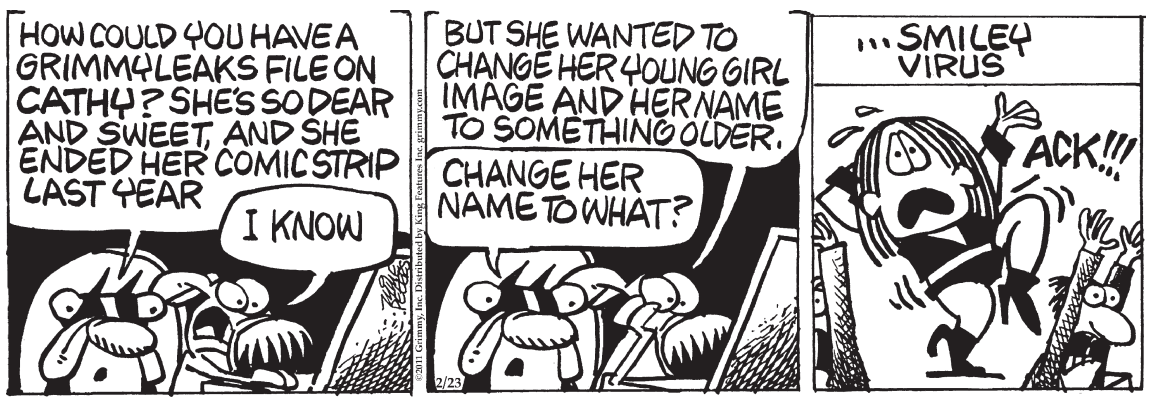
Blondie • Chic Young



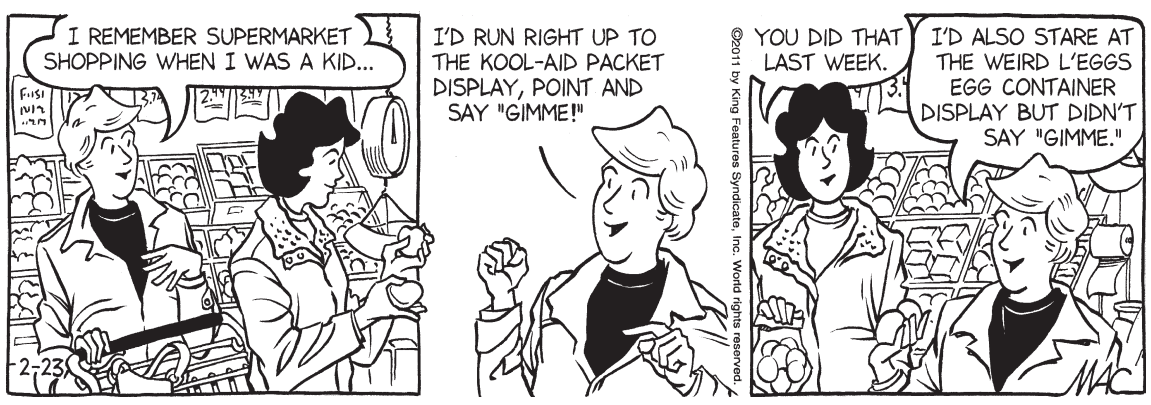
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



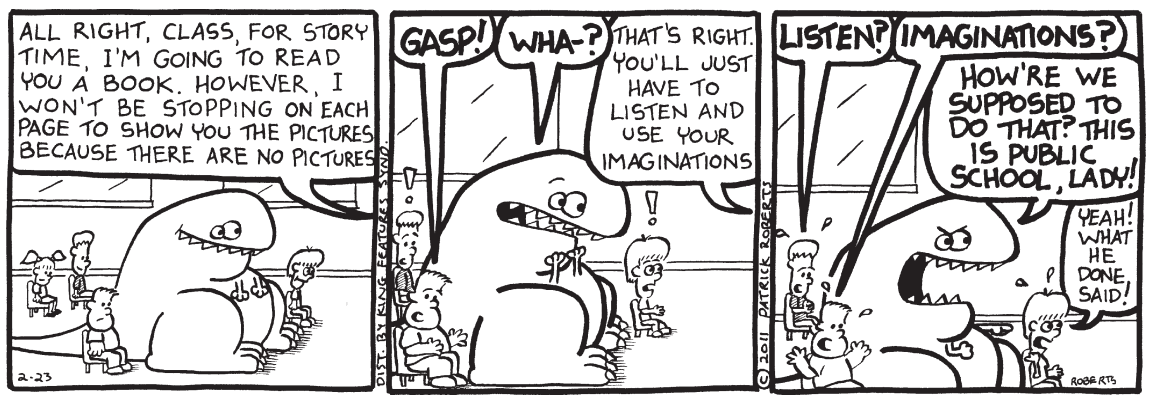
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Peanut butter: to chill or not?

Dear Heloise: For years, I have put my PEANUT BUTTER in the refrigerator and have been told by family and friends that I do not need to. I still did and found it always to be hard to spread.

I looked on the jar and saw "No refrigeration necessary." So I switched and keep it in the cupboard. Now I read in a magazine that peanut butter should be kept in the refrigerator like other condiments, except for oil. What is your take? I read your article in The (Harrisburg, Pa.) Patriot-News. – Esther Katz in Harrisburg, Pa.

Esther, thanks for reading my column in your paper. The answer is NO! Leading manufacturers say that peanut butter does NOT need to be refrigerated. Peanut butter's consistency may change when it is in cold temperatures, making it thicker than if left in the pantry.

Heat can cause peanut butter to lose some of its flavor – for example, the temperature in a summer cottage or a cabin without air conditioning.

You can refrigerate the peanut butter to keep it at its freshest, but it will be hard to spread. Natural peanut butter also can be refrigerated. – Heloise

SAVE MONEY

Dear Heloise: My husband and I are trying to save money this year by not eating out for lunch. After we eat dinner, I put the leftovers in small containers that we can easily grab and take for lunch the next day. This is much easier than putting it in one large container and having to dish up lunches the next morning. – Janelle in Florida

VINEGAR

Dear Heloise: I keep a spray bottle of vinegar on the counter by my sink. I spray all of my fruits and vegetables, then rinse well (very inexpensive). A muse once told me that vinegar would kill bacteria. – Judy, Woodville, Ala.

Judy, yes, vinegar will kill some bacteria. However, a good "washing" with running water, using a vegetable brush or rubbing the fruit or veggie with your hands, works on most. The exception is rough, textured surfaces, such as cantaloupe, pineapple, etc., where a veggie brush definitely should be used. Isn't vinegar useful for so many things? To receive my handy six-page pamphlet filled with money-saving vinegar uses, send $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. To remove stains from aluminum pots, boil 1 cup of vinegar and 1 cup of water in the pot. Wash, rinse and dry. – Heloise

NO WASTE

Dear Heloise: Because I cook only for myself, when I need chopped onion, celery or peppers for stews and soups, I go to the salad bar at the grocery store to buy the amount needed, instead of buying a large stalk of celery, large pepper or onion. Plus, I don't have to clean or chop these items, so no waste. – Sylvia Cantor in Parma, Ohio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 8
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ 7 3
♣ A Q 9 2

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

EAST
♠ Q 5
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A K 9 2
♣ K J 8 3

SOUTH
♠ 10 7
♥ K J 10 9 4
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 7 5 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Partnership Cooperation

Generally speaking, precise defense is much more difficult to achieve than precise declarer play. Nevertheless, the fact remains that in the great majority of deals, the defenders should take every trick they'd be entitled to take if they saw all four hands.

Consider this case where East-West cooperated perfectly to defeat four hearts two tricks. West led the queen of diamonds, and East played the deuce, which in effect asked West to stop playing the suit.

Showing complete trust in partner, West shifted to the six of clubs. Declarer played low from dummy, and East won the trick with the jack.

East could not know that West's club was a singleton, so, in an effort to coax another club lead from partner, East returned the nine of diamonds. East expected West to overtake the nine with the ten or jack and lead another club.

But West followed suit with the five, because he wanted a club lead from East so that he could ruff it and quickly score the setting trick.

It was not difficult for East to size up the actual situation when he found himself still on lead with the nine of diamonds. The only sensible meaning he could attach to West's duck of the nine was that West had no more clubs and wanted a club ruff.

So, displaying full faith and confidence in partner, East returned a club at trick four into dummy's A-Q-9. West ruffed to put the contract down one, and declarer still had to lose another club to East's king later on for down two.

The hand demonstrates the importance of partnership cooperation during the play. Intelligent signals and plain common sense can work wonders on defense.

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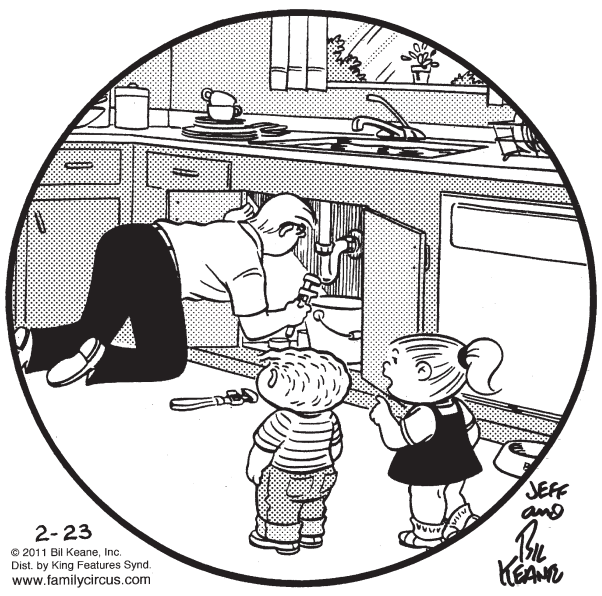
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Daddy's helping the sink clear its throat."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/23

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/21

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Cryptoquip

MLAAFMJGP N INHRZFFK JM IQJGP LMQC IO N KNGO-NZKQC MQN YZQNHLZQ, KJPRH OFL MNO JH'M FYHF-AJQC?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVENT IN WHICH RACEHORSES HAVE TO LEAP OVER A FEW SMALL METAL FASTENERS: A STAPLE-CHASE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Writer Kingsley
5 Hot tub
8 Adam and Eve's son
12 Dog owner's chore
13 Work unit
14 Burning heap
15 High score in darts
17 Ogler's look
18 Apportion
19 Kitchen rack fillers
21 "Memory" musical
24 Greek vowel
25 Hoist
28 Beams of light
30 Agree silently
33 — Khan
34 "Likewise"
35 Rotation duration
36 Thither
37 Fine
38 Information unit
39 "— Kapital"
41 Christmas refrain
43 Father Time's prop
46 Festive parties
50 Exile isle
51 "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" lifeline chart
54 Gridiron terminus
55 Bikini half
56 Great Lake
57 Shrek is one
58 Stitch
59 Timetable, for short

DOWN
1 "Mamma Mia" group
2 Manhandle
3 "— do for now"
4 Cheap merchandise
5 Witness
6 Crowbar
7 Census statistics
8 Gymnastic maneuver
9 Something superficially attractive
10 Genealogy chart
11 Divorce settlement portion
16 Depot (Abbr.)
20 Mexican money
22 "Star —"
23 Beelzebub
25 Funny Leno
26 Back when
27 Wonka creation
29 Vacillate
31 Feedbag morsel
32 Coloring agent
34 Slam-dance
38 Trumpet sounds
40 "— of Two Cities"
42 Early bird?
43 Lily variety
44 Stop up
45 Recedes
47 Caprice
48 "... baked in —"
49 Molt
52 Exist
53 Uncivilized

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-23

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			