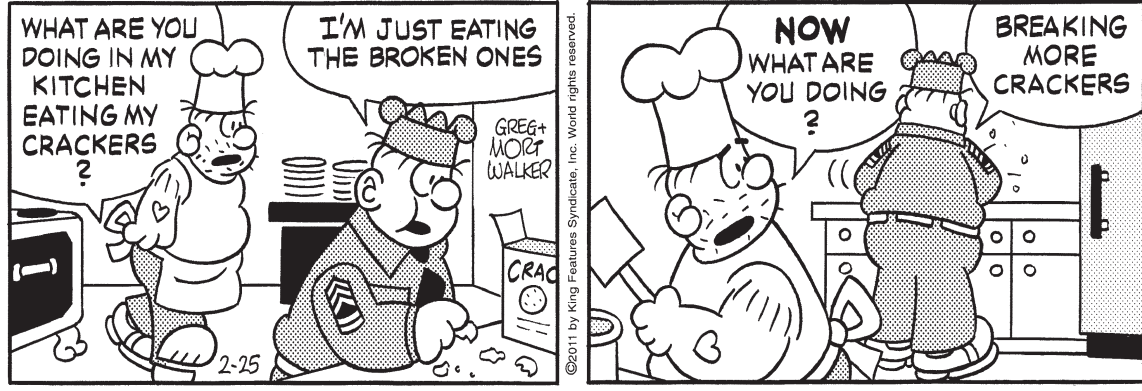


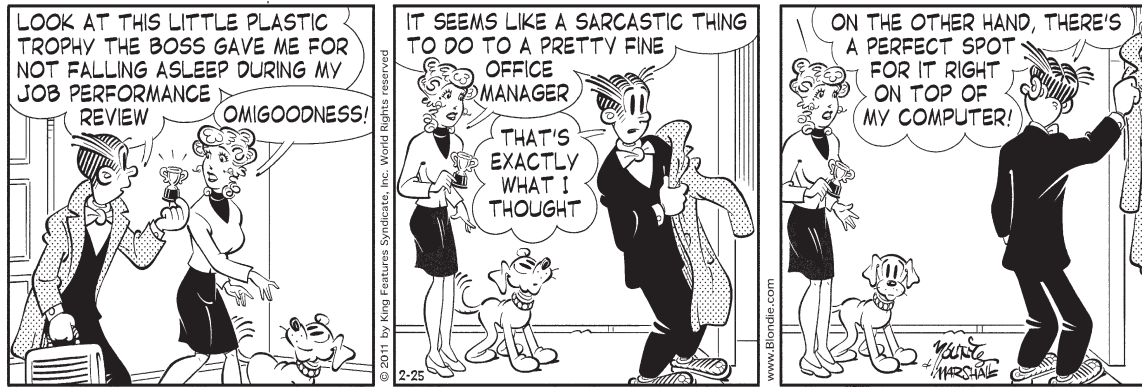
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



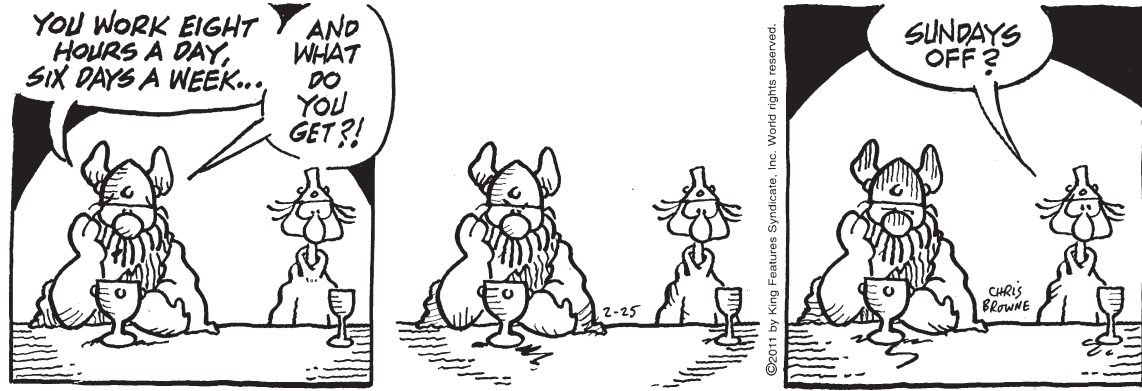
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



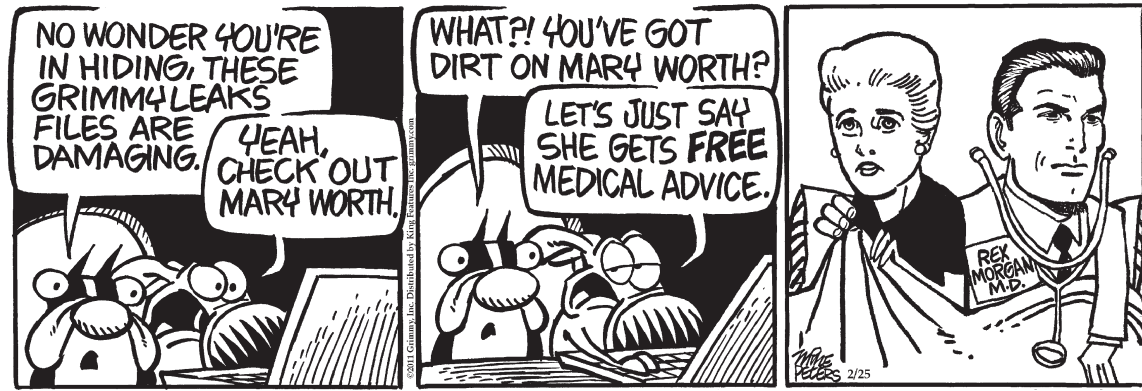
Blondie • Chic Young



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

Photos succeed when care taken

Dear Readers: Here are some hints on how to TAKE THE BEST PICTURES you can:

- Make sure that your lens and LCD viewer screen are clean. Do not use a tissue to clean. Instead, use a microfibre cloth or eyeglass-cleaning tissue. Also, try a lens-cleaning product.
- In low-light situations, your camera's shutter will stay open longer, so try to be as still as possible. Otherwise, your picture will come out blurry. If you know you are going to be taking a lot of photos, bring a tripod to steady the camera.
- When taking outside pictures, try to position yourself so that the sun is behind you. This will help to prevent your subjects from looking washed out, since you are using natural lighting.

What are your photo hints? Send us your favorite. You can send an e-mail to Heloise(at)Heloise.com, mail to Heloise, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001, or a fax to 210-HELOISE (210-435-6473). — Heloise

NO BEEP

Dear Heloise: I bought a new dishwasher, and I really like it. The problem is, it beeps three times every 30 minutes or so after washing. It continues to do this until I open the dishwasher. When telling a friend, she told me there should be a way to turn it off if I looked in the owners manual. There was! Thought some of your readers may have the same problem. — N.F., via e-mail

Well, yes! This is why it's important to read the manual on any new appliance! It takes only a few minutes of your time. — Heloise

GREEN HINT

Dear Readers: A lot of overnight packages and boxes come to Heloise Central. The boxes are very sturdy, so we turn them inside out and reuse them to send out packages. Just think how much cardboard could be recycled if offices did this just once a week! — Heloise

CLEAN HOUSE

Dear Heloise: I used to be constantly walking up and down stairs to take things to the kids' rooms. I tried leaving stuff at the bottom for them to take up, but they never do it. I have come up with a simple solution: I put baskets for each kid at the bottom of the stairs. They take them up first thing when they get home from school before eating their snack. — Erin in San Antonio

PAINTING

Dear Heloise: When applying masking tape before painting, after placing the tape, run the blade of a putty knife firmly along the tape to seal it. By doing this, the paint will never "bleed through." — Jack W. in Columbus, Ohio

NO MESS

Dear Readers: If you store lawn and garden supplies in your garage, line the shelves with heavy aluminum foil. This will help to keep the shelves clean, contain oil spills, and they easily can be wiped off. — Heloise

(c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

Your right-hand opponent opens One Spade, neither side vulnerable. What, if anything, would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠A62 ♥J8653 ♦A8 ♣A75
2. ♠AJ8 ♥Q5 ♦KQJ6 ♣A973
3. ♠10 ♥AKJ974 ♦A73 ♣KJ2
4. ♠107 ♥6 ♦AJ1082 ♣AQJ84

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. Passing will prove to be the best action in the long run. To overcall in hearts with such a weak suit is like sitting down on a barrel of gunpowder, since you could get doubled and go for a huge number.

Overcalls on the two-level are usually based on how many tricks you can take, not on how many points you have. Safety is the chief consideration. Although your hand qualifies for an opening one-heart bid as dealer -- before the strength of any of the other three hands is known, and where you are highly unlikely to be doubled for penalties -- it becomes extremely risky to bid with it after your right-hand opponent has opened one spade.

A takeout double is a bit more cautious but is also unsafe, since your partner is likely to respond in a minor suit.

2. One notrump. This is the best way to tell your partner the type of hand you hold. A one-notrump overcall indicates approximately the same kind of hand you'd have for an opening notrump bid as dealer -- with the added proviso that you must have the opponents' suit stopped. It would be wrong to double instead, since you'd be badly placed if your partner responded two hearts.

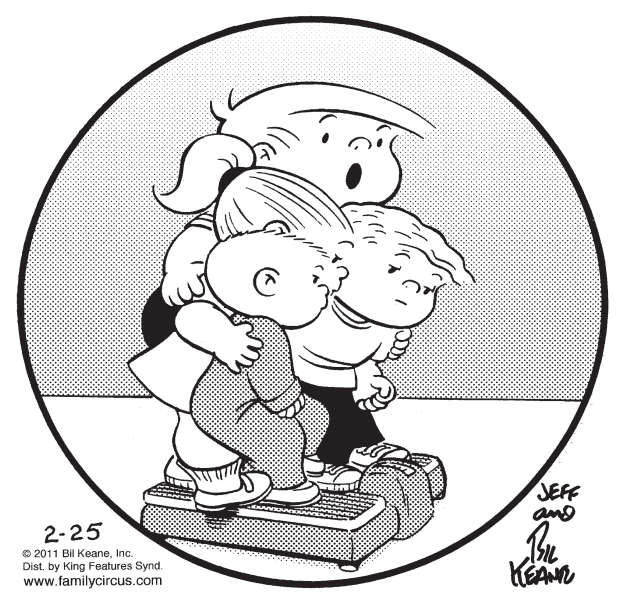
3. Double. Your hand is a little too strong for a two-heart bid, as partner may pass with a hand good enough to produce a game. Overcalls on the two-level represent good hands, but there's a limit to how powerful they can be. After doubling, you plan to bid hearts at your next turn to show that your hand was too strong for an ordinary overcall.

Two hearts would be OK if you had the diamond queen instead of the ace. The double makes it possible for your partner to distinguish between a competitive bid for a partscore and one where you're interested in getting to game.

4. Two notrump. This hand provides an illustration of one of the game's more popular conventions, the "unusual notrump." The bid announces that you have at least five cards in each minor suit and asks partner to choose which of them he prefers. Two notrump does not necessarily indicate enough points for an opening bid, but offers the advantage of interfering with the opponents' bidding while making it easier for you to reach your best contract.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, guess how much children you have?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

S M C S M L P W C P X L J P W , B N
H N Y L J S M F X I N Y W - J P X B P B
R N M A L P W G S F P A L N C P X W

X Z N X L N I R X M H Z N G G X W A ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE REVIEW A CERTAIN CARTOON GIRL VERY NEGATIVELY, I SUPPOSE THEY COULD PAN DORA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 A to Z
- 6 Vitamin stat
- 9 Foolish one
- 12 Marble type
- 13 Chic no more
- 14 Pi follower
- 15 Water softener
- 16 Level of achievement
- 18 Vegas wedding site
- 20 Angel's prop
- 21 Brewery product
- 23 — Lanka
- 24 Soft and smooth
- 25 Pod dwellers
- 27 Bury
- 29 Map-Quest offerings
- 31 "Planet of the Apes" star
- 35 Stallone role

DOWN

- 37 You
- 38 Fantastic
- 41 Conclusion
- 43 Scrap
- 44 Capri, e.g.
- 45 Leopard's cousin
- 47 Hat
- 49 Scrub
- 52 Writer Kesey
- 53 Torched
- 54 Humiliate
- 55 Tramcar load
- 56 Aviate
- 57 Hosiery shade
- 19 Spectrum producer
- 21 Spring mo.
- 22 Virgo neighbor
- 24 Bishopric
- 26 16-time Oscar nominee
- 28 Immodest swimwear
- 30 Listener
- 32 "Walden" writer
- 33 — the fields we go"
- 34 Profit
- 36 Beast's love
- 38 Michael Moore film
- 39 Leading man?
- 40 Aircraft
- 42 Ticket
- 45 Penitentiary
- 46 Actress Jessica
- 48 Sprite
- 50 Venomous viper
- 51 Born

Yesterday's answer 2-25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16			17		
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				