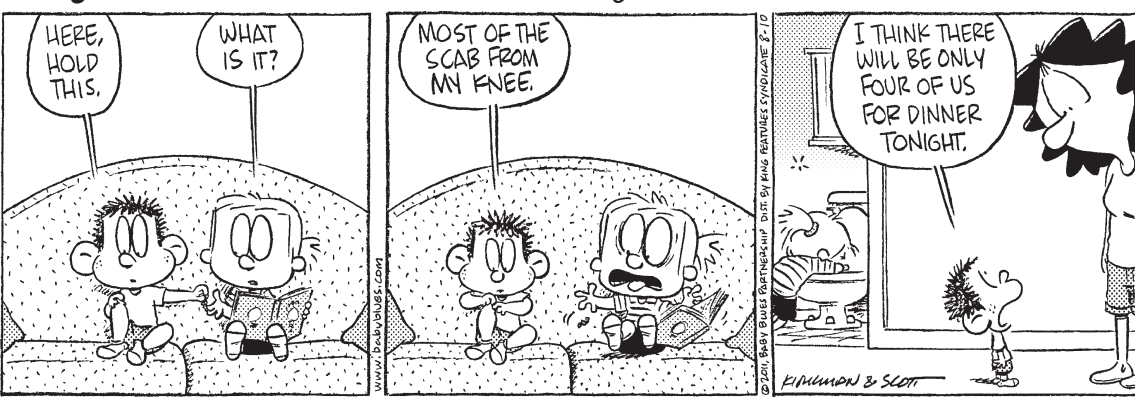
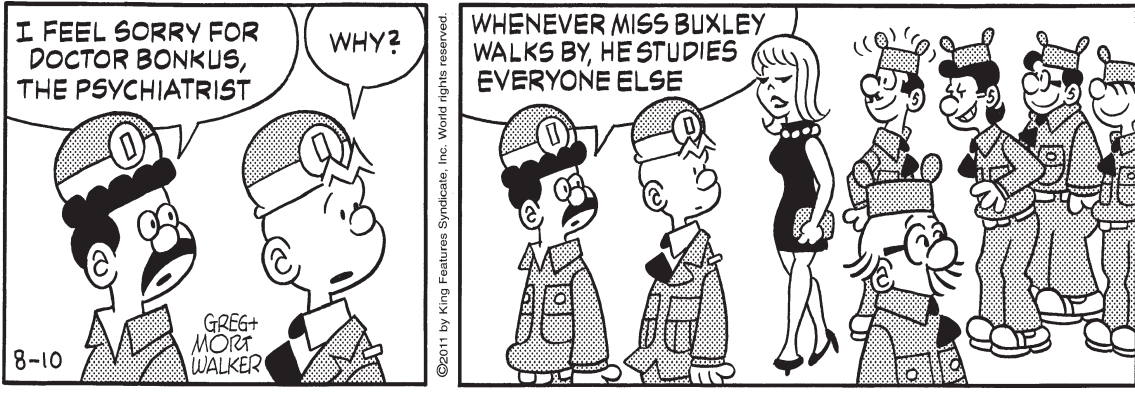


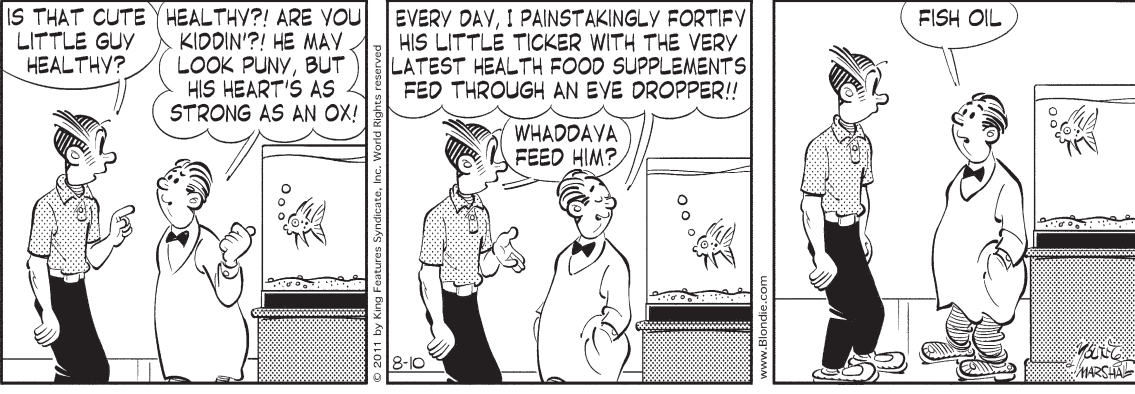
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



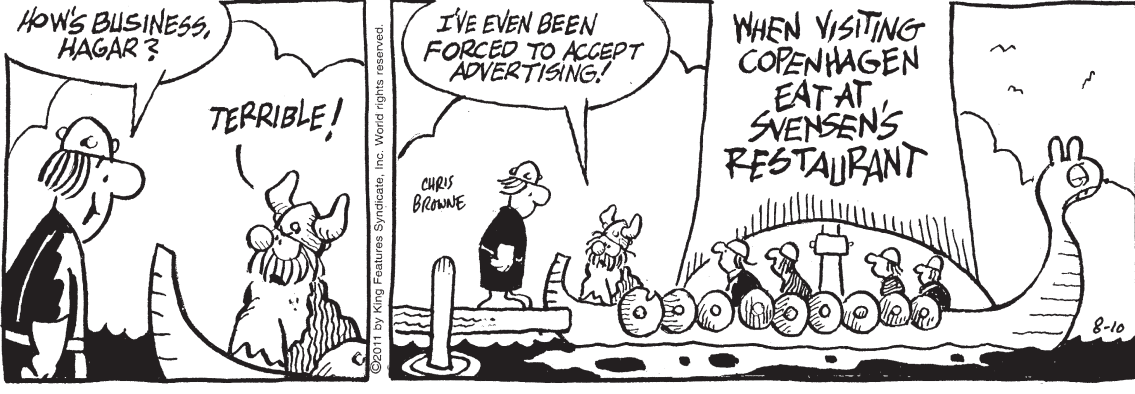
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



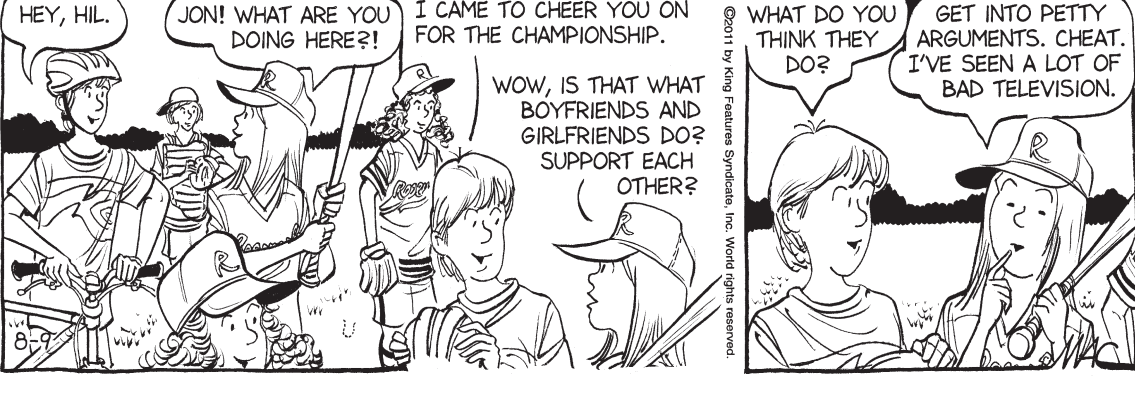
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



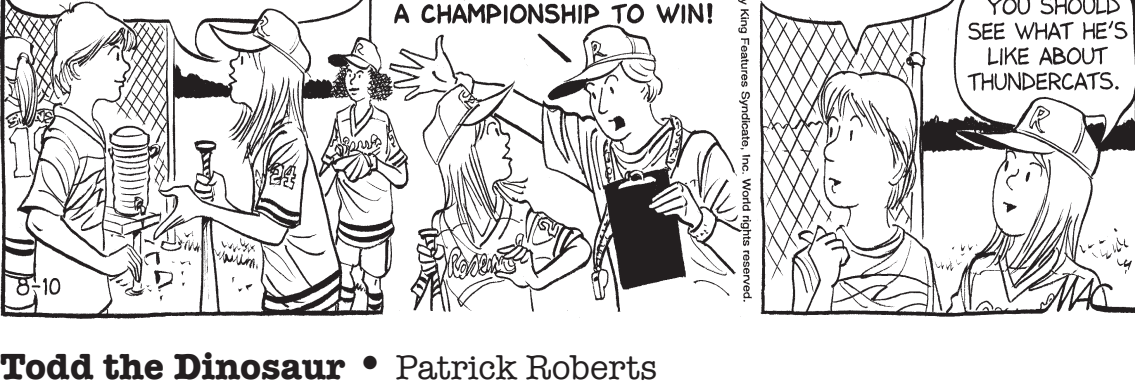
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



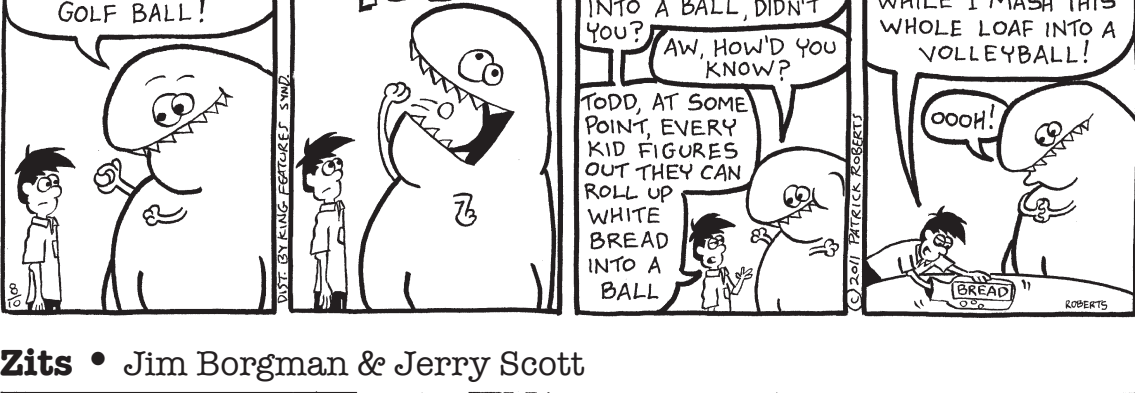
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Baking soda tackles spots

Dear Heloise: I stumbled on this trick and thought I would pass it along to you. I have one of those old, inexpensive SLOW-COOKER POTS with the inner cooker that does NOT come out for easy cleaning. I was trying to find a way to clean a few burnt meat spots.

I noticed a box of baking soda on the counter near the sink. I had replaced the box of baking soda in the refrigerator. I sprinkled about 2 tablespoons into the "wet" pot and scrubbed it with a stiff nylon brush. A couple of minutes later, it was totally clean. This works great and is very quick on woks, cookie sheets and muffin tins.

So my hint is this: Keep a box of baking soda by the sink for quick cleaning of pans. When the box runs out, grab the box from the refrigerator and replace it with a new box. — Dennis D., Houston

You are absolutely right, and baking soda is one of my favorite cleaners and deodorizers. It will save you lots of money when you use it all over the house. To find out the many handy uses, just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (64 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Baking soda can be slightly abrasive if used dry, so always put some on a damp sponge before using it on surfaces that may scratch. — Heloise

MAGAZINE PAGES
 Hi, Heloise: I read the letter in the Houston Chronicle about asking people not to tear recipes and articles out of magazines at doctor's offices.

I have found many recipes while at my nail shop with no copier available. I took pictures of the page(s) with my cellphone! — Jan Westfaul, via email

CAREFUL MIXING
 Dear Heloise: Do NOT use surgical gloves to mix a salad. There is a large segment of the population that is allergic to the latex in these gloves, which can lead to life-threatening reactions. If you decide to use gloves, be sure they are vinyl or plastic. Most people will not react to these. — Barbara R., via email

Thanks for the reminder! — Heloise

REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS
 Dear Heloise: I recently purged my refrigerator magnets and kept a very selective, favorite few in the kitchen on the refrigerator. I put the overflow on the upright freezer in the utility room -- for a much cleaner, sharper look in the kitchen!! That way, I still have access to the "others" but do not have the cluttered look. — Pat King, Cypress, Texas

BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
 Dear Heloise: My family loves breakfast sandwiches from fast-food restaurants, but they can get expensive. To save time and money, we gather ingredients and, on a Saturday morning, form an assembly line. One person toasts and butters the muffins, another fries eggs, etc. We wrap them individually and freeze for a quick and tasty breakfast. — Karen from Pennsylvania

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♦ A K 10
 ♥ Q 9 6
 ♦ A 8 7
 ♣ A K 8 2
WEST
 ♠ Q 7 6 4 3 2
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ J 7 4 3
EAST
 ♠ J 9 8 5
 ♥ A
 ♦ K J 10 6 4 3
 ♣ Q 10
SOUTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 5 4
 ♦ Q 9 2
 ♣ 9 6 5

The bidding:
 East South West North
 1♦ 3♥ Pass 6♥
 Opening lead — four of spades.

Making the Most of Your Chances
 Some contracts stand or fall essentially on the opening lead. Consider this deal where South got to six hearts on the bidding shown.

South made the slam after West chose a spade as his opening lead. West reasoned that -- given the bidding -- his opponents were prepared to cope with a diamond lead, the suit East had bid, so he decided to surprise them by leading a spade.

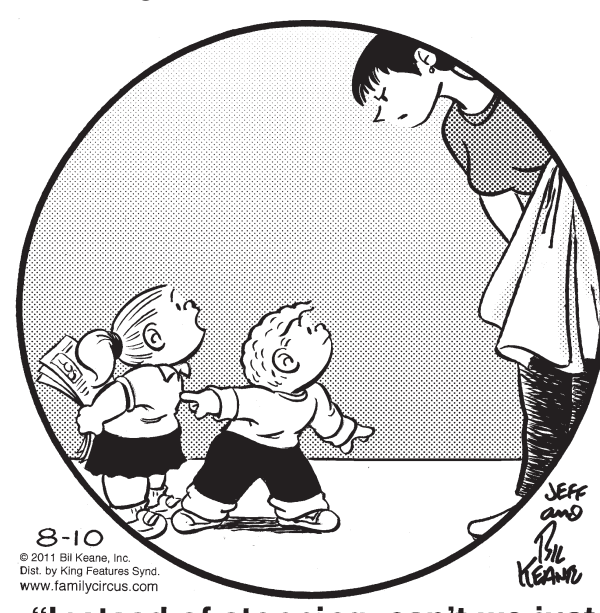
This highly speculative lead did not work out well when declarer proceeded to make the most of his chances. After discarding a diamond and a club on the A-K of spades and ruffing a spade, South cashed the K-A of clubs and ruffed a club. He was hoping the clubs would be divided 3-3, in which case he would have had smooth sailing the rest of the way.

But East showed out on the third club, discarding a diamond, and South was left with only one more hope -- that East had started with the singleton ace of trumps. South's prayers were quickly answered: When he next led a trump, poor East was forced to win with the ace and had to return a diamond, allowing South to score the queen. As a result, South lost only one trump trick and so made the slam.

Had West led a diamond initially, there would have been no way for South to make the contract. In general, it is much safer to lead partner's suit than to make a blind lead in another suit, unless the circumstances strongly indicate otherwise. West had no good reason in this case to vary from the general rule, and in the actual deal, it cost him a slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-10
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/10

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.

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

Cryptoquip

G U T S M H S S M X , J M X
 U S C H L X X S Z B B D T Z K T
 W L S W S C Z K X , E S M D W T S M J L
 E Z M H I X S U U C G H I X H M Z C W ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING MAN ALWAYS HAS A SCORNFUL FACE. YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S A SNEER-DO-WELL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Clumsy boats
 5 Nourished eatery
 12 Place
 13 Parisian pal
 14 Mimicked
 15 Cutout fastened to a garment
 17 Raced
 18 Argument
 19 Wiseacre
 21 Emanation
 24 Equi-
 25 Family
 28 Tournament format
 30 Pump up the volume
 33 Tear
 34 Tell's target
 35 Bill and —
 36 "Uh-huh"
 37 Repeat
 38 Charioteer's prop

DOWN
 2 Ready for the picking
 3 Retained
 4 "Saw" series' genre
 5 Online help page
 6 Ostrich's cousin
 7 Conks out
 8 Houses (Sp.)
 9 Come near
 10 Yard units
 11 Whirlpool
 16 Debtor's letters
 20 Go for the gold?
 22 Lasso

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-10

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		