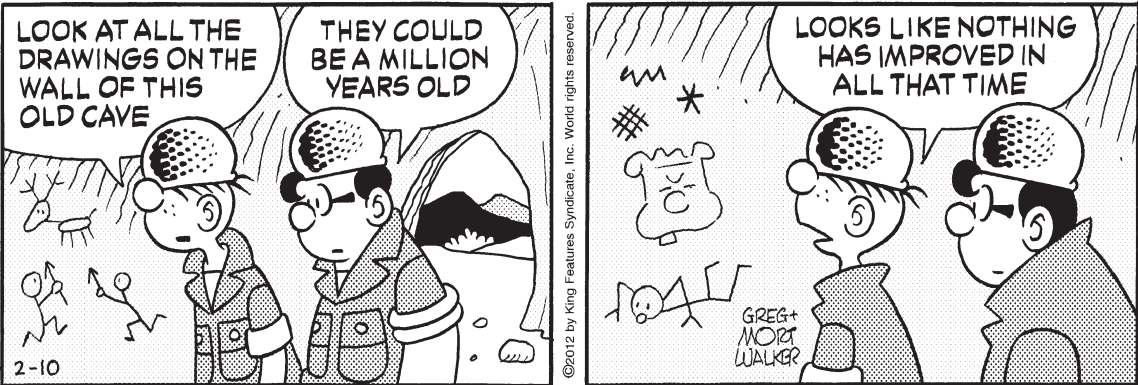


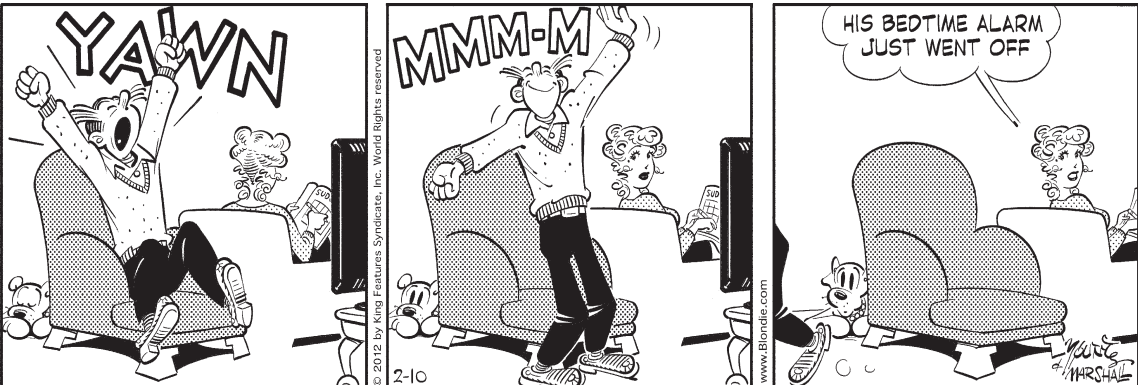
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



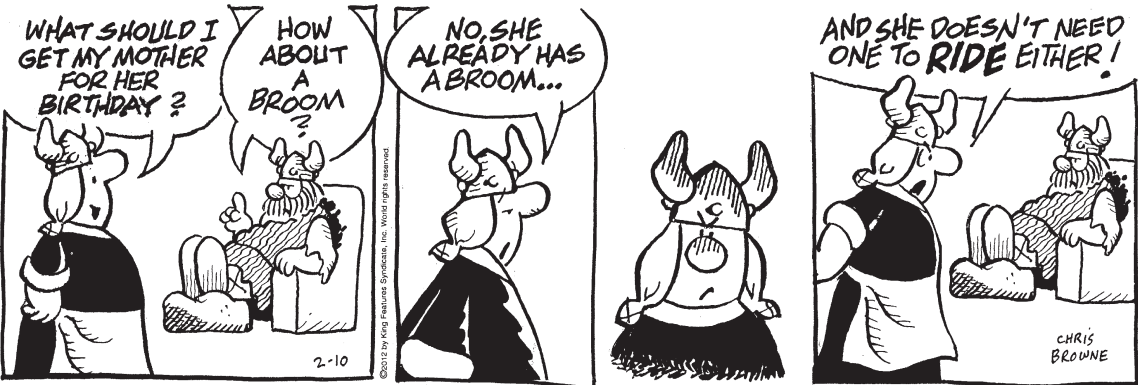
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



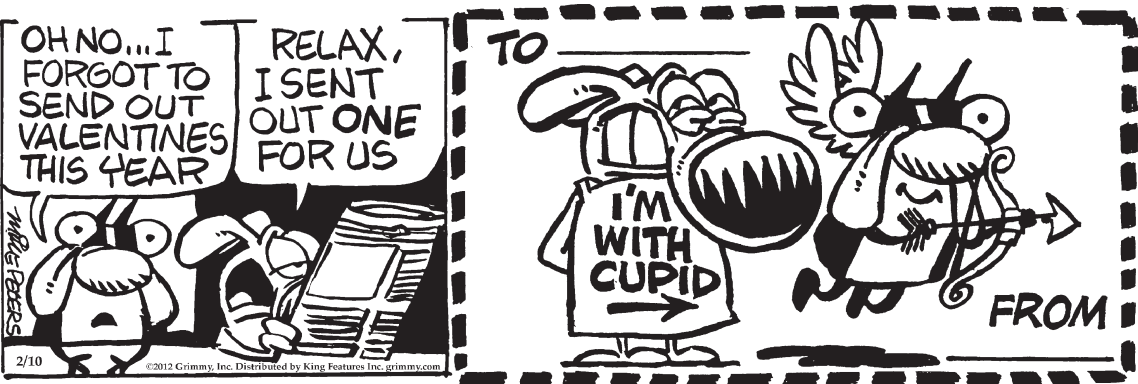
Blondie • Chic Young



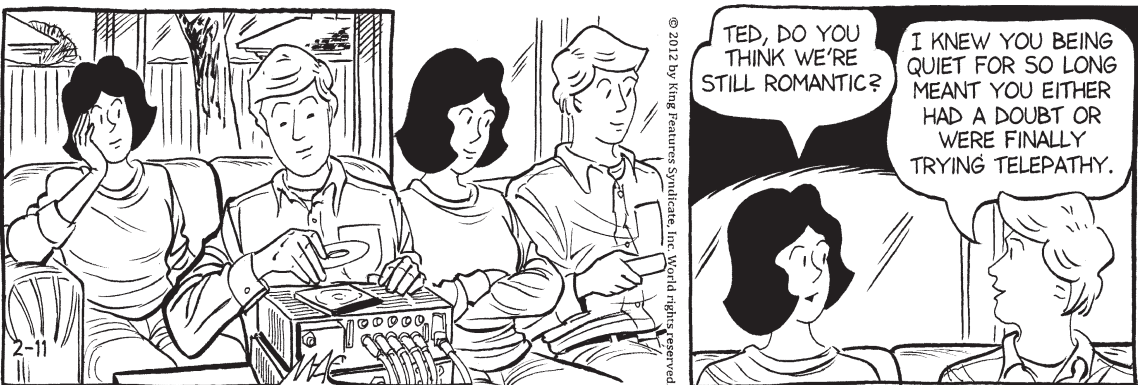
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



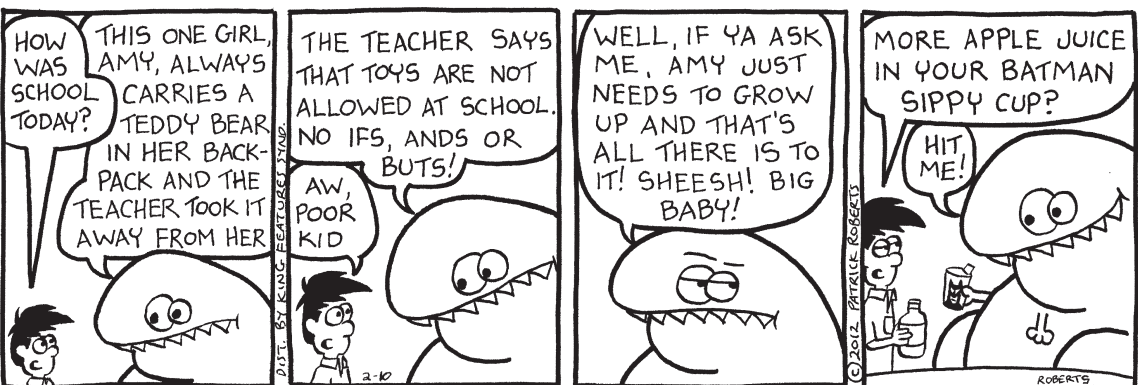
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Heart cake a 'sweet' idea

Dear Readers: With VALENTINE'S DAY right around the corner, here's a Heloise hint about how to make a heart-shaped cake! It's not hard to do, and it adds a fun twist to the usual Valentine cake.

Use whatever cake mix you like (a fun one is a white cake, and I add several drops of red food coloring to make it pink, or use a box of red velvet cake mix!). Mix the batter according to package directions, and pour half into a 9-inch round pan and the other half into a 9-inch square pan. Be sure the batter is evenly divided between pans so that when you put the layers together, they are the same height. Bake according to package directions.

When cakes are completely cool (removing a hot cake from a pan can cause it to break into pieces), place the square cake on a large platter in a diamond position. Cut the round layer in half to make two half-circles. Carefully place the cut sides against the top sides of the "diamond." Voilà – a heart!

Use your favorite frosting. You may need a little extra frosting, because you should use some of it to "glue" the pieces together to form the heart. Give it a try! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT- HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

SOCK STORAGE

Dear Heloise: I cringe when reading articles about the use of plastic newspaper sleeves to pack shoes when traveling. I did that, only to find spots all over the shoes, and they would not go away. It could have been caused by moisture or heat.

Old men's socks work great instead. I stuff small items into the shoes so they retain their shape. Also, the socks are useful to buff up the shoe surface. – Nadine in Salem, Ore.

The bags are safe and provide a "green" way to pack shoes. In your case, the shoes might have been damp. – Heloise

THE EYES HAVE IT

Dear Heloise: We have just adopted a bichon frise and are at a loss about handling the discoloration below his eyes. Is there a Heloise home remedy for the problem? – Carol in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Carol, yes, I have a simple Heloise Hint to help: It's plain ol' baby shampoo! It's mild and won't sting your bichon's eyes. Mix 1 part shampoo with 10 parts warm water. Use a cotton ball to gently wipe the area several times until the discoloration is gone. Then carefully wipe with plain water on a cotton ball to rinse.

If the discoloration is really bad, you may want to consult with your veterinarian. – Heloise
(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

It is said that if you go to three different doctors to have an ailment diagnosed, you'll get three different opinions. Well, the same thing is true if you consult a group of bridge experts about a bidding problem. As proof, we offer the following question presented by Bridge World magazine many years ago to 44 nationally known experts.

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?
What do you now bid with the following hand?
♠ Q5 ♥ J7 ♦ AJ764 ♣ A96

Bidding Quiz

The panel voted: 21 for two notrump; 18 for three clubs; five for two spades.

Here are comments by some of the panelists:
H.H. Harvey: "A clear-cut two-notrump bid."
L. Hazen: "Three clubs seems to give greater mobility, but I would accept two notrump or two spades." (Said Albert Morehead, who conducted the poll: "An amiable type, anyway.")
E. Kaplan: "Two spades. I'm not enthusiastic about the prospects of a notrump contract unless partner can bid two notrump over two spades. However, I do have good values for a spade contract, which I want to suggest."

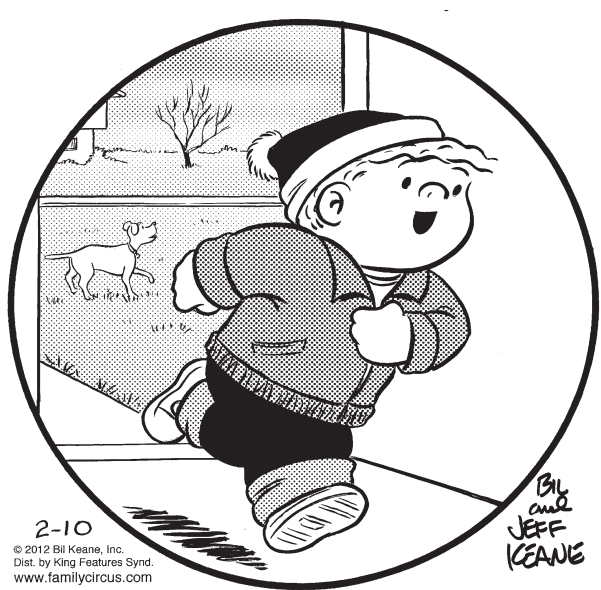
D. Oakie: "With a degree of restraint, I merely say that any answer other than two notrump will not reflect creditably upon the one who advocates it."

V. Remy: "Three clubs. Two notrump is a strong second choice, but I feel I have the right cards to justify a one-round force."
W. Rosen: "Two spades. After going to the two-level, a preference does justice to the hand."
A. Sheinwold: "Two notrump. Where, oh where, is the problem?" (Said Morehead: "We dunno. Have you seen your regular partner, Kaplan, lately?")

It can be seen that there was quite a diversity of opinion. This writer feels that a strong effort to reach game should be taken with these cards. Consequently, the three-club bid, which has the virtue of being forcing, is favored here.

Two spades seems inadequate because it is not sufficiently forward-going. Two notrump, although theoretically stronger than two spades, does not show the full strength of the hand, and might also make the wrong hand declarer in notrump (particularly if partner has the queen of clubs).
However, readers have the freedom to decide the issue for themselves. You pays yer money and you takes yer choice.
(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

Cryptoquip

IDWYOJD GSD JWTGGZJS

SZNSEYCFDX FZF Y GXOER

WTLDCFYIED FDDF, Z

SYF GT WXR "YGGY NYDE!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY CHECKING ACCOUNT HAS DWINDLED SO MUCH, WHAT THEY MAIL ME MIGHT AS WELL BE BLANK STATEMENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 "Trivial Pursuit" edition | 2 Ostrich's cousin | 19 Gets a glimpse of |
| 1 Ump | 37 Recovery center | 3 Cosmetic procedure | 20 Rainbow goddess |
| 4 Touch | 40 Splinter group | 4 Photo book | 21 Half (Pref.) |
| 8 Complain habitually | 41 Luminary | 5 Soothe | 22 Warble |
| 12 "— Little Teapot" | 42 Into | 6 Web address | 23 Satan's domain |
| 13 Traditional tales | 43 worse shape | 7 Aviv preceder | 25 Equitable |
| 14 Addict | 46 Crooner Jerry | 8 Sand-piper relative | 26 Modern-day target of theft |
| 15 Platypus feature | 47 Jai — Caroline | 9 Wan | 27 Stead |
| 17 Comedian | 48 Dead heat | 10 Bobbin | 28 Camera part |
| 18 Hebrew month | 49 Trudge along | 11 Say the pater-noster | 30 Movie-goer's souvenir |
| 19 In a crafty way | 50 Actress Neuwirth | 16 "The Birth of a Nation" group | 33 Afraid |
| 20 Mideast belief | 51 However | | 34 Georgia or Cal — |
| 22 You | | | 36 Bottled spirit? |
| 24 Bridle strap | | | 37 Answer an invite |
| 25 Voluntary choice | | | 38 List-ending abbr. |
| 29 World-wide lending org. | | | 39 Head light? |
| 30 Sloop features | | | 40 Mop |
| 31 Conk out | | | 42 Blycreem bit |
| 32 Don't fidget | | | 43 Bullring bravo |
| 34 Adolescent | | | 44 Whopper |
| 35 Weight-lifter's lift | | | 45 Allow |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-10

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		