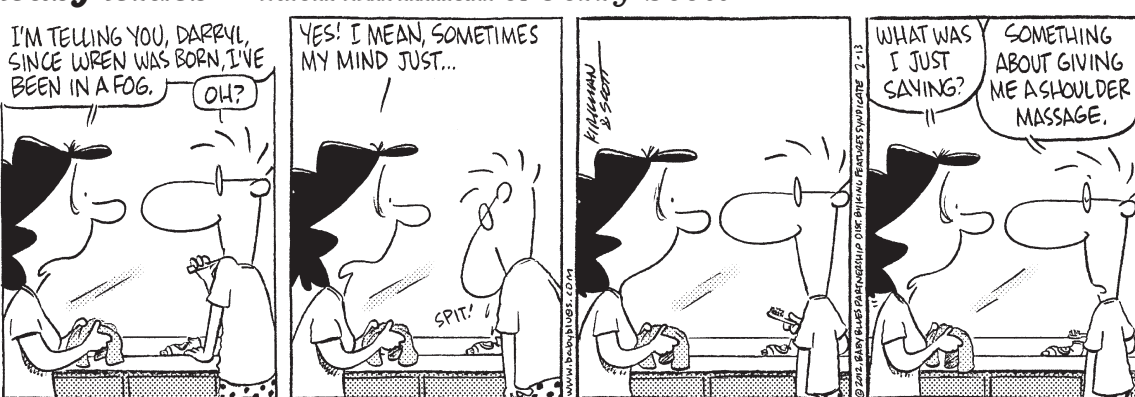
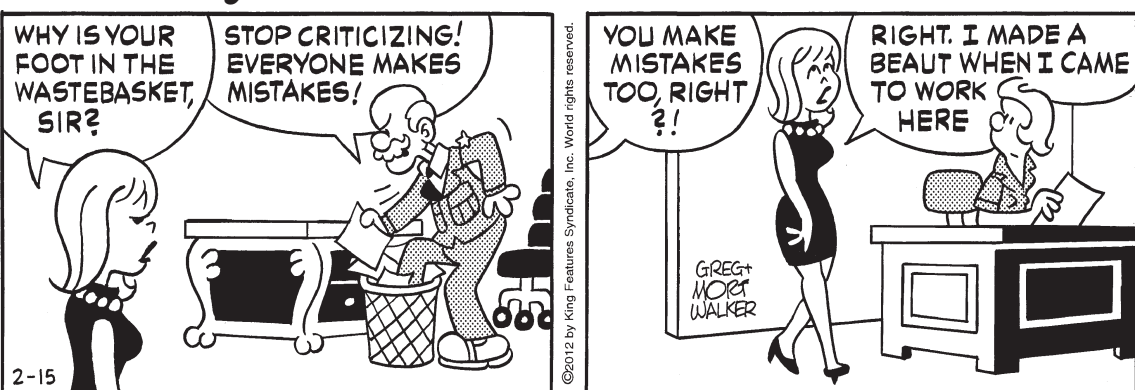


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



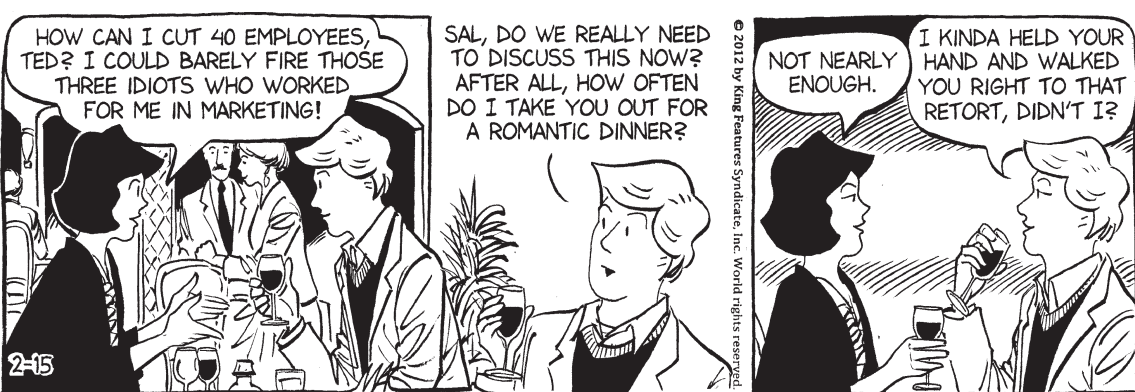
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



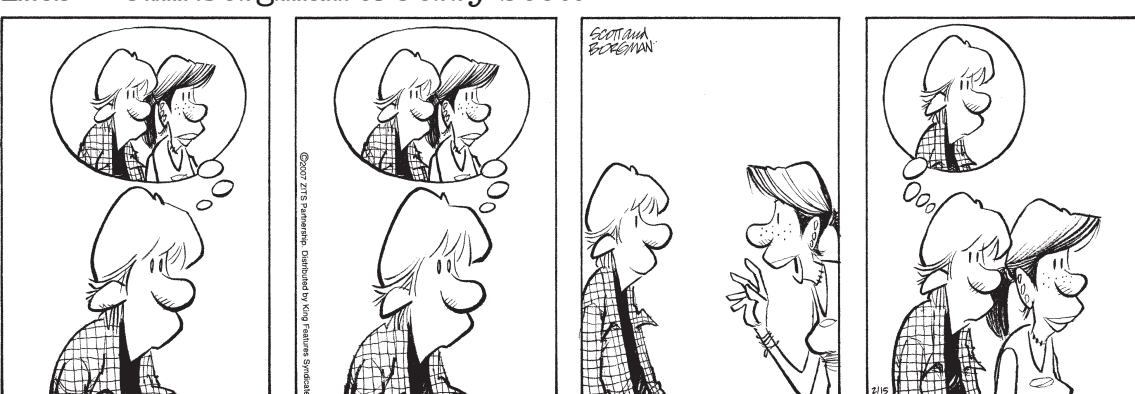
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Put some chill in hot soup bowl**

Dear Heloise: Whenever I make soup, especially for kids, it is usually too hot to eat right away. I typically put one or two ice cubes in the bowl to help cool the soup down. You also can add frozen veggies, the kids can stir, and before they realize it, the soup is cool enough for them to enjoy! – Susan D., via email

I love soup, and it's such a good way to feed a crowd on a budget. If you have leftover soup, pour it into ice-cube trays and freeze for later. Soup is one of the only hearty meals that can take just minutes to heat up and serve. If you like Chicken Noodle, Chicken Tortilla or French Onion soup, I have these yummy family recipes and more (along with soup hints) in my Heloise's Spectacular Soups pamphlet. To receive your own copy, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, Box 795001, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5001. To save money, buy ingredients on sale, make big batches of your favorite soup and freeze in smaller portions for a quick meal. – Heloise

**CRISP VEGGIES**

Dear Heloise: If you want to keep carrots crisp, leave them whole and dip in water. Shake off the excess water and put back in a plastic bag. They will stay crisp for at least a week.

In the case of celery, rinse it in the plastic bag it was bought in. There are usually holes in the bottom of these bags that let the majority of the water drain out. Then place the bag with the celery in the crisper, where it will stay crisp for about a week. Check it once in a while, rinse again, and the celery will revive. Take this from an old produce man. This works on other veggies as well.

I like the flavor carrots and celery give to soups. Use your mandoline to slice veggies thin enough to see through, and put them in soups or gravies. When cooked this way, they melt out of sight but leave their flavor. – George in Nebraska

**SPOON REST**

Dear Heloise: I like using a spoon rest when cooking, but do not like washing it. Also, I am vegetarian, but my husband eats meat, so frequently I have several cooking spoons that I do not want to have touching each other.

I use bread-and-butter plates because they are smaller and go into the dishwasher when done using. Several fit on the counter to accommodate different utensils without them touching. – Judith M., via email

**KITCHEN HINT**

Dear Heloise: If you don't have any kitchen or food shears, try tinsnips. The idea came to me while trying to remove the backbone of a chicken. I washed them first, and they worked great! I was able to cut right through those bones. – Patsy E., Port Deposit, Md.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ J 9 7 6  
♦ J 9 8  
♣ A J 8 5

**WEST**  
♠ K 9 8 6 3  
♥ 4 2  
♦ 6 5 4 2  
♣ 9 4

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 7 4 2  
♥ 5 3  
♦ K Q 10  
♣ 7 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ 5  
♥ A K Q 10 8  
♦ A 7 3  
♣ K Q 10 2

The bidding:  
South 1♥ West Pass North 3♥ East Pass  
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass  
4NT Pass 5♥ Pass  
5NT Pass 6♣ Pass  
6♥ Pass

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

**Sylvia Upsets the Apple Cart**

It's difficult to say whether Sylvia's outlandish bids and plays enraged her partners or her opponents more. But whatever the case, it seems clear that her assorted eccentricities were not intentional. She simply bid her hands as she saw them, which was rarely the way other people saw them. Her play similarly followed neither rhyme nor reason.

Consider this deal where she held the East cards, defending against six hearts. South was a well-known expert who on other occasions had felt the sting of Sylvia's unique approach to the game.

On West's opening diamond lead, South naturally played the eight from dummy, whereupon Sylvia played her queen! Of course, anyone else would have covered the eight with the ten, but this was Sylvia.

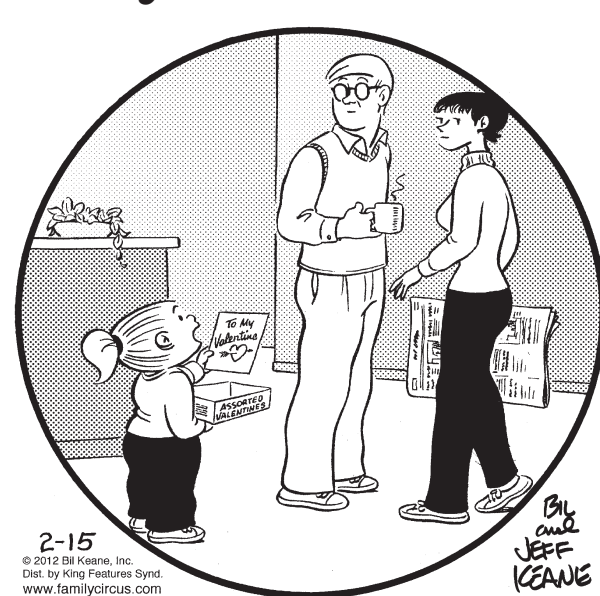
South won with the ace, cashed the A-K of trumps and then led a diamond toward the J-9. It seemed obvious to him that West must have the ten, since if Sylvia had it, she would have played it at trick one. After West followed low, therefore, declarer played dummy's nine, fully expecting it to force the king.

To South's amazement, Sylvia produced not only the ten of diamonds, but also the king, thus defeating the slam. To add even further to South's chagrin, he realized that he would have made the slam had Sylvia made the normal play of the ten on the opening lead.

Had she done so, South would have had no choice but to rely on a successful spade finesse to get him home. Only Sylvia's play of the queen, denying possession of the ten, could have steered him away from the winning line of play. Sylvia had struck again.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/15

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.

**Cryptoquip**

AMAOQ DNKA R TOCKNJAJD  
LRODCCJ ZARO YFCCDY CJA  
CMAO TRO, N ZAENAMA  
DFAQ LREE ND R QCPN ZCPAQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PERKY SONG ABOUT A BLUESMAN WHO LIKES MAKING DOUGHNUT-SHAPED ROLLS: "BOOGIE WOOGIE BAGEL BOY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Fool  
4 Morse morsels  
8 Primary way  
12 — long  
13 Early caucus state  
14 Not deceived by  
15 "— Town"  
16 Vodka container, at times  
18 "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1" composer  
20 Chow down  
21 Agana's island  
24 Daisy feature  
28 Unlikely success  
32 Zilch  
33 In olden days  
34 Mexican entrees  
36 Visibility hindrance  
37 Cat call

**DOWN**

1 Dumb-struck  
2 Tart  
3 Delhi dress  
4 Repugnance  
5 Reaction to fireworks  
6 Pair  
7 Fill fully  
8 Liquefied, as lava  
9 Literary collection  
10 "Monty Python"  
11 Ph. bk.  
12 data  
13 Space  
14 Early bird?  
15 Dumb-criers'  
16 Coffee-chocolate blend  
17 Vegan's protein source  
18 Unsinged (Abbr.)  
19 Stamina, slangily  
20 home  
21 S-shaped molding  
22 Midday  
23 Implement  
24 Began  
25 Cautioned  
26 Wildebeest  
27 Journal  
28 Capri or Wight  
29 Inquisitive  
30 Penetrating wind  
31 Pinches  
32 That girl  
33 Deposit  
34 Anger  
35 Glutton  
36 In vitro cells

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

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						60			61	