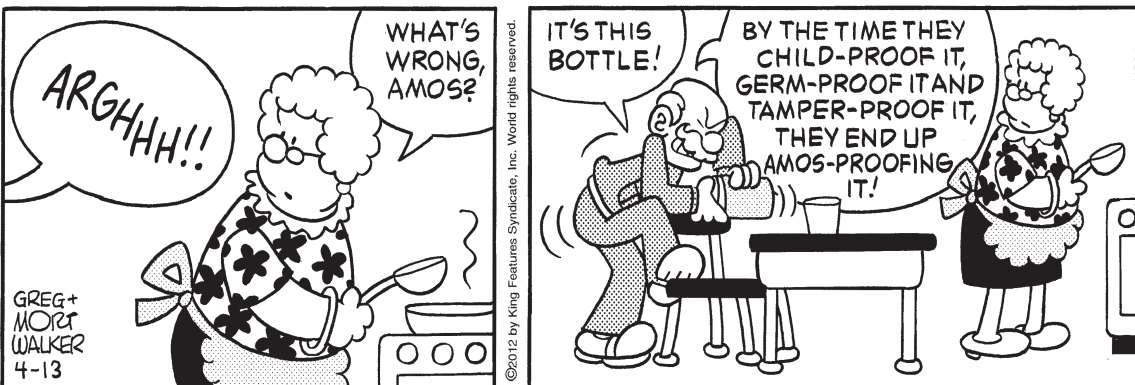


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



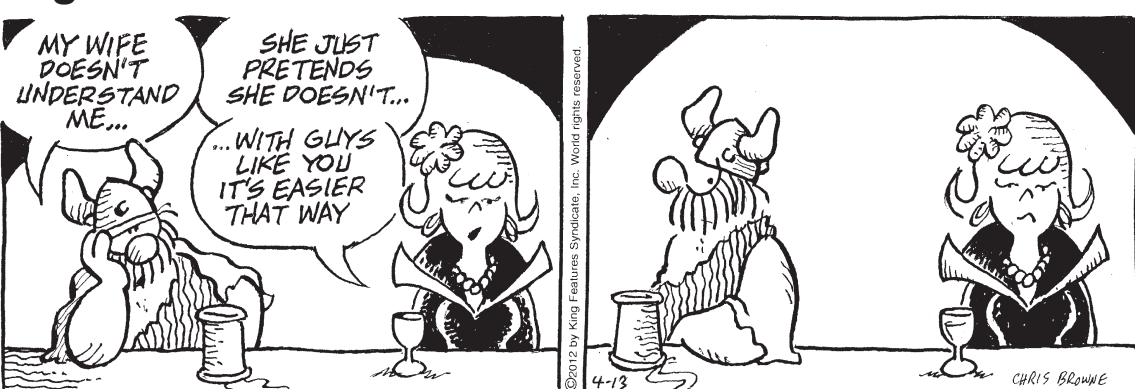
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



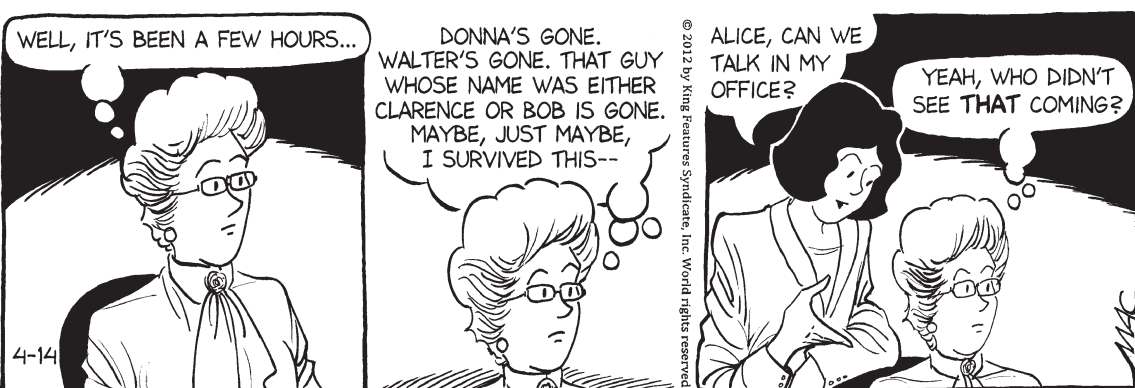
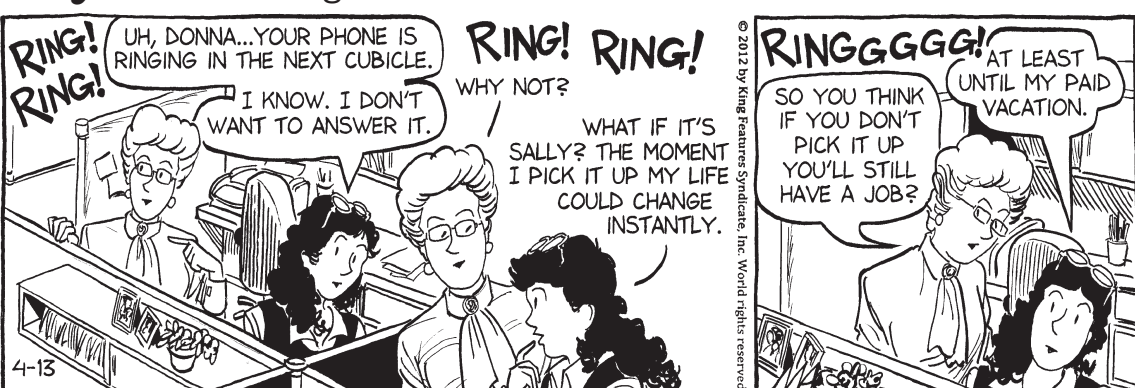
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



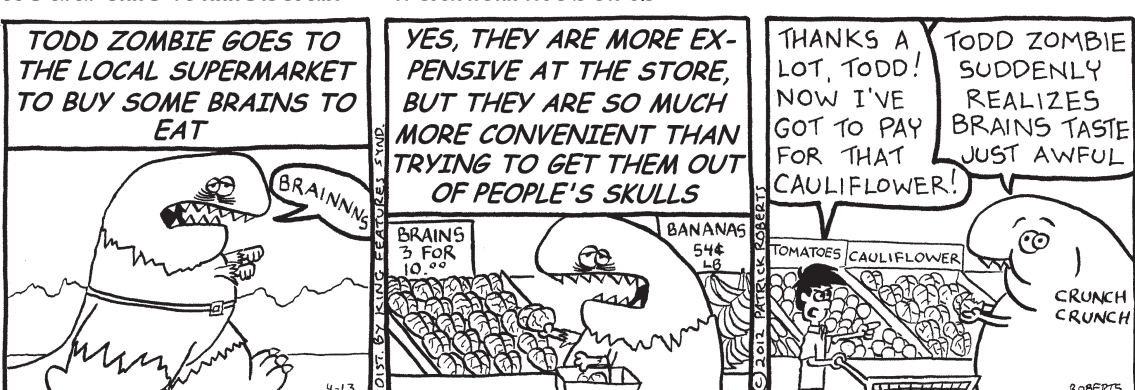
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



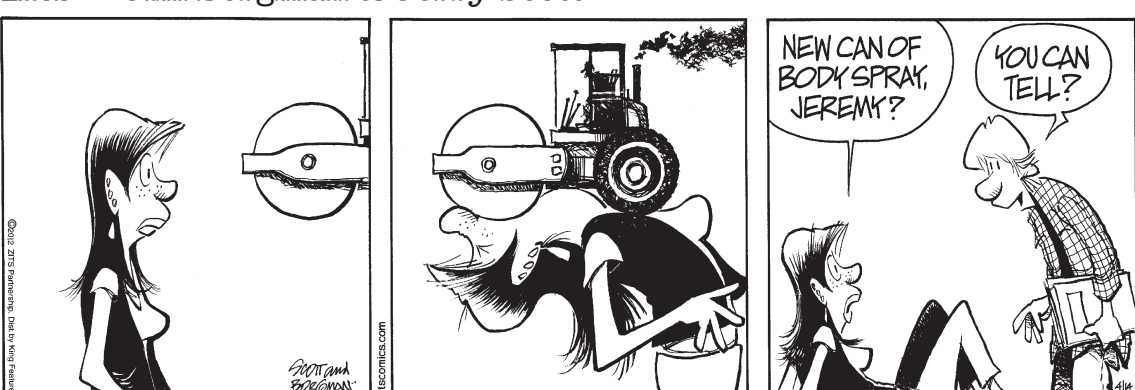
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



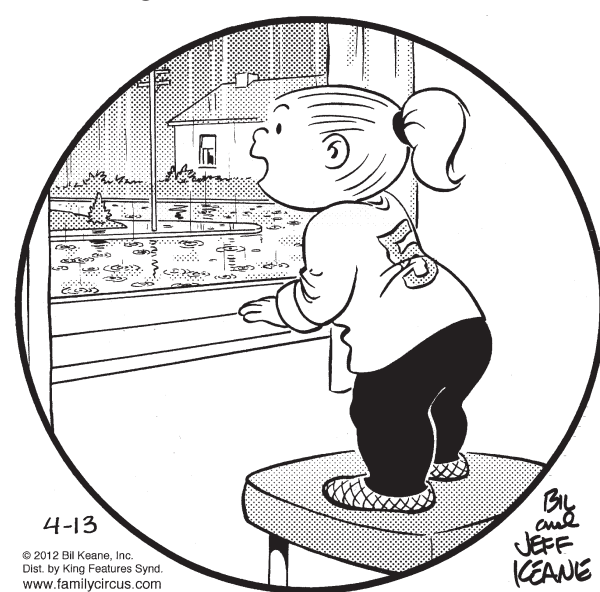
**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



4-13  
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"Goody! April's started working on our May flowers!"

**Heloise**



• Hints from Heloise

**Connect dots to cure spots**

Dear Heloise: I recently read in your column the problem Vickie (a reader) was having with towels that came out of the wash looking as if someone had spilled bleach on them. Well, I've had the same problem, too.

Let me tell you what I found out. I went right back to the boutique from which I purchased my towels, taking the ruined samples with me, and the employees were not a bit surprised at what I had to show them.

They said it happens all the time, and what I should have done is to wash the towels in cold water before I used them to set the dye. I really wish there had been a big warning label on the towels telling me to do so. — Sylvia, via e-mail

Sylvia, I am so sorry you had this problem. It does seem to be a common one today, according to my readers. Unfortunately, there isn't much you can do at home to "set" the dye on fabrics. Washing in cold water does "reduce" or prevent color bleeding, but will not set the dye.

You might want to check for other causes, too, just to be on the safe side. Sometimes the bleach dispenser doesn't empty all the way from a previous load. Or if you are using powder detergent, make sure it dissolves fully in the water before adding your towels or garments in. Don't sprinkle powder detergent on wet fabrics, as it might cause spots.

Readers, input? Have you had the same problem? Let me know, and I'll share. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**PLASTIC PINCHER**  
Dear Heloise: To easily open the plastic bags in the produce department without having to lick my finger (yuck), I walk over to where there is water sitting around the edge of the produce bins, get a little on my finger, then open the bags. — Jill from Folsom, Calif.

You also can rub the bag between your hands, and the opening will come apart. — Heloise

**TRY FOR FREE**  
Dear Heloise: I have the ability to download applications to my phone and tablet computer. There are always new apps that I am interested in trying. I have found that most apps have a "light" version or small sample of the app that is free. You don't get the full app, but you get a smaller version to try. If you like it, you can buy the full version. If you don't like it, no problem — no money wasted. — Janice, via email

**ON-THE-GO SUPPORT**  
Dear Readers: If you have a bad back, traveling can be hard. Here is a helpful hint. Bring a tote bag with a cushion in it. It will be more comfortable to sit on during long drives or plane rides. The tote makes the cushion easier to carry, and you don't need to take it out of the bag. Use it, then just grab it and go. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**You are South, and the bidding has gone:**

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
?			

**What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?**

- ♠ Q8 ♥ AK763 ♦ AQ952 ♣ 4
- ♠ 10 ♥ AJ854 ♦ KQ863 ♣ A8
- ♠ 974 ♥ KQJ82 ♦ AJ97 ♣ A
- ♠ J6 ♥ KJ985 ♦ AQJ10 ♣ AQ

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Three spades. There is considerable ambiguity attached to partner's second bid. He is obviously willing to play the hand under game, since two spades is not forcing, but at the same time, his values might range from very poor to moderately good. Thus, partner could have ♠ KJ9742 ♥ 82 ♦ KJ4 ♣ J6, which would offer a very good chance for game opposite your hand, or he could have exactly the same hand with no high cards in diamonds, which would offer a very poor chance for game.

It would be unwise to make a final judgment at this point -- either by passing or by leaping straightaway to four spades -- without knowing the actual strength of partner's hand. As he is in a position to judge his values far better than you, raising him to three spades places the final decision exactly where it belongs.

2. Pass. The outlook here is not nearly as promising as in the previous case, and the best thing to do is to pass. Partner's bidding indicates that he wants to play the hand at a partscore in spades, and there is no reason for you to assume that hearts or diamonds would be better as trumps. In misfit hands, the bidding should be terminated as quickly as possible.

3. Four spades. Once partner rebids spades, game is extremely likely, and you should not risk his passing by now bidding only three spades. High-card point count should not overly influence how you gauge your prospects. The question is really more a matter of whether partner will lose four tricks with spades as trumps, and though this is possible, it is highly improbable.

4. Three notrump. The same sentiments apply here also. A rebid of only two notrump would be invitational, not forcing, and a sound game contract might easily be missed if partner elected to pass. Of course, he might not accept three notrump as the final resting place and might retreat to four spades, but that is far from an alarming prospect. If he does, your 18 high-card points and J-6 of spades will surely serve him well.

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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/13

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

**Cryptoquip**

H Q G I S G K B R B X D M G B I M  
V S R B S G I T B U X B A B G I  
I T B M X I T M U B J S A I H S V V  
A M W B I S W B A E X D " E Q X U Q V  
J S B W !"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THAT NOVICE ETCHER IS PRETTY UNSKILLED, HE USUALLY MAKES A VERY BAD IMPRESSION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals N

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Crony	39 Med. plan	1 Surfaced	23 Seraglio
4 Light (Sp.)	41 Creche trio	2 Out of sorts?	25 Mimic pivot
7 Summary	45 Eucalyptus lead-in	3 "The Silence of the —"	26 Conclude
12 Carte	47 Heavy eater	4 Privation	28 Suitable
13 "A Chorus Line" song	48 Duke Ellington classic	5 One Woody Allen movie	30 "The Name of the Rose"
14 Entertain	52 Clear the tables	6 Give a speech	31 Bill author
15 Energy	53 Give a speech	8 Ostrich's cousin	32 Regret
16 Good product, idiomatically	54 Deteriorate	9 Sfoundrel	33 Praise in rhyme
18 Recede	55 Time of your life?	10 Fool	36 Not barefoot
19 Be frugal	56 Thick	11 Em, en, o, —, kue	37 Empty
20 Record	57 — Jima	17 Recognize	40 New Zealand native
22 Id counterpart	58 Still	21 Psalm group	42 Cornered
23 Loathe			43 Overcharge
27 Possessed			44 Smaller map
29 "Clue" item			45 Handling locale
31 Cavalry unit			46 21-Down member
34 Guiding principle			48 Turf
35 Goes over the books			49 Exist
37 Weeding implement			50 Erstwhile M&Ms color
38 Brewery output			51 " — Impossible"

Yesterday's answer 4-13

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		