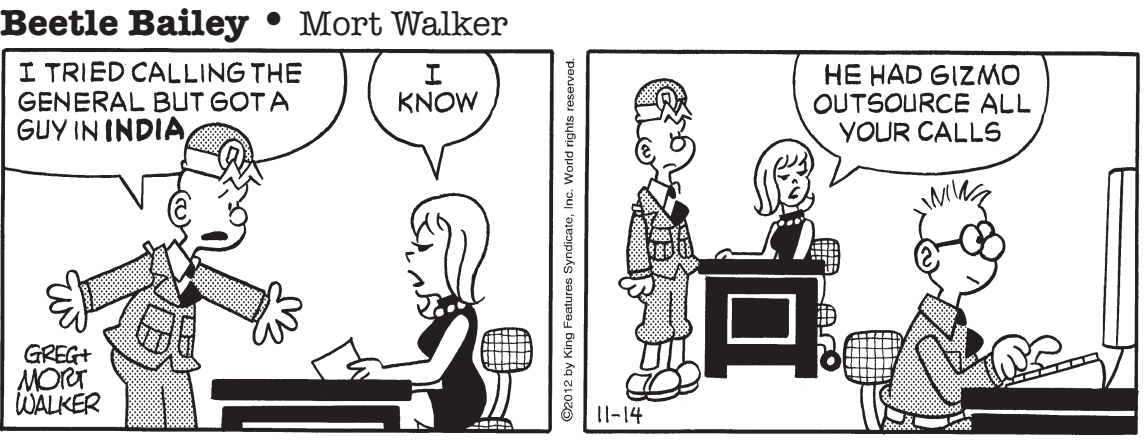
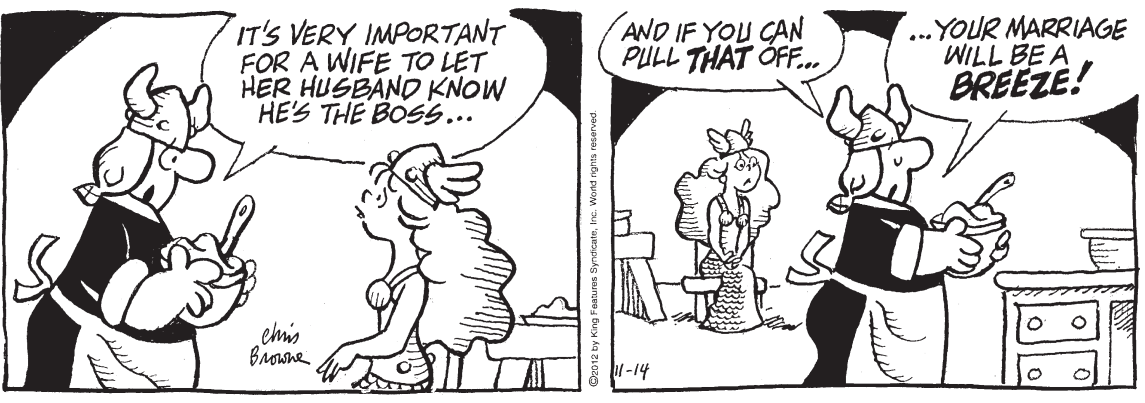
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



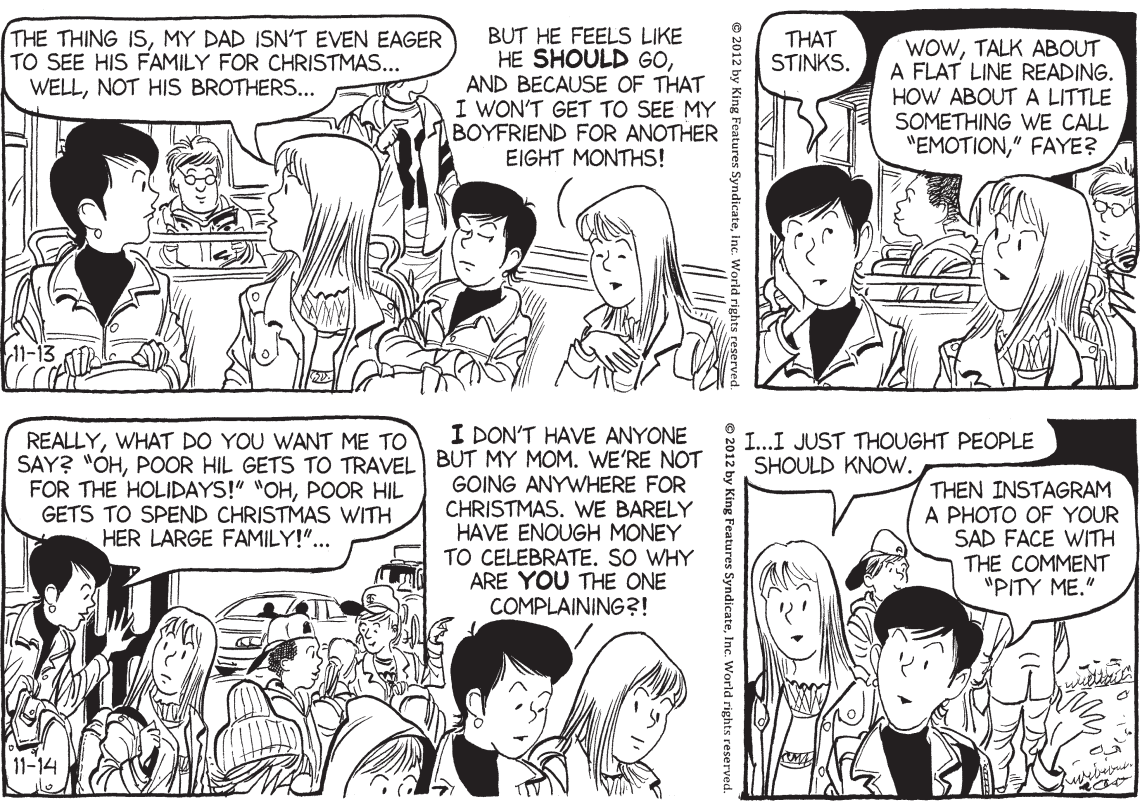
Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

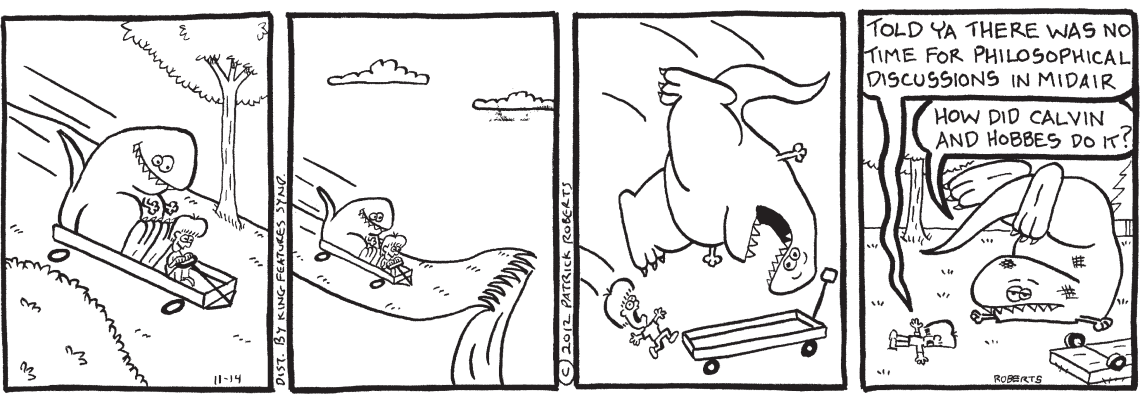


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

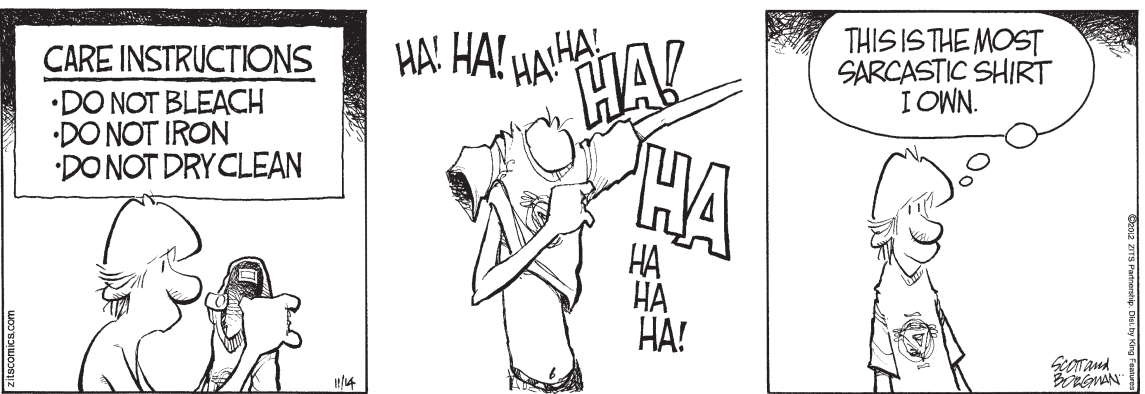
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Delicious soup brings memories

Dear Heloise: Years and years ago, my dad found a recipe in your mom's column for cream of mushroom soup. He made a huge pot of soup and in the morning filled his thermos with it to take hunting with him. I remember how delicious that soup was, and I would love that recipe if you can share it with me. – Lisa D., Elmira, N.Y.

Lisa, I would love to share the recipe for Heloise's Generic Cream Soup, especially with cooler weather on the way! Add to this base whatever main ingredient you want: mushrooms, broccoli or potatoes, to name a few. Collect the following ingredients:

1 cup nonfat dried milk powder
1 tablespoon dried onion flakes
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons chicken bouillon powder
1/2 teaspoon dried basil
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Mix all the ingredients together and store in an airtight container until ready to use. For a soup base, add 2 cups of cold water to mixture and heat, over medium heat, in large saucepan. Stir constantly until the soup thickens. Then add your main ingredient for a soup that makes 4 to 6 cups. For even more soup recipes, order the Heloise's Spectacular Soups pamphlet by sending $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Need to thicken your soup? Add instant mashed potatoes, little by little, until the soup is of the thickness you desire. – Heloise

AVOCADO HINTS

Dear Readers: Avocados are a delicious fruit that can be enjoyed year-round. Here are some hints about them:

You cannot tell, simply by the color of an avocado, if it is ripe. When selecting, give the fruit a slight squeeze. The fruit should feel firm, but give slightly when pressed.

To peel an avocado, hold it firmly in the palm of your hand while taking a knife to slice it lengthwise up to the seed. Twist the cut avocado halves while pulling them apart. Remove the seed and then scoop out the meat with a spoon.

When you find avocados on sale, buy extra, because they can be frozen for up to six months. Once the fruit is peeled, puree it with a tablespoon of lemon juice for every couple of avocados you are freezing. Store the pureed fruit in an airtight, freezer-safe container or bag. -- Heloise

CONTAINING GARBAGE

Dear Heloise: Often I have items that I cannot put down the garbage disposal. I keep an empty, plastic cottage-cheese container on the counter with a lid. I use it for any small food items that need to go into the wastebasket. This saves steps and prevents insects. -- Joan D., Mansfield, Ohio

KITCHEN MIXER

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint that I discovered after making a cake: I was cleaning the electric mixer before putting it away, and I noticed that dry cake mix had gotten into the holes where the beaters are placed. So, I used damp cotton swabs to clean the crevices. – Tina D., via email

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 9 5
♥ A 8 4
♦ J 10
♣ Q 7 4 3

WEST
♠ 7 3
♥ K J 10 5
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ K 10 2

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ K 7 4 3
♣ A 8 6

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 8 2
♥ Q 7
♦ A Q 9
♣ J 9 5

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

The Best Way to Skin a Cat

Declarer often cannot overcome a bad lie of the adverse cards and so has no choice but to hope that they will be divided favorably. But there are also times when he can succeed despite an unlucky distribution, and these are the times that test his mettle.

Consider this deal where West leads a diamond against four spades, declarer winning East's king with the ace. South sees four potential losers – three clubs and a heart – and immediately starts looking for a way to eliminate one of them.

One possibility, after drawing trumps, is to lead a low heart from dummy toward his queen. If East has the king and takes it, South will eventually get rid of a club loser on the ace; if East does not take his king, he loses it.

Another possibility is to attack clubs by leading a low one toward dummy's queen. If the queen loses to East's king or ace, South will still have the J-9 left and can later lead a club from dummy toward his hand and perhaps score a club trick.

As the cards lie, neither of these approaches succeeds against best defense, and South would go down one. However, declarer can assure the contract if he plays correctly. After drawing trumps, he cashes the Q-9 of diamonds, discarding a heart from dummy, and then plays the ace and another heart.

This leaves South firmly in the driver's seat. The defender who wins the second heart with the king will have to yield a ruff-and-discard or else lead a club, establishing a club trick for declarer.

The suggested method of play totally eliminates the luck factor that appears to exist when dummy first comes down.

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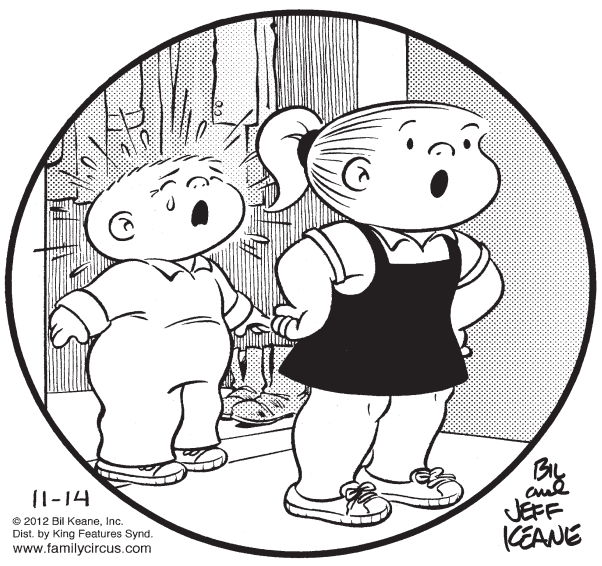
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy! Will you help PJ hide? He always hides here and gets mad when I find him."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/14

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/12

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Cryptoquip

C M U D K C S B U A J K U Y L J I K S B V U Z J B U Q N V A K Q U Z V Y U U J I M S K M U B, V C S N A Y Z J R K M U R ' B U J F J V B S L F A J D K Z.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVEL ABOUT A SCARLET-TONED FERRET'S RELATIVE THAT IS BRAVE: "THE RED BADGER OF COURAGE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals R

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Space
4 Recipe meas.
7 Lass
8 Luster
10 Calcutta's land
11 High, wispy cloud
13 Orphan Annie's benefactor
16 Really messy place
17 Frogs' hangouts
18 Whopper
19 Crooked
20 Witnessed
21 Representative
23 Dervish
25 "Two and a Half Men" role
26 Oodles
27 Cacophony
28 Colorado tribe
30 Chum
33 Spider's cousin
36 Certain winner
37 Assessed
38 Tittles
39 Iowa State's home
40 Scepter
41 Scratch

DOWN
1 Lightheartedly silly
2 Dry
3 Nursery item
4 Bronze medalist's place
5 Belgrade natives
6 Lima's land
7 Summertime pest
8 Meager
9 Centers
10 Egos' counterparts
12 Downhill athlete
14 Refuse to
15 D.C. fig.
19 Stiller or Affleck
20 Firmament
21 Rap sheet entry
22 Best Picture of 1982
23 Bambi, for one
24 28-Down, to Tokyo
25 Toss in
26 Io and Ganymede, e.g.
28 Japanese city
29 Homeric epic
30 Heavenly gatekeeper St. —
31 Census stats
32 1960s hallucinogen
34 Entrance
35 Dalai —

H	E	A	R		R	A	M		F	I	S	T
A	R	C	H		E	P	A		I	N	T	O
L	I	E	U		S	T	R	U	T	T	E	R
F	E	R	M	A	T		E	F	F	E	T	E
			B	R	A	T		O	U	R		
S	Q	U	A	T	T	E	R		L	E	A	P
S	U	N		Y	E	M	E	N		S	P	A
W	I	C	K		S	P	L	A	T	T	E	R
		L	I	P		T	E	A	R			
A	D	O	B	E	S		A	N	I	M	A	L
S	E	A	O	T	T	E	R		B	O	D	Y
I	L	K	S		E	E	N		A	L	O	E
F	I	S	H		M	R	S		L	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 11-14

		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				