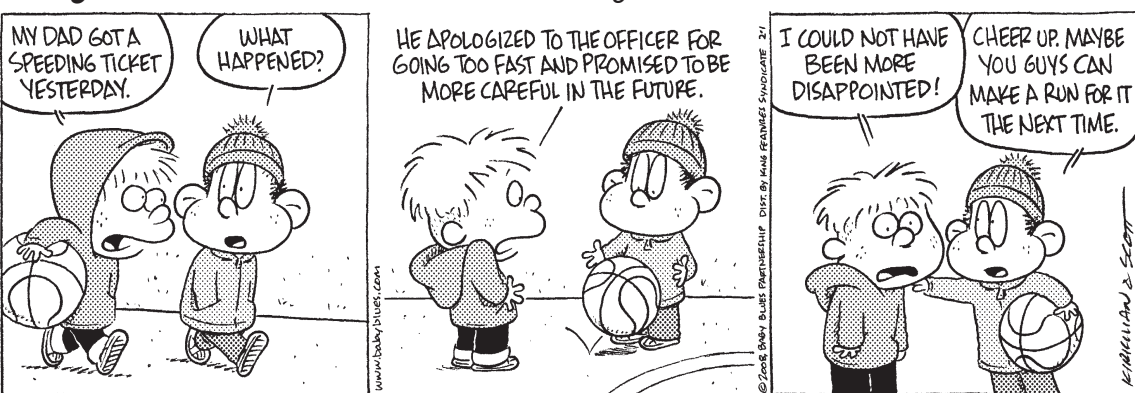


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



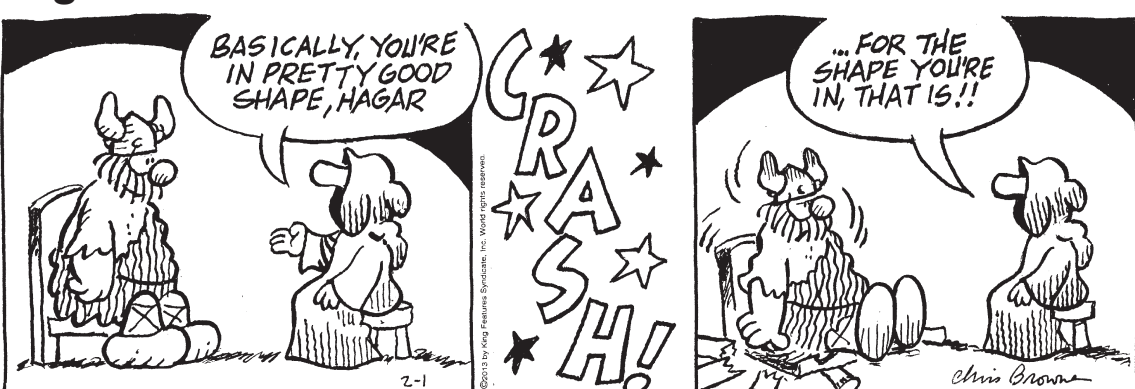
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



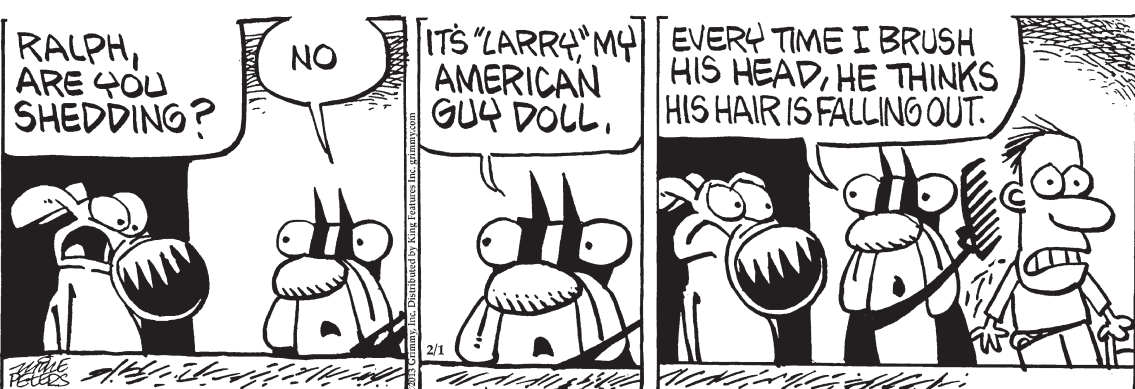
Blondie • Chic Young



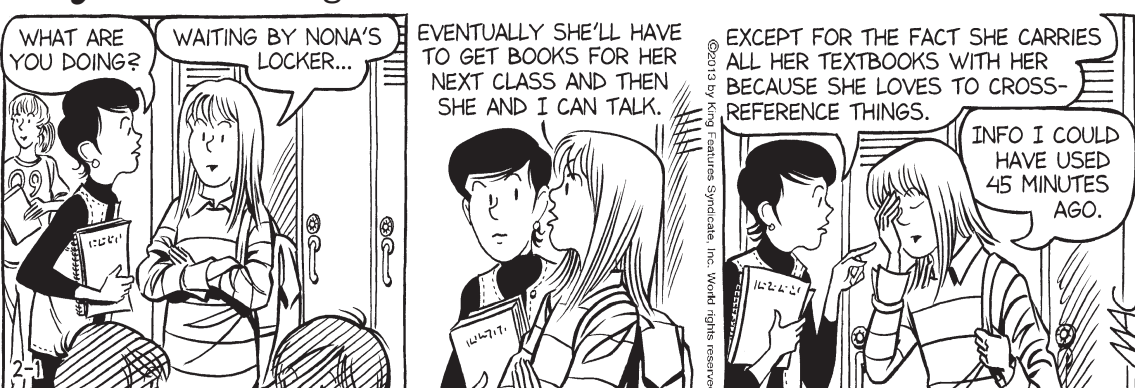
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



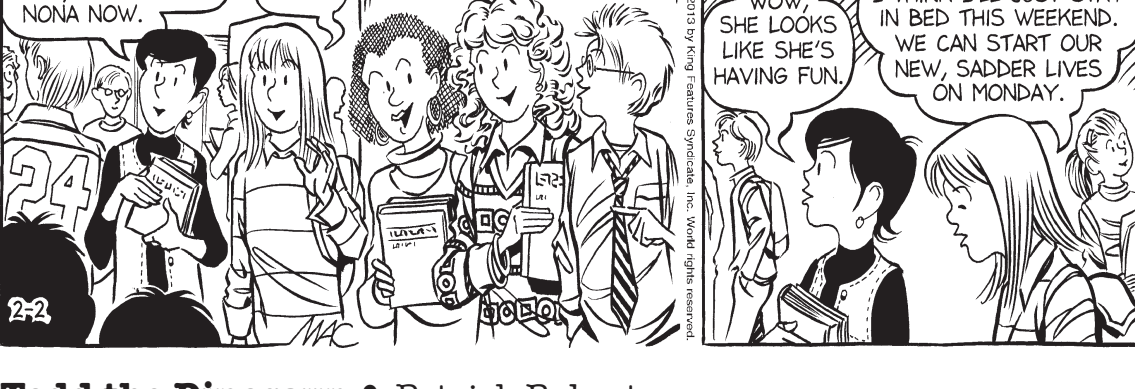
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Postmark says love is special

Dear Readers: Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and there is no better way to show your valentine he or she is loved than by sending a specially postmarked card. Loveland, Colo., is celebrating the 67th anniversary of its world-renowned valentine remailing program this year.

Each year, Loveland (also known as "The Sweetheart City") holds a contest to select a winning design and verse that will be featured on the stamp for the year. The city's 60 volunteers hand-stamp more than 160,000 cards from all 50 states and 110 countries.

If you would like this special Valentine's Day stamp, address and stamp each card (46 cents for standard cards). Place all of the valentines (include one for yourself) into a large, first-class envelope addressed to: Postmaster, Attention: Valentines, 446 E. 29th St, Loveland, CO 80538-9998.

For your valentines to make it in time, they must be received in Loveland by Feb. 8 if sending within the United States. (Foreign cards need to be received no later than Feb. 4.)

Looking for a different postmark? Try Romance, Ark. (72136), Valentine, Neb. (69201), Loving, N.M. (88256), Darling, Miss. (38623), or Bliss, N.Y. (14024). Just place all cards in a large envelope and address it to: Postmaster, Valentine Remailing and the city of your choice. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: The last time my husband and I went on a trip, my luggage ended being "misplaced" for the first day of our trip. We eventually got it, but I was without fresh clothes for a day. Now when we go on a trip, I pack an outfit in his suitcase and he packs one of his in mine. That way, if something should happen to one of our bags again, we at least have one fresh change of clothes. — A Reader, via e-mail

GAP CONTROL

Dear Heloise: I came up with an idea regarding window air-conditioner units and pool noodles. We had a gap on either side of our unit, as well as a small gap at the bottom. I came up with the idea of using a pool noodle to fix it. Just measure and cut the length you need for each side, and because they are foam, you can squish them in, and they form a great seal. Works perfectly, and with the fact that they are less than \$2, it was a cheap fix. — M.E. in Ohio

ONE MORE COMMAND

Dear Heloise: I saw that you gave certain commands for PC users. You forgot a very important one: Ctrl + Z is to undo an action.

It's important to someone who may have accidentally deleted something. — Edward, via e-mail
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Bridge • Steve Becker

Some sequences of bidding are regarded as impossible — that is, you simply can't have a hand that fits the bids you've made. In each of the following sequences, specify whether South's last bid is Possible or Impossible.

- South 1 NT, West Pass, North 3 ♣, East Pass
- South 1 ♠, West Pass, North 1 ♠, East Pass
- South 1 NT, West Pass, North 4 NT, East Pass
- South 1 ♣, West Pass, North 2 ♣, East Pass
- South 2 ♠, West Pass, North 3 NT, East Pass
- South 1 ♠, West Pass, North 2 NT, East Pass

Bidding Quiz

1. Impossible. Two notrump indicated 20 or 21 points, balanced distribution and all-around strength. Having spoken his piece by opening two notrump and responding to North's Stayman inquiry, South cannot logically carry on to six spades when his partner might have as little as five or six high-card points for his bids. It is wrong to punish partner for trying to get to the right game contract. If there is a slam in the hand, the impetus must come from him.

2. Possible. In general, when responder names a new suit, opener cannot pass. But there is an exception to this rule if opener specifically rebids one notrump, limiting his high-card strength. The two-heart bid here can therefore be passed. With a game-going hand, North could jump to three hearts to force South to bid again.

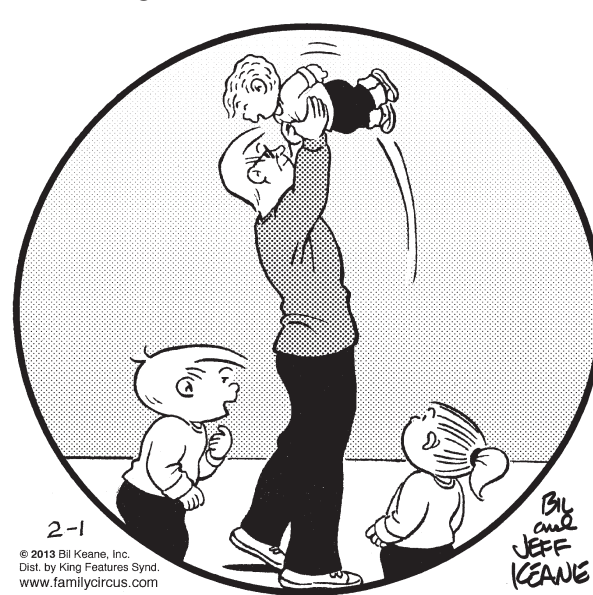
3. Possible. Four notrump is not Blackwood in this sequence. North should have 16 or 17 points and is inviting a slam in notrump if South has a maximum for his opening notrump bid. If South has a bare 15 points, he should pass.

4. Impossible. Two diamonds was a jump-shift indicating 17 or more points and interest in slam. Therefore, at least a game contract must be reached. North is most likely still angling for a slam and is seeking more information.

5. Impossible. Two notrump promised 13 to 15 points and committed the partnership to game. South cannot make a bid that is forcing to game and then change his mind a moment later. North is presumably unhappy with notrump, but that doesn't mean South can pass.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/01

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.

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

Cryptoquip

RU SLOSZFKUK YDJY YDUGU

RUGU YLL WJOC XULXZU

SGJWWUK TO WC VUKJO

JEYUG SJGEFZ SLOVTKUGJYTLO

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMETHING ISN'T MADE WIDE ENOUGH, I GUESS IT WILL BE SUFFERING FROM SHORTNESS OF BREADTH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Poke
 - Beach stuff
 - Part of the foot?
 - Supplement, with "out"
 - From the start
 - In the vicinity
 - Congratulatory slap
 - Oodles
 - Open
 - Meadow
 - G.I.'s dinner, for short
 - Showing cleavage
 - Computer acronym
 - Stein or Stiller
 - Life time?
 - Swiss capital
 - Staff
 - Oven
 - Swelled head
 - "Explain, please"
- DOWN**
- Biblical king who had Jezebel slain
 - Related (to)
 - Pleads
 - Jungle expedition
 - Doddering, maybe
 - Ontario neighbor
 - Gary Cooper movie
 - Tab
 - Small grimace
 - Stickum
 - Weevil's target
 - Litigant (Abbr.)
 - Sphere
 - Many millennia
 - First son
 - Aptly named fruit?
 - 23 Sawbucks
 - 26 23-Down's victim
 - 27 Lily variety
 - 28 Boast
 - 29 Tarzan's son
 - 32 Beats
 - 33 Singer
 - 35 Infinitesimal
 - 36 Written code
 - 38 Dead ringer?
 - 39 Bach piece, often
 - 42 Nixed, at NASA
 - 43 Entrance
 - 44 Uppity sort
 - 45 Recede
 - 46 Carnival city
 - 47 Ailing
 - 49 Debtor's letters

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
		21							23	24
26	27	28				29			30	
31				32					33	
34				35					36	
37				38				39		
				40				41		
45	46	47				48	49			
50						51			52	
53						54				55