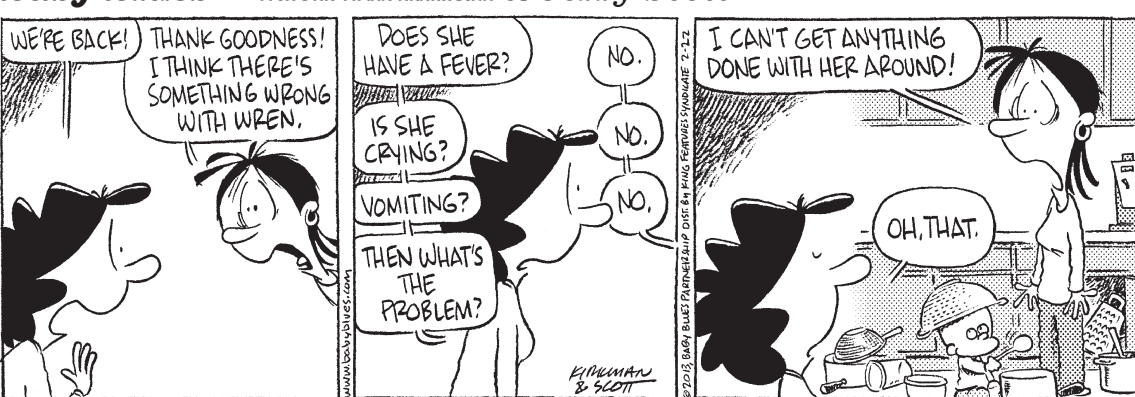## Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott
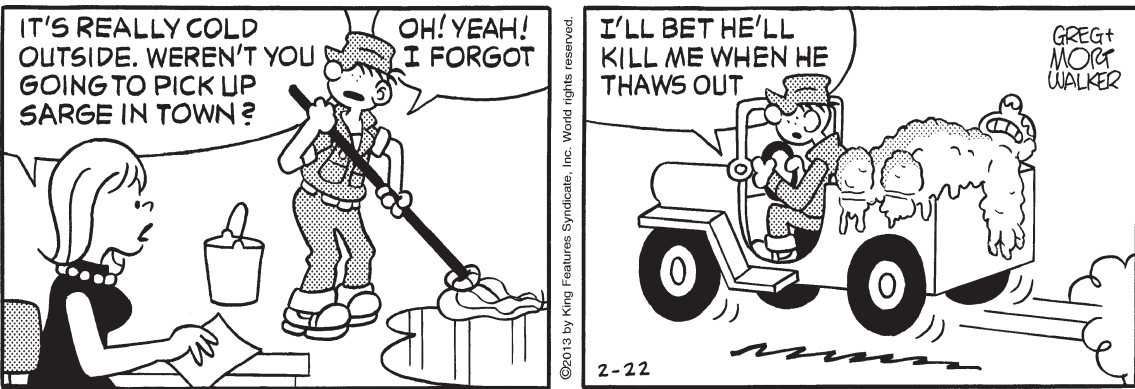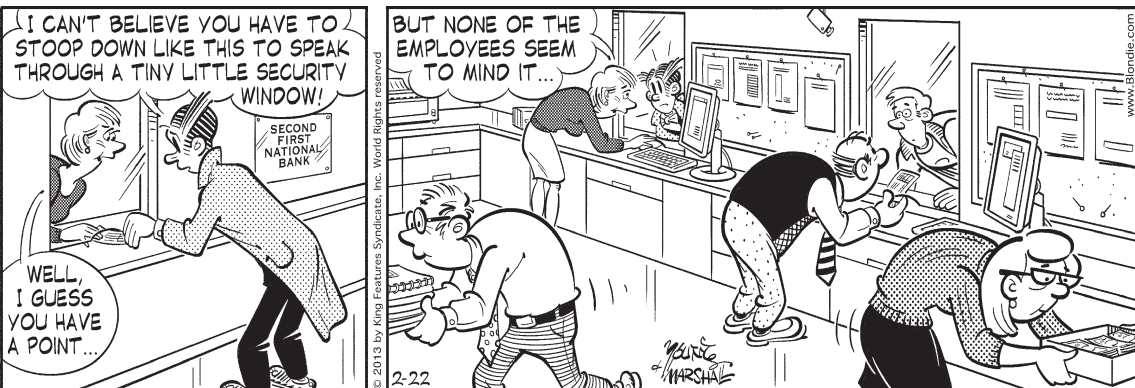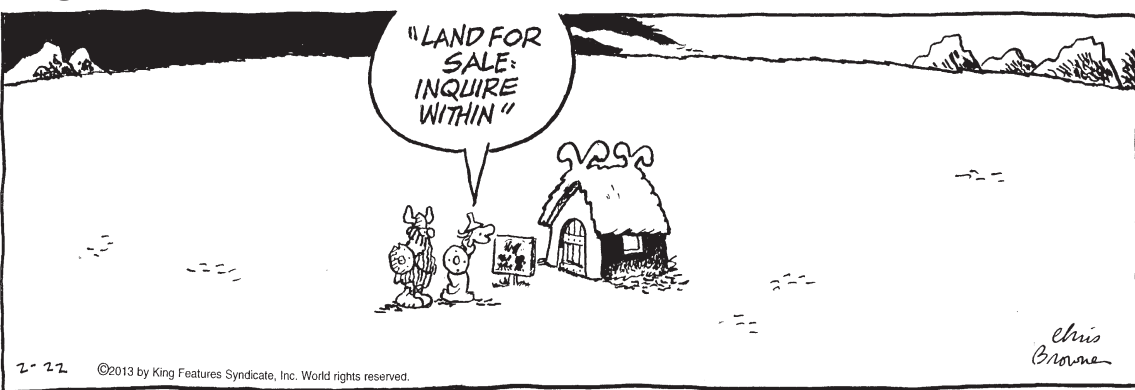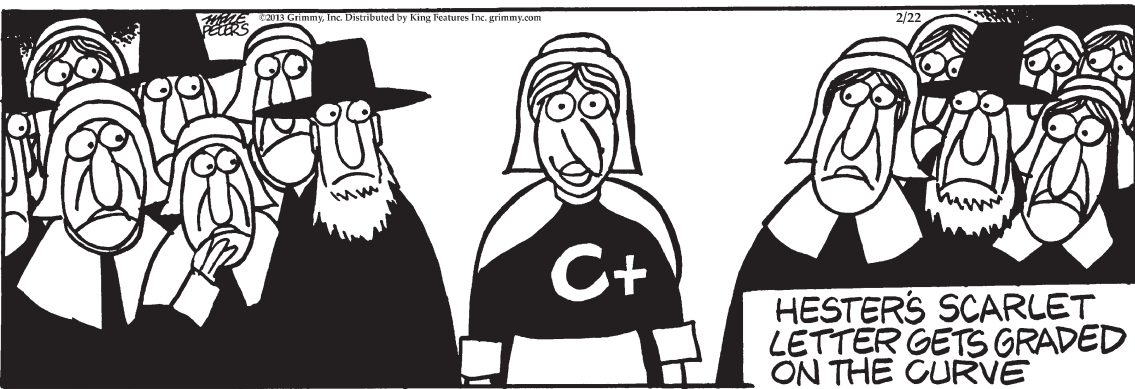
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker
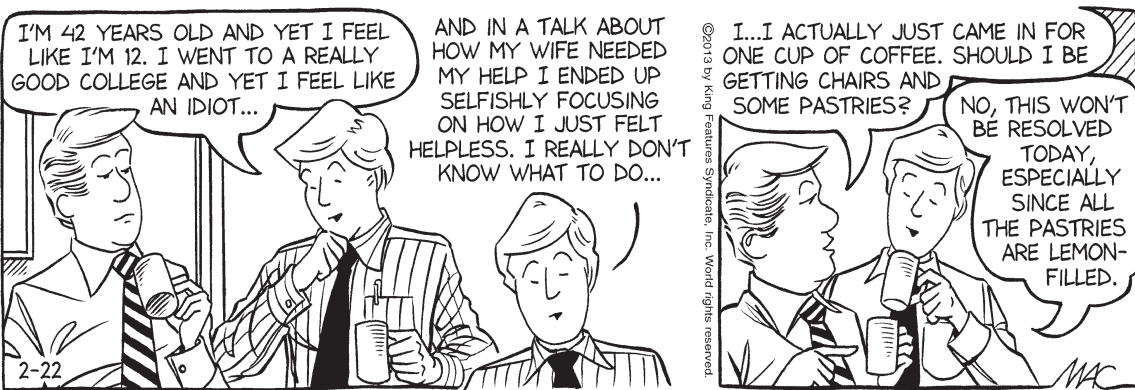
Blondie • Chic Young

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

Carabiners offer many uses

Dear Readers: After running a hint about using a carabiner and then a follow-up on what one is, many of you wrote with favorite uses. Here are just a few hints you shared:

• Sally, via e-mail, wrote, "My husband and I each have one attached to a water bottle, to clip onto belts or my purse when hiking or shopping."

• Sue in Arkansas wrote, "When traveling overseas, or when walking around anywhere in large crowds where pickpockets might prowl, I attach a carabiner to one of the metal rings on my purse and then also through the hole in the zipper pull."

• Terry, via e-mail, wrote: "I use them for key chains. They are easy to get the keys on and off of, and can be clipped to either a purse strap or belt loop for easy access."

• Cindy in California wrote, "Attach a dog leash to an 'eye hook' provided outside at a coffee shop, grocery store, etc."

• Karen in Arkansas wrote, "I use a carabiner on my purse and attach it to the shopping cart so it cannot be grabbed out quickly." (Heloise here: This does work to secure your purse, but please be aware that a thief could reach inside and still grab your wallet!)

• A Reader, via e-mail, wrote: "I use a carabiner to attach my locker key to the strap of my bathing suit. Leave it on and never get locked out."

All of these are great hints! Keep them coming. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000

PHOTOGRAPHY CHARGE

Dear Heloise: Do you know why photographers charge so much for digital copies of images on CDs? – Heather, via e-mail

Heather, you aren't really paying for the CD itself; you are paying for the right to use the photographer's images that he or she took. It's the photographer's time and effort. He or she usually "owns" the pictures taken, depending on the original agreement or contract. – Heloise

SORT-N-SIFT

Dear Heloise: I am very sentimental, and I have a hard time getting rid of my toddler son's clothes. I have developed a system that has helped me. I go through his clothes and separate into two piles: stuff I want to get rid of, and stuff I want to keep. I box up the stuff I want to keep and donate the rest. Three months later, I bring the box out and go through it again. I have found that after some time has gone by, I am able to pass on more and only keep what is really important to me. – Julia in Pennsylvania

PURCHASE RECEIPT

Dear Heloise: Whenever I purchase a gift card, I always enclose a receipt with it. I once gave one to my friend, and when she tried to use it, she was told that it was not good. Thankfully, I had the receipt, and the store issued a new one. I was glad I didn't lose the money I'd spent on it. – Taylor in Fort Worth, Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

**Partner bids One Club.** What would you respond with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠ QJ87 ♥ KJ52 ♦ J65 ♣ 84
2. ♠ AQ8 ♥ AQ4 ♦ J1075 ♣ K63
3. ♠ 63 ♥ Q873 ♦ 97 ♣ AKJ64
4. ♠ AK86 ♥ AQ32 ♦ AJ754 ♣ —
* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. One heart. It would be wrong to bid one notrump to show a balanced hand of six to 10 points. Your first obligation is to seek a major-suit fit, and you should practically always respond to one of a minor suit with a four-card major suit if you have one.

Also, it is better to bid one heart than one spade. This will quickly uncover a 4-4 heart fit if it exists and at the same time leave partner room to bid one spade if he has four cards in that suit. If you were to respond one spade, you might never find a possible 4-4 heart fit.

2. Three notrump. This has the great advantage of telling partner, in one bid, both the high-card content and distribution of your hand. It is therefore best to go directly to three notrump, which announces 16 or 17 points, 4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2 distribution and stoppers in the three unbid suits.

A two-notrump response has the same requirements except that the point-count range is 13 to 15.

3. One heart. A two-club response would indicate at least four-card support and six to 10 points, while three clubs would indicate four or more trumps and 13 to 15 points. Furthermore, any immediate club raise would tend to deny possession of a four-card or longer major suit. For all of these reasons, you should bid one heart, which not only shows your four-card major but has the advantage of being ambiguous, promising only six or more points and four or more hearts and forcing your partner to bid again. You have no idea what partner will do next, but you hope to be able to show your club support later without committing your side to game.

4. One diamond. Despite your 18 high-card points, you should respond only one diamond, not two. You plan to bid two hearts over the expected two-club rebid by partner and then bid three spades over partner's possible three-club rebid. In this way, you will have shown your 4-4-5-0 distribution and a very good hand. Of course, if the bidding goes differently and partner indicates good support for any of your suits, you'll settle for no less than slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Daddy, how old will you be when I turn a hundred?"
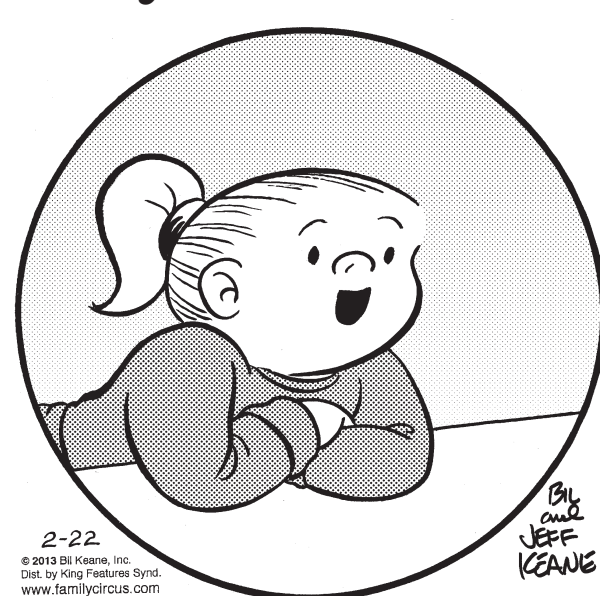
Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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.

Difficulty Level ★★★★   2/22

Cryptoquip

QVAO K VAPH CASCMA ZPX

QKGGX UYSGAZ, K VPFKGYPMMX

QHKGA GVAE NSQO GS

PGGPDV GS EX UYKC-FSPHN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLEASE STOP USING THAT SAME TIRED CLICHE REGULARLY. YOU NEED A MAJOR PLATITUDE ADJUSTMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Woodsy home
6 Buddy
9 Lawyers' org.
12 Russian pancakes
13 "—-la-la!"
14 CSA soldier
15 Big name in porcelain
16 Expression of regret
18 Find
20 Flightless flock
21 E.T.'s transport
23 Previous night
24 Wherewithal
25 Tatters
27 Robin Hood's missile
29 Tiers
31 Big river
35 Helicopter part
37 Bygone times
38 Go around the world?
41 Wager
43 Table scrap
44 Gaucho's weapon
45 Antenna
47 Green field?
49 Amorphous masses
52 Reggae-like music
53 Tiny
54 Dutch city, with "The"
55 NYC hrs.
56 "Acid"
57 Secret rendezvous

DOWN
1 "NCIS" airer
2 Jungfrau, for one
3 High school science course
4 —-European
5 Family girl
6 Straw hat
7 Lasso
8 Discoverer's cry
9 Scent
10 Started
11 Big canyon
17 Maneuvering room
19 Sailor's "Halt!"
21 Cyber-address
22 Air safety org.
24 Mid-May honoree
26 Soap opera, e.g.
28 Harder to find
30 Deteriorate
32 Fauna study
33 Bobby of hockey
34 Trawler need
36 Followed orders
38 Not just chubby
39 Ice cubes, slangily
40 Swell
42 Snug
45 Census data
46 Winged
48 Fly-by-night?
50 Clear the tables
51 Collection

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-22