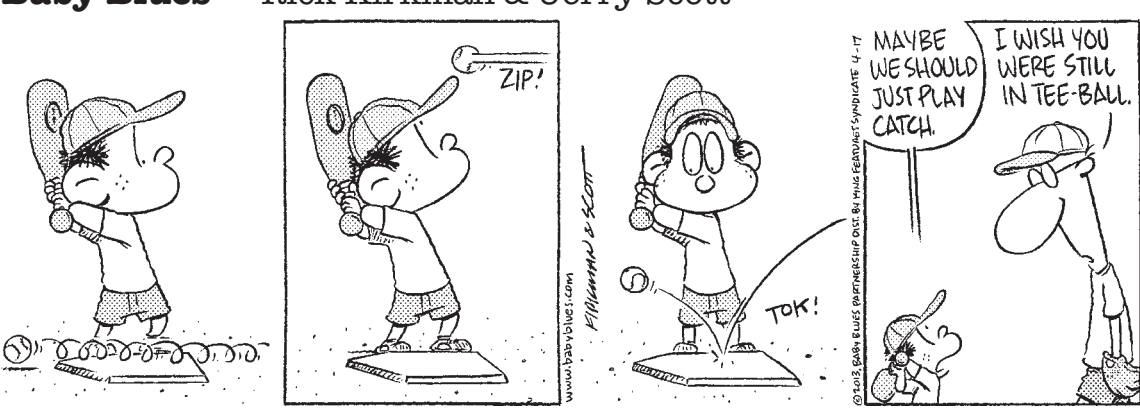
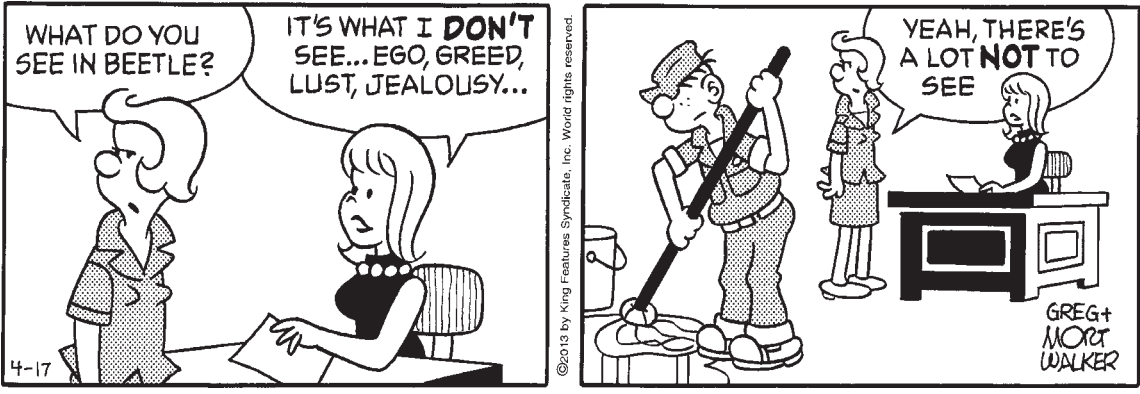


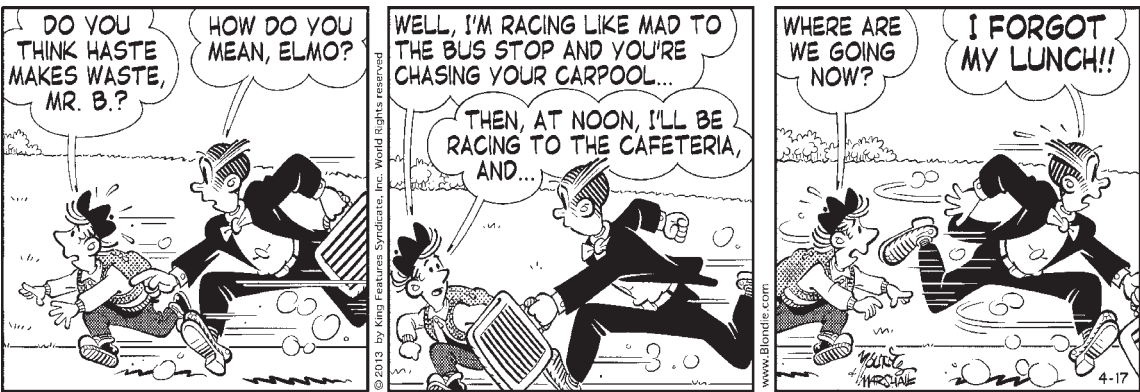
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



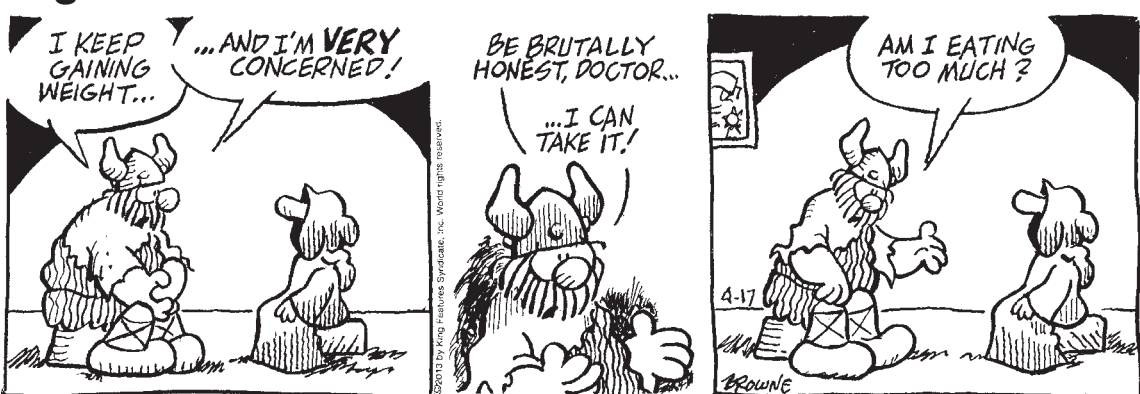
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



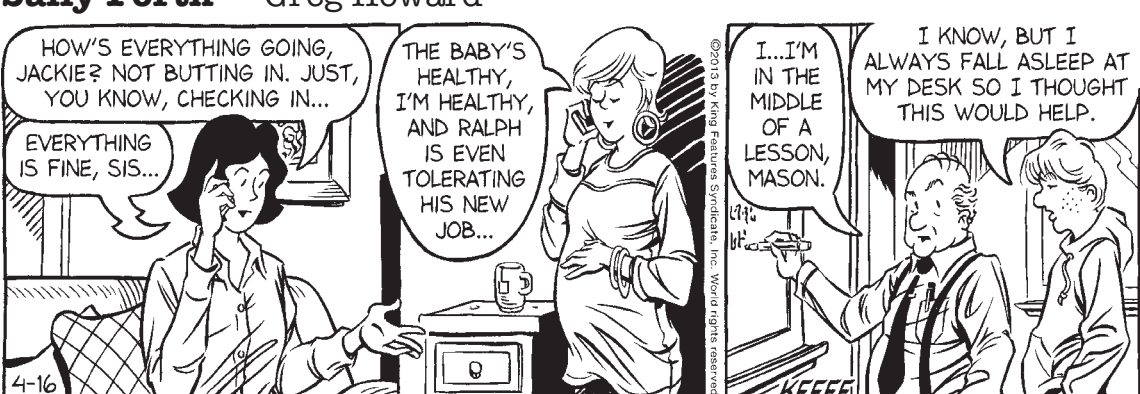
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



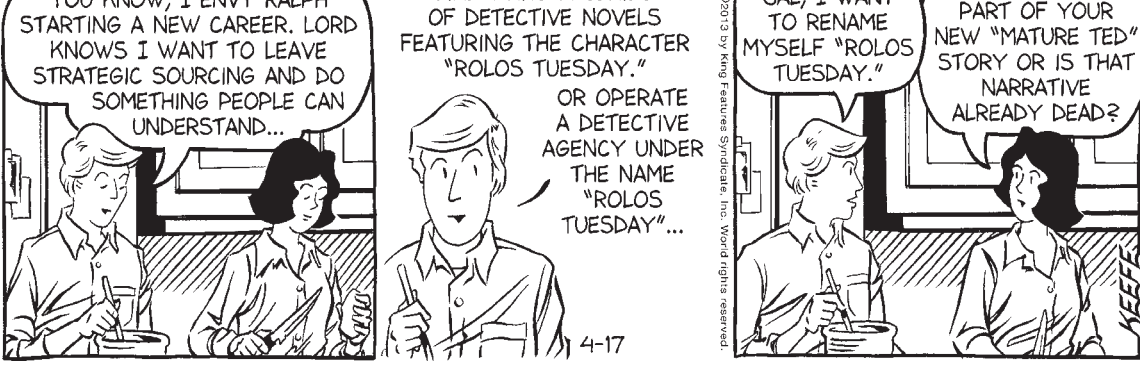
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



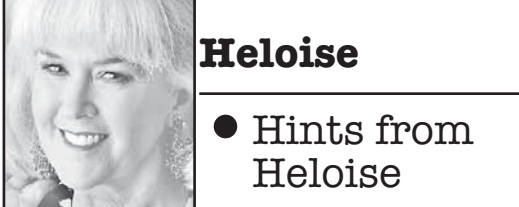
Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Hash browns help out in soup

Dear Heloise: In the midst of making potato soup from scratch, I realized that I needed more potatoes. Remembering I had hash browns in the freezer, I grabbed the package. I was able to add enough frozen potatoes to complete my soup. It was so easy and tasty that I know this will be my favorite recipe in the future. — Kay C. in Texas

Kay, you even could add frozen potatoes to canned soup that you are cooking for added flavor or to thicken. This is another example of why soup is a favorite meal for so many people. It is easy to experiment with when trying new flavors and ideas. I enjoy soup so much that I wrote a pamphlet, Heloise's Spectacular Soups, which includes some of my favorite soup recipes as well as those of my staff. To receive a copy, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If you make soup and it is too watery, you can thicken it by adding a small amount of instant mashed potatoes, a little at a time, until the soup is the consistency you desire. — Heloise

BERRY HOLDER
Dear Heloise: We read your column in the Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald every day and love the hints. Here's one for convenience:

My grandkids love all kinds of berries. They must be washed, and I worry about messy berry stains. We were in a hurry to get to an appointment, so I grabbed two coffee travel mugs (with handles and sealable tops). We put the berries inside and rinsed by filling with water several times and pouring the water out. The kids thought that was so much fun! They carried the mugs to the car, removed the lids and poured the berries, a few at a time, into their mouths. No berries on the floor, no mess and no purple fingers. — S.G., via e-mail

Love the hint, and your newspaper, too! Say hello to my friends in Omaha! — Heloise

MORE TOMATO
Dear Heloise: We are tomato lovers, and have always grown our own in Indiana. Now, in Florida and retired, we no longer have the abundance, so we treat every tomato with more respect.

To increase the yield on a tomato, don't slice it to remove the stem portion. Instead, slice down through the stem so that the tomato is halved and the stem is on both halves. Now V-cut the stems out, and you will enjoy more tomato and have less waste. — A Reader in Florida

COLLECT DUST
Dear Heloise: I collect cookie jars and display them on top of my kitchen cabinets. When it comes to spring-cleaning, I am shocked to see what is on top of my cabinets. To avoid the muck that accumulates from cooking, I line the top of the cabinets with newspaper. Now when I clean, all I do is throw away the old paper and add new paper. No more muck. — R.M. in Ohio

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ 10 8 2
♥ J 8 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ Q 8 5 2
WEST
♦ A K J 9 5
♥ K 5
♦ A 6 4 2
♣ K 4
EAST
♥ 6 3
♦ A Q 10 7 6
♥ K Q J
♣ A J 10
SOUTH
♦ Q 7 4
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 9 7 6 3

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West 2 ♣
North Pass
East Dble
Opening lead — king of spades.

Impossible, but True
This deal occurred about 50 years ago in a team-of-four match in England. Although the story might seem incredible, it actually happened. South was an adventurous type who liked to stir things up with a psychic bid every now and then. On this occasion, he was unable to resist the impulse to open the bidding with one spade, despite the adverse vulnerability.

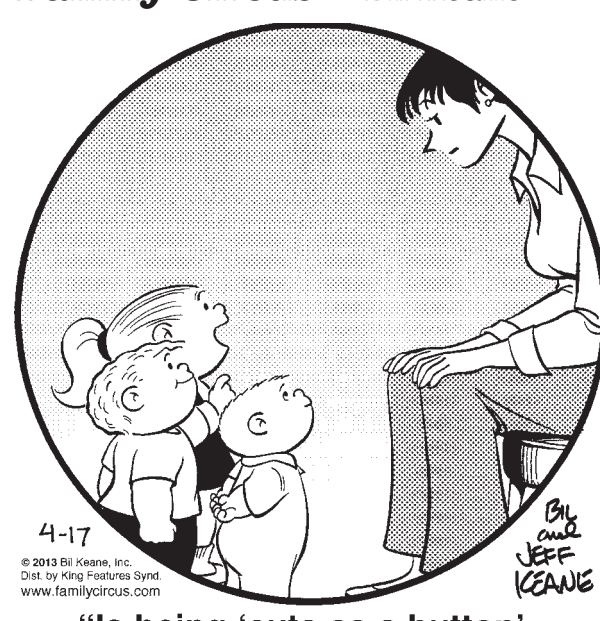
West had doubts that this contract could be made, but passed to await developments. After North also passed, East doubled for takeout. South ran to two clubs, fearing that West would leave the double in. West doubled, and this became the final contract. West led the king of spades and shifted to the king and another heart. East cashed two high hearts and led the king of diamonds, on which West played the deuce. East then returned his remaining spade, allowing West to score the A-J.

West exited with a low diamond to East's jack and overtook the queen-of-diamonds return with the ace. Nine tricks had been played thus far, and the defense had taken all of them. Declarer in the meantime had been reduced to the four trumps in his hand and the four in dummy. West now led his last diamond. Dummy trumped low, and East overruffed with the ten. East returned a heart, trumped by West with the king. East still had the A-J of clubs over dummy's Q-8, so declarer lost all 13 tricks. Down eight — 2,300 points!

This result didn't turn out to be as horrendous as it might seem. At the other table, South's teammates bid seven hearts with the East-West cards and made the grand slam when the hearts broke evenly for a score of 1,510. The team's net loss was thus "only" 790 points.

But the first result strikes us as being the more remarkable, as that East-West pair made their grand slam in clubs, and with only five trumps!

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/17
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

YCPK ORDHPMO OFS P
NMXJ TMJV VNFHA MJEJB
IJY NM JEJM MFDIJBK. CJ'A
RHVRSK DRTJ NAA XCNPXJK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THAT VERY INFLUENTIAL NATIVE AMERICAN CHIEF OF FLORIDA A SEMINAL SEMINOLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lord of the Rings" actor Ian
5 Spigot
8 Jet forth
12 Cruising
13 Court
14 Baserunner's goal
15 Locale for a 1920s "sitting" fad
17 Settled down
18 Kingdom near Fiji
19 Creators
21 "Carmina Burana" composer
24 Directory data (Abbr.)
25 Humorous utterance
28 Temporary gift
30 Scot's hat
33 Illustrations
34 Flower of New Mexico
35 "I — Camera"

DOWN
1 Sword handle
2 Norway's capital
3 Slenderly
4 Housefly larva
5 Pair
6 "You've got mail" co.
7 Verse
8 Drum major's hat
9 Directing principle
10 Eastern potatoe
11 Drenches
16 Standard
20 Pavlova or Paquin
22 Change
23 Central
25 Poke
26 Blunder
27 Beachcomber's find
29 Top
31 Parisian pal
32 Name in China's history
34 Calendar quota
38 Lullaby composer
40 Smartly dressed
42 Biblical verb suffix
43 Anti-toxins
44 Iowa city
45 Dubious
47 Ark builder
48 "The Naked Maja" artist
49 Suitable
52 Anger
53 Piglet's mom



Yesterday's answer 4-17

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		