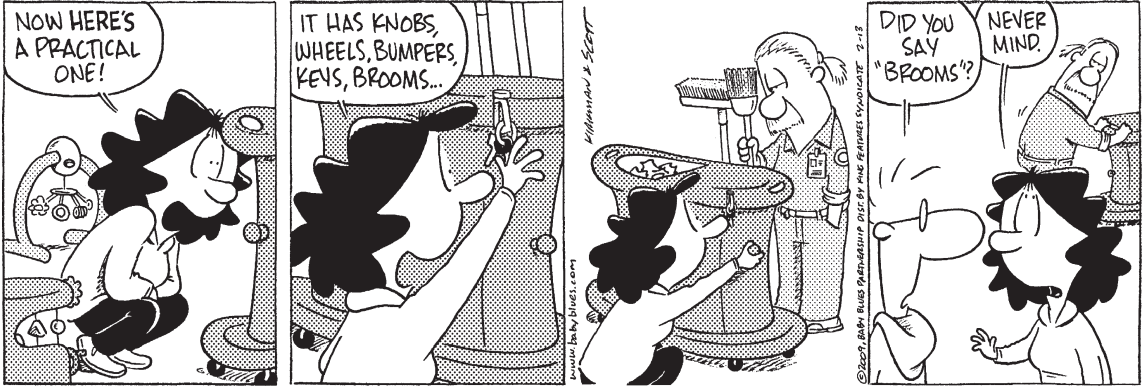
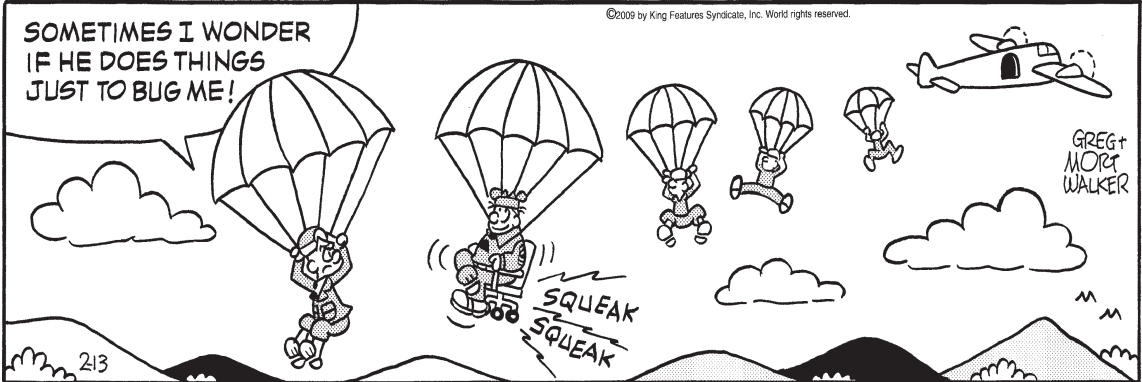


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



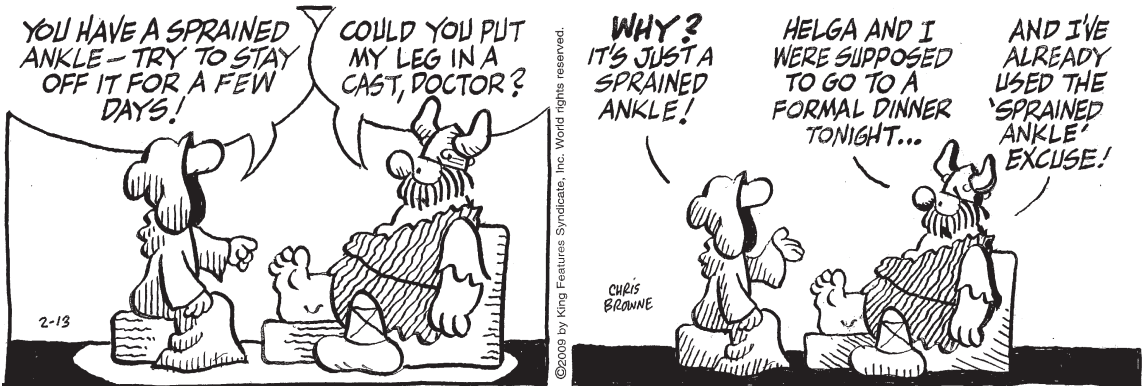
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



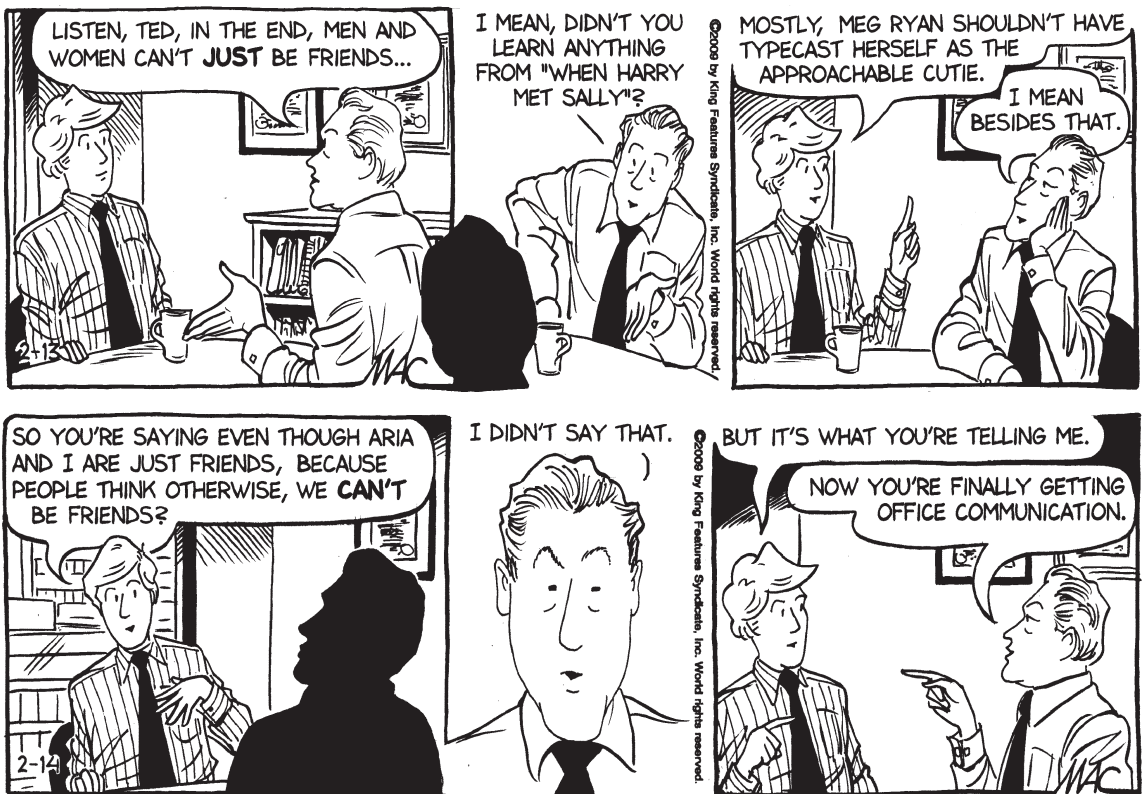
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



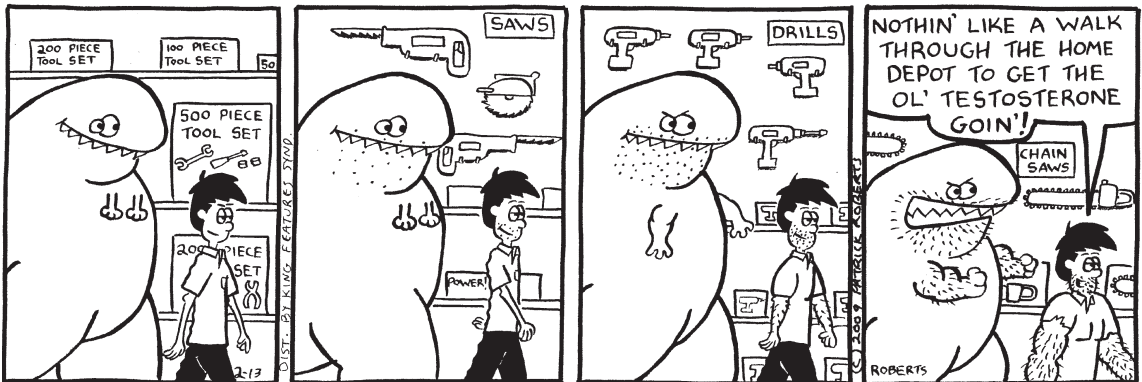
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



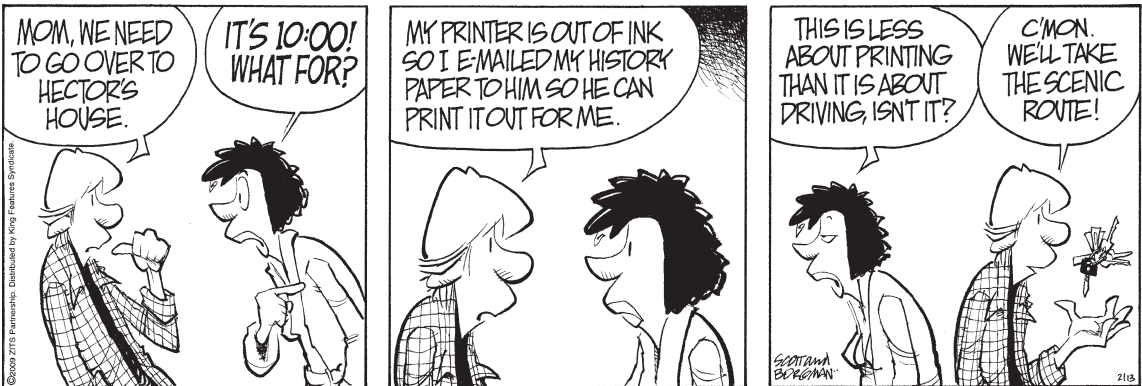
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Name brand vs. store brand?

Dear Heloise: Settle a dispute I am having with my mother over name-brand BLEACH versus store-brand bleach. I'm trying to convince her that they are identical products, the only difference being that the brand name is more expensive because of marketing expenses. I even have had her compare the ingredients listed on the bottle. She won't believe me – or her own eyes. Maybe you can get through to her. – D.B. of Laconia, N.H.

This is a very good question. If a store brand is cheaper and does the job, why not save money? According to experts we checked with, chlorine bleach is chlorine bleach. The label must list the amount of the active ingredient, sodium hypochlorite, in the bleach. Try a Heloise hint: Buy one of each and test them for yourself! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:  
Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT  
Dear Heloise: I travel regularly. When checking baggage, it is easier to write my cell-phone number than to fill in my name, address and phone number. When traveling, I often take some address labels with me. Completing the little airline luggage tags has never been easier. I write my cell-phone number on the tag, then peel and stick a label on the tag. A piece of cake. – Rob Negrin, via e-mail

EASY CAR WASHING  
Dear Heloise: This is how to wash a car in less than five minutes. I bought a dust mop with a swivel head and all plastic parts. I now wash without bending or reaching over the roof and hood. The mop swivels around and into all the nooks and crannies, making it impossible to miss a spot. Replacement mop heads are available. Both dust mops and handles are very inexpensive. It saves time, money and my back! – Anthony Verotti, Marco Island, Fla.

STIR IT UP  
Dear Heloise: While visiting our son, we decided to paint the interior of his condo. We learned that you should get the paint can stirred at the paint store. Some of the cans sit on the shelf for months and need a good stirring by the machine. It keeps you from having to do it, from having thin paint or the wrong color, and from a trip back to the store.

One last hint: When we travel and visit folks and stay with them, I bring along a recipe from home and make dinner one night while we are there. It is easier than going out to eat. It's fun to share the recipe, and our hosts love to come home after work to a home-cooked meal with friends.

– Corrinne Berkland, Universal City, Texas

LEAF BLOWER  
Dear Heloise: For soft snow, I use my leaf blower on my stairs and walkway. I leave it at the door to keep ahead of the fresh-fallen snow. I thought of this one time when the snow was so high that I couldn't open the door. I use the real snowblower for the tougher jobs. – Cindi from Eliot, Maine

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Bridge • Steve Becker

NORTH		
♦ A K		
♥ A 10 8		
♦ A Q 8 6 3		
♣ Q 5 4		
WEST		
♦ J 10 9 8 5		
♥ J 9 4		
♦ J		
♣ J 9 8 6		
EAST		
♦ Q 6 4		
♥ 3		
♦ 10 9 7 5 4 2		
♣ K 3 2		
SOUTH		
♦ 7 3 2		
♥ K Q 7 6 5 2		
♦ K		
♣ A 10 7		

Test Your Play  
This is a double-dummy problem, which means it is entirely proper to look at all four hands and take full advantage of seeing the East-West cards. South is declarer at Seven Hearts, and West leads the jack of spades. South is to make the contract against best defense by East-West.

Players who enjoy solving double-dummy problems will get a kick out of this one, in which South can make all the tricks with correct play. This is not an easy problem.

Here is the solution. Win the spade lead with dummy's king and play a diamond to your king. Then lead a low trump and finesse the eight.

Ruff the six of diamonds with your queen and return a low heart to dummy's ten. After ruffing the eight of diamonds with your king, cash the ace of clubs, then return to dummy with a trump to the ace and cash the ace of diamonds, discarding a club.

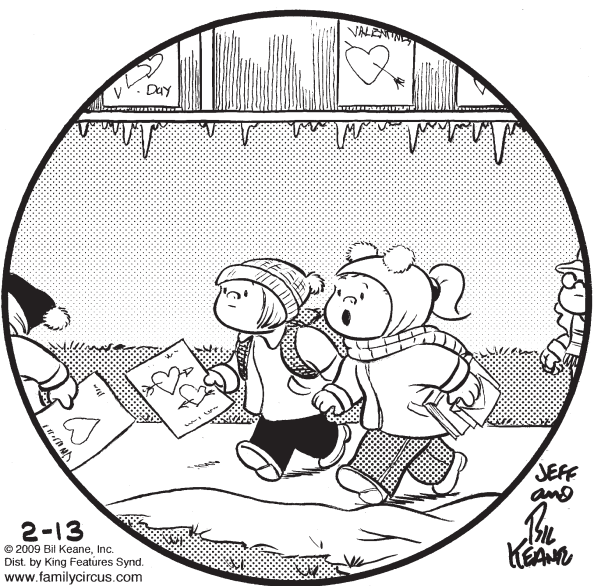
Cash the queen of diamonds, discarding your ten of clubs. East cannot afford to discard a club on this trick since you could then ruff the five of clubs to make the contract. So let's assume East discards a spade.

West also cannot find a satisfactory discard on the diamond queen. First, let's assume he discards a spade. In that case, you would cash the ace of spades and score your 13th trick with the seven of spades.

So let's say West discards the nine of clubs in the diagrammed position. You would then counter by leading the queen of clubs from dummy, trapping East's king and West's jack at the same time and establishing dummy's five. Thus, whether East elects to cover or not, you score an extra club trick to make the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“I gave up making my own valentines, 'cause all my hearts were lopsided.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/13

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.

Cryptoquip

FNOGC MNO KIM WUFPUNBIG

FAIDIFPSDK KOFA IK HUGHN

IBC WDNCN HIYYUBK IDS

FDSIPODSK NW ANHHUP?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN A NATION BEGIN TO GROOM THEMSELVES, IS THAT THE BRUSHIN' REVOLUTION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Vail gear	DOWN	19 Vicinity
1 Muppet master Henson	35 Roddick of tennis	1 Predicament	20 Cried
4 Look-alike	36 Performs, biblically	2 — fix	21 Asian servant
8 Low range	37 Home of America's largest urban zoo	3 Guarantee	22 Crony
12 Literary collection	40 Drink	4 More than just that?	23 Tarzan's clique
13 Head light?	41 Trickster	5 Undulating	25 Irrational number
14 Easter flower	42 Get	6 — de-France	26 Indemnity down
15 Redo	43 Get	7 Clause connector	28 One of CSN&Y
17 In due time	46 Ostentation	8 Sports jacket	30 Hoodoo
18 Uncomplacated	47 Garfield's pal	9 — She Sweet?	33 Exile
19 Mexican's ancestor, maybe	48 Lubricant	10 Plumlike fruit	34 Ground
20 Squander	49 Mediocre	11 Harmonization	36 Uncool sort
22 Exposed	50 Poetic foot	16 Chow	37 Let the cat out of the bag
24 Grounded flock	51 Today's "groovy"		38 Irritate
25 Luthor's enemy			39 Gumbo need
29 Standard			40 Read cursorily
30 Ancient Dead Sea region			42 Miss Piggy's pronoun
31 Carte lead-in			43 Oklahoma city
32 Hitchcock classic			44 Compete
			45 Will Ferrell movie

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		