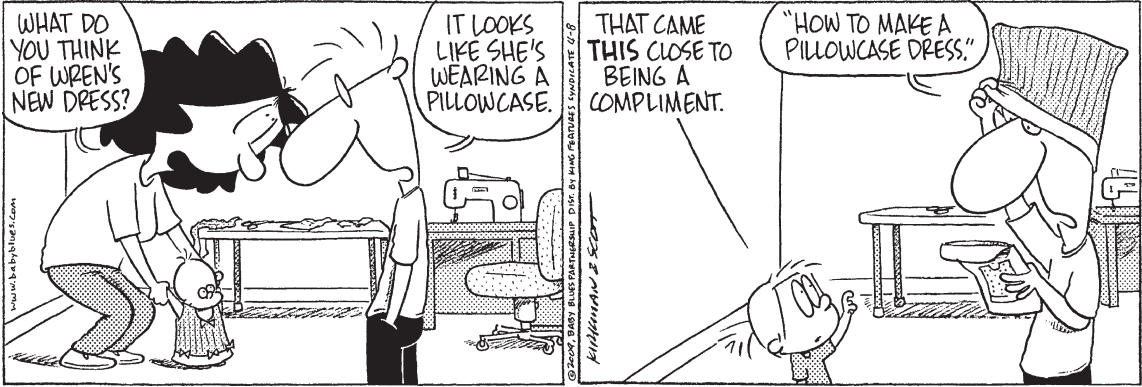
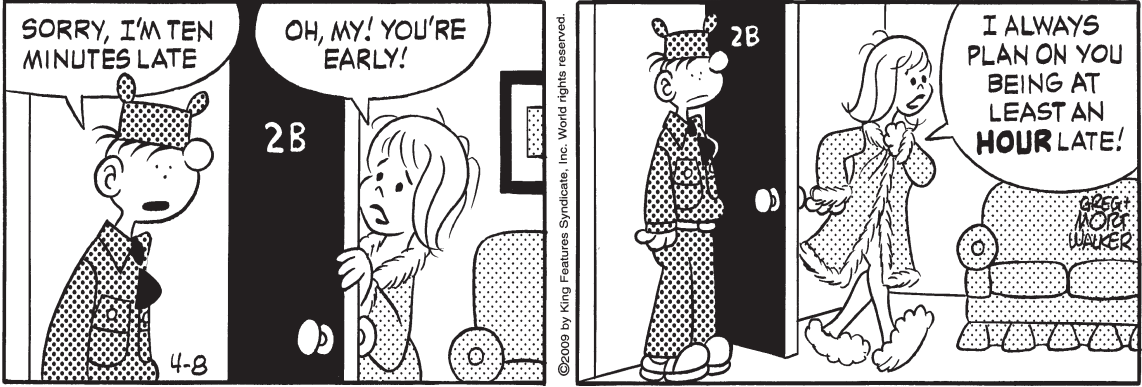


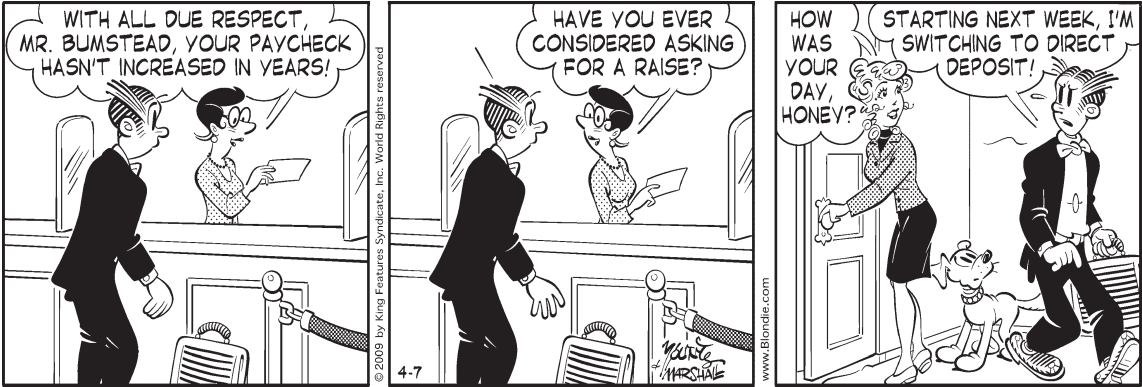
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



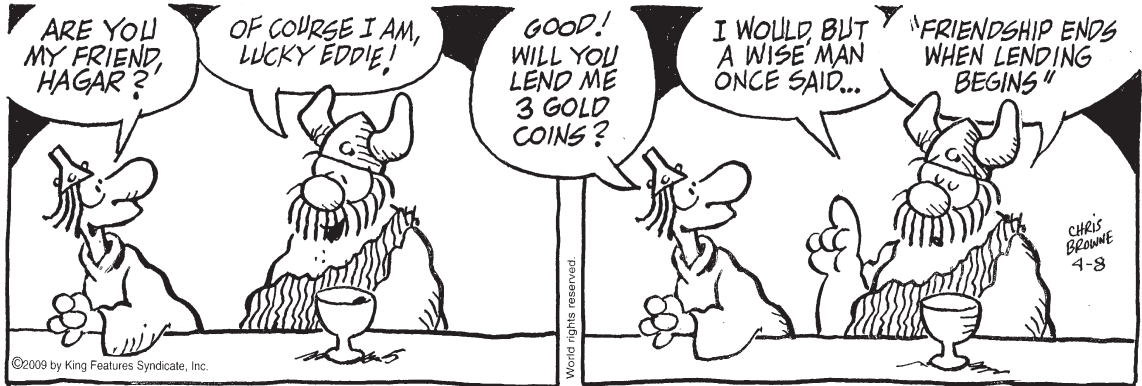
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



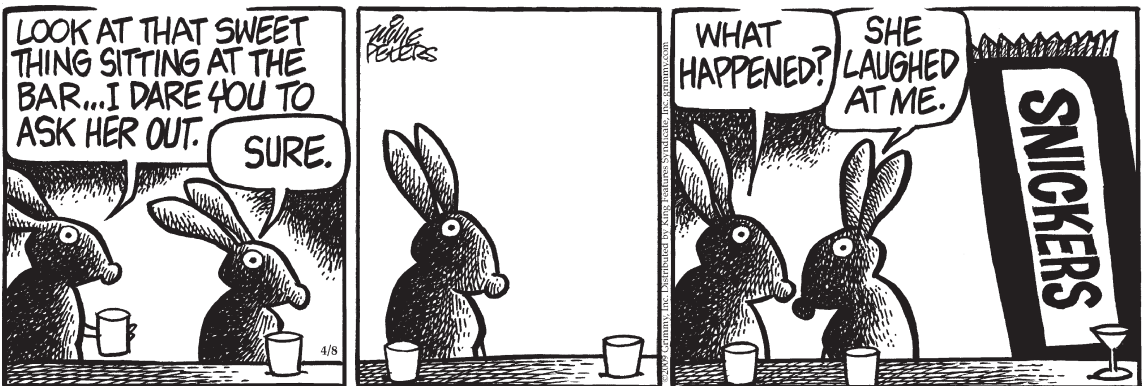
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



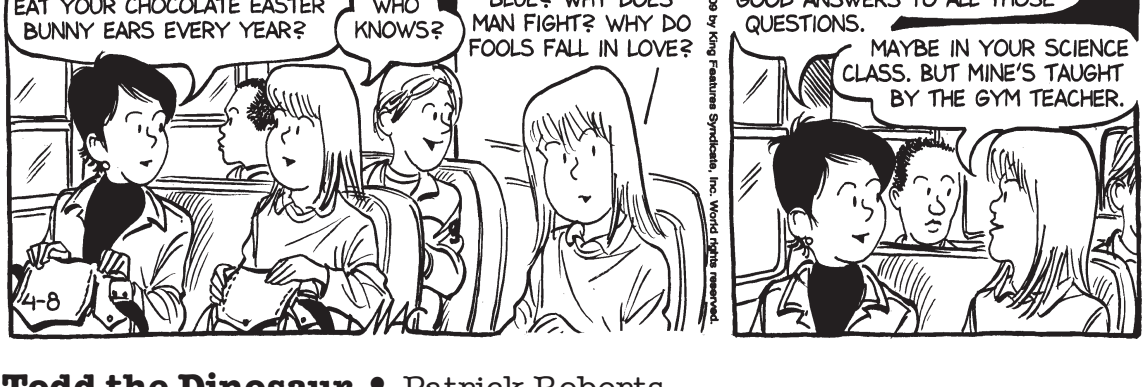
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Cleaning bowls takes some care

Dear Heloise: Through the years, my WOOD-EN SALAD BOWLS have acquired a sticky residue from various salad dressings. I am unsure what to use to clean this. I've tried everything that I could think of to clean the bowls without destroying their natural patina finish. What is the best and safest way to clean this sticky residue? – Joanne Martin of Flemington, N.J.

If you keep your wooden bowls clean and re-seasoned periodically, they can last for generations. Just use a mild liquid hand-dishwashing detergent to wash the bowls using warm water. Rinse and dry thoroughly, since prolonged exposure to water can cause damage. Next, use a soft cloth or paper towel to spread a light coat of mineral oil (vegetable oil can become rancid) on the entire bowl. Let it work for 12 hours or so, then wipe with a paper towel. When the beautiful wooden luster becomes dull, it is time to re-season. Remember that water can damage your wooden bowls, so putting them in the dishwasher is a big no-no! – Heloise

HOT-DOG STORAGE

Dear Heloise: After opening a package of hot dogs, I used to find it hard to store them, with the juices making a mess in the package or even a zippered plastic storage bag. I discovered a good way to store them: Use a 1-quart, upright deli container that you would normally toss or recycle, and place the hot dogs upright in the container and put the lid on it. They are easy to see in the fridge and won't get lost in the meat tray! Also, it's a good way to carry them on a picnic. – Agnes Hill, McLean, Va.

COFFEE CREAMER

Dear Heloise: Regarding the use of powdered skim/nonfat milk as coffee creamer: I have a hint that I have used successfully for years. Wanting to avoid the hydrogenated fats in regular coffee creamer, I place powdered milk in a blender or food processor and twirl it for several seconds. The result is as fine and smooth as regular coffee creamer, and it dissolves more easily in the hot coffee. Try it – you'll be surprised. – Marilyn K., Fort Worth, Texas

I use powdered milk also, so I was interested in testing your hint. It works fine, BUT you need to process only about 1/2 cup at a time. – Heloise

GROCERY LIST

Dear Heloise: As a gift, we received a ruled grocery-list tablet that sticks on our fridge with a magnet on the back. We've learned to start our list from the bottom. Whenever someone in the family notices we're out of or low on something, that person adds the item on the next line available up from the bottom. When we go to the store, we cut the page just above where our list stopped – leaving us another short tablet page for the next round. This saves paper and makes our thoughtful gift last longer! – South Dakota Sam, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♦ Q 9  
♥ J 7 2  
♦ Q 8 2  
♣ K Q J 10 4

**WEST**

♦ 7 4  
♥ A K 9 5 4 3  
♦ K J 9  
♣ 3 2

**EAST**

♦ 5 2  
♥ Q 10 6  
♦ A 7 6 4  
♣ 9 7 6 5

**SOUTH**

♦ A K J 10 8 6 3  
♥ 8  
♦ 10 5 3  
♣ A 8

The bidding:

South 1♦   West 2♥   North 3♣   East 3♥

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Defense Is a Logical Process

Assume you're West on this deal, defending against four spades. You lead the king of hearts, which wins as partner contributes the ten. What would you play next? Bear in mind that you need three more tricks to defeat the contract.

The first step in the right direction is to assume declarer has a singleton heart, since your partner is marked with three hearts for his bid. This in turn means that any additional tricks you take will have to come from a source other than the heart suit. (Observe that if you continue with the ace of hearts, declarer takes the rest of the tricks.)

The next step is to recognize that if South has both minor-suit aces to go with his obviously long spade suit, the contract cannot possibly be defeated. You should therefore credit partner with one of these aces, which he almost certainly has for his raise.

The only remaining question is not so much which minor-suit ace East holds, but, more importantly, which one might allow you to collect three more tricks. The only sensible conclusion is to assume partner has the ace of diamonds, because if he has the ace of clubs instead, the contract cannot be defeated.

Accordingly, you must shift to a diamond at trick two, but before you do, one more question must be resolved – namely, which diamond to lead. To guard against the possibility that South might have the ten of diamonds, the jack of diamonds – not the nine or king – must be played.

As it happens, the jack lead puts the contract down one. If the nine or king is led instead, declarer makes the contract with correct play.

The careful step-by-step process that leads eventually to finding the winning play at trick two is not really difficult if you focus on the ultimate goal – to defeat the contract. The jack lead then emerges as the play that gives you the best chance of achieving that goal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Isn't it 'bout time for me to write my wish list to the Easter Bunny?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

VE TEW ZWSSEZX PAGP GHT

E S A P A G K D E K E N F Z P ' Z

SBXQXBBXV UBXGCQGZP MXBXGK

DFNAP UX MEBHXG QKGCXZ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE MY HOME DECOR ISN'T VERY FANCY LIKE YOURS, FOLKS COULD SAY I HAVE AN INFERIOR INTERIOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Roman component "Aloha"
- 4 Scrooge's outcry
- 7 Pinnacle
- 8 Regional
- 10 Rx, for short
- 11 French painter
- 13 With 33-Across, aphorism
- 16 Lair
- 17 Neckwear of a sort
- 18 Aye undoer
- 19 Son, on the Seine
- 20 Tour de France need
- 21 "Goose-bumps" author
- 23 Home
- 25 Moby's pursuer
- 26 Suitable
- 27 Supporting
- DOWN**
- 28 Flight component type
- 30 Irate
- 33 See 13-Across
- 36 Asian capital
- 37 Throwing game ring
- 38 Jockey's handful
- 39 — Major 40 Pop
- 41 — out a living
- 5 Uneasiness
- 6 Rodgers collaborator
- 7 Farm fraction
- 8 Galvanizing agents
- 9 Nikita's successor
- 10 Despondent
- 12 Cobra or copper-head
- 14 Capri, e.g.
- 15 Storm center
- 19 Teensy tale
- 20 Tarzan's son
- 21 Piglet
- 22 Toothpaste target
- 23 Related (to)
- 24 Embellished style
- 25 Kabul's land (Abbr.)
- 26 Refuge
- 28 Old photo tint
- 29 Pollster's find
- 30 Deer kin
- 31 Largest of the seven
- 32 "Spring ahead" hrs.
- 34 Wasted no time
- 35 Gloom

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-8

