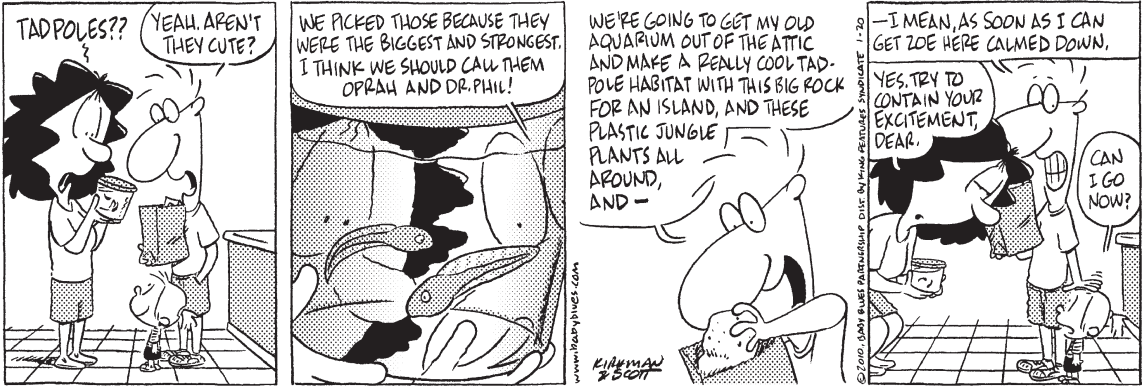
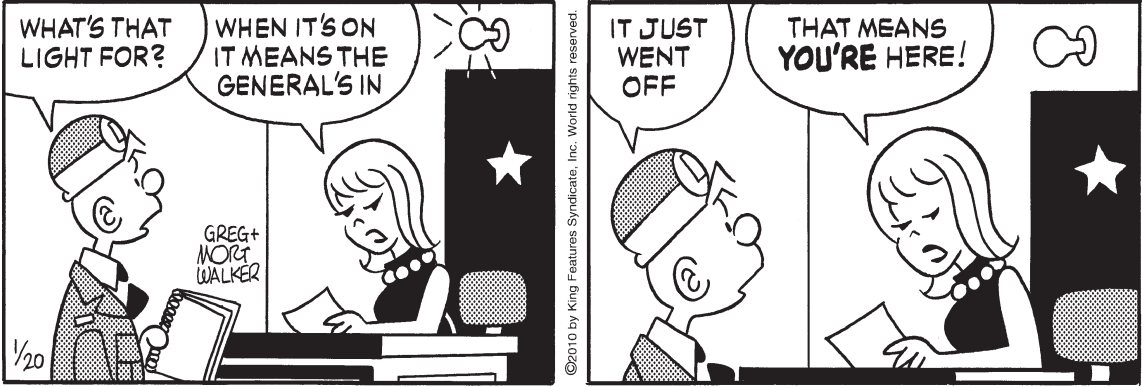


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



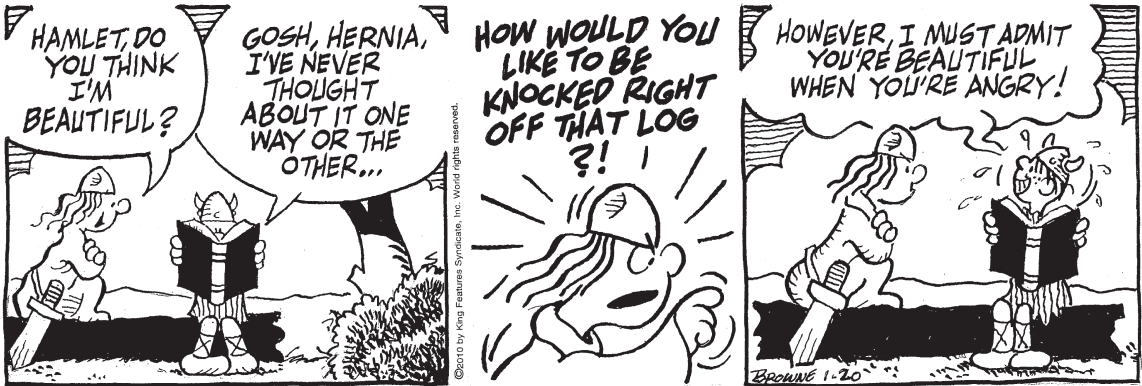
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



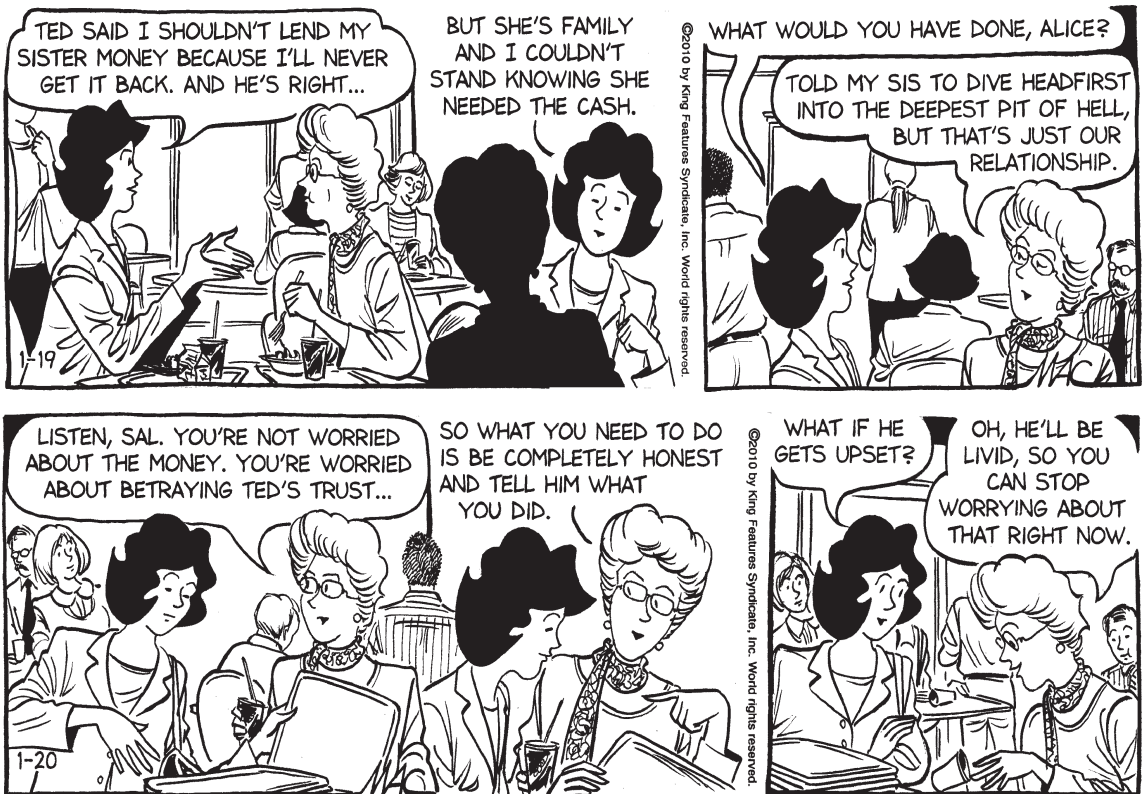
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



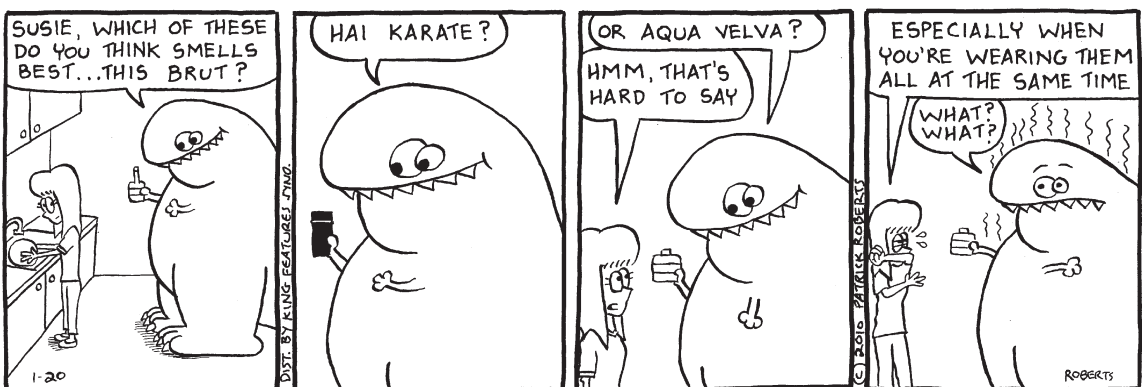
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



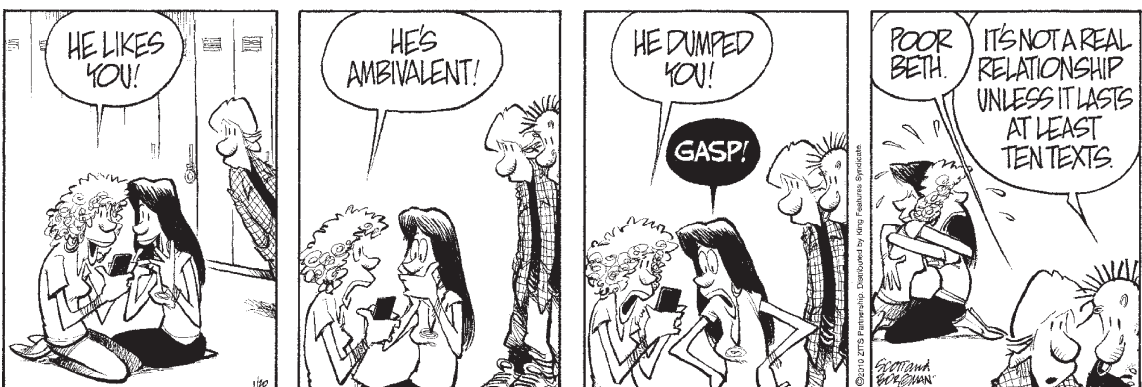
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Sugar particles a fine distinction

Dear Heloise: I would like to know the difference between 4x and 10x POWDERED SUGAR. Keep up your helping ways. – Sally, via e-mail

Interesting question! Our research shows that powdered sugar (also referred to as confectioners' sugar) is processed in several different particle sizes. You will find 4x and 10x in the store. The higher the number, the finer the particles of sugar. The 10x will provide a creamier, smoother-textured icing than ones made with 4x.

Here is an old family-favorite recipe that uses confectioners' sugar:

STRAWBERRY GELATIN CAKE

1 box white cake mix
1 box strawberry gelatin
1/2 cup oil
1/2 cup water
4 eggs
1 box frozen strawberries, thawed

Mix the cake mix and gelatin together. Add the oil, water and eggs, and beat until smooth. Fold in half the strawberries and juice (save the rest for the icing). Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. To make the icing, combine 1 box of powdered sugar, 1 stick butter/margarine and the rest of the strawberries and juice, and mix until well blended. Spread it on the cooled cake. For my four-page pamphlet filled with this recipe and other delicious cake recipes, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cakes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. This pamphlet includes a delectable Red Velvet Cake, my mother's Tomato Soup Cake and Shoo-Fly Pie! Fun to make and eat, too. Happy baking! – Heloise

PASTRY BLENDER

Dear Heloise: When I make egg-salad sandwiches, I use a pastry blender to chop the hard-boiled eggs before adding the mayo, pickles, etc. Sure makes it easier for me. – Margaret Kennedy, Spokane, Wash.

An egg-cellent hint. Hi to my readers in Spokane, a lovely city I've visited. – Heloise

SHARPEN SCISSORS

Dear Heloise: I accidentally discovered this hint while cutting some aluminum foil to cover the drip pans on my electric stove. I noticed that my scissors were sharper than before. I use this hint now on my haircutting scissors, and it works great. Even my sister-in-law thinks it's a great idea, and she is a hairdresser and has to have her scissors sharpened frequently. Also, this works better if using the heavy-duty aluminum foil. – Margaret, via fax

WATERMELON STORAGE

Dear Heloise: When you cut up a watermelon, put it in a colander and set the colander in a bowl. This keeps the watermelon fresher. – Rae P., Cedar Hill, Texas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 9 8 3
♥ A Q 6
♦ 10 6 5
♣ K 5

WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ 9 8 3
♦ A J 7 4
♣ J 9 8 3

EAST
♠ K 7 6 4
♥ 10 7 5 4
♦ Q 9 2
♣ Q 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 10
♥ K J 2
♦ K 8 3
♣ A 10 7 4 2

The bidding:
South 1 ♠ West 1 ♥ North 3 NT East Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Opening lead — nine of hearts.

Diabolical Defense

It is generally acknowledged that defense is the most difficult aspect of the game to master. The principle reason is that the defenders can't see each other's cards and so are often forced to make blind assumptions during the play.

Today's deal illustrates the type of thinking that goes into good defensive play. West got off to a fine start by leading a heart rather than a diamond, which would have handed declarer the contract.

South won with the king and finessed the queen of spades, which held, and the ten of spades, which lost. The outcome now hinged on East's return at trick four.

The bidding and play to this point convinced East that South would collect at least nine tricks -- four spades, three hearts and two clubs -- as soon as he regained the lead. The only hope of defeating the contract therefore lay in scoring four immediate diamond tricks. This in turn meant finding West with the A-K-x-x or, more realistically, the A-J-x-x. The trouble in the latter case was that if East made the normal return of a low diamond from the Q-9-2, declarer would play low to protect his king, and so make the contract.

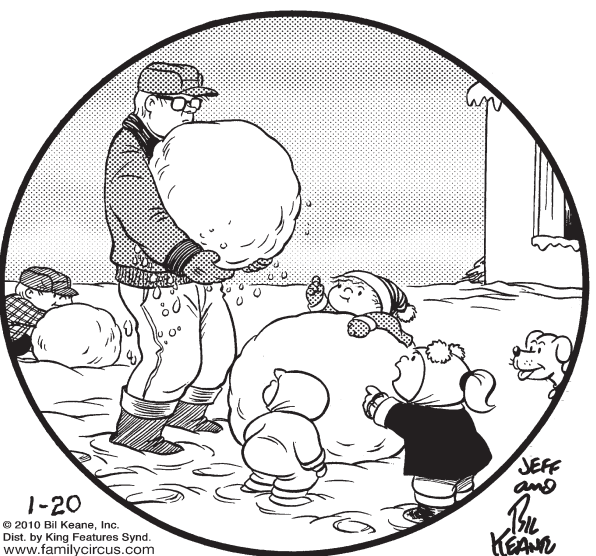
For this reason, East chose the diabolically clever return of the diamond queen, hoping South would place him with the jack. If so, declarer would duck the queen, since covering would enable West to win and lead through dummy's ten. If the play worked, another diamond by East would then allow West to run three more diamonds for down one.

In practice, however, South elected to cover the queen with the king. After taking the ace, West then did his part by making the equally diabolical return of the diamond four!

This time, declarer went wrong. Afraid that dummy's ten would lose to the jack, he played low from dummy, hoping West held the nine. But when East produced the nine and returned a diamond, West scored two more diamonds to sink the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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 ★

Cryptoquip

FLNWJWHS UG PWFL UPL
DJLOWGYN DWLOLN GB BJVWU
WU PCN BGYHF, C SJGYHFPGS
GBULH XYJWLN XLJJWLN.

Yesterday's **Cryptoquip**: UPCOMING SCI-FI TELEVISION SERIES EXPOSING THE SECRET LIVES OF FORMER SPOUSES: "THE EX FILES."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pretense
4 Sit for a snapshot
8 Sleeping
12 Also
13 Press
14 "Arrive-derci"
15 Lummock
16 Triangular
18 Use
20 Witness
21 Brewery products
24 Despots
28 Measures of luminous intensity
32 Fat
33 Mimic
34 Novelist
36 Grazing area
37 Anthropologist
39 Openly
41 Added
43 Martial-arts school
44 Sprite

DOWN

46 Expand a computer file
50 February 2nd
55 Before
56 Enthusiastic
57 Right on the map?
58 —
59 Took the bus
60 Fling
61 Potent stick
62 Fat
63 Mimic
64 Novelist
66 Grazing area
67 Anthropologist
69 Openly
71 Added
73 Martial-arts school
74 Sprite

Solution time: 21 mins.

TOES DIP DIED
EITHER OR ERSE
ALCAPONE BAAL
ALP PIP PLAQUE
AZTEC PAIR
LEES ALROKER
ETA ALIEN LEA
ALUNSER SIAM
GOOD AVERY
BAZAAR ATE
EDEN ALJOLSON
GIRD NEAPTIDE
STOA SIR EPEE

Yesterday's answer 1-20

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					60					61		