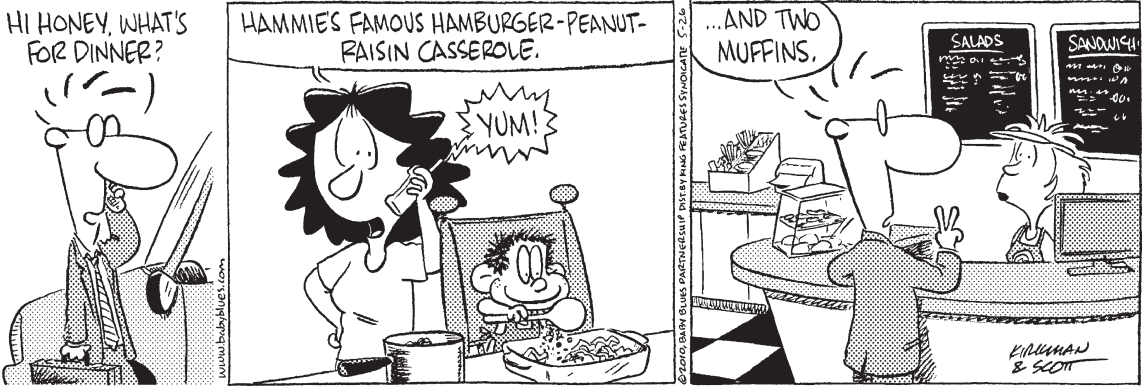


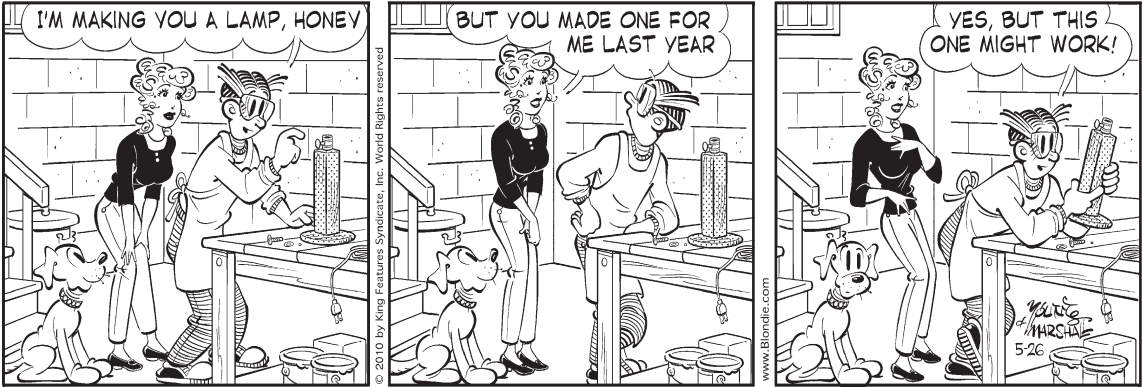
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



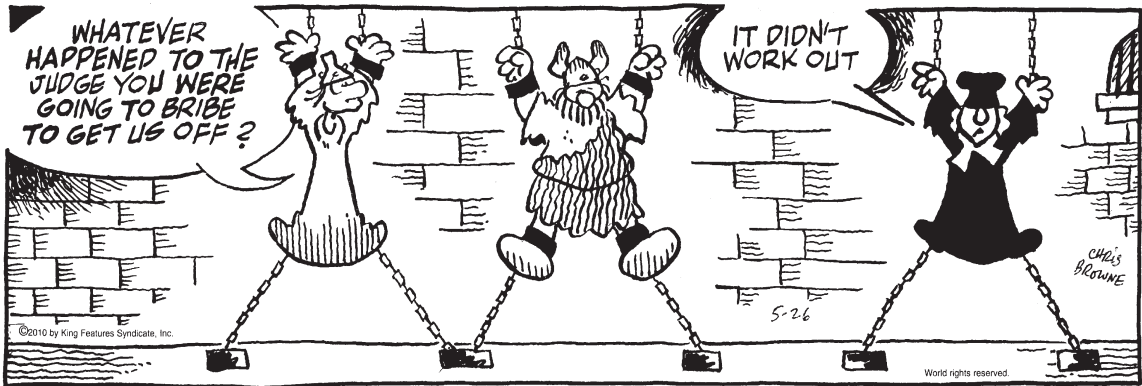
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



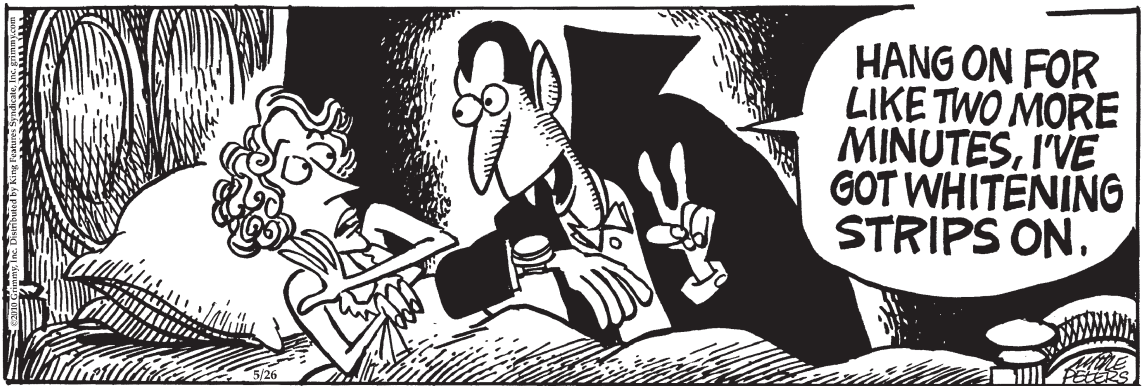
Blondie • Chic Young



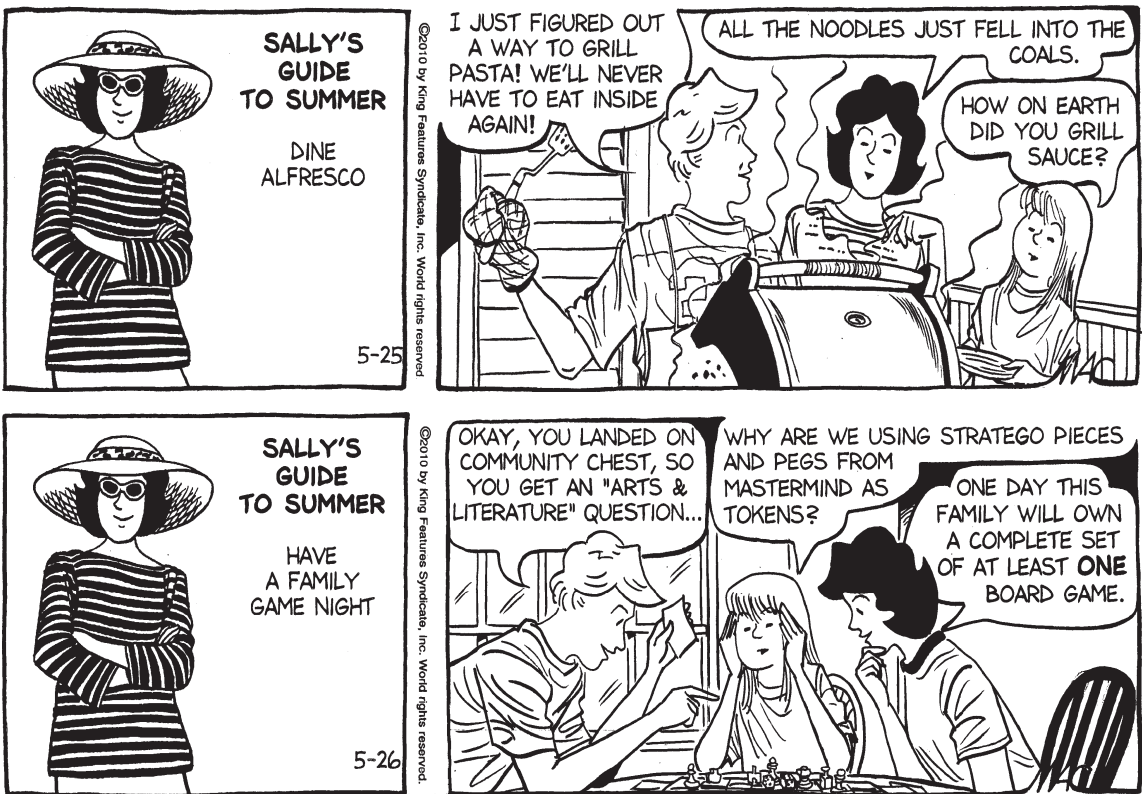
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



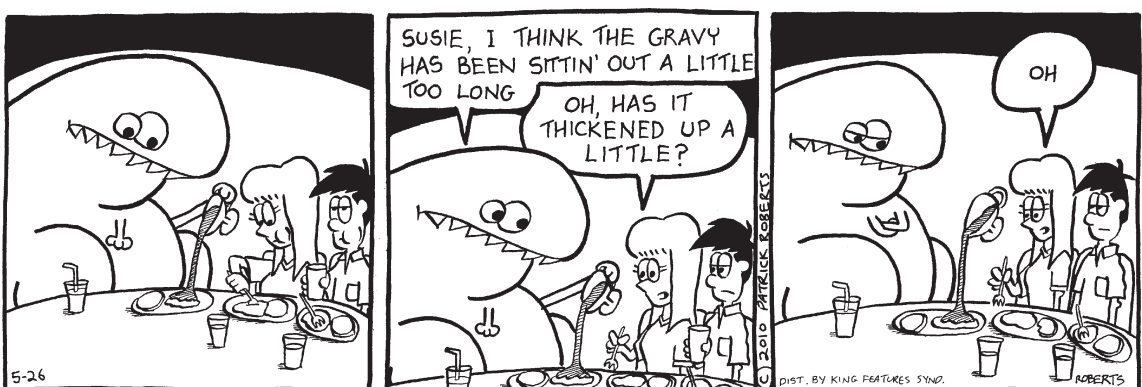
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



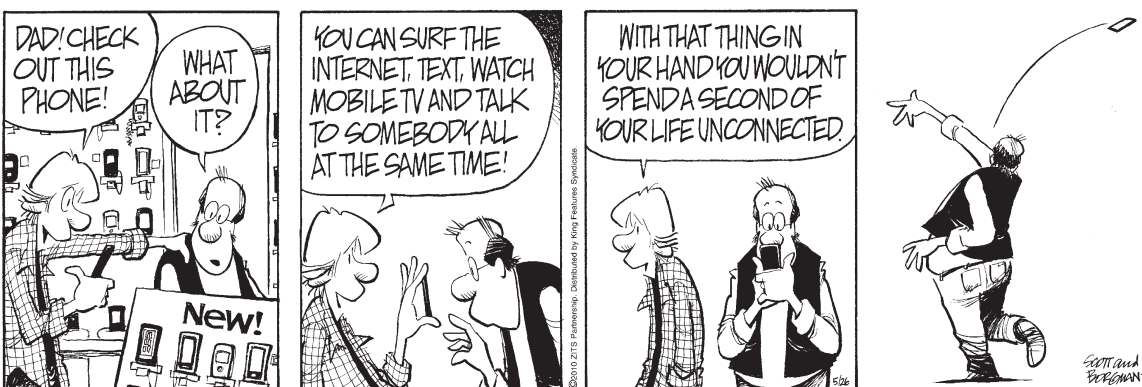
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Keep coffee lasting longer

Dear Heloise: I'm sure that you get millions of suggestions each day, but I was a little disappointed that you didn't address keeping FRESHLY BREWED COFFEE from degrading when talking about leftover coffee.

I don't even drink coffee on a regular basis, but my father (who lives in Texas) tells me that if you turn the heat off as soon as the coffee is made, it doesn't get that bitter, stale taste that is associated with bad coffee that is a few hours old. I suspect that it is the continuous heat that oxidizes the coffee and makes it taste bad.

Store it in the fridge? Even better, as long as your fridge isn't a hiding place for onions or other smells that can affect your coffee.

When you decide to have another cup of coffee, just pour it into a microwavable cup, zap it in the microwave and you have "fresh," hot coffee again. — John R. Newman, Khafji, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Hi, John! How nice to hear from someone who reads my column in the *Arab Times* in Kuwait. After brewing, the coffeepot or carafe should remain on the heat source for only 15 to 30 minutes. The experts also suggest that when using an automatic-drip coffee maker, use cold water and drink the coffee right after brewing for the best taste. They don't recommend refrigeration after brewing because the coffee will lose some of its flavor. But, as a practical matter, if it tastes OK to you, then I say into the refrigerator it goes! Who doesn't love a cup of fresh, delicious coffee? For unique and money-saving ways to make flavored coffees and teas, please send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Keep ground or whole-bean coffee in an airtight container in a cool, dry place — not the refrigerator! — Heloise

FRESH INGREDIENTS

Dear Heloise: I discovered a way to keep boxed products such as cornstarch and baking soda fresh and bug-free. I washed out a few plastic grated-cheese containers and, with a label maker, labeled each. An advantage of these containers is their lids, which offer the option of spooning or shaking out the contents. — Micky, via e-mail

JALAPENO JUICE

Dear Heloise: Being a fellow Texan, my family and I enjoy Tex-Mex food often. For years, I had a problem sprinkling an even amount of jalapeno juice over recipes. Finally, I came up with a solution. I purchased a small, inexpensive spray bottle, and, using a funnel, I filled the bottle with the juice. — Vicki in Royse City, Texas

HANDY SCRUBBING PAD

Dear Heloise: On the right side of my kitchen faucet, I keep a clean scrubbie pad for pre-cleaning dirty dishes. When it starts looking scruffy, I put it on the left, behind my bottle of soap, and use it to clean really dirty skillet. — Verna in Ohio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ A 7 5 2
♥ A 10 6 3
♦ K 10
♣ 10 9 8

WEST
♦ Q 4
♥ J 8 2
♦ Q J 9 8 5
♣ Q 6 3

EAST
♦ J 10 9 3
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ 6 4 2
♣ A 4

SOUTH

♦ K 8 6
♥ K 5
♦ A 7 3
♣ K J 7 5 2

The bidding:
South 1 ♣ **West** Pass **North** 1 ♥ **East** Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

A Blueprint for the Defense

Assume you're East and partner leads the queen of diamonds against three notrump. The instant dummy comes down, and while declarer is planning his play, you should also be cogitating on what kind of hand declarer has, how good or bad your prospects are, and how to shape your defense to try to beat the contract.

Your first reaction should be one of confidence; you should feel that there is a reasonably good chance of stopping three notrump.

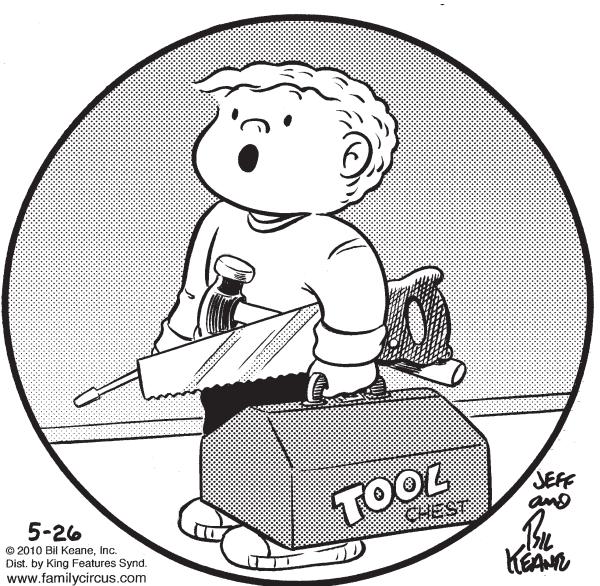
Why? Because, after South opened with one club and rebid one notrump over one heart, North raised to three notrump — an overbid that did not allow for the possibility that South might have a bare minimum for his opening bid. Declarer might therefore be in trouble — provided you press your advantage.

South interrupts your thoughts at this juncture by winning the diamond lead with dummy's king and returning the ten of clubs. If you follow low, as many players would, declarer will make the contract. West wins the club with the queen and leads the jack of diamonds, which holds the trick, and it's all over. South takes the next diamond lead and forces out the ace of clubs to produce nine tricks consisting of three clubs and three sets of A-K's.

But if you go up with the ace of clubs at trick two (as you should in order to preserve West's potential club entry) and return a diamond, establishing your partner's suit, the contract bites the dust. Declarer can huff and puff, but he can't get home safely. Eventually he loses two clubs and three diamonds and goes down one as a result of your thoughtful play at trick two.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/26

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

EW OSP CSNM F GMYNSR

SWW ZEJC BSUA ZFJMY SR F

NBFUAERD NPXXMY AFO, FYM

OSP NGYFOERD WSY XMYBO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS HE MADE ITALIAN PASTA SAUCE TURN INTO SOMETHING ELSE, THE MAGICIAN CRIED "PESTO CHANGO!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Com-manded
 - 5 Au — (menu phrase)
 - 8 Christmas song
 - 12 Old Italian money
 - 13 Where "Lost" is found
 - 14 Farm measure
 - 15 Handel's "Messiah," e.g.
 - 17 Color quality
 - 18 Bionic human
 - 19 One portion of the laundry
 - 21 Ultra-modernist
 - 22 Jeans-maker
 - 23 From — Z
 - 26 Yoko of music
 - 28 From Cardiff, e.g.
 - 31 Slugger Sammy
 - 33 Pouch
 - 35 Speak unclearly
- DOWN**
- 11 Dregs
 - 16 Sandwich treat
 - 20 Chop
 - 23 Inquire
 - 24 Plaything
 - 25 Melody used for Elvis' "It's Now or Never"
 - 27 Rowing need
 - 29 Dine
 - 30 Day fractions (Abbr.)
 - 32 Expiating
 - 34 — seat (advantageous situation)
 - 37 Indivisible
 - 39 Require
 - 42 Gets bigger
 - 44 Sky-diver's device
 - 45 Praiseful poetry
 - 46 Hair salon request
 - 48 Carbon compound
 - 49 Uppity one
 - 50 Carry
 - 53 Dinner for Dobbin

Solution time: 21 mins.

OVA	BOW	EPEE
HILT	OOH	LAVA
MEOW	APE	EWER
SWEEP	SLAY	
B	L	A
S	L	A
P	R	E
E	N	D
B	A	F
A	B	E
L	E	T
H	E	
L	L	A
N	O	S
B	A	H
I	N	K
M	A	R
G	A	R
U	T	A
G	E	N
T	L	O
G	E	N

Yesterday's answer 5-26

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			