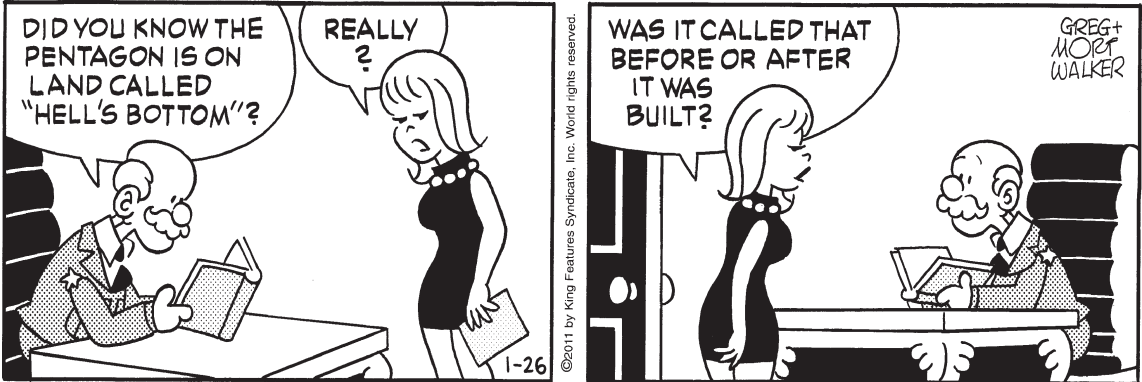


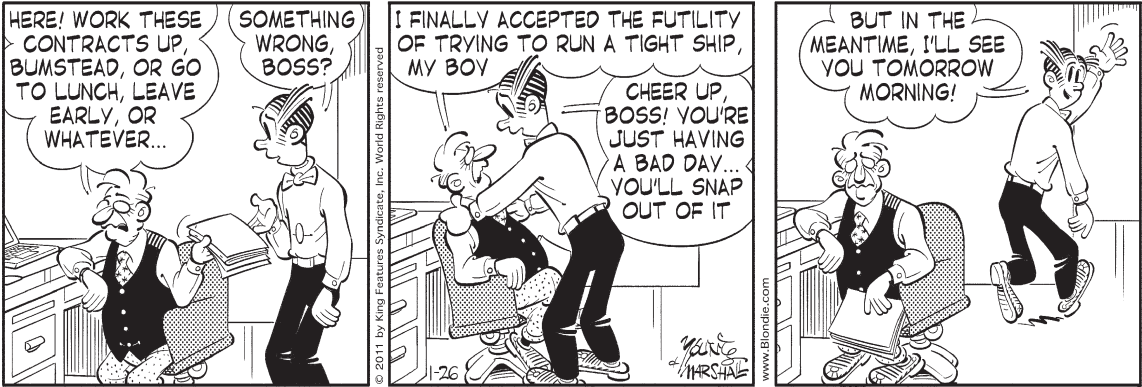
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



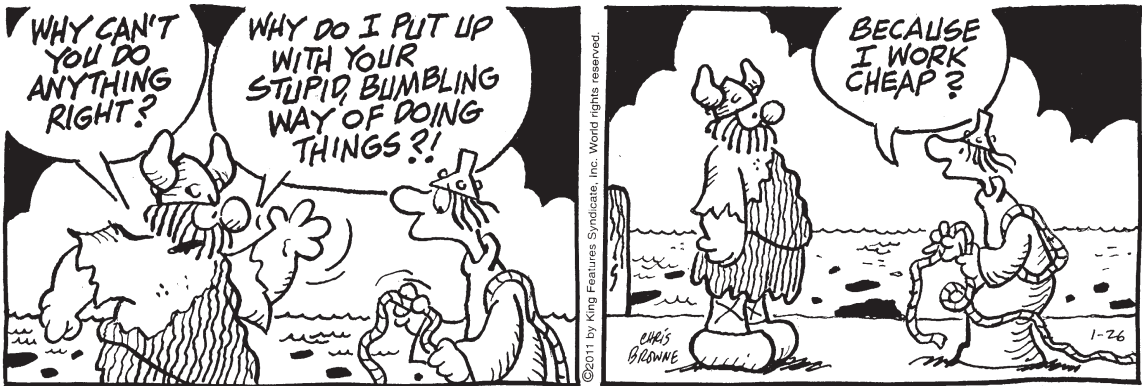
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



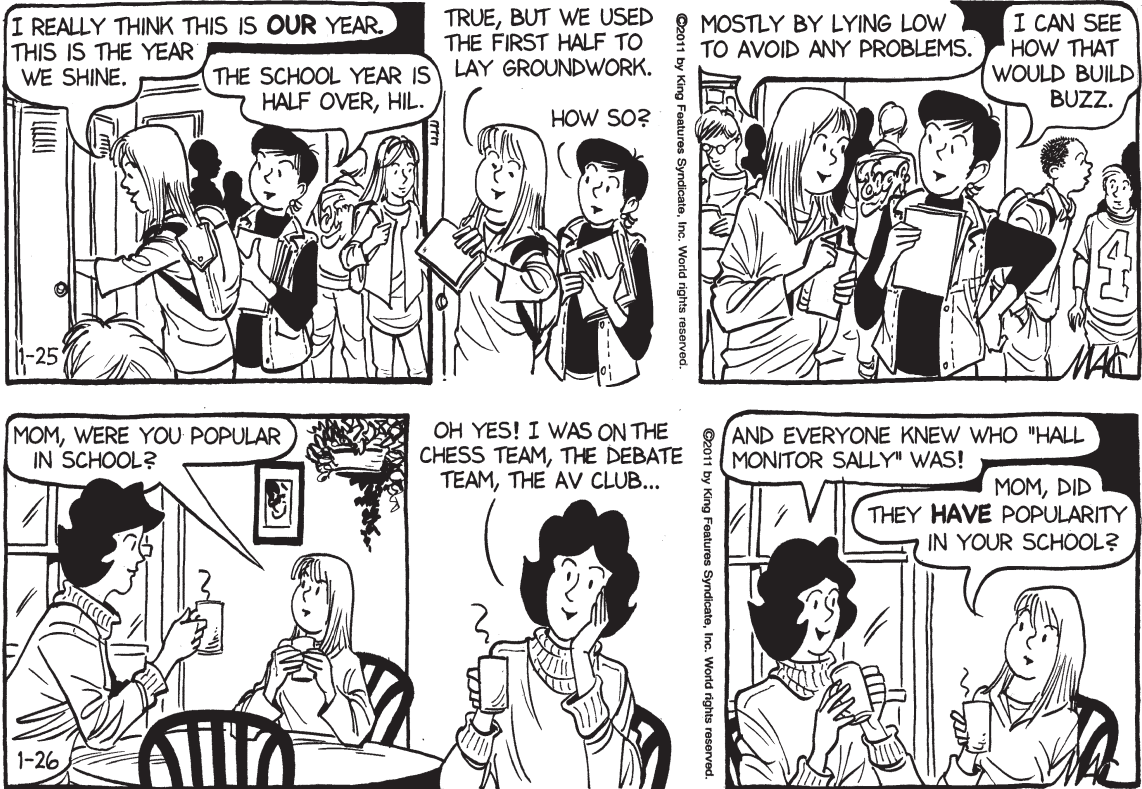
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



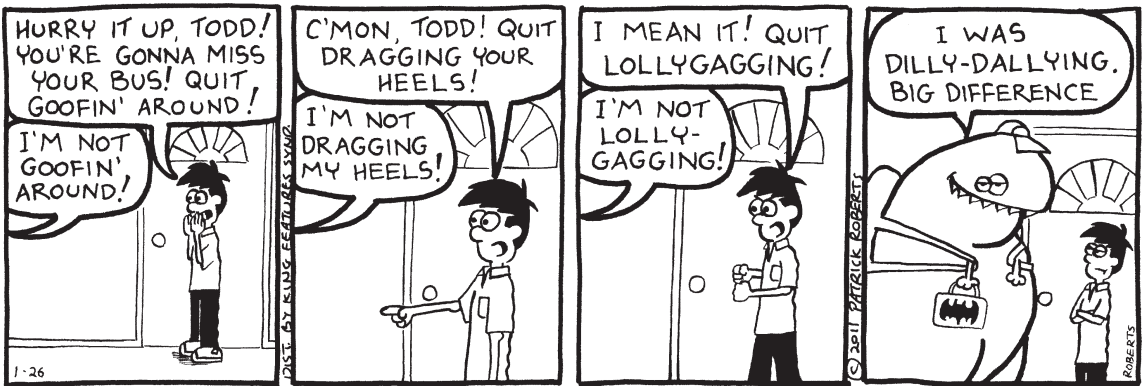
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



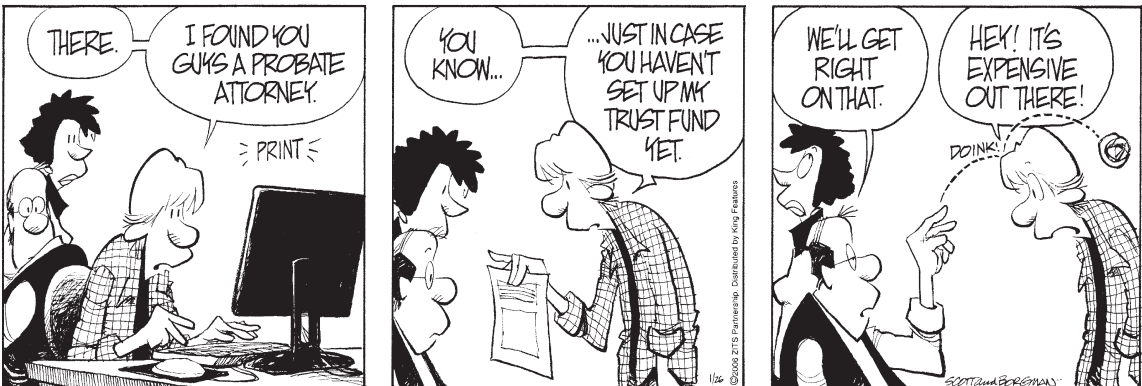
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Chocolate has good substitute

Dear Readers: Did you know that you can SUBSTITUTE cocoa and one other ingredient for baking chocolate? What's the other ingredient? Solid vegetable shortening. Three tablespoons of cocoa plus 1 tablespoon of solid vegetable shortening equals 1 ounce of baking chocolate. Vegetable oil also can be used!

We tested this, and the vegetable oil mixture is, as you might expect, a liquid consistency, and the shortening version is more solid.

Also, the date on cocoa is a freshness date, not an expiration date. Nothing in cocoa will actually spoil or go bad, so you can use it past the date. — Heloise

P.S.: The following is another substitute hint. BUTTERMILK SUBSTITUTE

Dear Heloise: I can't remember what to do when a recipe calls for buttermilk and you don't have any in the fridge. — JoAnn Martin, Arlington, Texas

Don't run to the store! Put 1 tablespoon of white vinegar (or lemon juice) in the measuring cup first, then use whole milk to equal 1 cup. Let the milk stand for five minutes or so before using. You also can use 1/2 cup of PLAIN regular yogurt and 1/2 cup of milk as a substitute in a pinch. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

DISHWASHER CLEANING

Dear Heloise: The inside of our dishwasher was awful from iron in the water. I went to the appliance store, and the salesman said he could sell me a cleaner, but he knew something just as effective — unsweetened lemon drink mix. I used two packets and ran the dishwasher on a full cycle. The result was an amazingly sparkling-clean interior. — Page Bradley, Leesburg, Va.

Page, citric acid in the lemon drink does help remove iron and is an ingredient in many commercial rust removers. — Heloise

EGG CARTONS

Dear Heloise: Folks with small farms who raise chickens and sell eggs are eager to recycle your egg cartons. We take ours and those from friends to a local farmers market. — Patt R., Baker, La.

Patt, we love this as a recycling hint, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture advises consumers not to reuse foam meat trays and egg cartons for other food items. There is a risk of cross-contamination, especially if there are any bacteria (think salmonella!) on the surface. You can't clean a paper carton. — Heloise

CAKE FROSTING

Dear Heloise: When I need to drizzle frosting/icing over a dessert/cake, I take some pre-made frosting and melt it in a glass measuring cup for about 20 seconds. I take the squeeze part off my turkey baster and pour the melted frosting through the baster.

Also, after baking a cake, there usually is part of the cake that sticks to the pan. I scrape that off the pan and put the crumbs into my sifter. After I frost the cake, I sift the crumbs over the top. — Susan, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

The bidding:
1♥ South
2♥ West
3♥ North
4♥ East
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Defensive Reasoning

In the great majority of deals, it is incumbent upon the declarer and the defenders alike to assume that a distribution of the cards exists which allows the contract to be made or defeated, as the case may be. Without such an approach, numerous opportunities for a favorable outcome can easily be missed.

Consider East's situation in today's deal after West leads the K-Q of clubs and continues with a third club to East's ace. With three tricks in the bank, the question is what East should do next.

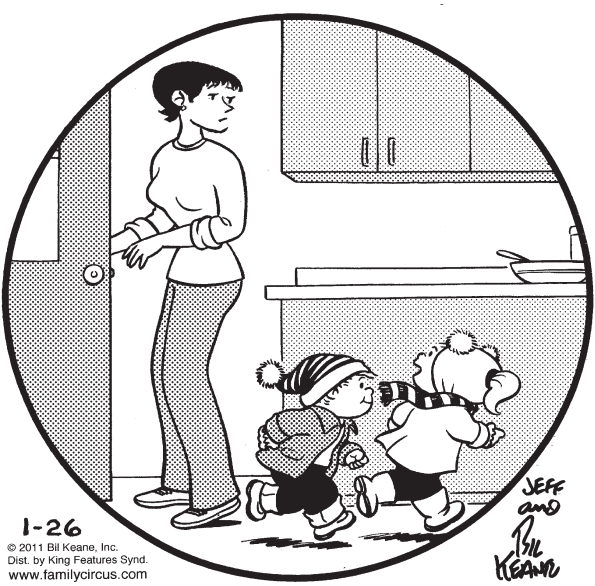
The mechanical return would be the jack of diamonds, a "safe" lead that cannot jeopardize any diamond values West may hold. But if the diamond jack is returned, South would have no problem scoring the rest of the tricks with the help of two heart finesses against East's king.

This should come as no surprise to East in view of South's bidding. East is in good position to judge that South, who opened the bidding, cannot have a spade or diamond loser after having already followed low to three rounds of clubs. East's only hope, therefore, is to try to develop a trump trick for his side.

Accordingly, East should return his remaining club at trick four, hoping to find his partner with the nine of trumps — a card declarer certainly does not need to have for his bidding. In the actual case, West happens to hold that card, and, as a result, the contract goes down no matter how declarer chooses to play from that point on.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Leave the door open. We'll be right back after a brief commercial break.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

L X L P W H P M S X G C C Q

M S P F L T B K V W S C L Z S M P Z G M S

L T C L W P, L K G J J V K S Q V G

H V G C F K P Q L ' W J S M G - K L T B.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I PENNED A VOLUME OF POEMS REFERENCING FAMOUS LEGAL CASES AND TITLED IT "VERSUS VERSES."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Writer Kingsley
5 Petrol
8 Spaces
12 Swap
13 Have bills
14 Ear-related
15 One present
17 Maestro
Klem-perer
18 Barber-shop request
19 Humble
21 Tend texts
24 Foolish one
25 Read, in a way
28 Lowers the lights
30 Definite article
33 Mr. Sajak
34 Expense record
35 A billion years
36 Illustrations
37 Addict
38 Probability

39 Inquire
41 Leeway
43 Hidden away
46 Got wind of
50 Wan
51 Lawyer
54 Rind
55 William Tell's home
56 Color quality
57 Uncomplacated
58 "See ya"
59 Picnic invaders

3 Tittle
4 Spielberg or Tyler
5 Deity
6 Shock
7 Appear (to)
8 Merchandise
9 Swore nobility
10 Peach stones
11 Highlander
16 Homer's neighbor
20 Brewer's oven
22 Mid-month date
23 River through
24 Catchers

25 Resort
26 Automobile
27 Ties on
29 Muralist Joan
31 Scuttle
32 Type measures
34 Member of nobility
38 Conspiracy of silence
40 As an introvert would
42 Discoverer's call
43 Hatteras, for one
44 On the briny
45 Smear
47 In due time
48 Landlord's due
49 Turns blue?
52 Give it a go
53 Dead heat

DOWN
1 "Oh, wool!"
2 Wool
3 Party
4 Catchers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-26

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				