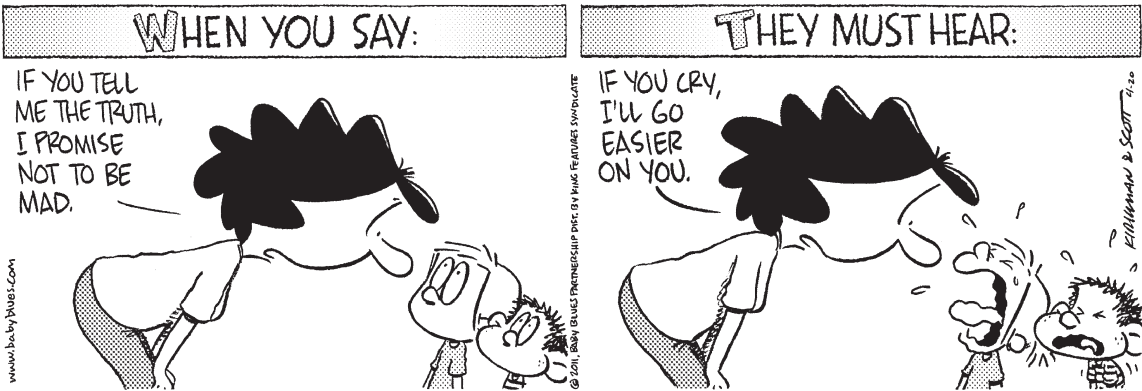
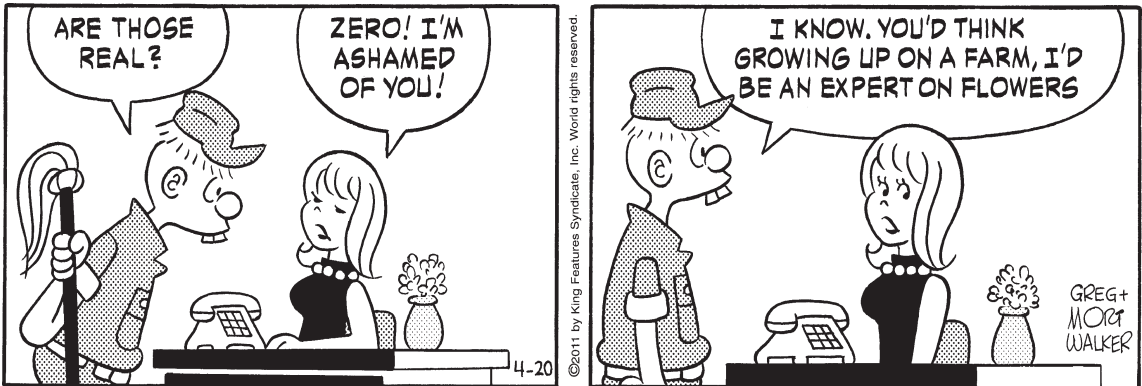


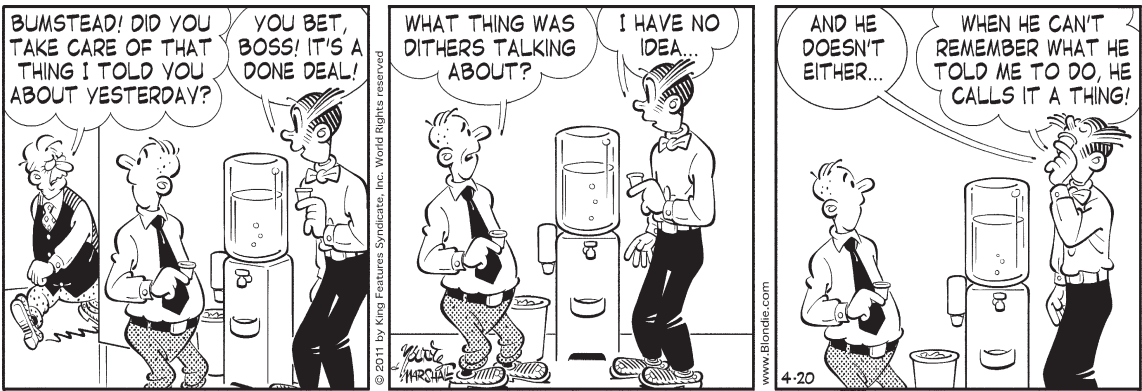
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



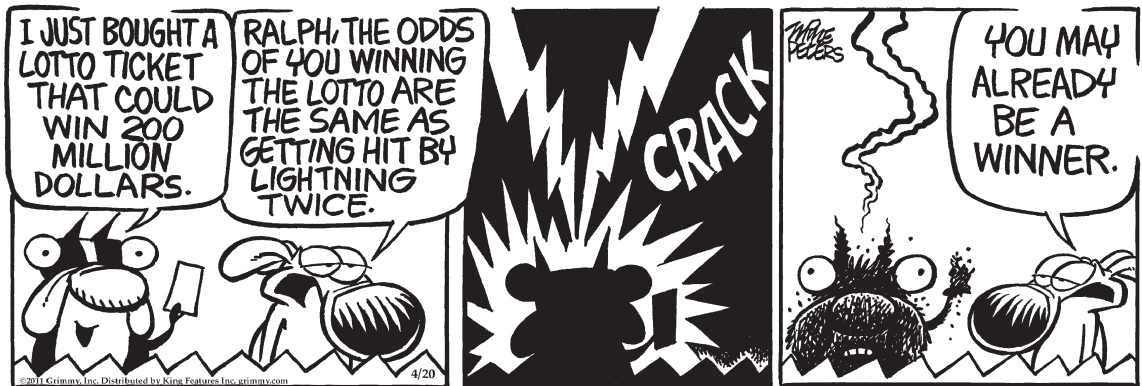
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



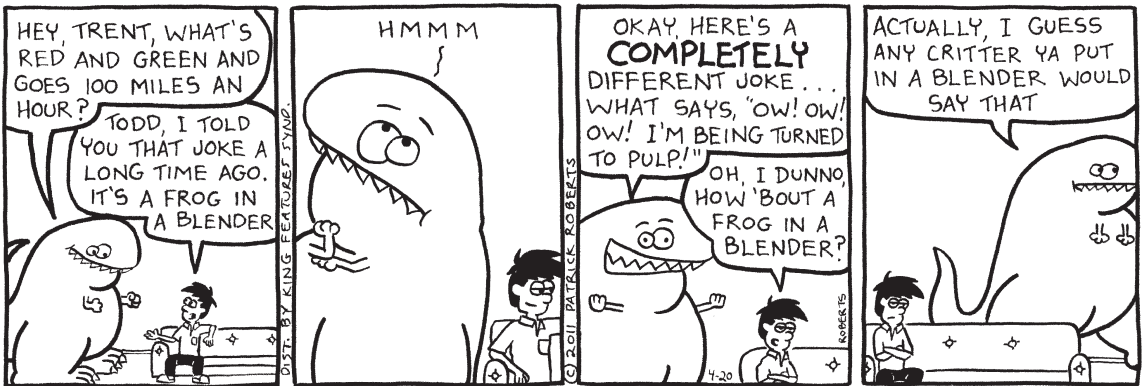
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

For easy cleanup, spray garlic press

Dear Heloise: Help! How do you clean a GARLIC PRESS? I'm at my wits' end! – Frederic N., Salem, Ore.

Spray with veggie spray first to make cleanup easy. Use a toothbrush or pastry brush to get into all the crevices and remove all that stubborn garlic residue. Then rinse it under water. You can use toothpicks to remove the remaining garlic. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, Texas 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

QUESADILLA MAKER

Dear Heloise: We received a quesadilla maker as a Christmas gift. Not being big on quesadillas, it was collecting dust. I had made batter for hot cakes and on a whim poured it into the quesadilla maker. Wow! They turned out great. Been using it for hot cakes ever since. – M.E. Clyde in San Antonio

GROUND BEEF

Dear Heloise: Here is how I make easy hamburger patties. For each 1 pound of ground beef, cut into four equal parts. Roll into a ball and place in a non-zip sandwich bag. Flatten until it is the size and thickness you desire. Freeze on a flat surface. Then place the bags into a large freezer zip bag and keep frozen until needed. – Nancy, via email

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Dear Heloise: You could help the Earth significantly if you spread the word that a smelly garbage disposal does not need to be addressed with gallons of hot water, boxes of baking soda or bottles of kitchen cleaning products. Just take out the rubber gasket ring on which the little cover sits and wash it well. Voila. The smell will disappear! That gross slime is what stinks. Always scrub it well with a brush and soap. I'm amazed at how many people complain about offensive odors and keep pouring products down the drain to cure them, when it is not the metal parts but the rubber. – Alice M., Cypress, Texas

The gasket (some do not come out) can harbor gunk that smells, but many times it can be bacteria down in the pipes. – Heloise

LEFTOVER RICE

Dear Heloise: When trying to refresh leftover rice, I made a bowl out of aluminum foil and placed it in my steamer basket, piercing the center stem. I loaded the rice and put it into a 2-quart saucepan with 1/2 cup of water for a few minutes, and it was perfect. – Jack L., Westminster, Calif.

FAT-FREE MEAT

Dear Heloise: I use a lot of beef and venison that is mostly fat-free. When I grind it, I do not add fat – I add finely grated veggies instead! My family loves added onion, squash and carrots. We add 1/4 to 1/2 the vegetables to the amount of the ground meat, and hamburgers are so moist and juicy. – Cherlynn in Eagleville, Mo.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 4
♥ A 10 7 5
♦ 3
♣ 9 6 5 2

WEST
♠ J 9 3
♥ J 9 3
♦ A K Q J 10 5
♣ 7

EAST
♠ 7 6 2
♥ 8 4
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ A J 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A 10 5
♥ K Q 6 2
♦ 8 7
♣ K Q 8 4

The bidding:
1 ♠ South 1 ♦ West 1 ♠ North 2 ♦ East
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Dble
Opening lead — seven of clubs.

The Curse of Scotland

For reasons no one is quite sure of, the nine of diamonds is sometimes referred to as "The Curse of Scotland." One side's curse, however, might prove to be the other side's good fortune. That was precisely the case in this deal, where the dreaded nine took its toll on the declarer but worked like a charm for the defense.

The deal occurred in the quarterfinals of the 1988 Spingold Knockout Teams. North's double of one diamond was "negative," promising two four-card majors, after which South ended up in four hearts.

West, Low Stansby, led the seven of clubs, and East, Chip Martel, won with the ace. Fully expecting the club lead to be a singleton, Martel returned the club three.

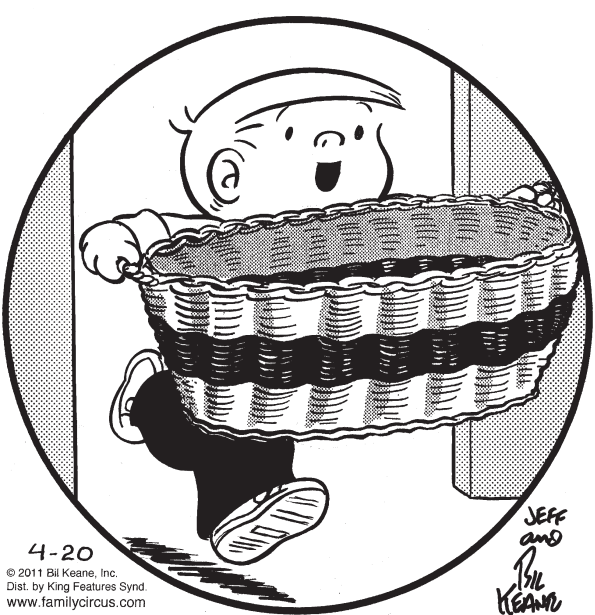
Obviously, the three of clubs was a suit-preference signal, directing West to return the lower-ranking of the two remaining suits. In this case, the two suits were spades and diamonds, and Martel did not have much to shout about in either. However, his diamonds were just the slightest bit better than his spades.

After ruffing South's king of clubs at trick two, Stansby no doubt eyed his 150 honors in the suit and wondered how East could be asking for a diamond return. But partnerships like this are made of strong stuff. So Stansby, demonstrating complete faith in his partner, returned the diamond five, and that was that. Martel won the trick with the nine and gave West another club ruff to set the contract.

If West had not underled his diamond honors at trick three, declarer would have made the contract, eventually discarding his losing club on dummy's fourth spade. But against a daring defense possessed of "The Curse of Scotland," he didn't have a ghost of a chance.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I found a basket to use for Easter!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/20

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

RWAK J GADBYK IJHTB BYIA

TAEEDB PHJ BJIA-XJZ

XATHPADZ, RYLTX ZYL BJZ

EWAZ'DA BAKE GYBE-WJBEA'

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FILM DIRECTOR MADE A GREAT FLICK ABOUT AFRICA, HE JUST MIGHT BE NICKNAMED JAMES CAMEROON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Postal deliveries
5 Conditions
8 H.S. juniors' hurdle
12 — dixit
13 Commotion
14 Heche or Hathaway
15 Winter weather occurrence
17 — tat-tat
18 Old saying
19 Laundry repository
21 8-Across, e.g.
24 Taxi
25 Socialist Eugene
28 Layer
30 Curvy letter
33 Exist
34 Courage
35 "Eureka!"
36 Lingerie item
37 Mimic

DOWN
23 Heterogeneous
25 Light touch
26 Mess up
27 Tall, thin type
29 Hibernia
31 That girl
32 Recent horror film
34 Auntie of Broadway
38 Palin
39 "Platoon" site, for short
41 Transaction
43 Off-tapped trees
46 Low operatic voice
50 "American —"
51 Directing principle
54 Red tag event
55 Whatever amount
56 Welles portrayal
57 Portent
58 Golf gizmo
59 Favorable votes
60 Initial chip
61 Rend
62 Gender
63 Farm fraction
64 Leading man?
65 Lovers' quarrel
67 Remain
68 Logical
69 Raw rocks
70 Indivisible
71 Caustic solution

Yesterday's answer 4-20

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			