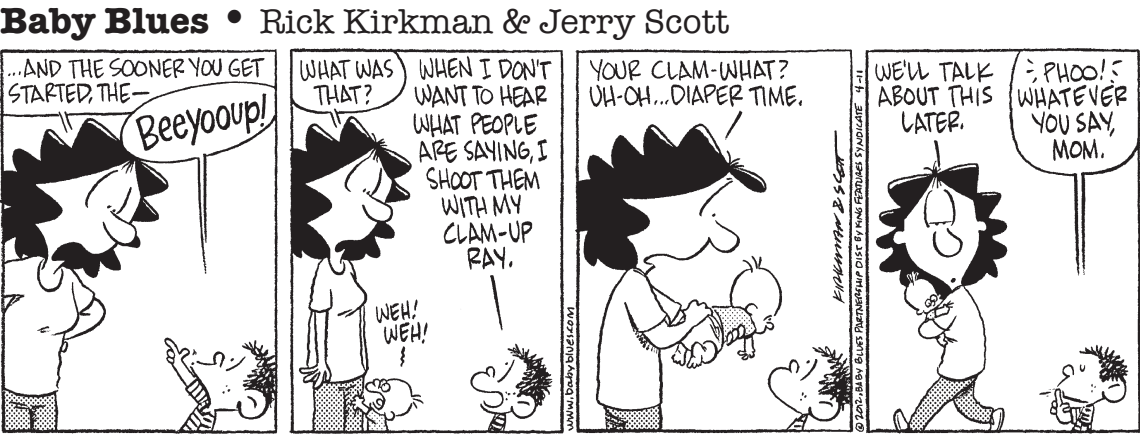
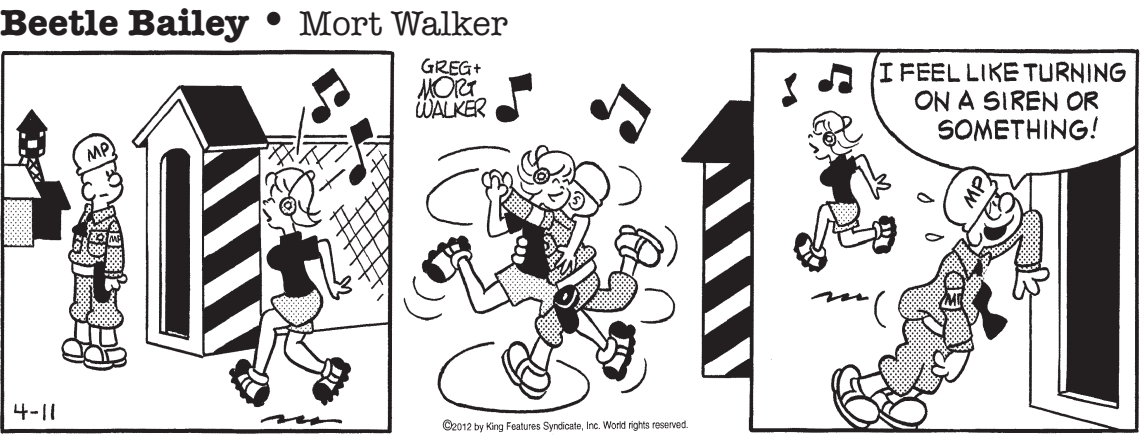
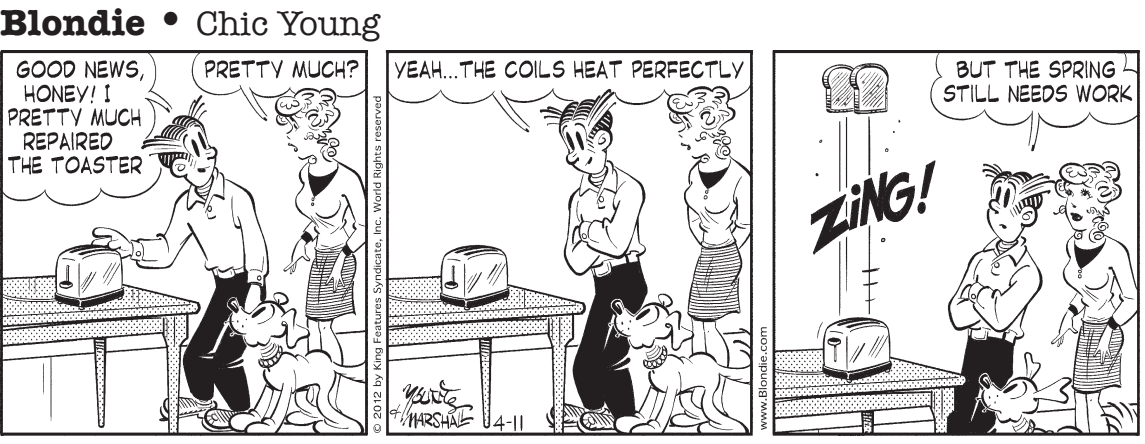
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



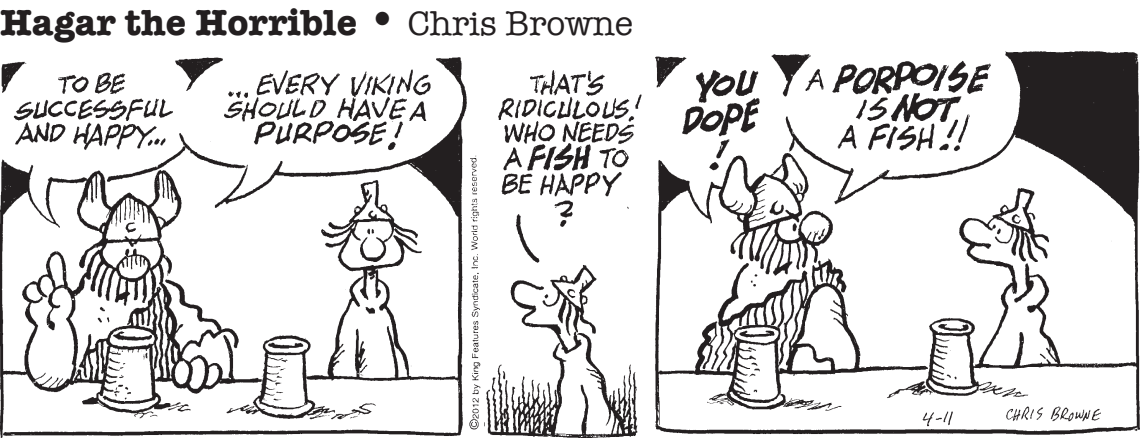
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



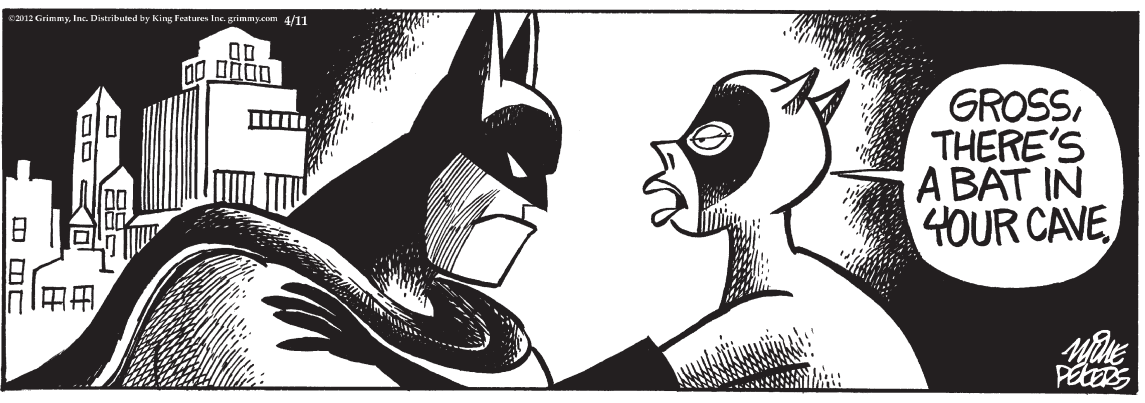
Blondie • Chic Young



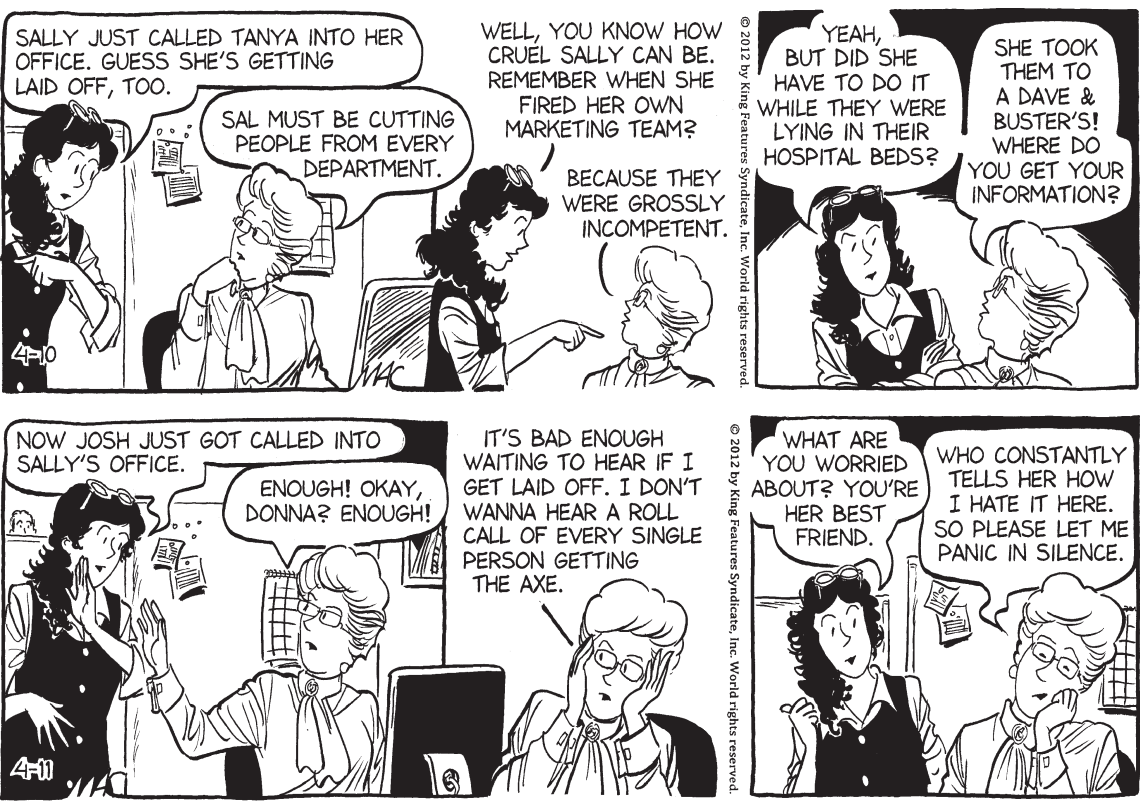
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



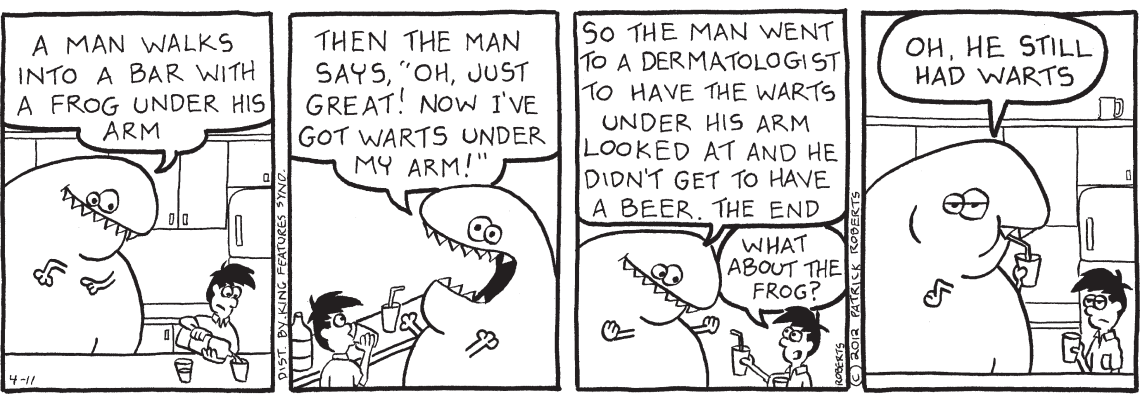
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Strawberries have their secrets

Dear Readers: Strawberries are delicious, and I love them for a "sweet" treat after a meal. Of course they go in cereal, smoothies, ice cream and salads. However, here are some "very berry" hints for you:

• After being picked, strawberries will not ripen any further. Buy them as red as possible, because any white, nonripe part will not ripen and turn red later.

• Plan to use them within one to two days.

• Do not rinse berries until you are ready to use them. Rinse under cold running water, but do NOT soak them. Then dry on paper towels.

• Store in the refrigerator in the package they came in, loosely covered with either paper towels or plastic wrap. I layer them between paper towels to help prevent mold and keep them fresh a few days longer. – Heloise

P.S.: Overripe strawberries? Smash with a fork and use on toast or waffles.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

LEFTOVER STORAGE

Dear Heloise: For years, I have put small bits of tomato paste, bruschetta sauce, pesto or canned pumpkin in an ice-cube tray. After it is frozen, I pop out the cubes and store them in a freezer container, separating the layers of cubes with wax paper. A plastic box is better than a freezer bag because it keeps the cubes from getting smashed.

A cube or two of canned pumpkin is great to add to a pot of vegetable soup or beef stew. It gives the liquid a beautiful color and adds a nice, subtle taste. – Virginia L. in San Antonio

LOW-SALT HINT

Dear Readers: Watching your salt (sodium) intake? Here's a fun hint to help! Take table salt and mix it with a few drops of food coloring (I use blue) in a bowl to change the color. Put the "colored" salt in the saltshaker you most often use. Now, when you add salt to the dish you are about to eat, you will be able to clearly see how much you're adding. – Heloise

CUTTING PIE

Dear Heloise: This is a hint for cutting that first piece of store-bought pie in an aluminum pan. First, slice the pie into the number of pieces you want. Next, take scissors and cut the pie tin down on each side of the first piece you want out. Bend the cut tin down and use a thin spatula to remove the first piece. Now you can get under the rest of the pieces easily. – Helen R., Austin, Minn.

NO-SLIP SERVICE

Dear Heloise: When using a cutting board, lay a paper towel on the counter and put a few drops of water in the center of the towel. This will keep your cutting board from slipping, and you can throw the paper towel away when the juice of what you are cutting creeps under the board. – Andrew W., Lexington, Ky.

(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 9 8 6 5
♥ Q 10 9 7 4
♦ J 5 3
♣ Q

EAST
♠ 10 4 3
♥ K J 3
♦ A K Q 10 8 7
♣ 5

SOUTH
♠ A K Q
♥ 5
♦ 6 4 2
♣ K 9 7 6 4 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣
Pass	5 ♣		

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

A Difference of Opinion

This deal occurred in a match between Canada and the United States and raises a question about the wisdom and efficacy of a vulnerable overcall on the two-level.

When Edgar Kaplan and Norman Kay held the North-South cards for the U.S., Kay bid two clubs over East's opening one-diamond bid. There would unquestionably be a difference of opinion among experts about whether one should make a vulnerable overcall on the two-level with a broken suit and three diamond losers, not to mention the added danger of partner's previous pass.

But Kay, whose tendency was to bid rather than pass in doubtful situations, certainly called the turn right when he ventured two clubs. He was promptly raised to five and easily made six.

If we exchange the North and West cards – both players had passed at their first opportunity and might have held either hand – it demonstrates the danger implicit in the overcall. In that case, Kay would have been doubled at two clubs and nicked for 800 points.

Of course, one hand doesn't prove a theory, and a two-club bid might or might not be right in the long run – I personally favor two clubs, despite the risk – but there is no doubt that Kay hit the target on this occasion.

The difference in philosophies was clearly demonstrated when the bidding at the second table, with Canada now North-South, went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	All Pass

The U.S. pair went down one at two diamonds on a hand where their opponents were laydown for six clubs and yet never uttered a peep!

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Should I start thinkin' about what to write on my Christmas list?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/09

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Cryptoquip

WUJPTY IPITMUF YZOEKF UOH YPOEVFZXKF BOPVO WPF SKF XZESXMD FZOEKH MPRBY PW SUZF: RTFMD YZJPO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE EYE DOCTORS' GALA, I RECKON THEY JUST LOUNGE AROUND ALL NIGHT TELLING CORNEA JOKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Greet the villain
4 Amusement park attraction
8 Sail holder
12 Grecian vessel
13 Jealousy
14 Malaria symptom
15 Long. crosser
16 Too rare
18 Swell
20 "CSI" evidence
21 Complaint
24 2012 TV series about a Broadway show
28 Cousteau's bailiwick
32 Reverberate
33 Witness
34 Ganges garments
36 Charged bit
37 One of the brass
39 Likely loser
41 Razor sharpener
43 Long tale
44 Upper limit, for short
46 Gift of the Magi
50 Sap
55 Debtor's letters
56 Santa's laundry problem
57 Similar (to)
58 Playground game
59 St. Louis landmark
60 Calendar abbr.
61 Commotion

DOWN
1 Socket insert
2 Exam format
3 Aware of
4 AP competitor
5 Hostel
6 Netflix offering
7 Kept tabs on
8 Butterfly or Bovary
9 Past
10 Early riser?
11 Golf gadget
17 Hosp. staffers
19 Honest politician
22 Birthright barterer
23 Flowerless plants
25 Alkali neutralizer
26 "Get lost!"
27 — Kong
28 Works with
29 Barbershop call
30 Antelope's playmate
31 Verdi opera
35 Part
38 "The Iceman —"
40 Shaft of light
42 Standard
45 Opening day?
47 Hayworth or Moreno
48 Thoroughfare
49 "Les Miserables" author
50 N.A. nation
51 Neither mate
52 Happy companion?
53 White House nickname
54 Pinch

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	O	W	S	■	G	O	V	■	T	S	A	R	
A	N	A	T	O	L	I	A	■	H	O	P	E	
F	O	R	E	T	E	L	L	■	R	O	S	A	
■	■	■	P	I	N	■	K	R	O	N	E	R	
W	R	A	P	S	■	D	Y	A	N	■	■	■	
H	E	R	E	■	F	O	R	G	E	R	Y	■	
Y	E	N	■	E	R	N	I	E	■	O	A	F	
■	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	■	P	O	L	E	
■	■	■	A	R	I	A	■	W	A	K	E	N	
P	R	I	V	E	T	■	E	A	R	■	■	■	
L	E	V	I	■	F	O	R	C	E	F	U	L	
A	L	A	N	■	U	N	I	O	N	I	Z	E	
N	O	N	E	■	L	E	E	■	T	R	I	G	

Yesterday's answer 4-11

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			