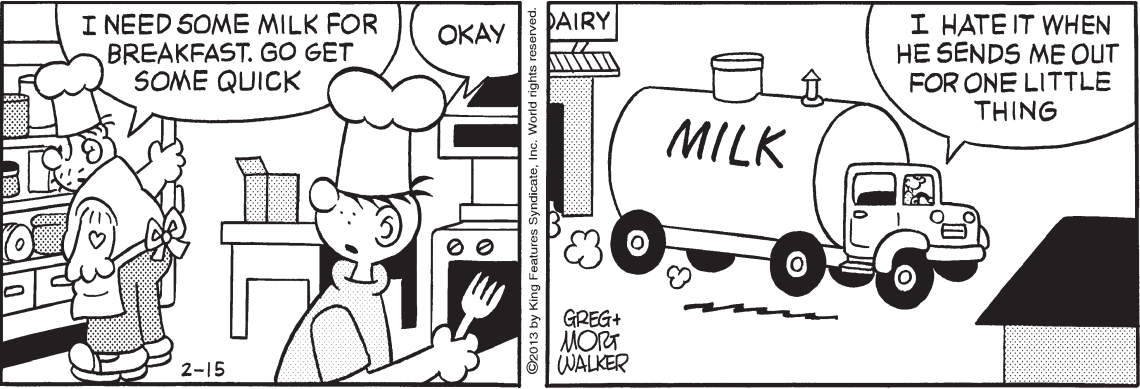


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



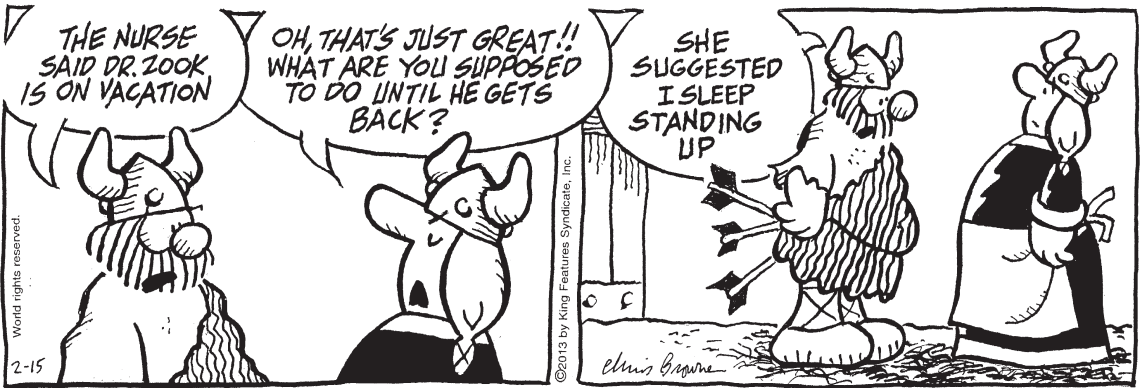
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



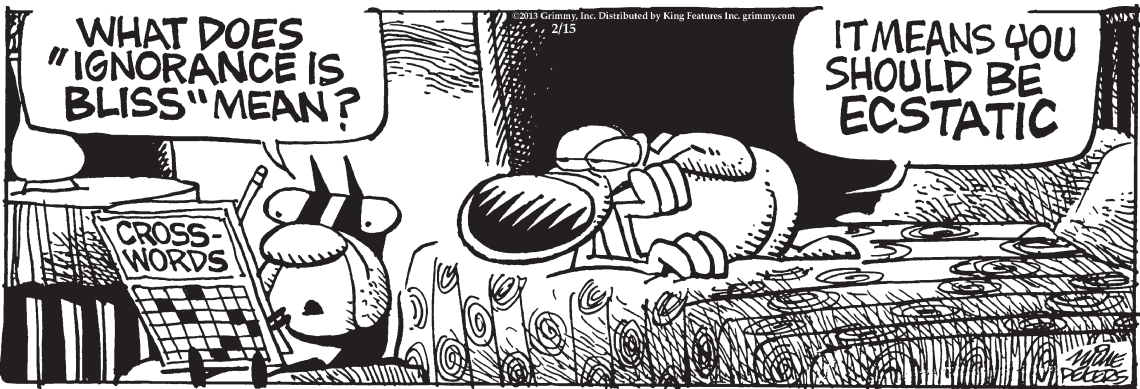
Blondie • Chic Young



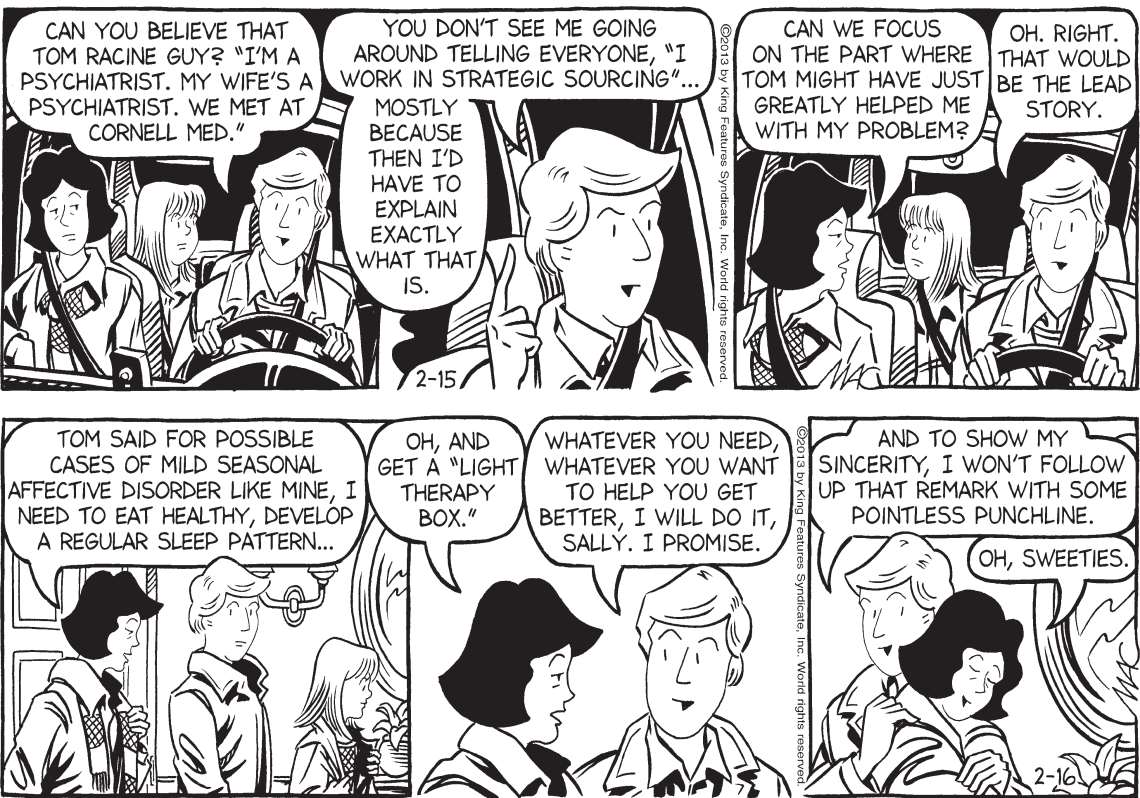
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



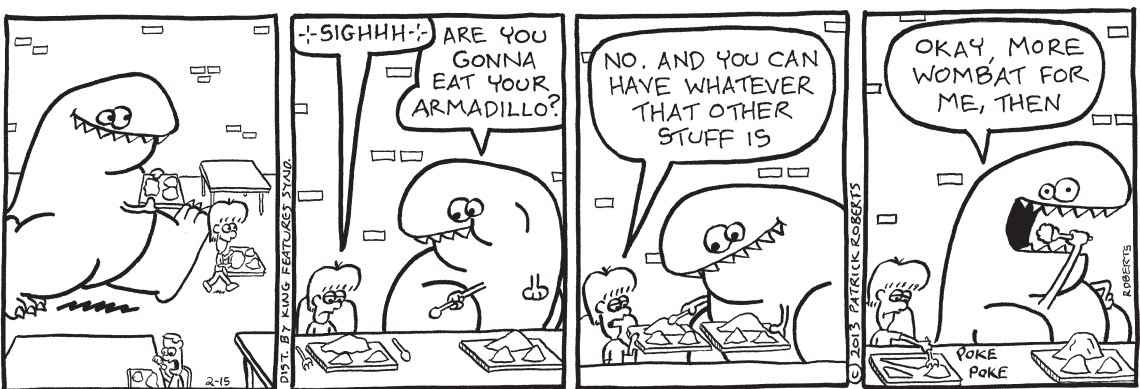
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Reduce volume of extra catalogs

Dear Heloise: What can one do about the volume of unsolicited catalogs that keep coming (Heloise here: especially during the holiday season – actually, all year long!)? What a waste of paper, and it’s extremely annoying! I can get 25 to 30 in one mail delivery, and I have never even heard of most of them. Is there any solution besides calling each one individually? I and many others would love some help and suggestions with this. Thank you! – Barbara in Arizona

Barbara, I hear you, and the millions of my readers do, too! For the mounds and pounds of unsolicited commercial mail and catalogs, you can register online with the Direct Marketing Association’s Mail Preference Service at www.dmachoice.org. You may mail your request (with a \$1 processing fee) to: DMA choice, Direct Marketing Association, Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512.

For unsolicited credit or insurance offers, the Federal Trade Commission recommends going to www.optoutprescreen.com or calling (888) 5-OPT-OUT. Operated by major consumer-reporting companies, you have the choice of opting out for five years or permanently.

While these may not get rid of all of your unwanted mail, it definitely will help reduce the amount you see in your mailbox. – Heloise
SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

EAT RIGHT

Dear Heloise: My toddler wasn’t eating as much as usual. When we put him in his highchair, he just refused to eat. Finally, one day, I let him sit in one of the regular chairs at our table. He ate!

Apparently, he just wanted to be a “big boy” and eat at the table with my husband and me. He now has a booster seat and eats every meal at the table. – A Reader, via e-mail

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Readers: On an airplane trip years ago, I learned a valuable lesson. I wore my cowboy boots. Once on board, I removed my boots to be comfortable during the long flight. (Yes, I had on clean socks and my slip-on “footies.”)

Several hours later when the plane landed, I could not get my feet back into my boots! My feet had swollen due to the altitude. Note to self and readers: Wear loose-fitting shoes on a flight.

Luckily, I had that pair of slippers. I stuffed my boots into my carry-on and acted like nothing was wrong! – Heloise

DRIVING NO-NO

Dear Heloise: This may be common sense. My dad taught me that when you’re waiting to turn left at an intersection, do not start turning your wheel. If someone rear-ends you, since your tires are already starting to turn, you can be pushed into oncoming traffic. – Kellie in Illinois
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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts, which you win with the queen as South follows low. **How would you play the hand?**

West ♠ A K Q 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ A K Q 3 ♣ A K Q	East ♠ 6 5 4 3 ♥ A K Q ♦ 2 ♣ 6 5 4 3 2
---	---

Test Your Play

If either the spades or the clubs are divided 3-2, you have 13 tricks, so you should start by assuming that both suits are divided unfavorably – that is, 4-1 or 5-0.

The contract cannot be defeated – no matter how the cards are divided – if you play properly. You might have to execute a squeeze, but to accomplish it you must be careful to cash your tricks in the right order.

You start by playing the A-K of spades and A-K of clubs. When you do, you might discover (1) that one opponent has both of these suits guarded, or (2) that each opponent has one suit guarded.

In case No. 1, the squeeze is accomplished by simply cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds, queen of clubs and A-K of hearts, ending in dummy. As these cards are cashed, you discard a spade and a club from dummy and a diamond from your hand, leaving this position:

West ♠ Q 2	East ♠ 6 ♣ 6
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The opponent with both black suits guarded is down to two cards also and was forced to unguard one of those suits when the last heart was cashed. Whether he relinquished a club or a spade, that discard was fatal.

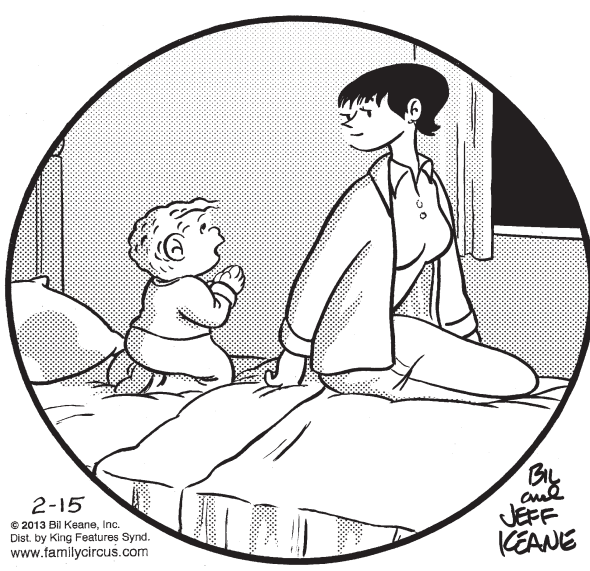
In case No. 2, you continue by cashing both black queens, followed by the A-K of hearts, to bring about this position:

West ♦ A K Q 3	East ♦ 6 ♦ 2 ♣ 6 5
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By now the squeeze (called a double squeeze because both opponents feel the pinch) has already worked. The opponent with the spade guard could not keep more than three diamonds, and the opponent with the club guard likewise could not keep more than three diamonds. The A-K-Q-3 of diamonds therefore win the last four tricks.

Of course, if either opponent relinquishes his guard in either black suit, you would discard the three of diamonds on the established club or spade before cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

2/15

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

Cryptoquip

PREWJAR AGR FCAXWHHRV

XGZAR QZZB XFHRA WHH PU

GRQARHB, F NJRAA AGR V FV

F X A G F C N H R - G W C V R V H U .

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: SINCE MY SELECTION OF CHOCOLATES IS MORE SUFFICIENT THAN YOURS, IS IT AN AMPLER SAMPLER?

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: V equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| ACROSS
1 Cleo’s slayer
4 — de deux
7 Ornamental loop
12 Neither mate
13 Performance
14 Wahine’s greeting
15 Excessively
16 Intercom speaker
18 “Impossible”
19 African capital
20 At the home of (Fr.)
22 “— be an honor”
23 Maja painter
27 Table scrap
29 Luxury stadium seating
31 Italian isle
34 Put one’s two cents in
35 Fridge | 37 Insult (Sl.)
38 Ten (Pref.)
39 Anger
41 Vacillate
45 Foolish
47 Chaps
48 Chest for money
52 Type measures
53 Minimum
54 Corroded
55 “Gosh!”
56 “Whoop-ee!”
57 Sleuth
58 Pismire | 4 History
5 Find not guilty
6 Action-film sequence
7 Fido’s feet
8 Sort
9 Corn castoff
10 “So that’s it, eh?”
11 Earner’s burden
17 Helps
21 1964 Anthony Quinn role
23 “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” musical | 24 Sapporo sash
25 Thither
26 Lumberjack’s prop
28 Carnival site
30 Pond carp
31 Spanish literary hero
32 Expert
33 Chest muscle, for short
36 Intersection, on signs
37 Indicate
40 Moroccan city
42 Last letter
43 Mid-eastern land
44 Beginning
45 Division word
46 CEO, e.g.
48 Crafty
49 Earl Grey, e.g.
50 “Go, team!”
51 Bear, in Barcelona |
|---|--|---|---|

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday’s answer 2-15

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		