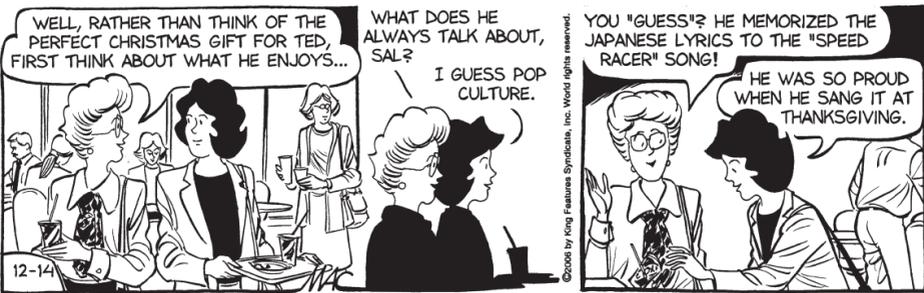


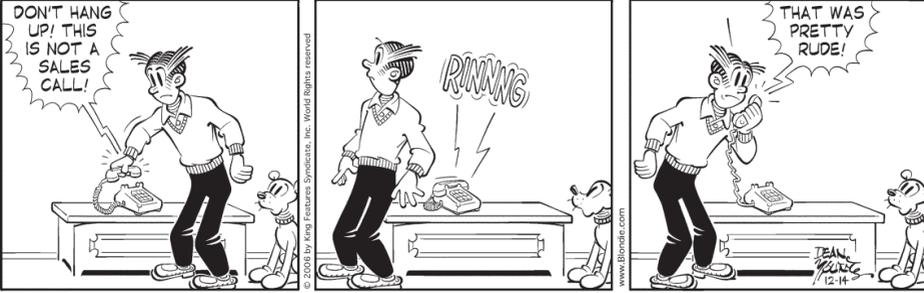
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



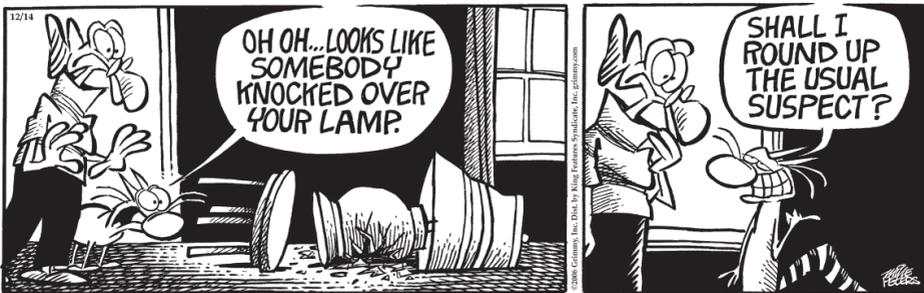
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/14

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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/14

Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 6 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ A K 9 5 3
♣ A J

WEST
♠ K Q 10 9
♥ K 6 2
♦ 7
♣ 9 7 6 5 2

EAST
♠ 8 7 5 4 3
♥ J 9 8 7
♦ —
♣ 10 8 4 3

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♦ Pass
Opening lead — king of spades.

A Delectable Concoction

South's interest in getting to a grand slam on this deal was well-founded.

Once partner had responded with three diamonds and followed by showing two aces in response to Blackwood, South was correct to inquire about the number of kings North held by bidding five notrump.

South was willing to undertake seven diamonds if partner responded six hearts, showing two kings.

In that case, if they were the red kings, there would be no losers, while if the kings were in spades and diamonds, one heart loser would go off on the spade king and the other on the ace of clubs, provided the North hand contained as many as three clubs.

As matters turned out, with North having only one king and only two clubs, South had his hands full making six.

The correct play to assure the slam is not immediately apparent, even if the opponents' cards are known. But South found the answer where a less-thoughtful declarer might easily have overlooked the winning stroke.

After taking the ace of spades, the question is how to avoid losing two heart tricks.

If declarer eliminates both spades and clubs from dummy's hand and his own, he is still subject to defeat when he leads a heart from dummy, whether he finesses the queen or allows East's seven to hold the trick. In fact, had South followed this line of play, he would have gone down.

Instead, South led a diamond to the king and trumped the six of spades. He then cashed two clubs, ending in dummy.

The jack of spades was next led, but instead of trumping it, South discarded the five of hearts!

The five was bound to be a loser in any case, but by disposing of it on the spade jack, the defense was placed in a hopeless position.

West took the queen of spades, but any return he made spelled defeat. Discarding a loser on a loser made South a winner.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|---------|
| ACROSS | 1 Pack down | 5 Use a gripping tool | 9 Exploit | 12 Frost | 13 Wind instrument | 14 Promptly | 15 Weaken | 17 Easter purchase | 18 Deem appropriate | 19 Talk a blue streak? | 21 Psyche component | 22 Cut through | 24 Essential point | 27 Chart format | 28 Moist | 31 Crib | 32 Genetist's abbr. | 33 Caviar base | 34 Pop | 36 Ump's call | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOWN | 1 So | 2 Top-notch | 3 Put together | 4 Pro or con? | 5 Country singer | 6 Kimono closer | 7 "Smoking or —?" | 8 Skein members | 9 Deodorant area | 10 Sauce zone | 11 Basin accessory | 16 Disen-cumber | 20 Bankroll | 22 Nasal passage | 23 Passion | 24 Couric's network | 25 Hope-Crosby | 26 "Road" destination | 27 Likely loser | 28 Ball in a gym? | 29 Cattle call | 30 "Married ... With Children" mom | 35 Do some down-sizing | 37 Spit in the food? | 39 Entertain | 40 "Days of — Lives" | 41 Estate recipient | 42 "... can't get up!" | 43 Small plateau | 44 Withered | 45 Deposited | 46 Enrages | 49 Enthusiast | 50 Lair |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-14

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			

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

MN T HTDMW-ELYNVYHMUD
MDITUT FIHHVULB IE T
FUVXFJVYH, MJ WVIPB QL T
PMCTYB XMCTYB QPMCCTYB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU BREAK UP ARSENIC CLUMPS WITH A MINER'S TOOL, MIGHT YOU BE PICKING YOUR POISON?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Z