

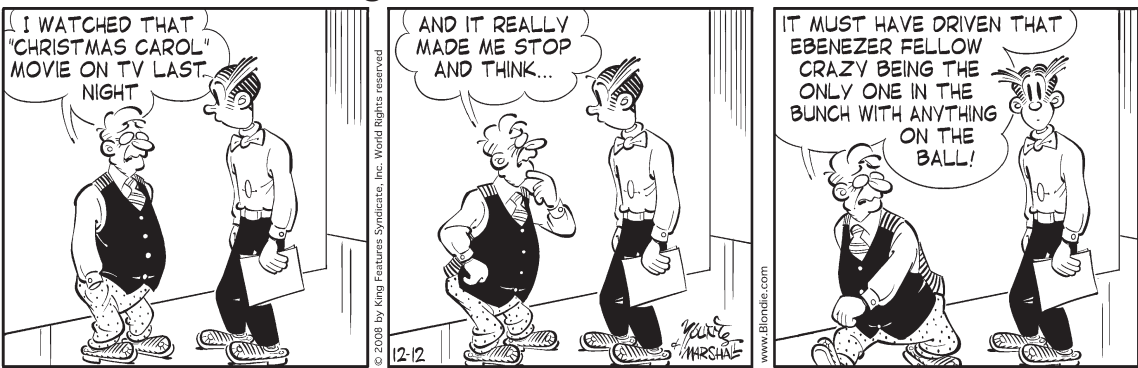
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



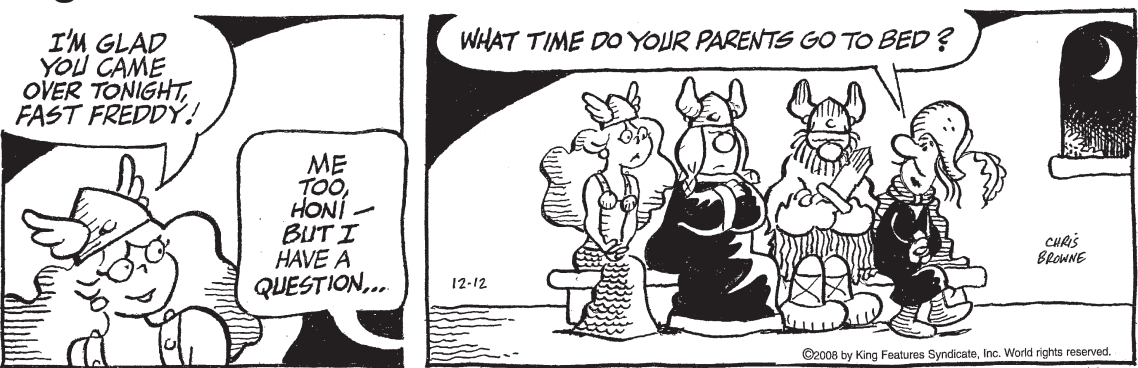
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



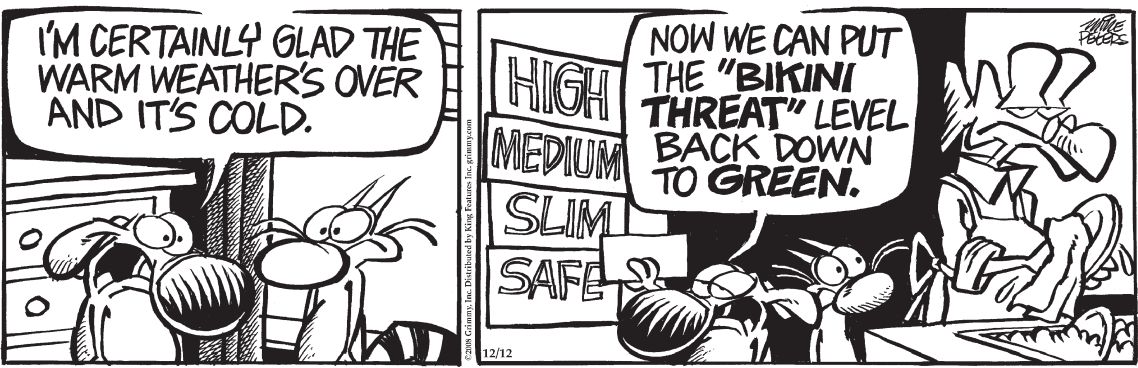
Blondie • Chic Young



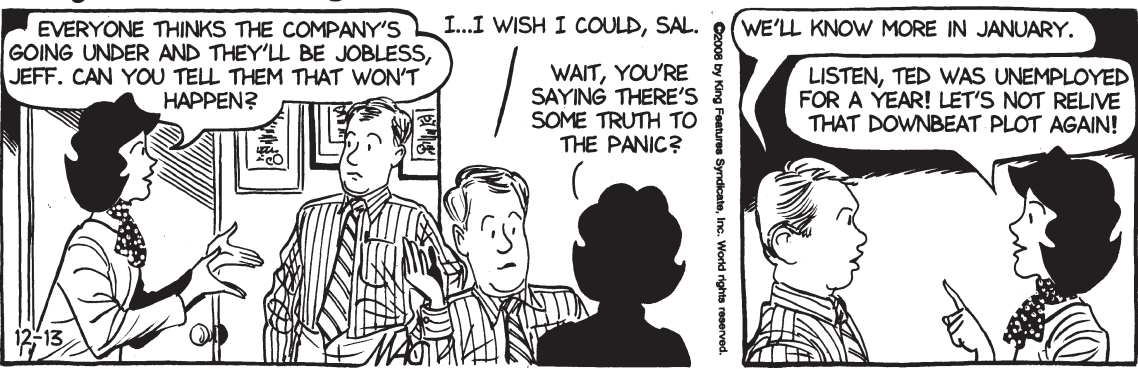
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



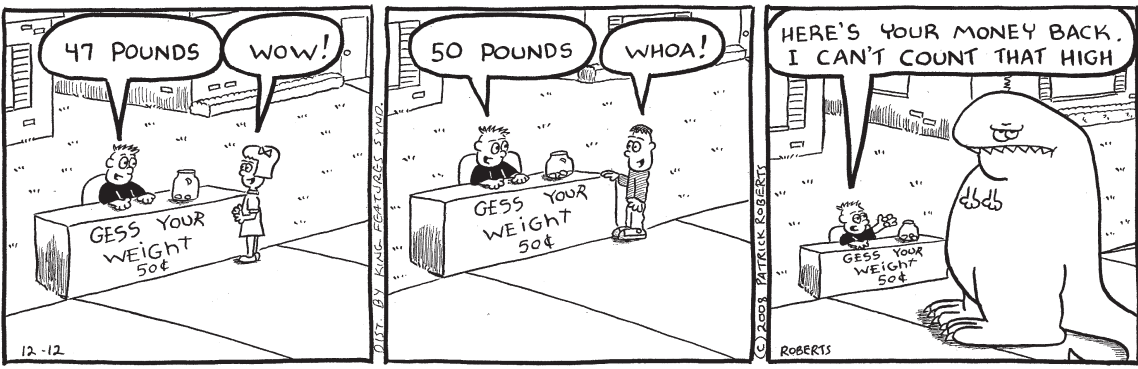
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/13

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/12

Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the jack of clubs, South following with the deuce. How would you play the hand?

West	East
♠ Q 8 5 3	♠ A 6 2
♥ A K 4	♥ 9 5 3
♦ A K 9	♦ 8 4 2
♣ A K Q	♣ 7 6 4 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Notrump, and North leads the jack of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

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

Test Your Play

1. Win the club lead with the queen and play the ace next. If both opponents follow suit, cash the king of clubs, hoping for a 3-3 division that will give you your ninth trick.

If the clubs prove to be divided 4-2, lead a low spade and also play low from dummy! Then, after winning the heart or diamond return, play a low spade to the ace. Assuming nothing noteworthy occurs, next lead a spade toward your Q-8.

This line of play will make the contract if: (1) the opposing clubs divide 3-3; (2) either opponent has the singleton king of spades; (3) either opponent has the doubleton king of spades; (4) the opposing spades divide 3-3; (5) South has any number of spades including the king.

Note that your low spade play from each hand the first time you lead the suit covers the case where North has the K-x, which you wouldn't discover if you started the suit by playing the ace and another spade to the queen. This delicate safety play significantly increases your chances of making the contract.

2. The contract cannot be defeated, regardless of how the opposing cards are distributed. Win the diamond lead with the king and play the ace of clubs followed by a low club toward dummy. If the missing clubs are divided 3-2, you have 12 easy tricks, so let's assume they're 4-1 or 5-0.

If North has four or five clubs to the K-10, he cannot afford to go up with the king at trick three because then you'd have 12 tricks. Let's therefore say he plays low on the second club, and you win the trick with dummy's jack. After South shows out, you return to your hand with a diamond and lead the jack of spades, planning to finesse if North follows low. This assures you of 12 tricks wherever the spade queen is located.

If South is the one with four or five clubs to the K-10, he wins dummy's jack of clubs with the king, but this leaves you with a marked finesse against South's ten for your 12th trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-12

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"How come these are all exactly the same?"

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Standard score
- 4 Medicos
- 8 Benefit
- 12 A mean Amin
- 13 Maze goal
- 14 Stop up
- 15 Nickname for football's George Halas
- 17 Hodge-podge
- 18 High-IQ sort
- 19 Wall St. debut
- 21 Caviar base
- 22 Hit repeatedly
- 26 Sacrifice site
- 29 Shriner's chapeau
- 30 Before
- 31 U.K. conservative
- 32 Seafood selection
- 33 Soft cheese
- 34 Harem room
- 35 Grow
- 36 Ship of the desert
- 37 Apple variety
- 39 Book-spine abbr.
- 40 Literary collection
- 41 Fleet
- 45 Cereal choice
- 48 Litter member
- 50 Indonesian island
- 51 Cupid's alias
- 52 2-Down's companion
- 53 Stylish
- 54 Paddock parent
- 55 Homer's neighbor

DOWN

- 1 Knight's backup
- 2 Leading man?
- 3 Philbin co-host
- 4 Credit card user
- 5 Daisy variety
- 6 U.S. spy org.
- 7 Like some shirts
- 8 Ice cream utensil
- 9 Every iota
- 10 Japanese pond fish
- 11 Diva's problem
- 16 Splendid setup
- 20 Dispensable candy
- 23 Salon request
- 24 Ontario's neighbor
- 25 Stagger
- 26 Having sur-mounted
- 27 California city
- 28 Snare
- 29 A clever person
- 32 Hors d'oeuvres
- 33 Mild
- 35 Victory
- 36 Bit part in a who-dunit
- 38 "War of the Worlds" effect
- 39 Smoke or fog
- 42 Mideast gulf
- 43 Peace symbol
- 44 On in years
- 45 English channel?
- 46 "Go, team!"
- 47 "The Greatest"
- 49 Spoon-bender

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-12

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip
12-12 CRYPTOQUIP

LUQ TZQTIZ, AZPHLFMW QYZV
LEZ PZCL XZLEQA LQ CEOL
H AQQV, UZVZ WFYFMW
LEZ FV KIQCFMW H WOXZMLC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I MYSELF PROBABLY WON'T USE MUCH CURRY, BUT IF YOU DO, THEN I SAY "MORE POWDER TO YOU!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P