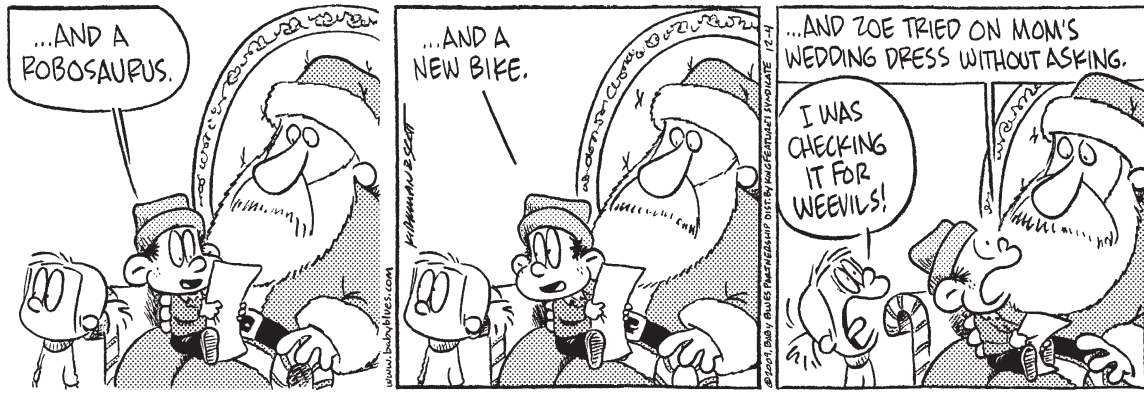
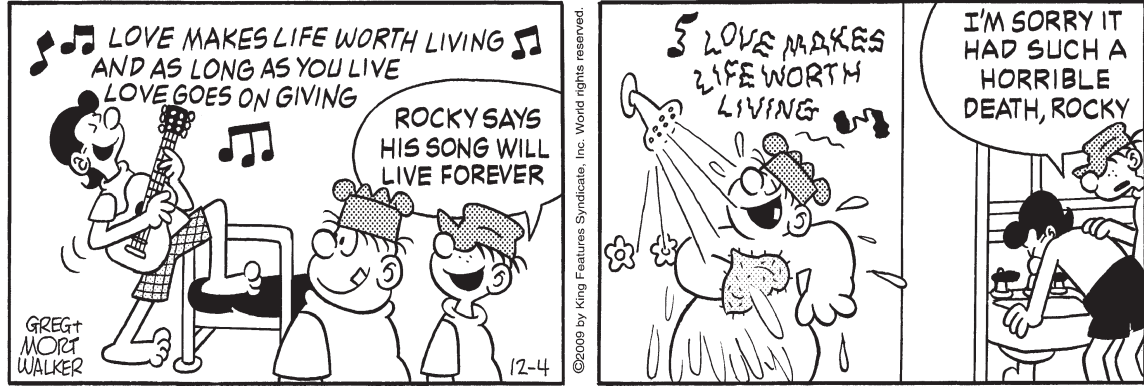


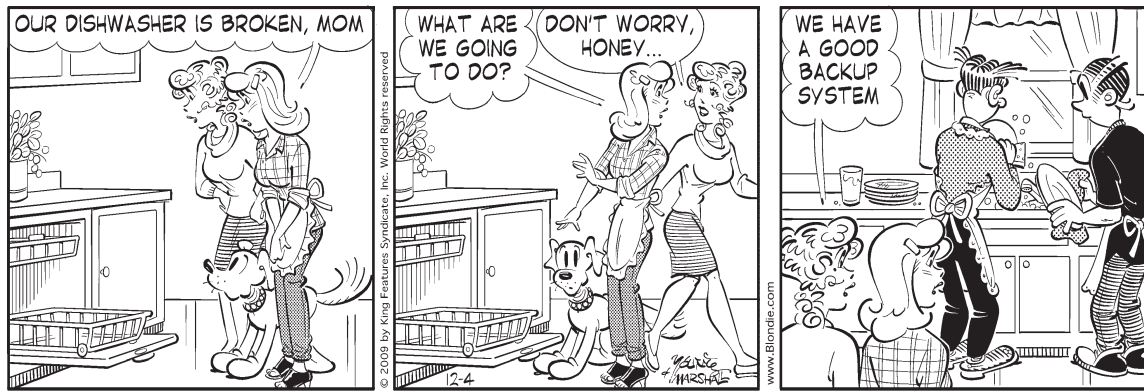
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



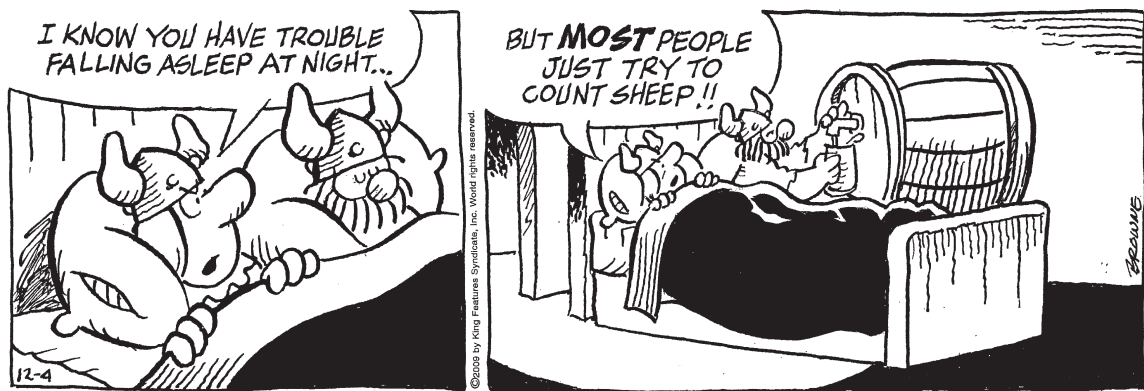
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



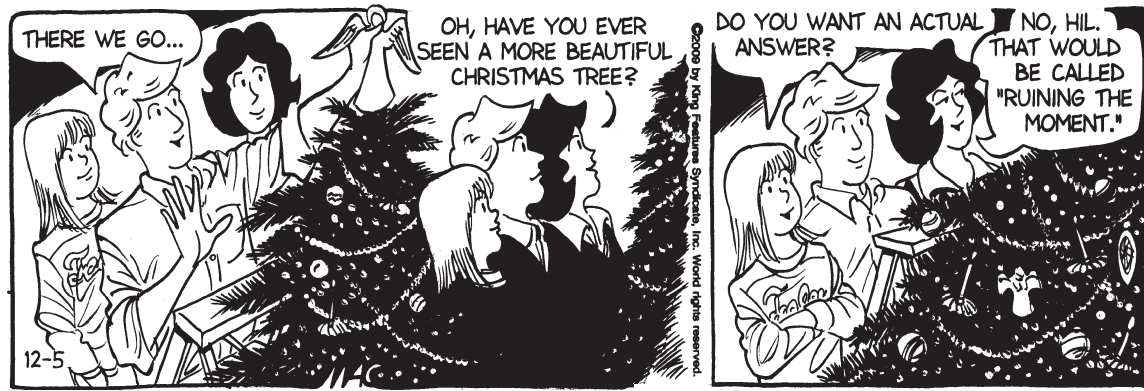
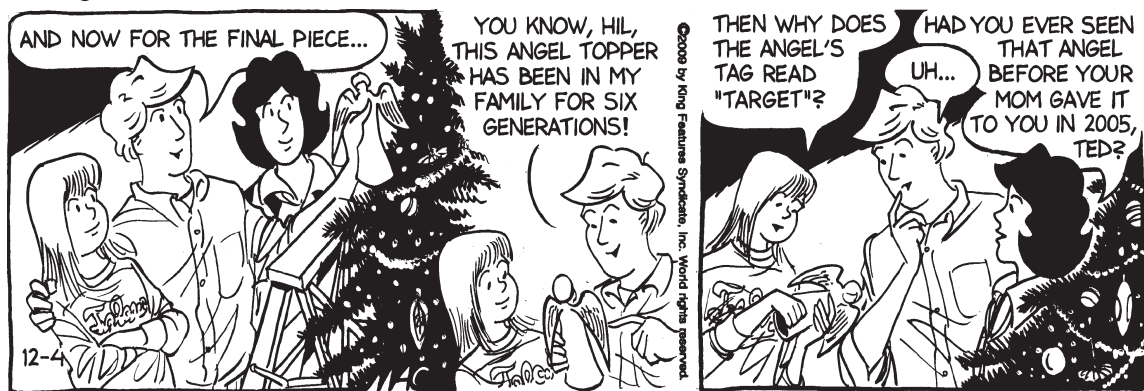
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



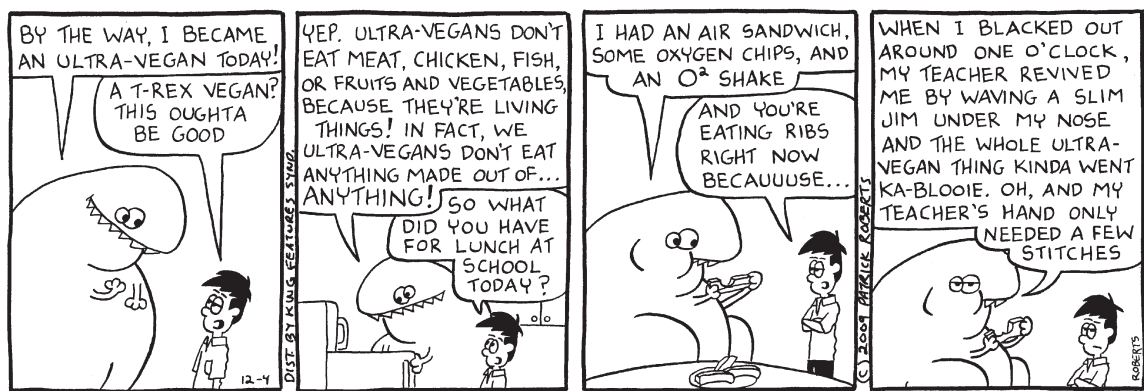
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



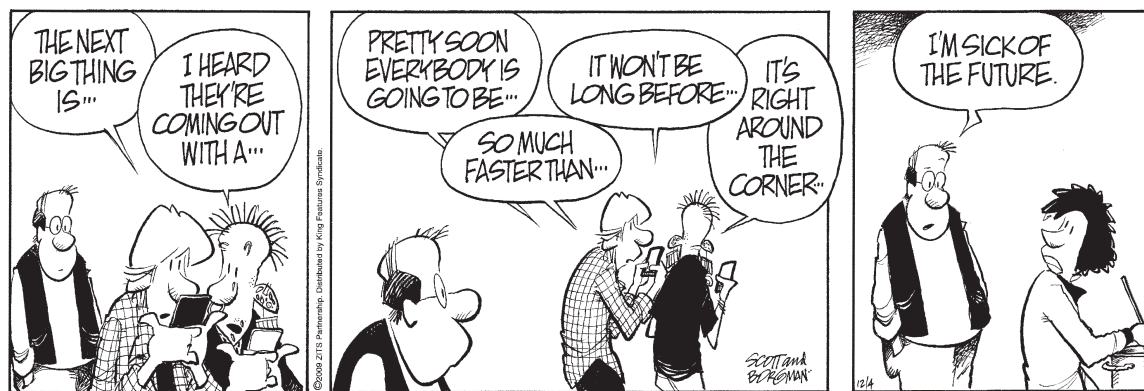
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Here's hints for the road

Dear Heloise: Here are a few of my favorite TRAVEL HINTS that I've used for years, and they all work great:

- I put an ice chest in the front passenger seat and keep water, soda, sandwiches, etc., in it. When I stop for a break, I can very easily remove the lid and eat a snack, and not spend money on drive-thrus or restaurants.
 - I purchased a small dishpan that I put all my tour books in, along with maps for each state, plus printed-out driving directions. No more looking for them, as they're all in one place. I put receipts (gas/motel) in this pan so they won't be lost.
 - I have one of those rubber shelf-liner gripper mats, which I place on top of my ice chest, and I can set my dishpan on top of that and it won't move while driving.
 - I have a Global Positioning System, but as most people know, it is not always accurate. Before I take my trip, I use one of the Internet sites that give free driving directions. Once my routes have been printed off, I put them in my dishpan in the order of my stops.
 - I enter the name/phone number of each motel I plan on staying at into my cell phone. If for I won't be arriving on the date I'd planned, I can call so I won't be charged. — Linda, via e-mail
- Good travel hints when making a trip by auto. A few stops for snacks and drinks can really add up. You can save a lot of money by packing your own. — Heloise

BED MAKING

Dear Heloise: Recently, someone wrote in about sheets fit the mattress in one direction better than the other. The person suggested putting a safety pin on a certain corner. I marked one corner with an indelible marker, but then found I sometimes had to search too many corners to find the marked one. Now I mark two corners diagonally across from each other, and I know that they should be at the bottom of one side of the mattress and the top of the other side. — Robert, via e-mail

PHOTOS

Dear Heloise: As I have time, I am scanning old photos into my computer. I did ask my mother before she passed away who were in some of the pictures. Many she knew, but some she did not. If I don't know some people, I e-mail other family members, and they usually know who the people are. This is a long-term project, as I work and have other interests. However, when completed, I will put captions on the photos and put them on CDs. — Ted B., via e-mail

WINDOW CLEANER

Dear Heloise: Keep a bottle of window cleaner in the bathroom. It's great for a quick cleaning, especially when unexpected company drops by. — Judy, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Test Your Play

Amusing incidents occasionally occur in major tournaments. For example, there was the time some years ago when a young Polish pair, representing their country for the first time in the annual world championship, arrived at a dreadful grand-slam contract. After the opening lead was made and dummy appeared, declarer could see that his partner had overbid his values by at least two tricks. Declarer looked at the dummy, then looked at his partner and said: "That dummy is an insult to Poland!"

If you were West on the following layout, you might have similar feelings if you reached Six Spades due to partner's overoptimism after you opened two notrump. However, they don't allow you to back up and change the contract, so the question is how to proceed after North leads the ten of clubs (assume the missing trumps divide 3-1 or 2-2).

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

The only genuine chance for the slam is to find South with the doubleton K-Q of clubs, as well as the king of diamonds. Accordingly, you play a low club from dummy, and South, luckily for you, produces the queen.

You next cash three rounds of trumps (South turns up with three of them) and continue with the A-K and another heart, ruffing in dummy. Now you play the club five, taken by South with the king. You hope South will return a diamond away from the king, which would hand you the slam, but he smartly exits with a heart instead.

After discarding a diamond from your hand and ruffing the heart with dummy's last trump, you return the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. Miraculously, you are now on the verge of making the contract if North holds the jack of diamonds. You hope he started with a hand such as:

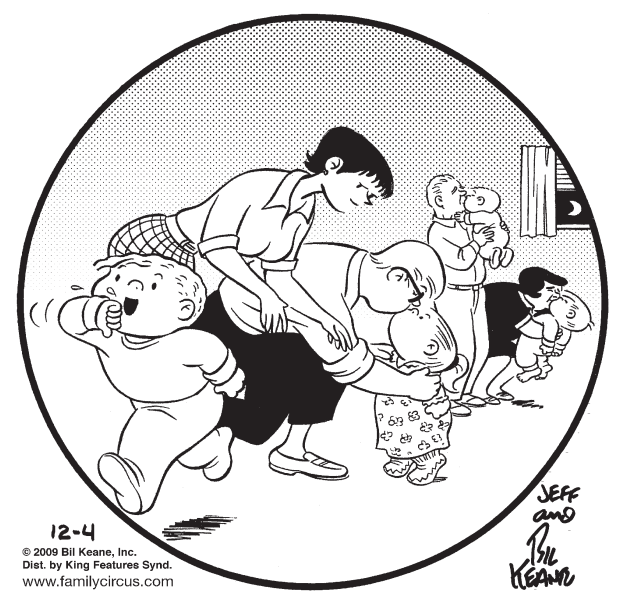
[S] 5 [H] Q1082 [D] J843 [C] 10987

If that's what he was dealt, he will be a dead duck when you next play the queen of spades in this position:

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| North | East |
| ♦ J | ♦ 5 |
| ♣ 9 8 | ♣ J 6 |
| West | South |
| ♦ Q | ♦ 9 7 6 |
| ♦ 10 | |
| ♣ 3 | |

Whatever North discards on the spade queen, you make the slam. Of course, you must also be sure to congratulate your brilliant partner on his sagacity in contracting for such a dreadful slam! (c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-4
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/04

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.

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

Cryptoquip

LGRWNOC WF HQWNQ DMYDCM

OGIWKWYF PYA O AYCM WF

ONKAMRR CMONQLOF'R FMH

PWCL: "O NCYAWR CWF.M."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SEVERAL NATIONS ARE FIGHTING OVER SEEDLESS ORANGES, WOULD YOU SAY THAT IS NAVEL WARFARE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Subordinate
- Clauses
- Kreskin's claim
- Performance
- Percolate
- Multi-purpose truck
- Shad product
- Special domain
- Masked bandit?
- Not so hot
- Pumps up the volume
- Miss Piggy's pronoun
- Tibetan beast
- Wooden box
- Twinge, as of hunger
- Indistinct
- Tale of Danny and Sandy
- Legendary monster, familiarly

DOWN

- Haile Selassie disciple
- "Smooth Operator" singer
- Humdinger
- Historic time
- Anti
- Decorative case for pins
- Cheap Monopoly avenue
- Dionysus' alias
- Speechify
- Will Smith biopic
- Raw rock
- "Psycho" setting
- "Comin' Thro' the —"
- Conclusion
- Furtive sort
- Bygone times, in bygone times
- Romanian coin
- H1N1 defense
- Reverberate
- As a wallflower might
- Archimedes' cry
- Chest muscle, for short
- 9 Scents
- 11 Take over
- 17 Loving touch
- 19 Barry and Brubeck
- 21 Auto ad stat
- 22 Rowing need
- 24 Prompt
- 26 Vampire deterrent
- 28 Deform by twisting
- 30 Put into words
- 32 Pouchlike
- 33 "— not choose to run"
- 34 Bard's nightfall
- 36 Back-combed
- 38 Preclude
- 39 Leghorn's locale
- 40 Desi Jr.'s sister
- 42 Fermi's bits
- 45 Scorch
- 46 Unyielding tool
- 48 Weeding
- 50 Jetsam of 1773
- 51 Wapati

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | U | L | T | A | B | S | W | A | T |
| U | R | S | A | A | G | O | E | A | C | H |
| R | E | E | D | R | E | M | T | I | R | E |
| L | A | R | I | A | T | B | A | T | T | E |
| | | | E | M | U | P | A | R | | |
| E | L | M | S | F | O | R | T | R | E | S |
| B | O | A | F | B | I | S | O | | | |
| B | U | T | T | R | E | S | S | I | S | L |
| | | | T | A | N | O | H | | | |
| D | O | R | S | A | L | T | I | D | I | E |
| A | B | E | T | O | U | T | I | D | E | A |
| R | O | S | E | F | R | O | N | O | L | L |
| N | E | S | S | T | I | S | E | L | S | E |

Yesterday's answer 12-4

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | |