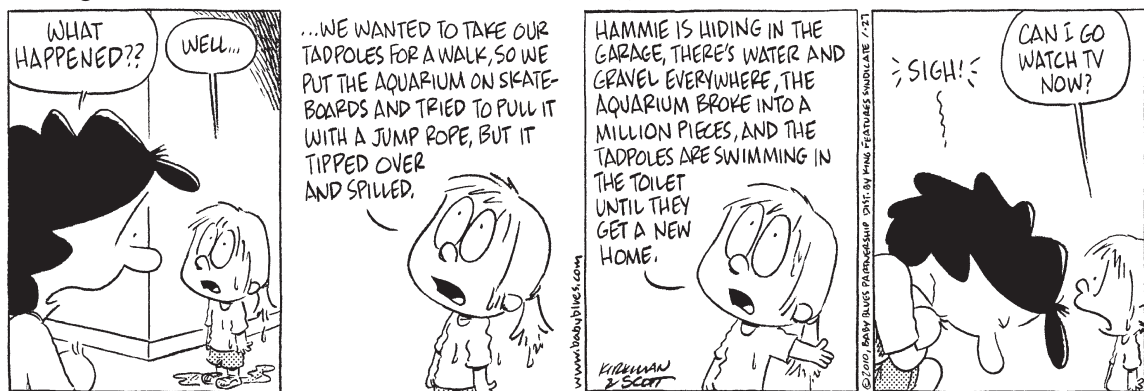


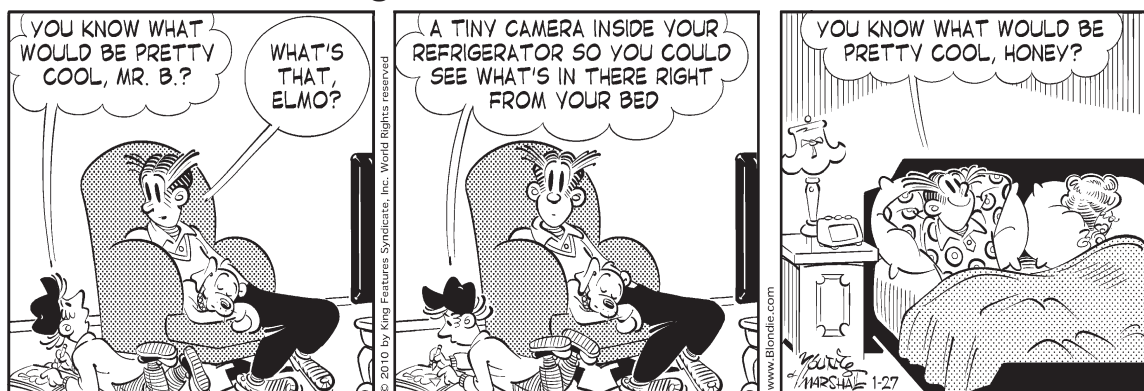
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



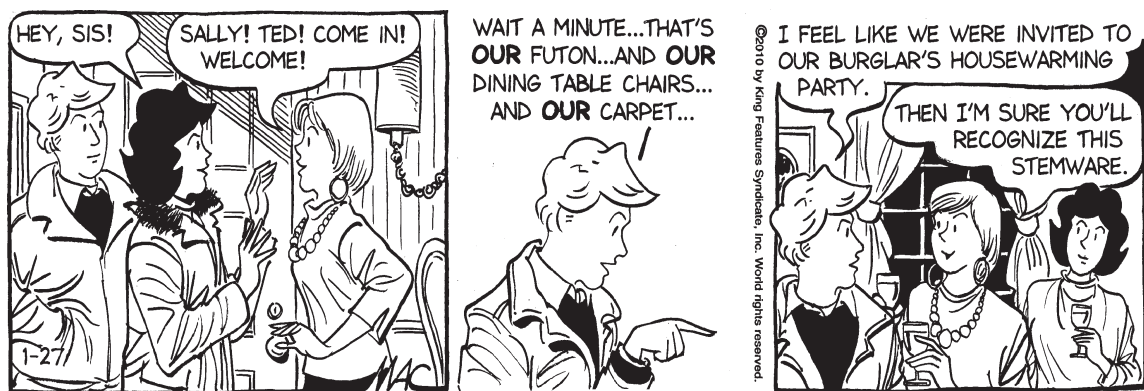
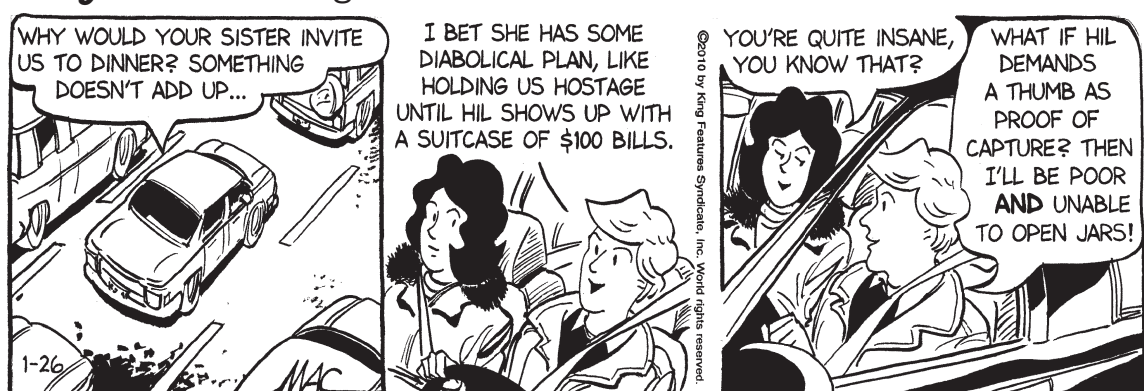
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



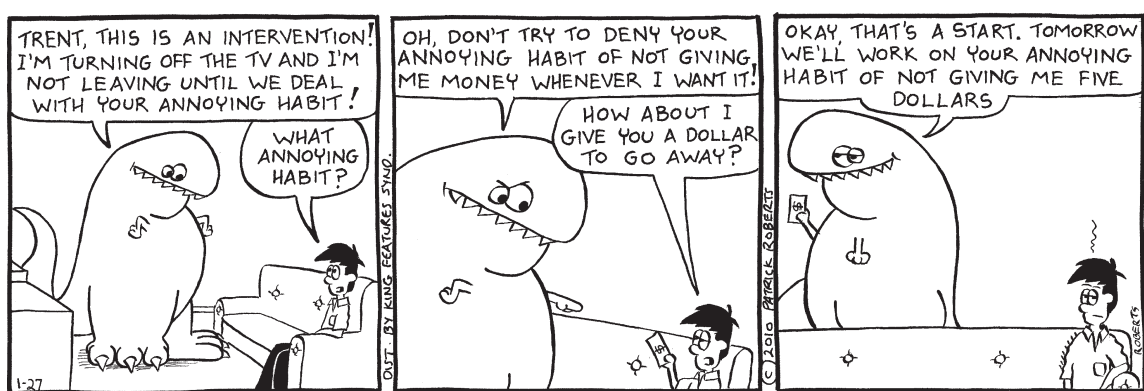
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Hints perk up a bowl of soup

Dear Readers: In cold winter weather, a BOWL OF SOUP and a sandwich make a terrific lunch or hearty dinner, depending on the soup. Here are some quick hints to make your soup really soup-alicious:

- Use a quart of water for every pound of chicken for chicken soup.
- Give soup a sweeter taste and make it more nutritious by adding pureed carrots.
- Thicken soup by adding instant mashed potatoes.
- Remove fat by dropping a couple of ice cubes into the pot. The fat will stick to them – just remove.
- When preparing veggie soup, put in enough water to cover the vegetables by 2 inches or more.
- Finally, taste the soup when done to check the seasoning. Some herbs may lose their flavor or aroma, while others get stronger. Soup is always welcome, and it's a good way to feed a crowd without spending a lot of money. My pamphlet about soup is filled with many favorite family recipes that are so good! Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to:

Heloise/Soups
P.O. Box 795001
San Antonio, TX 78279-5001

Make a large pot of soup, especially when soup ingredients are on sale. Freeze extra for a quick, healthy meal when you don't feel like cooking. – Heloise

SALAD MAKING

Dear Heloise: I make salads almost every day when trying to lose weight. To keep lettuce fresh, tear apart the head, rinse the leaves and spin. Then, with a clean kitchen towel laid on the counter, dry the leaves with paper towels. Store the leaves in large margarine tubs. Fold a paper towel and put it on the bottom of each tub, fill with lettuce, put another paper towel on top and close. This keeps the lettuce fresh and easy to use when I want some for my salad. – Ronny H., via e-mail

BULK HAMBURGER PACKS

Dear Heloise: I buy bulk packs of ground beef and divide them into 1-pound sections for freezing. Instead of freezing as thick mounds, I put each pound into a quart-size plastic freezer bag and press as flat as the bag will allow. This removes extra air and makes the package about 1 inch thick, which cuts thawing time. – Paulette A., Bloomfield, N.Y.

CHOPPING NUTS

Dear Heloise: Chopping nuts? Put them in a plastic sandwich bag, press out the air, seal it, put the bag on the cutting board and pound it with a hammer. They don't fly all over the place, and there is nothing to clean up afterward. – Margaret Schumacher, via e-mail

CAUTION

Dear Heloise: The suggestion was made in your column to use disposable surgical gloves to mix salads, meatloaf, crab cakes, etc. Please warn your readers to check if the gloves are latex-free. If the foods are prepared and eaten by someone who has a latex allergy, a serious medical emergency could arise. – Pat, via e-mail
Pat, thanks for the reminder. – Heloise
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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 10 7 6 2
♥ K J 9 3
♦ 7
♣ K J 6
WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10
♦ K Q 8 6 4
♣ A Q 10 9 5 4
EAST
♠ K Q J 4
♥ 2
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ 8 7 3 2
SOUTH
♠ 8 5
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ —
The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 3♥ 4♠
4 NT Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥ Dblc Pass
Opening lead — three of spades.

Two Less One Equals 2,220

This hand was played in a rubber-bridge game many years ago by Camillo Pabis Ticci, well-known Italian star. The bidding was rather sporting, to say the least – especially East's double of six hearts.

At first or even second glance, it looks as if declarer must lose two spade tricks and go down one. However, Pabis Ticci managed the play exceptionally well and made the slam.

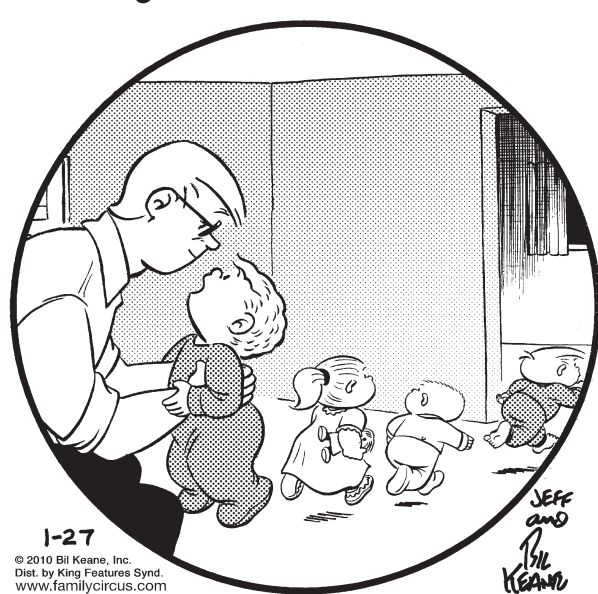
West led the three of spades, which Pabis Ticci recognized as a probable singleton. After winning the spade with dummy's ace, he played the king of trumps and then ruffed the six of clubs. Next he cashed the diamond ace and trumped a diamond in dummy, then ruffed dummy's jack of clubs and trumped his last diamond in dummy. The stage was set for the elimination play he had planned from the outset.

Pabis Ticci led the king of clubs from dummy, but instead of ruffing it, he discarded the eight of spades. West won the trick with the ace but had to return a diamond or a club, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the nine of spades from his hand. As a result, Pabis Ticci made six hearts redoubled for a score of 2,220 points instead of going down one for a loss of 400.

The loser-on-loser play, planned from the start, worked to perfection. In effect, Pabis Ticci exchanged a club trick he didn't have to lose for two spade tricks he seemed certain to lose – a profitable trade by any measure.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



1-27

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www.familycircus.com

“What part of your face hasn't been kissed yet?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

H XJHWR XJK GZQLHXK

ZSJKYHEK QG IKLXZHW FKA-

GQQXKS NQWS AHLSY FQCOS

AK IZOOKS "SCIRKS XZNK."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH PARTICLES OF LIGHT WILL PASS THROUGH MOST THIN FLOOR MATTRESSES? FUTONS' PHOTONS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trade supply
 - 5 In bygone days
 - 8 Foil cousin
 - 12 Tittle need
 - 13 Archer's need
 - 14 Picture of health?
 - 15 Offer rolls
 - 17 Sit for the photog
 - 18 Calyx component
 - 19 Skiers' mecca
 - 21 Lead-in to pit or pool
 - 24 Bonfire residue
 - 25 Get a glimpse of
 - 28 "Hey, sailor!"
 - 30 "Cabaret" lyricist
 - 33 Kids' card game
 - 34 Credit or respect, slangily
 - 35 U.S. spy org.
 - 36 Id counterpart
- DOWN**
- 1 Tries the tea
 - 2 Sported
 - 3 On
 - 4 Benedict's office
 - 5 Tummy muscles
 - 6 State of India
 - 7 Barn birds
 - 8 Former Montreal team
 - 9 Prediction
 - 10 Relaxation
 - 11 Spuds' buds
 - 16 Bullring bravo
 - 20 Potato chip brand
 - 22 Rani's wrap
 - 23 Big jolt
 - 25 Lamb's dam
 - 26 Succumb to gravity
 - 27 Barbecue fuels, often
 - 29 Admitting clients
 - 31 Morsel
 - 32 "Hum-bug!"
 - 34 Beseech
 - 38 Parking lot array
 - 40 Run off to marry
 - 42 Kreskin's claim
 - 43 Hit hard
 - 44 Grooving on
 - 45 Whirl
 - 47 Neighborhood
 - 48 Unescorted
 - 49 Stevenson villain
 - 52 Shad product
 - 53 Chic no more
- Solution time: 21 mins.**
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | I | B | S | O | L | A | R | J | U | S |
| R | N | A | C | R | E | T | E | U | T | E |
| A | S | H | T | A | B | U | L | A | S | A |
| A | L | I | A | P | A | T | H | I | | |
| M | O | P | P | E | T | S | E | R | A | |
| O | H | O | D | A | M | D | E | B | T | S |
| S | I | R | S | L | A | B | S | O | A | K |
| T | O | T | E | M | G | E | L | U | P | I |
| A | V | E | S | T | R | E | S | T | E | D |
| U | N | B | E | N | T | A | G | O | | |
| S | I | L | S | A | N | T | A | B | A | B |
| E | N | E | C | R | U | E | T | T | E | E |
| R | E | S | H | E | S | S | E | M | E | W |

Yesterday's answer 1-27

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			