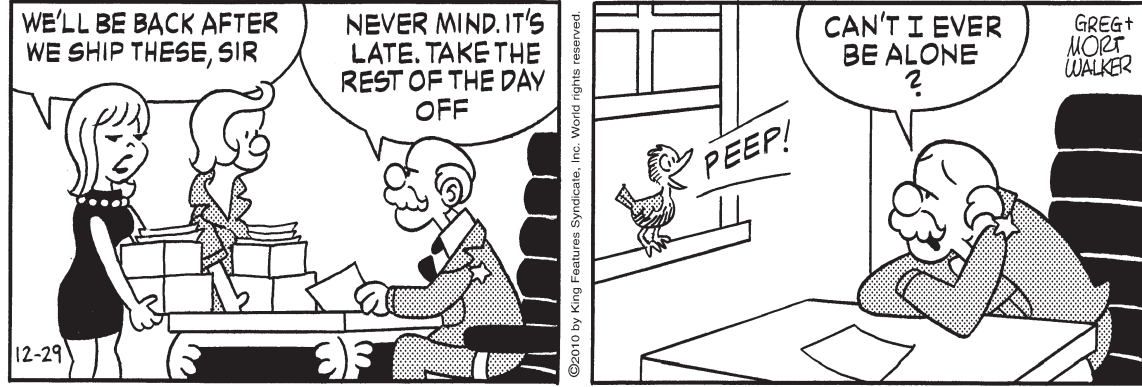


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



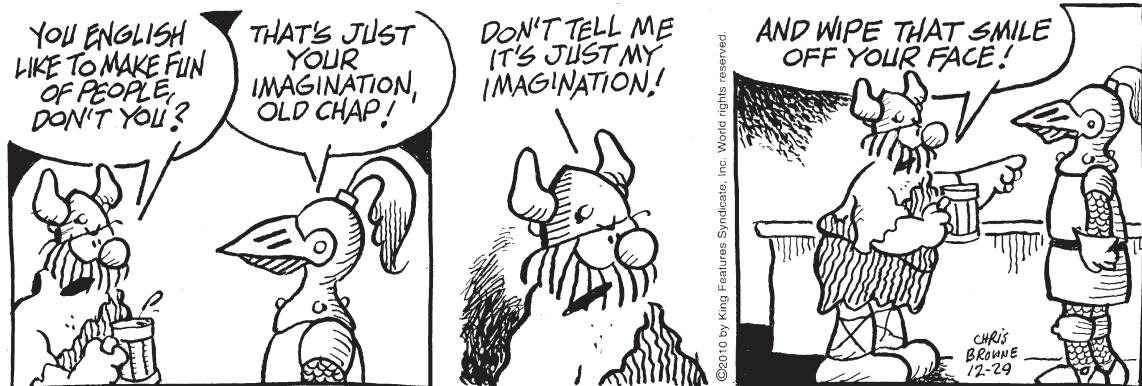
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



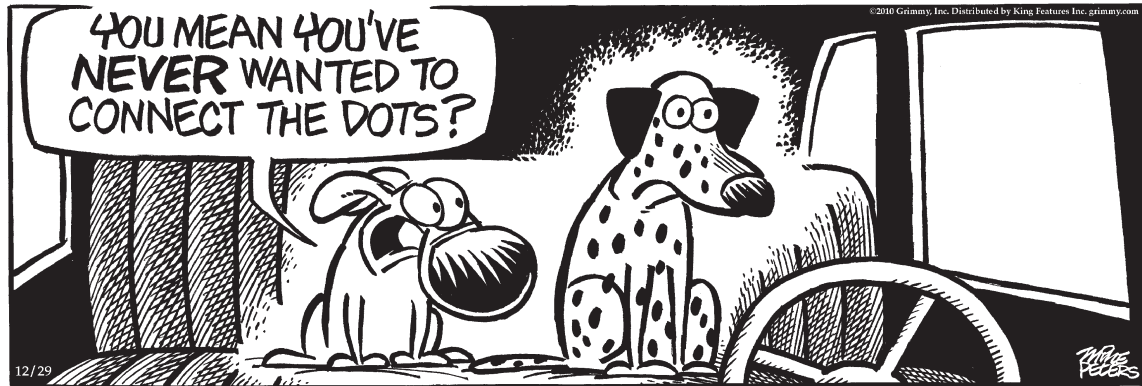
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



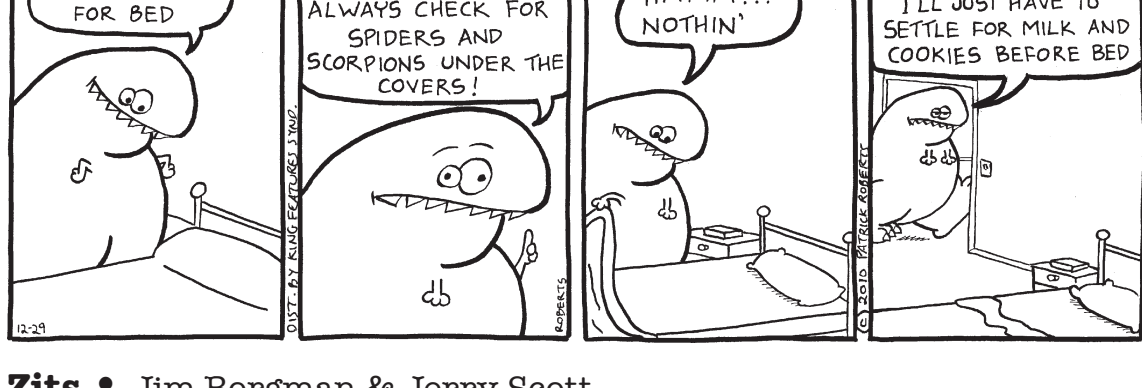
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Leftover eggnog boosts breakfast**

Dear Heloise: I always have too much LEFT-OVER EGGNOG, and I don't want to throw it away. Do you have any suggestion for how eggnog can be used in recipes? I hate to be wasteful! —A Reader, via e-mail

You can use it to make yummy and rich eggnog waffles or pancakes. Just substitute the eggnog for milk in the recipe that you use. —Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**MASHED POTATOES**

Dear Heloise: My family loves mashed potatoes, and it was always a last-minute dish for me to prepare, until I came up with this idea. I cook and mash the potatoes before my guests arrive. I put the potatoes in a lightly greased casserole and put in the oven at 225 degrees for 20 minutes.

When I'm ready to serve, I put the casserole in an attractive casserole carrier. The potatoes are hot, and the dish is easy for my guests to pass. Cleanup is easy, and I no longer have the last-minute stress of making mashed potatoes. —R.H. in Minnesota

**CLEANING PANS**

Dear Heloise: I was trying to clean a glass cake pan I had used to roast potatoes when I realized I didn't have any abrasive cleanser. All I had was dishwashing powder. It worked great; my pan looks better than ever! —Janine in New York

Janine, dishwasher powder is super to use on bakeware. But abrasive cleanser is not. Manufacturers caution against this, because it may cause the glass to break. Also, don't use a metal scouring pad or brush, because these will scratch the surface. Use a plastic brush or pad. —Heloise

**NO STICK**

Dear Heloise: Due to limited space, I stacked three plastic cake containers together. Bad idea — I could not get them apart. I finally thought about putting them in the freezer for a couple of hours. Worked like a charm — they came apart with no effort. —Glenda in Gastonia, N.C.

**NO SEEDS**

Dear Heloise: After squeezing one and a half of the four lemons I had to squeeze, I was getting very annoyed at the tedium of removing the seeds. I took a thin-bladed, sharp-pointed paring knife and dug the seeds out of the small end of each segment before I squeezed the lemon. —Richard A. in Missouri

**EASY CLEAN**

Dear Heloise: I had a pan boil dry and burn the contents. I poured vinegar in the pan, let it sit just a few minutes and scrubbed the burn out of the pan. I also had a stainless pan that had burn marks on the inside; I poured vinegar in it and scrubbed for just a few minutes. Hooray — out came the marks, and it was like a brand-new pan. —Wilma in Texas

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A 8  
♥ 4 3  
♦ K 9 7 4 2  
♣ A J 3  
**WEST**  
♠ 19 4 3  
♥ Q 10 8 5 2  
♦ 6  
♣ 8 7 5  
**EAST**  
♠ 10 7 5  
♥ J 7 6  
♦ A 10 8 3  
♣ K 6 2  
**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q 6 2  
♥ A K  
♦ Q J 5  
♣ Q 10 9 4  
The bidding:  
East 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT  
Opening lead — five of hearts.

**Choosing the Right Line of Play**

Declarer is often confronted with a choice of several lines of play. Obviously, he should try to select the most promising one, but it is not always easy to find the approach that offers the best chance.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump and declarer wins East's jack with the ace. What should South do next?

It would clearly be wrong to try a club finesse at this point — first, because the contract would be in great jeopardy if it lost, and second, because the club finesse can just as easily be taken later on, if necessary.

The proper suit to attack initially is diamonds. If the suit divides 3-2 (the normal expectancy), South is sure to score at least 10 tricks without risking the dangerous club finesse. Furthermore, he has a much better chance of finding the diamonds favorably divided than of finding West with the king of clubs.

However, despite the decided advantage of attacking diamonds rather than clubs, it would be wrong to lead a diamond from the closed hand at trick two. The correct play by declarer is to lead a low spade to the ace followed by a low diamond from dummy.

After East follows low, as he should, South wins the trick with the queen. Declarer must now be careful of his next step. Sheer momentum might cause him to lead another diamond. But this would be a serious mistake (and would be fatal in the actual case because of the 4-1 diamond division).

Instead, South should now take the club finesse because, by doing so, he is sure to make nine tricks even if the finesse loses. But if, at trick two, he leads a diamond from his hand or attempts a club finesse, or, on the recommended line of play, continues diamonds after the queen wins at trick three, it eventually costs him the contract.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"This broke and I wasn't tired of it yet."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/29

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

P Z T B V C X T J U P T X X G B

V E B Z E M M E B E B U S W C C L X O B ,

G E J J A V T M Z T O X G L T V E L G B K

S A W W C P J G B S C W C A K Z J .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOT ABOUT TO LISTEN TO BARKING OR MEOWING, THE MARKET OWNER POSTED THE SIGN "NO PETS ALOUD."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Picks one or the other
- "Casa-blanca" pianist
- "Mamma Mia" quartet
- Rod's partner
- Ram's mate
- Null and —
- Time before the parachute opens
- Killer whale
- Largest human bone
- "Iron Man" star
- Grant's —
- Pressure meas.
- Opulent
- Ireland
- Deteriorate
- A Gershwin brother
- Fast

**DOWN**

- Com-poser Carl
- Father (Fr.)
- Abound
- Detective
- Coral, for one
- Piercing tool
- Pinochle play
- Acknowledges
- Elsa's story
- "American Idol" alum
- Bo
- "An apple — ..."
- To and —
- News-paper pg.
- See 53-Down
- Human, e.g.
- Tear
- Rage
- Not worried at all
- Frost
- Eggs
- Highland hat
- Philbin's co-host
- Explode
- Classic walkways
- Time of your life?
- Despot
- Re planes and such
- Can. prov.
- Tear to bits
- Jane Lynch's series
- Verve
- Scarlet
- With 22-Down, what vegetarians don't do

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

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		