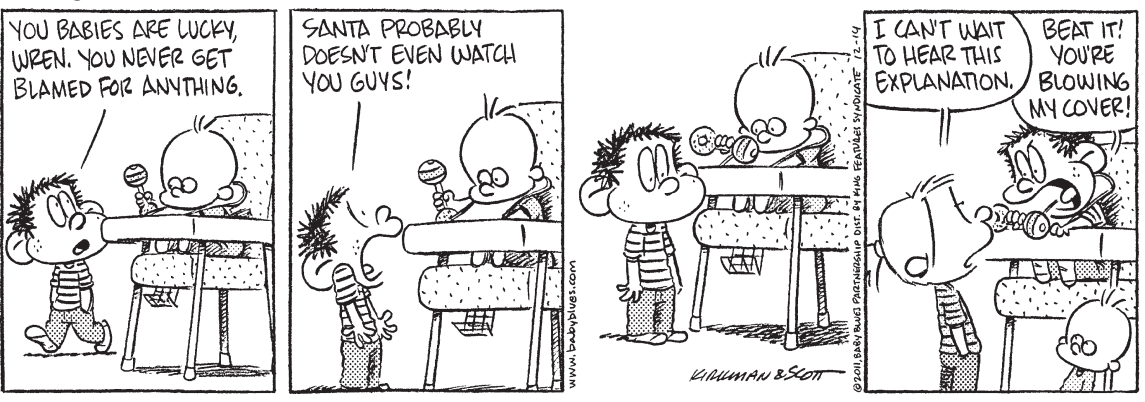
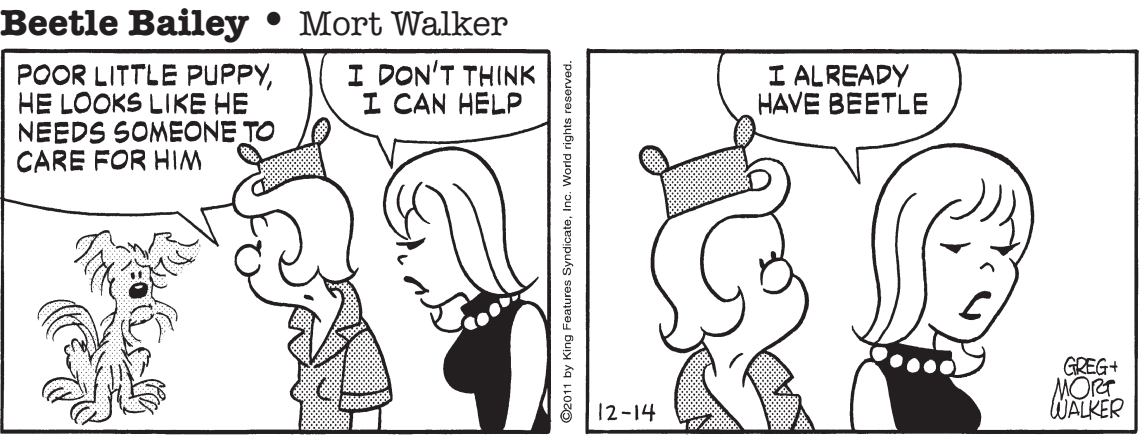
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



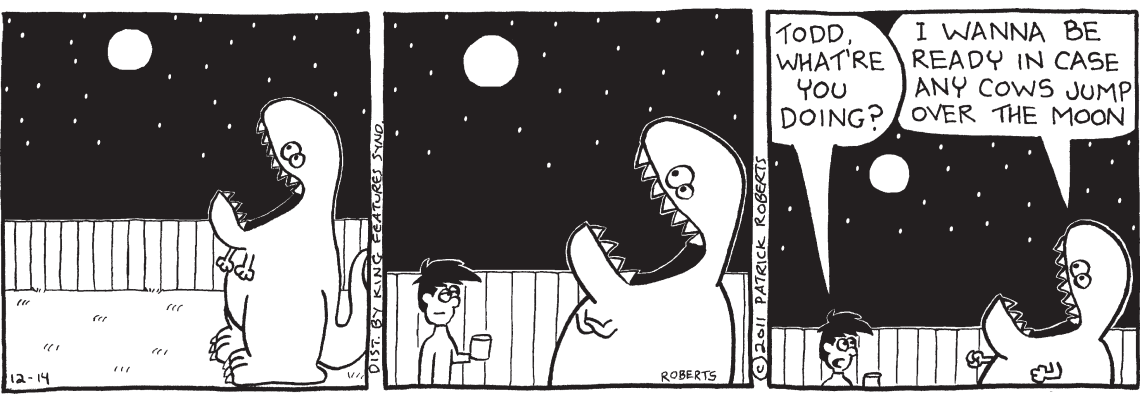
Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

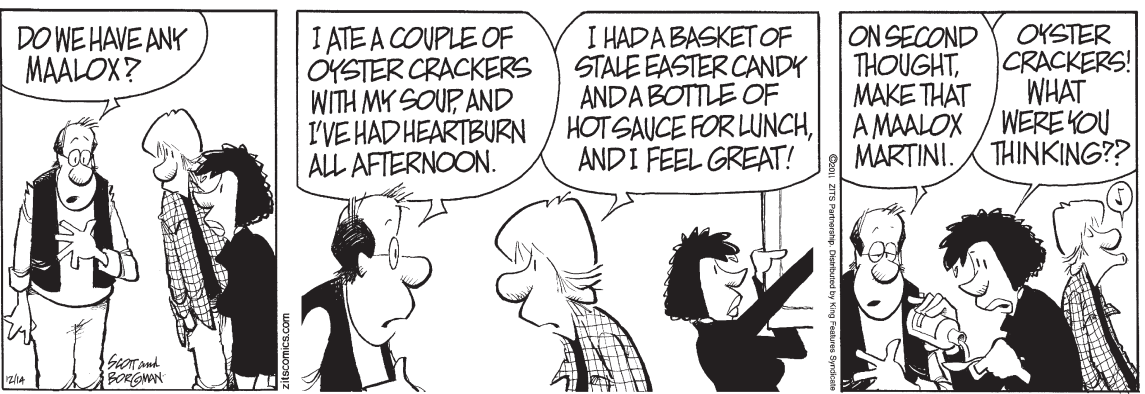
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

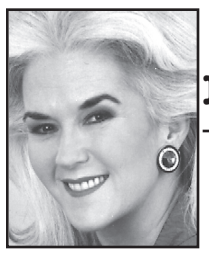
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Clean up mind on vinegar types

Dear Heloise: The mention of VINEGAR in your column made me think that it would be a good idea to put in your column that white vinegar is made up of only cleaning ingredients and should be used only for cleaning.

Cider vinegar is used for food or personal uses. I just learned this recently, so I'm sure a lot of others are in the dark, as I was. – A Reader in Florida

Dear Readers: Let's clear up some misinformation out there. Vinegar is one of my all-time favorite products. I know from years and years of research that white vinegar definitely is NOT made of cleaning ingredients; it's made from corn and diluted with water. Nothing else! It is a green cleaner and cheap, which makes it a better choice than the harsher, chemical-based cleaners that are on the market.

Apple-cider vinegar is made from – you guessed it – apples! Both are great when used in salads, salad dressings and as an ingredient in marinades. – Heloise

P.S.: Remember, both types can be used to clean around the house. Buy the cheapest jug.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

SAFE FOOD

Dear Heloise: I thought I was being smart and safe when grocery shopping, because I always place the meat I am purchasing in the plastic bags the store provides.

However, the other day I watched a man next to me place the bag, inside out, over his hand before reaching for the meat, so he never touched the packaging at all.

From now on, I will do the same to avoid having any contact with the product, thus avoiding any cross-contamination. Thought this was a great hint to pass on! – Lisa D., via email

EXTRA SPACE

Dear Heloise: I have read and enjoyed your column for many years. I have a handy hint that I have never seen in print. During the holidays (and at other times), there never seems to be enough counter space to put food and everything else. So I use my ironing board! I cover it with foil so it doesn't get stained and then drape a tablecloth over it to finish the look. – Patricia B., Laguna Woods, Calif.

GROCERY HINT

Dear Heloise: If you need someone to grocery-shop for you, this hint might be helpful.

Save the labels from the cans, boxes, etc., of foods that you use. Cut the labels neatly and put them in a small photo album to show the kinds of soup, bread, cereal, tuna and other items you use. When someone has to shop for you, that person can use the album and your grocery list to help purchase the items you want. – Joan J., Silver Spring, Md.

SAVE LABEL

Dear Heloise: When I put store-bought cookies in the cookie jar, I cut off the label and put it in the bottom of the jar. If I like that brand of cookies, I'll be able to buy them again. – Irene N., Watertown, Wis.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 9 6
♥ 10 2
♦ Q 10 5
♣ K J 7 4

WEST
♠ 8 3
♥ A 9 7 5 3
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 6 3 2

EAST
♠ J 10 7 5 2
♥ K 8 4
♦ A 9
♣ Q 10 9

SOUTH
♠ Q 4
♥ Q J 6
♦ K J 7 3 2
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Reading the Cards

Cards always tell a story. The difficult part is, first, to recognize the story being told and, second, to put the information to gainful use. Here is a typical case.

West led a heart against South's three-notrump contract. East won with the king and returned the eight. West took declarer's queen with the ace and continued a heart to South's jack. Declarer led a diamond to the queen, East taking the ace, and South won the rest to finish with an overtrick.

The contract should have been defeated, and West was the player at fault. He should have known the exact distribution of the opposing hearts in the unseen hands and should have allowed South to hold the second trick with the queen in order to maintain a link with East in hearts. Had West ducked the queen, declarer would eventually have lost four hearts and a diamond to go down one.

West can tell from East's return of the eight, his highest remaining heart, that declarer started with precisely the Q-J-6 of hearts. It is true that in theory South could also have had the missing four-spot. But in practice he could not, as there would be no reason for South to play the queen at trick two with the ten in dummy.

Once West reaches this conclusion, it becomes obvious that his best bet is to duck the queen and hope his partner gains the lead before South can come to nine tricks.

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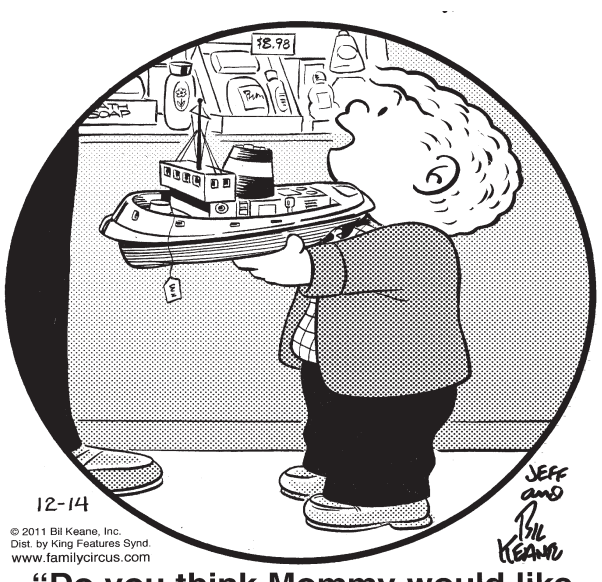
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Do you think Mommy would like this for Christmas? She can use it in her bathtub."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/14

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/12

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Cryptoquip

BQLMD WTD YQSV XHWMTDS XNRKVL'W YD HYKD WN HWWDLV WTD HLLRHK FHKH, TD THV WN BDLV TQB DFSDWB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FIRM THAT WORKS WITH ITS CLIENTS TO MAKE REALLY GOOD FOOD DECISIONS: AN INGESTMENT AGENCY.

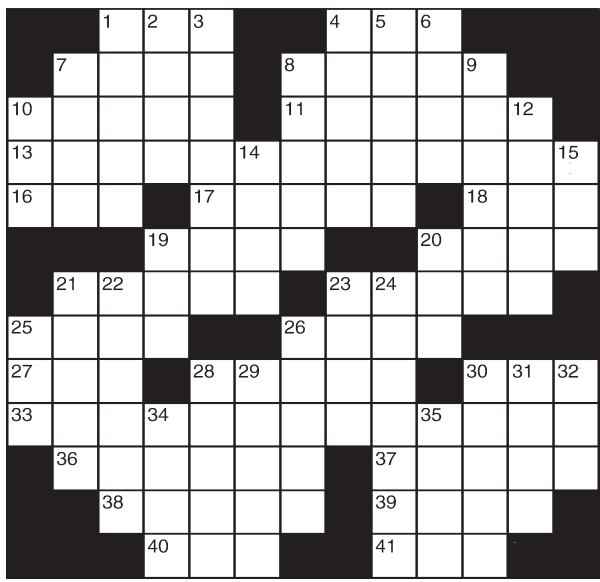
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Suitable
4 Young boxer?
7 Litigious sort
8 Middle Eastern dish
10 Bethlehem's region
11 Ball game segment
13 New Orleans neighborhood
16 Barbie's companion
17 Hosiery shade
18 Shaft of light
19 "An Inconvenient Truth" narrator
20 Enticement
21 Chris of tennis lore
23 19th President
25 Leave out
26 Cartoonist Goldberg
27 Help
28 Inscribed pillar
30 "Suburgatory" airer
33 Ice cream flavor
36 Evening affair
37 Sorrow
38 Slow critter
39 Ear-related
40 Spring mo.
41 A Bobbsey twin

DOWN
1 Poet W.H.
2 Hammerhead part
3 Farm vehicle
4 Piece of cheesecake?
5 Arm bones
6 Twosome
7 Confident
8 Sharp irritation
9 False
10 NYC airport
12 Toothed wheels
14 Rodgers partner
15 "Catcher in the —"
19 Obtain
20 Caustic solution
21 Eastern potentates
22 "America's Funniest Home —"
23 Island dance
24 Desert
25 Lummox
26 Carouse
28 Discard
29 Alternative to "his/her"
30 Texas Hold 'em declaration
31 United nations
32 Automobile
34 1942 vessel
35 Tittle

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-14