

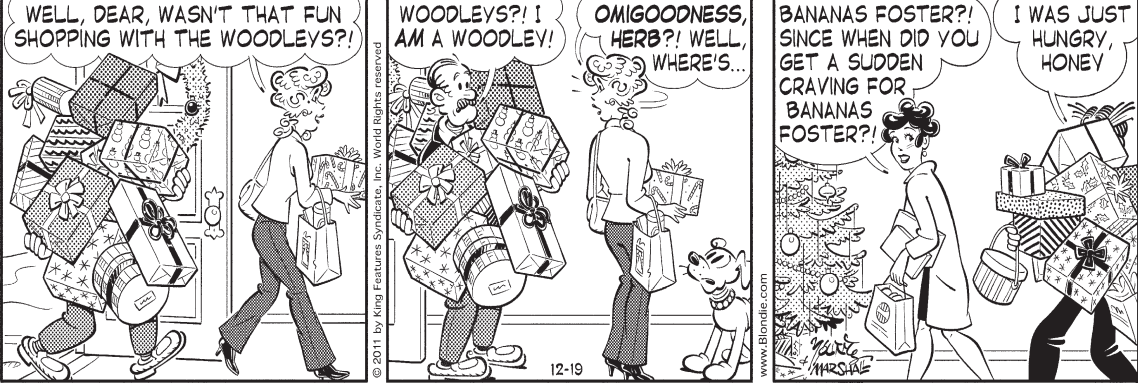
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



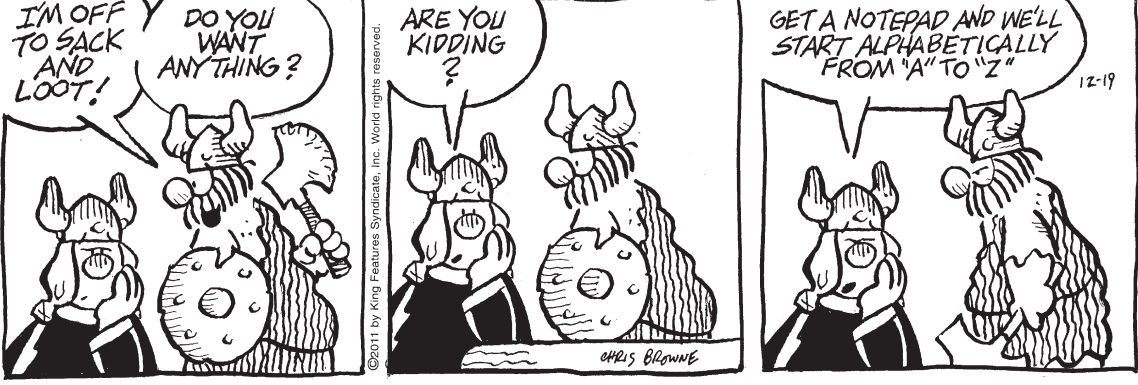
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



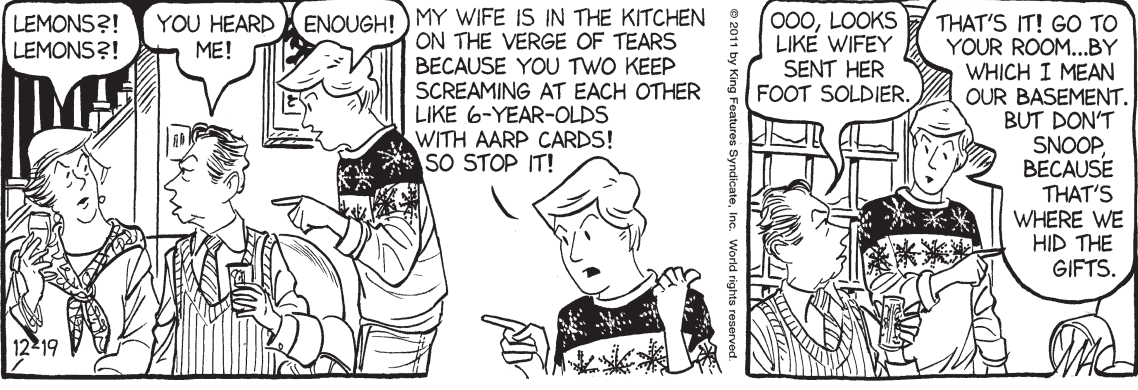
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



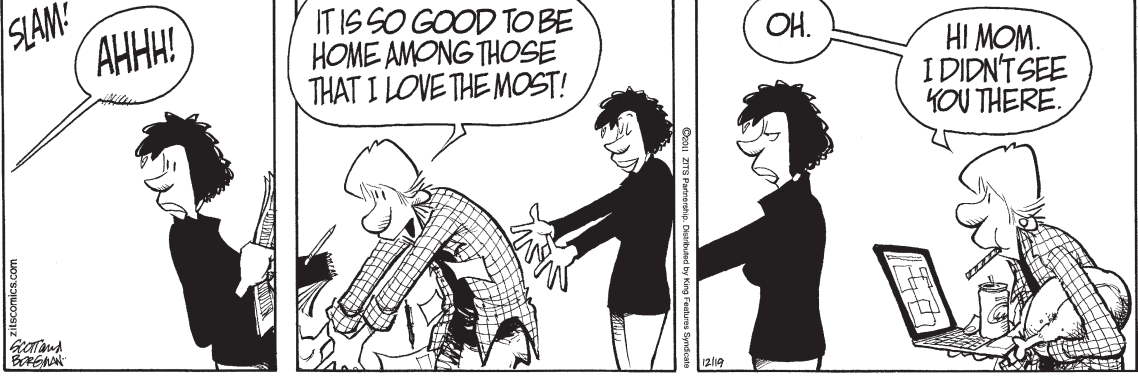
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Boss drives her home after work

Dear Dr. Brothers: I work in a small-business environment, where everyone is like family. Unfortunately, my boss insists on treating me like a teenage daughter – he knows I take a bus to work, and has started driving me home so I don't have to walk alone. I am 33 years old and not afraid of the dark. He's a married man in his 50s. Last night he asked if he could come in and make coffee. How do I get out of this? – J.C.

Dear J.C.: This is a sticky situation that could become stickier if you don't get more assertive and end it. I doubt very much that your boss sees you as a helpless little girl; in fact, it sounds as though he might be developing more dangerous feelings for you. He's in that prime midlife-crisis age, which means he may not be viewing the situation entirely rationally, so it is up to you to put the brakes on this private car service. Whether or not you want to keep the job – and I assume you do – you need to let him know you are capable of providing your own transportation, and that you would prefer keeping coffee breaks at the office.

You needn't question his motives – there is a chance, after all, that he is just acting altruistically – so the way in which you communicate with him should be carefully thought out. You could start by thanking him for his kindness, and go from there. The best solution would be to make his "service" unnecessary. As long as you rely on public transportation, the issue could remain open. So see if you can get a regular ride home from someone else, or find something to do right after work, way across town.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am in graduate school and share a house with three other women. We are all studying most of the time, but when it's the weekend, the three of them always seem to have plans, or make them in front of me but leave me out. Once in a while I will ask if I can come, and they say "yes" and we seem to have a good time. But then the next time, they leave me out. This is beginning to depress me. Help! – C.R.

Dear C.R.: I'm sure you know by now that you can't force people to love, like or respect you. While your roommates are willing to include you, they obviously have a stronger bond among the three of them. Perhaps they all knew each other previously, or share common interests. Many students get a roommate to pay the rent, and have no social life together. But I can see where you feel left out, and if you want to be more a part of their social life, you might need to step up your game. Let them know you would like to be included more often, and enjoy going out with them. Suggest some activities of your own so they don't just think of you as a tag-along.

Another approach you might take would be to try to cultivate individual friendships with each woman. Ask one out for coffee or to meet you for shopping after classes. If you get to know them better – not as a gang but as each separate personality – you may find you have more on which to base a friendship. If nothing seems to improve the situation, you might need to turn to classmates with whom you have more in common.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST SOUTH
♠ 10 7 5 4 3 2
♥ Q 7
♦ 10
♣ A 9 3

The bidding:
West 1 ♠
North 2 ♠
East 2 ♠
South 2 ♠
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Famous Hand
This hand was played by Sam Fry Jr. of New York way back in 1934. It seems impossible to make four hearts against proper defense by East-West, but the fact is that Fry not only made the contract, but there was also no way of stopping him.

West led the ace of diamonds, East signaling for a continuation by playing the eight. But West shifted to a spade at trick two, from which Fry concluded that East must have started with an eight-card diamond suit because it would have made no sense for West to shift to a spade if he had another diamond to lead.

Taking full advantage of this knowledge, Fry won the spade shift with the king, led a trump to the ace, played a spade to dummy's ace, then led the jack of trumps from dummy and ducked it to West's queen!

This deliberate concession of a trump trick that did not have to be lost was certainly extraordinary, but it was the only way to make four hearts. West stewed for a long time, trying to find a suitable reply to the Greek gift he had received, but there was no escape.

In practice, West tried the ace and another club. This allowed Fry to score three club tricks and dispose of his remaining diamond loser, so the contract was made.

Observe that it would not have helped West to lead a spade after taking his queen of hearts. In that case, South ruffs the spade in dummy, discarding a club from his hand, and leads a club to the king. West takes the king with the ace and returns a club to dummy's queen. Declarer then ruffs a club, establishing dummy's fourth club as a trick, and crosses to dummy with a trump to discard his diamond loser on the good club.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-19
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/19

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.

Cryptoquip

YJYVF HUCKWJUF LIWX

CWZUHWFM JGW IQYMC Y

PUVKYRX PWZIWCUV'C ZLCRP

KGU HUCK: Y HVGZC ZUFYQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOME OF THE TRANSPORTED GOODS GOT A LITTLE DISTORTED, WAS THAT A SIMPLE TWIST OF FREIGHT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 41 Emanation | 4 Wet cement mixture | 23 Carpenter or Black |
| 1 Bakery buys | 42 Ivy League university | 5 Sort | 25 Crazy |
| 5 Youngster | 12 Australian city | 47 List of options | 6 Mrs. McKinley |
| 8 Treaty | 14 Reverberate | 48 Catholic prayer | 8 Small |
| 15 Like spread-sheets, e.g. | 49 "Hey, you!" | 50 Remiss | 9 Liniment target |
| 16 Slender | 51 Je ne — quoi | 13 Beyond control | 29 Study all night |
| 17 Scepter | | | 31 Japanese wrestling |
| 18 Each | | | 27 Japanese wrestling |
| 20 Hybrid eating utensil | | | 8 Small |
| 23 Entanglement | | | 9 Liniment target |
| 24 Bohemian | | | 10 Stylish |
| 25 Refrigerator decorations | | | 11 Color quality |
| 28 Humor | | | 13 Beyond control |
| 29 Gave a darn | | | 19 Frogs' hangout |
| 30 Regret | | | 20 Wittedness |
| 32 Grieved | | | 21 Proper partner? |
| 34 Intentions | | | 22 "Beetle Bailey" dog |
| 35 Primary | | | |
| 36 Sag | | | |
| 37 "— & Louise" | | | |
| 40 To and — | | | |

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 12-19

16

Slender

17

Scepter

18

Each

20

Hybrid eating utensil

23

Entangle-ment

24

Bohemian

25

Refrigerator decorations

28

Humor

29

Gave a darn

30

Regret

32

Grieved

34

Intentions

35

Primary

36

Sag

37

"— & Louise"

40

To and —

13

Beyond control

19

Frogs' hangout

20

Wit-nessed

21

Proper partner?

22

"Beetle Bailey" dog

33

Diacritical mark

34

Scents

36

Snare or tom-tom

37

Pack down tightly

38

Shades

39

Sea eagles

40

Show off your muscles

43

Eggs

44

Lingerie item

45

Midafternoon, on a sundial

46

Some small batteries

DOWN

1 Atl. counter-part

2 Altar affirmative

3 Conger or moray

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 12-19

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
47							48					46
49							50			51		