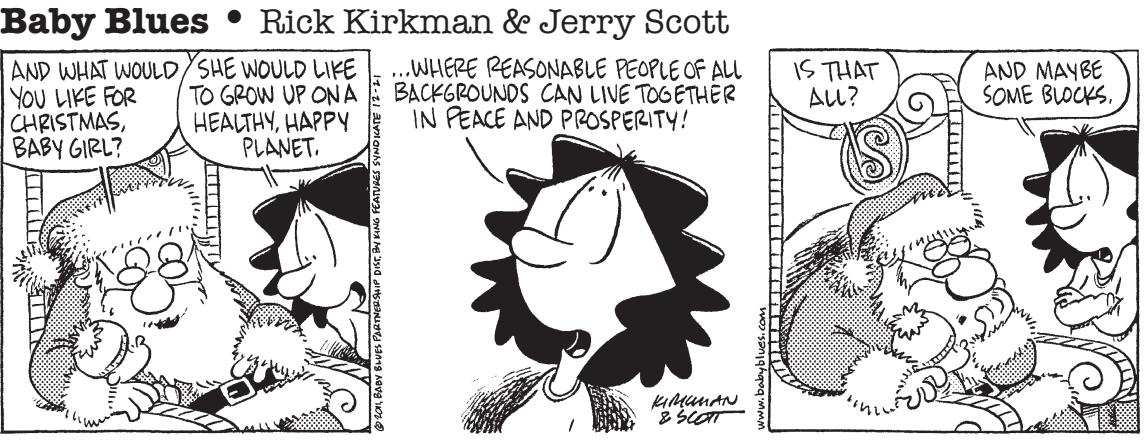
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



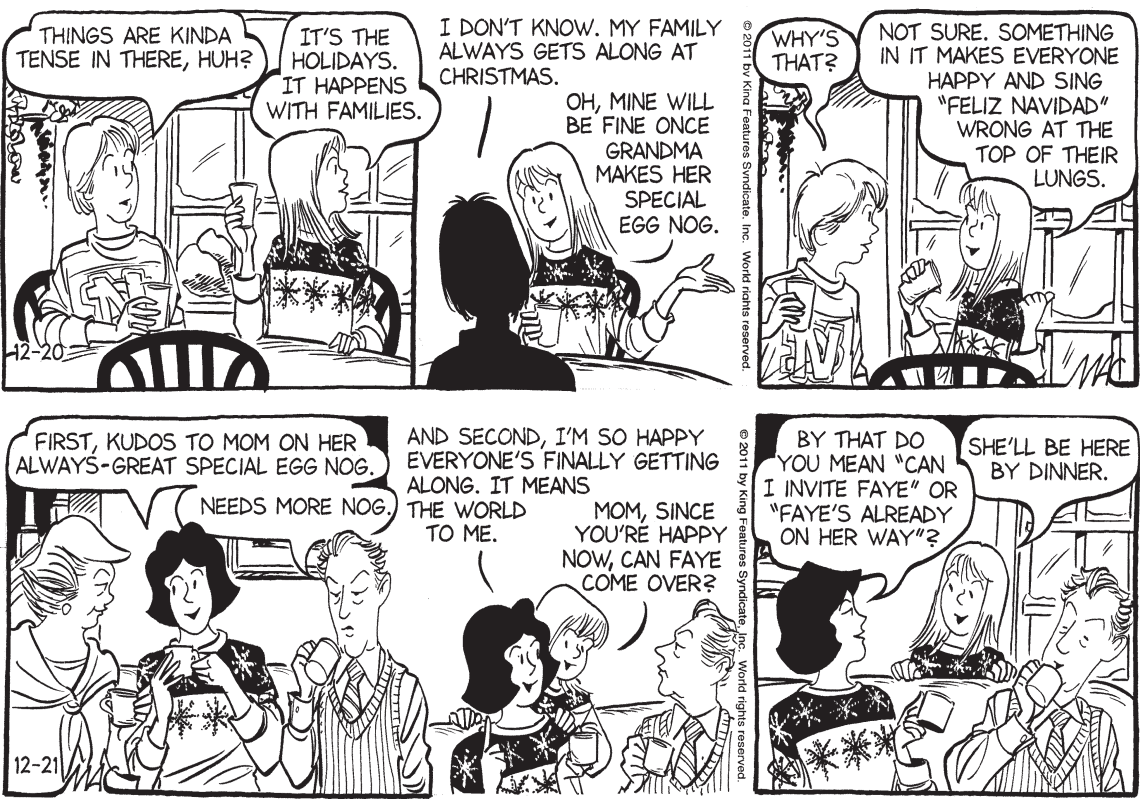
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

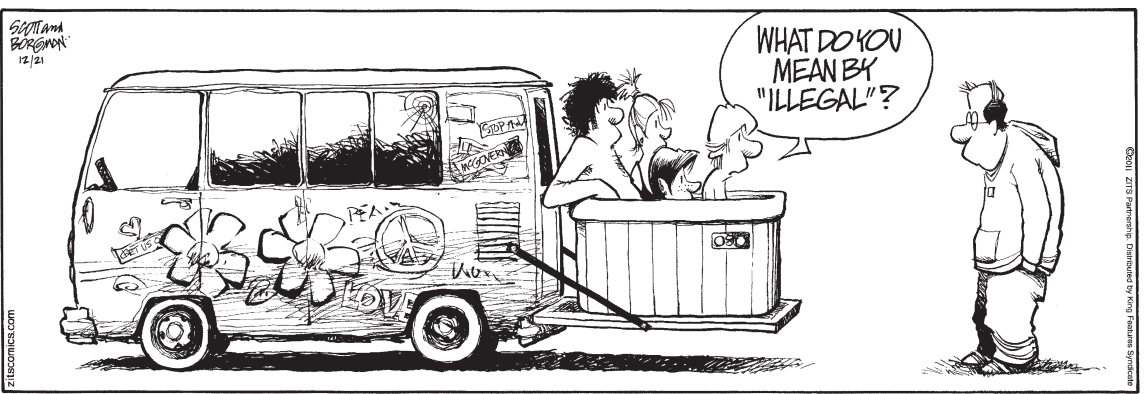
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

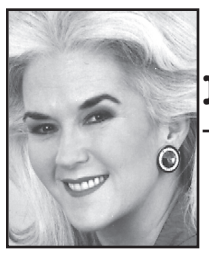
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Talk turkey with these hints

Dear Readers: Are you COOKING A TURKEY for a Christmas or holiday dinner? Here are some Heloise Hints to help you:

• How big a turkey do you need? Plan on approximately 1 1/2 pounds per person if you want leftovers; if not, 1 pound per person is enough.

• Frozen turkey? It will TAKE TIME to safely thaw in the refrigerator (about a day for every 4 pounds). Cold-water thawing is an option, but keep the turkey in the unopened package, covered in water completely, and change the water to keep it cool. Allow about 30 minutes per pound to safely thaw.

• After cooked, let the turkey rest for 20 minutes so the juices settle into the meat.

• For turkey questions, you can call the United States Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854, or you can send an email to MPHotline.fsis(at)usda.gov. The hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

RECYCLE HINT

Dear Heloise: I use small "deli meat" plastic containers with removable lids for the following:

• Store four to five hard-boiled eggs.

• Organize spice containers for easy access. For example: Group all Italian spices (basil, oregano, parsley, etc.) in one.

• Make dips for a party and use the container for serving.

• Store healthy snacks of carrots and celery with a small container of dressing for when on the go. – Janice D., Fort Wayne, Ind.

EATING-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Dear Heloise: Meeting friends at a restaurant and sometimes picking up the tab is fun – sometimes expensive, but it is worth its weight in gold due to the dietary restrictions of colleagues. Everyone can select his or her favorite dish.

Unfortunately, this method of dining out instead of home cooking is not without hidden dangers. An acquaintance ordered shrimp; since there had not been an allergic attack in 10 years, he assumed it was a safe selection. We rushed him to the emergency room – he was having a severe allergic reaction and needed medical attention. Food allergies can range from mild to violent.

I am grateful for warnings about items that may have been in contact with foods that could cause allergic reactions. – Margarette M., via email

Margarette, glad your friend was OK, but it was his responsibility, since he knew he had an allergy. You are right, however, that it's considerate when ingredients are listed. – Heloise

PEELING POTATOES

Dear Heloise: The past few years, I have developed arthritis in my fingers and have found it difficult to peel potatoes. I now boil potatoes with the skins on. When cooked, I peel them under water, put them back in the pan, mash them and season them. It is so fast, and I don't waste any of the potatoes, since I don't peel them before cooking. – Elaine D., Mission Viejo, Calif.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 7
♥ K 9 5
♦ 10 9
♣ K Q 10 8 4

WEST
♠ J 9 6 3
♥ 8 6
♦ K 8 7 3 2
♣ A 3

EAST
♠ 8 4 2
♥ 10 7 4 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 5
♥ A Q J
♦ J 6 5 4
♣ J 7 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

Crime and Punishment

Most errors in bridge are attributable not to a lack of knowledge or skill, but rather to lazy or careless thinking. This is equally true for both offensive and defensive play.

Consider this case where West leads a diamond against three notrump. East wins with the ace and continues with the queen, which also wins. Then, having run out of diamonds, East shifts to a heart.

Declarer wins and forces out the ace of clubs. West cashes the king of diamonds, and South scores the rest, losing three diamonds and a club.

Analysis of the play reveals that the contract should go down one. Instead of allowing his partner to win the second trick with the queen of diamonds – which seems the natural thing to do – West should overtake the queen with the king and continue with the eight of diamonds. If he does this, the defense eventually scores four diamonds and a club.

There is no good reason, except perhaps carelessness, for West's failure to overtake the queen at trick two. True, East might have held the A-Q-x of diamonds, in which case overtaking would cost West a trick, but it could not cost him the contract.

For practical purposes, West can feel certain that three notrump will be defeated if he overtakes the queen, and that the contract will probably be made if he ducks the queen. That is certainly a good enough reason for overtaking. But to make this play, West must have his mind on the game at trick two and not allow himself to fall into the trap of following low mechanically.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"I'm not so sure he remembered me. He just kept calling me 'sweetheart'."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/21

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/19

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Cryptoquip

GCUG RNBF KUXFK WUBFZ LVVY VOOVAFAGZ SVVB SNBF RFLNAAFKZ. CF KFUSSJ KTAZ XJXSFZ UKVTAY GCFW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AWARD BESTOWED UPON SOMEBODY WHO PLAYS A CERTAIN COMPOSER'S MUSIC THE BEST: A BRAHMS MEDAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Foul
4 Supporters
8 Easter entrees
12 Actress Gardner
13 Somewhat
14 Shrek, e.g.
15 Trawler need
16 Jail
18 18th president
20 Obtained
21 Verdi opera
24 Intrinsically
28 Arab's hooded cloak
32 Clarinet insert
33 Anger
34 — Dame
36 Mr. Hammarskjöld
37 Culture medium
39 Rikki-Tikki-Tavi is one
41 Old photograph hue
43 Rules, for short
44 Have
46 Cowboy's greeting
50 1984 movie remade in 2011
55 Fish eggs
56 Inlet
57 Met melody
58 The whole enchilada
59 Burn some
60 Drove
61 Energy

DOWN
1 Gunshot sound
2 State with certainty
3 Information
4 Clique
5 Lawyers' org.
6 Zero
7 Sans escort
8 Owl, at times
9 Past
10 "— Doubtfire"
11 Catch a glimpse of
17 Jazz style
19 A Bobbsey twin
22 Dire prophecy
23 Titanic VIP
25 Start over
26 Red and Black
27 Lip
28 Diagonal
29 Press on
30 Harvest
31 Coastal flier
35 Highbrow
38 Hooligan
40 Bear, in Barcelona
42 Piercing tool
45 Biblical boatwright
47 Finish a film shoot
48 Clinton's 1996 opponent
49 Shrill bark
50 Media watchdog org.
51 Reaction to fireworks
52 Eggs in a lab
53 Raw rock
54 Round Table address

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-21

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				■	60				■	61		