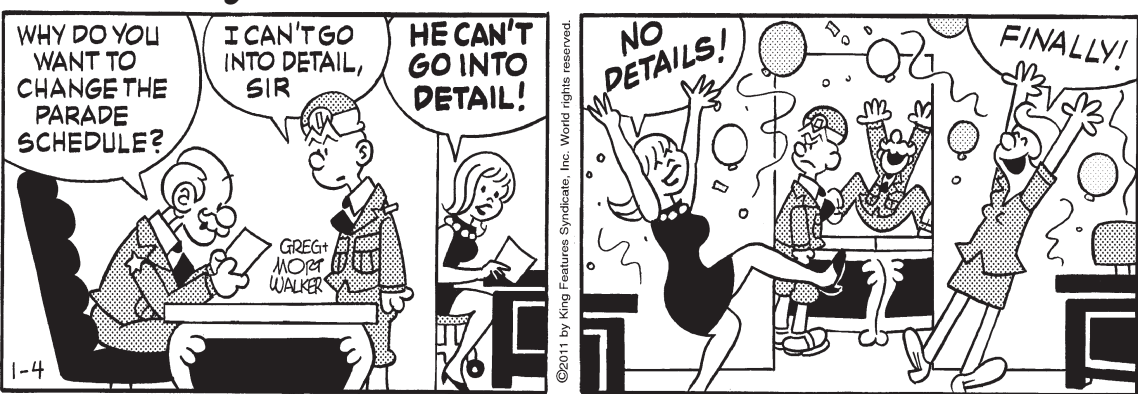


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



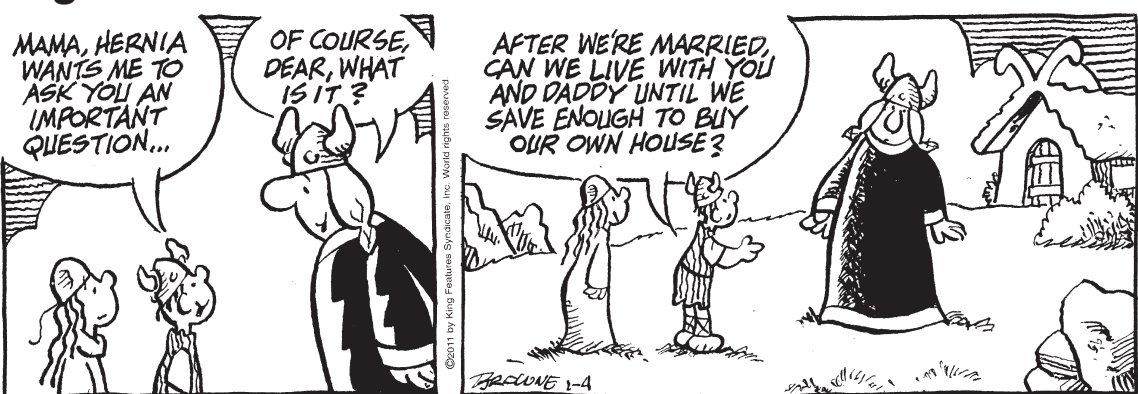
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



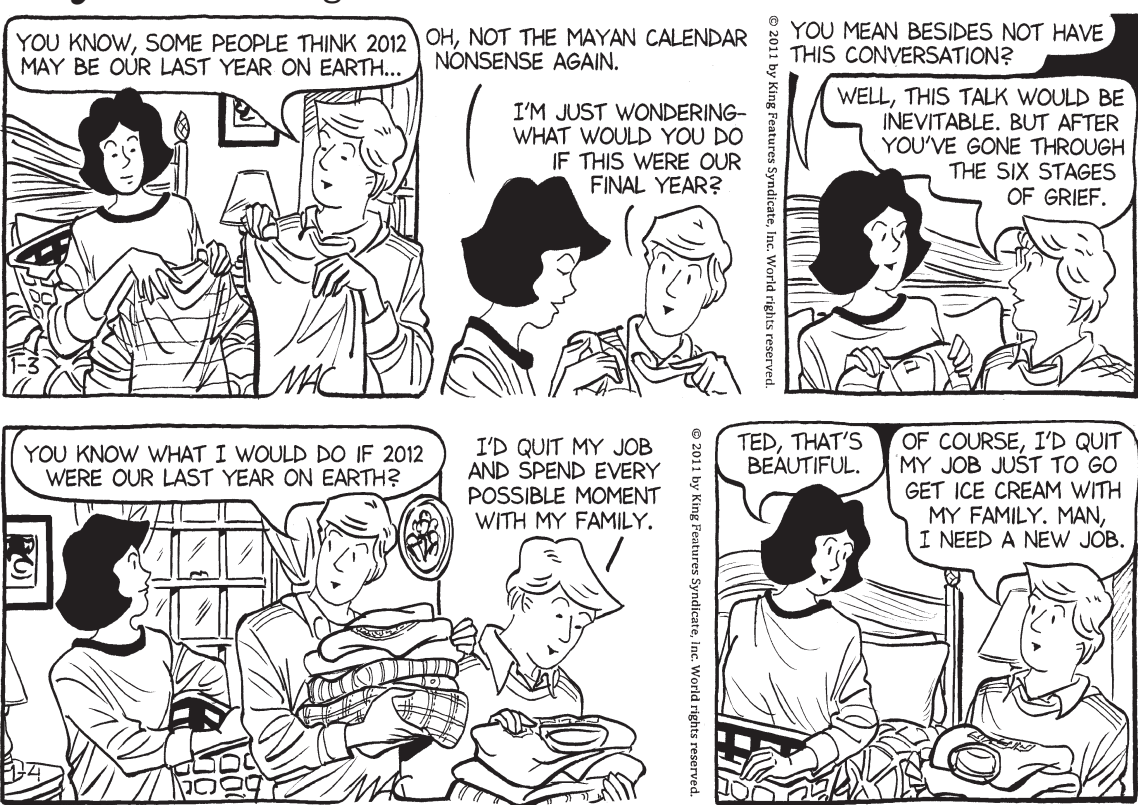
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



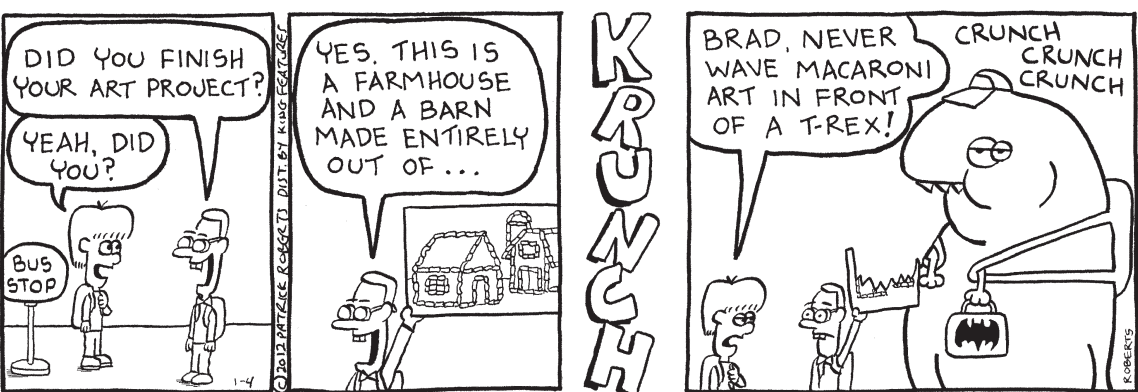
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



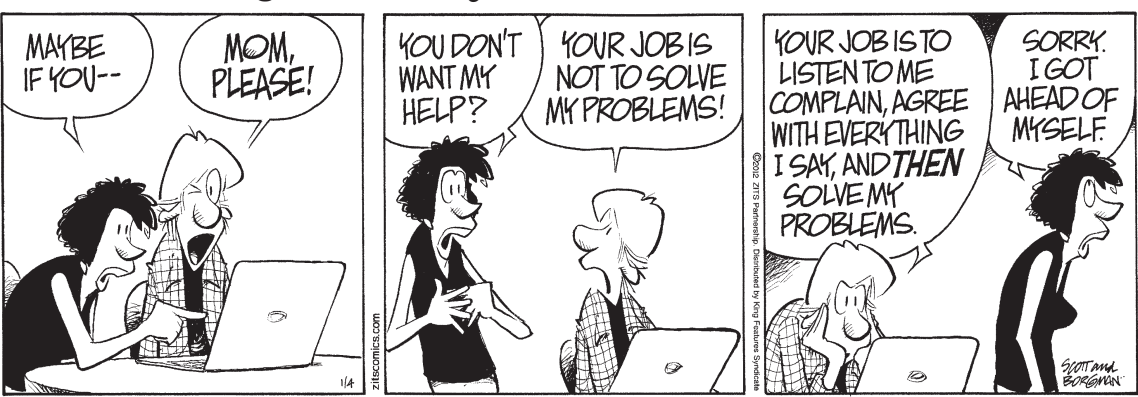
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Buckeyes used as lucky charms

Dear Readers: Which of the following is true about the BUCKEYENUT?

- The name is derived from its resemblance to the eye of a male deer.
- The nuts are poisonous.
- They are considered a good-luck charm.
- Ohio is called the "Buckeye State," and the nut is the Ohio State University mascot.

If you guessed "Aye" to all -- the ayes have it! This chestnut-brown seed has a lighter-colored circular "eye" in the middle, looking like the eye of a buck.

Slightly poisonous, they are edible once heated and leached, but also can be roasted, peeled and then mashed.

Many carry these nuts in their pockets because they believe them to be a good-luck charm.

Do you have a buckeye recipe or story? Please share them -- send to Heloise(at)Heloise.com, or mail to Heloise, Box 795000, San Antonio, Texas, 78279. -- Heloise

EGG SAFETY

Dear Heloise: How long can deviled eggs be kept? Would it be safe to make them on a Tuesday for serving on Thursday? -- Nancy J., via email

Yes, make them and serve them! The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that deviled eggs and egg salad be eaten within three to four days of making. Just keep them stored in the refrigerator until ready to use. However, they won't last that long in most households!

Whatever type of egg you set out for a meal, remember to discard if they have been at room temperature for longer than two hours. -- Heloise

STORING BREAD

Dear Heloise: Is it better to keep bread in the refrigerator or keep it at room temperature, and why? -- J.R. in Falling Waters, W.Va.

Manufacturers recommend bread be stored at room temperature for best quality and to maintain its freshness. Placing bread in the refrigerator actually can make the bread go stale faster.

However, you can freeze bread for three to six months. Just be sure to wrap it in the proper packaging, or double-bag for freezer storage and then thaw at room temperature. -- Heloise

BEAN HINT

Dear Heloise: Recipes that call for canned beans add sodium from the processing. Dried beans (sodium-free) take time to prepare, so they are hard to put into last-minute preparations.

I cook large quantities of beans ahead of time. After draining the water, I put them on a cookie sheet, as you would to flash-freeze blueberries. Once frozen, they can be transferred to freezer bags and added to recipes as needed.

Often, my lunch is a quick, dirty-rice casserole made from leftover rice, beans, cheese and a diced jalapeno heated in a microwave at work. -- E.W., Rochester, Minn.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

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

WEST

♠ A K Q 10 2  
♥ J 7 6 3  
♦ 5 2  
♣ 8 5

EAST

♠ 7 4  
♥ Q 9 8 4 2  
♦ K 10 6 3  
♣ 9 7

SOUTH

♠ 9 8 6 3  
♥ 5  
♦ Q J  
♣ A K Q J 6 3

The bidding:

West North East South  
Pass 1 ♦ Pass 2 ♣  
2 ♠ Pass 5 ♣  
Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead -- king of spades.

A Double Squeeze

Declarer can often take advantage of the opponents' bidding to achieve the maximum result during the play. Take this case where West led the king of spades and continued with the A-Q after East played the 7-4. When dummy ruffed high, East discarded a heart, and South then had to score the rest of the tricks to make the contract.

Declarer still had a spade loser, which he knew could not ruff safely in dummy, and he also had a potential diamond loser. He could discard one or the other on one of dummy's top hearts, but not both.

South saw that he could stake the outcome on a diamond finesse, but he knew there was almost no chance that the finesse would succeed. It was highly unlikely that West, who had already shown up with the A-K-Q-10-2 of spades, would have passed as dealer if he also had the king of diamonds.

So, rather than rely on the diamond finesse, South crossed to the ace of trumps, led the queen of diamonds and put up the ace after West followed low. He then cashed four more clubs, producing this position:

North

♥ A K 10  
♦ 9

West

♠ 10  
♥ J 7 6

East

♥ Q 9 8  
♦ K

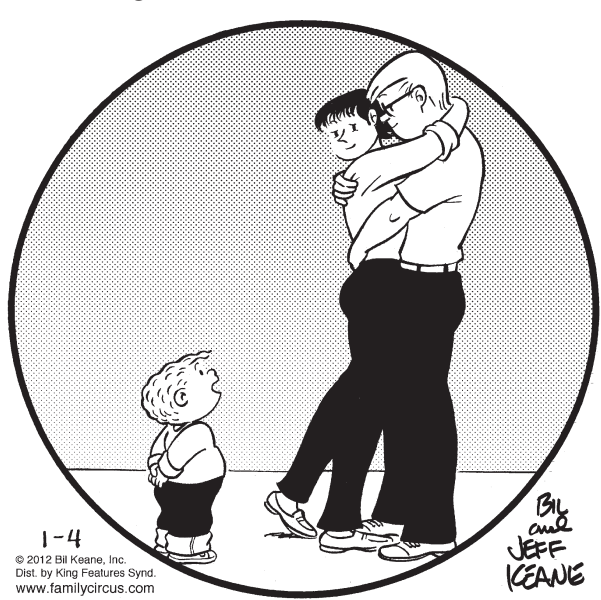
South

♠ 9  
♥ 5  
♦ J  
♣ 6

South now led his last trump. West had to keep his high spade, so he discarded a heart as dummy discarded a diamond. East had to keep his king of diamonds, so he also discarded a heart, and dummy then scored the last three tricks with the A-K-10 of hearts.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



1-4  
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"Do you have room for one more in there?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 1/04

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★ 1/04

Cryptoquip

B UBLH A OXXZBLA ZJ NTBO

WX GY PYOJ RXXWNB LA.

BW OYTMMJ HXYR NTPY T

IXZGBLA YUUYIW XL ZY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS SUBWAY SYSTEM WAS BUILT IN THE STYLE OF AN EARLIER ERA. IT'S DEFINITELY A RETRO METRO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- |  |                        |                           |                        |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS                                 | 38 Mimic               | DOWN                      | 11 Drag                |
| 1 Gauch's weapon                       | 40 Big Apple abbr.     | 1 Movie about a pig       | 16 Peruse              |
| 5 Apprehend                            | 41 Freeway access      | 2 Fine                    | 23 Chop                |
| 8 "Little Women" woman                 | 43 Blond shade         | 3 Fragment of dialogue    | 24 "Entourage" role    |
| 12 Related (to)                        | 45 Fluffy dessert      | 4 Monitor location, maybe | 25 Causes chaos, maybe |
| 13 Ostrich's cousin                    | 47 Pay-check increases | 5 On neither side         | 27 Actress Farrow      |
| 14 La Scala solo                       | 51 Swiss mountains     | 6 Pump up the volume      | 29 Crafty              |
| 15 Back to zero, on "Wheel of Fortune" | 52 All of a sudden     | 7 Sun-dance's pal         | 30 Sleuth              |
| 17 Bantu language                      | 55 Bill and --         | 8 Charity events          | 32 Optician's product  |
| 18 Grommet                             | 56 Agony               | 9 Volcanic outbreak       | 34 Small songbird      |
| 19 Small church                        | 57 Throw               | 10 Mah-jongg piece        | 37 Type measures       |
| 21 Listener                            | 58 "In what way?"      |                           | 39 Birthright barterer |
| 22 Warmth                              | 59 Curved molding      |                           | 42 Cling-stone, e.g.   |
| 23 Despondent                          |                        |                           | 44 Zoo favorite        |
| 26 Water barrier                       |                        |                           | 45 Shopping center     |
| 28 Place for a watch                   |                        |                           | 46 Medley              |
| 31 Overly proper one                   |                        |                           | 48 Un-escorted         |
| 33 Fleur-de--                          |                        |                           | 49 Author Wiesel       |
| 35 Un-matched                          |                        |                           | 50 "Auld Lang --"      |
| 36 Super-market section                |                        |                           | 53 Halloween shout     |

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-4

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
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
45	46					47		48	49	50
51					52	53				
54					55			56		
57					58			59		