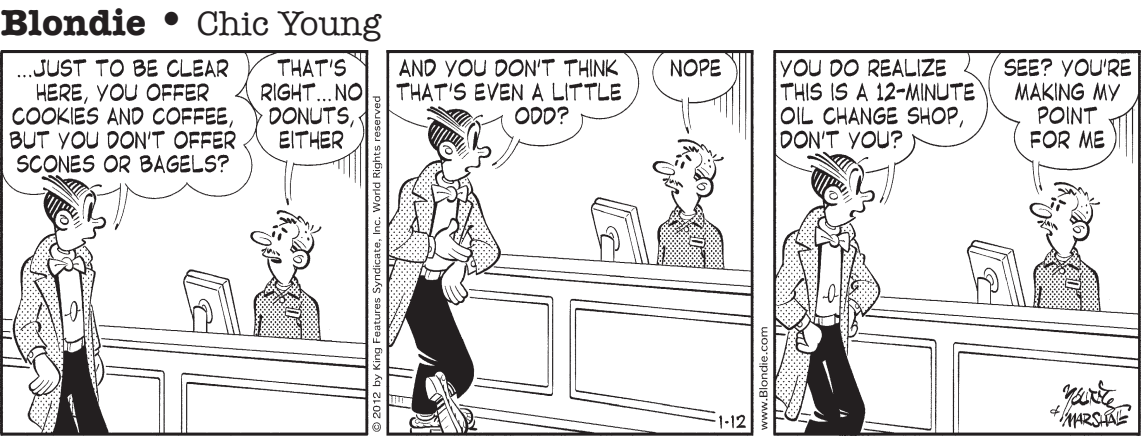
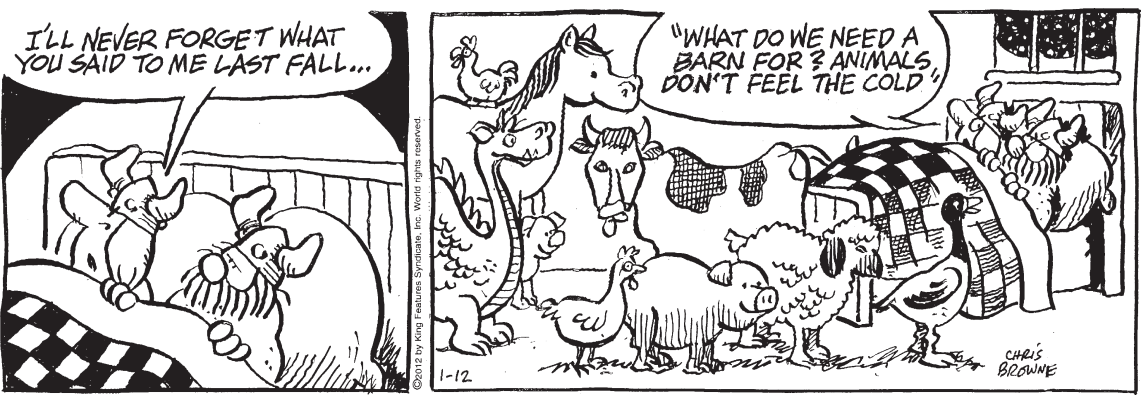
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young



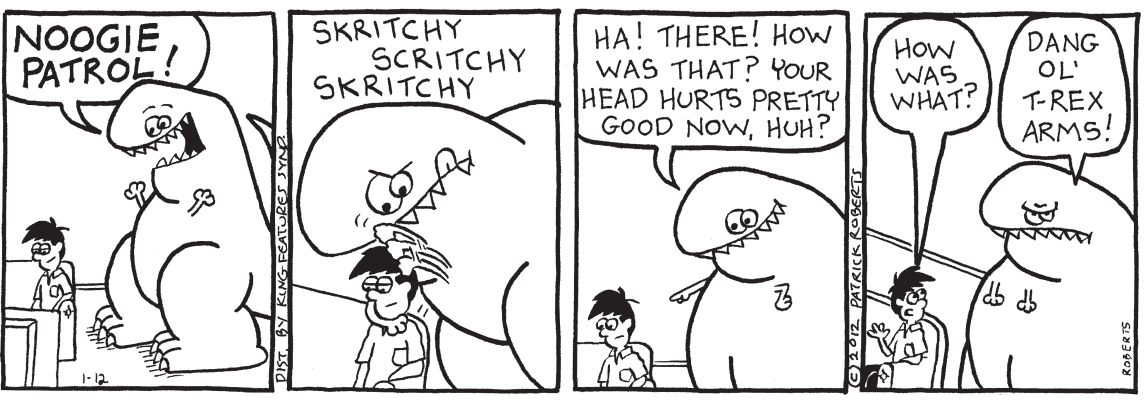
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



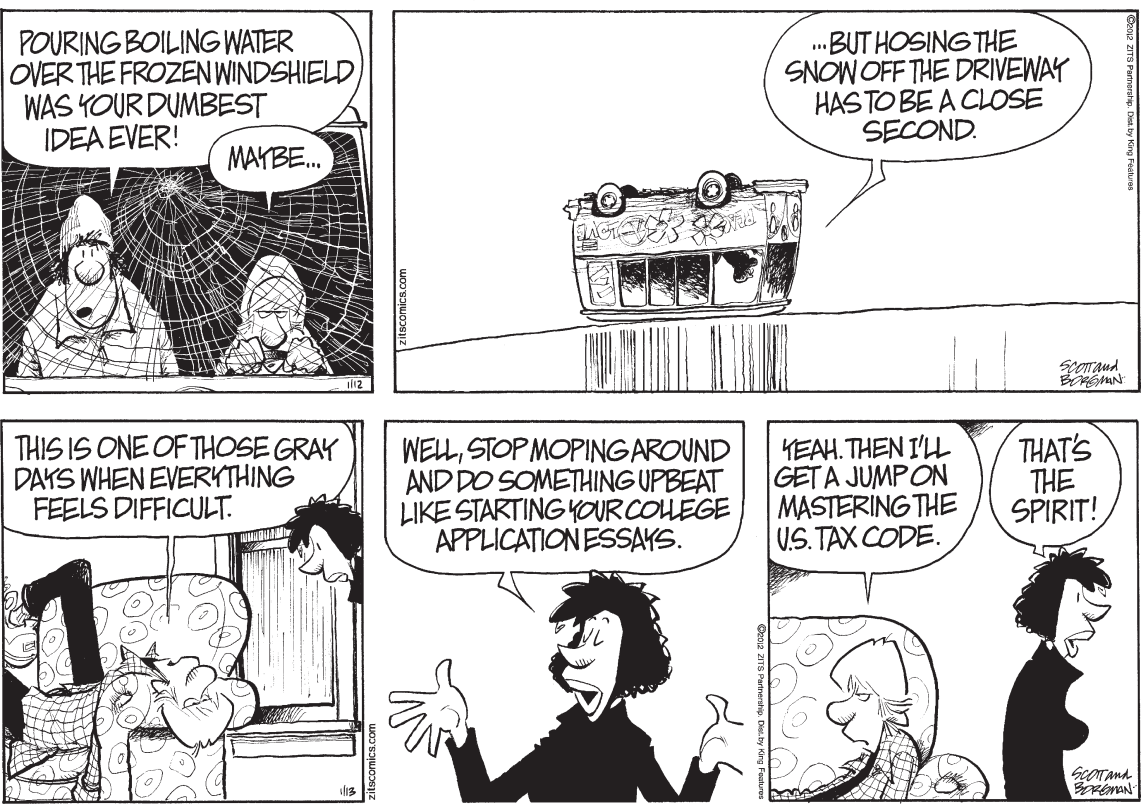
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Her child cries while at day care

Dear Dr. Brothers: I live in a close-knit ethnic neighborhood where everybody does things the way their parents did and no one wants to rock the boat. All the kids have always gone to this one grandmother for day care, and even though I felt I would rather keep my son with me, I sent him there as soon as he turned 2. Now he is crying quite a bit while he's there, and none of us knows what to do. Should I take him out? – D.A.

Dear D.A.: It is nice to have neighborhood traditions to follow and perhaps hand down to your own children, but at the same time, it puts a lot of pressure on everyone to conform. If this were not the case, you would have had to start from scratch and figure out where you and your son fit and what would be the best course. Since the decision was pretty much made for you by the neighborhood culture, it's no wonder that when things unravel, you feel like rebelling. Those customs are great as long as you realize sometimes you have to break with tradition.

Your son may be having a hard time learning to separate, and this could work itself out as he gets used to being away from you for several hours a day. But your ambivalence may be contributing to the problem. Your child can sense it when you are having as hard a time as he is with the idea of leaving him at day care. Helping him learn to separate means doing so for yourself first. If it still doesn't feel right, let him stay home with you for a while. The neighborhood will understand.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have three wonderful kids, and thought I treated them all the same. I was a girly-girl myself, so it has been easier for me to relate to my two daughters, while the world of little boys was hard for me to cope with. My husband and I divorced, and I find myself having to do "dad" things so my son doesn't miss out. Today he asked me why I love his sisters more than him. Do I really? – L.B.

Dear L.B.: Despite the common myth that we love all of our children the same – or that we treat them all the same – each child is different, and so is our relationship with him or her. You admit to finding it hard to relate to your little boy. That doesn't mean you love the girls more – and you can explain this to your son – just that your relationship with him is special and takes more effort and understanding on your part. He may be a sensitive child who realizes you don't have as easy a time having fun with him as with your daughters, or that your enthusiasm for boy stuff is limited. But that doesn't mean you love the girls more.

There may be some resentment toward your ex-husband for leaving you trying to fill his shoes for all your children. I suggest you look somewhere in your family circle or to a role model your son can look up to, and try to bring a male figure into his life to bring some of those dad things to your son. You may be feeling guilty because you aren't able be all things to all people, and sharing responsibilities might take the pressure off.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 8
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K 5 2
♣ A 9 6

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

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ 8 7 6 3 2
♦ J 9 7 6 4
♣ 4

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 NT			

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

It's Magic

Many contracts depend on how the defenders' cards are divided in a specific suit. For example, take this case where South is in six notrump. He has 11 sure tricks, and his only chance for a 12th lies in scoring four diamond tricks instead of three.

Ordinarily, South would have to find the diamonds divided 3-3 to achieve this objective. But here, if he plays correctly, declarer can make four diamond tricks even though the suit is divided 5-1. Moreover, he can accomplish the feat without seeing East's hand.

South wins the club lead with the king and plays the king of hearts. Let's assume West takes the ace and continues with the jack of clubs, dummy winning with the ace as East discards a heart.

At this point, declarer has no idea how the diamonds are divided or how he will ultimately fare. So, in order to learn more about the opposing distribution, he next cashes four spade tricks, discarding a club from his hand.

These plays shed considerable light on the matter after West shows up with four spades. The four spades, added to the six clubs and ace of hearts West has already turned up with, account for 11 of West's original 13 cards. When South next leads a heart to the ten and West follows suit, he learns that West was dealt at most one diamond.

Declarer is finally ready to tackle the diamonds and starts by cashing the king. When West produces the ten, South is in business. He plays another diamond from dummy, and if East follows suit with the seven, South finesses the eight, knowing that it will win since West cannot have another diamond.

Observe that East can't foil declarer by playing the nine instead of the seven. In that case, South wins with the queen and returns to dummy with a heart for another diamond lead through East's J-7.

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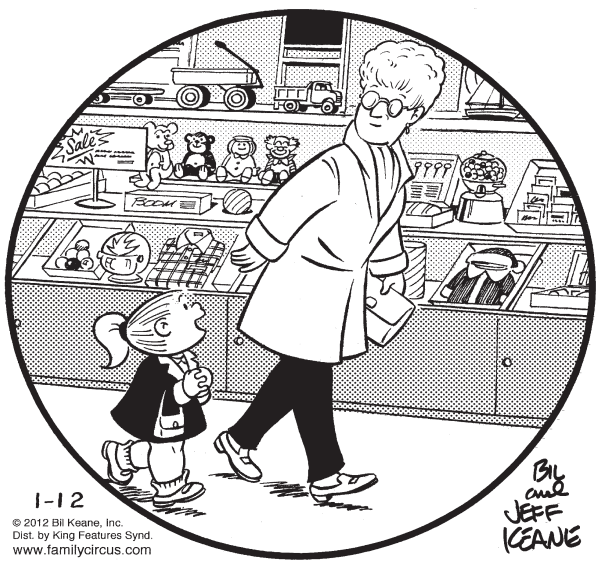
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Grandma, if you're thinking of buying me a treat, it can be our little secret."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/12

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/11

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Cryptoquip

VKJP JRJXI SJOQXI-GVJOOCPF MXJHBEXJ KHN FUPJ UP RHMHBCUP, VUEOG IUE NHI BKHB HOO SHBN HXJ UQQ?

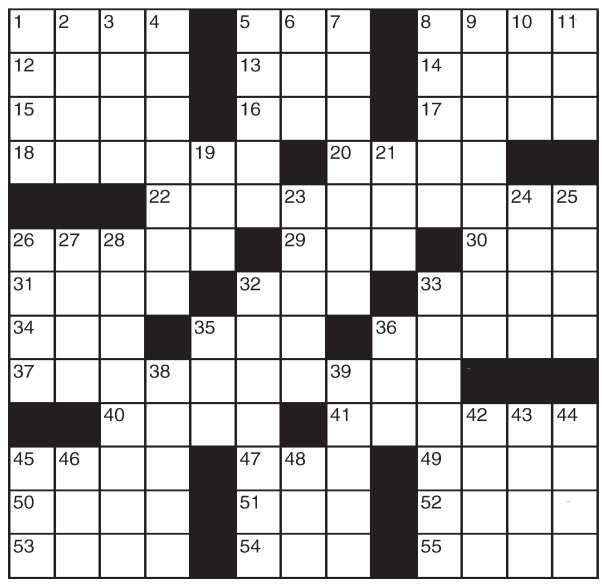
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DIDN'T EVER CARE ABOUT USING THE RIGHT VERB INFLECTIONS, BUT I FINALLY CAME TO MY TENSES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Volcanic spillage
5 Solo of "Star Wars"
8 Bang the door loudly
12 Troop group
13 Inseparable
14 Caffeine-rich nut
15 Swag
16 Twitch
17 Terrible guy?
18 Loosen a sneaker
20 Dandling locale
22 One way to quit
26 Ungainly
29 Cage piece
30 Born
31 Raw minerals
32 "See ya"
33 TV chef Cat
34 Have a bug
35 "Ulalume" writer
36 Croc's cousin
37 Speak frankly
40 Transaction
41 Nerve tissue cell
45 Pic you can click
47 Conk out
49 Unaccompanied
50 Beach matter
51 Geological period
52 Right angles
53 Sandwich cookie
54 Roulette bet
55 Do in

DOWN
1 Humdinger
2 Any time now
3 String instrument
4 Assaults
5 "Monopoly" building
6 Singer DiFranco
7 Cravat
8 Lindsey Vonn, for one
9 Entwined symbol of affection
10 — carte
11 Fellow
19 Demure
21 Gist
23 Laundromat machine
24 Architect Saarinen
25 Calendar quota
26 Capricorn
27 Met melody
28 "Bravo!"
32 Colorado city
33 Range horses
35 Sch. org.
36 "Gosh!"
38 Japanese fencing
39 Work dough
42 Roster
43 — podrida
44 Inquisitive
45 Equal (Pref.)
46 Automobile
48 Rage

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-12