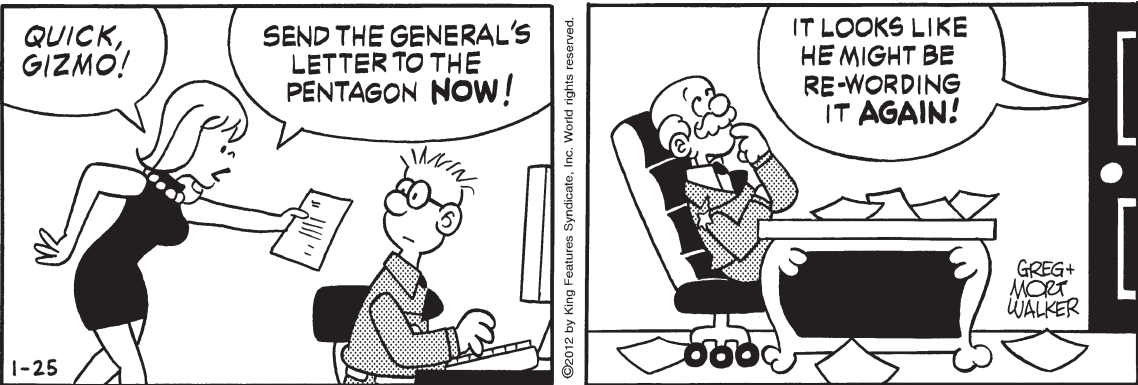


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



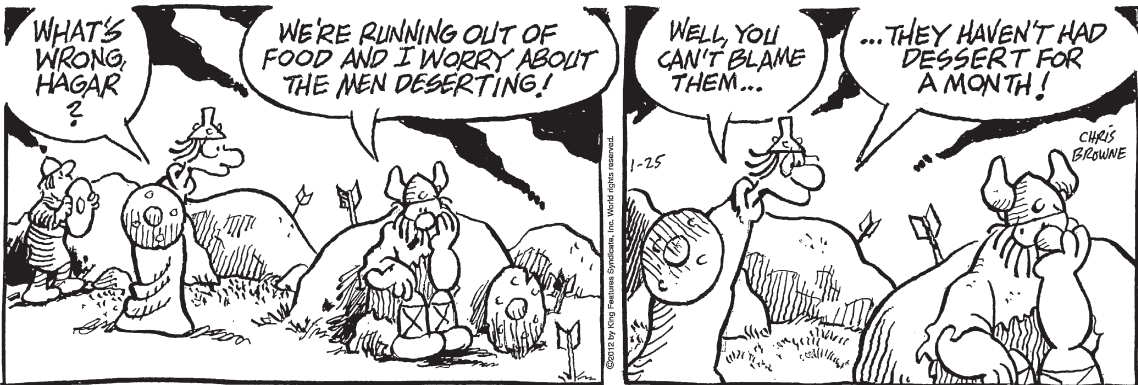
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



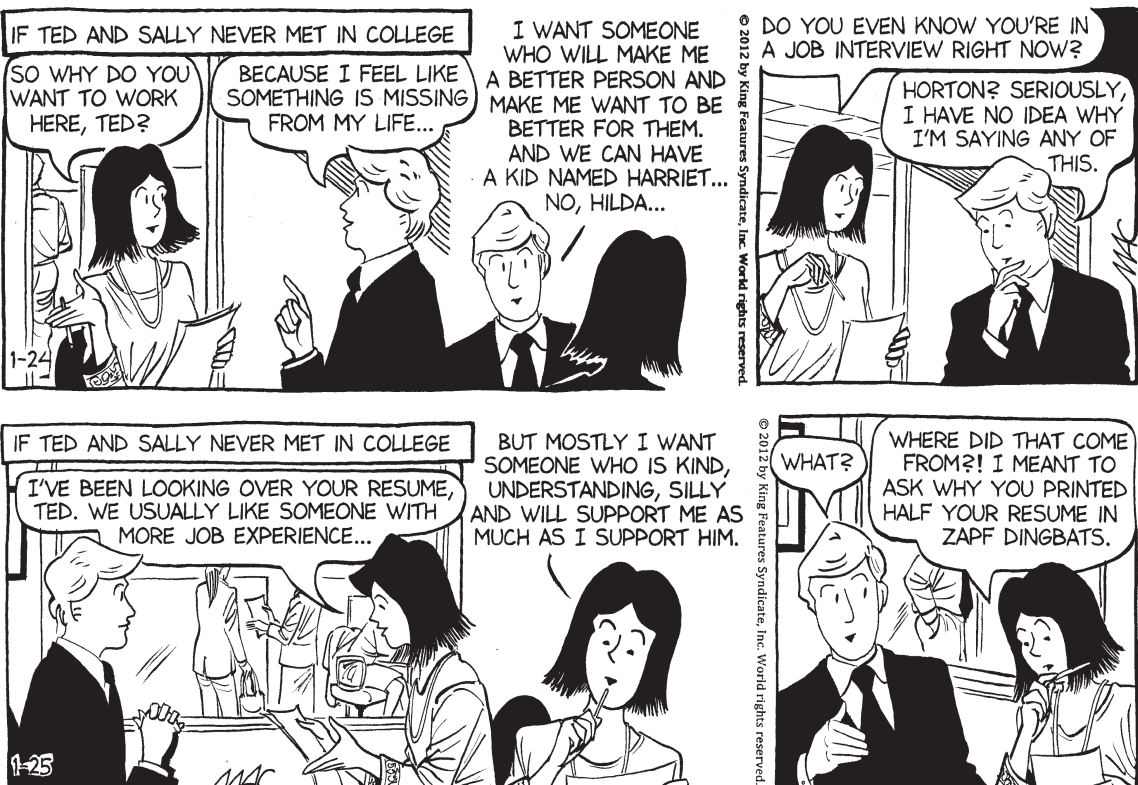
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



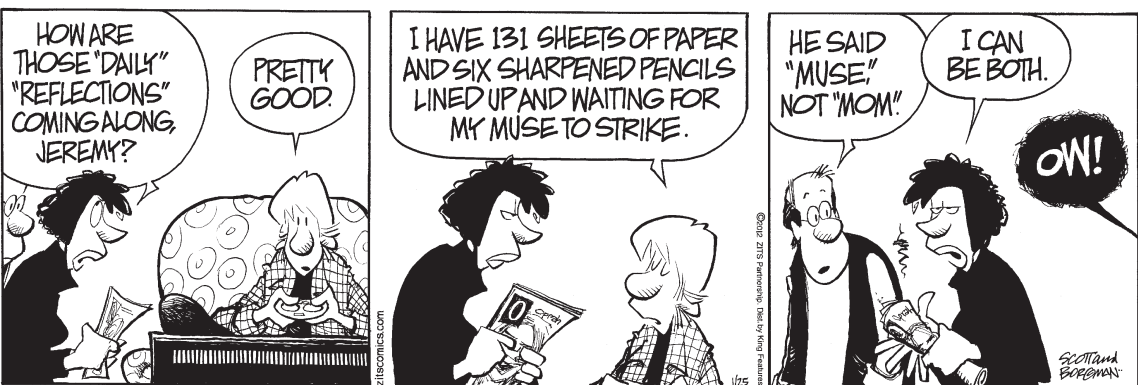
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Waffle iron has sticky problems

Dear Heloise: I have a WAFFLE IRON with removable nonstick plates. The plates have a buildup of cooking spray, oil, etc., that has rendered them no longer "nonstick," and I have tried numerous methods to remove the gunk. Nothing has worked. Do you have any suggestions? – Walt B., via email

Yes, I do! Of course, you should follow the manufacturer's directions first.

Here's the Heloise hint: Soak a paper towel or napkin with sudsing ammonia (it has detergent in it) and place between the waffle-iron grids. Leave it for several hours (out of the way) or overnight. Then, use a little dish soap and hot water with a nonabrasive, scrub-type sponge or plastic brush. Rinse well, and dry completely.

To re-season your waffle iron, if needed, take pieces of bread, coat with unsalted shortening or unsalted butter and place one in each section of the cooled iron. Close the lid and then turn it on. Cook until the bread is browned, then take it out, wipe and that's it!

Heloise Update: Lecithin, found in many cooking-oil sprays, leaves a gummy residue when sprayed on a HOT surface. DON'T spray oil on a hot griddle. This should help prevent any future buildup. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

ORGANIC MILK

Dear Heloise: The lady who recently wrote that she is always having to throw away half-used cartons of milk because she doesn't drink it fast enough should buy organic milk. It lasts a long time. Check the dates in the store, and you will see. Why does it last longer? I have no idea. – A Reader, North Little Rock, Ark.

How right you are, and thanks for reminding us. Ultrapasteurization and packaging are the reasons organic milk has such a long shelf life. A major manufacturer of organic milk offers both pasteurized and ultrapasteurized milk. The pasteurized has a shelf life of one to two weeks, compared with the ultrapasteurized, with a sell-by date several weeks out.

There are single servings of organic milk that keep at room temperature and have an extended shelf life. – Heloise

P.S.: Also, lactose-free milk (whole, 2 percent or fat-free) has a longer life, too!

KEEPING INVENTORY

Dear Heloise: Our freezer is in the basement at the foot of the cellar steps. To save steps, we keep an inventory – one copy on the freezer door and another on the refrigerator in the kitchen.

When we take something out of the freezer, we mark the chart in both places. When we add foods, we print new copies off the computer, making it easy to keep track of all our food items. – B.G., Howland, Ohio

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q 8 7 5  
♥ 9 6  
♦ A J 2  
♣ A J 9 4  
**WEST**  
♠ —  
♥ 10 8 5 3 2  
♦ 8 5 4  
♣ K Q 10 6 3  
**EAST**  
♠ K J 3  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ 10 7 6 3  
♣ 7 5 2  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10 9 6 4 2  
♥ A Q J  
♦ K Q 9  
♣ 8

The bidding:  
**South** 1 ♠  
**West** 6 ♠  
**North** 3 ♠  
**East** Pass  
Opening lead — king of clubs.

First Things First

It isn't difficult to make six spades on this deal if you see the opposing cards. Declarer takes the opening club lead with the ace, leads a low spade and lets it ride if East follows low, then later takes a winning heart finesse to bring home the slam.

But when the opposing hands are not known, making the slam is a much more complicated proposition. If, for example, West held the king of hearts, declarer should not tackle the trump suit in the fashion described above because he could no longer afford to lose a trump trick.

Since in practice declarer cannot see the defenders' cards, he should adopt the method of play that offers the best chance of success. In some cases, he will go down no matter what he does. Thus, if the East-West hands in the actual deal are exchanged, South cannot prevail.

The correct approach is to postpone the decision on how to play the spades until declarer knows whether he has to lose a heart trick. Accordingly, South leads a heart from dummy at trick two and takes the finesse.

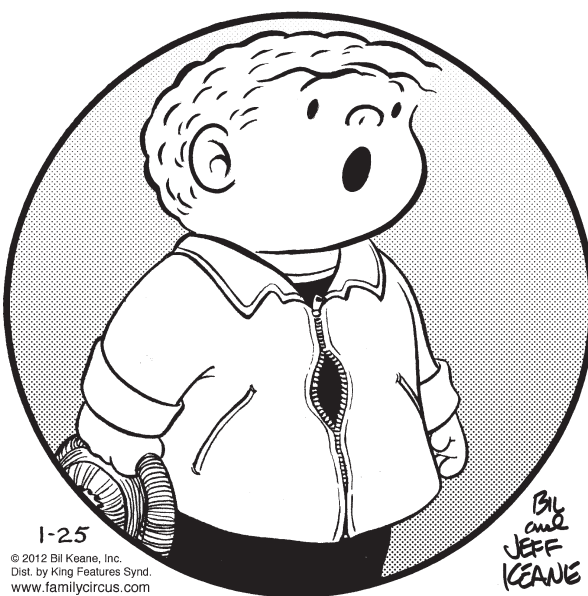
If the finesse fails, by far the best remaining hope is to cash the spade ace, hoping to drop the singleton king. But if the heart finesse succeeds, declarer has a sure thing. All he has to do is to make certain he does not lose two trump tricks.

This can be accomplished easily by crossing to dummy with a diamond to lead a low spade. South then adapts his play to whatever card East plays.

If East shows out on the first spade, declarer takes the ace and returns a spade toward the queen to limit himself to one trump loser. If East produces a spade honor instead, South takes the ace and is home free. And if East follows to the first spade with the three, declarer finesesses to assure the loss of only one trump trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My zipper can't keep its mouth shut."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

1/25

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

HQ NLX YOK'P ASP SKLXAR

LQ O YSEPOHK YOEOFST-

PLGGSJ JSMMSEP, LKS FHARP

MON NLX'ES O QTOK-OPHY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING BOXED EXTRAORDINARILY WELL, I BELIEVE THE TORTOISE SHOULD WIN THE HEAVYWEIGHT TURTLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- |                              |                                   |                          |                               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | <b>37</b> Top                     | <b>59</b> Archibald      | <b>16</b> Mailing             |
| <b>1</b> Protected           | <b>38</b> Old                     | of NBA                   | <b>HQ</b>                     |
| <b>5</b> Trans-gression      | <b>39</b> Bronze                  | lore                     | <b>20</b> Choir member        |
| <b>8</b> Agile               | <b>41</b> Slow-cooker             |                          | <b>22</b> Stumble             |
| <b>12</b> Yoked team         | <b>43</b> Photo recipe            | <b>DOWN</b>              | <b>23</b> Relinquishes        |
| <b>13</b> Japanese pond carp | <b>46</b> Short-wave or CB        | <b>1</b> Former frosh    | <b>25</b> Trail behind        |
| <b>14</b> Hint               | <b>50</b> Eye part                | <b>2</b> Wheel-base      | <b>26</b> Have bills          |
| <b>15</b> Making a vow       | <b>51</b> Recent fad re-quirning  | <b>3</b> Yard trio       | <b>27</b> Cabal's work        |
| <b>17</b> Luau dance         | <b>57</b> Lady — one to lie stiff | <b>4</b> Last tackle     | <b>29</b> Adjoining moguls    |
| <b>18</b> Excited            |                                   | <b>5</b> Tackle bit      | <b>31</b> Regret              |
| <b>19</b> Carpentry tool     |                                   | <b>6</b> Charged         | <b>32</b> More-over           |
| <b>21</b> Campus mil. org.   | <b>54</b> Baseball team           | <b>7</b> In the offing   | <b>34</b> Barn roof adornment |
| <b>24</b> Tennis stroke      | <b>55</b> Have a bug              | <b>8</b> Jerk            | <b>38</b> Stir                |
| <b>25</b> Easy gait          | <b>56</b> Satanic                 | <b>9</b> Pipes and such  | <b>40</b> Bewildered          |
| <b>28</b> Land-lord's due    | <b>57</b> Lady — prop             | <b>10</b> Legislate      | <b>42</b> Coastal eagle       |
| <b>30</b> A                  |                                   | <b>11</b> Calendar quota | <b>43</b> Chinese dynasty     |

Solution time: 21 mins.

ASH	VAMPS	MOP
IK	ABOUT	EMU
MISER	ABLE	DEN
LIN	SPLINT	
BUMMED	EPIC	
ERA	DOG	ERASE
TALC	NIP	ABED
ALLOT	NEB	LEI
EZRA	ALBERT	
PLAYER	CAR	
LOB	MEMORABLE	
ELL	ONICE	LEO
ALE	RANKS	TEN

Yesterday's answer 1-25

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		