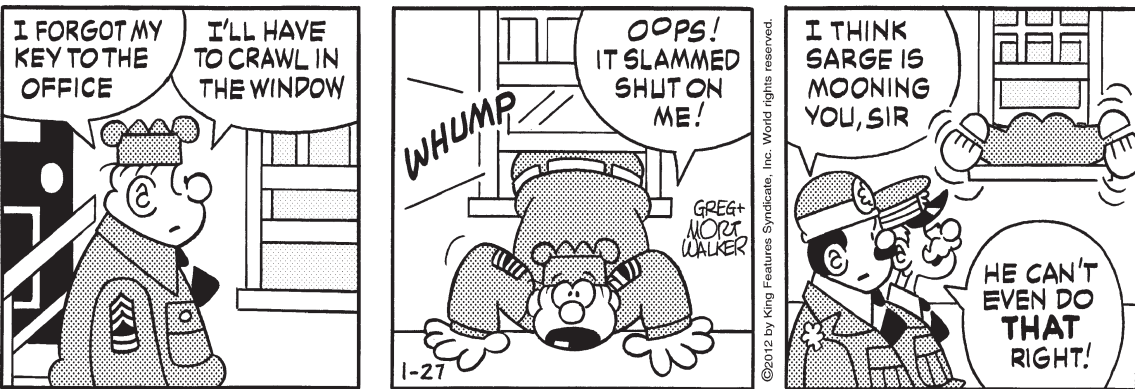


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



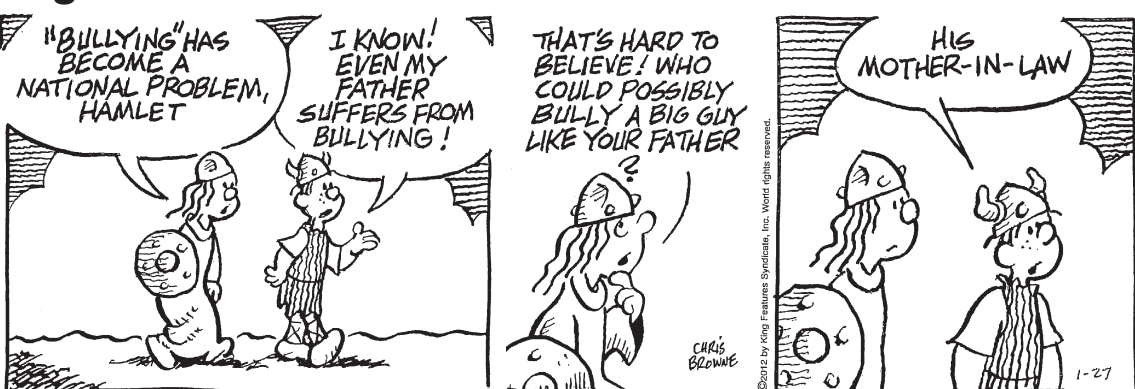
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



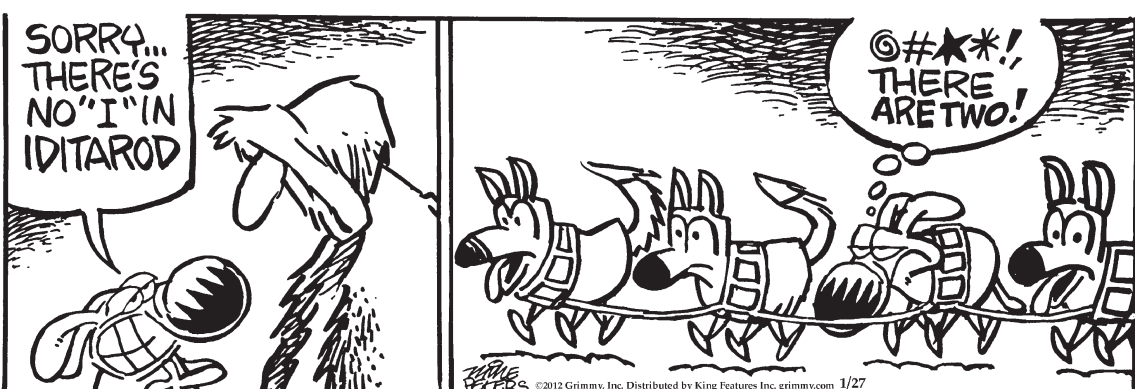
Blondie • Chic Young



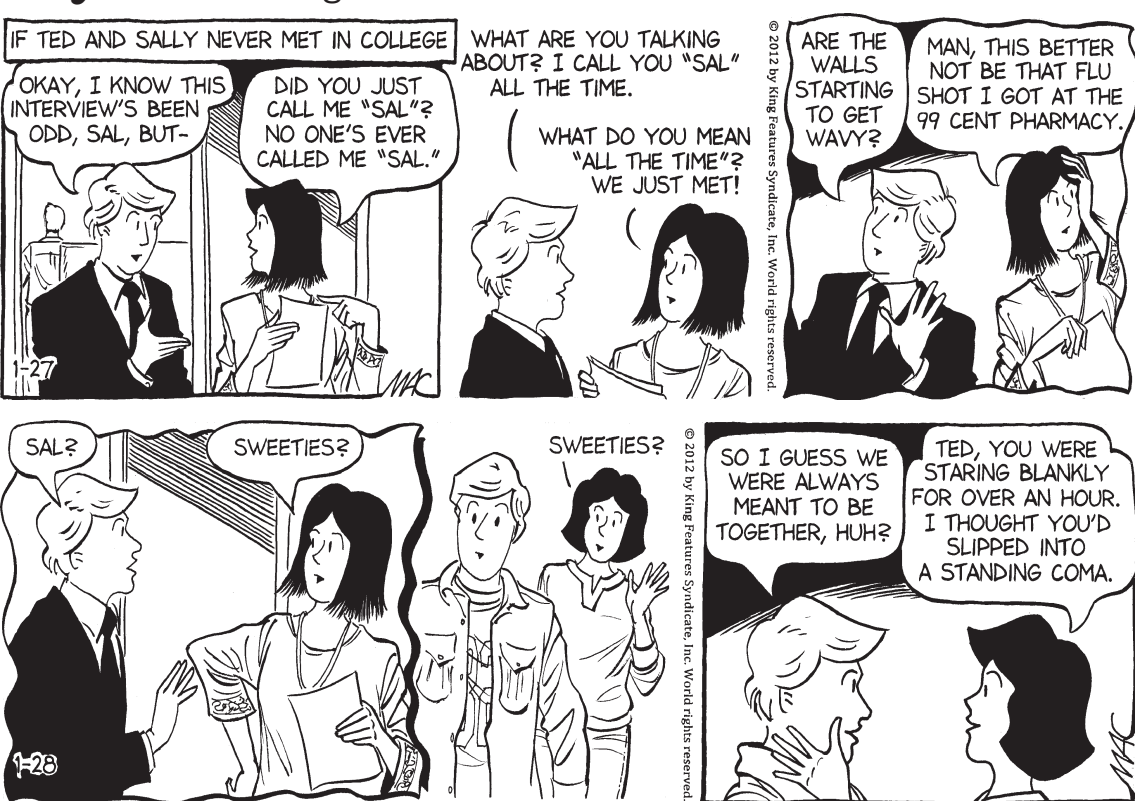
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



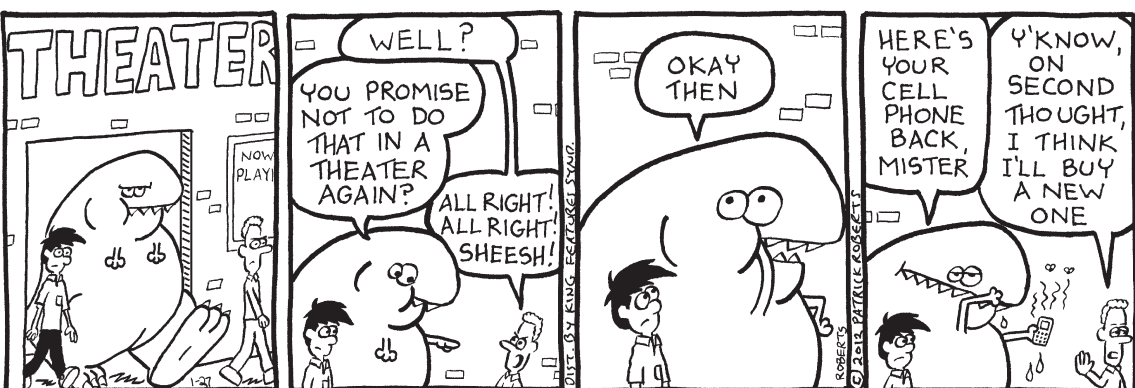
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



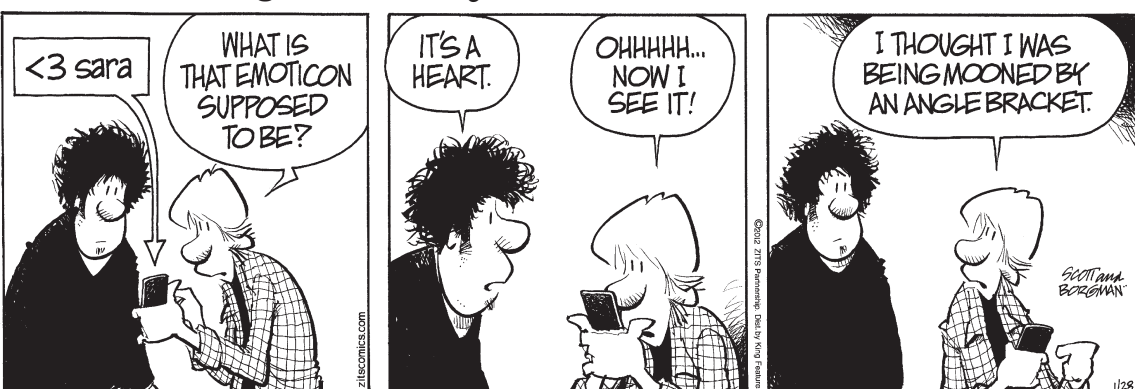
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



Lock your bags when travelling

Dear Heloise: We will be traveling by air to South America. Should we put a LOCK on our checked baggage? – Sheri in California

Hi, Sheri: The answer is an absolute yes! Heloise Central was referred by the Transportation Security Administration to one of the Department of State's websites, www.travel.state.gov. The State Department recommends that you lock your bags. Use a transportation security-approved lock so that it can be opened if necessary. You also may want to carry plastic zip ties (found in home-improvement stores) to secure your bags, especially if going out of the United States.

The State Department also advises people traveling in a foreign country to travel light and to leave valuables and items that can't be replaced at home. – Heloise

EASY READER

Dear Heloise: I thought that my son would never learn to read. Then an older boy gave him some comic books, and just like a miracle, he started reading. I had the same problem with his younger brother. My husband bought a book about one of the superheroes. It was just like we flipped a switch – he started reading.

I had always read to my children and tried to encourage them, but it was comic books that did the trick. – Ellen B., Lady Lake, Fla.

MAKIN' BACON

Dear Heloise: I like to buy bacon in 1-pound packages on sale, and I use it mostly for seasoning. Since I rarely need a whole package, here's what I do: Using kitchen shears, I cut across the entire slab into preferred sizes, usually 1-inch sections. I then slip the amount I want (on the cardboard backing) into freezer bags and freeze.

If you want to save freezer bags, place two sections back-to-back in a bag. Simply pull a bag out and throw the bacon into the skillet or pot. It thaws very quickly. – Celeste H., Barclay, Texas

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

EASY BREAKFAST

Dear Heloise: While making breakfast, I accidentally overbaked the biscuits, so I immediately wrapped them in a damp tea towel and placed them inside a bowl in the microwave (for 30 seconds on medium power – Heloise). They came out very moist! – Jolynne G., Anaheim, Calif.

CLOTHING REDO

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint about using clothing different ways. I am starting to organize and rearrange garments in my closet by color. I have rediscovered "forgotten" items that help create new outfits. – Anna in Virginia

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the king of clubs. How would you play the hand?

WEST: ♠ A 9 2, ♥ A K Q 10 9 5, ♦ 10 7 4, ♣ 6

EAST: ♠ K 8 4, ♥ 7 3, ♦ A 9 6 2, ♣ A J 7 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the queen of hearts. Played correctly, you can make the contract regardless of how the North-South cards are divided. How would you proceed?

WEST: ♠ Q J 2, ♥ 7 6, ♦ 9 4, ♣ A K 10 9 8 6

EAST: ♠ A 10 3, ♥ A K 3, ♦ A 10 8 7 2, ♣ Q 3

Test Your Play

1. Ten tricks are easy if the missing trumps are divided 3-2 or either opponent has the singleton jack. The only real threat to the contract is that one of the opponents was dealt the J-x-x of trumps, so you should take steps to deal with that possibility.

Accordingly, you win the club lead with the ace and ruff the three of clubs at trick two. You then cash the A-K of trumps to find out where you stand in the trump suit. If everyone follows twice, you're home free, so let's suppose North was dealt this hand:

♠ 76 ♥ J862 ♦ J5 ♣ KQ1052

In that case, he'll wind up taking second money – despite his sure trump trick -- because of your foresight in trumping a club at trick two. After next cashing the queen of hearts and A-K of spades, you ruff another club, then play a diamond to the ace followed by a third club ruff. That brings you to 10 tricks, which was your goal from the start. Note that the same line of play also yields 10 tricks if South rather than North started with four trumps.

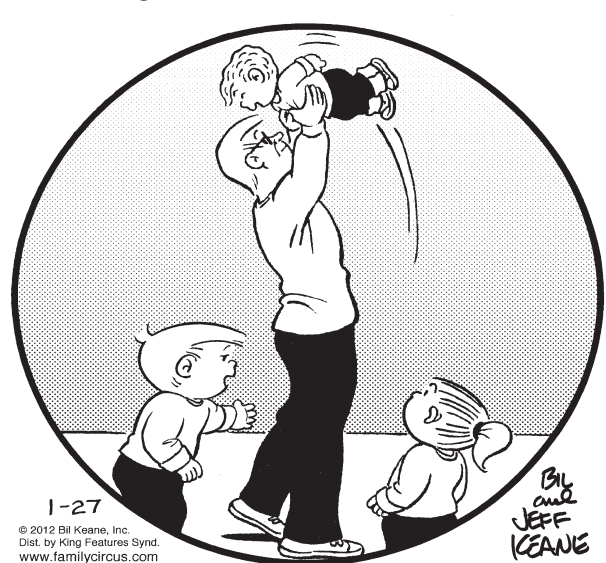
2. Win the opening heart lead with the king, play a low club from dummy and finesse the ten! If North wins the trick with the jack, which is certainly possible, you have nine sure tricks consisting of five clubs, a spade, two hearts and a diamond.

If the ten of clubs wins the trick, whether North follows suit or not, you are equally certain of the contract. You next lead a low club to dummy's queen and continue with the ace and another spade, establishing an entry to your hand to cash at least two more club tricks.

This method of play guarantees at least four club tricks, two spades, two hearts and a diamond. The unusual club finesse at trick two guards against any possible club division, whether the suit is divided 3-2, 4-1 or 5-0.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/27

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.

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

Cryptoquip

FWHABMV EMJXUALG LRML'H

GJXBMLAJG XE HLADIADI

ADHGBLH' MVLGUBMLAXDH:

"EAIRL XE LRG SWFSVGGG."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AN EAGER KITTEN STALKS A PUPPY TIRELESSLY, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THE CAT COWS THE DOG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Breakfast strips
 - 6 Lawyers' org.
 - 9 Under the weather
 - 12 Island greeting
 - 13 Deteriorate
 - 14 — Zedong
 - 15 Impersonator
 - 16 Order
 - 18 Transforms through CGI
 - 20 Curved molding
 - 21 Winter bug
 - 23 Prior to
 - 24 Garb
 - 25 Camera feature
 - 27 Trip around the world?
 - 29 Relinquishes
 - 31 Does a doubletake, maybe
 - 35 Gladiators' place
- DOWN**
- 1 Emeril's cry
 - 2 "The Greatest"
 - 3 Home for many hippies
 - 4 Buck-eyes' home
 - 5 Mother-of-pearl
 - 6 Robin Hood, for one
 - 7 Greets the villain
 - 8 \$ dispenser
 - 9 Mirror's offering
 - 10 Bowling milieu
 - 11 Sources of wealth
 - 17 Human writing
 - 19 Ordinary
 - 21 Aviate gift
 - 22 Wahine's
 - 24 Expire
 - 26 Zigzag path
 - 28 Impudent
 - 30 Parched
 - 32 Low chest of drawers
 - 33 Also
 - 34 Hot tub
 - 36 Ambrosia accompaniment
 - 8 \$ dispenser
 - 9 Mirror's offering
 - 10 Bowling milieu
 - 38 Coffee-chocolate blend
 - 39 For all to hear
 - 40 March of
 - 42 Type-setting measures
 - 45 Quick cut
 - 46 Close
 - 48 Greek vowel
 - 50 Witness
 - 51 Conclusion

Solution time: 25 mins.

OWED	SAP	ISLE							
NAME	ORR	GOOF							
ERIC	NEO	UNIT							
SPRANG	PLAINS								
MOB	INN								
GASP	INSTALLS								
EGO	REO	AOK							
MENHADEN	SWAY								
OOH	DYE								
COGNAC	HEARTH								
OGRE	APE	SERA							
SLAY	LEI	ONIT							
HEMS	LAM	NOME							

Yesterday's answer 1-27

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					
29				30				31		32	33	34	
				35				36		37			
38	39	40						41		42		43	
44								45				46	
47								48				50	51
52								53				54	
55								56				57	