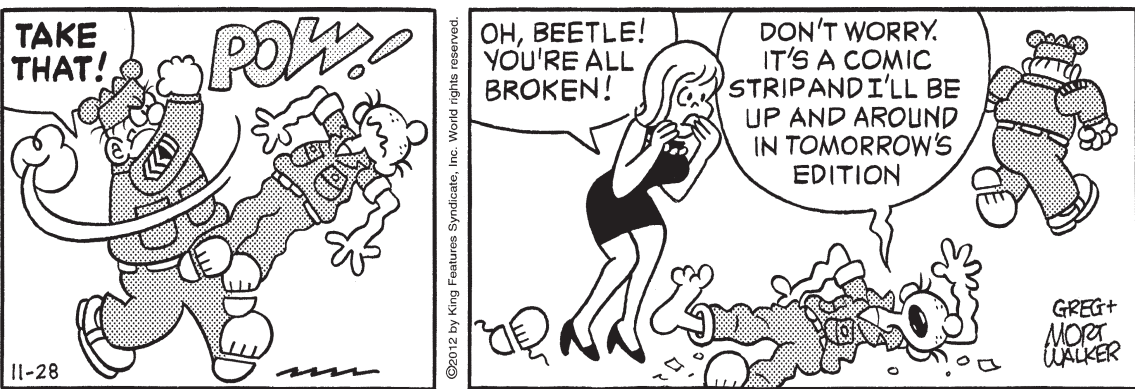


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



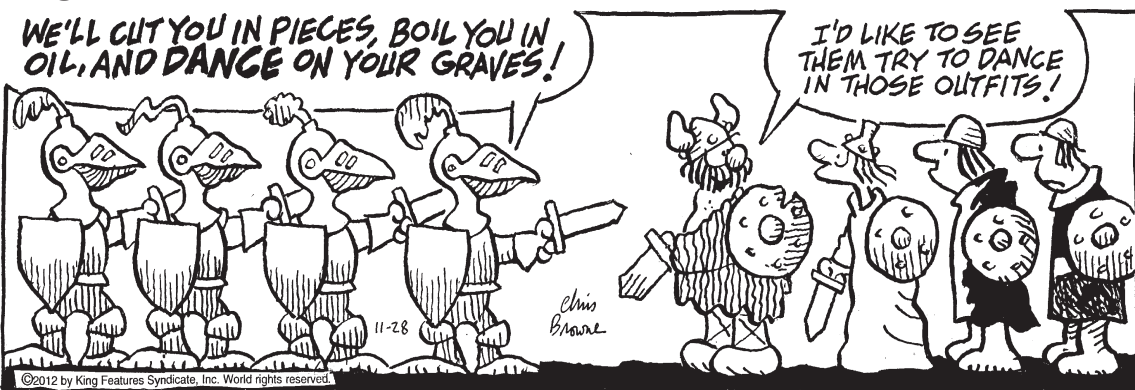
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



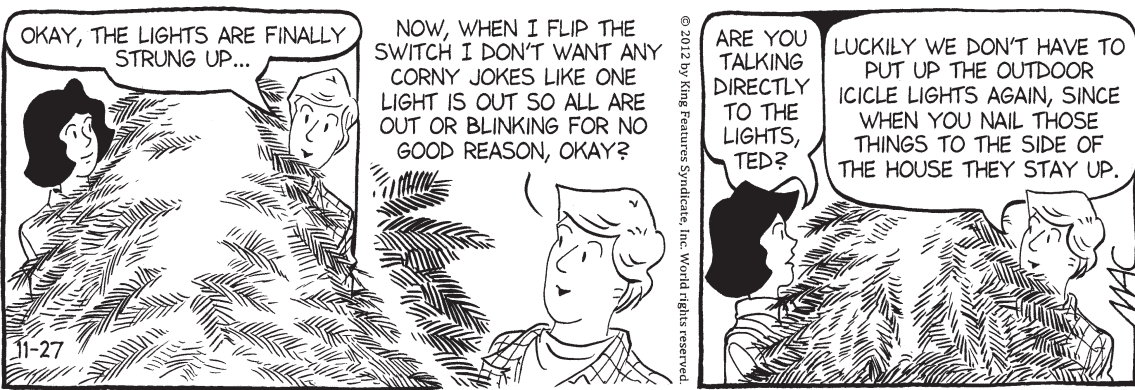
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



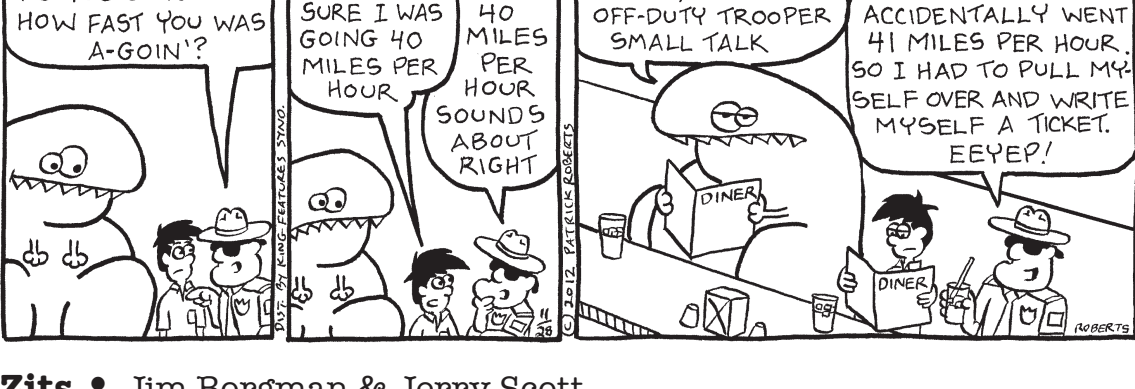
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Vanilla choice may vary by use

Dear Readers: Do you use real or imitation vanilla extract in your kitchen? What is the difference? The first difference is cost. Real vanilla is more expensive because of the time it takes for the plant to grow and the way it is harvested. Imitation vanilla is manufactured at a cheaper cost. Real vanilla is made from natural vanilla beans, while imitation generally is a combination of real vanilla and other ingredients, both natural and artificial. Real vanilla lists alcohol as an ingredient, while imitation does not contain any alcohol. Finally, there is a taste difference. There are those who think imitation vanilla is bitter, but many cooks use it in baking with no noticeable aftertaste. More experienced cooks, however, will keep several different bottles of both real and imitation on hand for specific foods they are cooking and baking. — Heloise

Visit my website, www.Heloise.com, for links to my Facebook and Twitter pages — hints, fun facts and more! Come see photos and check out what's happening.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

FREEZING LEFTOVERS

Dear Heloise: With only my husband and me to cook for, I like to freeze leftovers. Freezing the entire quantity of soups and such requires a long thawing time, and I often don't want to use all of the leftovers at one time. So, I purchased silicone muffin pans, and I freeze the cups full (about 1/3 portions). Once frozen, I transfer them to a freezer bag. When ready to use, I remove only the portions needed. This makes for shorter thawing time and enables me to use the leftovers more efficiently. — Lana H., Bluefield, Va.

MARKED EGGS

Dear Heloise: The egg tray in our refrigerator has slots for 14 eggs. When we have one or two left and buy another dozen, my husband marks the "old" eggs with a pen so we will know to use those first. This helps us avoid the risk of repeatedly leaving the "old" eggs in the tray. — Marsha M., via email

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 7 6 3
♥ 10 8 7 6
♦ A Q J 10
♣ 4 2
WEST
♠ A K J 2
♥ 5
♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ Q J 9 6
EAST
♠ 9 8 4
♥ 9 3 2
♦ 9 8 7
♣ A 10 8 7
SOUTH
♠ Q 10 5
♥ A K Q J 4
♦ K 5
♣ K 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
Opening lead — ace of spades.

Kantar Banter

Without question the most prolific writer on the game of bridge is California's Eddie Kantar, one of the world's leading players and for many years a highly successful teacher.

Kantar's many books on bidding, play and defense all have the same thing in common: clarity and substance presented in a light style laced with wit and humor that makes learning a pleasant experience.

His latest effort is the third edition of "Bridge for Dummies," published by John Wiley and Sons. Today's hand is from the section of the book on defensive signals:

"When your partner leads a high honor card and you have worthless cards in that suit, waste no time in telling your partner to cease and desist by playing your lowest card.

"Here, the opponents wind up in a contract of four hearts. Your mission: to defeat the contract by winning four tricks. Your partner leads the ace of spades.

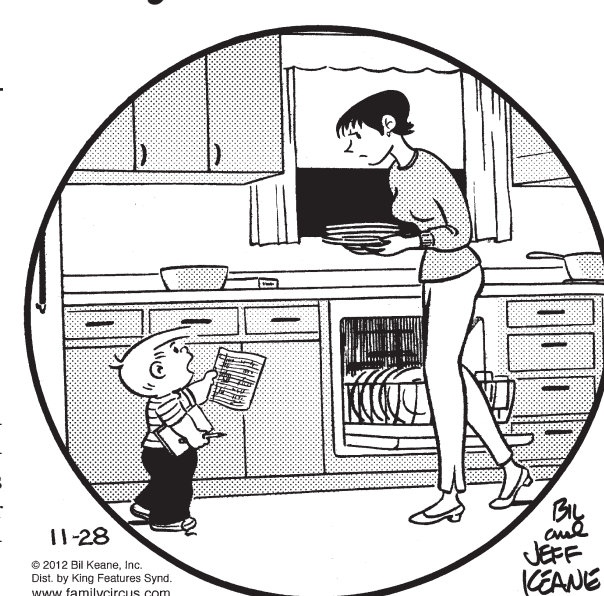
"You have zilch in spades, so you pass the message across the table to your partner by playing your lowest spade, the four. When your partner determines that the four is your lowest spade (partner has the two and can see the three in dummy), your partner knows that you can't have a doubleton spade or even the queen, or else you would have started a high-low encouraging signal.

"Instead of plunking down the king and setting up a trick for the queen the declarer surely has, your partner smartly shifts to the club queen, the top of a sequence. When you see the club queen, you know declarer has the king, so you take the trick with the ace (declarer may have the singleton king!). Now you return a spade, the suit your partner led. When declarer plays the ten, your partner wins with the jack and continues with the king, capturing South's queen for the setting trick.

"If your partner makes the Nervous Nellie play of the spade king at the second trick, establishing a trick for declarer's queen, declarer winds up losing two instead of three spade tricks and makes the contract. Because of accurate defensive signalling, declarer loses three spades and one club, and winds up going down one. Nice defense."

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/28

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.

Cryptoquip

MIZKNR W XZEJWSQ IBLIDF-KJ
VZF W GBL XIWBS ZV
MCQNBSL MWNZSM GD XWNDR
W IWBFWS ZV CID GZWR?

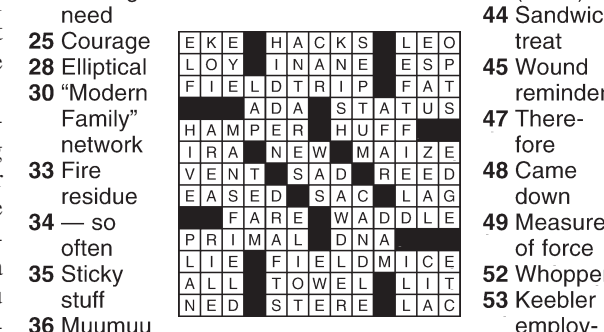
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR SPORT PLAYED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE THEIR HOMES BETWEEN TWO MOUNTAINS: VALLEY-BALL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Where Jesus changed water to wine
5 Knock
8 Envelope part
12 Neural transmitter
13 Ram's mate
14 Toy block name
15 No skeptic
17 Microwave, e.g.
18 Nickelodeon-style gunk
19 Kind of movie glasses
21 Pinnacle
24 Rowing need
25 Courage
28 Elliptical
30 "Modern Family" network
33 Fire residue
34 — so often
35 Sticky stuff
36 Muumuu accessory

DOWN
2 Skating jump
3 — me
4 Inner selves, to Jung
5 Gun the engine
6 Shock and —
7 Saucy
8 Plant life
9 Effectiveness
10 Screenwriter James
11 Small lake
16 Common Mkt. inits., once
20 Sacred
22 Relocate
23 Chris of tennis fame
25 Cowboy's sweetie
26 Work with
27 Pick-pocket's crime
29 Met melody
31 Feathery neckpiece
32 Web address ending
34 Catch sight of
38 Decapitate
40 Some stockings have them
42 Restroom, for short
43 Team leader (Abbr.)
44 Sandwich treat
45 Wound reminder
47 Therefore
48 Came down
49 Measure of force
52 Whopper
53 Keebler employee-ee?



Yesterday's answer 11-28

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		