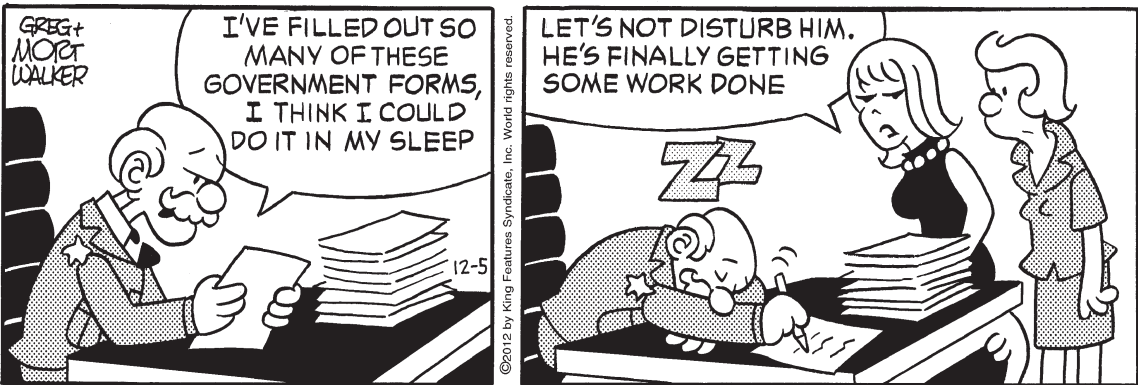


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



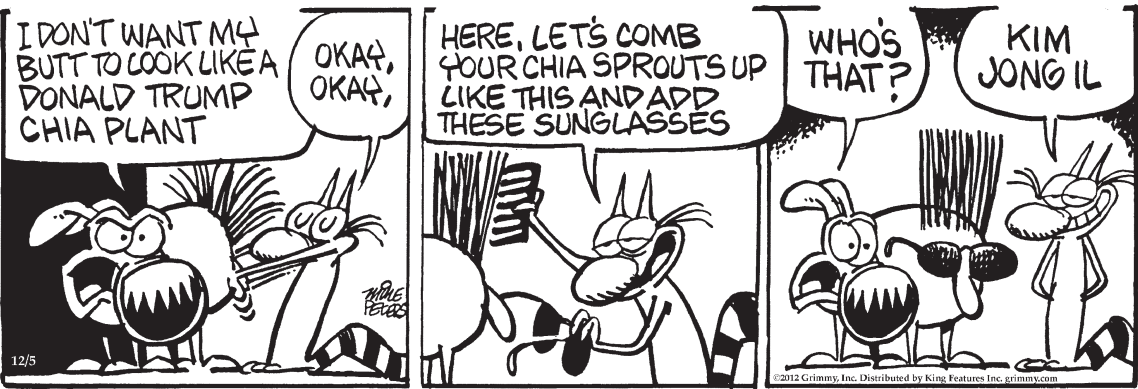
Blondie • Chic Young



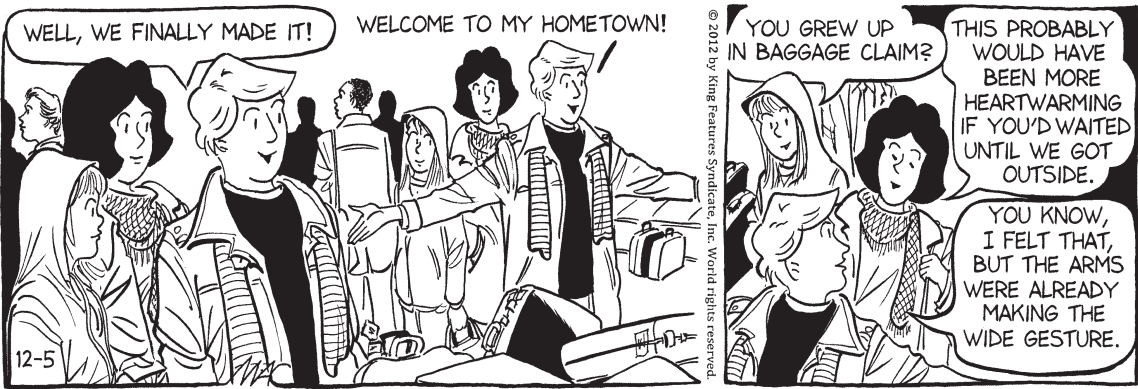
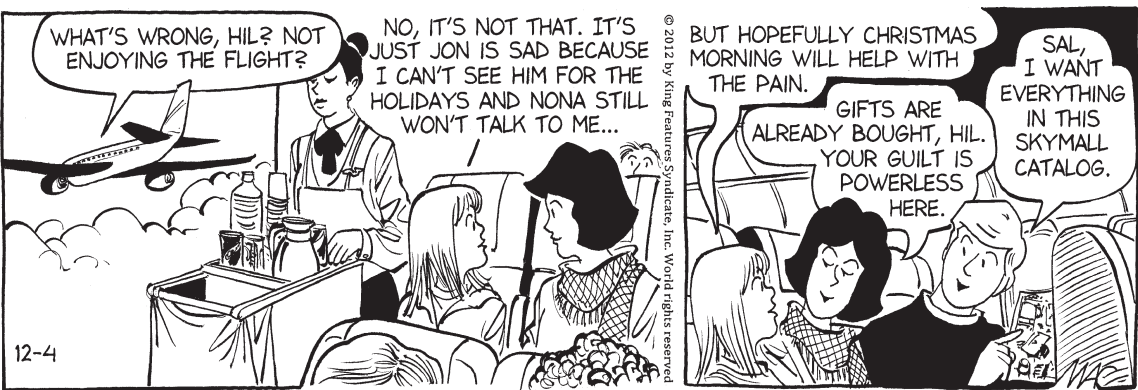
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Soup takes off on tortilla strips

Dear Heloise: I have read the Heloise column since it was first published in the *Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal*, and I have appreciated and used many of your hints.

The last time I made my “famous” (family) recipe of chicken with dumplings, I substituted strips of tortillas instead of mixing up my recipe, only adding a dash more salt and pepper to the broth. They went over big-time, and cooked without falling apart. Now that’s my “new” recipe, and everyone loves it. – Wynelle C., Post, Texas

What a great substitute hint! We love our flour tortillas here in San Antonio. Soups are a great meal on a cold day, and are one of my favorite things to cook. I have compiled my Heloise’s Spectacular Soups pamphlet, which you can receive by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

Have you made soup that had fat on the surface? Remove from the heat and add a couple of ice cubes. Scoop out the ice cubes, and the fat will come out along with them! – Heloise

TEST YOUR HINT IQ

Dear Readers: What is ratatouille?

- A) A type of sausage
- B) A blend of herbs and spices
- C) A vegetable stew
- D) A type of pasta

The answer is C. It is a vegetable stew that originated in the Provence region of France. Ratatouille is made from eggplant, zucchini, onions, bell peppers, tomatoes and seasonings such as garlic and basil. The ingredients are cooked until tender, usually starting with just one or two in the pan. Additional vegetables are added until they are all together, simmering in the mixture of vegetable juices. It can be used as a side dish or eaten as a meal.

Typically served at room temperature, this dish also can be eaten hot out of the oven or after being chilled in the refrigerator. Delicious at any temperature and at any time! – Heloise

POTATO SALAD

Dear Heloise: I love making potato salad, but hate peeling and cutting the hot, boiled potatoes. I like to use small (either red or white) new potatoes because they are small enough for me to use an egg slicer to slice and peel them. Most of the skins come off, and if they don’t, that’s OK, because I like having some of the peels in the salad. The peels get caught in the tines of the slicer, pull off easily, and the potatoes are cut into perfect pieces. Then you can prepare as usual. Love your column in the *North Port (Fla.) Sun*. – Elaine N., North Port, Fla.

PAN LINERS

Dear Heloise: Here’s a timesaving cleanup hint. When lining a pan with aluminum foil for oven-baking chicken, brownies, etc., turn the pan upside down and mold the foil to the bottom of the pan. Then turn the pan over, place the molded foil in the pan and secure the edges. So easy! – Jackie C., via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 6 4 2		♥ Q 10 9	
♥ K Q 7 3		♥ A J 8 2	
♦ 7 5 3		♦ J 6 4	
♣ A 8 2		♣ K 10 5	

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 10 9 6 4		♠ A K J 8 7 5 3	
♥ Q 10 8 2		♥ 5	
♦ Q J 9 6 4		♦ A K 9	
		♣ 7 3	

The bidding:
South 1 ♠ West Pass North 1 NT East Pass
4 ♣
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Sylvia Hits the Jackpot

When Sylvia first joined the club, she barely knew a spade from a hole in the ground. She thought a coup was something politicians did, a pass something boys made at girls and a double something you saw in the mirror.

But this didn’t stop Sylvia from playing in the expert game, where, of course, she was out-classed. Her lack of familiarity with the finer points of the game produced countless disasters, but at the same time, this ignorance occasionally resulted in a triumph that would become a cause celebre among the membership.

Take today’s deal, which occurred shortly after Sylvia learned to finesse. This newly found device was a revelation to her, and she relished each and every opportunity to use it with a zest that scared her partners half to death.

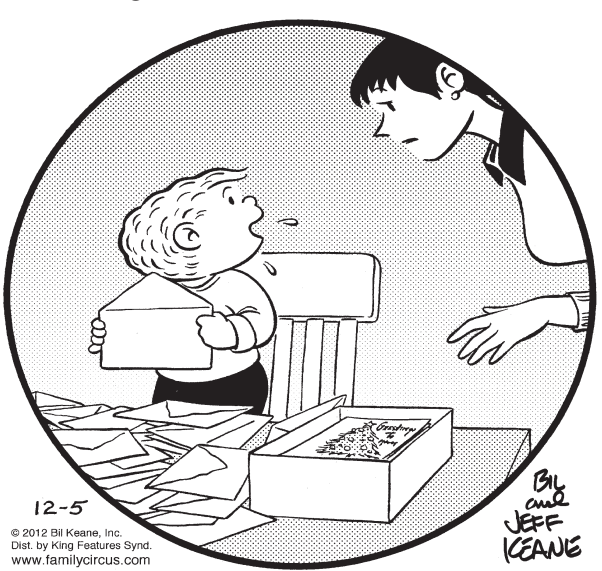
West led the queen of clubs against Sylvia’s four-spade contract. Sylvia won with dummy’s ace, returned a trump and finessed the jack! After this extraordinary play succeeded, Sylvia lost a heart, a diamond and a club to make four spades.

East-West felt deeply aggrieved by the unusual first-round trump finesse, without which they believed Sylvia would inevitably have gone down one. Yet, strangely enough, later analysis proved that Sylvia’s play was correct and the only way to assure the contract.

Had the finesse led to the singleton or doubleton queen, the contract would still have been a certainty. The defense could cash a club and shift to a diamond, but declarer would win, cash a high trump and then play a heart to the queen and ace. South would later discard her diamond loser on the king of hearts, using the six of spades as an entry to dummy.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

12/05

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

W Y X W A X D D C V O I X ' R

R F X I J D C Z J X V A O R R T H C V B

F V C W C I W O T L R , O ' Z Y X H C W T

R X B O W ' R X W T T - W T T W L W L

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS ACTOR WHO'S KNOWN FOR DOUBLING AS A PROFICIENT CHURCH KEYBOARD PLAYER: ORGAN FREEMAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		40 Corn spike		59 Rod partner		20 Mimic	
1 Recycling contain-ers		41 "Yeah, right!"				23 E.T.'s craft	
5 Cauldron		43 Pirouette pivot				24 Gullet	
8 Aladdin's —		45 Just say no				25 Ship in a	
12 And others (Abbr.)		47 Senator's minimum age				Gilbert & Sullivan work	
13 "Go, team!"		51 Fermi's particle				27 Cushion	
14 Israeli airline		52 One of Alvin's cohorts				29 Spy org.	
15 Hamlet's castle		54 Certain				30 Yon maiden	
17 Theater award		55 Mangy mutt				32 Picked up where you left off	
18 Aircraft		56 Hebrew month				34 Seamstress' aid	
19 Tomorrow, in Tijuana		57 The — Piper of Hamelin				37 Insult (Sl.)	
21 Space		58 Coop dweller				39 Pirate's refrain	
22 Grand tale						42 Com-mand to Fido	
23 Ref						44 Duck down	
26 Energy						45 Grate	
28 Ancestor of Noah						46 Needle case	
31 Equitable						48 Portrayal	
33 Knock						49 Verifi-able	
35 Great Lake						50 Holler	
36 Pos-sessed						53 Colora-tion	
38 24 hours							

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	49
51					52	53				
54					55			56		
57					58			59		