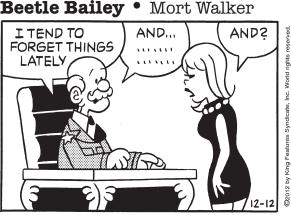
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott







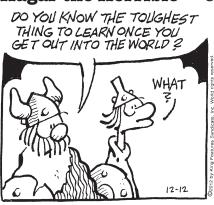
Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

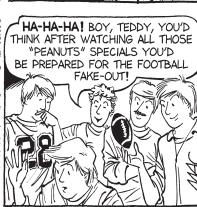


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



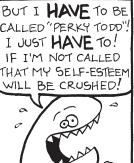






Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts









Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Backup helps kitchen trash bin

Dear Heloise: I just wanted to provide you with a quick tip that I have tried and love! I place about 2 inches' worth of cat-box filler at the bottom of the kitchen trash bin. This way, should the garbage leak, the filler will absorb the smell and the mess. - Jennifer in New Jersey

An added hint to try: Add baking soda to the filler for extra odor protection. I always keep baking soda on hand because there are so many uses for it and it is so cheap! I even wrote my Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes pamphlet because baking soda is a must-have staple in any home. To receive one, send \$5 and a long, selfaddressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Notice that your dishwasher smells a little funny? When not in use, sprinkle some baking soda in the bottom and leave until the next cycle washes it out, and use some as a hand scrub (with a little soap) after taking out the garbage. - Heloise

YAM I AM

Dear Readers: Did you know that a sweet potato and a yam are not really the same food? Both are root vegetables, but yams are native to Africa and typically are available only in international markets.

There are many different types of sweet potatoes, but it is the ones with orange-colored flesh that are available in the United States.

The names "yam" and "sweet potato" are interchangeable. Therefore, the United States Department of Agriculture states that any product labeled a "yam" must also have a label that reads "sweet potato." So, next time you are in the grocery store and see a label that reads "yam," be assured that it is actually a sweet potato, since yams are not commercially grown in the U.S. -

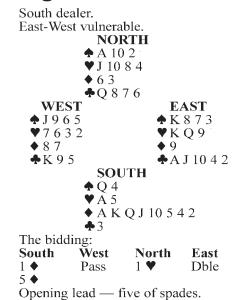
FLOUR LUMPS

Dear Heloise: While making my creamy broccoli, potato and cheese soup, I used the flour/water mixture to thicken the broth. Of course, there were a few lumps. I grabbed my potato peeler (which was already out and ready for use) to quickly pull out the lumps. It worked perfectly! The lump stays on the end of the peeler, while the broth runs down and out of the area of the peeler where the blades are located and back into the soup. Don't know why I'd never thought of this before! - Judi M., Fremont, Neb. **COPIED RECIPES**

Dear Heloise: I have started making a photo- HA EGMHF TZAN ZFTB, H copy of the recipe I plan to cook for dinner. I carry the copy with me when I grocery-shop, which saves me the time and possible error of recopying onto a grocery list. It also saves the pages of my cookbooks from possible spills and splatters during the cooking process. I have found this method particularly helpful when cooking a wide variety of dishes during the holidays, as it keeps me more focused and my counter less cluttered. - Sally W.,

(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker



Any Port in a Storm

There are times when declarer must make what appears to be an unnatural play, because that is the only way to make his contract. South did exactly that in this deal and scored a game as a result.

First, a word about the bidding. South had a problem of sorts in choosing his opening bid. He considered the possibility of opening with five diamonds, but decided, correctly, that his hand was too strong for a pre-emptive bid. He therefore bid only one diamond, hoping to increase his chances of reaching a potential slam contract if his partner had a moderately good hand.

As it turned out, South had to play well just to make five diamonds. West led a spade, declarer following low from dummy, and when East won the trick with the king, South played his queen on it! Declarer later successfully finessed dummy's ten of spades to acquire his 11th trick.

Had South played the four of spades on East's king - certainly the more "natural" thing to do he would have scored only one spade trick and gone down one. While it is true that dropping the queen of spades under the king is an unusual play, since

it appears to reduce declarer's number of spade tricks from two to one, the queen play is correct because it offers the only real chance to score two spade tricks. It is therefore not as odd a play as it might at first seem. Most declarers holding the South cards would

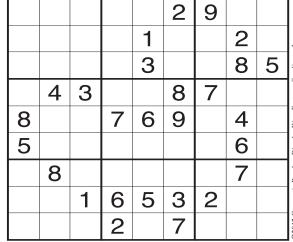
probably play low from their hand at trick one from force of habit, but this merely emphasizes the fact that there's almost no such thing as an automatic play in bridge. (c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How many stairs do you think they use up in a day?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

							12/1		
9	8	3	7	2	4	1	6		
5	7	6	8	9	1	2	3		
4	2	1	5	6	3	7	9		
1	5	9	2	8	6	4	7		
6	3	8	9	4	7	5	1		
7	4	2	1	3	5	9	8		
3	1	7	4	5	8	6	2		
8	9	5	6	1	2	3	4		
2	6	4	3	7	9	8	5		
Difficulty Level ★									

Cryptoquip

HAY-BGKKEHAL BKTM

TKPPCBYB GKPQ MZIG KEGMF

LCMBB EGMN'FM ICQQPM-VHBG. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNIQUE, WACKY GUY WHO INHABITS A CERTAIN RATHER LARGE CITY IN THE SOUTHWEST: AL B. QUIRKY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

							_					
AC	ROSS	30) Illumi-				2	"Car-			19	Deposit
1	1 AAA		nate	ed				mir	na		20	Regret
	job :		One-on-				Burana"		a"	21	Gomor-	
4	Fed. pur-	ed. pur- one sites		tes		composer		oser		rah's		
	chasing		in church				Carl				sister	
	org.	36	Esprit de			3	Magi			city		
7	Hindu		corps			4	Aladdin's		in's	22	Swed-	
	garment	37	Screw-				ally			ish		
8	Intended	ntended driver		er			5	Starch-				money
10	Takes		ingredient		t		yielding		23	Henry		
	to the	38	Construc-				palms			_		
	waves		tion	ı			6	In (due)	24	Massa-
11	Sweater		fast	en	er			tim	е			chusetts
	material	39	Pre	vio	us		7	Се	rtai	n		city
13	Pay-		nights			8	Spars			25	Pouch	
	check 40 Under-			9	Go			26	Boob			
	recipients		staı	nd				pla	ces	3		tube
16	Still	41	Sco	ote	ed	1	0	Ag	ent		28	Go
17	Partners					1	2	Pre	efei	red	29	Archi-
18	By way	DOWN			invitees		es		pelago			
	of	1	For	tun	е	1	4	Fo	un-			part
19	Nerd-		telle	er's	;			dei	ed		30	Burden-
	pack		deck		1	15 Perched			ed			
	fill	ΙυΙ	VE	А	D	1 1	VI	R	s	V P	31	Types
20	Take		EX	Т	Е		O	0		I S	32	Air-
	five	S R		M O C				T U A T		E S S T		port
21	Polecat	H		0 C	_	L		PΕ	A	3 I		safety
23	Bank	Р	I C	T L	J R		S	S	K	I P		org.

25 Kind 26 Fork part short 27 Commo-**35** PBS tion science 28 Enraged Yesterday's answer 12-12 show

34 Icebox.

feature

39