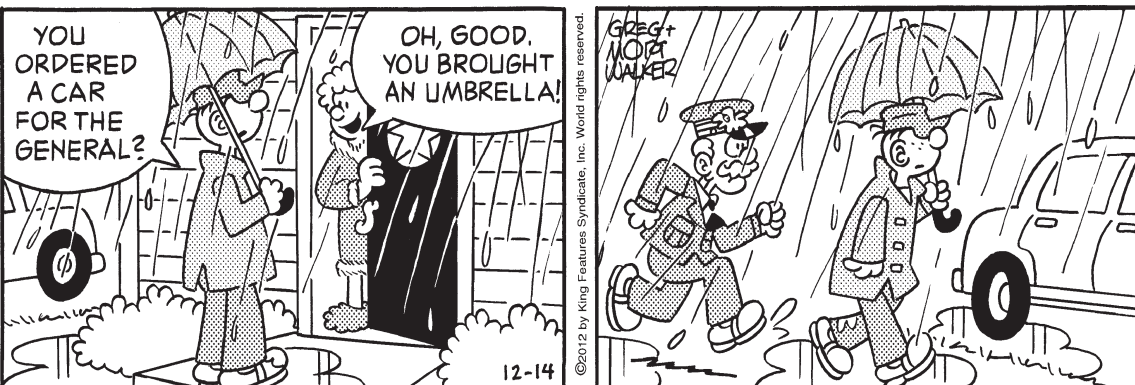


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



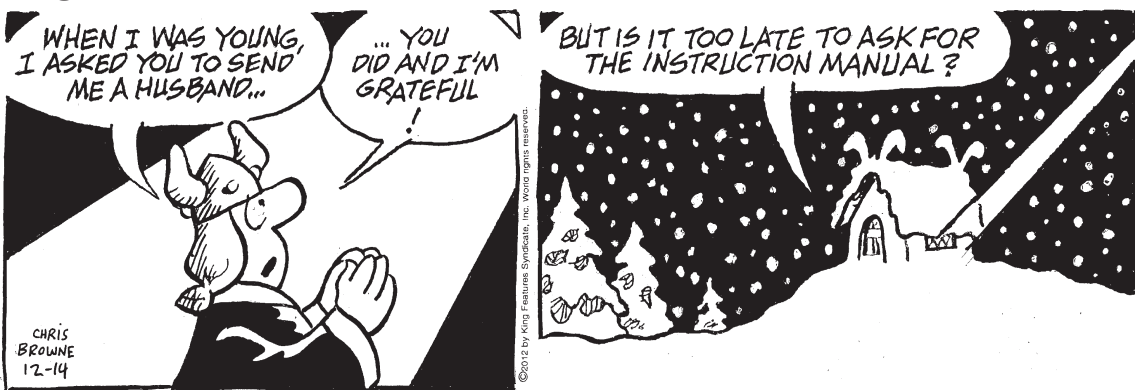
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



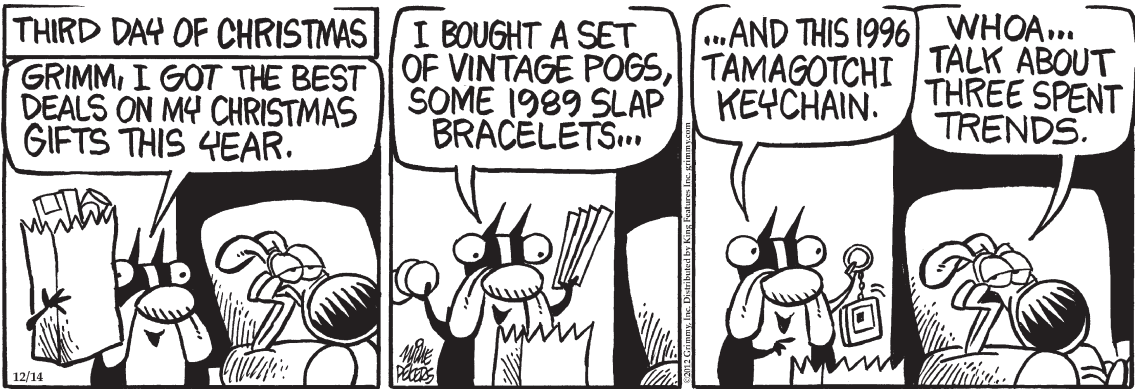
Blondie • Chic Young



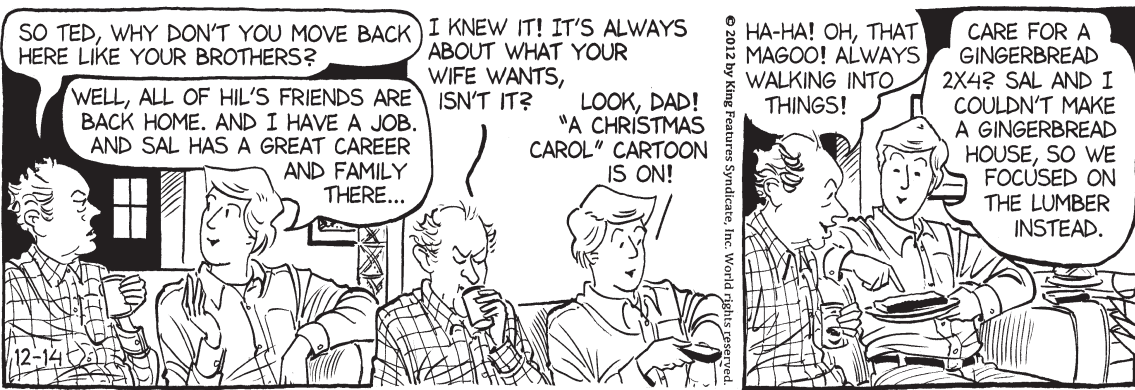
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



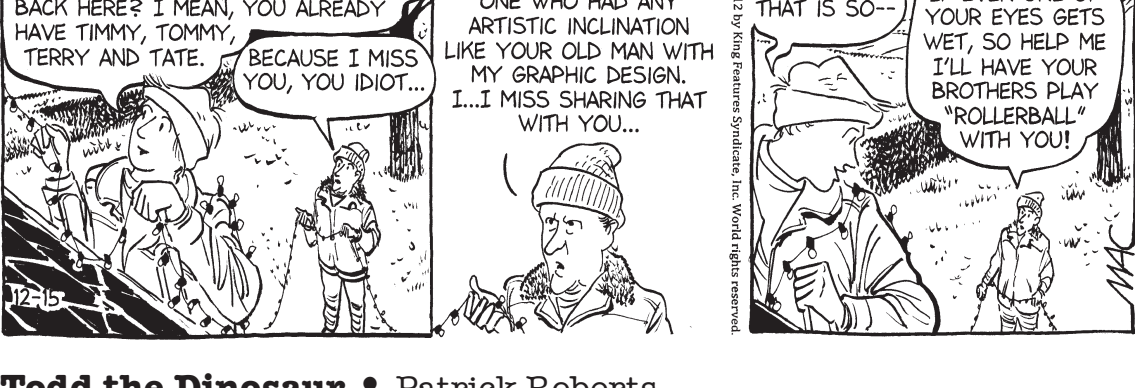
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Cover floors with tablecloths

Dear Heloise: Sometimes service-repair workers show up without covers to protect the carpets/floors when they have to walk through. That makes me pretty nervous! I have found that the cheapest white tablecloths from the discount store work great. Fold lengthwise for double-strength coverage. Tape the ends with a wide tape that does not leave residue on the carpet/floor. The tape will keep the temporary floor runner in place and keep the ends from tripping up the repair person. I still wonder why all services don't have disposable booties available if their work requires going inside the home. – Mary A., via e-mail

A good point, and thanks for the hint. I'd love to hear from the professionals on this issue. You could ask them to take their shoes off, like folks in Hawaii do. It keeps the floors clean! – Heloise

UNSHRINKING A SWEATER

Dear Heloise: Help! I shrunk one of my favorite sweaters. Is there anything I can do to reshape it? – A Reader, via e-mail

I do have an old-fashioned remedy that might help. It works if the sweater has shrunk only a small bit, not several sizes. Fill your sink with cool water and add 2 tablespoons of regular hair shampoo. Soak the sweater for 30 minutes, then gently squeeze out the excess water. Do not rinse the sweater – simply lay it on a towel and roll it up to remove moisture. Unroll and gently stretch it back into shape, and block it on a flat towel.

Have any other clothing disasters that you need help with? Order my pamphlet Heloise's Handy Stain Guide for Clothing. Send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Stain Guide, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

Prior to washing, trace around the sweater. Once out of the washing machine, you now have a guide for reshaping your sweater. – Heloise

REGISTER REUSES

Dear Heloise: When my father died, I fell heir to a couple dozen unused check registers. Hating to throw away good paper, I have developed some ways to use them:

- Keep one with my blood pressure monitor to record blood pressures, pulse, dates and times.
 - Carry one in my purse on which to jot notes, addresses, etc.
 - Keep one on my desk to keep track of passwords, etc.
 - One for birthday and Christmas presents.
- Thanks so much for your dedication to making life easier for all of us. – Jessie in Kerrville, Texas

(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the four of spades, and you win South's ten with the king. How would you play the hand?

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

Test Your Play

1. The first problem is whether to tackle clubs or diamonds, but it shouldn't take long to recognize the futility of trying to establish clubs. If, say, you led a club at trick two, a spade would come back, and when you then led another club, the defenders would cash enough spades to set you at least one trick.

You therefore turn your attention to diamonds, where you have to decide the best way to tackle the suit. Oddly enough, the correct approach is not to lead a heart to dummy first, which would force you to cash the remaining top hearts prematurely before trying a diamond finesse. Instead, you should lead a low diamond from your hand at trick two, postponing the diamond finesse until the second round of the suit.

After winning the spade return at trick three, you cash the A-K-Q of hearts and then take the diamond finesse. If South started with two or three diamonds including the king – which is essentially your only chance – you are home.

2. It is impossible to go down unless you lose a spade trick (because South has the king) and a trump trick (because one opponent has all three missing trumps). The problem is to make the slam even if both of these conditions exist.

Ruff the diamond ace and lead a low heart to the king. If both defenders follow suit, your troubles are over. At worst, you lose a spade trick.

Now let's assume one defender shows out on the first trump lead. If it's South, you have no problem, since you can pick up North's queen with a finesse. If instead North shows out, you will eventually lose a trump trick, but you will still make the contract by cashing the king of diamonds and ace of hearts followed by four rounds of clubs.

If South ruffs a club at any point, he will be forced to make a losing return, while if he does not ruff, you next throw him on lead with a trump to accomplish the same result.

Note that if you make the mistake of playing the heart ace at trick two, the contract fails if South has the king of spades and no hearts.

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-14
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate Inc. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/14

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.

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

Cryptoquip

BKPD BEKD BMKLD DPOVKQDDDB

BMKVD PXGQ KH MED BEKO'B

HVZO -HVKOB, JLDXMZGW X

LDXV BXGAXV BJXGAXV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WATCHING RACES, I ALWAYS ROOT FOR THE ONE WHO'S A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY. MAY THE BLEST MAN WIN!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	20 Charitable donations
1 PC alter-native	34 Unclear image	1 Horde
4 Like omelettes or quiche	35 Black	2 Shock and —
8 Second-hand	36 Ex-hausted	3 Pen pal?
12 Have bills	37 Fragment	4 Old number?
13 Color quality	40 Mediocre	5 Blunder
14 "The Thin Man" heroine	41 Actress Gilpin	6 Econo-mist's stat
15 Hotel personnel	42 Noble	7 "Of course"
17 Cole Porter's "Let's —"	46 —	8 Victoria's Secret wares
18 Willingly	47 Sandwich treat	9 Any time now
19 From then on	48 Science room	10 Idle or Clapton
20 Jousting garb	49 Rugged rock	11 Social engage-ment
22 Hunk of soap	50 Sala-mander	16 Friend of Dorothy
24 Slender	51 List-condens-ing abbr.	19 Vail gear
25 Starving		
29 Encount-ered		

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	O	F	U	T	A	M	S	C	A	N	
O	M	E	N	A	P	E	T	E	S	T	
T	A	L	C	U	R	N	A	N	K	H	
E	N	T	R	A	P	O	S	L	O		
O	V	E	R	T	H	E	T	O	P		
T	H	E	S	E	I	T	A	A	L	A	
S	A	P	S	C	G	I	S	P	I	N	
A	L	L	I	O	O	H	T	A	H	O	E
R	O	C	K	B	O	T	T	O	M		
U	N	I	T	H	O	P	P	E	R		
P	E	R	I	D	O	L	A	V	A		
R	E	E	F	E	O	N	E	V	E	N	
E	L	S	E	S	A	G	R	E	S	T	

Yesterday's answer 12-14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
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		