

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



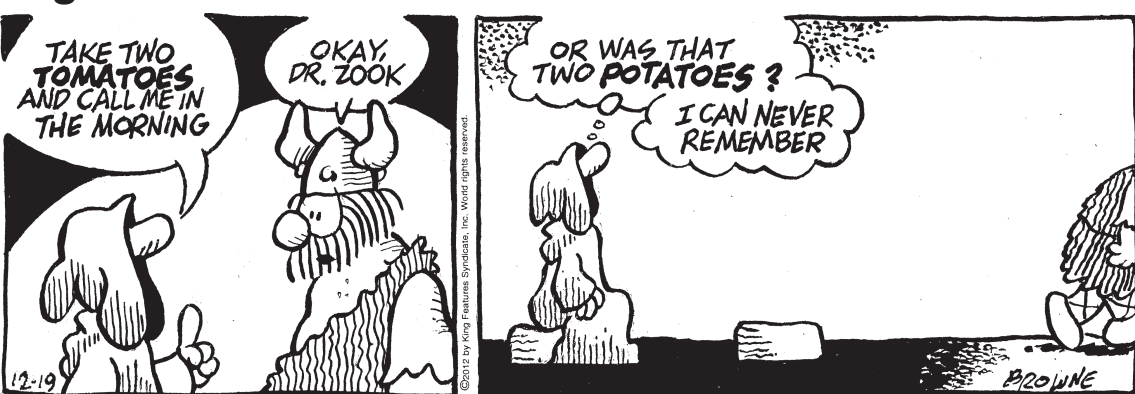
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



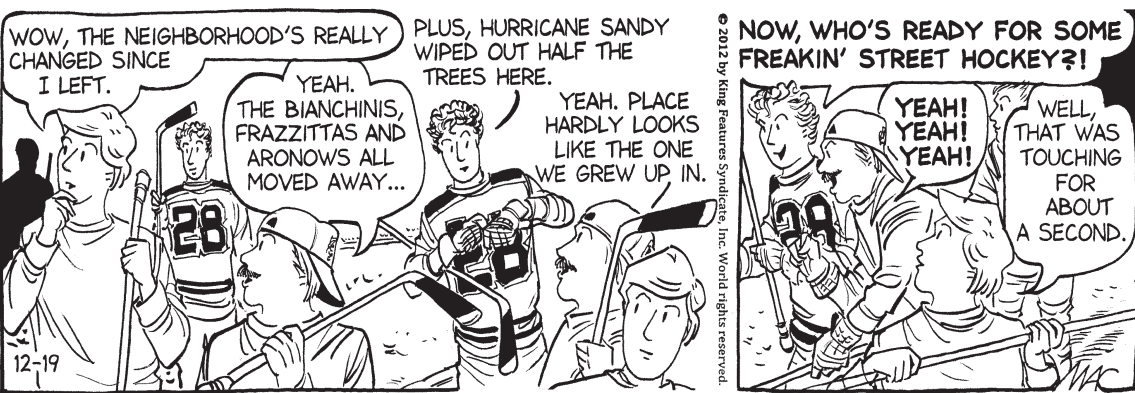
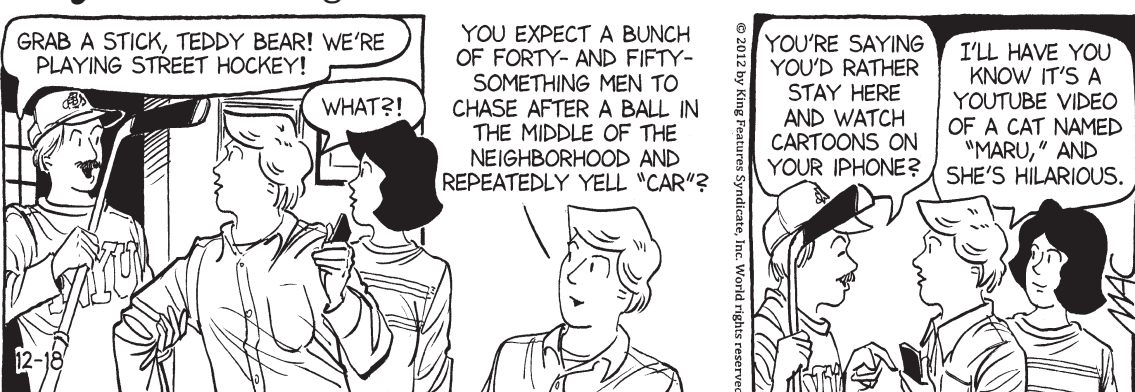
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



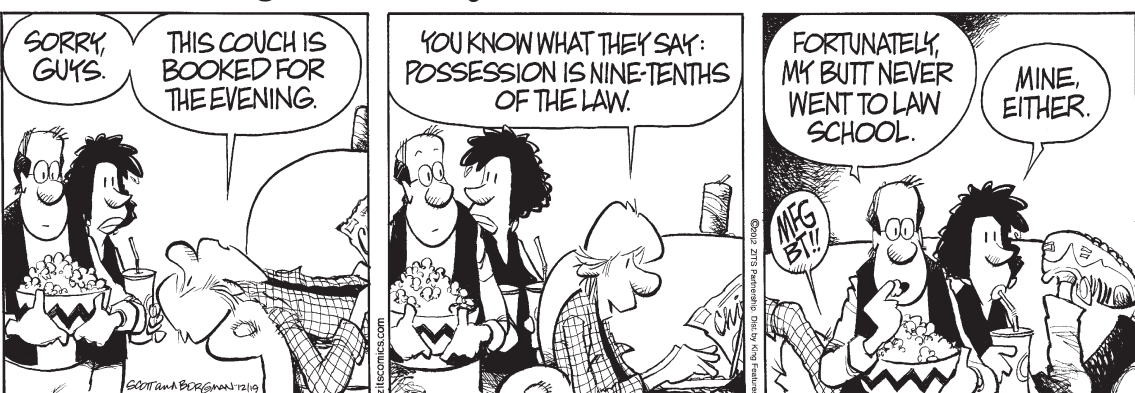
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

New lettuce has greenhouse

Dear Readers: Have you seen the hydroponically grown living lettuces that are sold in plastic, clamshell containers? I love them! It is amazing how long these lettuces last! The container is designed to be a "mini-greenhouse," which helps make the product last. The lettuce still has its roots attached, and sits in a small amount of nutrient-rich liquid. When ready to eat, just take off the leaves needed, rinse and eat. — Heloise

Here's another lettuce hint:

LETTUCE WRAP

Dear Heloise: Before cutting a wedge from a head of lettuce, I remove one large outer leaf. Then I place this leaf over the cut surface like a bandage before wrapping it and putting it in the refrigerator. It greatly reduces the browning of the cut edges. — Gayle M., Monroe, La.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com
EASIER DEVILED EGGS

Dear Heloise: Here is my recipe for easy deviled eggs: Cut peeled, hard-boiled eggs in half. Make a topping of mayonnaise, mustard and any other condiments you would like. Spread this mixture on top of the cut eggs. You may add olive slices on top, minced parsley, etc. — Elaine W., Harrisburg, Pa.

Deviled eggs are delicious! They are so popular, and this is a clever shortcut, with a fun twist, to making them. Love it! — Heloise

FROZEN GARBAGE

Dear Heloise: When cooking or baking something that requires eggs, I hate throwing the shells in the garbage, especially if pickup isn't for a few days. I take the shells or any offensive-smelling object and put it in a plastic bag, like the newspaper comes in, and stick it in the door of the freezer. On garbage day, I throw out the plastic bag. This works well with shellfish, too. The only trouble is you have to remember to throw it out! — Judy B., Hobe Sound, Fla.

BAKING HINTS

Dear Heloise: Here are two of my favorite baking hints:

First, I use an ice-cream scoop with a scraper for placing cupcake batter in liners. This ensures that every cupcake is the same size, and it makes the process mess-free.

Second, when making brownies. I scoop the brownie batter into cupcake liners for bite-size brownies. This is a great hint for a dessert for a potluck dinner. — Holly in Austin, Texas

ADDED FLAVOR

Dear Heloise: My brother-in-law has enjoyed flavoring his hot tea with candy instead of sugar, such as lemon drops, orange slices and spice drops. — Susan M. in Indiana

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

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

Believe It or Not!

This remarkable deal cropped up during the final of the Senior Swiss Teams at the 2012 Summer North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia.

At the first table, North used a Texas Transfer to make his partner declarer at four spades. After West led a club and dummy was tabled, East was surprised that North had not at least explored the possibility of a slam and felt a big swing might be in the offing.

South no doubt thought he was in for an easy time of it, expecting to lose no more than the two missing aces. He won the club with dummy's ace, cashed the heart king and led a club toward his hand. He was planning to win with the king, discard two diamonds from dummy on the A-Q of hearts and then another diamond on the queen of clubs before tackling the trump suit.

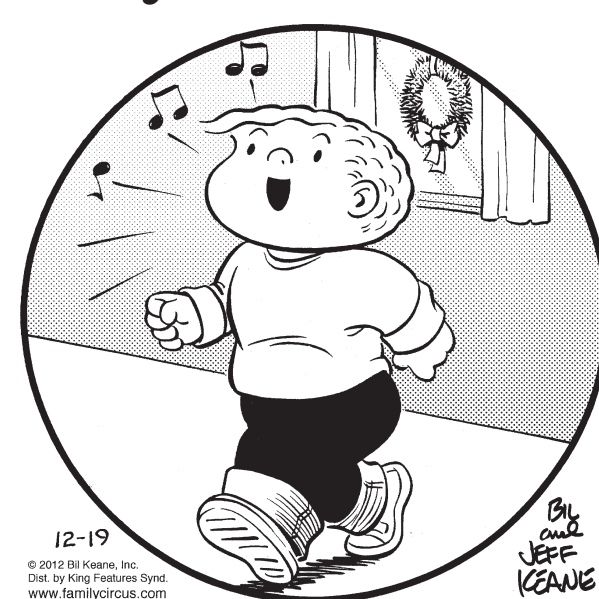
That was when the roof caved in. East ruffed the club lead at trick three and returned the queen of diamonds, hoping to find declarer with the king and his partner with the ace and jack.

South misguessed the diamond position by playing low, and East's diamond continuation allowed West to score the A-J. West then led a third round of clubs, ruffed by declarer with dummy's jack. South, who was already down one, now led a spade to the queen, losing to East's ace, whereupon West returned another club. Regardless of what declarer chose to play from dummy, East could not be prevented from scoring a trick with his now-singleton ten of spades, so South finished down three!

At the other table, North-South did make an attempt to get to slam, stopping in five spades when North learned there were two aces missing. Here the defense was not quite as sharp, so declarer escaped for down three to match the result at the first table and gain a tie on the board.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/19

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.

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

Cryptoquip

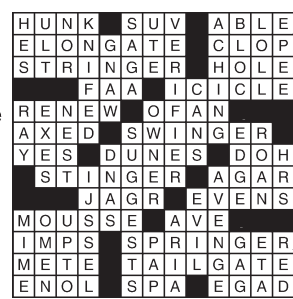
RY QJY QUKAI IK XYDH Q
GMYJZ HMXIJYXX XMEDQV
MDIK ICY QMJ. ZKA CQWY
UYD EMWYD GVQJY RQJDMDE!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FUNNY OLD TV SERIES ABOUT A PARTICULARLY DEVILISH BUNCH OF PUPPIES: "THE LITTER RASCALS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Possess
 - 4 Hour-glass fill
 - 8 Frizzy hairstyle
 - 12 Witness
 - 13 Bas-soon's cousin
 - 14 Applaud
 - 15 Meadow
 - 16 Supreme
 - 18 Longtime talk-show legend
 - 20 Supporting
 - 21 Isinglass
 - 24 Apprehensive feeling
 - 28 Sun-shades
 - 32 Un-matched
 - 33 Historic time
 - 34 Sum
 - 36 Tavern
 - 37 Teen's facial woe
 - 39 Archetype
 - 41 Top
 - 43 Take the bus
 - 44 Knightly address
 - 46 Interior design
- DOWN**
- 5 "The — Daba"
 - 6 Neither mate
 - 7 Un-hearing
 - 8 Oak nuts
 - 9 Winter ailment
 - 10 Operated
 - 11 Make up your mind
 - 17 Extinct bird
 - 19 Doctors' org.
 - 22 Hen pen
 - 23 Sacrifice site
 - 25 Asian desert
 - 26 Metal refuse
 - 27 Expression
 - 28 Carrots' partners, often
 - 29 St. Louis landmark
 - 30 Hindu royal ...
 - 31 ... and what she may wear
 - 35 They counter-act
 - 38 Inferior substitute
 - 40 Fourth letter
 - 42 Twitch
 - 45 Actress Perlman
 - 47 Upper-case, for short
 - 48 Hodge-podge
 - 49 Need for 13-
 - 50 Standard
 - 51 "The Greatest"
 - 52 Decay
 - 53 Ref
 - 54 Cravat



Yesterday's answer 12-19

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | | | | | 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 | | | | | | 60 | | | 61 | | |