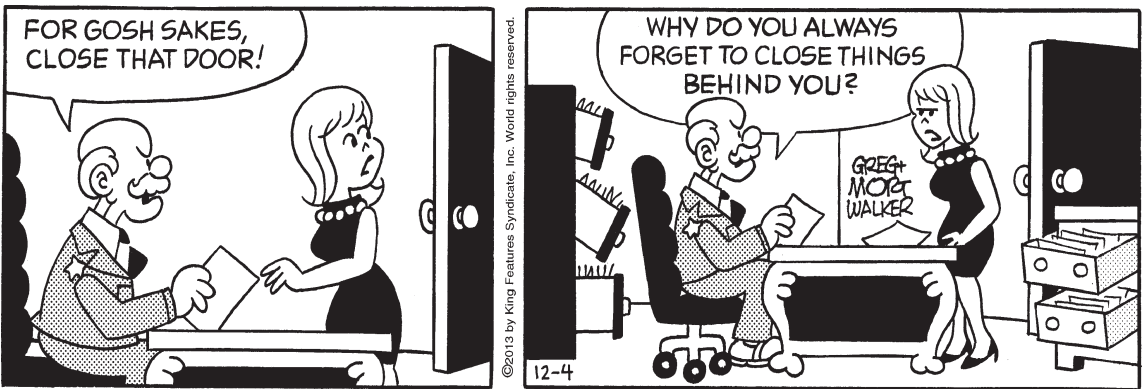


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



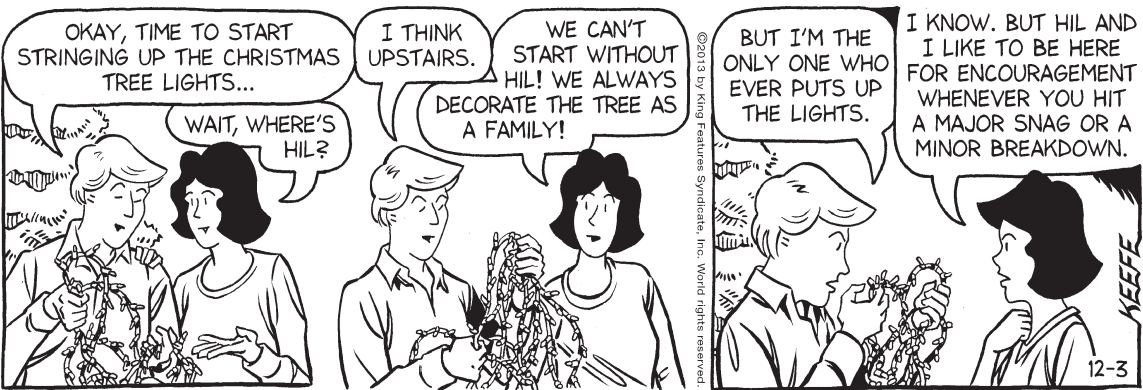
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



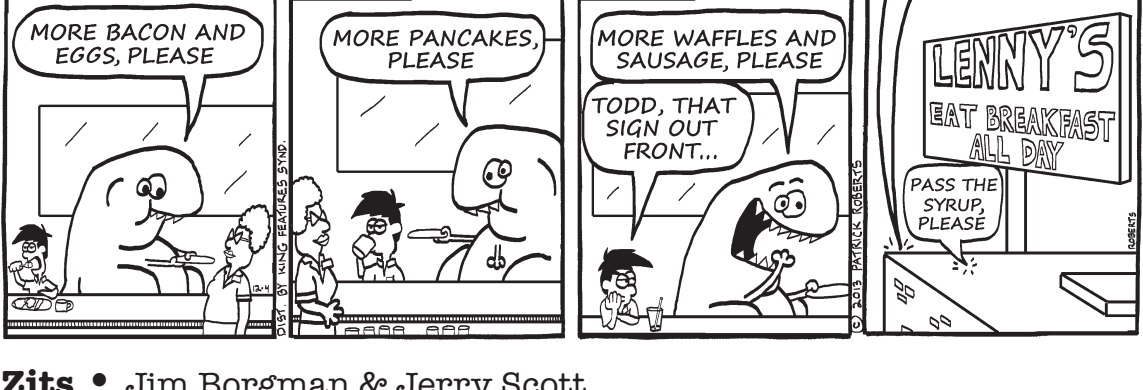
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Butter flavor comes in powder

What Are Butter-Flavored Granules? Dear Heloise: A few years ago, my mother gave me a book of recipes from her church. Several of the recipes call for butter-flavored granules. What are they, and where can I find them? – L. King in California

Butter-flavored granules are a powdered form of butter that is fat-free, gluten-free and good for those watching calories. The main ingredients are natural butter flavor (processed into a dry form), maltodextrin (a natural carbohydrate that comes from corn) and salt.

You can find them in most grocery stores in the baking or spice aisle. Keep the top sealed tightly, and once opened, store in the refrigerator. They are good to keep on hand, as they can be used for many foods. – Heloise

P.S.: I love them! I sometimes mix some with nonfat sour cream or yogurt to top a baked potato. Or I use them on steamed veggies, in brown rice with veggies and on hot oatmeal, among a few other things.

STORING KETCHUP

Dear Readers: Did you know that ketchup has a high acid level and so it doesn't need to be refrigerated? Depending on where you keep it and the temperature, though, its stability and quality can be affected.

So, what do you do? You can store ketchup in the pantry, but manufacturers recommend that you refrigerate it for the best flavor and quality. The same with mustard: You don't have to refrigerate it, but it is recommended. – Heloise

EATING OUT

Dear Heloise: A year ago, I decided to really take care of myself. Healthier food choices are now a part of my life. A lot of my meals are eaten in restaurants. Here are some tips I use when eating out:

- Sauces and gravies "on the side" or not at all.
- Salad dressing on the side.
- Order food that is broiled, steamed or roasted. Anything fried is full of fat grams and calories.
- Red sauce instead of white (usually cream!) for pasta.
- Corn tortillas instead of flour, and whole black beans instead of refried.
- Steamed rice instead of fried.

With these simple changes, I still get to enjoy eating out with friends and family and know that I'm eating as healthy as I can. – Jessica G. in Tennessee

SAUSAGE WRAPPER

Dear Heloise: When I buy sausage that comes in a roll, I freeze it. When it's frozen, it doesn't leave a lot of sausage stuck to the wrapper when you cut it off. You must be careful, because it's slippery. – Gloria in Kansas

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 6
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ A 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 8 5 3

WEST
 ♠ K 10 4
 ♥ 10 8 7 6 5 2
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ 10 2

EAST
 ♠ J 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 10 9 8 4
 ♣ A K J 9 7 6

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 9 8 7 5 2
 ♥ K J 3
 ♦ K J 5
 ♣ 4

The bidding:
 West North East South
 Pass 1 NT 2♣ 4♠

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

A Quest for Information
 There are many ways a skilled declarer can improve his chances. One of the most reliable is to count the opponents' distribution as the play progresses.

Consider this deal where South is in four spades. As the cards lie, declarer starts with two certain trump losers and a club loser, and it appears that at some point he is likely to attempt a diamond finesse and lose to West's queen for down one. If South tends to his knitting, though, the diamond loser can be averted.

Declarer plays low from dummy on West's ten-of-clubs lead, and East overtakes the ten with the jack and continues with the king, ruffed by South with the seven. A spade is led to the ace and a spade returned, covered by the jack, queen and king. West exits with a heart, and declarer plays the Q-K-A of hearts, on which East discards two clubs. South then ruffs a club in his hand.

West tries to conceal his possession of the spade ten by refusing to overruff, but declarer continues his quest for information by leading the eight of spades. West wins as East discards a diamond, producing this position with West on lead:

North
 ♠ A 7 6
 ♣ Q

West
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ Q 3

East
 ♠ 10 9 8
 ♣ A

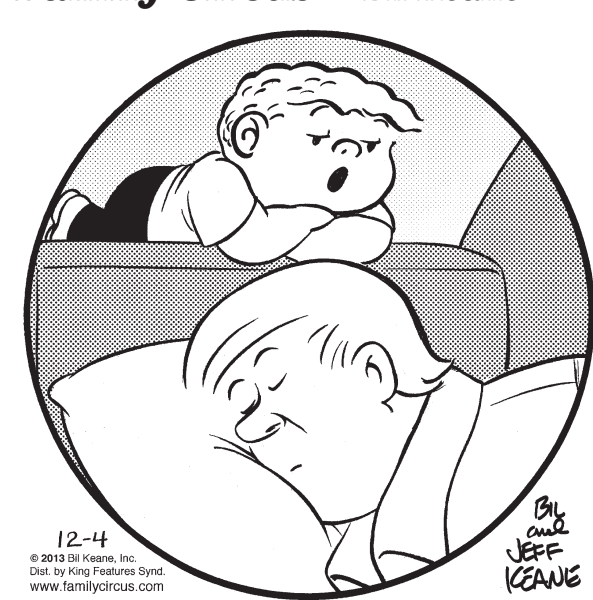
South
 ♠ 9
 ♥ K J 5

West returns a heart, on which dummy and East discard diamonds as declarer ruffs. At this point, South has a sure thing.

East, who has shown up with precisely six clubs, two spades and a heart -- and therefore four diamonds -- has only three cards left, one of which is known to be the club ace. The A-K of diamonds are thus certain to fell all the remaining diamonds, establishing the jack as the game-going trick without having to risk a finesse.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/04

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.

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

Cryptoquip

BSQIK QCI BDXGIKT MFQ

XVUT VS SHTC IXXT VD QCI

TCHM, QCIL BGG TBDX

"KVI, KVI, KVI LVFK UVBQ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER HOUDINI OR TRUMAN TORMENTED PEOPLE, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THE VICTIMS WERE HARRIED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Fallon's employer | DOWN | 24 Greet the villain |
| 1 Doctrines of learning | 41 Walked (on) | 1 Need to "Scram!" | 25 Factory closing |
| 8 Catch of sight | 43 "—" | 3 Note to self | 27 Shell game |
| 12 You, old-style | 45 So far | 4 Looks for | 29 Apprehend |
| 13 Sigma follower | 47 Drunk | 5 Makeshift | 30 Handy pc. of Latin |
| 14 Citi Field fore-runner | 51 Forehead | 6 Crow's comment | 32 Overly thin |
| 15 Descent in dignity | 52 Loss of self-control | 7 Intuitive feeling | 34 Difficulty |
| 17 Hen pen | 54 Stitched work | 8 Stags' lacks | 37 Stolen |
| 18 Connection | 56 Great Lake | 9 Confrontation | 39 Fringe group |
| 19 Royal headgear | 57 Shetland, for one | 10 Lowly worker | 42 Object (to) |
| 21 Droop | 58 Spinning stat | 11 Shrill barks | 44 Wild West show |
| 22 Flock | 59 Dinner for employer | 16 Two-way scale | 45 Recipe meas. |
| 23 Letterman's | 60 Dobbin | 20 Scale for members | 46 Sandwich cookie |
| 26 Once around | | 23 Officer | 48 1/3 of a WWII movie title |
| 28 Rock | | | 49 Foolish sort |
| 31 Aahs' mates | | | 50 Change for a five |
| 33 Vim and vigor | | | 53 Kreskin's claim |
| 35 Bat a gnat | | | |
| 36 Sac | | | |
| 38 Joan of — | | | |

Yesterday's answer 12-4

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
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		