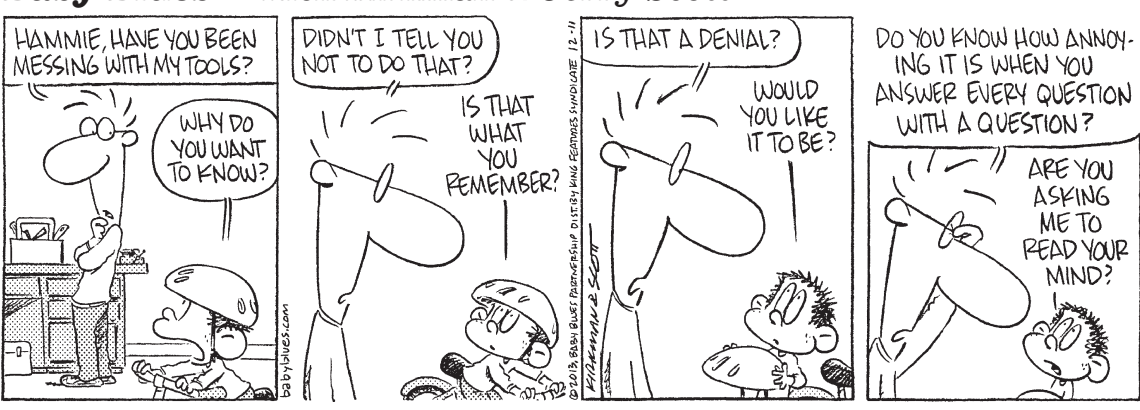


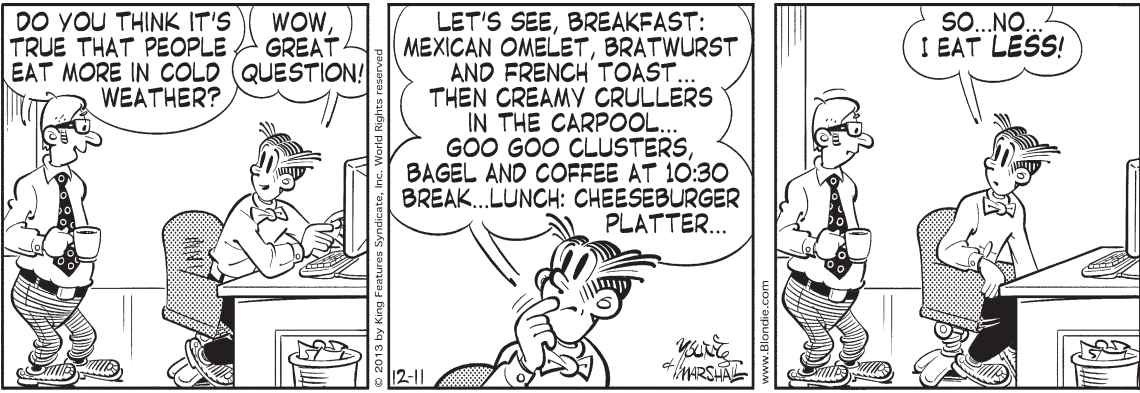
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



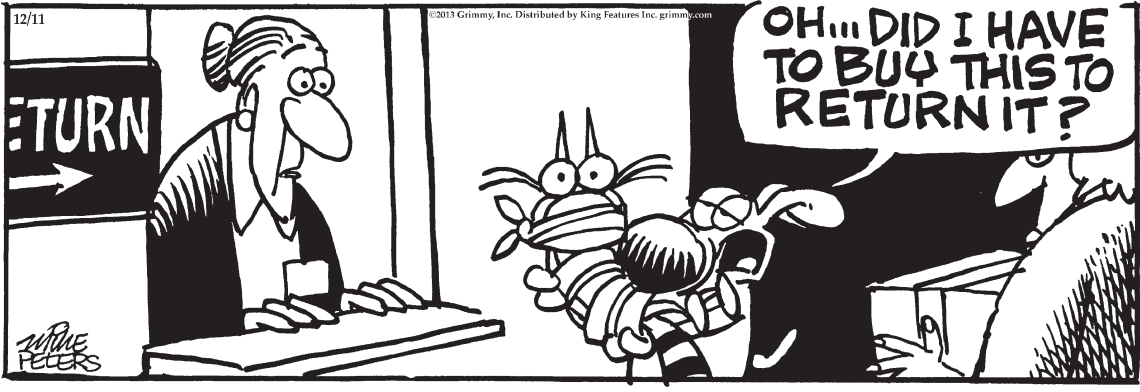
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



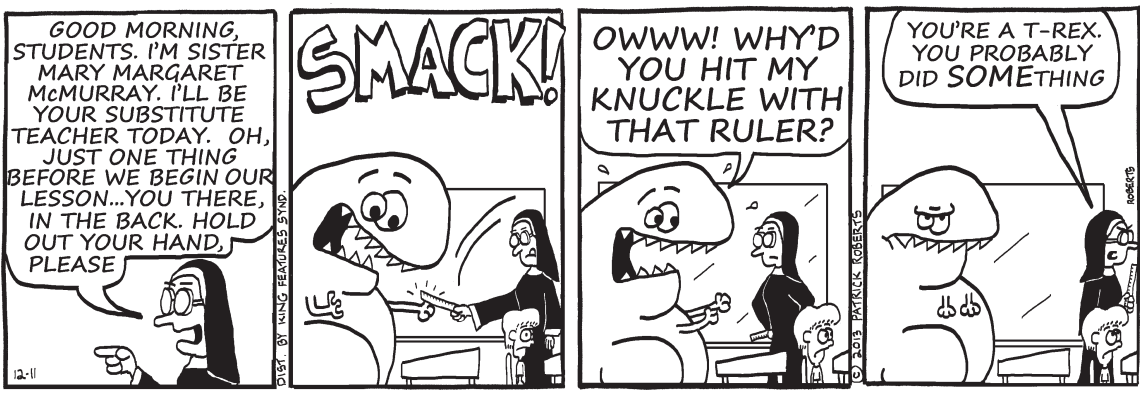
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



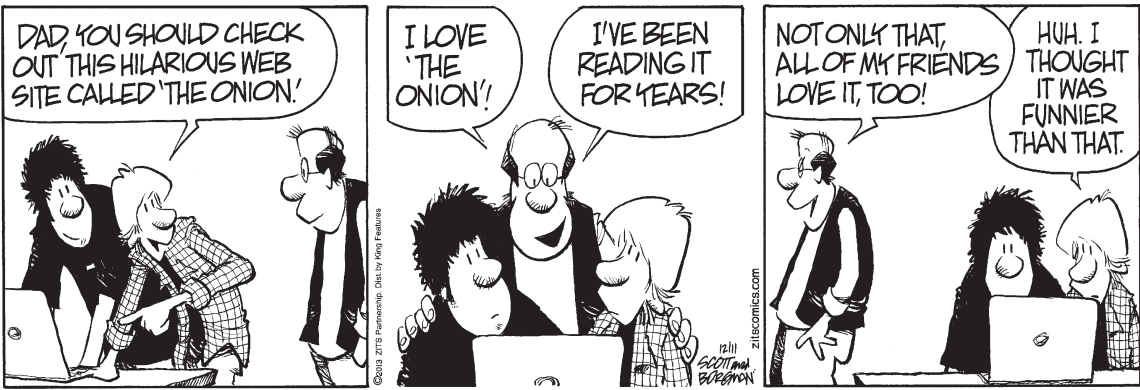
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Get creative with candy canes

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint for left-over candy canes. I make holiday cookies and use crushed candy canes in some recipes.

Last year, I bought a box of 60 candy canes and had plenty left over. Instead of putting them out plain, I dipped the straight end in melted chocolate and let them cool off. After the chocolate dried, I put each into its original wrapper. The hook part was out, so the guest could pull out the candy without touching the chocolate. They were a hit, and looked festive and attractive. — Sue B. in Nebraska

WHAT TO USE?

Dear Heloise: I love to bake, especially cream pies, but I can't find the ingredient cream of tartar at any grocery store. Do you know how to make a home version of cream of tartar for use in pie meringue? I would appreciate it. — Sadie R., Mansfield, Ohio

For meringue, substitute the same amount of white vinegar or lemon juice for cream of tartar. For example, if the recipe calls for 1/2 teaspoon of cream of tartar, add 1/2 teaspoon of vinegar or lemon juice. Check out my pamphlet for more money-saving hints using vinegar for cooking, cleaning and beauty tips. For Heloise's Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Add 1/4 teaspoon of white vinegar to three egg whites if you want to make the meringue extra fluffy. You should be able to find cream of tartar in the spice section at the grocery store. If not, just ask the manager. — Heloise

PERFECT PASTA

Dear Heloise: Every pasta recipe calls for 4 to 6 quarts of water for each pound of pasta. Why do we need to use so much water? — Ellen in Washington, D.C.

There are a couple of reasons to use that much water. It makes it easier to fit larger, longer pastas like spaghetti into the pot. It also helps keep the pasta from sticking together, since there is a lot of room and water.

An additional hint for helping the sauce to stick to hot pasta is to never rinse it. The starch left on the pasta helps the sauce adhere. Rinse if making a cold pasta dish. — Heloise

RUINED WINE?

Dear Heloise: My wife and I bought a fairly expensive bottle of wine, and I had a hard time removing the cork. I couldn't get all of it out; the bottom crumbled and dropped fragments into the wine, many too small to pluck out. I discovered that the cork could be separated by filtering the wine through a coffee filter. — A.S. in New York

A good way to save a bottle of wine! — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 8 4
♥ A K 6 2
♦ K 7 5
♣ 10 7 2

WEST
♠ K Q J 6 5 2
♥ J 5
♦ J 9
♣ J 5 3

EAST
♠ 3
♥ 10 9 3
♦ Q 10 4 3 2
♣ A 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A 9 7
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ A 8 6
♣ K Q 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Opening lead — king of spades.

Structural Visualization

You run into good, bad and average bridge players wherever you go. Some bid well and play their cards badly; others bid badly and play their cards well; some bid and play well; others bid and play badly.

The South in this deal was obviously from the class that plays their cards well. We wouldn't know how to classify his bidding from just this one hand -- all he did was to open one notrump -- but he certainly displayed a fair amount of skill in the play after a Stayman sequence landed him in four hearts.

South took West's king-of-spades lead with the ace, played a heart to the king and a low club back. East followed low, and South won with the king. After cashing the Q-A of hearts, declarer led another club from dummy, East taking the ace and returning a club to South's queen.

Declarer still had three tricks to lose -- two spades and a diamond -- but by this time he was certain he could avoid the loss of one of them and so make the contract.

He knew East had no more spades; otherwise, East would have returned a spade rather than a club after taking the ace. West's hand therefore became an open book. He had started with six spades and had already shown up with two hearts and three clubs. Hence, he could not have been dealt more than two diamonds.

So South cashed the A-K of diamonds and led a spade. West took his two spade tricks but then had to yield a ruff-and-discard, handing South the contract.

Note that South could have placed East in a similar position by leading a third diamond rather than a spade at the critical moment. It would then have been East rather than West who would have been forced to yield the fatal ruff-and-discard.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Why does he always ignore Rudolph?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/11

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

Cryptoquip

WX WPAQYK KYUZZX QUAYD
VPGOV AP AQY VXW. DQY
CDCUZZX IUZZD AQY
WUIQGOYD AQYKY RKYUR-WGZZD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHILDREN'S DOLLS THAT ARE MANUFACTURED TO LOOK LIKE GREAT MATHEMATICIANS: FRACTION FIGURES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sinbad's bird
 - 4 Pump up the volume
 - 7 Well- (rich)
 - 8 Scrub a NASA mission
 - 10 Knight wear
 - 11 Private instructors
 - 13 Pop song of 1940, with "The"
 - 16 Lair
 - 17 Eastern potentate (Var.)
 - 18 — and outs
 - 19 Met melody
 - 20 Faris of "Mom"
 - 21 Surroundings
 - 23 Loose, as trousers
 - 25 Vagrant
 - 26 Suitable
 - 28 Fencing move
 - 30 Hot tub
 - 33 Side-by-side
 - 36 Saurcy
 - 37 Ask
 - 38 Scattered seed
 - 39 Incite
 - 40 Existed
 - 41 — out a living
 - 15 "Born in the —"
 - 3 Meeting places?
 - 4 Mistreat
 - 5 Engine
 - 6 College instructor
 - 8 Bewilder
 - 9 Stressful
 - 10 Moreover
 - 12 Cher's early partner
 - 14 Send forth
 - 15 "Born in the —"
 - 1 Kind of numeral
 - 3 Meeting places?
 - 4 Mistreat
 - 5 Engine
 - 6 College instructor
 - 8 Bewilder
 - 9 Stressful
 - 10 Moreover
 - 12 Cher's early partner
 - 14 Send forth
 - 15 "Born in the —"
 - 1 Kind of numeral

20 Time of your life?

21 Clean a spill

22 Mountain goats

23 Cribs

24 It's nothing

25 Uris novel, with "The"

26 Narrow inlet (Var.)

28 Islamic decree

29 Tools for duels

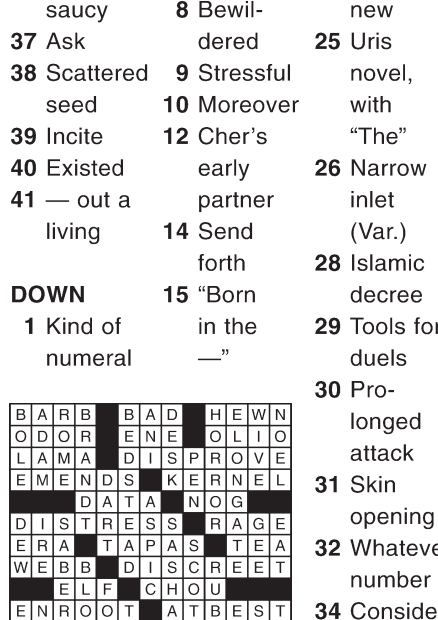
30 Pro-longed attack

31 Skin opening

32 Whatever number

34 Consider, old-style

35 Istanbul denizen



Yesterday's answer 12-11

