

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



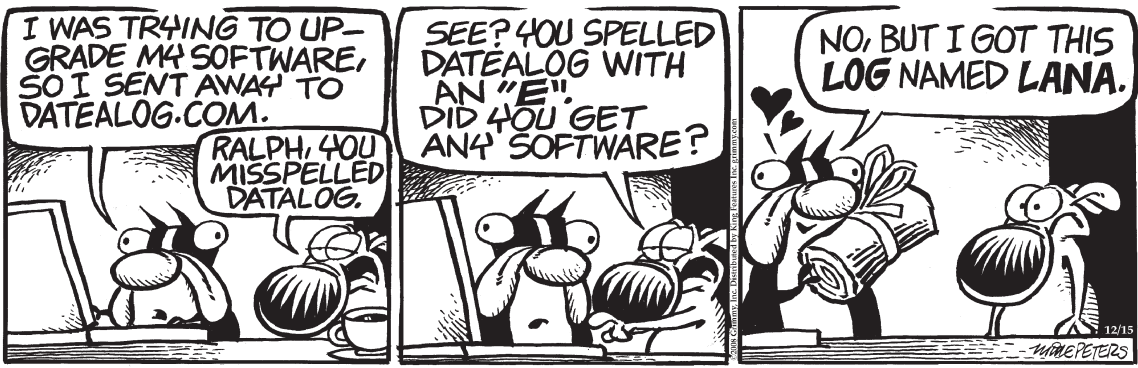
Blondie • Chic Young



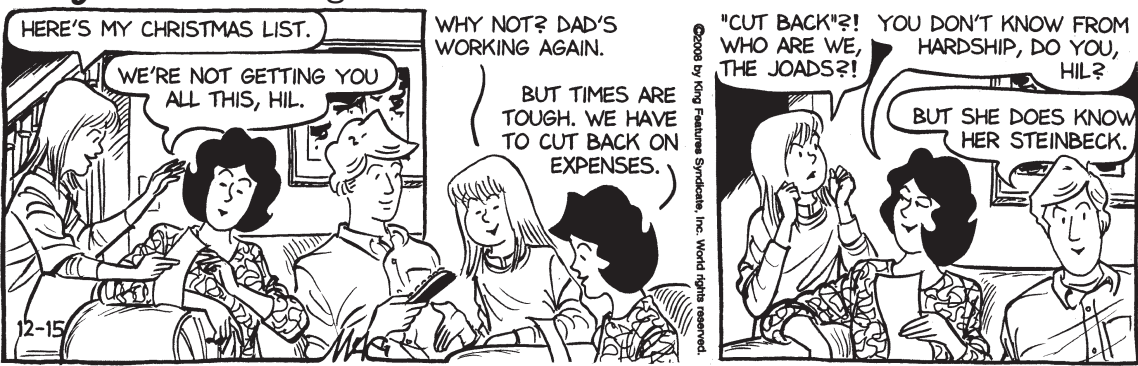
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



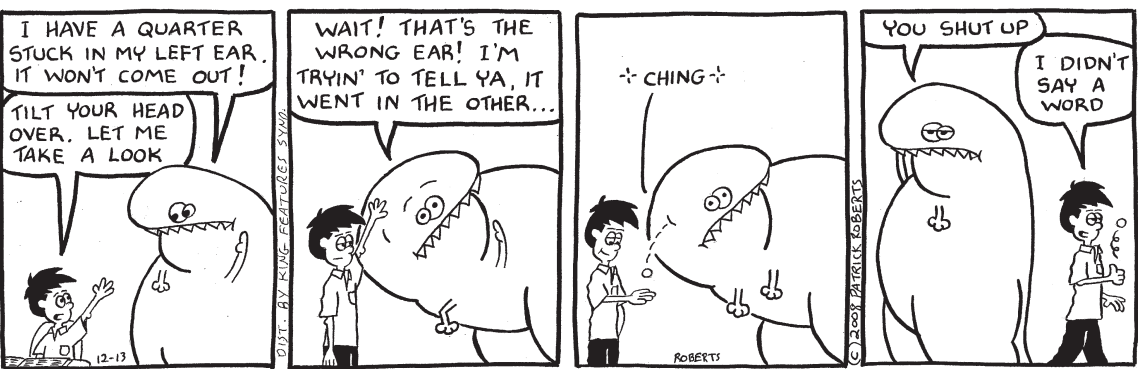
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

12-15 CRYPTOQUIP

L T L M A S F G I Q V F I V A K L

D F G N B F A B I R R G I R A J T J W

F T R N Q G J D F N Q T G R ? F G B I R

S R T J W R I K V M K I J W S I W G .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO PEOPLE, DEBATING OVER THE BEST METHOD TO SHUT A DOOR, WERE GIVING THEIR CLOSING ARGUMENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

12/15

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/13

Bridge

East dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠	Dble
Pass	3 NT		

Opening lead — ten of spades.

This deal occurred in the final of the 2008 U.S. Bridge Championship to determine the team that would represent America in the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in October. The victorious squad -- Chris Compton, Richard Freeman, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell and Eric Rodwell -- bested a strong field of 25 teams, but not before they had to overcome a 33-IMP half-time deficit in the deciding match against a team led by Aubrey Strul.

The deal, which aided the second-half rally by the winners, demonstrates the key role judgment plays at the highest levels of the game.

When the hand was first played, Meckstroth wound up in three notrump as shown, and West led the ten of spades. Meckstroth ducked, won the second spade and cashed his clubs, discarding two hearts and two diamonds from dummy.

East, Lew Stansby, could see what would happen to him if he discarded a spade (South could then simply concede a heart to the ace to establish his ninth trick), so Stansby threw three low diamonds followed by the heart deuce. He hoped these discards might lure declarer into taking a losing diamond finesse, which would yield a two-trick set.

But Meckstroth knew Stansby had opened the bidding and was certainly capable of blanking his king of diamonds. So at trick nine, he led a diamond to the ace, felling the king, and finished with 10 tricks.

At the other table, Mike Becker also wound up in three notrump, but West had not supported spades, which proved critical during the play. Here, West also led the spade ten, ducked by Becker, who won the next spade and cashed his clubs.

But at this table, Freeman, East, discarded two diamonds, a heart and a spade. Becker now could have led a heart to the king to make his contract, but he was afraid East had started with six spades and still held three of them.

If this were true, it meant East now held the singleton king of diamonds, so Becker led a diamond to the ace. When the king did not fall, the defense had the rest of the tricks for down one and an 11-IMP gain.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS					DOWN				
1	Saxophone range	5	Nov. follower	8	Impale	12	Benefit	13	“— Yankee Doodle Dandy ...”
14	Ocean motion	15	Farmland measure	16	Ross and backup	18	Loose-leaf paper holder	20	Lucky dice rolls
21	Prison, in Ports-mouth	23	Shriner's cap	24	2007 comedy movie	28	Nary a soul	31	— out a living
32	Le Pew and Le Moko	34	Convent dweller	35	Catherine —	37	Quash	39	Tokyo's old name
41	Actress Gilpin	42	Straying	45	Some hosiery	49	Imagined	51	Press
52	Map	53	Past	54	One billionth (Pref.)	55	Longings	56	Director Howard
57	Radiate	17	Ump	19	O.K. Corral VIP	22	Drink, as a puppy might	24	“— you!”
25	Guitar's island kin	26	Barrie boy	27	Trust	29	Greek consonants	30	Navy rank (Abbr.)
33	Agile	36	Tweaks	38	Angering	40	Yoko of music	42	Catch sight of
43	Hold the scepter	44	Despot	46	Exam format	47	Admonition to	48	Winter forecast
50	Id counter-part								

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-13

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	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			

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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