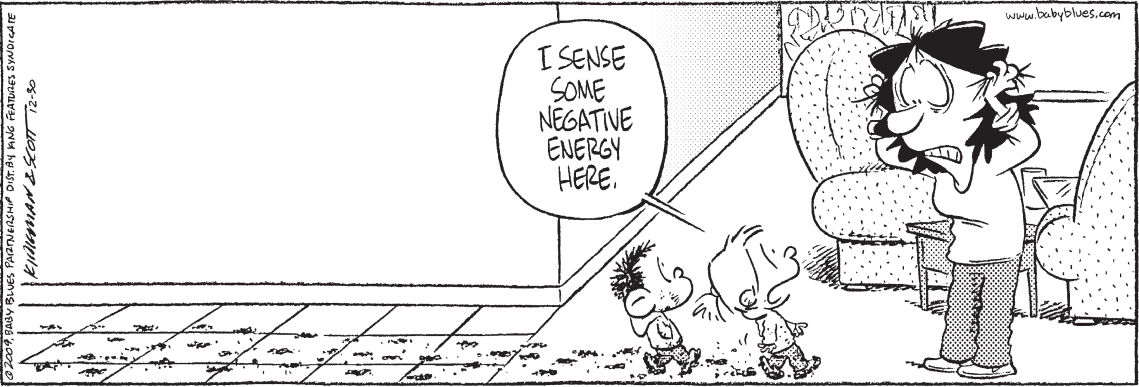


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



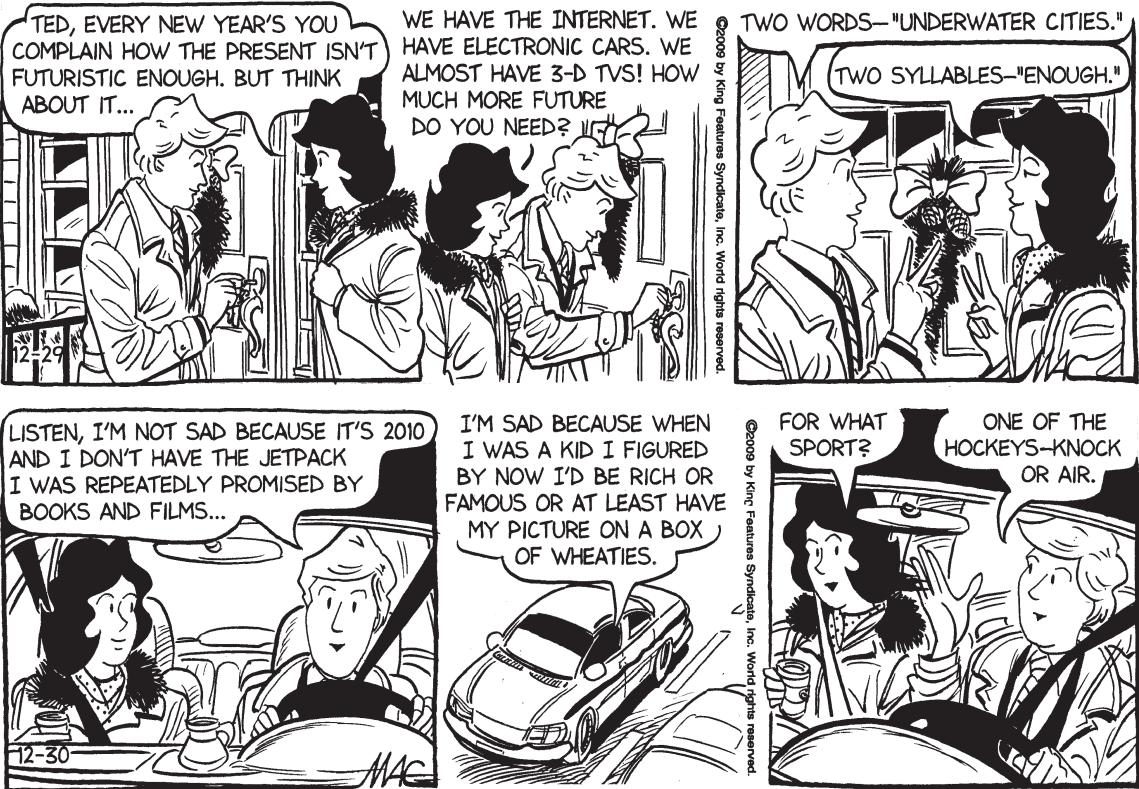
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



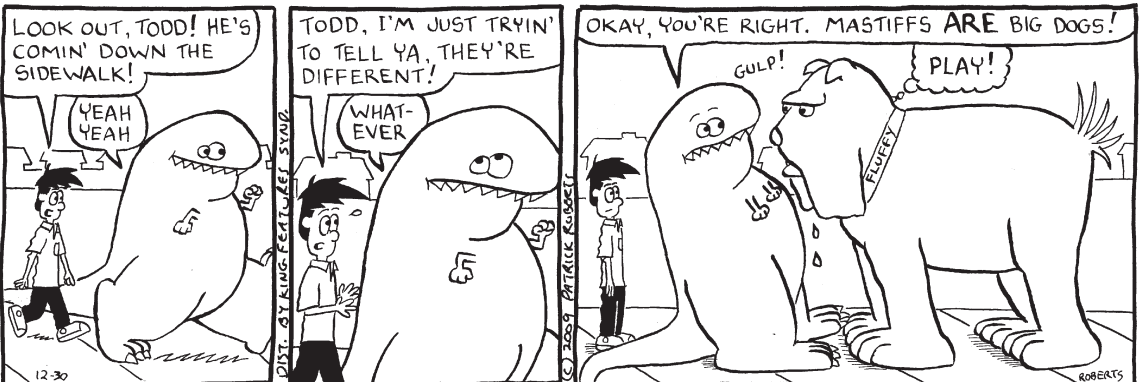
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Here's the word on jelly and jam

Dear Heloise: My grandmother told me the difference between JAM AND JELLY when I was a child, but of course I never listened. My daughters asked me, and I couldn't answer them. Can you help? -- Colleen K., via e-mail

So many jellies, jams, preserves, butters and marmalades are available that it is hard to tell them apart! It can be confusing, believe me. I've even stood there wondering which one to get! Here's a rundown:

- Jelly contains fruit juice or clear liquid and syrup or sugar. When it's cooked, it gels -- thus jelly!
- Jam is cooked, pureed fruit, and it has a soft, thick consistency.
- Preserves contain either large chunks of fruit or whole fruit in heavy syrup.
- Marmalade contains small pieces of rind and fruit, and can have other fruits added.
- Fruit butter is usually smooth and made from fruit pulp and spices.

Most have added sugar, so if you're watching calories, sugar-free jams and jellies are a great option. I hope this helps clear things up a bit! -- Heloise

P.S.: Here's a little ditty to help you remember the difference between jelly and jam: It must be jelly, 'cause jam don't shake like that!

PEANUT-BUTTER MILK

Dear Readers: Don't want to waste that last bit of peanut butter in the jar, but it's not enough to make a sandwich? We've found a delicious solution. Pour a glass of cold milk in the jar, secure the lid and shake vigorously. Add a squeeze of chocolate syrup if you'd like. And you can do the same with the jam, jelly, preserves or marmalade jar. -- Heloise

EASY OPEN

Dear Heloise: You know how hard it is to open the plastic bags for fruit and veggies in the store? I sometimes write my list on a sticky note. The other day, I pulled a bag off the roll and got the idea to press the note on one side of the bag at the top. Worked like a charm. I've tried rubbing the plastic, blowing on it, you name it -- but from now on, I will use a sticky note! -- Jan, Washington, D.C.

OTHER USE

Dear Heloise: I recently discovered that my large metal baking rack is useful for more than cooling fresh-baked cookies. I've started placing it over the dishes in the top rack in my dishwasher before every load. No more dishes flipping over and filling with dirty water.

I also place it over one sink while prepping fruits and vegetables as a handy place to let them drain after washing. -- Brenda from Utah

CUTTING THE CAKE

Dear Heloise: I read a question from another fan about cutting cheesecake or angel food cake. My hint is to use an electric knife. This works great cutting either cake. Also, when a recipe calls for a chicken breast cut up into small pieces for stir-fry, use an electric knife. -- Connie Conway, via e-mail

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 9
♥ K J
♦ 6 3
♣ K 10 9 8 4

WEST
♠ 10 7 4
♥ A 7 2
♦ J 10 9 8 5
♣ A 5

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

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

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

The One and Only Chance

A defender cannot allow himself to get so caught up in the rhythm of the play that he loses his overall perspective. West was guilty of such a lapse in today's deal, and as a result declarer made a contract that might easily have failed.

West led the jack of diamonds against three notrump, won by declarer with the queen as East followed with the discouraging deuce. South finessed the jack of clubs, losing to East's queen, and won the diamond return with the ace.

Declarer led a low club toward dummy, taken by West's ace. West then returned a third diamond to establish his suit while he still had the ace of hearts as an entry.

This defense might have worked nicely on some other deal. But on this occasion, it was just what the doctor ordered for declarer, who ran off four spades and the rest of his clubs to finish with 10 tricks.

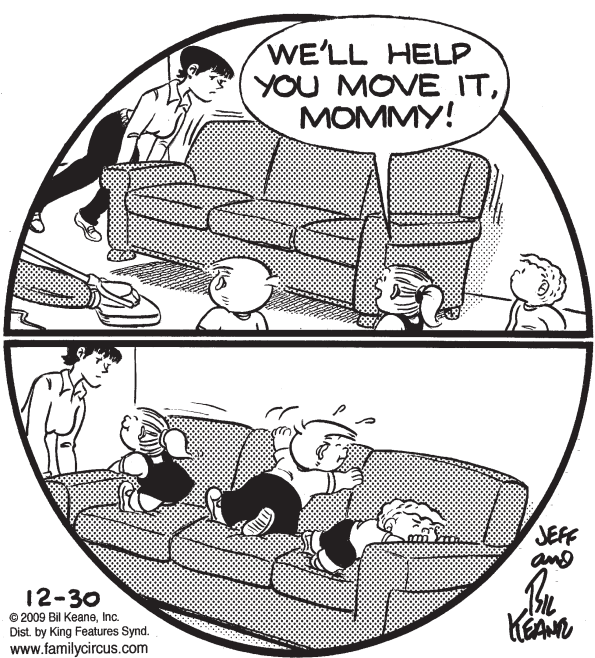
Had West taken the time to count declarer's tricks after winning the second club, he would have seen that a diamond return at trick five amounted to a concession. With dummy's clubs now established, and South known to hold the king of diamonds from the earlier diamond plays, it was clear that declarer would collect at least nine tricks after a diamond return.

West should therefore shift to a low heart at trick five, reasoning that the only chance to defeat the contract is to score three immediate heart tricks. This requires that East hold at least the Q-10-x of hearts, certainly not an impossibility even though South bid the suit.

Faced with a heart shift, declarer might well misguess by playing the jack from dummy and quickly find himself down one.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/30

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.

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

MZGMQZ UZERSRLZQC ERSU

G T P M G I L D X S D G P Z

E P R J N L Z S R S J L N X S C G T P I, I G

N Z ' I L N Z I F X P R Z P F X P P R Z P.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY HERO SANDWICH WAS CONSIDERABLY LARGE, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY IT WAS SUB-STANTIAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Culture medium
5 Third degree?
8 Gunk
12 Lyricist's inspiration
13 Baby shad?
14 Golf target
15 Thriving location
17 Top-notch
18 Breathlessness?
19 Jefferson or Paine
21 Uninteresting
24 Doctrine
25 Indolent
28 Source
30 Nay canceler
33 Id counter-part
34 Appears ominously
35 Heavy weight
36 "Zip-a-Dee—Dah"

DOWN
37 Hathaway or Heche
38 Vendetta
39 — Doubtfire
41 MIT grad, often
43 Courteous
46 Relinquish
50 Hearty quaffs
51 "2012" subject
54 Flirtatious gesture
55 Wander
56 Toy with a tail
57 Inquisitive
58 — out a living
16 Pitch
20 Smacks

22 "East of Eden" twin
23 "You Light Up My Life" singer
4 Cure
5 Expert
6 "In what way?"
7 Fender bender
8 Total disorder
9 Felix, to Oscar
10 Radius neighbor
11 Near-failing grades
12 Pitch
13 Smacks

45 Advantage
47 Falco or McClurg
48 Tardy
49 Turned red?
52 Acorn provider
53 Praise in verse

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-30

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					58				59			