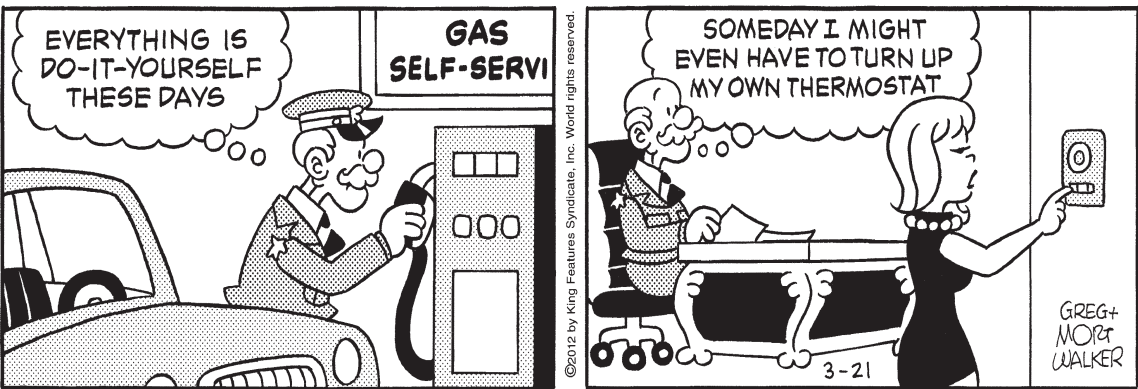


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



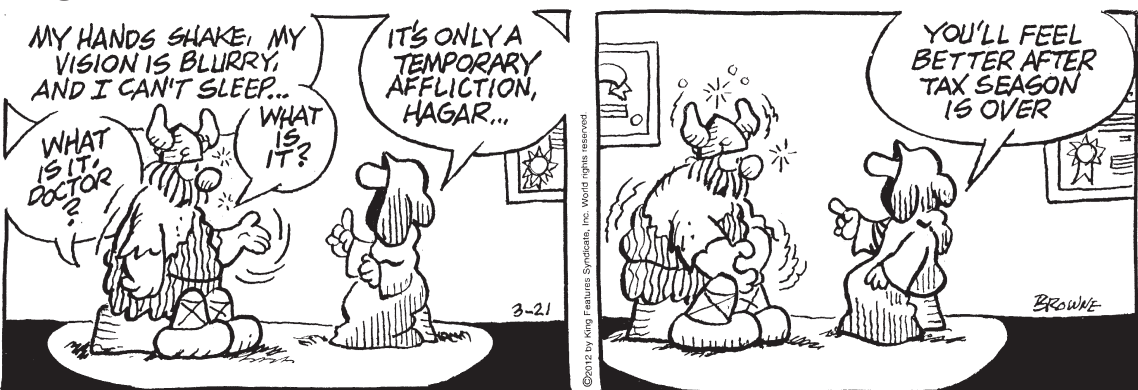
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



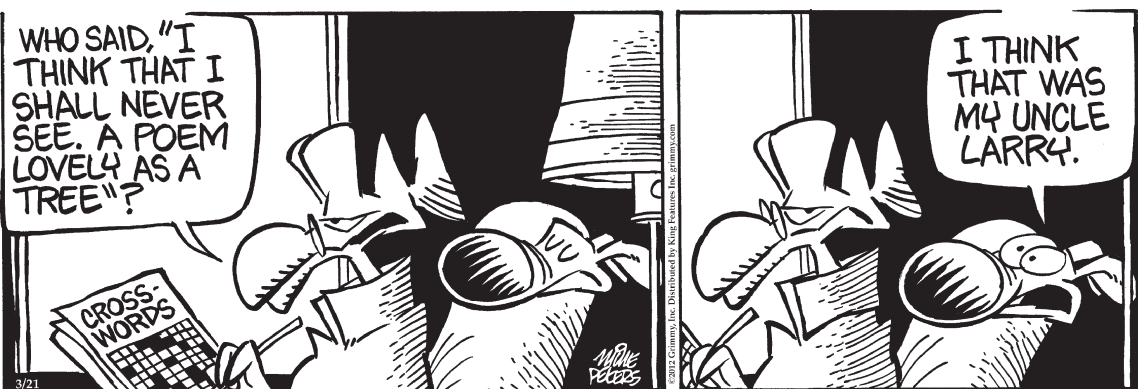
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



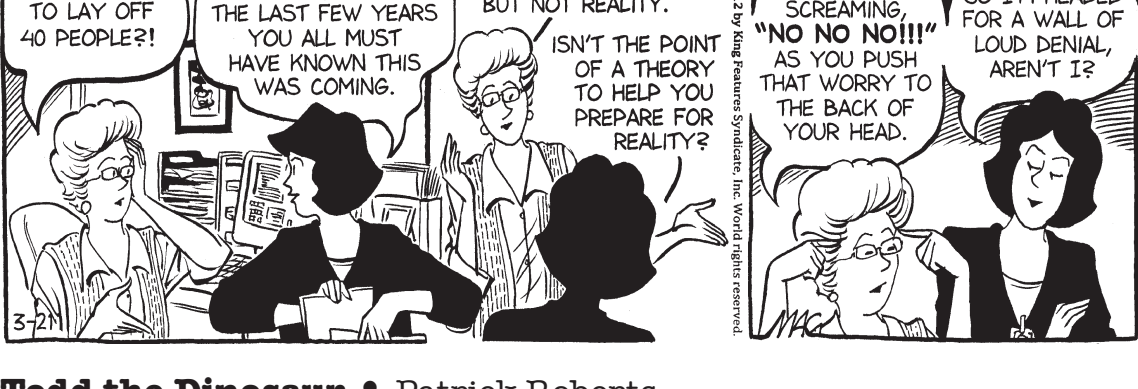
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



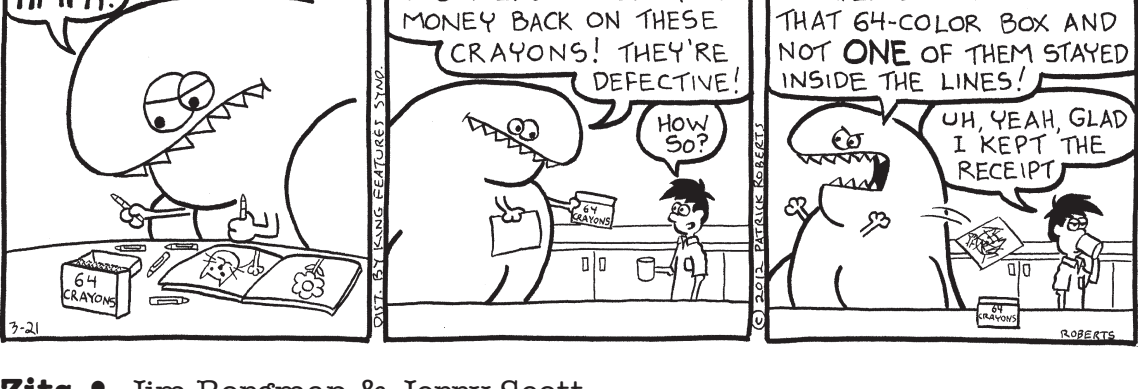
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Buckeye stories outlive carriers

Dear Readers: Wow! You really responded to the column on the BUCKEYENUT, with many personal and charming memories. Here are some more:

• Annabell C. in Arp, Texas, wrote: "I always read and enjoy your column in the Tyler (Texas) Morning Telegraph. My dad always had a buckeye in his pants pocket to 'bring good luck.' He died in 2010 at the age of 93. We buried him with his buckeye in his pocket. Today's column brought back fond memories of Dad. Thank you for covering so many topics."

• Brenda M. in Clovis, N.M., wrote: "My parents were from Kentucky, and from childhood we knew buckeyes were lucky and sort of ward off evil. Our whole family still carries one, and when my dad passed away three years ago, he was buried with a buckeye in his pocket."

• Bonnie D. in New Hampshire wrote: "I never knew a day that my mother would not carry a buckeye 'for good luck and good health.' She passed away at the age of 92 and had good health until the end. When my sisters were going through her things, they found a small handbag I had given to her, so they returned it to me. I opened it up, and there was her lucky buckeye. I now carry it with me in remembrance of my mother."

These are such personal and heartwarming memories! I learned something new and am now going to put a buckeye in my suitcase and purse! Thank each of you for writing. — Heloise

VEGETABLE SOUP

Dear Heloise: I never buy canned soups because they are loaded with sodium and other unhealthy ingredients. So, I purchase 100 percent low-sodium vegetable juice, pour as much as I need into a pot, heat and enjoy. — Patricia in Connecticut

PEACHES AND PEARS

Dear Heloise: I read your column every day and have learned a lot of things. When I usually buy peaches or pears, they are not ripe. Can you tell me a quick way to ripen them? — Kathy S. in Washington

Yes, I can, and it's easy as peach pie! Place them in a brown paper bag, close it up and let it sit at room temperature for a couple of days.

Here's another hint: Select peaches and pears that are firm but, when pressed, give just a little. — Heloise

EASY HINT

Dear Heloise: I made a fabric breadbasket and did not want oil stains on the lining from rolls, bread, biscuits, etc. So, I used a plastic wrap that sticks on the inside lining and pressed it to the fabric. It worked perfectly. No stains, and when dinner was finished, I just tossed the plastic wrap and crumbs into the trash. — Joan G., Prescott, Ariz.

ROLLING-PIN SUBSTITUTE

Dear Heloise: I was trying to roll out some dough this morning, but I couldn't find my rolling pin. Finally, I thought of using a cold bottle of wine, and it worked just fine! — Susan Carpenter, Naples, Fla.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ 9 4 3  
♥ A 7  
♦ Q J 10 8 5  
♣ 6 5 3  
WEST  
♠ Q J 10 8 2  
♥ 9 6 5 2  
♦ 6 4 3  
♣ J  
EAST  
♠ A  
♥ K 10 8  
♦ A 7 2  
♣ Q 10 8 7 4 2

SOUTH  
♠ K 7 6 5  
♥ Q J 4 3  
♦ K 9  
♣ A K 9  
The bidding:  
East 1 ♣  
South Dble  
West 1 ♠  
North 2 ♦  
Pass 2 NT  
Opening lead — queen of spades.

A Hairsplitting Decision

Consider this deal where West led the queen of spades against two notrump. East won the spade with the ace and thereupon returned the king of hearts! Without this startling play, declarer would have made the contract easily.

Let's suppose East had returned a club, which seems the natural thing to do. South would win with the ace, establish dummy's diamonds and score eight tricks consisting of four diamonds, two clubs, a spade and a heart. But the king-of-hearts return put an end to this threat, holding declarer to one diamond trick instead of four.

Declarer took the heart king with dummy's ace, then led a low diamond to the king and a second diamond to dummy's ten, West following with the three and four. Had East made the mistake of ducking the ten, South would have had his eighth trick. But East took the ace of diamonds and returned the ten of hearts, and South could score only seven tricks.

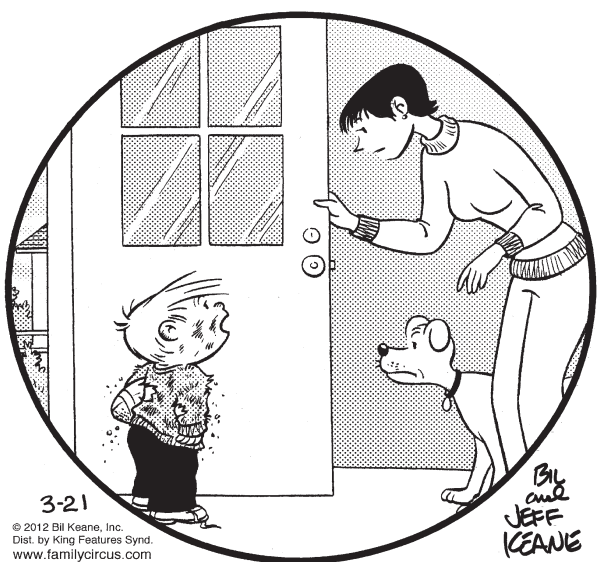
West's play of the three followed by the four indicated that he had started with exactly three diamonds. East therefore had no problem winning the second diamond because he knew South had only two cards in the suit.

Had West been dealt the doubleton 4-3 of diamonds, he would have played the four first and the three next. In that case, East would then have ducked the second round of diamonds, knowing that South had the remaining diamond.

Whether one plays first the three and then the four, or the four and then the three, might seem like splitting hairs, but the fact is that hairsplitting often makes the critical difference in the delicate art of defense.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"MOMMY, DO YOU REMEMBER IF THIS WAS MY GOOD SWEATER OR MY PLAY SWEATER?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 3/21

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.

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

Cryptoquip

R J X P D - D J X D W A J X B C C G

A K J X J A B D X E K C E J O

A C G O B J G B R V B J R I Z G P R C M W R V

J G W X M W D R V : F Z A I D V F C M B K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NAME OF A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE ALWAYS FEEL COMPELLED TO ACT ON THINGS IMMEDIATELY: URGENT-INA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Segment cry  
5 Science room  
8 Arizona city  
12 On the briny  
13 Id counter-part  
14 Terrible guy?  
15 Approve  
17 Cheerful tune  
18 Wheel radius  
19 "— With Wolves"  
21 Chantilly, e.g.  
24 Under-stand  
25 Initial stake  
28 Burn soother  
30 Altar affirmative  
33 Scoundrel  
34 Work dough  
35 "— Town"  
36 Greek H  
37 Pruritus  
38 Elbow counter-part  
39 Cornfield  
41 Melody  
43 Riga's land  
46 Light-weight wood  
50 Sils solo  
51 Meeting place  
54 Lowly worker  
55 "All the Things You —"  
56 Muscat's land  
57 Huff and puff  
58 Louis —  
59 "Unh-unh"  
3 Gambling mecca  
4 Stop the ballcarrier  
5 Souvenir from  
6 Past  
7 007  
8 Pooh's creator  
9 Bad news from the landlord  
10 Post-Christmas event  
11 Picnic intruders  
16 Afternoon social  
20 On in years  
22 Lacks the skills to  
23 Vote into office  
25 Expert  
26 Enthusiast  
27 Force exerted by pulling  
29 Aloha Tower site  
31 Payable load  
32 Tramcar  
34 Fuzzy fruit  
38 Michael, Diane or Buster  
40 —-garde  
42 Leno's network  
43 Reindeer herder, maybe  
44 Vicinity  
45 Trojan War hero  
47 Prom-night transport  
48 Bathday cake?  
49 Hathaway or Heche  
52 Spoon-bender  
53 3-Down's st.

DOWN  
1 Go by  
2 Memo acronym  
Solution time: 21 mins.

A	P	P	C	R	A	M	S	P	A	R
S	E	E	H	E	L	O	T	A	R	E
P	A	N	T	O	M	I	T	E	N	I
L	O	R	O	M	A	Y	D	A	Y	
M	U	P	P	E	T	A	L	O	E	
I	R	A	S	E	A	S	U	R	G	E
C	A	N	S	S	I	R	R	I	L	L
A	L	O	H	A	M	O	B	N	E	S
R	E	D	O	B	U	N	G	E		
S	L	A	L	O	M	B	R	A		
H	A	M	P	A	N	E	G	R	I	C
O	V	A	T	H	E	R	E	E	V	A
P	A	S	S	A	T	Y	R	D	E	B

Yesterday's answer 3-21

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