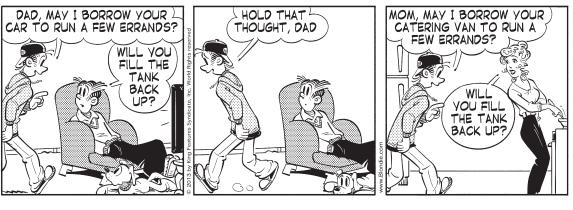
## **Beetle Bailey •** Mort Walker



**Blondie •** Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible •** Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm •** Mike Peters



IF ALL OUR GUESTS SAID

THEY'RE MAKING PARTICULAR

BECAUSE MY SISTER WILL BE

OVERWHELMED WITH TAKING CARE

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

YEAH, BUT

I DON'T

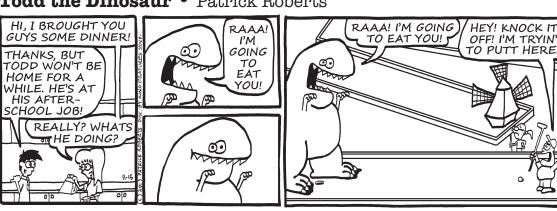
SO DID WE

GET EVERYTHING

ON OUR LIST FOR



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





# Holiday food hits the highway

Dear Readers: Many of us will be going to gatherings for the holidays and bringing a favorite food dish along with us. Here are some Heloise very helpful hints for you to make the transportation of food (especially hot food) as easy and safe as possible:

• Place the dish (either hot or cold food) in a cooler or large box. Stuff newspaper around it for support. The container will keep it from sliding.

• If possible, pack up the ingredients and put the dish together at your destination. Be sure to ask your host or hostess ahead of time. • Invest in a casserole dish with a tight-fitting

lid. For added protection, wrap the dish in foil, then layers of newspapers for insulation. Put it into a paper or plastic bag or a large tote.

• Place the cooler, box or tote on the flattest surface in the car, with the least room to slide. The floorboard in the back seat is a good place. Hope these hints help make your holidays run smoothly. — Heloise

#### TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: More often than I care to admit, I have tried to quickly get through airport security and left my laptop behind. Now, I make sure the laptop goes in a bin, followed behind by my shoes in another. You may forget your laptop when rushing, but the chance of leaving your shoes behind is pretty slim. — Gary T., via email

Very smart! I have my netbook in a bright-purple soft case so I know when it comes through on the belt! - Heloise

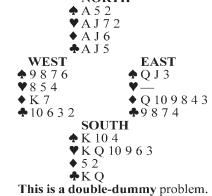
### LASTING ODORS

Dear Heloise: A really cheap and fully effective air freshener or odor absorber is distilled vinegar in an open glass container. One of those glass vases we seem to collect works nicely. It takes care of the litter-box area, all the collection of garage odors, kitchen cooking smells and a long list of assorted repugnant odors. — Dottie H., Fort Wayne, Ind. Dottie, you are right. This is a classic Heloise

hint! To help freshen the air and add moisture during winter, simmer some water on the stove with a couple of "glugs" of vinegar. Then add a little cinnamon, cloves or even lemon rinds to the pot. It will give your home a lovely, inviting holiday fragrance. Vinegar is one of my favorite cheap and versatile household products! For some of my favorite money-saving hints, order my vinegar pamphlet. To receive one, just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San SMPL Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Is a smell lingering on your hands after cooking fish or cutting onions? Use a little vinegar to "wash" them, rinse, and the smell will be gone! — Heloise

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## **Bridge** • Steve Becker



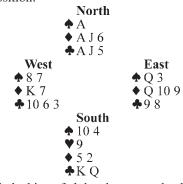
You, South, are in Seven Hearts, and West leads the nine of spades. You are permitted to look at all four hands as you attempt to make the contract. How do you proceed?

#### **Double-Dummy Problem NORTH**

You start with 12 tricks and must try to develop a 13th. Assuming best defense, your only chance to make the grand slam is by a squeeze.

The three elements usually necessary for a successful squeeze are all present: 1. You have all the remaining tricks but one. 2. One opponent -- in this case East -- has two suits to guard (spades and diamonds). 3. You will have satisfactory communication between your own hand and dummy when the squeeze card is eventually led.

Play a low spade from dummy at trick one and take East's jack with the king. Cash five rounds of trumps, discarding a low spade from dummy. East has a choice of how many diamonds and clubs to discard on the five trumps – all leading to the same dead end - but let's assume he discards three diamonds and two clubs, producing this position:



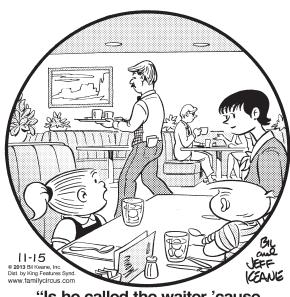
Cash the king of clubs, then overtake the queen with the ace and lead the jack of clubs. This last play destroys East. If he discards a spade, you discard a diamond and next cash the ace of spades, felling East's queen and establishing your ten.

If East instead discards a diamond on the jack of clubs, you also discard a diamond, then play the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond, making dummy's jack a trick.

There is no escape for East.

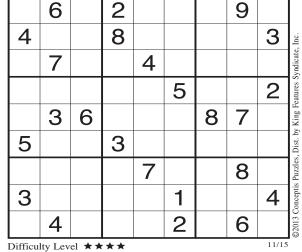
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## Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Is he called the waiter 'cause he's so good at making us wait for our food?

## Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



This is a logic-based number placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a num-

ber, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

1	3	6	9	2	5	8	4	7
2	9	4	7	8	3	5	1	6
8	7	5	4	1	6	9	2	3
3	1	2	5	6	4	7	8	ć
5	6	9	1	7	8	4	3	2
7	4	8	2	3	9	6	5	1
4	5	7	3	9	1	2	6	8
9	8	1	6	5	2	3	7	2
6	2	3	8	4	7	1	9	5
Difficu	lty Lev	el **	*					11

## Cryptoquip

TQ ZHEOYPOT WCHUOHMOHWC

PQCYOP, EC NCZ DOKMOUC

V L C SOOK KZWBN

PLCZKE DZN VTQOYN QMWBOQP? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COUNTRY IN WHICH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF BABY SEA LIONS TEND TO CONGREGATE: NEW SEAL-LAND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y

## **Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

31 Hostel

ship

34 Writer

again, as

a relation-

Bagnold

32 Start

ACROSS 1 "Uh-huh"	<b>40</b> Moolah <b>41</b> Grand	5 Billions of vears	23 Sand formation
4 Ardor	tale	6 Blackjack	
8 St. Louis	42 Hair	part	motion
team	holder	7 "The Thin	
12 Will Smith		Man"	that
biopic	party	actress	holds
13 Crazy	' '		
,	garment	8 Echo, for	
14 Pennsyl-	47 First	short	together
vania port	victim	9 Vicinity	<b>27</b> One
<b>15</b> Mad	48 George's	10 Uncate-	28 Tackles'
moolah	brother	gorized	team-
17 Waistcoat	<b>49</b> Break	(Abbr.)	mates
<b>18</b> House-	suddenly	11 Brother	30 Wilde-
hold	<b>50</b> Tragic	of 47-	beests
members	<b>51</b> Pos.	Across	33 Polar
19 Fuzzy	opposite	16 Repast	buildup
fruit		19 Versifier	34 Simple
20 Impres-	DOWN	<b>20</b> Way	36 Aesopiai
sive	1 Shrill bark	away	offering
collection	2 Yalie	21 Judicial	37 Reply to
22 Stench	3 Tiny	raiment	"Shall
24 Thwart	injury	<b>22</b> Pre-	we?"
25 Very loyal	4 Polish	diploma	38 Fairy tale
29 "Wipeout"	currency	hurdles	preposi-
network	Solution tim		tion
30 Titan			39 Latvia's
oo man	OTIC AF	R C Q U A Y	UJ Latvid S

capital

buddy,"

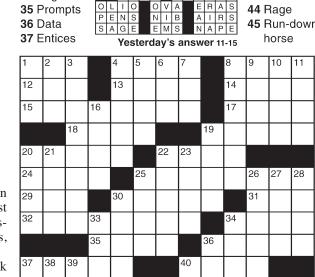
perhaps

40 "Good

42 Awful

43 Kimono

sash



42