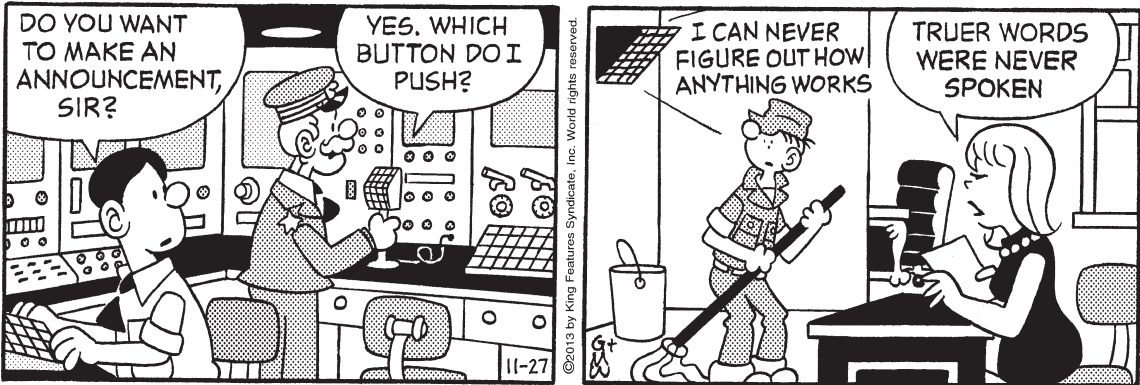


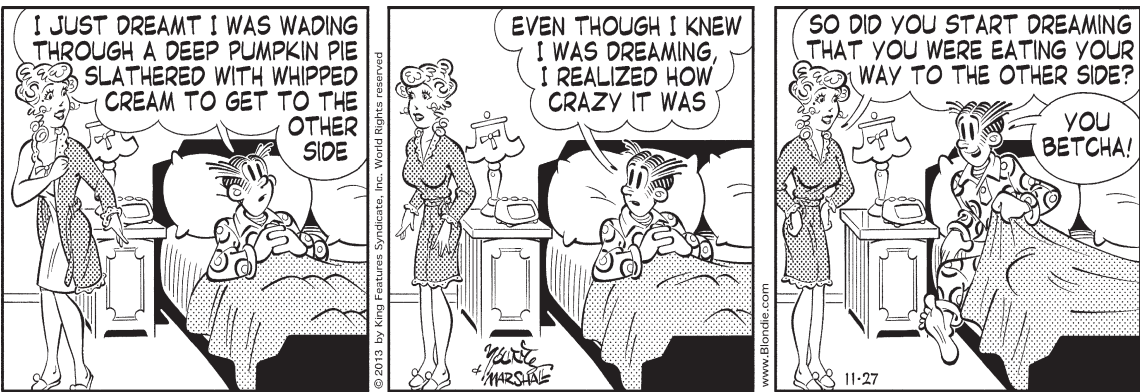
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



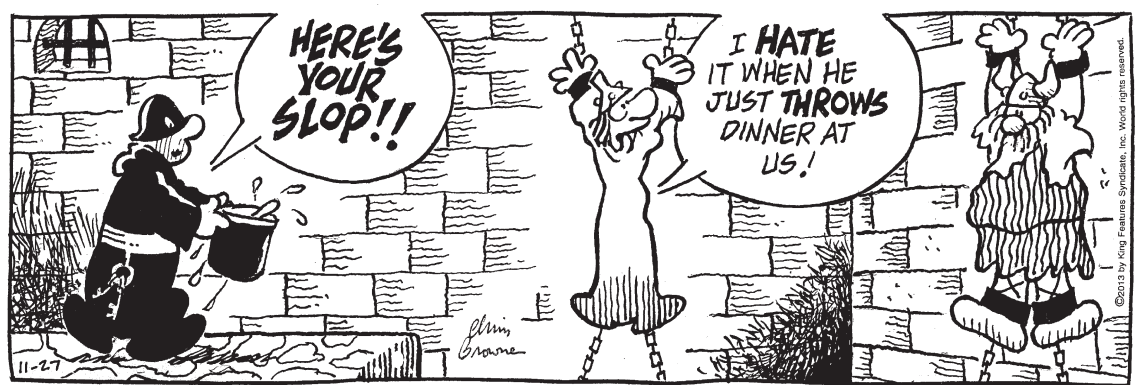
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



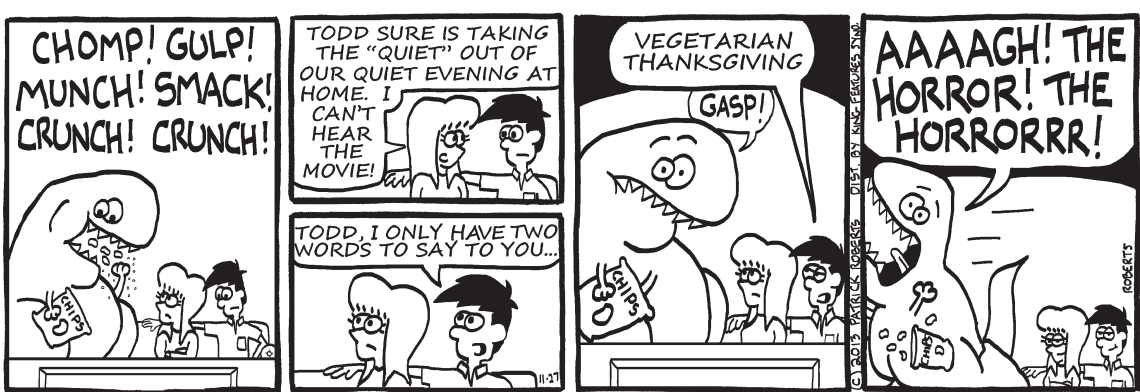
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Leanest meat still has marbling

Dear Heloise: Here is a question that we have thought about for quite some time. We buy the leanest ground beef when we do buy ground meat. Usually it's 93/7 or 97/3, yet all show white flecks in the meat that look like ground-up fat. How do we know that we are truly getting very lean meat? — P.J. in Pennsylvania

You are! What you see is ground-up pieces of fat and marbling that is found inside the meat. What you are buying is a ratio of 97 percent lean meat to 3 percent fat, which is considered extra lean by government regulations.

Here's a hint when you want to buy the leanest cuts of meat: Look for the words "round" or "loin" in the name, such as "top sirloin" or "ground round." — Heloise

P.S.: When it's on sale or a good buy, pick up some extra to keep in the freezer.

KEEP FRESH

Dear Heloise: When friends or guests are going to be visiting, I like to serve cake with coffee. It seems the cakes tend to go stale rather quickly where the slices are cut. I now place a piece of wax paper or parchment paper over the sliced areas of the cake. As I cut each slice, I keep replacing the paper to keep the cake "sealed." It really keeps the cake fresher longer. — Stacy P., Hartford, Conn.

NO SLICK

Dear Heloise: We grow okra in our garden every year here in East Texas. When I would cut up the okra to fry it, or blanch and cool it to put in the freezer, I always would have slick hands and bowls. By accident, I found that a mixture of vinegar and water sprayed on my hands, sink and bowls took away the slick from the okra. — Josie S., Rusk, Texas

I am never surprised at the many super uses for vinegar! It does cut through grease, slime and even okra slick! This is why I wrote my pamphlet Heloise's Fabtulous Vinegar Hints and More, filled with hints and recipes for using vinegar. To receive one, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Add cucumbers to apple-cider vinegar and water for 10 to 15 minutes to create a tangy, tasty treat. Adjust the amount of vinegar to your taste. — Heloise

FOOD CARRIER

Dear Heloise: I use an empty cereal box that I lay on its side to transport baked goods. You can slide the covered dish, plate or whatever container inside. I close the top and tape it shut. Even if the box slides around, the plate inside stays covered and clean. — Kathy M., Lewes, Del.

PICKLED TOMATOES

Dear Heloise: I save the jars and juices from sour pickles and jalapeño peppers. When I pull out my tomato plants, I take the small green tomatos, slice them very thin and put them into the juices to make "pickled" tomatoes and "hot" tomatoes. — Jerry in New Jersey

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 8 4
♥ K 10 6 3
♦ Q J 8
♣ A K 5

WEST

♠ A K 9 7 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ Q 4

EAST

♠ Q 10 6
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ 9 7 2
♣ J 10 2

SOUTH

♠ 5
♥ A Q 7 2
♦ K 10 4
♣ 9 8 7 6 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — king of spades.

It Ain't Over Till It's Over

When declarer appears to be in a hopeless position, he might do well to remember the old baseball adage, "The game isn't over till the last man's out." South did exactly that in today's deal, and as a result succeeded in a situation that many would have considered a lost cause.

He ruffed the second spade lead and cashed the A-Q of hearts. When West failed to follow to the second heart, it appeared declarer would have to lose a trick in each suit and go down one.

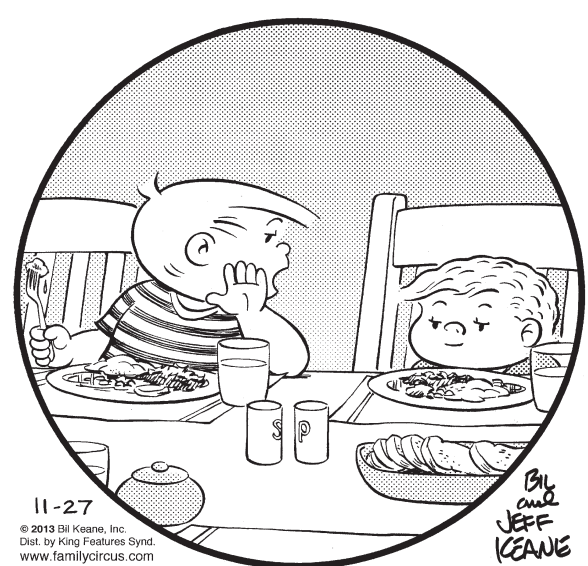
But South did not give up, and continued to play on in the hope that East had started with a 3-4-3-3 distribution, in which case the contract could still be made. At trick five, he led the king of diamonds, losing to West's ace. West's spade return was ruffed by South with his last trump, and the Q-J of diamonds were cashed, East following suit to both.

At this point, East was known to have started with four hearts and at least three diamonds and three spades. Declarer had to hope that East did not have another spade or the 13th diamond, which would leave him room for at most two clubs.

With five tricks remaining to be played, declarer cashed the A-K of clubs and then, with fingers crossed, led a third club, hoping East would have to win the trick. When East unhappily won with the jack, he was compelled to lead from the J-9 of hearts into dummy's K-10 at trick 12, and the contract was home.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/27

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

Z D B T I ' L M N A V Q Q Z Q X T Q

P N B Z Q X T Q D Z F J Z T Q V A

V J J T L Q M B O V P T Q, O Z X U J B T I

N I L F U V P M V N M L L B - P F T N M ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE CIRCUS COMIC WORE THE HIGHEST STILTS EVER, I GUESS THAT WAS HIS CLOWNING ACHIEVEMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals R

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 Persia, now	36 Workout venue	1 Bygone Peruvian	23 Ship of the desert
5 Matter-horn, for one	37 The same	2 Stern	25 Periodical, for short
8 High-lander	38 Timbuk-tu's land	3 Weaponry	26 Singer office
12 Infamous fiddler	39 Fruit stone	4 Unim-portant person	27 Seek wine-house
13 Society page word	41 Grown-up nits	5 Moreover	28 Con-temptibly small
14 Greet silently	43 Broadway platforms	6 Floral neckwear	29 Big rig
15 Angkor Wat	46 Talkative, slangily	7 Bog material	31 Ailing
17 Prayer ending	50 Bucket	8 Mystical wise one	32 Tackle moguls
18 Bad lighting?	51 Woman's garment	9 Ala-bama's state flower	34 Give as an example
19 Hour-glasses and such	54 2012 Affleck movie	10 Finished	38 Con-temptibly small
21 Ances-tor's opp.	55 Time of your life?	11 Sawbucks	40 Nome dome home
24 Zero	56 Rhône city	16 Insep-arable	42 Holly-wood trickery (Abbr.)
25 "Fargo" actor William H.	57 Taboo act	20 Grooving on	43 Bridge
28 Owns, biblically	58 Cut the grass	22 Roe provider	44 Poi base
30 Fleur-de—	59 Deviates off course		45 Con game
33 Doctors' org.			47 Tofu source
34 Bit part, maybe			48 Deceler-ate
35 Sort			49 Longings

Yesterday's answer 11-27

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			