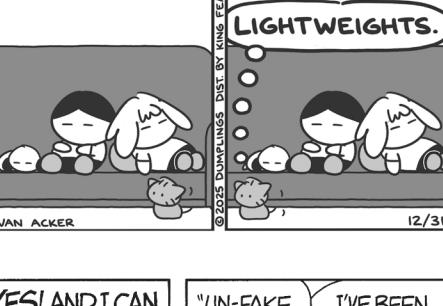


## DUMPLINGS

BY VICTOR VAN ACKER



## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



## ROYAL STARS

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE FROM GEORGIA NICOLS

The day ahead: ★★★★ = Dynamic; ★★★ = Positive; ★★ = Average; ★ = So-so; ★ = Difficult

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) or important decisions from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. EST today (4 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from **TAURUS** into **GEMINI**.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Today you have strong feelings and views about certain issues, which is why discussions with siblings, relatives and neighbors will be lively! Oh yes. You will say what you mean and mean what you say! Tonight: Discussions.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, and today you have strong feelings about financial matters. This might be about earnings or a big expenditure. It might even be about something that you own. Be careful, because today it's easy to become obsessed. Tonight: Check your money.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Pluto, which makes your feelings intense and your discussions charged with emotion. Take a breath and get things in perspective. The world is not going to end today. In fact, it's already tomorrow somewhere else on the planet. Tonight: You win!

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Be cooperative with partners and close friends today because three planets are opposing your sign. This means it's in your best interests to "go along to get along." If you have an intense reaction to something, you'll be quiet about it. (Just for today.) Tonight: Seek privacy.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Remember to listen when talking to friends and members of groups today. Listen with genuine interest and be polite, because it's all too easy for conversations to become so intense they're off the charts. Today is an emotionally charged day for many people. Keep it light. Tonight: Be friendly.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ You are high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Be aware of the fact that discussions with bosses, parents and authority figures -- which might be intense -- will also be more public than usual. (You might end up hissing at someone in an elevator filled with others.) Stay chill. Tonight: You're noticed.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You are an excellent debater, and today you might get caught up in intense discussions about politics, religion or something about foreign countries. (These could be exhausting.) Remember that you need harmony in your surroundings for your own peace of mind. You come first. Tonight: Explore!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

For Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025:

You're pragmatic and idealistic. You seek better ways of doing things. You're reasonable and fair. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you better self-awareness. This year gets more exciting as it wears on.

## BORN TODAY

Actor Anthony Hopkins (1937), actress Bebe Neuwirth (1958), actor Val Kilmer (1959)

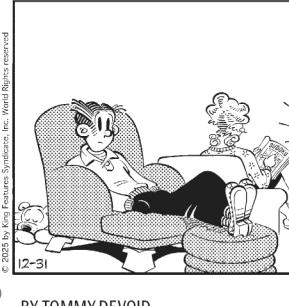
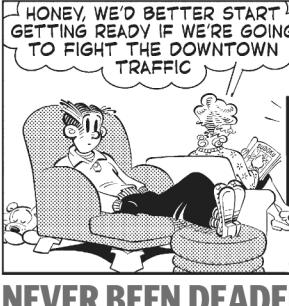
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Today the Moon is dancing with your ruler Pluto, which will create intense feelings in you and others, especially if you're dealing with inheritances and issues about banking, debt, taxes or shared property. Don't come on too strong with others, because you are very powerful right now. Tonight: Check your finances.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ The best advice for you today is to cooperate with spouses, partners and close friends -- even members of the general public -- because the Moon is opposite your sign. Feelings are running high! Naturally, with Mercury in your sign, you have something to say. Easy does it. Tonight: Listen carefully.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ It's the last day of the year, and you hold all the cards with the Sun, Venus and fiery Mars all in your sign. Avoid disputes or emotional discussions with co-workers, which might arise. Do your best to keep things on an even keel so that everyone benefits, including you. Tonight: Get organized.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Today has mixed messages for you. One message is that you want to party and socialize. You have strong feelings and expectations! However, the other message is that you might be best served by being low-key and staying quiet -- alone or behind the scenes. You choose. Tonight: Relax.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Relations with friends and groups are positive today. However, discussions with family members, especially parents, might be too emotional because both parties are obsessed about their point of view. Go gently. Tonight: Cocoon at home.



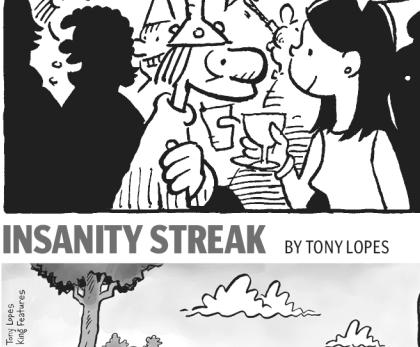
## NEVER BEEN DEADER

BY TOMMY DEVOID



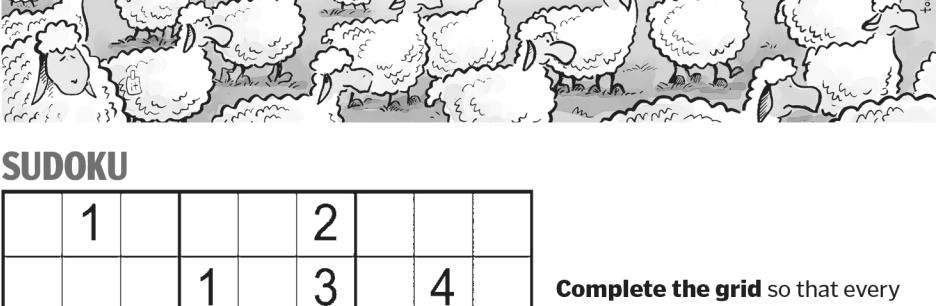
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE

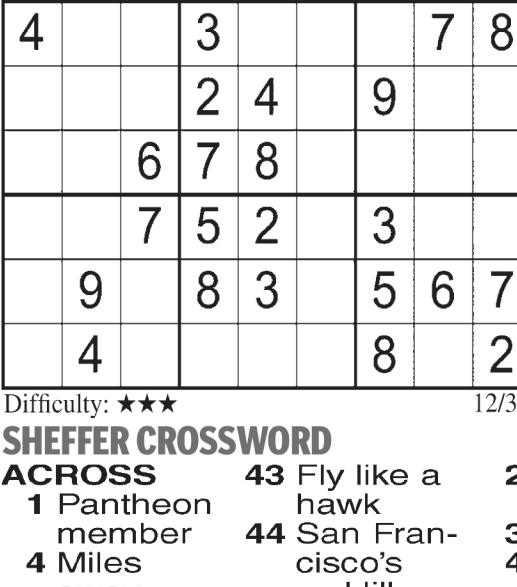


## INSANITY STREAK

BY TONY LOPEZ



## SUDOKU



Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

12/31

## SHEFFER CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1 Pantheon member  
4 Miles away  
8 Brew topper  
12 Before  
13 Taboo  
14 "— la Douce"

15 PBS funder  
16 "Animal House" fete  
18 Masked hero  
20 French diarist Anaïs  
21 Winter blanket  
24 Brilliance

28 New Year's Eve topper  
32 Apiece  
33 Vegetable peeler brand

34 Pre-stereo records  
36 "Rocks"  
37 Reply to "Shall we?"

39 Beer bash  
41 "The Waste Land" author

1 Post-millennial demo-graphic gp.  
DOWN

1 Post-millennial demo-graphic gp.  
4 Fly like a hawk  
44 San Francisco's — Hill  
46 Leniency  
50 Restaurant area for special events

55 Sashimi fish  
56 Met melody  
57 Top-of-the-line  
58 Author Fleming

59 Little dent  
60 Thunder god  
61 Use a shovel

17 Thanksgiving dessert  
19 Trio after Q

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22 "Hmm, I guess so"

23 Declines

25 Hideaway

26 Bank statement no.

27 Yon folks

28 North —

29 Skater's leap

30 South Asian flatbread

31 Takeout request

35 Annoying emailer

38 "In America" writer Susan

40 "How — you?"

42 Gift from Santa

45 Nanny's headache

47 Incursion

48 Spiced tea

49 Soprano — Huang

50 Knee protector

51 "Entourage" agent

52 —

Tin Tin

53 "What a cute kitten!"

54 Musician Yoko

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-31

