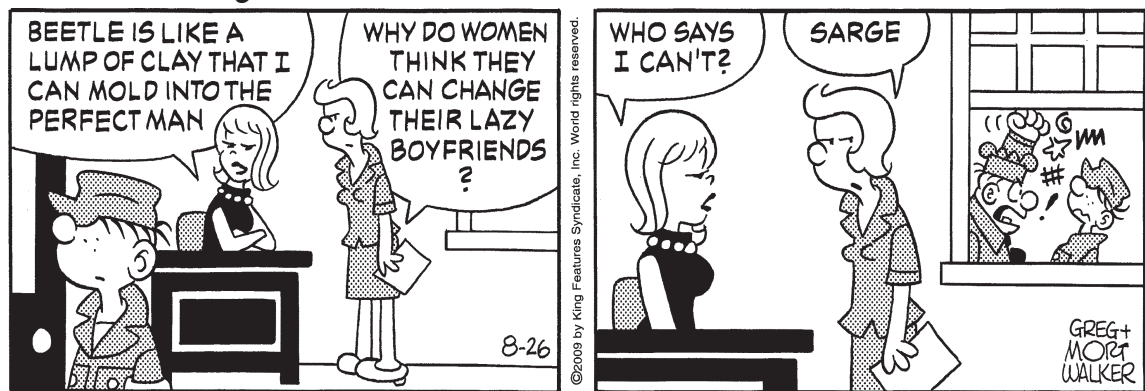


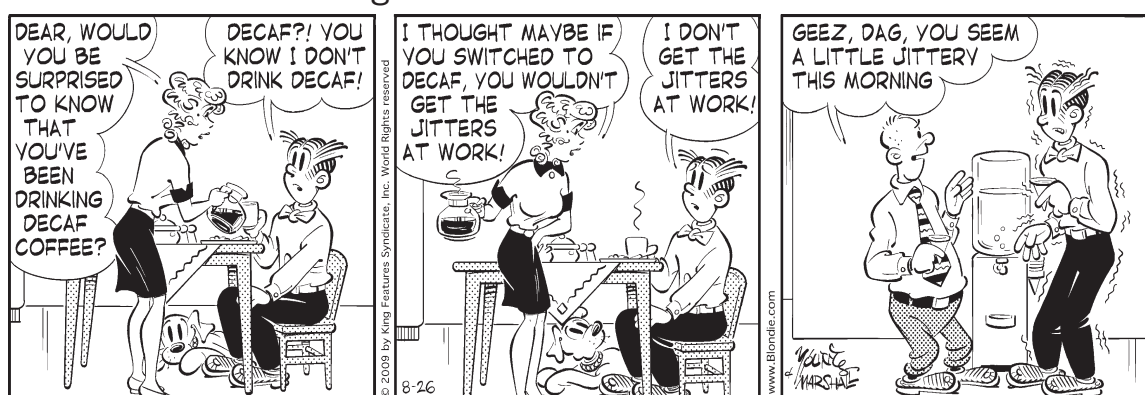
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



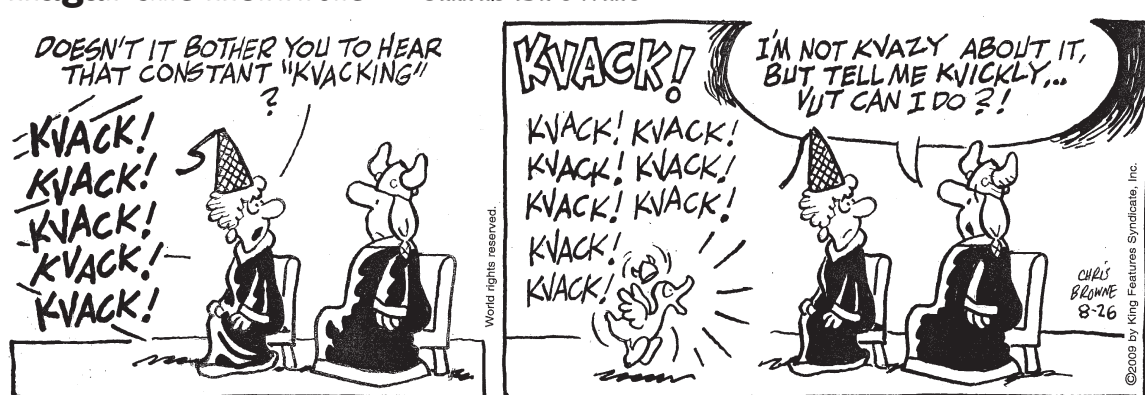
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



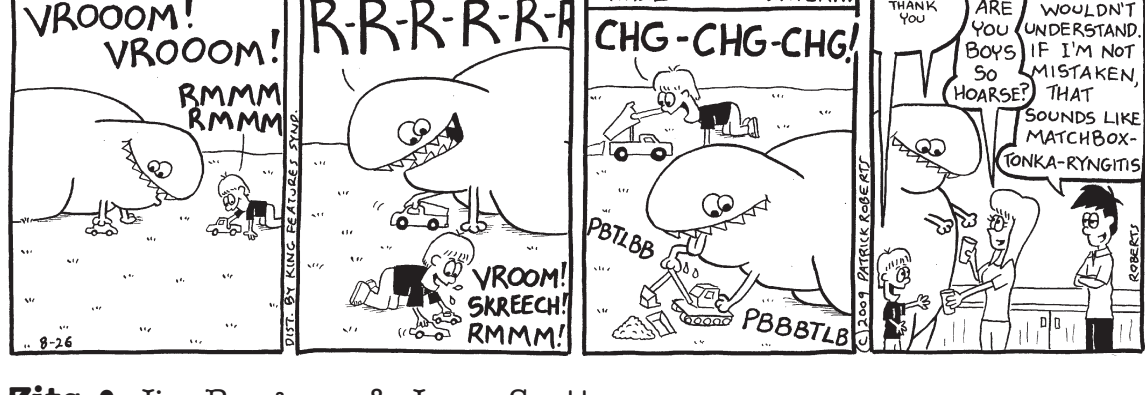
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Boiled eggs have a secret**

Dear Heloise: I am unsuccessful in HARD-BOILING EGGS. Please tell me the recipe or solution. Thank you. — Lin H., Ventura, Calif.

It may not be your fault! If the eggs are fresh, they will be a pain to peel! For "hard cooked" (the technical term), older eggs are better, as there is more of an air pocket. Here is how the American Egg Board says to hard-cook eggs:

Carefully place the eggs in a single layer in a pan and cover with cold water at least by 1 inch. Put a lid on, and heat until the water comes to a rolling boil. Turn off the heat and keep the pot covered. If you have an electric stove, remove the pot from the hot burner and move it to a cool one.

Let eggs stand about 12 minutes for medium eggs, 15 minutes for large eggs and 18 minutes for extra large. Pour off the hot water, then run cold water over the eggs. Let sit until the eggs are cool. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: HELOISE(at)Heloise.com

**BATTER MIXING**

Dear Heloise: Whenever I'm mixing a batter, etc., in a bowl on the countertop, I find that putting a cloth hot pad or dish towel under the bowl will prevent it from sliding, and also it won't scratch the countertop. — J.C. in San Antonio

**MACARONI AND CHEESE**

Dear Heloise: I make a lot of macaroni-and-cheese salad. I have always unwrapped single slices of American cheese and diced each one separately, as they will stick to each other. Today, I put the cheese in the freezer before unwrapping the slices. I stacked the frozen cheese and then chopped through all layers one way and then across, making small squares. They never stuck, and this was so much easier. — Carol Vaughn, Haslet, Texas

**CEREAL-BOX OPENING**

Dear Heloise: Tell "David in Little Rock" that until breakfast-cereal companies come out with a better box, use a letter opener to open the box. Slide the blade in at one end of the top flap and gently lift to separate from the bottom flap. Then use the point of the opener to enlarge the slot for the reclosable flap. Since I started doing this instead of using my fingers, I've had a lot better luck. — Alan, via fax

**PURPLE HULL PEAS**

Dear Heloise: I have the perfect solution for removing the purple on fingers after shelling purple hull peas! Put bottled lemon juice on a cotton ball or paper towel, then rub on your fingers. Works instantly! Clean fingers, with no trace of purple. — Pat W., Parrish, Ala.

**BURNED-ON FOOD**

Dear Heloise: For food burned in a pan, I have found that an overnight soaking in vinegar lifts off the burned material. — Joy, via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q 6 5 3  
♥ 8 5 2  
♦ 8 7 6  
♣ J 7 2  
**EAST**  
♠ 10 9 7 4  
♥ Q 10  
♦ 9 4 3  
♣ 10 9 8 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K  
♥ A 9 4  
♦ A K Q J  
♣ A Q 6 5

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass Pass Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — six of hearts.

**It Pays to Plan the Play**

It is not difficult to make three notrump on this deal if South takes the time at the start to form a long-range plan of play. But many declarers would go wrong by playing the hand mechanically instead of expending the time and effort necessary to reason out the proper approach.

They might start by ducking the first two heart leads and winning the ace on the third round. After cashing the A-K of spades and A-K-Q-J of diamonds, they would next play the ace and queen of clubs, hoping East held the king. If East had that card, South would be assured of scoring four diamonds, a heart, two clubs and at least two spades — enough for his contract. But when West turned up with the club king and cashed two hearts, they would finish down one.

The unvarnished truth, however, is that after East returns a heart at trick two, South is certain to score nine tricks — regardless of who has the king of clubs or how the hearts are divided.

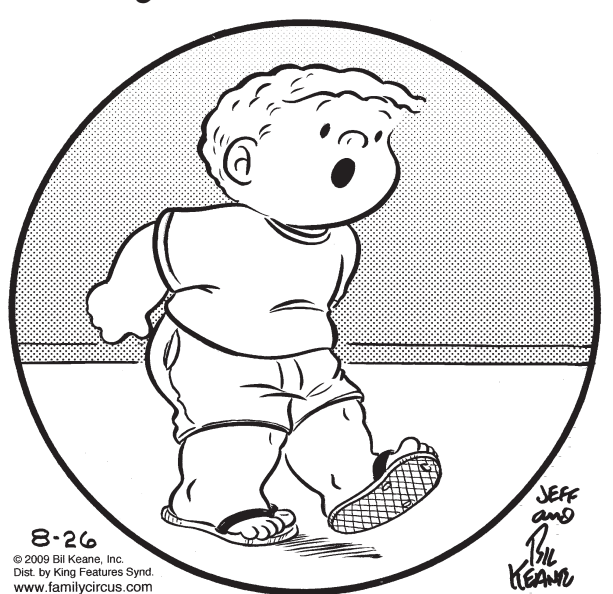
The key play comes at trick two, when South should take the ace of hearts instead of ducking a second time. He then cashes two spades and four diamonds to bring his total to seven tricks. At this point, his hand consists of the A-Q-6-5 of clubs and nine of hearts, while dummy has the J-7-2 of clubs and Q-6 of spades.

Instead of leading a club now, declarer exits with the nine of hearts. West wins and cashes two more hearts, dummy retaining the queen of spades and jack of clubs, while declarer is reduced to the A-Q of clubs.

It doesn't matter which two cards West actually has left at this point. He must lead a spade or a club, giving declarer the last two tricks with the queen of spades and ace of clubs, or the A-Q of clubs in his hand. Either way, South ends up making his contract, losing only four heart tricks.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/26

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

**Cryptoquip**

VT N ZEKSVBVNY JDKD XDKO  
FQWO, UE OEQ KDBHEY  
GD JEQUAU GNXD SE FQKO  
GVZWDAT VY GVW JEKH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE LEOPARD WANTED TO SCRATCH AN AWFUL ITCH, BUT HE HAD TROUBLE FINDING THE RIGHT SPOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Star player, for short
- 4 Banned bug spray
- 7 No stay-at-home
- 8 Matlock's work-place
- 10 Cole Porter's "Gay" city
- 11 Like a lot
- 13 Square 1
- 16 Aviv preceder
- 17 Regions
- 18 Moving vehicle
- 19 Say it isn't so
- 20 Lexicographer's bk.
- 21 Gets dirty
- 23 Crouch
- 25 Actress Jessica
- 26 Libertine
- 27 Regret
- 28 Gaggle members
- 30 "Skip to My —"
- 33 1996 Ewan McGregor movie
- 36 Word group
- 37 Goose egg
- 38 Twine fiber
- 39 Initial stake
- 40 Timid
- 41 Opener at Vegas?
- 2 Swerve for human consumption?
- 4 Evade
- 5 Writes a Dear John letter
- 6 Small combo
- 7 Fence opening
- 8 Shrewd
- 9 Miscellaneous data
- 10 Calif. hours
- 12 Make into law
- 14 Charged bits
- 15 Potent stick
- 19 24 horas
- 20 Payable
- 21 Soup eater's noise
- 22 Spelling methods?
- 23 Average
- 24 100 centavos, in
- 25 Illustrations
- 26 Force away
- 28 Grind your teeth
- 29 English composition
- 30 Airy airs
- 31 A single time
- 32 "Yecch!"
- 34 Rainbow
- 35 Turner or Fey

**DOWN**

- 1 Aesopian ending
- 12 Make into law

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 8-26

	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