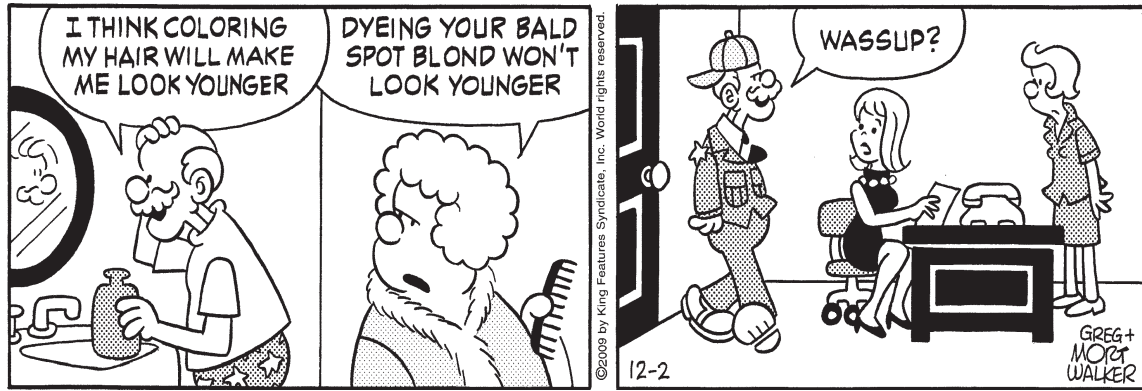


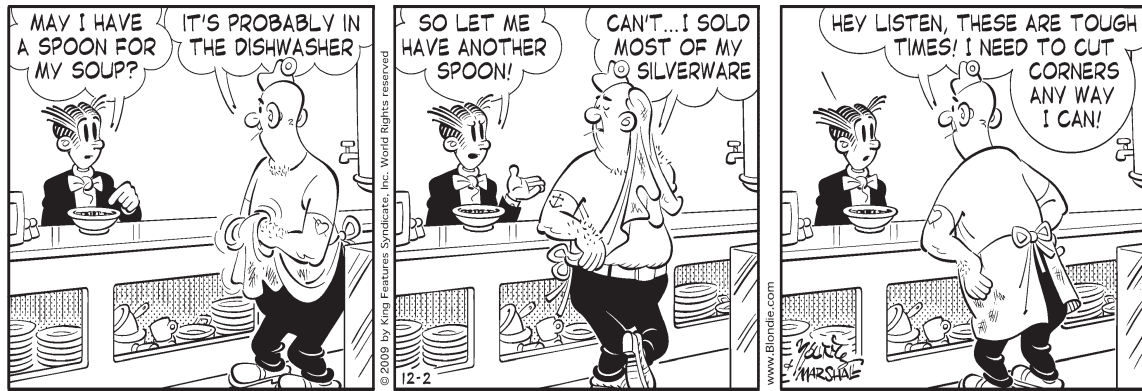
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



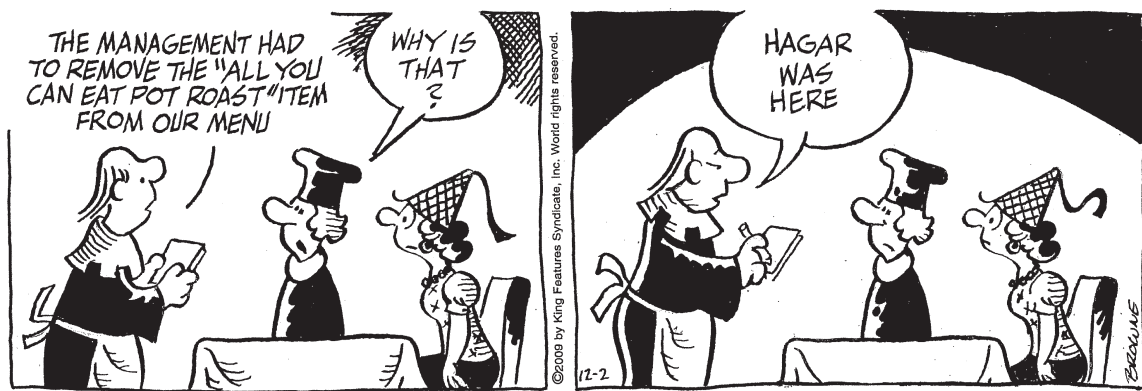
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



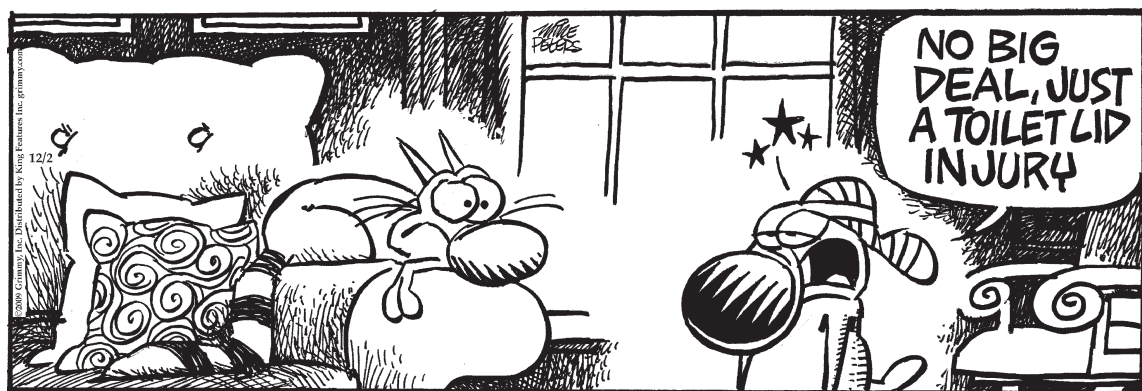
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**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

**Here's a repeat of a great recipe**

Dear Heloise: Some time ago, you had a recipe in the paper for EGG-WHITE MERINGUE. I cut it out of the paper, but can't find it. It is a good recipe. Thanks so much. — A Reader, via e-mail  
I'd be happy to reprint the recipe. Start with three egg whites, at room temperature.

- Separate the eggs carefully so no yolk is in the bowl.
- Use a glass or metal bowl (not plastic), and make sure the beaters and bowl are clean and dry.
- Beat with mixer on high speed until the whites are stiff (but not dry).
- Sprinkle 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar and a dash of salt on top and beat slightly.
- Slowly add 3 level tablespoons of sugar for each egg white in the bowl, beating all the while.
- When topping a pie with meringue, be sure the meringue touches the edges of the pie crust to prevent shrinking.

UPDATE: Years ago, you would taste the meringue to see if any grains of sugar were undissolved. However, tasting raw eggs is a no-no because of the risk of salmonella poisoning. So, check by pinching a bit of meringue between your fingers and rubbing together to feel for sugar grains. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO**

Heloise, Box 795000, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5000. E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**SPICED TEA**

Dear Heloise: Add a little spice to a glass of iced tea. Pour in a little fruit juice, such as cranberry, raspberry or even orange juice, and enjoy. For hot-tea lovers, try adding a flavored candy stick. — Susan S. in New Hampshire

**QUICK BREAKFAST**

Dear Heloise: Here's a breakfast idea to help families during the busy work/school weekdays: When you have the time, mix up some pancake mix and make pancakes. Let cool, then slide them into sealable freezer bags. On busy mornings, just pop a couple of frozen ones (no need to thaw) into the toaster oven, and you'll have hot pancakes in a flash. — Steve in Georgia

**TACO SHELLS**

Dear Heloise: Need a holder for taco shells so you can fill them? Turn a muffin pan upside down and place the shells in the spaces between the cups. Spilled fillings are easily contained, too. — Barbara F., Texarkana, Texas

**MUSTARD SUBSTITUTION**

Dear Heloise: If you are preparing a dish that calls for mustard and you find you are fresh out, don't fret. In most recipes, you can substitute 1 teaspoon of dry mustard for every tablespoon of prepared mustard. — Phyllis E., Colorado Springs, Colo.

**DROPPED EGG**

Dear Heloise: If you've ever dropped an egg on the floor, you know what a slimy mess it is to clean up. Next time this happens, just pour a lot of salt over the egg and wait for 15-30 minutes. This will make cleanup a simpler task. — Rachel R., Spokane, Wash.

**BACON FRYING**

Dear Heloise: I sprinkle bacon or sausage with a little flour before cooking to give it a nice, crunchy texture. — Valerie from Texas  
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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 3  
♥ A 9 8 7 2  
♦ K 4 3  
♣ A 9 8 6  
**WEST**  
♠ A K J 9 7 6  
♥ 4  
♦ A J 2  
♣ 4 3  
**EAST**  
♠ 5 4  
♥ K Q J 10 6 5  
♦ 10 8 7 6  
♣ 5  
**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 10 8 2  
♥ 3  
♦ Q 5  
♣ K Q J 10 7 2  
The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Dble 3 ♥ 5 ♣  
Opening lead — four of clubs.

**Precision Defense**

Some of the simplest plays in bridge turn out to be spectacularly successful. For a prime example, consider this deal from a national championship some years ago. West was Julius Rosenblum, one of the founders and for many years president of the World Bridge Federation.

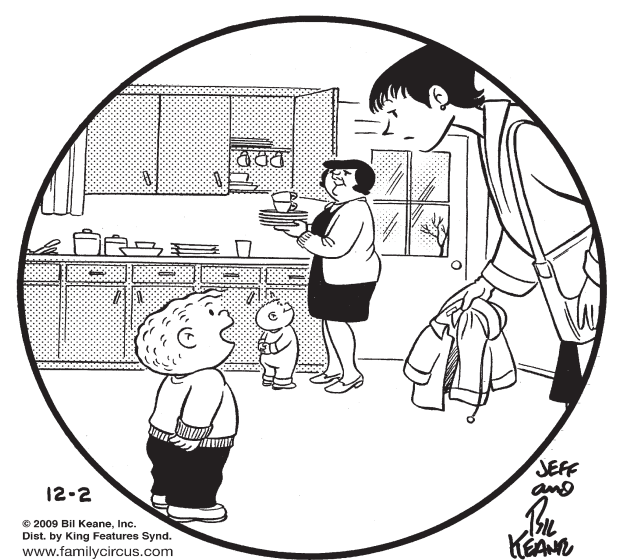
South reached five clubs on the bidding shown. As happens so often, the outcome hinged entirely on the opening lead. After considerable thought, Rosenblum chose to lead a trump. As a result, the contract had to go down regardless of how declarer proceeded. When Rosenblum shortly thereafter got on lead with a spade, he led another trump, and South could not score more than 10 tricks.

Now let's suppose that Rosenblum had led one of his top spades initially, which most players holding the West hand probably would have done. In that case, South could not have been prevented from ruffing three spades in dummy, and he would have made the contract. Alternatively, had West led his singleton heart, declarer also would have made the contract.

Actually, Rosenblum's trump lead was very logical. He reasoned that on the bidding, both North and East were relatively short in spades. This in turn meant that South had spade length and would most likely try to ruff his spades in dummy. So, to reduce dummy's potential ruffing power, Rosenblum decided to lead a trump, and from that point on, declarer was fighting a losing battle.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

SQR SHX LTYQWXDTFOR

HXJRD SRTJRP GK SX WDCRDS

T NRCXOGSWXDTNI DRH

LTFNWU UTOORP KXOOI-RYSQRN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL A CERTAIN IMPORTANT ATMOSPHERIC LAYER THE OZONE ZONE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals W

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Tater  
5 Spade or heart  
8 Name for a Dalmatian  
12 Top-notch  
13 — carte  
14 Poi  
15 Stove type  
17 From the start  
18 Young hog  
19 Don quickly  
21 Sodium chloride  
24 Violinist  
25 "Clue" weapon  
28 Rams fans?  
30 Sajak or Summer-all  
33 Commo-tion  
34 "Stop, sailor!"  
35 Listener  
36 Banned bug spray  
37 1492 ship  
38 Wan

**DOWN**

39 Carnival city  
41 Swallow hard  
43 Rose-bush protectors  
46 Ruin  
50 Drench  
51 Deep-dish  
54 Church section  
55 Past  
56 Crystal gazer  
57 Emeritus (Abbr.)  
58 Scarlet  
59 Brutus' being  
2 Milne bruin  
3 "Do — others ..."  
4 Cheaper  
5 Chum  
6 Under the weather  
7 Picks up the check  
8 Wood finish  
9 Instru-ments  
10 Sandwich cookie  
11 Burg  
16 H, to Hellenes  
20 Final  
22 Strauss of jeans fame  
23 Nasality  
25 "Awe-some, dude!"  
26 Peculiar  
27 Braised beef  
29 Birthright barterer  
31 "That feels so good!"  
32 Attempt  
34 In due time  
38 Place near  
40 Seeing 58-Across  
42 1960s  
43 Despot  
44 Crosby co-star, often  
45 Practice pugilism  
47 Has bills  
48 Mid-month day  
49 Muse's harp  
52 Time of your life?  
53 Affirma-tive action

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 12-2