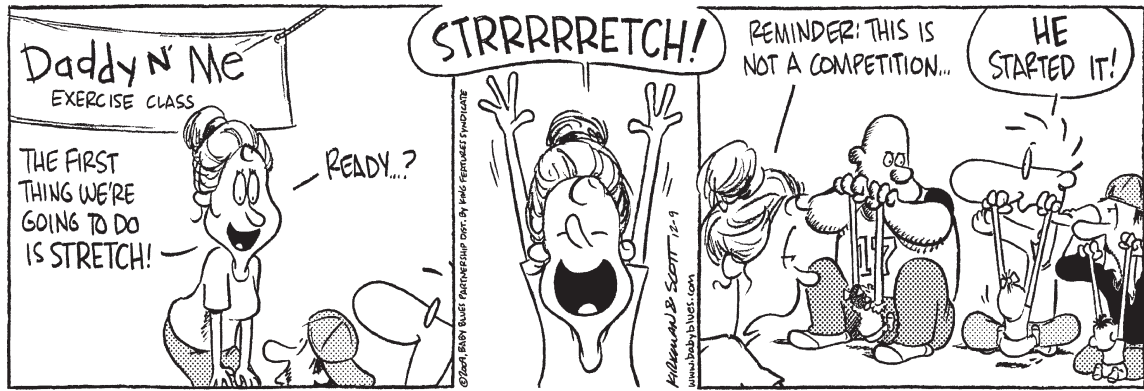
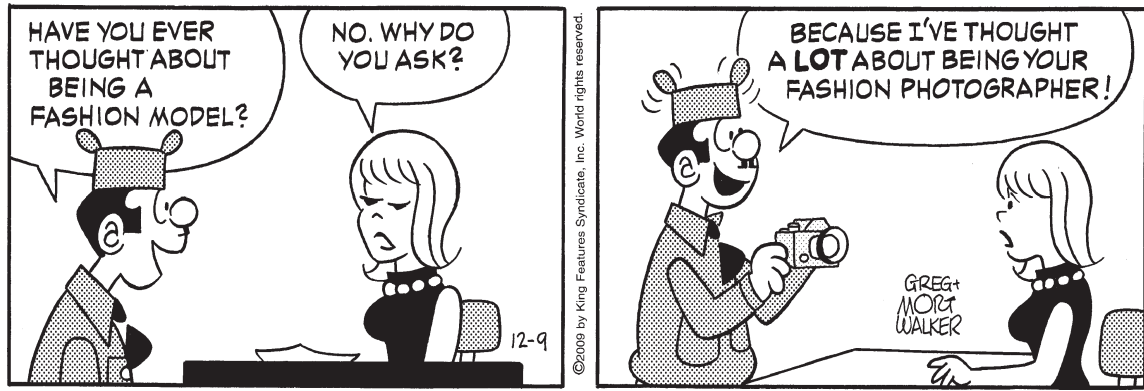


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



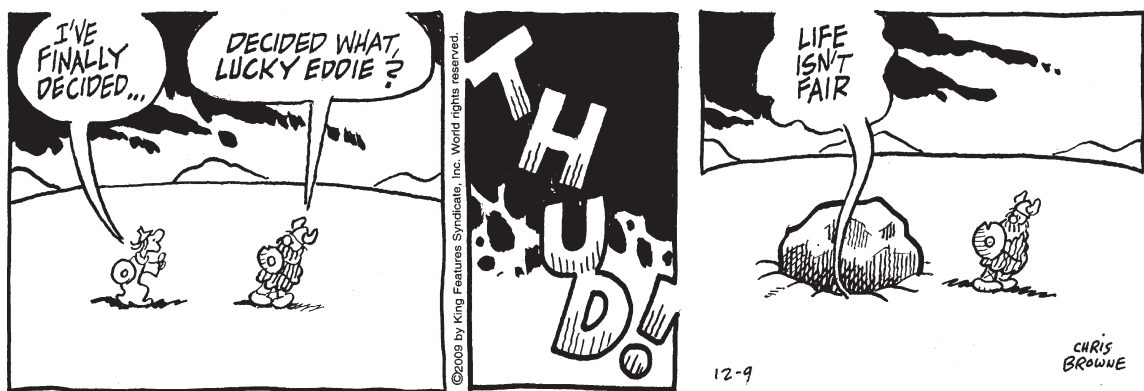
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



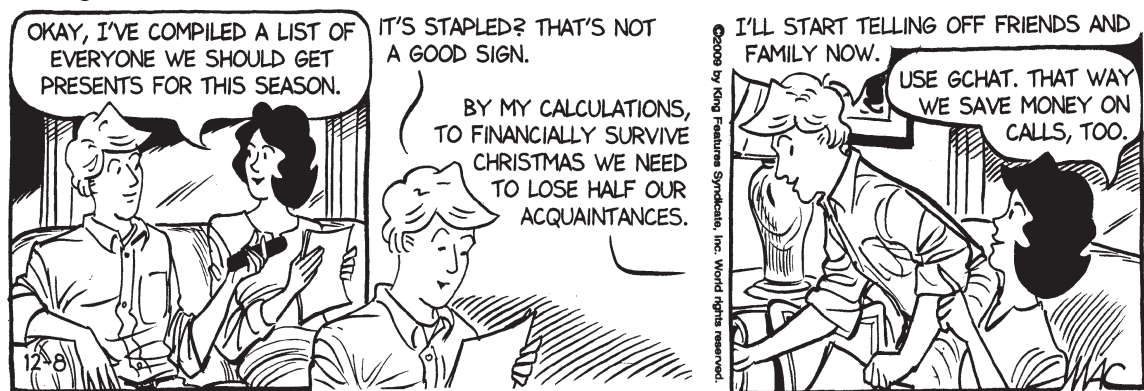
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



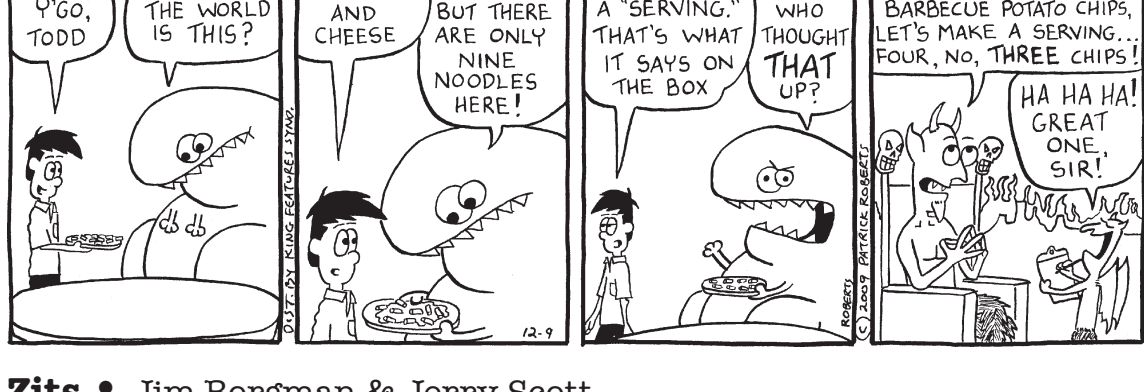
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Dressing goes great as side dish

Dear Readers: With the holidays here, it's time to reprint my mother's delicious family recipe for CORNBREAD DRESSING. It is great with a turkey, ham, chicken or even by itself as a side dish. You will need:

- HELOISE'S CORNBREAD DRESSING**
- 1 cup turkey broth from cooking giblets and neck, or turkey/chicken bouillon
 - 6-8 slices stale bread (torn into pieces)
 - 1 1/2 packed cups of crumbled cornbread
 - 1/2 to 1 cup chopped celery
 - 1/2 cup chopped onion
 - 1 stick butter or margarine
 - 2 eggs, beaten
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
 - 1 tablespoon sage

Pour broth or bouillon over bread crumbs and cornbread in a large bowl, then mix until all of the "bread" is moist. Sauté celery and onion in butter until tender in a medium/large skillet. Combine bread mixture, celery, onion, beaten eggs, salt, pepper and seasoning. Mix well. Place the dressing in a large buttered/oiled casserole dish. Cover and bake at 325 degrees for 35-45 minutes.

If you would like to try more yummy family recipes, send \$5 for the Heloise's All-Time Favorite Recipes six-page pamphlet. Include a self-addressed, stamped (61 cents), long envelope and mail to: Heloise/All-Time Favorites, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. My mother's famous Peking Roast is included, as well as lots more longtime reader favorites. NOTE: For drier dressing or stuffing, uncover the dish about 10-15 minutes before it's done. — Heloise

P.S.: I like to add extra sage and poultry seasoning to really punch up the flavor.

LEFTOVER RIPE FRUIT

Dear Heloise: I resurrect leftover very ripe fruit by freezing it in small bags and using it for fruit smoothies. I select some fruit, add yogurt or cottage cheese, the liquid of my choice and blend for a great breakfast on the go. — Nancy in Ohio

KITCHEN CLEAN

Dear Heloise: My kitchen was in disarray when a friend called saying that she would like to come over. I put everything in the dishwasher to get it out of sight, then took a medium wet towel in one hand and a dry towel in the other. With one movement, I got all the counters clean and dry. I have a lot of counter space, and that method made the job easy. — Renata in Florida

TARTAR-SAUCE SLAW

Dear Heloise: We always include slaw and tartar sauce at our family fish fries. Recently, we tossed the two together and came out with an exceptional tartar-sauce slaw that works well with our Texas fish tacos down on the Gulf of Mexico. — Bobbi and Joe Schott, Castroville, Texas

(c)2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ K Q 10 8
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ J 9 7 4
♥ 6 2
♦ 7 4
♣ K 9 5 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 6 5
♥ A J 9 8 4
♦ A 6
♣ 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ 5 3 2
♣ A Q 10

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1♥ 1NT
Pass 3NT
Opening lead — six of hearts.

It Pays to Plan the Play

On most deals, the lines of battle are drawn within the first two or three tricks played. Once these lines have been determined, it is often impossible to alter the outcome, since the later plays will merely reflect the plans formulated at the outset.

Take this case where South reaches three notrump after East has opened the bidding with one heart. West leads the heart six, and if declarer plays either the five or ten from dummy, he will never recover.

After East plays the eight on the five (or the jack on the ten), South wins with the king. However, he soon finds himself in trouble when East next takes the ace of diamonds and returns a club. If declarer finesses, he is defeated at once when West wins the king of clubs and returns a second heart, allowing East to score four heart tricks for down two. And if South puts up the ace of clubs instead, he can collect only eight tricks before meeting a similar fate.

The battle lines can be completely reversed, however, if declarer puts up dummy's queen of hearts at trick one. This forces East to win the trick to prevent South from scoring two heart tricks instead of one. Furthermore, it stops East from returning a heart, which would hand South a trick with dummy's ten.

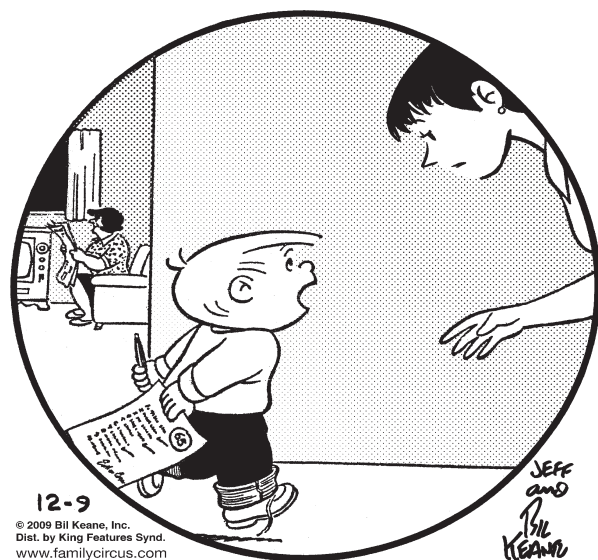
East therefore shifts to a club, but declarer must still be careful. If he finesses, West wins and returns a heart to establish the heart tricks for East before the ace of diamonds has been driven out. Instead, declarer should rise with the ace of clubs and attack diamonds.

East wins, but the battle is now over. He still cannot play a heart without permitting the ten to become South's ninth trick, so he must try another suit. A club return develops a trick for declarer in that suit, while a diamond or spade return allows South to win and establish the club trick himself.

As is so often the case, the very first trick determines which side ultimately wins the battle.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"But you don't have to see my test paper 'cause Grandma already signed it."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

SI FE CMY'P IRRV BDLPR
D TRHPMU D GRZRG MI
LUBRHVDSUVE, S QMLGC
PDE VORE YSZR OSF TDQP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE DEMOLITION

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE OUR FARM HAS ONLY A SINGLE STORAGE BUILDING FOR FODDER, YOU MIGHT CALL IT A SOLO SILO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Lecture hall VIP
- English channel?
- Show-room sample
- "The Music Man" locale
- "Go, team!"
- "Ars Amatoria" poet
- From now on
- Fix
- It had a big part in the Bible
- Adheres
- Not Rep. or Dem.
- "Critique of Pure Reason" author
- Raw rock
- Einstein's birthplace
- Had the skills
- Made on a loom
- Addressee

DOWN

- Citi Field player
- Cavern, poetically
- Lakeside structure
- Wander
- As yet unpaid
- Lan-guage of Iran
- In general terms
- Tavern
- Payment method
- Papa John's rival
- Ultimately resulting
- Chinese dynasty
- Tote-board information
- Restaurant list
- Fond du —, Wis.
- Hooter
- Fish eggs
- Villain
- Cattle call?
- Recline
- Banned bug killer
- The Method
- John's rival
- Parvenu
- Coloration
- Blue shade
- Reverie
- Twisted
- Pack down
- Notion
- Twosome
- "Beetle Bailey" dog
- Egg container?
- Compete

Solution time: 21 mins.

BAT	ACT	SERA
ALUM	MOO	EMIR
TORI	POD	CUBE
HENNA	SOLO	
USE	SENILE	
PANTHER	ADDER	
OBOE	KOI	CLAN
PLUSH	BOTHERS	
SENTRY	NRA	
ESAU	INLAW	
LIRA	CPA	CORA
AMOK	HOP	EVIL
OPTS	TNT	ELK

Yesterday's answer 12-9

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		