

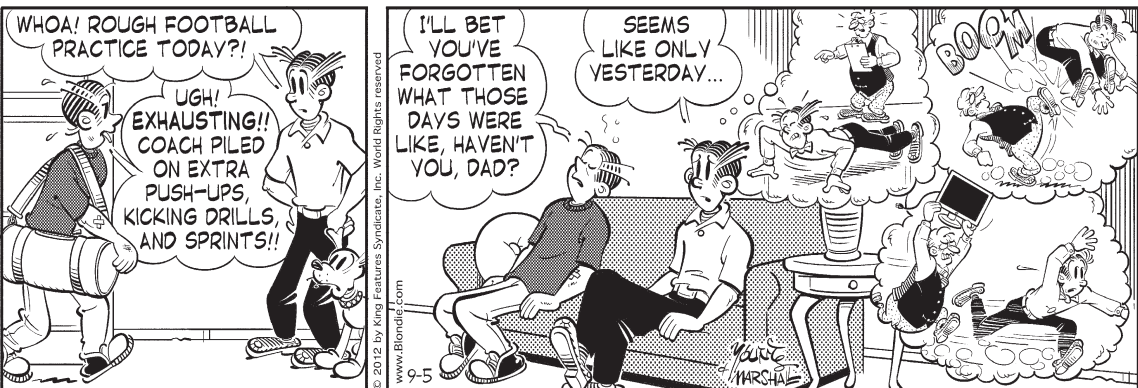
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



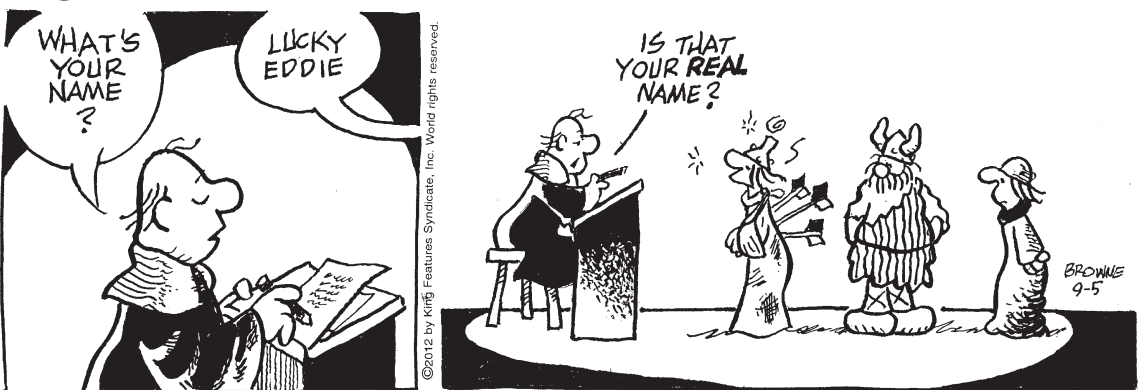
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



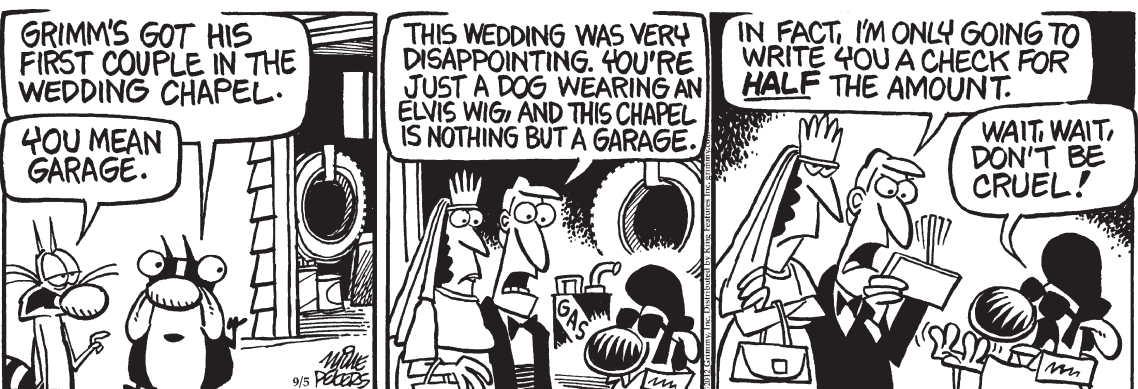
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



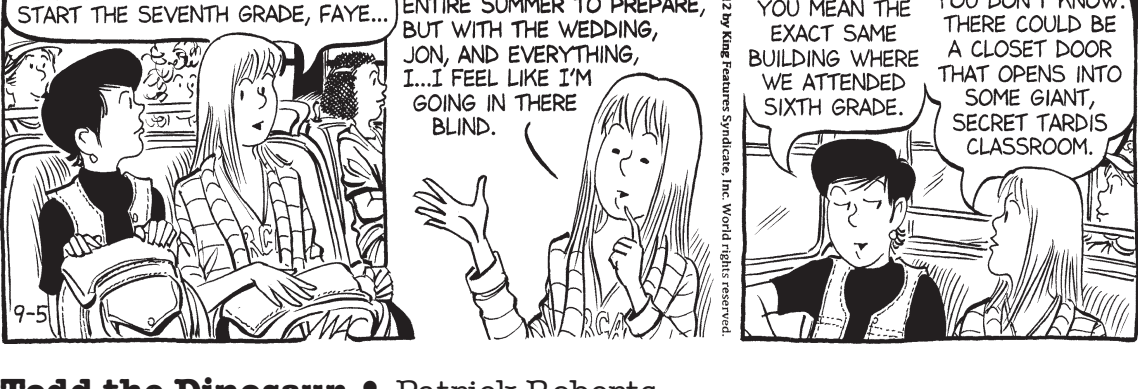
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



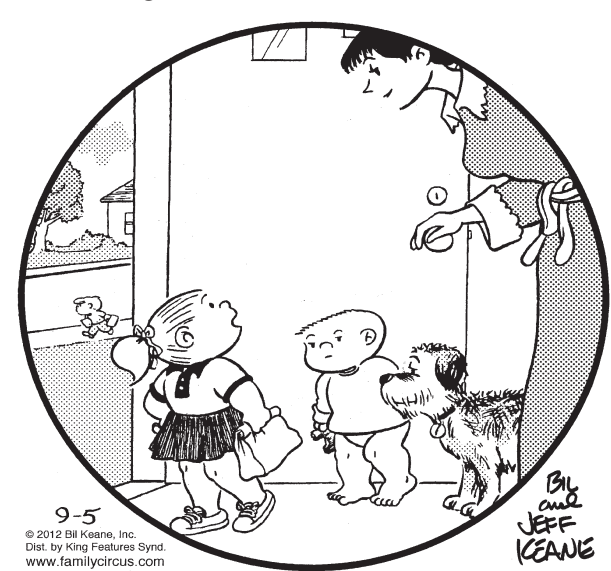
**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"How am I looking, Mommy? There's a camera on our bus this year."

**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Take measure of your coffee**

Dear Readers: A tasty cup of coffee is a nice way to start a day. I usually fix a large mug of "real" coffee, but when in a hurry, I grab instant.

How many ounces of water are there in a "cup" of coffee? Eight should be the answer. But instant and brewed use six ounces as the measurement for a cup. So, if the coffee is weak, it may not be your fault.

Also, note this when measuring ground coffee to make a full pot. If brewed coffee is not strong enough for you, add a little instant for that extra flavor. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**STUFFED PEPPERS**

Dear Heloise: My family likes stuffed peppers. I have found that a great way to prepare them is by using a muffin pan. I stand the peppers up in the individual wells so they are easier to fill and don't fall over. I don't lose any filling, and I can bake them as they sit upright in the pan. Easy! — Angela D. in Texas

**FAST FUNNEL**

Dear Heloise: Whenever I would go to mix cinnamon and sugar, I couldn't find a funnel to help put it into the spice shaker with a tiny hole that I have. I mixed up a little batch of the sugar and cinnamon in a paper coffee filter. Once mixed, I bundled up the filter and placed it over the hole in the shaker. Poking a little hole in the bottom of the filter (Heloise here: Poke the hole from the top going through the filter), I watched the mixture trickle down into the hole.

This was so easy that I still won't buy a funnel. Besides, what fun is life if you insist on doing things the easy way all the time? — J.D., via e-mail

**BACON BOARD**

Dear Heloise: Much of the bacon you buy comes with a hard plastic backing under the bacon slices. I keep a couple of these (Heloise here: be sure to thoroughly clean) to use as a cutting board when cutting a small amount of vegetables, etc. They are easy to clean and use while protecting your countertop. — Arthur, via e-mail

**CHOCOLATE SYRUP**

Dear Heloise: My kids like to use chocolate syrup on ice cream, to dip fruit in, etc. When there is just a little bit left, I pour some milk into the chocolate container and swish it around a couple of times to make a "free" glass of chocolate milk. Yummy! — Betty E., Midland, Texas

**KNEAD HELP**

Dear Heloise: I was mixing up a batch of scones that required kneading, and the recipe cautioned that the dough would be sticky. So, I put my hands in two reclosable sandwich bags while I kneaded the dough. This allowed me to periodically pull my hands out for other chores. Then, when I was finished, I easily cleaned the sticky dough off the bags with a rubber scraper. — Kathleen W. in Alabama

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♦ K J 8  
♥ J 7 6 5  
♦ A 10 9 5  
♣ A 10  
**WEST**  
♥ 9 5 3 2  
♦ —  
♣ Q 7 4 3  
♠ Q J 9 6 4  
**EAST**  
♠ 10 4  
♥ Q 10 9 2  
♦ J 8 6  
♣ 7 5 3 2

The bidding:  
**North** 1♦  
**East** Pass  
**South** 1♥  
**West** Pass  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

**The Theory of Anticipation**

A conscientious declarer tries to protect against any and all distributions of the adverse cards. Take this case where West leads a club and declarer sees at once that he has no losers in spades, diamonds or clubs. He can stand one trump loser and still make the slam, but he can't afford to lose two trump tricks.

So South starts thinking in terms of what divisions of the opposing trumps might put the contract in jeopardy. Obviously, if the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1, the contract cannot fail. The only real threat is a 4-0 division.

If West has all four trumps, though, there is no problem. Whenever South plays the ace, East shows out, and declarer then leads a low heart toward the jack to limit himself to one trump loser.

But if East has all four trumps and South cashes the ace of hearts first, he will be in serious trouble. East's Q-10-9 over dummy's J-7-6 would then be worth two tricks, dooming the slam.

In order to cater to both potential 4-0 breaks, South tries to find a safety play that will guard against either defender holding all four trumps. Accordingly, he wins the opening club lead in dummy and returns the five of hearts. If East produces the nine, ten or queen, South wins with the ace and cannot lose more than one trump trick with proper play.

If East instead follows to the five with the deuce, South plays the three from his hand as a safety measure. If West wins the trick, that closes the door to further trump losers, while if West shows out, South again cannot lose more than one trump trick.

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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/05

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

**Cryptoquip**

GCPVZC IOC ZQJC GCAQS,  
IOC PWE0 IOVRAOI OC  
JVRBMS'I MV UCBB, GRI OC  
UVS WI QAQWSEI QBB JVME.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR EXTREMELY CRITICAL SUPERVISOR AT THE LINEN PLANT WAS ALWAYS GIVING ME A LOT OF FLAX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Medicos
- Performance
- "Oh, woe!"
- Acknowledge
- Greek consonant
- Domesticate
- Nonsense
- Pack away
- Gray, in a way
- Motes
- Aid
- "Go, team!"
- Rickey flavor
- "The Music Man" locale
- See
- Emulate
- With 23-Down, what "it's all about"?
- Historic time
- Lair

**DOWN**

- Beavers' constructs
- Elliptical
- Pop selection
- Envelope
- Clumsy boat
- Guevara restrained
- Santa's nickname
- Sackful
- Bewildered
- With 30-Across, one with two
- Regimen
- Fuss
- Retain
- Eyelid
- Tyrannosaur
- Old gas station name
- Oz character
- See
- 34-Across
- "Acid"
- Eisenhower
- 27 A
- 6 Guevara
- 7 Santa's
- 8 Bewildered
- 9 With 30-Across, one with two
- 10 Out of control
- 11 Stitches
- 16 Catcher's place
- 22 Oz character
- 23 See
- 25 "Acid"
- 26 Eisenhower
- 27 A
- 28 Guevara
- 29 Existed
- 31 Glass of
- 32 Newsmagazine
- 34 Did
- 35 some
- 36 weeding
- 38 "2001" author
- 40 Squander
- 42 Baton Rouge
- 43 G-men
- 44 Settled down
- 45 Celeb
- 47 Guitars' kin
- 48 Dregs
- 49 Proofreader's find
- 52 Praise in verse
- 53 "Family Guy" network

Yesterday's answer 9-5

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		