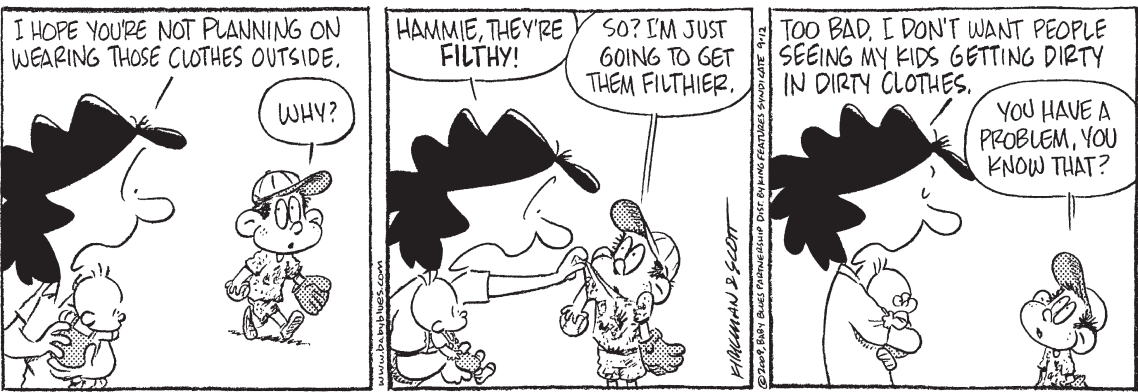
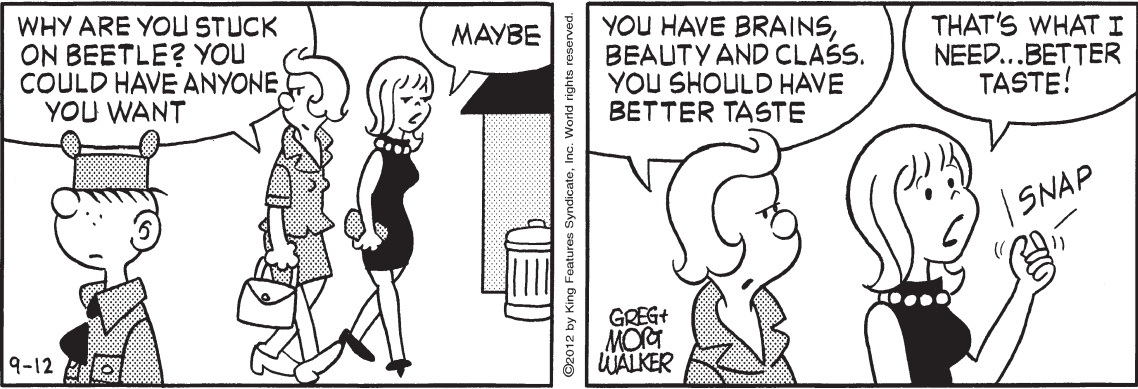


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



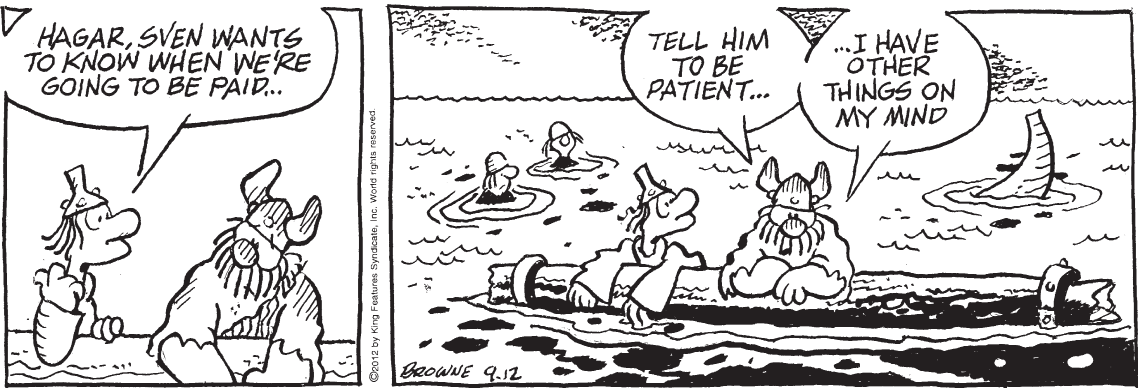
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



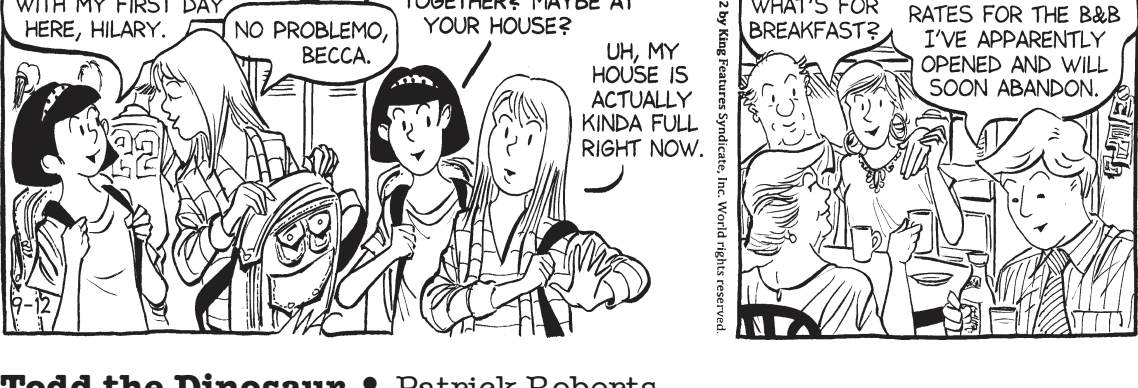
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



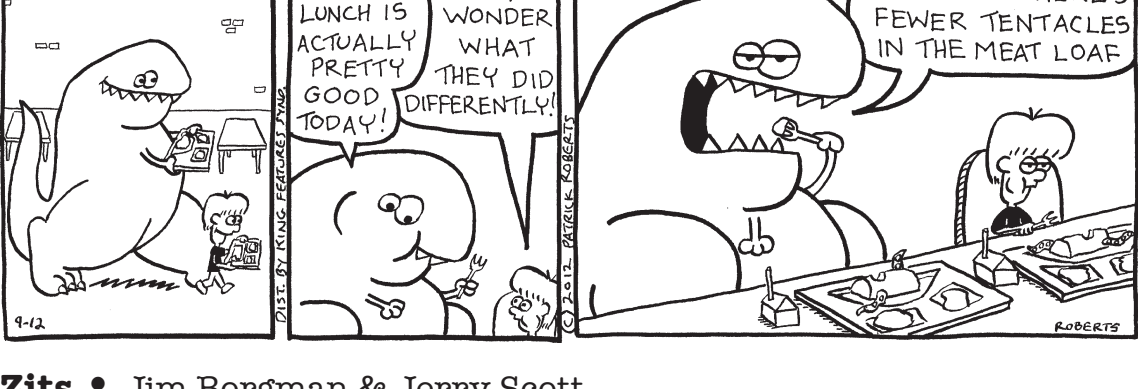
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Farmers market takes planning

Dear Heloise: I love to get up early on Saturday mornings to check out local farmers markets. Here are some hints I have learned through the years:

- Go early. It's cooler earlier in the day, and you will have plenty of items to pick and choose from.
- Bring reusable bags. Reusable bags are better for the environment and keep sellers from handing out plastic bags.
- Bring small bills. Have plenty of dollar bills, fives and tens. Most items are under \$10, and if you can give exact change, it is greatly appreciated.

Hope other readers can benefit from these hints. – A.R., via e-mail

I'm sure they will, and readers, if you have not been to one, you are missing out! Visit the website www.localharvest.org, put your city or ZIP code in and see where all the markets are in your area! Nothing beats a tasty, homegrown fruit or veggie. – Heloise

CONTROLLED COOKING

Dear Heloise: I am writing regarding a prior column about safety and slow cookers. The reader places the slow cooker on the stove in case of something boiling over. I would like to add that I don't place any appliance that emits heat near other appliances, where it can heat up and possibly cause the electric cord to burn or melt. I also don't put the appliances near any moisture.

My advice is to place the slow cooker on a cookie sheet with raised sides. This is how I use mine if I think it could possibly boil over. – Della W. in Houston

HELOISE'S COFFEE OLÉ

Dear Readers: I get a lot of requests for Heloise's Coffee Olé, so I thought I would share it. You will need:

- 1 cup of regular coffee
- 1 tablespoon of powdered skim milk
- Some extra skim milk
- Sugar or artificial sweetener

Place the mixture in a blender until foamy. Pour the mixture into a microwaveable coffee mug and heat it on "warm" for a couple of seconds. Coffees and teas are delicious and easy to make, which is why I have compiled a pamphlet filled with recipes for flavored coffees and teas. To receive the pamphlet, please send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (65 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Coffee and Tea, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. For a hint of flavor, add a sprinkle of cinnamon to the bottom of your coffee cup before adding coffee. Delicious! – Heloise

EASY TOMATOES

Dear Heloise: When tomatoes are in abundance, I fix a pot of boiling water. I dip the tomatoes in the water for 30 seconds, give or take, and peel the skin off. I chop them up and put them into paper cupcake holders, then freeze. – A Reader in Dallas

Make sure to place the tomatoes in a freezer-safe bag or container before storing. Frozen tomatoes, once thawed, will not be like fresh tomatoes, but they are perfect for soups and stews. – Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 7 3
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ J 7 4
♣ 9 3

WEST
♠ J 9 5 4
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 8
♣ K Q 10 8 5

EAST
♠ K 10 8 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 6 2
♣ J 7 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 6
♥ K Q J 9 7 4
♦ A K 5 3
♣ A 2

The bidding:
North Pass
East Pass
South 1♥
West Pass
North 3♥
East Pass
South 4NT
West Pass
North 5♥
East Pass
South 6♥
West Pass
Opening lead – king of clubs.

Extra Chance

Stated in the simplest terms, declarer's main job is to give himself the best chance of making his contract. At times, determining the most promising line of play can be extremely complicated. Any number of variables might need to be considered and assessed. In many cases, though, the solution is really rather easy to find.

Take this case from a Grand National Teams knockout match. At both tables North-South reached a very reasonable six-heart contract, and West led the king of clubs.

Making the slam appeared to depend on a successful spade finesse as the only way to avoid a club loser. At the first table, South briefly considered the alternative of cashing the ace of spades and ruffing two spades in his hand in the hope that the king would fall, but he correctly dismissed this as nowhere near as good a possibility as the straightforward finesse.

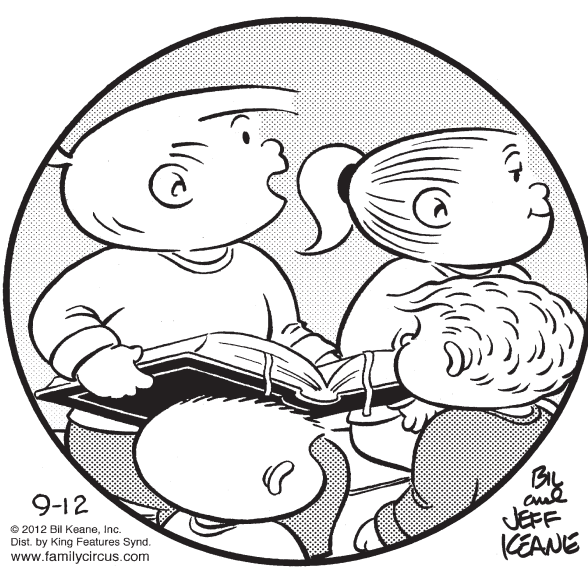
Accordingly, after taking the club ace, he drew trumps and led a spade to the queen. East won with the king and returned a club, and that was that – down one.

At the other table, South spotted a superior line of play – one that would give him an extra chance without having to try the spade finesse initially.

He saw that there was no reason to risk the spade finesse if he did not have to lose a diamond. This could happen if either defender was dealt the singleton or doubleton diamond queen -- about a 1-in-6 possibility. So after drawing trumps, he cashed the A-K of diamonds. When the queen fell, the spade finesse became unnecessary, and South lost only a club to make the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

9/12

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Cryptoquip

GK ZTH JFQV ZTHD KFIVRQGQL

XRLI VT NR EHDFNUR, G'E

ERKGQGVRUZ IHLRLIV

QTV HIGQL XFXRD ETJRUJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RETAIL STORE OFFERING MANY SNAPPY GADGETS FOR HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN GUIDES: THE SHERPA IMAGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Speed-of-sound number | 38 Periodical, for short |
| 5 Away from NNE | 40 Barbie's companion |
| 8 Differently | 41 Approach |
| 12 Jai follower | 43 Dinner for Dobbins |
| 13 Island garland | 45 Plot |
| 14 Cambodia neighbor | 47 Rhododendron kin |
| 15 Price reduction | 51 "Hi, sailor!" |
| 17 African herd | 52 Native country |
| 18 Goes in | 54 Part of GSN |
| 19 Old foundation | 55 Coach Par-seghian |
| 21 "Gee, ya think?" | 56 Small combo |
| 22 Goblet feature | 57 Newspaper pg. |
| 23 Young Lincoln | 58 Small shots |
| 26 "Family Guy" daughter | |
| 28 Burn with steam | |
| 31 "Go away!" | |
| 33 Fix the soundtrack | |
| 35 Sandwich cookie | |
| 36 Chess soldiers | |

HIS	GNU	NEAL
IDEA	EON	OKRA
TORN	ESP	TEMP
SLAYS	YEAH	
THE	GUITAR	
BOTHERS	KNIFE	
ALAI	RAP	GLAD
NINNY	WANDERS	
DOGGED	ZOO	
GNOW	WIPED	
OHIO	NIP	NERO
HOPE	DNA	GENT
MESS	YEW	KOS

Yesterday's answer 9-12

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		