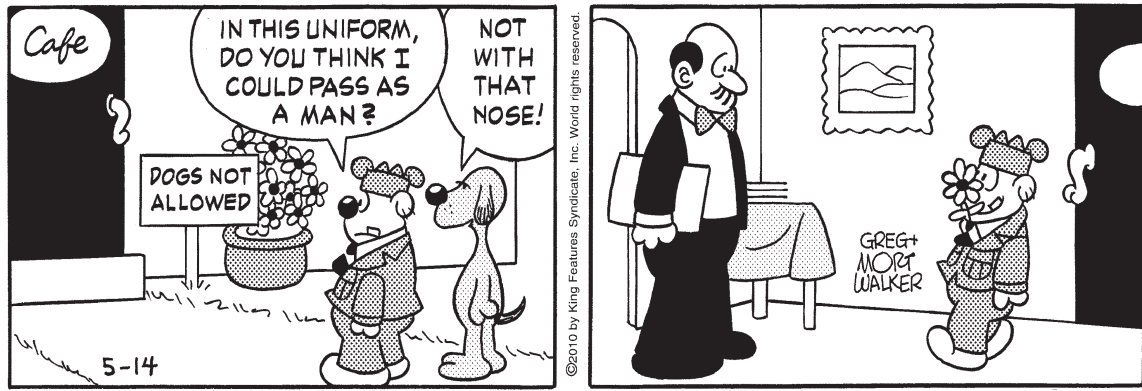


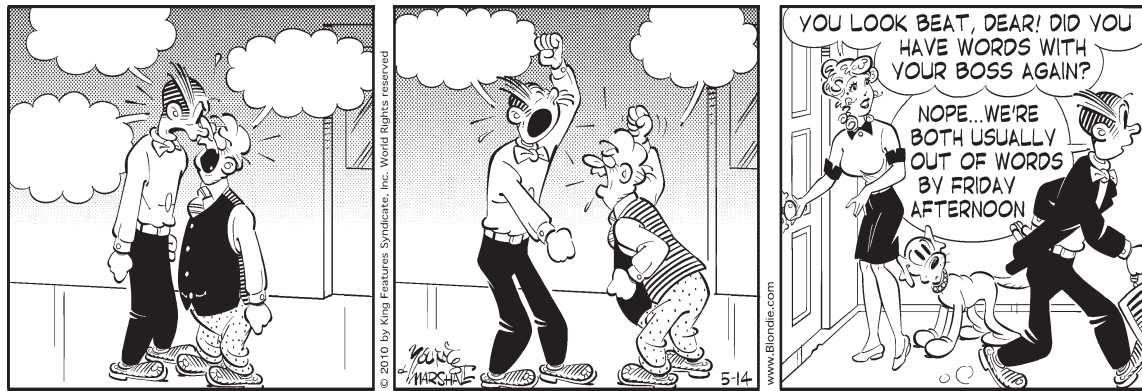
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



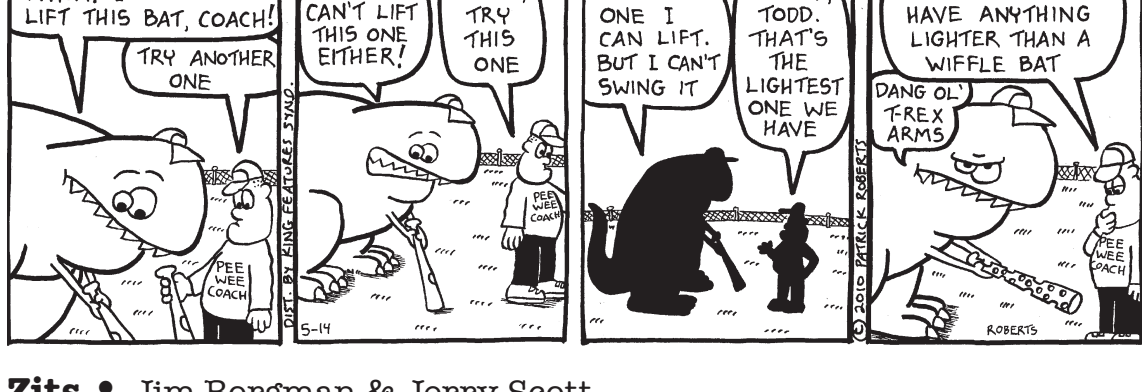
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Vinegar soaks hard water away**

Dear Heloise: I have a HARD-WATER RING inside my toilet. You had a solution in The Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press some time ago. Would you please print this again? Thank you. – Donald in Michigan

Donald, here's how we solve this: Several cups of full-strength vinegar poured into the bowl will begin to break down the stain. Let the vinegar work for about 10 minutes, then scrub and flush. If any stain remains, drain the water from the bowl by turning off the water valve to the tank and flushing until the bowl is empty. Place toilet paper over the stain and soak the paper with more vinegar. Let this soak for a while. Remoisten the paper with the vinegar when necessary. Then scrub.

As a last resort, you might need to use a commercial bowl cleaner. Read the instructions carefully, and use gloves and eye protection. We prefer vinegar as a cleanser because it is all-natural, environmentally friendly and has no caustic components. Good luck. – Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com  
**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: My daughter's children came for a visit. Since there is so much to see and do here, my daughter, in advance, purchased a binder with clear-plastic pages. She filled them with pamphlets, fliers, etc., from local events and tourist activities. This way, she had times, prices, locations and directions for each activity of interest. I'm sure it smoothed the way for the visitors to plan their visit by having an overview of what the town has to offer. – Wanda in California

**SANITIZING WIPES**

Dear Heloise: In my many experiences eating at restaurants, I've noticed that the employees use the same towel to wipe the seats and tables (and sometimes even the floors for spills).

Some restaurants use place mats, while others just place the flatware on the table after it has been wiped by one of these towels. Regardless of how the table is set, this is unacceptable and presents a health hazard.

Therefore, you always should carry your own sanitizer wipes whenever possible, and don't be afraid to let the management of the establishment know why you are using them. – B.L., Huntington Beach, Calif.

**SPA-TUB CLEANING**

Dear Heloise: We have one of those large spa tubs with surrounding platform space. It is very difficult to get in and out of the tub. To clean it, I bought an attractive, new toilet-bowl brush and holder. When I am finished in the tub, I swish the brush around the tub as the water empties. I seldom have to get into the tub to clean it. – Connie Frayer, Atascadero, Calif.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
?			

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ AK53 ♥ 74 ♦ AKJ102 ♣ 82
- ♠ AKQ4 ♥ J ♦ AQ9753 ♣ Q6
- ♠ KQ95 ♥ — ♦ KQ942 ♣ AK83
- ♠ AQ86 ♥ 93 ♦ KQ1093 ♣ AQ

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Two diamonds. The choice lies between bidding two diamonds or two notrump. Having opened with minimum values, which have not grown at all with partner bidding suits you don't fit well, your limited strength and rebiddable diamond suit should be identified at this point. It's best to try to slow partner down a little, since up to this point he has no idea how strong or weak a hand you have.

2. Three diamonds. Partner has made two forcing bids, so you must assume there's a good chance for game, and possibly even a slam. To inform partner of the unbalanced nature of your hand and at the same time let him know that your high-card values exceed those of a minimum opening bid, you jump to three diamonds. This should make it easier for partner to choose the best final contract.

3. Five clubs. This dramatic leap to game constitutes a very strong slam try. It guarantees powerful trump support and, in conjunction with your two prior bids, identifies a void in hearts, or at most a singleton. Partner doesn't need much for a slam to mature. Indeed, if he has the spade and diamond aces plus good clubs, a grand slam is a virtual laydown.

It would be wrong to jump-raise to only four clubs. That's what you'd do if the king of clubs were the jack. Partner should credit you with a hand that looks just about like this one.

4. Three notrump. Having made two ambivalent bids so far, you now come out of your shell to let partner know that you have a relatively balanced distribution and values well above those of a minimum opening bid. This tells the story of your hand about as well as it can be told.

Once you make this bid, the rest is up to your partner. Ordinarily, he'll have no problem deciding what to do next. He may pass, elect to play the hand in a suit contract or possibly proceed toward a slam. In any case, he's the captain of the ship the rest of the way.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Can't dinner be later?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/14

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

**Cryptoquip**

YRKA AEY MIFWA PCKP KG

IJUFWFKHKPEY KYPIF HEVCP

CKJU CKGVEGV IG CEA

MKRR: "CKH AMUUP CKH."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE SUBSTITUTES ONE FABRIC SAMPLE IN PLACE OF ANOTHER, I SUPPOSE HE SWITCHES SWATCHES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals N

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                            |                                   |                      |                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>              | 41 Practice pugilism              | <b>DOWN</b>          | 21 Stream-lined                 |
| 1 Old airline initials     | 45 1945 conference site           | 1 Characteristic     | 23 Abacus parts                 |
| 4 Spinning stat            | 47 Whopper                        | 2 Hoisting mechanism | 24 Rowing need                  |
| 7 Draw a conclusion        | 48 Accompaniment to lip-synching? | 3 Farewell           | 25 Performance                  |
| 12 Disen-cumber            | 52 Navy rank (Abbr.)              | 4 Seance sounds      | 26 "Quiet!"                     |
| 13 — Baba                  | 53 Hack-neyed                     | 5 Tranquil           | 28 Foolish sort                 |
| 14 In grand style          | 54 Edge                           | 6 Short skirts       | 30 Blazed a trail               |
| 15 Blackbird               | 55 Afternoon social               | 7 Aware of           | 31 Check-cash-er's two, perhaps |
| 16 Mar-ceau's specialty    | 56 On mom's side                  | 8 — de plume         | 32 Compete org.                 |
| 18 "Rocks"                 | 57 Whatever amount                | 9 "Criminal Minds"   | 33 "— got it!"                  |
| 19 Offspring               | 58 Kreskin's claim                | 10 Shade source      | 36 Asian cuisine                |
| 20 Therefore               |                                   | 11 Deli bread        | 37 Reach                        |
| 22 Doctrine                |                                   | 17 Mummy's locale    | 40 Extreme Dish                 |
| 23 Con-strictors           |                                   |                      | 43 Staffers                     |
| 27 Young fellow            |                                   |                      | 44 Alter the chart              |
| 29 Stain fighter           |                                   |                      | 45 Christmas-time               |
| 31 Climbing flora          |                                   |                      | 46 Host                         |
| 34 Third rock from the sun |                                   |                      | 48 Honest politician?           |
| 35 Strip                   |                                   |                      | 49 Actor McShane                |
| 37 Toss in                 |                                   |                      | 50 Genetic stuff                |
| 38 Go after                |                                   |                      | 51 "Roscoe"                     |
| 39 Gilligan's house        |                                   |                      |                                 |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16			17				
18			19							
20			21				22		23	24
			27				28		29	30
31	32	33							34	
35					36		37			
38					39	40			41	42
					45				46	47
48	49	50	51							52
53					54					55
56					57					58