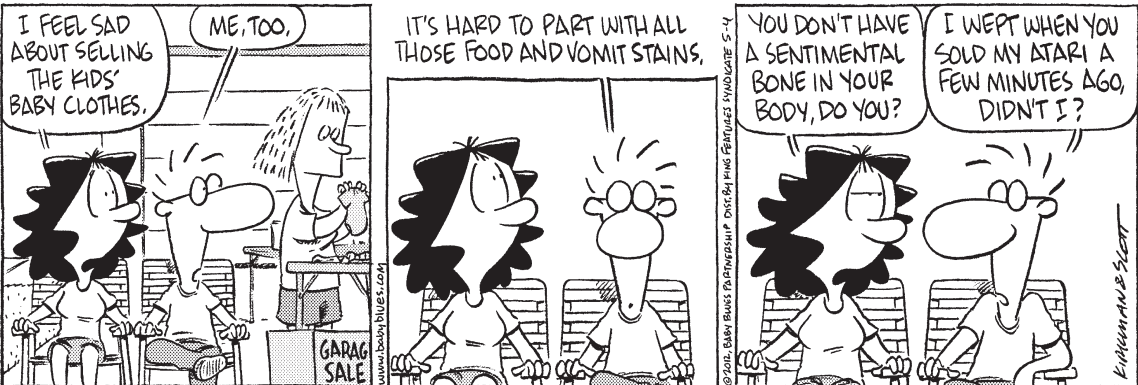


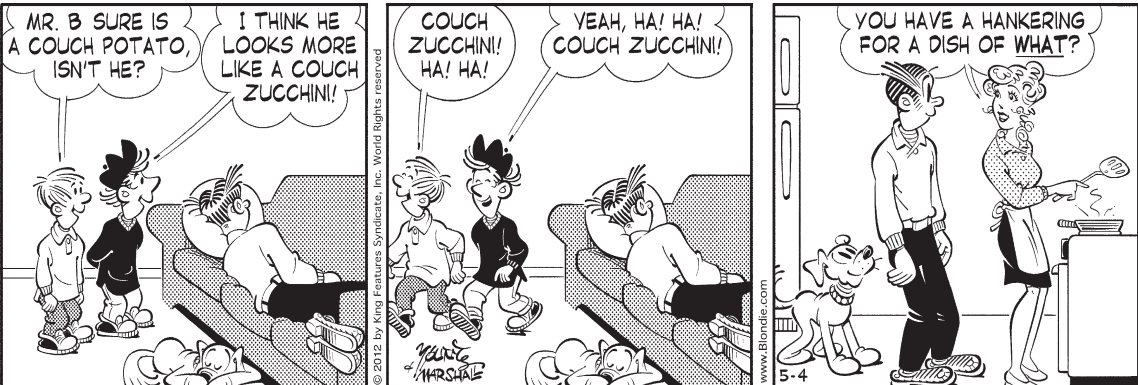
Baby Blues
 • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey
 • Mort Walker



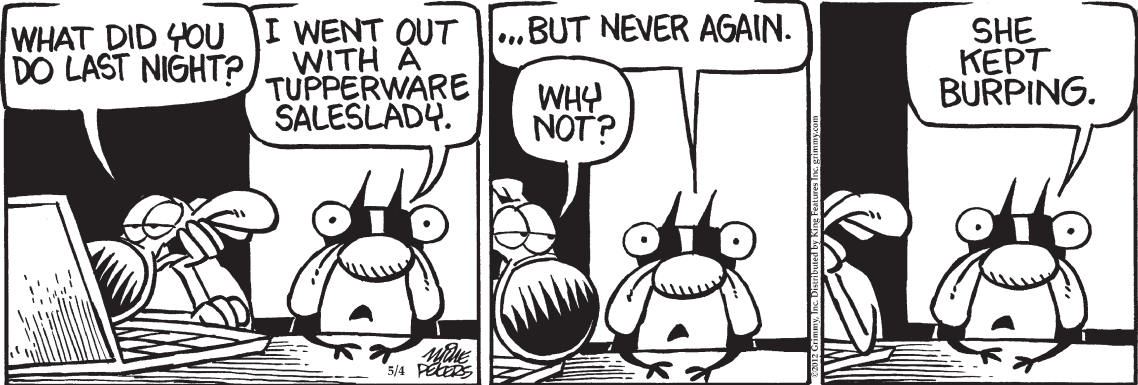
Blondie
 • Chic Young



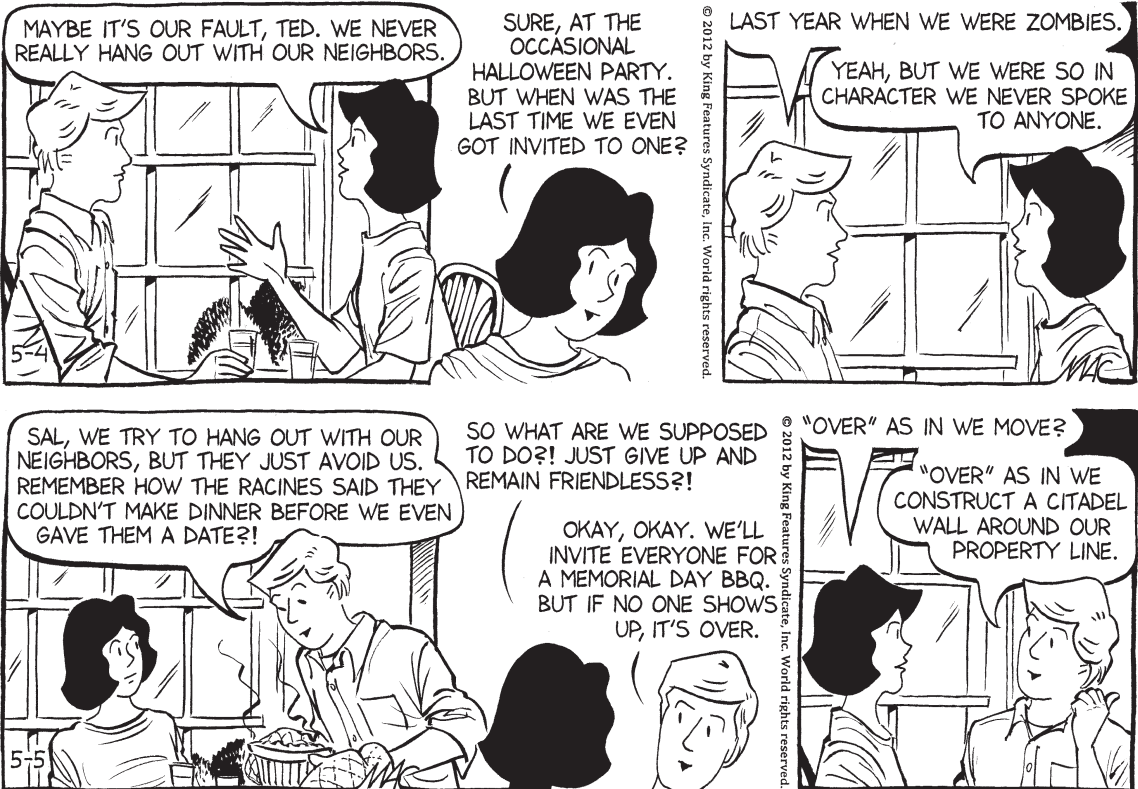
Hagar the Horrible
 • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm
 • Mike Peters



Sally Forth
 • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur
 • Patrick Roberts



Zits
 • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Septic system takes extra care

Dear Readers: Here are some important hints about taking care of your septic system:

- Conserve water. Take shorter showers, turn off the water while brushing teeth, and only run the dishwasher and washing machine when full. Using water efficiently will help to not overload your system.
- Try to use the garbage disposal as little as possible. If you use the disposal often, sludge can accumulate more quickly, and your tank will need to be pumped more.
- It is important to have your septic system inspected regularly and pumped out every few years.
- Do not put feminine hygiene products, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, coffee grounds, dental floss or tissues in the system. They do not break down.
- Never put paint, pesticides or harmful chemicals down your system. They eliminate the bacteria needed to break down solids in the tank.

Following these simple hints will help you avoid expensive repairs to your system. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
 P.O. Box 795000
 San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
 Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
 E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

EASY GREASE

Dear Heloise: I have a suggestion that my mother gave me years ago to grease pans or cookie sheets. I save the wrappers from butter or margarine and use them. They do a great job, and you just throw them away when done. – Pat, via e-mail

CAR-SEAT INSPECTION

Dear Readers: Did you know that seven out of 10 kids are not properly buckled into their car seats? Do you know where to have your car seat inspected to make sure it is installed correctly? If you have small children, this is very important and could be lifesaving.

SeatCheck is a great organization that will help you find the nearest car-seat inspection station. You can go to its website, www.seatcheck.org, or call 866-SEAT-CHECK, (866) 732-8243. All you need is your ZIP code, and it can locate the closet station. Take the time to have your car seat inspected. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: While planning a trip, I was looking at hotels online. It is hard to see what the rooms are like from the website pictures. I called the hotel, and the room I had been looking at had only a stand-up shower – I needed a tub. The representative I spoke to told me that a different room did have a tub, and helped me reserve that room. While booking online is convenient, sometimes it is more helpful to pick up the phone. – Daisy, via e-mail

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Bridge
 • Steve Becker

You are South and have the following hand:

♠ AQ96 ♥ KQJ83 ♦ A72 ♣ 10

1. **East bids One Club**, you double, and partner responds with One Spade. What would you bid now?
2. **West bids One Club**, East raises to Two Clubs, and you double. Partner responds with Two Hearts. What would you bid now?
3. **Your partner bids One Notrump**. You bid Two Clubs (Stayman), and partner bids Two Diamonds. When you next bid Three Hearts, partner raises to Four Hearts. What would you bid now?

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Three Spades. Partner's one-spade bid, aside from showing four or more spades, does not identify his high-card strength. In fact, he might not have a single point. However, it is a good rule of thumb to assume partner has at least three or four points and proceed accordingly.
- By raising partner to three spades, you cover the case where he has a worthless hand while at the same time appraising him that a game can be made if he has almost anything at all. You shouldn't bid four all by yourself, since you need a little something from partner for him to get home with 10 tricks.
2. Three Hearts. Again, all you can do is invite partner to bid game. Three hearts in this sequence is a very strong call, and partner is expected to press on with extremely modest values.
- It would be wrong to bid four hearts, since partner might have a worthless hand. Furthermore, the opening bid is on your left, so you can expect the opposing honor cards to be badly placed.
3. Four Spades. You can't stop short of a small slam, so all your efforts should be bent toward trying to get to seven. It would be wrong to use Blackwood, because partner's responses wouldn't tell you whether he had the king of spades -- a very vital card -- even if he showed two aces and two kings.

Hands where specific intermediate cards are crucial are better handled by cuebids than by Blackwood. By exchanging information about your side's controls (usually aces and kings), you can often produce better results than by using Blackwood, which in effect turns partner into an automaton who can do no more than tell you how many aces and kings he has. If partner happens to have a hand such as: ♠ K5 ♥ A92 ♦ KQ63 ♣ A872, you will have an excellent play for 13 tricks.

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Family Circus
 • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku
 • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/04

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

J B H A.V. VSHSD JV VR CIM

J S YDSV H WNRVS K DIR

I H J X B H W W, J Y A D V V S G D M

V G R A W C X H N D J S H I J C - K R X H.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN HE SAID THE CARNIVAL RIDE COULD HURT MY BREASTBONE, I'D SAY HE GAVE ME STERNUM WARNING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

Crossword
 • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Geological time
- 4 Nibble
- 8 Actress Helgenberger
- 12 Chap
- 13 Inflammation (Suff.)
- 14 Eight (Sp.)
- 15 Mess
- 17 Vincent van Gogh's brother
- 18 Choose
- 19 Winning
- 20 Win by —
- 22 Withered
- 24 Charged bits
- 25 3/17 symbol
- 29 Young fellow
- 30 Like Santa's laundry?
- 31 Shell-game need
- 32 Hair-salon supply

34 Birth-

- month for some
- Tug hard
- Actress Berry
- Flower
- Ranch visitor
- Cavort
- Like magic priests
- Trendy berry
- Game on horse-back
-
- Magnon
- Lady of Spain
- Mimic

51 — out a

- living
- Type squares
- "Go, team!"
- Big snake
- Sacred text
- "— have to do"
- Dead heat
- Curvy letter
- Whistler subject
- Rue the run
- Comical
- Suitable
- Tousle

19 Legion

- Has a bug
- Early boatwright
- Trembled
- Comes-tibles
- Any minute now
- Wealth
- Honey-comb
- compart-ment
- Mitty
- portrayal
- Unwanted email
- Near-sighted-ness
- Pinkett Smith
- Wit
- Actor Pitt
- Nutty
- Muscat's nation
- Valley
- Hot tub
- Leap
- Annoy
- Miller

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	R	V		C	A	T		S	C	A	B
A	L	O	E		L	Y	E		T	O	T	O
R	I	O	T		E	E	R		A	R	M	Y
C	A	T	E	N	A		R	A	I	D		
		R	U	N	S		A	C	R	O	S	S
L	A	M	A	S		P	I	E		V	A	T
A	N	O	N		P	E	N		S	A	G	A
I	N	N	P	A	N		T	E	N	O	R	
C	O	U	N	T	Y		D	O	W	N		
		M	E	A	L		M	O	A	N	E	D
A	L	E	E		O	N	E		T	A	X	I
S	E	N	D		A	U	G		O	V	E	R
P	I	T	Y		D	N	A		R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 5-4

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			