# Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



# **Beetle Bailey •** Mort Walker





# **Blondie •** Chic Young





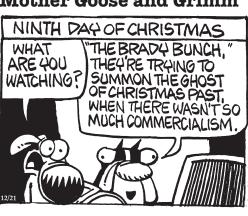


# **Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne





#### **Mother Goose and Grimm •** Mike Peters





# Sally Forth • Greg Howard









# **Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





# Heloise

Hints from Heloise

# Keep cats out of flower garden

Dear Heloise: I need help with a very annoying problem. My front-entry garden has been used by a neighborhood cat for his litter box. I have not been able to remove this odor. Do you have a solution for this problem? – Barbara, via e-mail Barbara, here are a few things to help remove

the odor. Take the top 1/2 inch of soil off and replace it, if you can. Then mix a solution of 1/2 vinegar and 1/2 water, and spray directly on the soil. This will help neutralize the odor and hopefully will deter the cat.

The important thing is to keep the cat from continuing to use your garden as its litter box. Throw citrus peels around the garden, or, if you can, place pine cones over the soil. Cats will no longer have easy access, but you still will be able to water. - 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 **SEE-THROUGH STORAGE** 

Dear Heloise: My family is quite large, and on birthdays and holidays, we always buy sheet cakes (large, rectangular one-layer cake - Heloise). The plastic boxes they come in make good storage boxes. You can see what you have stored, and they stack on shelves in closets. I also discovered the clear plastic tops work well to cover food at barbecues. - Paula C., Bakersfield, Calif.

### TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I am going on a trip with my 1-year-old. Do you have any hints for childproofing a hotel room? - Wanda in Virginia

Wanda, traveling with a toddler can be stressful without having to worry about your hotel room! Here is some advice on childproofing while trav-• Pack outlet plugs. They are small and don't

- take up a lot of space. • If there is a window or sliding door, make
- sure it locks securely. • Tie up loose cords, such as curtain pulls. Hair
- ties work well for this. • Unplug and store electrical appliances. Most
- hotels provide hair dryers and coffee makers. Store them out of reach when not in use. • Cover sharp edges with washcloths and tape.
- Remember, children are curious, and a hotel room is a new place to explore! Get down on their level to scope out any other potential hazards. Check with your hotel. Some now offer childproofing kits for use while there. - Heloise

# WRINKLE REDUCER

Dear Heloise: To avoid wrinkles or fold lines in felt-backed, vinyl tablecloths, put up to three of the same size, one atop the others, on the table where they are used. They easily can be switched for the season or holiday. As a bonus, this saves storage space. - Fran H., Roswell, N.M.

(c)2012 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

# **Bridge** • Steve Becker

You deal and open One Heart with the following hand:

**♦** 10 ♥ KQ974 **♦** KJ5 **♣** A1063 What would you bid next if partner responded:

- 1. One spade. 2. One notrump.
- 3. Two clubs.
- 4. Two diamonds.
- 5. Two hearts.

# **Bidding Quiz**

- 1. Two clubs. This comes closer to describing your hand than a rebid of either one notrump or two hearts. It is true that one notrump would identify a hand of minimum opening strength, but it would at the same time imply balanced distribution, which you do not have. The two-club bid offers the advantage of allowing you to discover a club fit, while the chief disadvantage of two clubs is that it does not limit you to a hand of the minimum class. The advantages accorded by painting a more accurate picture of your distribution more than offset this defect. 2. Two clubs. You can't sensibly accept a
- notrump contract by passing, considering the danger implicit in your singleton spade. It is therefore best to bid two clubs, hoping to find a better landing place. 3. Three clubs. This is a straight value bid indi-
- cating a hand of minimum opening strength that contains support for clubs. Add a couple more high-card points and you would have enough for a jump-raise to four clubs. 4. Three diamonds. The only alternative – three
- clubs would promise more in the way of highcard points. The simple raise, informing partner that you have a minimum opening with diamond support, provides the most accurate description of your hand. 5. Three clubs. The possible rebids are three
- hearts, three clubs and pass. If partner has a dead-minimum for his raise, the limit of the hand might be nine or even only eight tricks. At the same time, though, allowance must be made for the possibility of making 10 tricks if partner has the right hand, so passing two hearts is much too conservative. Three clubs is more informative than three

hearts and is therefore the better choice. It tells partner that you have a second suit and allows him to bid three or four hearts, depending on how he re-evaluates his hand. If he has, say, ♦ 984 ♥ J1063 ♦ Q9 ♣ KQ82

he will bid four hearts, which is virtually lay-(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc

# Family Circus • Bil Keane



"No, I'm just gonna TEXT him in a couple days."

# Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

6	1	7	2	3	9	8	5	4
5	3	8	4	7	6	9	1	2
2	9	4	1	5	8	3	7	6
4	2	3	8	1	7	5	6	ç
9	7	6	3	4	5	1	2	8
1	8	5	6	9	2	7	4	C
8	4	1	5	6	3	2	9	7
7	6	2	9	8	1	4	3	5
3	5	9	7	2	4	6	8	1
Difficulty Level ★★★ 12								

# Cryptoquip

M X V P J C C J C I L N V J ILJB

HZXSKJF MBO

CMXS MV BNELV, YBJ IYZKO

VLNBS VLJF EY HJVVF-HFJ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHRIEK THAT WOULD LIKELY BE EMITTED IF A GUY WERE TO NICK

HIS FACE VERY BADLY: SHAVING SCREAM.

back

letter

graph

Chorus

Line"

song

9 Lair

10 Joan

**11** Pigs'

of —

digs

17 Anger

21 "Inferno"

writer

23 Type of

wave

24 Swelled

7 Auto-

**8** "A

6 Last

28 Easter

buy

31 Shell

30 Scratch

game

item

32 Diamond

arbiter

33 Phone bk.

info

36 Facts

40 Must,

**42** Met

43 Silk

44 Vote

45 Locale

46 Vortex

48 Mound

stat

49 Unruly

bunch

50 Lawyers'

org.

**51** Bar-

37 Whale-

bone

jocularly

perfor-

mance

alterna-

# Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals A

#### **Crossword •** Eugene Sheffer **25** Dada **ACROSS 39** — Khan 4 Get 41 Traditionready, artist **1** Gym-26 Say it's nast's al tales briefly surface 45 Pilfered 5 Order OK

Kennedy

55 Sinbad's

bird

56 Lessen

**57** One or

more

1 Colorful

parrot

2 Texas

3 Beat

mission

Solution time: 25 mins.

58 Pismire

**DOWN** 

4 Expert 47 Chum 48 Too thin 7 Pops 12 Brewerv 52 Storm output center 13 Sleep 53 Autophenom maton

**14** Unmoving **54** A

15 Rotating part 16 Reason to call

911 **18** Pump up the volume

19 Heathen 20 Lumber 22 Run-down horse 23 Blue hue

27 Toss in 29 Political refugee 31 Groan-

> inducing, maybe **34** Take as

one's own 35 Overacted

37 Lingerie item 38 Church

section

racks bed Yesterday's answer 12-2 16 19 32 33

49 50 51 55