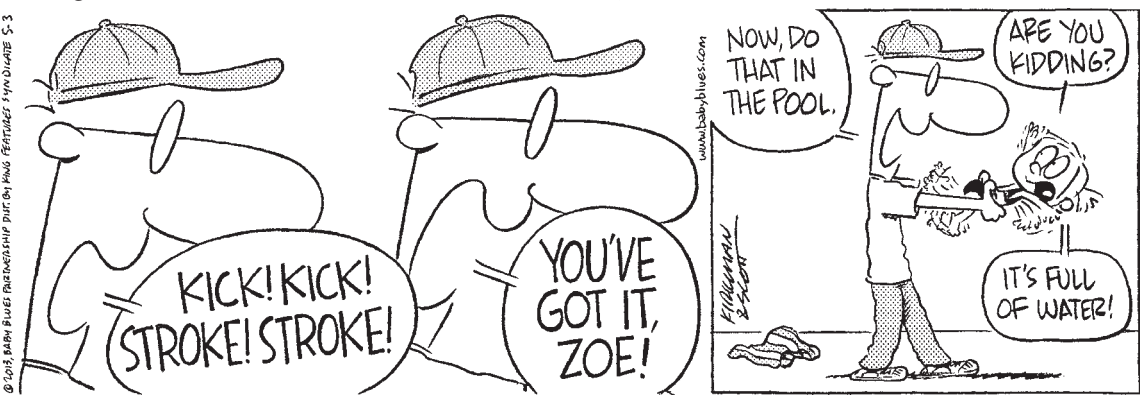
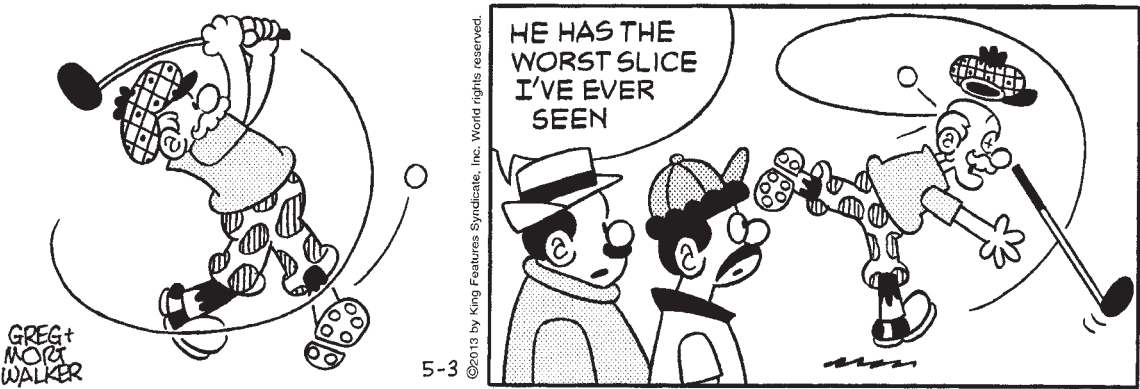


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



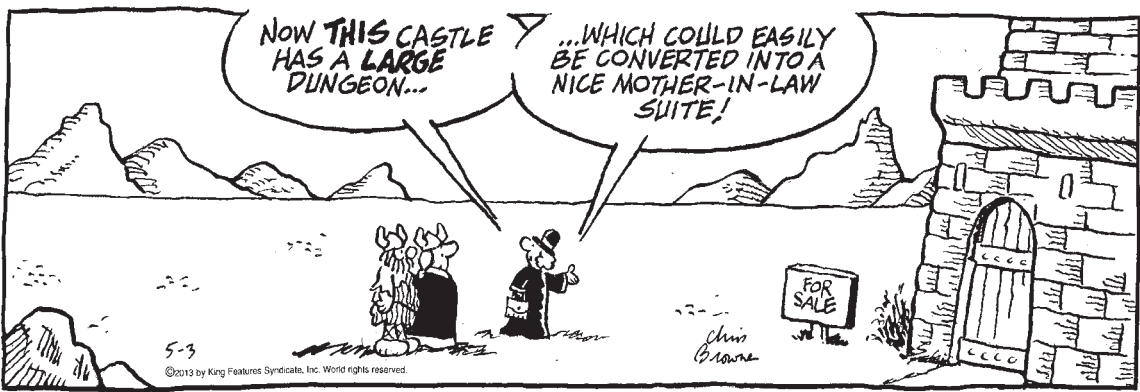
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



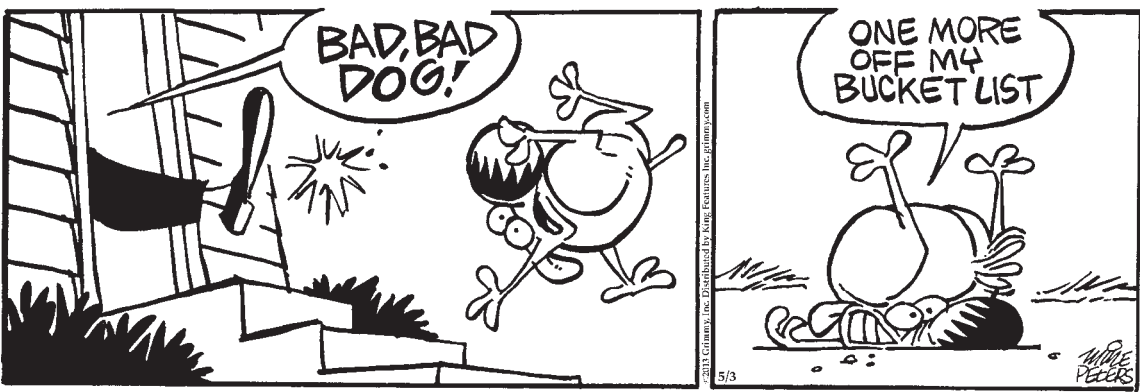
Blondie • Chic Young



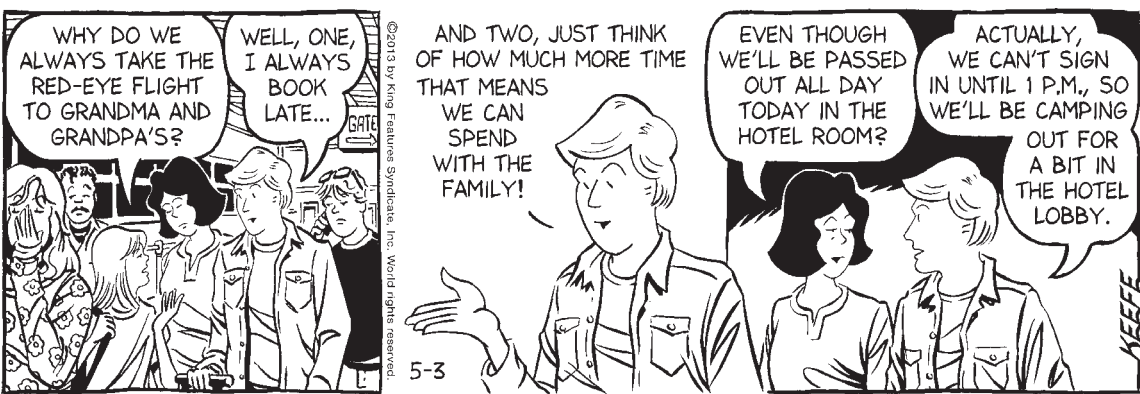
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



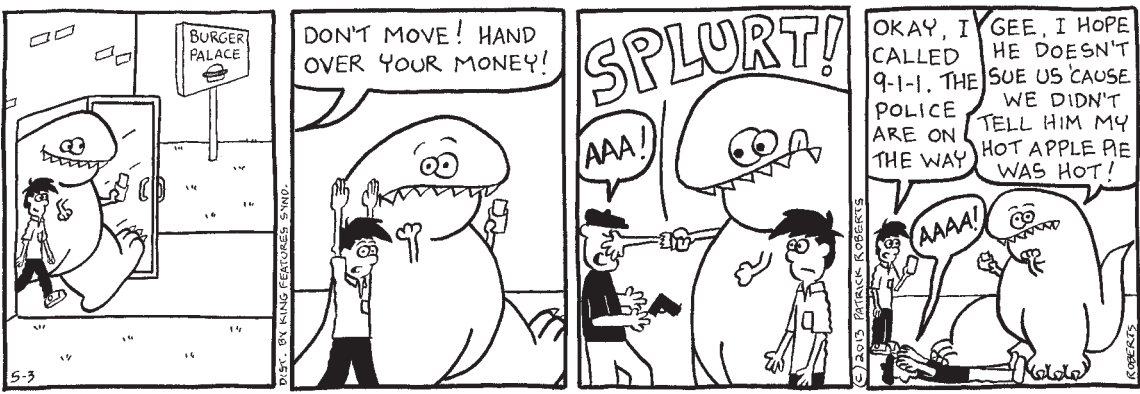
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



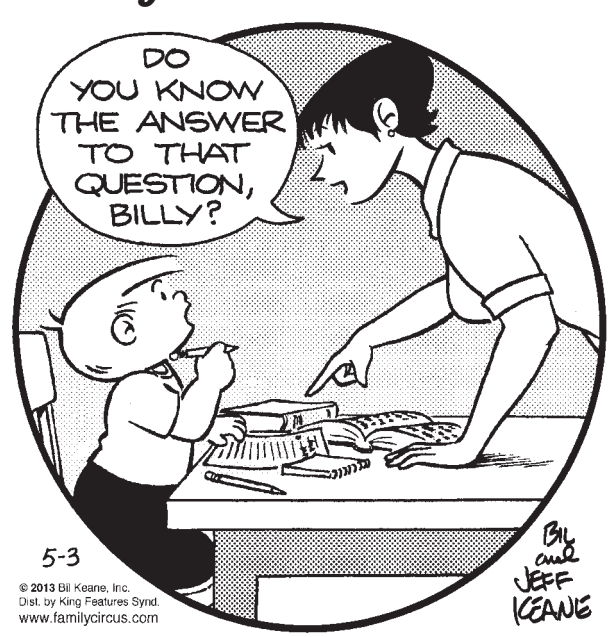
Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Family Circus • Bil Keane



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Bird species eat different seeds

Dear Heloise: I love bird watching. Do you have any suggestions on how to attract more birds to my yard? – Patti in Mississippi

Patti, bird-watching is a wonderful way to start off the day or spend an afternoon. According to the National Bird-Feeding Society, there are several things you can do to attract birds to your yard. Here are some of the suggestions:

- Use several different types of feeders and seed to attract more species.
- Always have fresh water available. Choose a birdbath that is shallow and not slippery.
- Try to reduce hazards such as window collisions and predators.
- Offer alternative foods such as nectar, suet and fruits.

For more information, like which plants are best, visit the National Bird Feeding Society website, www.birdfeeding.org. You also can print out a backyard bird checklist to keep track of the birds that visit your yard. – Heloise

P.S.: I enjoy watching birds along our Texas coastline. The Roseate spoonbills are just beautiful!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: My family took a trip to the beach. Of course, the kids wanted to take pails, shovels and other toys with them to play with on the beach. Those things can take up a lot of space. So instead, we found a dollar store when we arrived and purchased inexpensive toys there. The kids had a blast playing with them. When it was time to go, we passed them on to another family staying near us. They didn't cost a lot, so I didn't feel guilty about wasting money, and it saved precious packing space. – Anne in Kansas

LETTER OF LAUGHTER

Dear Heloise: In regard to identifying your luggage, I have the usual black suitcase that everyone else seems to have. I bought some red-colored duct tape and a marker, and wrote "All mine and no one else's" on the tape and put it on the front of the bag. I have yet to lose my luggage, and seeing my bag always makes people laugh and say: "What a good idea! Why didn't I think of that?" – Martha, via e-mail

CANDLEHOLDER

Dear Heloise: I have several metal candleholders that I received as gifts. They are very pretty and decorated with a floral motif. Instead of putting new candles in them, I use them on my desk as organizers. One holds pens and pencils, another paper clips, etc. They go together nicely. – Andrea in Georgia

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:
West North East South
1 ♣ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ ?

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

1. ♠AQ64 ♥J8763 ♦7 ♣AJ4
2. ♠QJ84 ♥5 ♦K963 ♣AJ87
3. ♠J ♥K1084 ♦Q92 ♣A9643
4. ♠AQ4 ♥A72 ♦K106 ♣QJ83

Bidding Quiz

1. Four hearts. Once partner overcalls in hearts, you can't settle for less than game. It is hard to imagine partner losing four tricks. A jump-raise to three hearts (invitational) would be too much of an underbid.

The four-heart bid also has the great advantage of putting maximum pressure on the opponents, who might be reluctant to sell out to four hearts. If they do decide to continue bidding, they are apt to be severely punished.

2. Pass. For the moment, at least, it seems likely that you will do better if the opponents play the hand. Partner's vulnerable one-heart overcall, though it should be respected, diminishes your side's offensive prospects and correspondingly increases your side's defensive prospects.

East's spade bid forces West to bid again. Your best chance is to lay low and hope the opponents will keep on bidding to a point where you can double them for penalties. A one-notrump bid by you at this stage might let them off the hook.

3. Three hearts. Here you don't know how many hearts partner can make, so all you can do is to try to represent your values as well as you can via an invitational jump-raise. Partner is in a much better position to know whether he has a maximum or minimum overcall, so you should let him make the final decision.

Two hearts would be a gross underbid. Your club and spade controls, the excellent trump support and the potential value of the queen of diamonds add up to much more than a two-heart bid. However, they are not quite good enough for a four-heart bid.

4. Three notrump. You might wonder where everyone is getting enough points to bid, but that's not really your concern. The bottom line is that you can't risk stopping below game. With 16 high-card points and double stoppers in both black suits, a three-notrump bid is virtually automatic. It is certainly reasonable to expect partner to have at least 10 points for his vulnerable overcall.

Partner might bid four hearts if he thinks his hand is not suitable for notrump, but you have adequate values for that contract also.

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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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

Cryptoquip

DH TCW GQDKKNY O RLCKN

PWQ CH QNACN CB TCWZGNKH

D ZNPACB TCW'Y NBY WQ

RNOZDBV O JNO GLDZJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT STRING PLAYER WANTS A LIGHT, SWEET DESSERT TREAT, HE USUALLY CHOOSES CELLO PUDDING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Venomous viper
 - 4 Incense
 - 8 Pop
 - 12 Ball-bearing item
 - 13 Beelzebub's doings
 - 14 From square one
 - 15 Supreme Court Justice Thurgood
 - 17 Calm before the storm
 - 18 Comedian Rivers
 - 19 Refuge
 - 20 Downright
 - 22 Road's shoulder
 - 24 Hard to find
 - 25 Almond confection
 - 29 Got a Secret
 - 30 Left-hand page
 - 31 Ostrich's cousin
 - 32 Union

- DOWN**
- 19 Ricelike pasta
 - 20 — and proper
 - 21 Volcanic spillage
 - 22 Cleopatra's boat
 - 23 Gaelic in court
 - 25 Vegan's no-no
 - 26 Distinguished ancestry
 - 27 In the thick of
 - 28 Sisters
 - 30 Test tube
 - 33 Variety of macaque
 - 34 Gumbo base
 - 36 Music transition
 - 37 Ceremonial
 - 38 Canyon phenomenon
 - 39 Lowly worker
 - 40 Author Stoker
 - 42 Encountered
 - 43 — was saying ...
 - 44 Mess up
 - 45 Bill

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-3

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			
37	38	39						40			
41					42	43				44	45
46					47					48	
49					50					51	