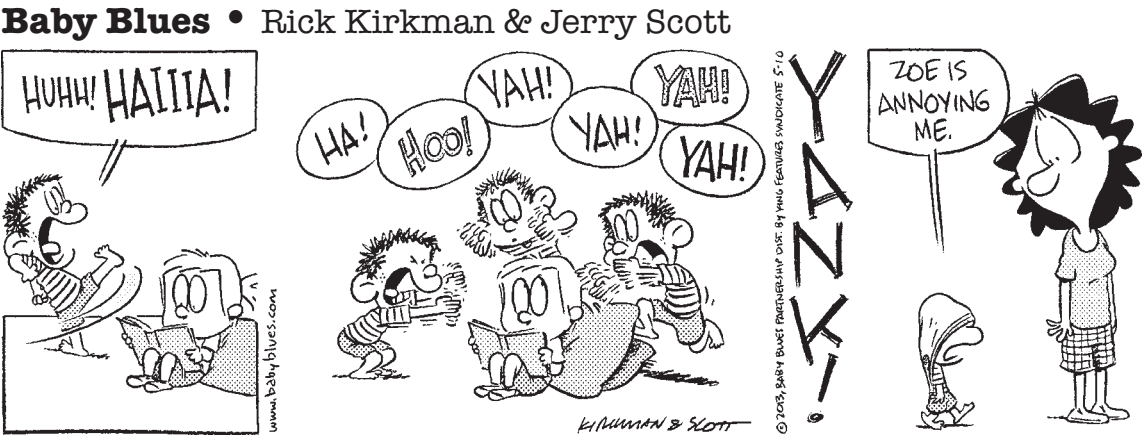
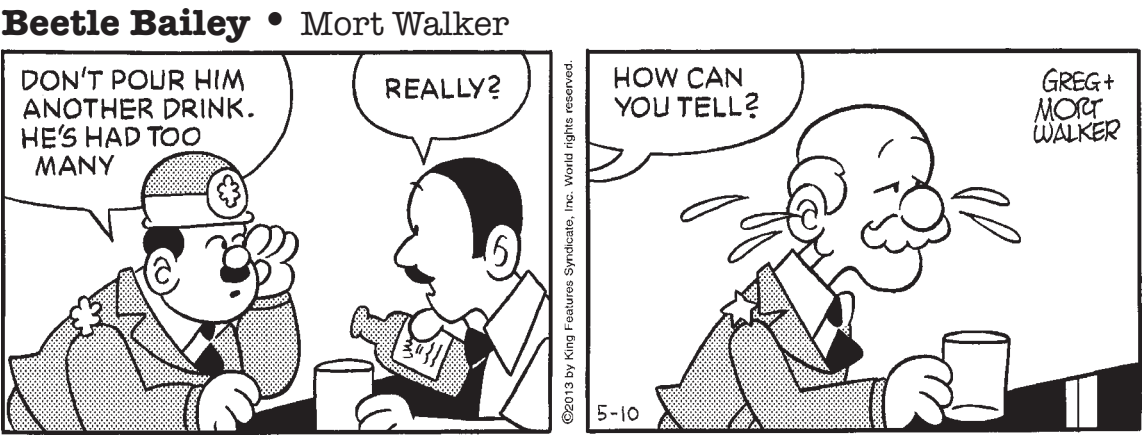
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

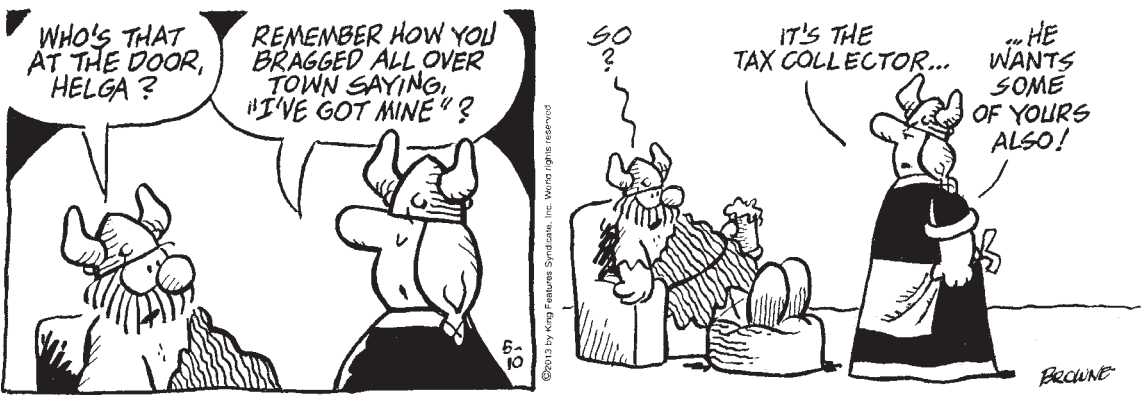


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

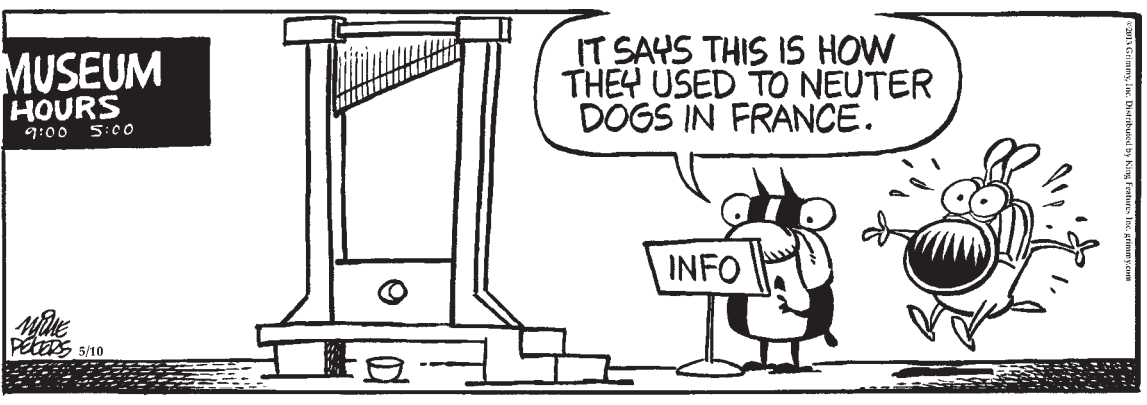


Blondie • Chic Young

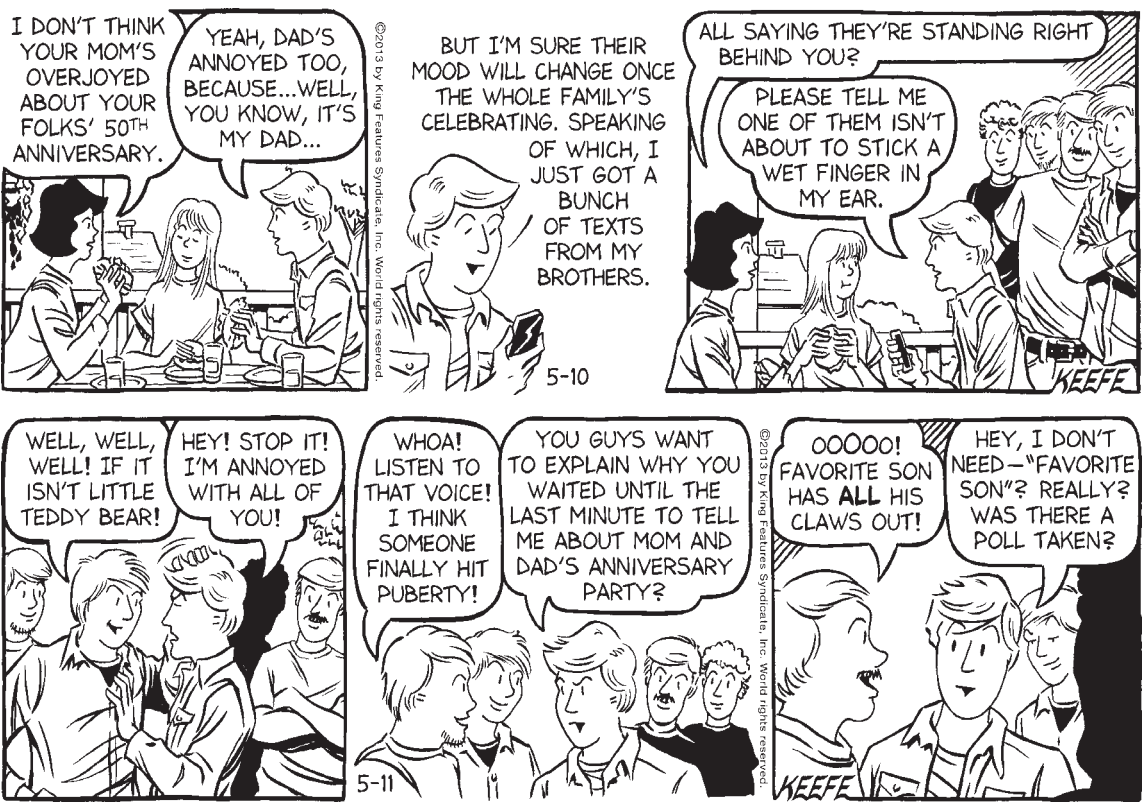
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



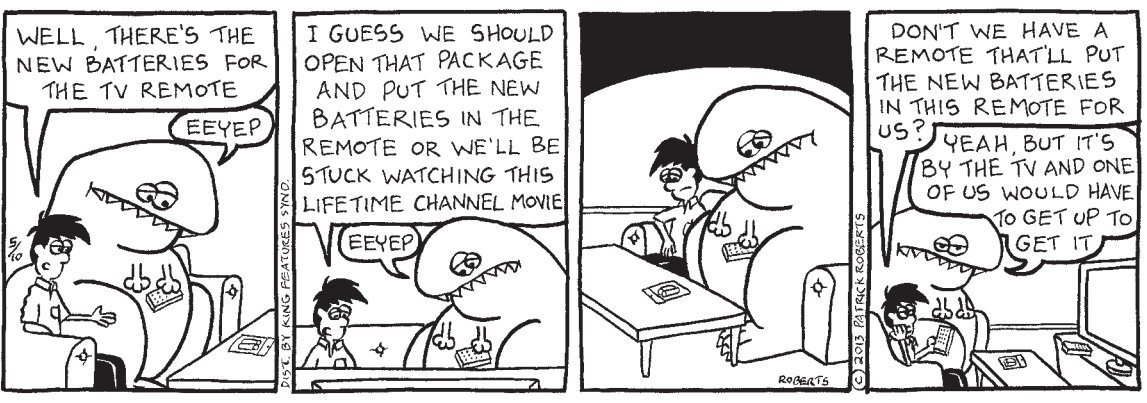
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



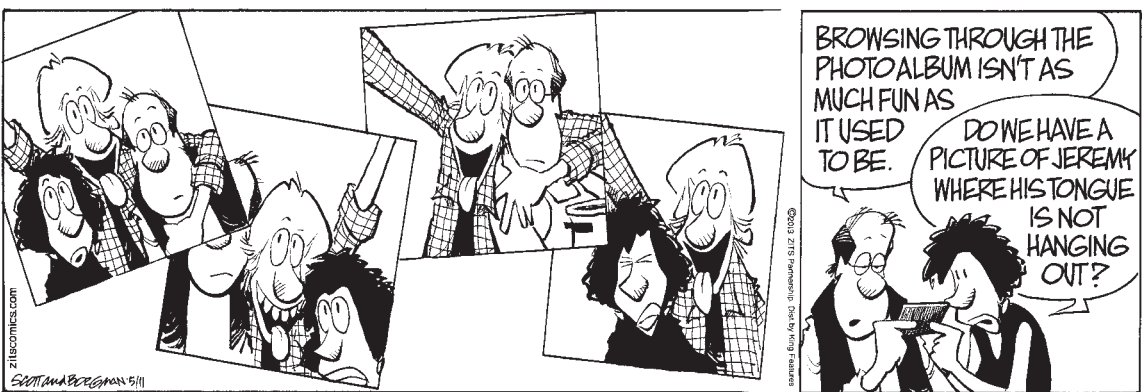
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Traveling plants need special care

Dear Heloise: I'll be moving in the next few months. My concern is how can I move my plants safely? – Louise in New York

Moving can be hard on both people and plants! Plants can be delicate, and they need a little care. But here are some hints to make it easier on both:

• Move plants yourself. Most moving companies will not transport plants more than 150 miles because the vans are not temperature-controlled.

• When transporting the plants yourself, don't park in direct sunlight! Try to find a shady spot.

• Consider repotting large plants into the same-size plastic pots to cut down on weight and avoid breakage, but do this a few weeks in advance so they have time to adjust.

• Prune large plants to prevent breakage and loosely wrap them in sheets or towels.

• If placed in boxes for moving, punch air holes in the sides of the boxes, and use some damp paper around the plant itself and on top of the soil.

If moving across state lines, check with the state's department of natural resources to find out about any restrictions regarding bringing plants. If you can't take your plants with you, give them away to friends and family. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: I love camping. Before each trip, I set up my tent in my backyard and check for holes or damage. I also go through other supplies and make sure nothing needs replacing or new batteries. There is nothing more frustrating than getting to your campsite and realizing you don't have everything you need. – Taylor, via e-mail

Love it! How about a trial run for one night in the backyard? – Heloise

PACK THE BAGS

Dear Heloise: I use reusable grocery bags. When I first started using them, I was constantly forgetting them. I found a solution that works nicely for me, and I thought it might help another reader. As soon as I am done unloading my groceries and putting them away, I fold my cloth bags back up and place them in my trunk. That way, they are always there the next time I go to the store. – Michelle in Iowa

CHANGE SLOWLY

Dear Heloise: My family and I are trying to be healthier, but we were a little overwhelmed about making the change all at once. Now we try one new recipe a week. If we like it, we make it again. Eventually, we will have enough healthy new recipes that we all like. And, hopefully, our eating habits will be healthy ones. – Hilda in Mississippi

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Bridge • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, North having opened the bidding with one club. North leads the king of spades, which you duck, the queen of spades, which you also duck, and then the jack, taken by your ace. South played the 3-5-7 of spades, in that order, as the suit was led. How would you continue?

West	East
♠A 9 4	♠8 6 2
♥K Q 7 2	♥A 6 4
♦A Q	♦J 10 9 5 3
♣A Q J 10	♣5 4

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you proceed?

West	East
♠7 3	♠A K Q 6 5
♥K Q J 5	♥A 10 3
♦A K 8 2	♦6 4
♣Q 5 2	♣A 8 3

* * *

Test Your Play

1. This is one of those gratifying situations where you are certain to make the contract no matter how the adverse cards are divided -- provided you play correctly.

The proper play is to lead the queen of diamonds at trick four. If the queen loses to the king, you have nine tricks consisting of one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and one club. If the queen holds the trick, you then switch your attention to clubs, forcing out the king, after which you have nine tricks consisting of one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs.

If you started instead by cashing the ace of diamonds before leading the queen, you could lose five tricks if the opponents allowed the queen to win and you later lost a club to the king. You could likewise go down if you started by playing the A-Q of clubs. Only the queen-of-diamonds lead at trick four renders the contract foolproof.

2. Whether you make six depends partly on how the opposing cards are divided and partly on how you elect to play the hand. All kinds of insuperable difficulties may arise if you choose to cash the A-K of diamonds and ruff a diamond. This might appear to be the best way to start the play, but actually it is not.

The line of play most likely to succeed is really quite simple. Win the diamond lead, play a spade and follow low from dummy!

Win the diamond return (no other return makes any difference), ruff a diamond with the ten of hearts and draw trumps. This sequence of plays will make the contract if the spades and trumps are divided normally (either 3-3 or 4-2), yielding 12 tricks consisting of four spades, four hearts, two diamonds, a club and a diamond ruff in dummy.

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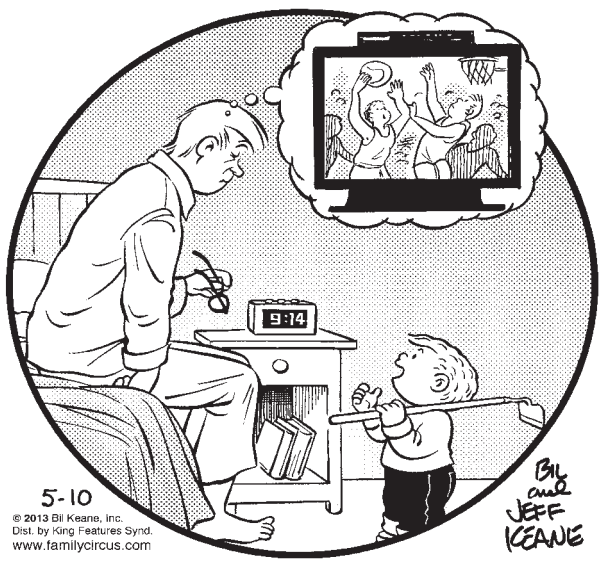
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy said today's the day you promised to help make my garden."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/10

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/09

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Cryptoquip

CVAWDEV H WB ZVEAJHCHRT EVOVJWU ZHQQVJVRX EIDRZ EKEXVB OWJHVXHVE, H EDFFIEV H'B EXVJVI XKFHRT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNHAPPY THAT THE WOOD WASN'T DYED ENOUGH, THE CARPENTER IN CHARGE ISSUED A RESTAINING ORDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 TGIF part
4 Bing's buddy
7 Block the flow
12 Just out
13 "Hail!"
14 Become one
15 Meadow
16 High-flying tourist
18 $ dispenser
19 Soviet cooperative
20 Genius
22 Decorate Easter eggs
23 Boast
27 Discoverer's cry
29 Weaken, in a way
31 Nary a soul
34 Star in Orion's left foot
35 "Now" or "never"
37 Drench
38 TV dinner veggies
39 "Go, team!"
41 Wild and crazy
45 Rescues
47 "The Raven" writer
48 TV show for entrepreneurial hopefuls
52 Transgression
53 Asian nation
54 Hockey surface
55 Superlative ending
56 That is (Lat.)
57 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
58 Vast expanse

DOWN
1 Extended family member
2 "Choppers"
3 Hindu ascetic
4 Mexican peninsula
5 Exaggerate
6 White or Grable
7 One-on-one fight
8 Pismire
9 Bay State sch.
10 Multi-purpose truck
11 Apiece
17 Start a garden
21 Regions
23 All-out attack
24 Carpet
25 Consumed
26 Solidify
28 That woman
30 Anger
31 Siesta
32 Praise in verse
33 Eggs
36 Unruly kid?
37 From what place
40 Use
42 Church recesses
43 Din
44 Busybody
45 Old card game
46 Distort
48 Tackle moguls
49 Scuttle
50 Exist
51 Scale notes

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-10

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		