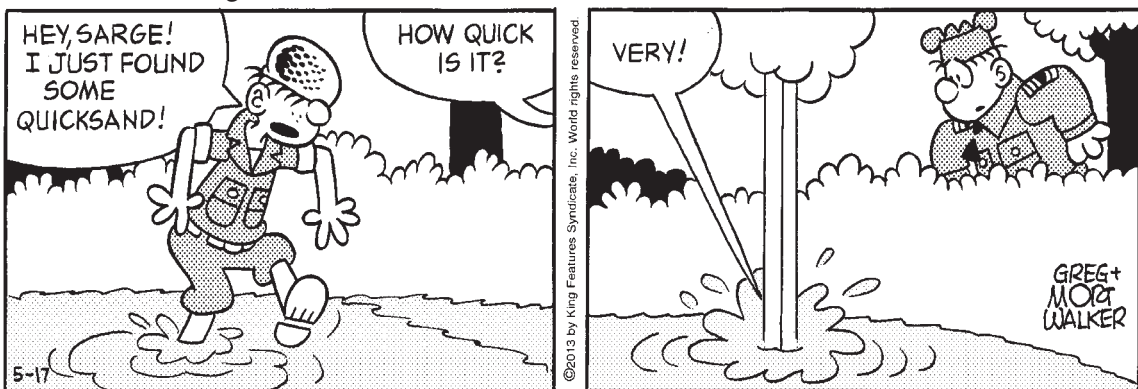


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



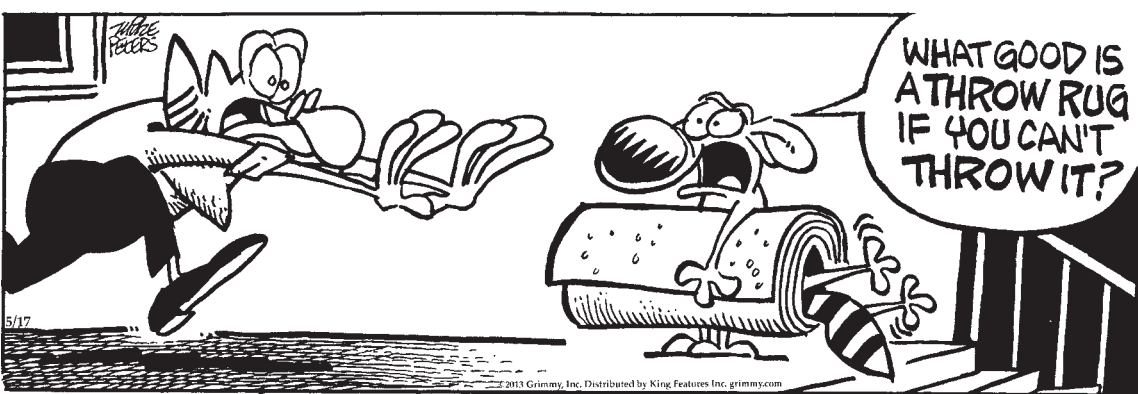
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



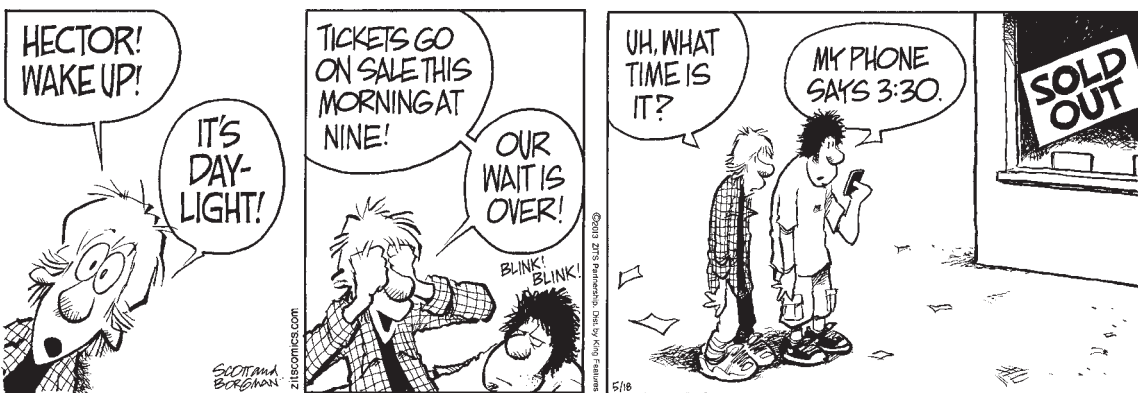
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Pack gift wrap for quick finish

Dear Heloise: I read a hint about flying with wrapped gifts. I flew with a suitcase of birthday and other gifts for family. I began the wrapping at home, choosing and cutting the paper for each gift. I wrote a small description (e.g., "Katie's cookbook," "Tommy's shaving kit") inside the edge of each paper and wrote out the gift tags. I stacked the papers, rolled them up and put them, some bows and gift tags in a baggie with a roll of tape inside the suitcase.

When I got to the relative's house, I needed only a half-hour to wrap the gifts.

I know from the note inside my suitcase that the Transportation Security Administration had opened it, but nothing was disturbed. This worked well for me. Next time I'll add a big plastic bag to store the gifts until they can be distributed. — Pam, via e-mail

COMPUTER HINT

Dear Heloise: As we all are often in a hurry, sometimes we send something on the computer — an e-mail, placing an order, etc. — before we have completed our entry. I now leave the address where it is being sent blank until last. I fill that in when my item is complete and ready to go. — Jean M. in Connecticut

PET STAIN

Dear Heloise: I work at a veterinary clinic as a technician. I am always holding pets, and sometimes, when they are nervous, they urinate on me. Do you have any hints for removing the stain and smell from my clothing? — A Friend in Utah, via e-mail

Sure do, and I'm sure this happens a lot at veterinary clinics, as well as hospitals and nursing homes, too. Try to treat the area as soon as possible, which can be hard when you are at work. The first thing you should do is "soak," rinse or pat the area with tap water. To neutralize the smell and help treat the stain, use straight vinegar, or mix 1/2 water and 1/2 white household vinegar and sponge the area with it, then rinse. When home, wash as normal, but don't put in the dryer until you check for a stain.

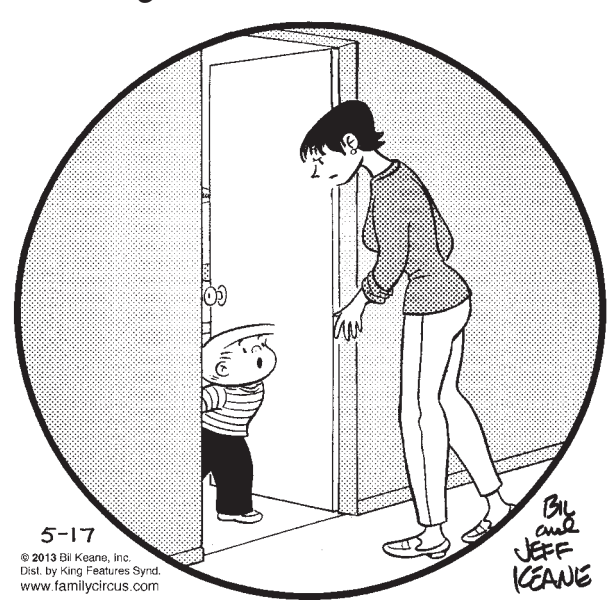
You might keep a small bottle of the vinegar solution at work so that you can treat areas immediately and keep them from staining. Do you have other stains you need help removing? Order my pamphlet Heloise's Handy Stain Guide for Clothing. In it are hints to remove many tough stains. To receive a copy, send \$5 with a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Stain, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Remember to always test a hidden area of the garment for colorfastness. And when treating a stain, blot — do not rub. — Heloise

TOOTH TIMER

Dear Heloise: To help me and my children know how long to brush our teeth, we set a timer. We use a kitchen timer that we set for two minutes. When the timer goes off, we know we have brushed long enough. — Julie, via e-mail

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



5-17

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"We weren't arguing, we were just talking real loud."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

YLZG NDJUV JDAZ SD NFIJ
ZAZPB DJK EPZAFEZ YFSL
EIXJUGT, BDX EDXJK VIB

SLZB IPZ VZIJFGT NIGV.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A HOPPING EASTER ANIMAL IS FANATICAL ABOUT SOMETHING, COULD YOU SAY IT'S A BUNNY RABID?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pythias' pal
 - 6 Try the tea cager
 - 12 Memorable mission
 - 13 "— Little Teapot"
 - 14 Blackbird
 - 15 Make obscure
 - 16 "Material Girl" singer
 - 18 Bold alternative
 - 20 Check wearers
 - 21 Dogtag
 - 23 — good deed
 - 24 Founded (on)
 - 25 Love god
 - 27 Ill-suited
 - 29 Praying bug
 - 31 Tiny
 - 35 Vote for
 - 37 Prego rival
 - 38 Start a rally
 - 41 Moon vehicle acronym
- DOWN**
- 43 — Perignon cream additive
 - 44 Shaving cream
 - 45 Cut aid
 - 47 Insanity
 - 49 Free of frost
 - 52 Inseparable
 - 53 Bullring bravo
 - 54 Beetle Bailey's bully
 - 55 Commotion
 - 56 Trawler need
 - 57 Hiker's route
 - 2 Hearty quaff
 - 3 Wisconsin's capital
 - 4 Leave out
 - 5 Wanderer
 - 6 Apple product
 - 8 Cushion
 - 9 Christmas candies
 - 10 Warbucks' ward
 - 11 Food item
 - 17 Spooner
 - 19 Grown-up nit
 - 21 Prized possession
 - 22 A Gershwin brother
 - 24 Morsel
 - 26 Spielberg or Soderbergh
 - 28 In the cards
 - 30 — -de France
 - 32 Fortified Portuguese
 - 8 Cushion
 - 9 Christmas wine
 - 33 "But — on forever":
 - 34 Summa — laude
 - 36 Storage area
 - 38 Pago Pago's place
 - 39 Savanna grazer
 - 40 Wild West show
 - 42 Interior
 - 45 Capri, e.g.
 - 46 Approach
 - 48 A billion years
 - 50 Movie trickery (Abbr.)
 - 51 Wet wriggler

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-17

Bridge • Steve Becker

You have the following hand:

♠ A10 ♥ K983 ♦ K75 ♣ A972

1. Partner bids One Spade, and you respond Two Notrump (13 to 15 points, balanced distribution). Partner bids Three Spades. What would you bid now?

2. Partner bids One Spade, and you respond Two Notrump. Partner bids Three Hearts. What would you bid now?

3. Partner bids One Diamond, and you respond One Heart. Partner bids Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Four spades. Partner seems unhappy with notrump, and there is no good reason to override him by insisting on notrump. He has at least six spades, which makes the A-10 adequate support, and he could easily have a singleton (or void) in one of the side suits, which strongly militates against notrump play.

It is also possible — in fact, quite likely — that partner is playing for a slam, since he did not jump immediately to four spades to close out the bidding. Denying his suit for a second time might cause him to give up on a hand that would offer an excellent chance for slam.

2. Four clubs. Here also a slam looms on the horizon, and the best way of alerting partner to this possibility is by bidding four clubs. This doesn't mean you've suddenly found a long club suit you previously overlooked; on the contrary, it announces a fit for partner's hearts and first-round control of clubs, and suggests a slam if partner has more than a minimum opening bid.

Partner might have any of the following hands and be encouraged to try for slam over the four-club cuebid:

- ♠ KJ872 ♥ AQ764 ♦ AJ ♣ 10
- ♠ KQ743 ♥ QJ754 ♦ — ♣ KQ8
- ♠ QJ854 ♥ AQJ2 ♦ A8 ♣ K5

3. Six notrump. In theory, your partner needs 20 points — or a very good 19 — to bid three notrump, since your one-heart response might have been based on a bare six points. Partner cannot count on more than that except at his own peril.

Since you have 14 points rather than six, you are entitled to raise him to six notrump on the assumption that the combined hands contain 34 points — one more than the number ordinarily needed for a small slam. If he comes home lame, you might give serious thought to looking for a new partner.

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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			