

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



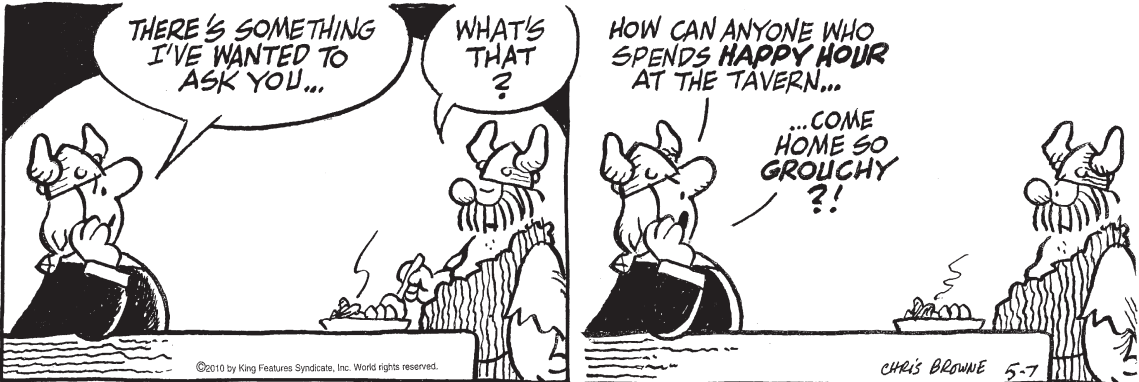
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



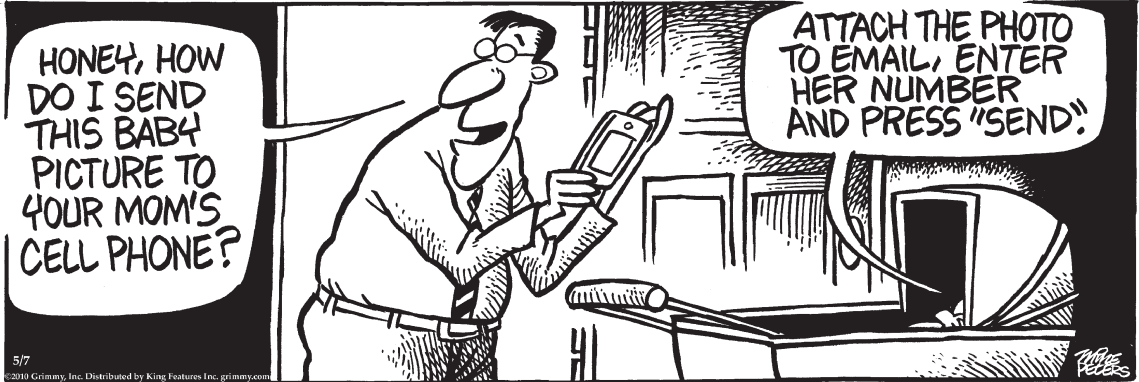
Blondie • Chic Young



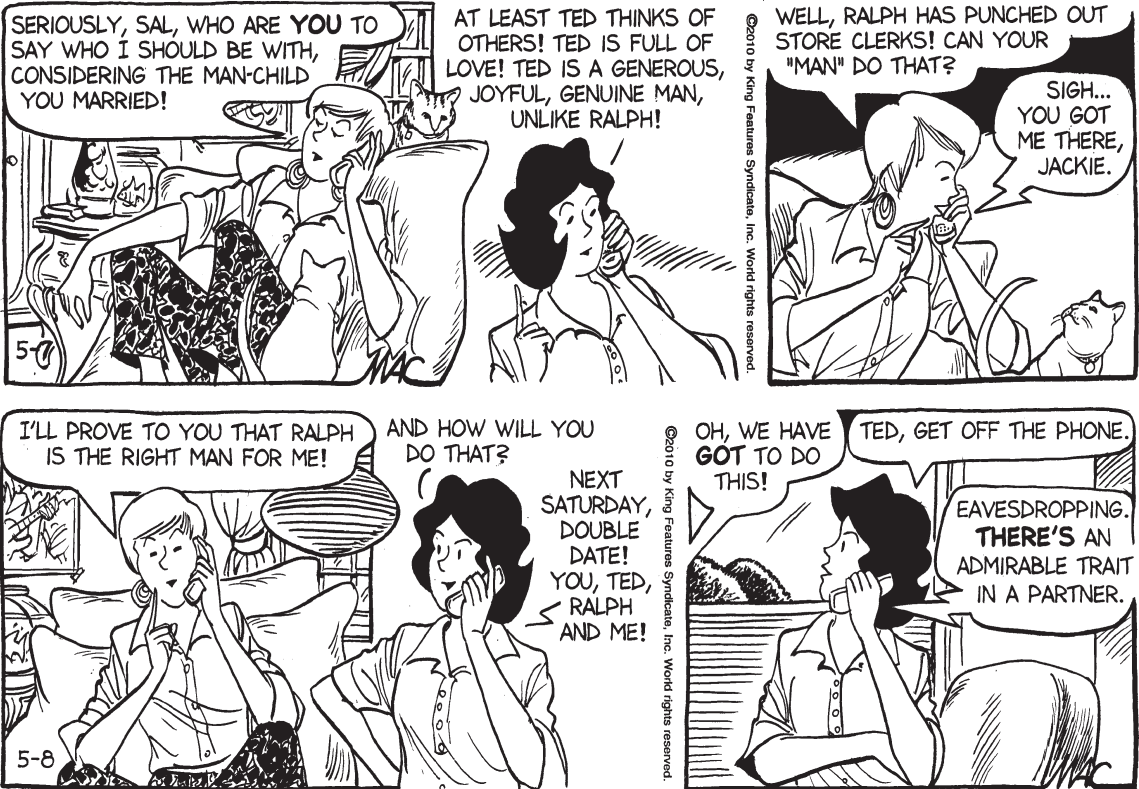
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



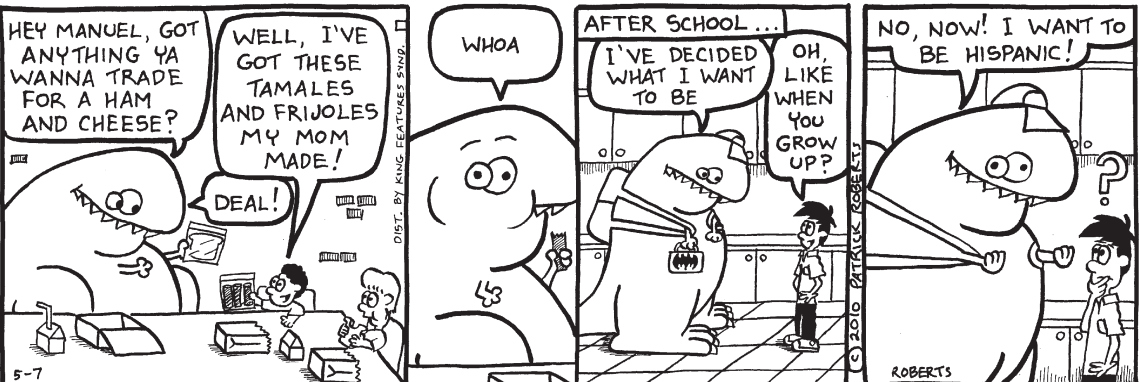
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Composting makes rich soil

Dear Readers: COMPOSTING is a great way to make rich soil and mulch for the yard and flower beds, and to surround new saplings to keep weeds at bay. Grass clippings, vegetable peels, coffee grounds and eggshells are great basics for a compost pile.

To get started composting, you need an outdoor, sunny area. Five feet by 5 feet should be plenty of room. Experts suggest equal parts of brown material (fallen leaves, coffee grounds, twigs) and green material (grass cuttings, pulled weeds and vegetable bits), and mix in some shovelfuls of soil to make about 3 to 4 cubic feet of compost. Never put meat trimmings, fish or dairy products in your compost pile. These items can attract critters to the compost. The mixture should be slightly damp, so you might need to add some water. The key to rapid composting is to turn the mixture at least once a week. If there's a bad odor from the pile, turn it more often! — Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: A very important travel hint is to check out the emergency exits as soon as you get to your hotel room. Usually the inside door has a map and indications where the emergency exits are. You should go outside your door and plan which way would be the easiest and closest to the exit. Then count the number of doorways. It might be smoky if you exit in a fire situation, and you might be crawling to get away from the smoke. Know how many doors you will pass. — Jane in New Jersey

DISHES CLEAN OR DIRTY

Dear Heloise: I keep a small cup in the front of the top basket of my dishwasher where it is easy to see. The cup fills with water when the dishwasher runs a load. When I empty the clean dishes, I dump the water out of the cup. So, if there is water in the cup, I know the dishes are clean. Mineral deposits build up on the cup, so make sure to use one you don't plan to use for anything else. — Judy, Fountain Valley, Calif.

Good idea, and here's another from Carolyn in Marble Falls, Texas. She says: "Immediately after emptying clean dishes, I add dishwasher soap to the dispenser. I use the pre-mix packets. Make sure the dispenser soap "pocket" is dry, insert the packet and close. If the door is closed and soap is in the dispenser, the dishes are dirty." — Heloise

HANDY WOODEN CLOTHESPIN

Dear Heloise: Wooden spring clothespins work well as identifiers for potted plants. Use a marker to write on the clothespin, and clip it to the edge of the pot. — Doris, via e-mail

UNZIPPED

Dear Heloise: When a zipper pull breaks, for a quick fix insert a paper clip in a color to match until you can repair or replace the zipper. — Sandra in New York

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Partner opens with One Heart. What would you respond with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ 9754 ♥ 102 ♦ AQ76 ♣ J82
2. ♠ K94 ♥ KQ3 ♦ AQ2 ♣ KQ63
3. ♠ KQ872 ♥ J954 ♦ 85 ♣ J4
4. ♠ K863 ♥ 73 ♦ J7 ♣ KJ985

Bidding Quiz

1. One spade. Since you're required to respond with six or more points, the only problem is whether to bid one spade or one notrump. The spade response is clearly better, since partner might have four spades, and you might miss a good spade contract if you respond one notrump. Contrary to the belief of some, the one-spade response does not promise greater values than a response of one notrump. Both responses indicate six or more points; the big difference is that the spade response has no upper limit, while the upper limit of one notrump is normally 10 points.

2. Three clubs. With 19 high-card points facing presumably 13 or more, you are obviously in the slam zone. The usual way of alerting partner to this situation is via a jump-shift. True, your clubs are not robust, but that is a minor consideration compared with the advantage of putting partner on notice that the strong possibility of a slam exists.

The hand is too strong for a direct response of three notrump, which would portray your distribution accurately but would understate your high-card values by two or three points.

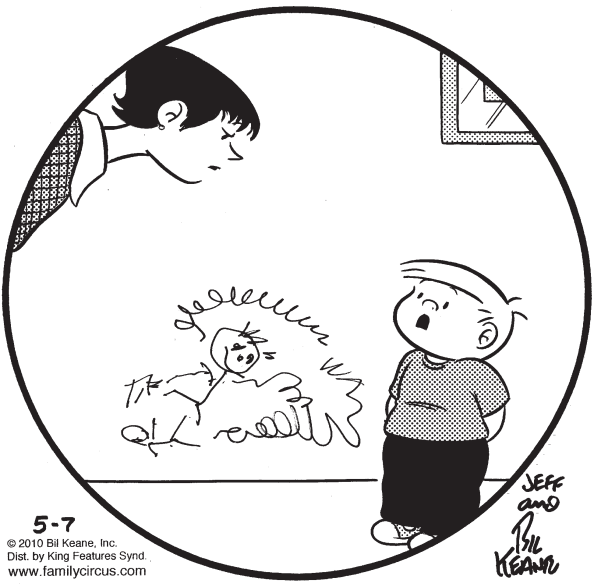
3. Two hearts. It is tempting to respond with one spade, but that would be the wrong bid. Your hand fits the description of a raise to two hearts: adequate trump support and six to 10 points in high cards and distribution.

A response of one spade might easily create a bidding problem later on that would be difficult to solve. For example, if partner were to rebid two hearts, you'd have to face the question of whether to bid again. A pass would suppress your heart support, while a raise to three hearts would amount to bidding twice on a hand worth only one bid. The easiest way to avoid such difficulties is to raise partner at once and let him take it from there.

4. One spade. Here you have three bids to consider — one spade, one notrump and two clubs. The best response over the long haul is one spade. As usual, the emphasis is on seeking a major-suit fit. The spade response also leaves room for a low-level notrump contract, while a one-notrump response bypasses the opportunity to find a spade fit. A two-club response must be ruled out because it would promise 10 or more points, which you don't have.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Cryptoquip

AI TI TVVDLXV VP BPWOD

VJD TMV VJADODB' QMALDB,

A I O D B V A K T V P M B T M D

XWTIIAIK VP QTIOTB VJD TMDT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FASHIONABLE YOUNG STUDENT IS THE ENERGETIC TYPE, I GUESS HE COULD BE A PEPPY PREPPY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**

1 Corral

4 Competent

8 Fancy

12 Roth

13 Trans-action

14 Took the bus

15 Old-fashioned music player

17 Unsigned (Abbr.)

18 Above

19 Relinquish

20 Bound bundles

22 Accomplishment

24 Debtor's worry

25 Sailor, often

29 Commotion

30 Dunkable treats

31 Neither partner

32 Flyer

34 Old portico

35 "My bad"
- 36** Prompter's job

37 Star of westerns?

40 String

41 Spell-bound

42 Wallet

46 Anger

47 Urban disturbance

48 Chemical element with the shortest name

49 Raised

50 Helps

51 Schedule abbr.
- 2** Geological period

3 Cream-filled oblong pastry

4 Threw in

5 Keg contents

6 Fond du —

7 Wapiti

8 Ghost

9 Sharpen

10 Pedestal occupant

11 Fix

16 Tied

19 Tibetan herd

20 Mediocre

21 Verdi opera

22 Senses
- 23** Greenpeace subj.

25 Faucet problem

26 Poison remedy

27 Middy

28 RuPaul's costuming

30 Bas-soon's cousin

33 Trailed relentlessly

34 Browse the Web

36 Indianapolis team

37 Zinger

38 Culture medium

39 Venetian magistrate

40 Oaf

42 Push-up provider?

43 Square root of IX

44 Illuminated

45 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-7

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		