

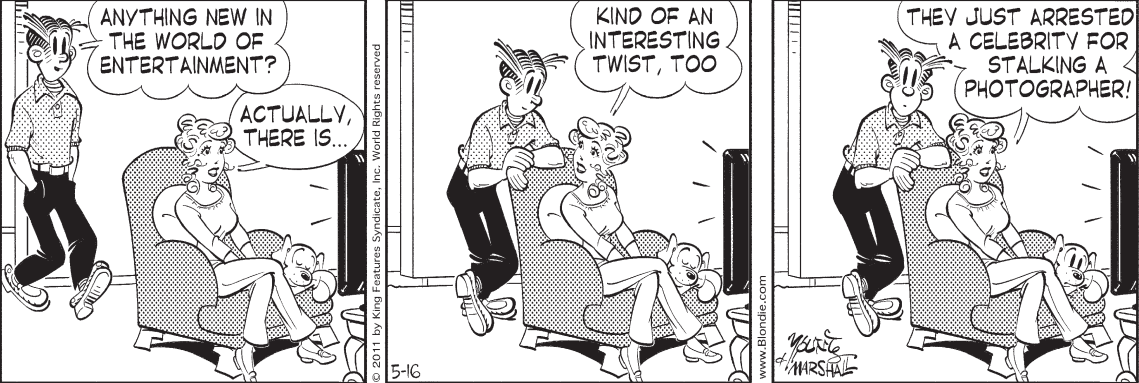
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



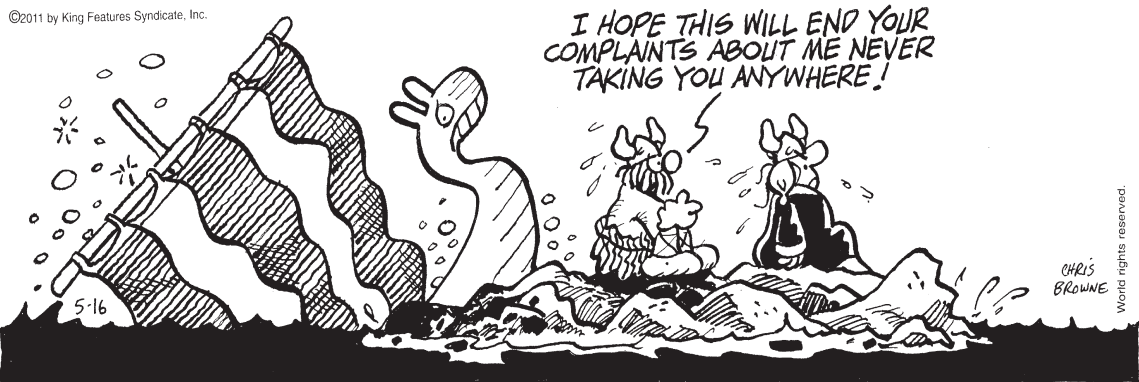
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



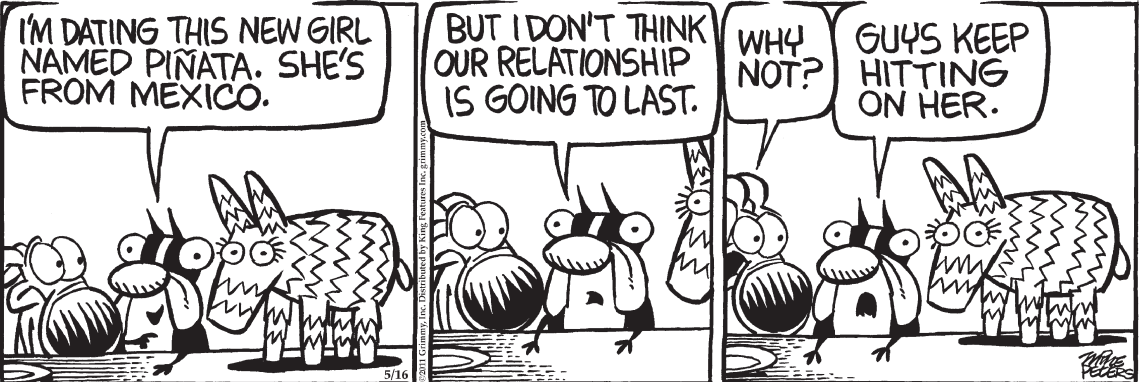
Blondie • Chic Young



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



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Fulfilling wishes beyond budget

Dear Dr. Brothers: My uncle was always eccentric. He was a jazz musician and lived like there was no tomorrow, so it's no surprise he died broke. Besides his elderly wife, I am his only living relative and it falls to me to be executor of his will. I cannot afford to fly to New Orleans to scatter his ashes, but I want to honor his memory. Help me put him to rest. – S.V.

Dear S.V.: It is kind of you to want to live up to your uncle's last wishes and scatter his ashes in his beloved New Orleans in spite of the fact that it's a hardship to you. I hope you were consulted about being his executor, as it requires responsibility as well as the capability to carry it out. If your uncle left any estate you can reimburse yourself for expenses in carrying out instructions. But it sounds like he would understand if you encountered a couple of detours on the road.

Since my advice is aimed at the psyche and not the pocketbook, let me assure you there probably would be little harm in planning a trip to New Orleans later, when you are able and feel you will do the best job of honoring your uncle. Perhaps he has a circle of friends who could get together for a toast, jam session or memorial service. No one is judging you and it sounds as though you have a good handle on your uncle's character. Just focus on your fond memories and let the timetable be flexible. He'd be fine with that.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I can't believe I spent thousands of dollars to send my son to college, only to have him back in the same room he grew up in! He's tried to get a job and wasn't keen on moving back in. But now it's uncomfortable. We're having the same arguments we had when he was a teen. I want to be supportive, but don't want him slacking off. Is there a balance? – G.S.

Dear G.S.: Your family is far from alone. And until the economy recovers – which could take years – more college grads will be heading back to mom and dad's basement. According to a study, at least one in eight students are in their childhood home while they look for that job. And in any family where there is an imbalance of power, there are stressors. While you don't want to treat your son as a teen, it's hard to think of him as a responsible adult when he hasn't left the nest. You need to reach an understanding in order to let your family mature and adapt.

Encourage your son to get a part-time job while he is searching. If you are able to support him, asking him to find something to do, even if it is volunteering, will make him feel competent and worthwhile. And he might make enough for food and gas. He should do something for which he has passion, and give it a chance to work into a "real" job. Establish household rules and routines together. The less discussion about every sock on the floor, the better.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♦ 7 6  
♥ 9 8 7 2  
♦ A 7 5  
♣ A 8 7 4  
WEST  
♦ A K Q 10 9 8 3  
♥ —  
♦ 10 8 2  
♣ J 10 3  
EAST  
♦ J 2  
♥ A K Q J 10 6  
♦ J 6 3  
♣ 5 2  
SOUTH  
♦ 5 4  
♥ 5 4 3  
♦ K Q 9 4  
♣ K Q 9 6

Famous Hand

The late Jean Besse of Switzerland, for decades one of Europe's top players, enjoyed telling this delightful story. It seems there was a pair championship going on in Paris. East-West were a couple of up-and-coming young players who were fighting hard to make their mark in the tournament.

They had played so slowly during the preceding round that, when they came to the next table to play against a new North-South pair, there wasn't even time to discuss what systems each pair was playing. (In tournaments, players must tell the opponents what conventions they use, such as Jacoby transfers, splinter bids, inverted minors, etc.)

The following bidding then took place on the hand shown in the diagram:

West North East South  
1 [S] Pass 2 [H] Pass  
4 [S] Pass 5 [H] Pass  
5 [S] Pass 6 [S] Pass  
Pass Dble

North led the ace of diamonds, South signaling for a continuation with the nine. North stowed for a while and eventually decided to play the ace of clubs. Again South signaled with the nine. North then had to decide whether to lead a diamond or a club. He finally led a diamond, won by South with the queen.

It was now South's turn to cogitate. Although West was already down 500, South gave the matter very serious thought. North had returned the seven of diamonds at trick three, apparently his highest one, thus marking declarer with at least one more diamond.

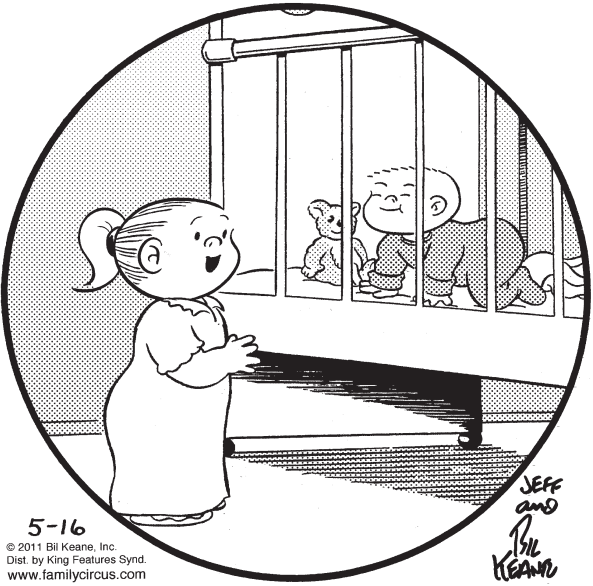
But South was still in doubt. He had a strong feeling that he should play the club king first. Finally, he turned to East and said: "Please – what system are you two playing?"

South's partner immediately interrupted and said: "Why do you ask such a question? Don't tell me you want to learn this system!"

West went down four – 1,100.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, guess who's up and had a very good night's sleep."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

5/16

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

A E K W G T F N J O N E K O N ' U

L G G E L P " O P J K T Z L T L W G U F

P L W F Z " K L O J , B G J U C J J A Z

P L A Z C L U U J A N J K C L U F B K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STREAM AT WHICH REVERED HINDU TEACHERS CONGREGATE AND DISCUSS ESOTERIC MATTERS: SWAMI RIVER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Marsh-land  
4 Trusty horse  
9 Easter entree  
12 "Hail, Caesar!"  
13 Individually owned apartment  
14 Exist  
15 Scary party time  
17 Allow  
18 Summer (Fr.)  
19 Simo-leons  
21 Angora yarn  
24 Upper limbs  
25 Lawyers' org.  
26 — Lingus  
28 Wait patiently  
31 Game played on horse-back  
33 New-comer to society  
35 Poi base  
36 Alabama city  
38 Ever-green type

40 Greek cross  
41 Crumbly earth  
43 Teen's wall decoration  
45 Oppor-tunity  
47 Tribute in verse  
48 That woman  
49 Spice Girl  
54 Noah's boat  
55 Bottled water brand  
56 Storm center  
57 Two (Sp.)  
58 Prognos-ticators

59 Small barrel  
DOWN  
1 "Hum-bug!"  
2 Eggs  
3 Come together  
4 Nova —  
5 Rose to great heights  
6 Away from WSW  
7 Plant swelling  
8 Philan-thropists, e.g.  
9 Austrian city important in the Iron Age  
10 Neigh-borhood  
11 Christian denom.  
16 Meadow  
20 Leave out  
21 Charts  
22 Reed instru-ment  
23 Distin-guishing character-istics  
27 Ump  
29 Scottish hillside  
30 Thy  
32 Muscat's country  
34 Manic-depres-sive  
37 Mc-Donald's logo  
39 "The Thinker" and "The Kiss," e.g.  
42 Go  
44 Stitch  
45 African nation  
46 Medal earner  
50 False-hood  
51 "A mouse!"  
52 Caustic solution  
53 Journey segment

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 5-16

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
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					59		