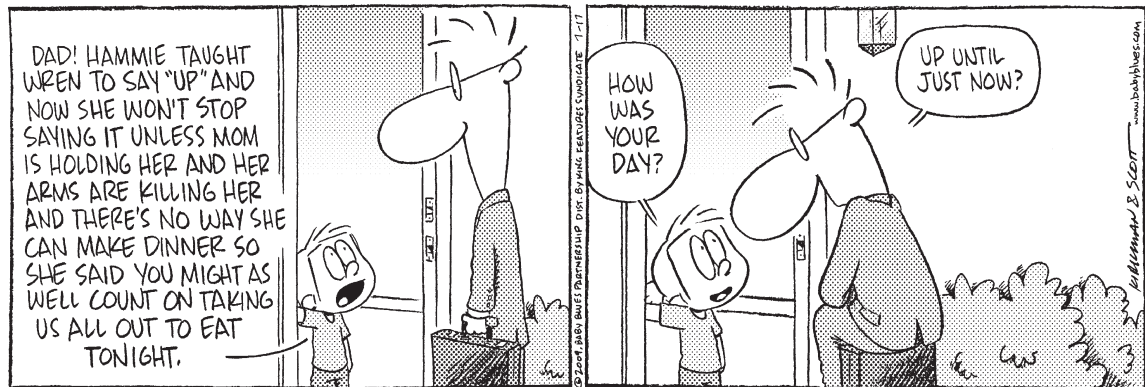
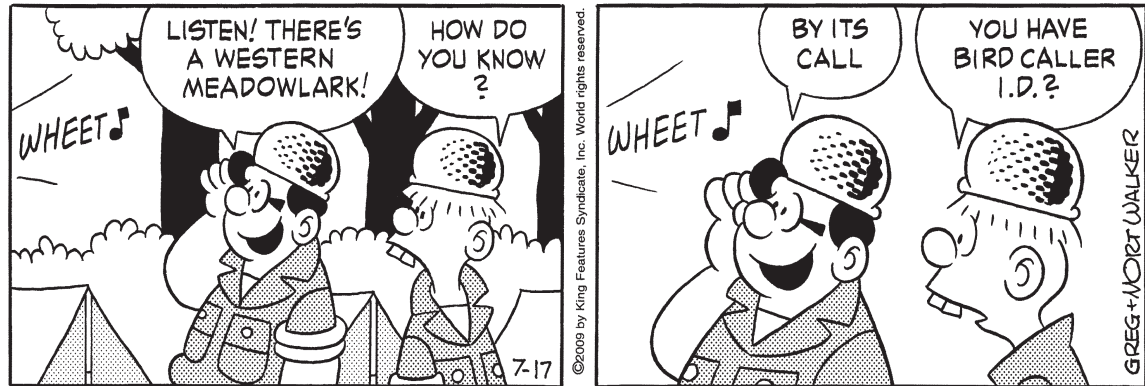


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



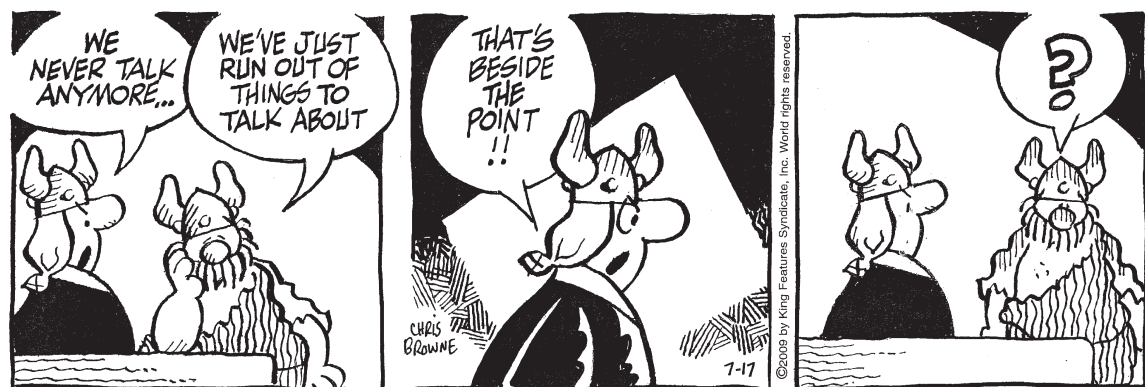
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



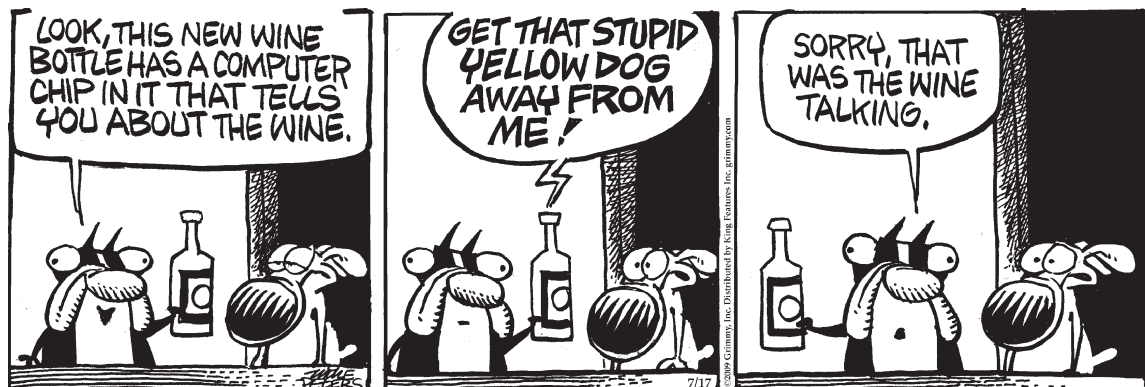
**Blondie** • Chic Young



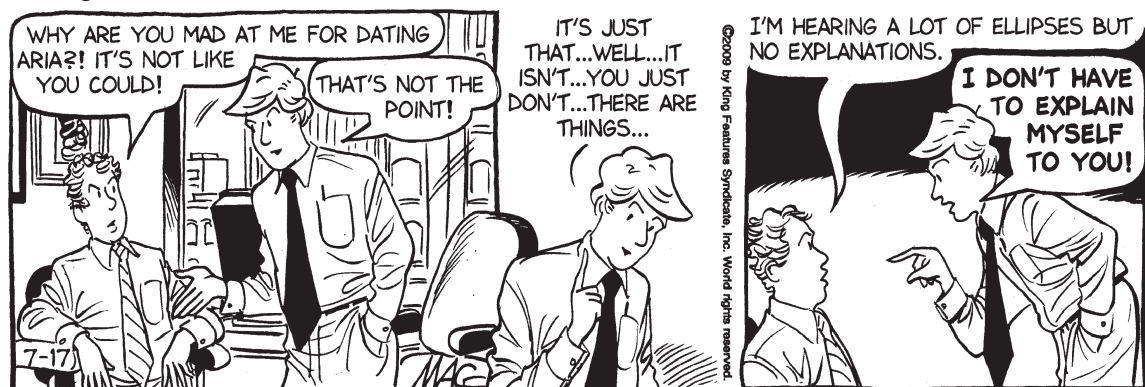
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



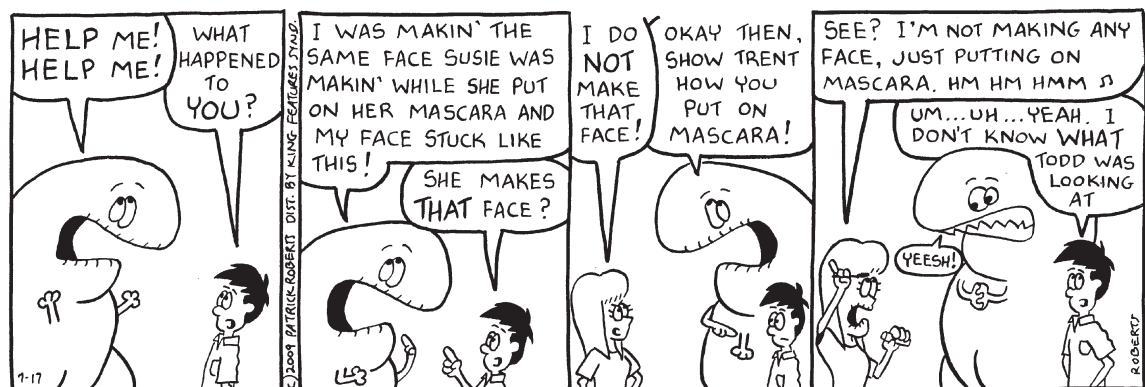
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



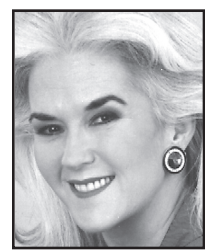
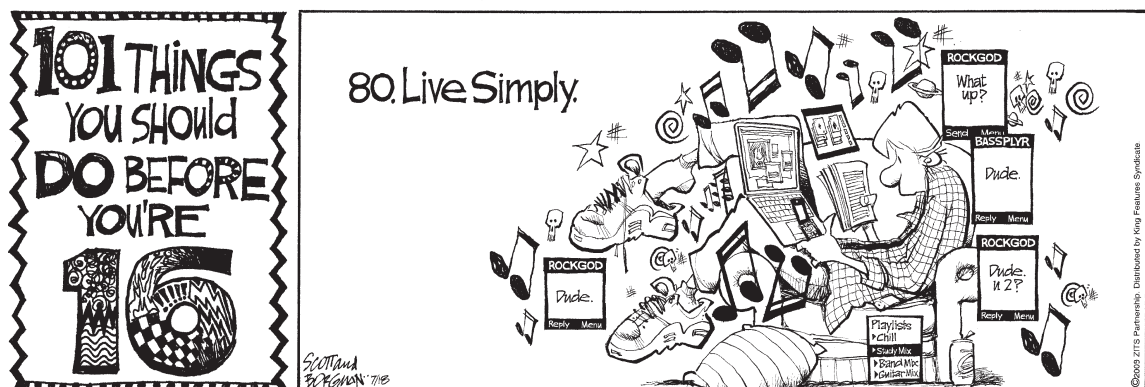
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**These pairings shouldn't happen**

Dear Heloise: Are any of the CLEANING CHEMICALS you suggest harmful if mixed together? — A Reader, via e-mail

This is a really good question! There are many cleaning products that should NEVER be mixed together. Any product containing bleach should NOT be combined with those containing ammonia. This causes a poisonous gas, can make you sick and even can cause death. Always check labels on products! Bleach is in dishwasher detergents as well as products for mold and mildew.

I do have some money-saving formulas for cleaning products that are mixtures of safe household items, but most are mixed with water. For a complete list of low-cost cleaning solutions that you can make at home, send for my really informative pamphlet Heloise's Homemade Cleaning Solutions. The cost for this six-page booklet is \$5. Send your request, along with a self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cleaning, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. One easy solution for cleaning grout is to mix 1/4 cup borax, 1/2 cup baking soda and enough hot water to form a paste. Apply this to the grout, scrub with a soft brush and let it sit for 15-20 minutes, then rinse, and clean grout will appear! — Heloise

P.S.: However, if the grout is old and crumbling, no amount of cleaning will make it new again.

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: Most people take the telephone number of their credit-card and ATM-card companies when traveling overseas so they can report it if the card is lost or stolen. But, 800 numbers cannot be called from overseas, so make sure you take the card issuer's non-800 number with you. — Ronald Narmi, Alexandria, Va.

Ronald, how right you are! A previous reader hint is to let the card issuer know your travel dates and that you will be out of the country. — Heloise

**CAKE PLATE**

Dear Heloise: Most frozen pizzas come with a circle of cardboard beneath them. Dust this off and cover it with aluminum foil, and you have the perfect base for a round cake if you are donating one to a luncheon or selling one at a bake sale. It's better than a plate because it's easier to frost a cake on a flat surface, and you don't need to get it back. — Alexandra Roth, Falls Church, Va.

**HANDY BASKET**

Dear Heloise: I read with interest your handy uses for a plastic laundry basket. For years, I have kept a large, solid plastic basket in the trunk of my car. I use it when I get groceries or when I am taking several items to a potluck dinner. — Della, Colorado Springs, Colo.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	?	

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

- ♠ 732 ♥ Q2 ♦ K7632 ♣ J84
- ♠ Q76 ♥ Q104 ♦ 9652 ♣ AJ5
- ♠ QJ2 ♥ 7 ♦ K10542 ♣ J643
- ♠ K94 ♥ 8 ♦ J873 ♣ A9652

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Three hearts. First, it might be best to discuss the meaning of partner's three-club bid. It is a jump-shift, forcing to game, and in effect says: "Partner, I realize you may have only six points for your one-notrump response, but those six points are enough for us to make a game in some denomination."

2. Four hearts. Having limited your hand to six to 10 points by your initial response, you can afford to jump to four hearts without the risk of having the bid misunderstood. The nine points you have -- seven of which are in partner's two suits -- should prove to be highly useful. The reason for jumping to four hearts rather than bidding just three is to encourage partner to consider bidding a slam if he has a hand something like: [S] K5 [H] AKJ73 [D] A [C] KQ1082, in which case slam is a virtual laydown.

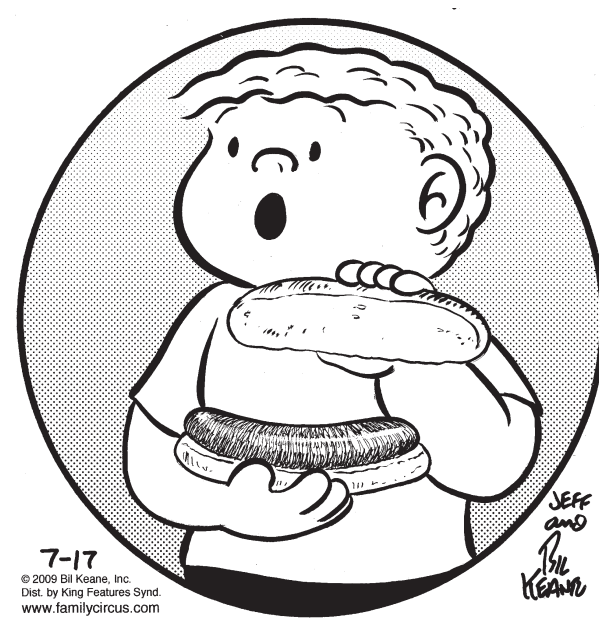
3. Three notrump. That's about all you can do with this hand. The nine-trick game in notrump looks more feasible than the 11-trick game in clubs. If partner passes, you should be all right, but if he rebids hearts or clubs, you will then carry on to five clubs.

4. Five clubs. Your stock went up considerably when partner jumped to three clubs. This assortment didn't look very imposing at the start, when game seemed doubtful, but the jump-shift has completely changed the picture.

It would be wrong to bid only four clubs, which you would also do with, say, five clubs to the queen instead of the ace. But with your actual holding, partner has to be apprised that the club raise is being given not just as a matter of obligation, but with genuine enthusiasm, so that if a slam is in the offing, partner will be encouraged to bid it.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Mommy, you left my hot dog blank."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

KUH ULZB OSG VPKSB VJ  
KMHYCM KMSE USNS NHXXLGC  
KMS PHJOSKLPJ PHYGKSN

XYK LK UVJ HGZE V NHYCS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON TELLS MANY FIBS AS HE IS DRIFTING OFF TO SLEEP, ONE MIGHT SAY HE'S LYING IN BED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Traffic light color  
6 Prevent volume  
9 Pump up the volume  
12 Price  
13 Midafternoon hour  
14 Powell co-star  
15 Old marketplace  
16 Decelerating  
18 Defeats quantity  
20 Paper  
21 Schuss  
23 Scratch  
24 Available  
25 Draftable  
27 Subject  
29 Messy domicile  
31 Request  
35 Swore, old-style  
37 Do in a dragon  
38 Possibly will

**DOWN**  
1 Actress Gardner  
2 Periodical  
3 Mind — (psychedelic)  
4 Continental coin  
5 Give the gun back  
6 Cafe  
7 Has a bug in city  
8 Extraterrestrial  
9 Unit  
10 Unusually small one  
11 Actress  
12 Japanese pond carp  
13 Towel designation  
14 Shun  
15 Give the gun back  
16 Cafe  
17 Has a bug in city  
18 Extraterrestrial  
19 Unit  
20 Unusually small one  
21 Utterly ruins  
22 Mythical reveler  
23 Enervate  
24 Japanese pond carp  
25 Towel designation  
26 Shun  
28 Champ  
30 Ancient boy king  
32 Circulating  
33 Rowboat need  
34 Reuben holder  
36 Ra, e.g.  
38 — Carta  
39 Dentist's task  
40 Garden statuette  
42 Pie case  
45 Unsigned (Abbr.)  
46 Hodgepodge  
48 Lemieux milieu  
50 Pair with an air  
51 Curvy letter

Yesterdays answer 7-17

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		
52						53			54		
55						56			57		