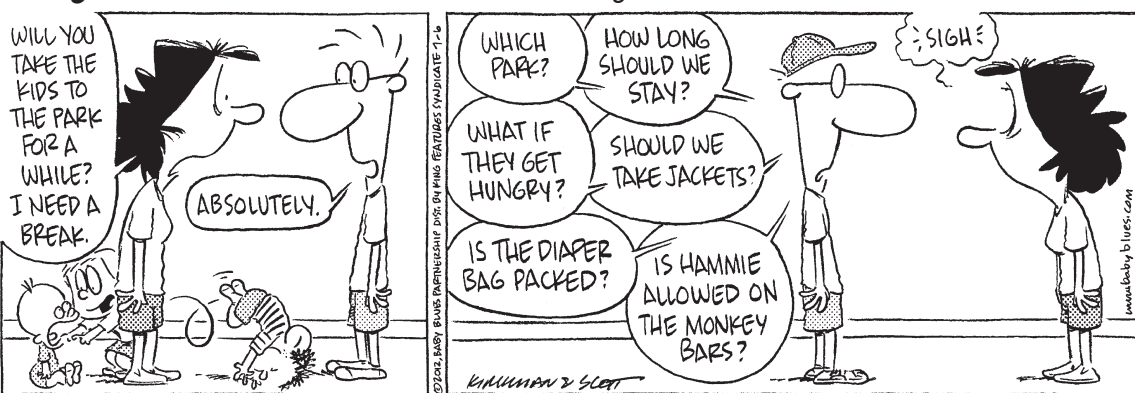


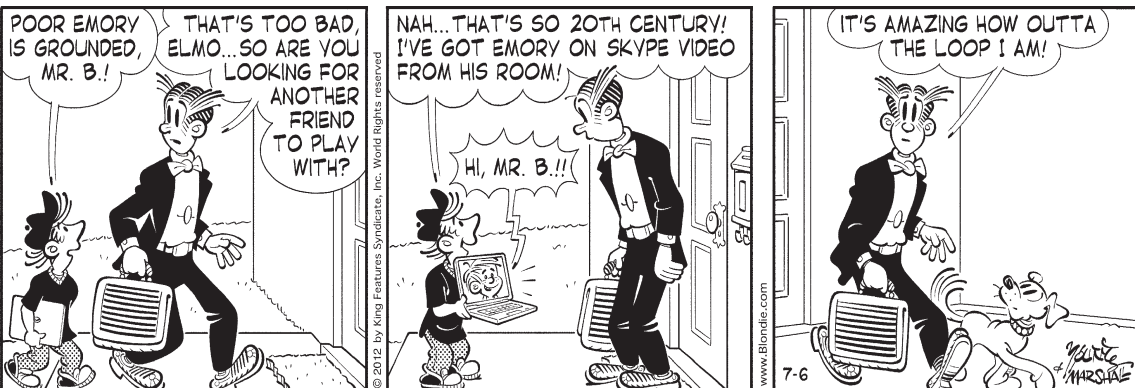
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



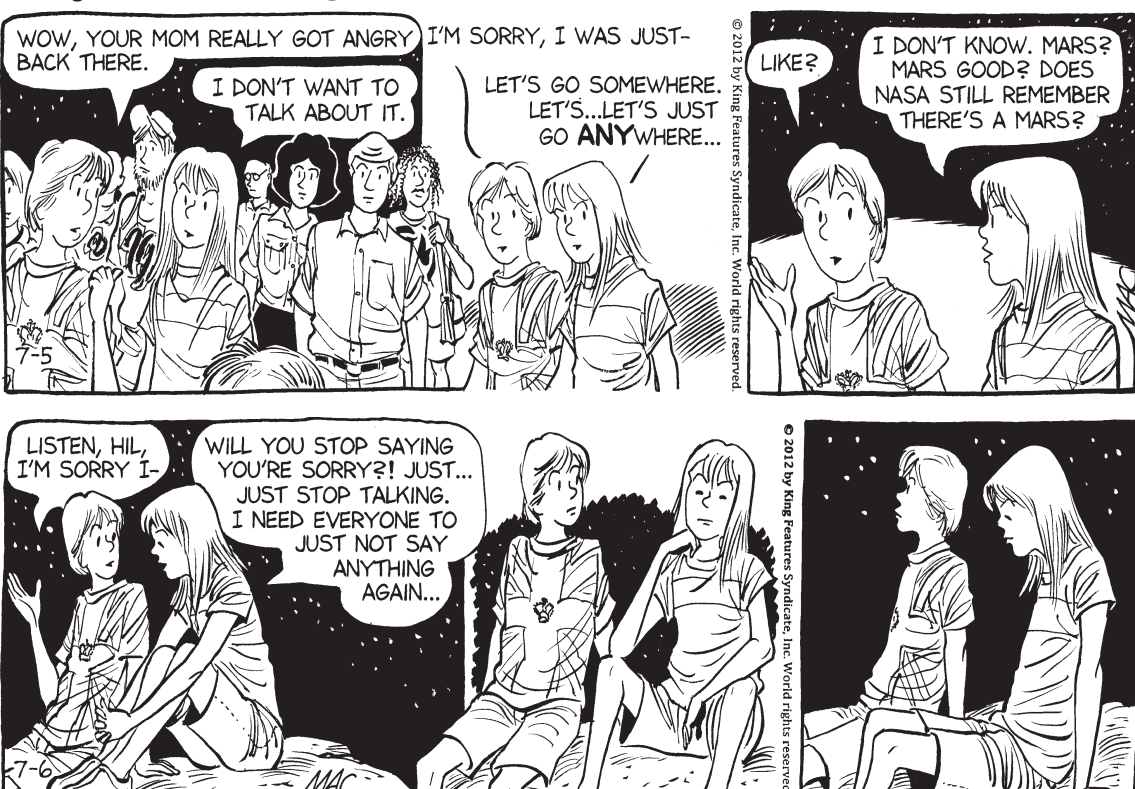
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



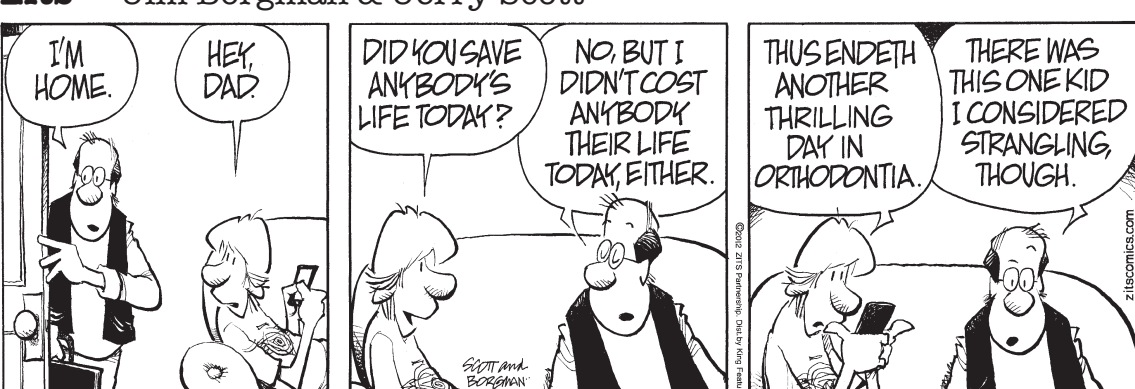
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Old keys serve 'locks' of causes**

Dear Readers: Many of you wrote in about a recent column concerning recycling old keys. Here is what some of you said:

- I once read about a church that needed funds for some project. They formed a "key club." To join, you had to donate your old keys. They sold them to a scrap-metal business and earned the funds they needed. — Carol in Ohio
- The locksmith that I use recycles both the old locks and the keys. — Barbara, via e-mail
- Give them to a preschool or kindergarten teacher. They are great for counting, patterning, grouping, comparing — the list goes on and on. — Penny in Ohio
- I used them to recognize staff where I work. I used a small label to put each name on a key, then tied the keys with narrow ribbon to a tree-branch centerpiece labeled "Keys to Our Success" for a staff-recognition party. — Sondra, via e-mail

Thanks for all the great ideas, and keep them coming! If you have other "key" hints, I'd love to hear more! — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: While traveling, I couldn't keep the shades shut in the hotel room. I finally used the pants hanger in the closet to clip them closed.

Also, after my postcards to friends arrived smeared, I placed clear packing tape over the message portion after I finished writing — clean and legible! — Jaide in Abilene, Texas

**GOOD NIGHT'S REST**

Dear Heloise: We did not get a headboard when we purchased our bedroom furniture set. I decided to make my own. I had my husband cut some wood to size for me. I purchased some inexpensive padding and a complementary fabric that I liked. I covered the wood in the padding and then stapled the fabric around it. It turned out great, and the best part is that I made it myself. — Janice in Hawaii

**RETURNED ITEMS**

Dear Heloise: The simplest and most reliable way of getting books and other items that were loaned out returned is to have a logbook and pen handy. I keep mine in a drawer near the front door. I jot down the person's name, what was borrowed and the date it was loaned. Sometimes even six months later, I can track down the missing item that was a little overdue and secure its return. — Pat G., La Jolla, Calif.

**SEW SIMPLE**

Dear Heloise: I enjoy all your hints! Years ago, I sewed clothes for two daughters and a son. I'm still sewing odds and ends of projects, and just the other day I figured out how to use a home product to make the points in collars easier. I took the ink container out of a ballpoint pen, and wow! In nothing flat, I have the corner turned and pointed. Thanks. — A Reader, via e-mail

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:  
♠ 974 ♥ 10 ♦ Q76 ♣ AKJ873

1. Your partner opens One Notrump, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?
2. Your partner opens One Spade, and you respond Two Clubs. Partner rebids Two Spades. What would you bid now?
3. Your right-hand opponent opens Three Hearts, and, after two passes, your partner doubles. What would you bid now?
4. Your partner opens One Spade, and you respond Two Clubs. Partner rebids Two Notrump. What would you bid now?

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Three notrump. You can't guarantee three notrump, but the odds heavily favor making it. Partner is extremely likely to have at least one heart stopper, so nine tricks in notrump, with the help of your club suit, are very probable.

Five clubs could be a better contract, but there's no practical way of investigating that possibility without giving up on the notrump game. You could bid three clubs over two hearts, but most players treat this bid as nonforcing, and that might end the auction.

2. Four spades. True, you have only 10 high-card points, but game is nevertheless probable after partner rebids spades, showing extra length in the suit. Your singleton heart has enormous value. It would be overly cautious to bid only three spades, as partner is unlikely to lose four tricks.

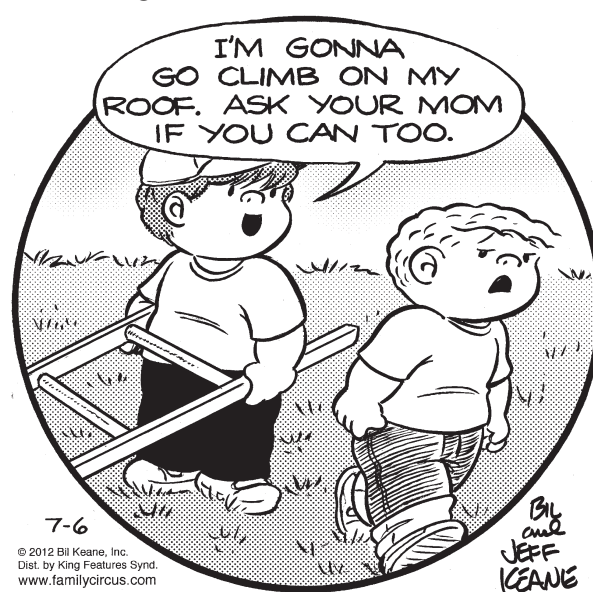
3. Five clubs. To bid only four clubs would not come anywhere close to doing your hand justice, since you could make the same bid with four or five small clubs and a worthless hand. The jump to five clubs represents your values fairly accurately. If partner passes, you'll probably make just five; if he raises to six clubs, you'll probably make that also.

4. Three spades. You could take a stab at three notrump, but, considering your 6-3-3-1 distribution, the hand will almost surely play better in spades.

The three-spade bid (forcing) asks partner to choose between spades and notrump, depending on his hand. Since you are in no position to judge what is best, you should let partner make the final decision. If he has something like: [S] Q8532 [H] AQ5 [D] KJ4 [C] Q6, three notrump is by far the best contract.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Okay, but I sure hope she says no."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

**Cryptoquip**

OX SDLXUTY! ZU FMDF OZC

D T W F L D Y Z D Q O Z L N ' W

U X X Y Z Q C W C X F M T L F, Z F

F X Q N W F A O X S A R X X R T - F Z A Q D Y.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG CONTEST TO DETERMINE WHICH SIDE IS ABLE TO BE MORE CONVINCINGLY WHINY: THE SNIVEL WAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                 |                             |                               |                                    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | <b>38</b> Get a glimpse of  | <b>2</b> Bath sponge          | <b>24</b> 90-degree angle          |
| <b>4</b> Wagerers' site (Abbr.) | <b>39</b> Crony (Abbr.)     | <b>3</b> Inept sort           | <b>25</b> School grp.              |
| <b>7</b> PC shortcut            | <b>41</b> IRS threat        | <b>4</b> Bygone carmaker      | <b>26</b> Your mate                |
| <b>12</b> Army rank (Abbr.)     | <b>47</b> Zero concern      | <b>5</b> Meditative exercises | <b>28</b> Ram's pivot              |
| <b>13</b> "7 Faces of Dr. —"    | <b>52</b> In olden days     | <b>6</b> Center of emotions   | <b>30</b> Dine                     |
| <b>14</b> Garden invader        | <b>53</b> Scent             | <b>7</b> Created 8 Spring mo. | <b>31</b> Pirouette sign abbr.     |
| <b>15</b> Chit                  | <b>54</b> Lubricate         | <b>9</b> Greek X              | <b>32</b> Knock                    |
| <b>16</b> Data reader           | <b>55</b> Each "6 Rms — Vu" | <b>10</b> "6 Rms — Vu"        | <b>33</b> Boot attachment          |
| <b>18</b> Salamander            | <b>57</b> "Erie Canal" mule | <b>11</b> Praise in verse     | <b>37</b> "Twelfth Night" countess |
| <b>19</b> Teatime treat         | <b>58</b> Stab              | <b>17</b> Recognize           | <b>40</b> Farewell                 |
| <b>20</b> Bronx cheer           |                             | <b>21</b> Polish money        | <b>42</b> Unsuitable               |
| <b>22</b> Med. arrangement      |                             | <b>23</b> Viennese dance      | <b>43</b> Niamey's nation          |
| <b>23</b> Cried                 |                             |                               | <b>44</b> Magnificence             |
| <b>27</b> Mainlander's memento  |                             |                               | <b>45</b> Leading man?             |
| <b>29</b> Affluence             |                             |                               | <b>46</b> Snitch                   |
| <b>31</b> Pitch                 |                             |                               | <b>48</b> Young fellow             |
| <b>34</b> Soothe                |                             |                               | <b>49</b> Playwright Levin         |
| <b>35</b> Speechifies           |                             |                               | <b>50</b> "Kidding!"               |
| <b>37</b> Mel of baseball       |                             |                               | <b>51</b> Ostrich's cousin         |

Yesterday's answer 7-6

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	