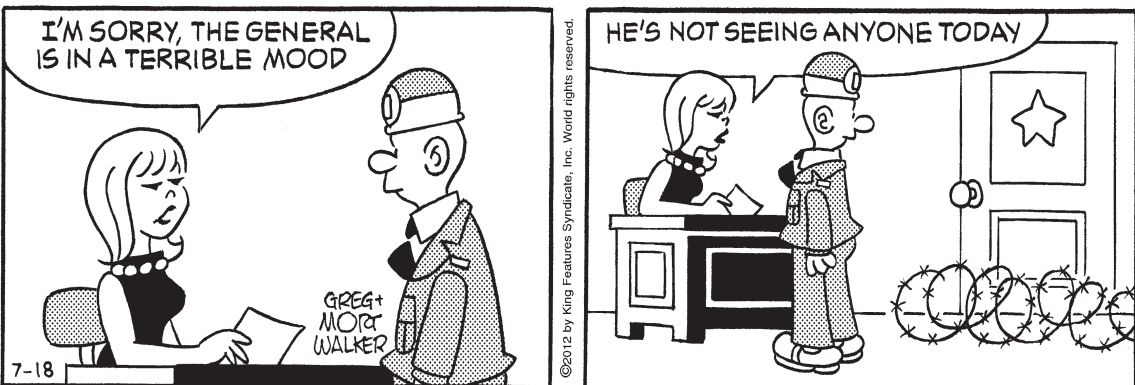


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



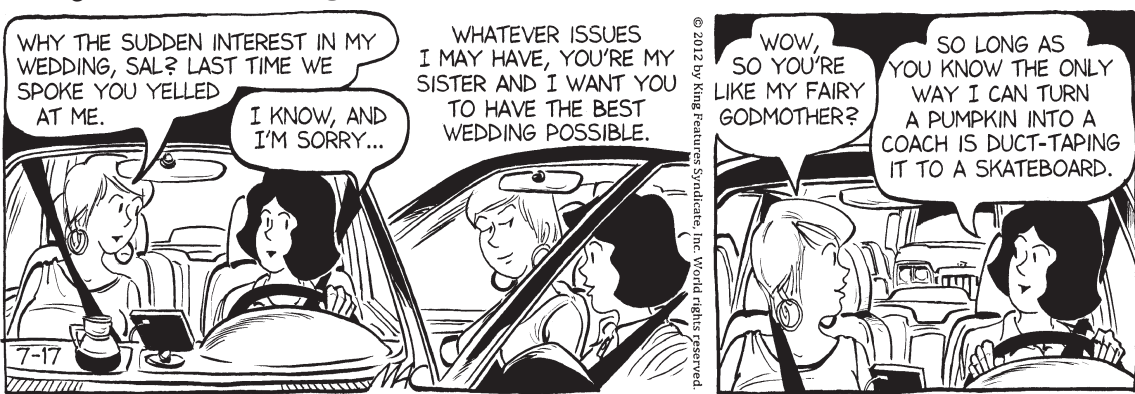
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



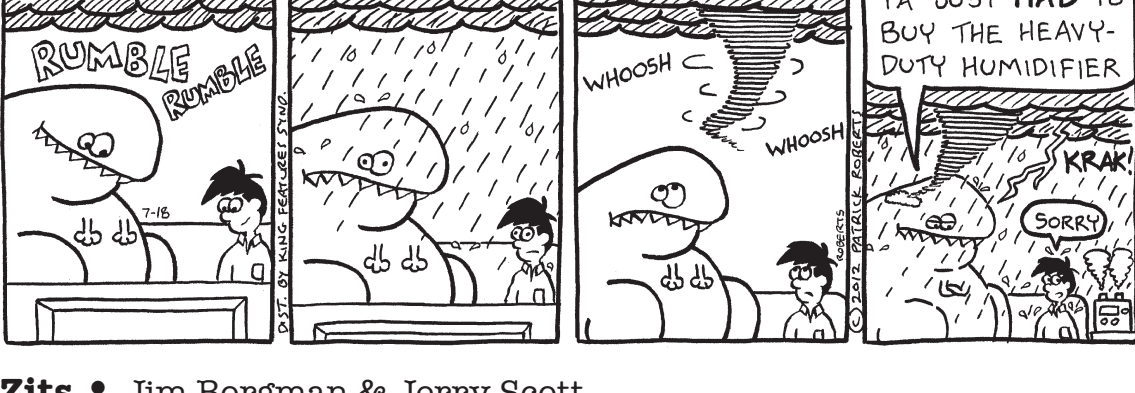
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**How many days will olives keep?**

Dear Heloise: I've enjoyed your column for years, and I trust your expertise.

We buy olives at the olive bars of high-end grocery stores and use the takeout containers to bring them home.

When should they be tossed out? My husband insists that since they are cured and brined, they are good for weeks. I've noticed they change color after seven days, at which time I refuse to eat them. Since they're expensive, I'd appreciate your guidance. Thanks! - D.J.F., via e-mail

Happy to help, and I buy olives from the olive bar, too, as I'm an olive lover! The short answer is that as long as you keep them in the liquid they came in (typically a brine or water-based solution), they are safe to eat, stored in the refrigerator, for a month or two - if they last that long!

If you buy olives from an olive bar, be sure the turnover of new olives is often. Olive colors will vary, but try to purchase firm olives with enough brine to keep them covered and moist. - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

**STORING MUSTARD**

Dear Readers: Mustard is a must to have on hand, and there are so many tasty ones! But where do you store it - in the refrigerator or the pantry? Manufacturers recommend that mustard goes into the refrigerator after opening for the best flavor. However, since there are no ingredients in mustard that can "go bad" without refrigeration, the counter or pantry is just fine! - Heloise

**ITALIAN-DRESSING HINTS**

Dear Heloise: I love to experiment in the kitchen, and one of the staples I always keep on hand is Italian-style salad dressing. Here are some of the ways I use it in everyday cooking:

I marinate chicken in the dressing and then grill it or bake it in the oven.

I take cooked pasta, chopped tomatoes and peppers (red, orange and yellow), and toss it with a little mayonnaise, then add enough dressing to coat. Let chill before serving.

Finally, I love baked potatoes. Instead of all the fattening butter and sour cream, I keep a small dish of dressing to dip the potato in. - Karen W. in Pennsylvania

**MANUAL CAN OPENER**

Dear Heloise: I know that electric can openers are popular, but I always keep a manual can opener in my kitchen. I do this for two reasons: They are easier to clean (you can just throw them in the dishwasher when dirty), and if the electricity goes out, you can still get all your canned goods opened. - Fran W., via e-mail

**STALE CHIPS**

Dear Heloise: Here is a use for stale chips: I toss them into a baking pan, then slice an onion over them. I pour cream of mushroom soup over this and bake at 350 F for about an hour. They are just like scalloped potatoes. - Christal in Ohio

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 7 2  
♥ 2  
♦ K Q 5 4 3  
♣ A K 7 4

**WEST**  
♠ A Q J 3  
♥ Q 10 8 7  
♦ 9 8  
♣ Q J 8

**EAST**  
♠ 9 6  
♥ A J 4  
♦ A J 7 6 2  
♣ 10 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ 10 8 5 4  
♥ K 9 6 5 3  
♦ 10  
♣ 9 6 3

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♣ 1 ♦ Pass Pass  
Dblc Pass Pass 1 ♥  
Dblc Redble Pass 1 ♠  
Dblc Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead - queen of spades.

**Strike While the Iron Is Hot**

The value of a hand is often affected by bids the other players make, and a good part of what is called bidding skill rests on how well one re-evaluates the worth of a hand as the bidding progresses. Here is a case in point. The deal occurred in a national team-of-four championship. Some players might pass initially with the West hand, but Mike Becker opened the bidding with one club.

North overcalled with one diamond, which East (Andy Bernstein) passed (in the partnership style, a double by East would have been for take-out). Despite his anemic values, Becker chose to reopen the bidding with a takeout double after South passed one diamond. East was happy to let the double stand, but South was not and ran to one heart.

Sensing that his opponents were in trouble, West doubled, this time for penalties. After North made an SOS redouble, asking his partner to choose another suit, South retreated to one spade, again doubled by West, and this became the final contract.

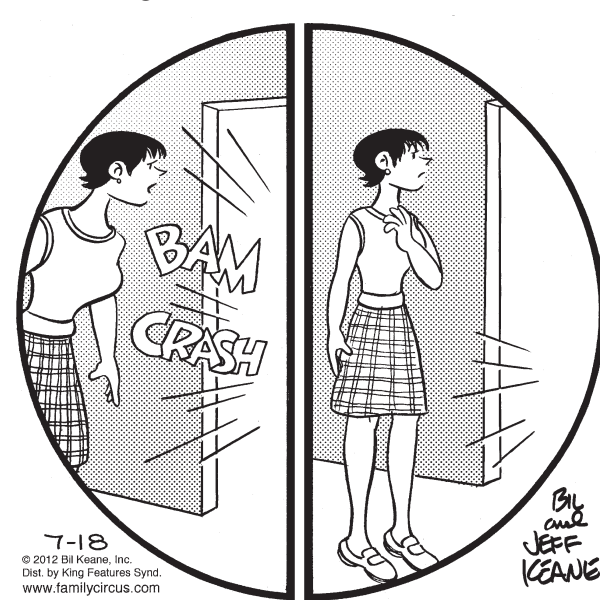
Becker's bidding was indeed remarkable. He had opened on minimum values and had then doubled every time it was his turn to bid - just as though he had opened a super hand.

Moreover, West found the killing lead of the queen of spades. Declarer ducked in dummy, naturally assuming that West had the Q-J and East the ace. West then played the ace and another spade.

South eventually went down three for a loss of 500 points, and West was exceptionally well-rewarded for recognizing that even a minimum opening bid can sometimes change its complexion and become a powerhouse.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Cryptoquip**

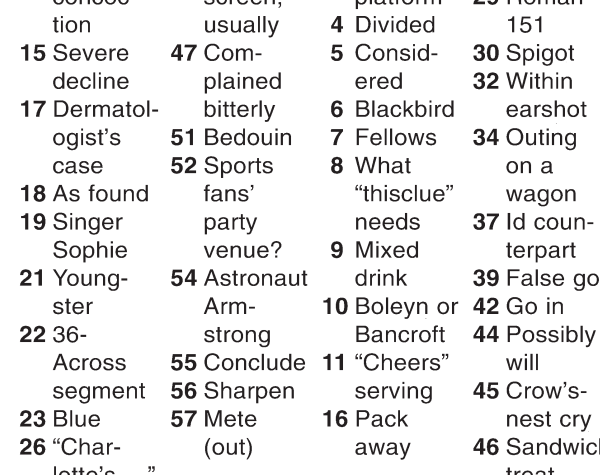
HAUZUKUE Q LWUGIA B  
EXNFA SEBHQZF XC GK'L  
AUETBZ XE MQMR, CXMWL LBR  
Q'KU IEUBGUS B TNZLGUE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MILITARY UNIT SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO PROTECT AN OLD SITCOM TITLE CHARACTER: THE MAUDE SQUAD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals V

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Throws in
  - 5 Tatter
  - 8 Wound cover
  - 12 Tide type dir.
  - 14 Corn concoction
  - 15 Severe decline
  - 17 Dermatologist's case
  - 18 As found
  - 19 Singer Sophie
  - 21 Youngster
  - 22 36-Across segment
  - 23 Blue
  - 26 "Char-lotte's -"
  - 28 Make into law
  - 31 Old portico
  - 33 Homer's interjection
  - 35 Arizona river
  - 36 Variety show
- DOWN**
- 38 Talk on loaf
  - 40 Back talk
  - 41 Advantage
  - 43 Sweet potato's kin
  - 45 Sun-screen, usually
  - 47 Com-plained bitterly
  - 51 Bedouin
  - 52 Sports fans' party venue?
  - 54 Astronaut Arm-strong
  - 55 Conclude
  - 56 Sharpen
  - 57 Mete (out)
  - 8 Deli
  - 9 Despot
  - 1 Opposed
  - 2 Campus bigwig
  - 3 Raised platform
  - 4 Divided
  - 5 Considered
  - 6 Blackbird
  - 7 Fellows
  - 8 What "thisclue" needs
  - 9 Mixed drink
  - 10 Boleyn or Bancroft
  - 11 "Cheers" serving
  - 16 Pack away
  - 20 Guitar's cousin
  - 23 Georgia's ex-status (Abbr.)
  - 24 Chowed down
  - 25 Overlap
  - 27 Marsh platform
  - 29 Roman 151
  - 30 Spigot
  - 32 Within earshot
  - 34 Outing on a wagon
  - 37 Id counterpart
  - 39 False god
  - 42 Go in
  - 44 Possibly will
  - 45 Crow's-nest cry
  - 46 Sandwich treat
  - 48 Neighbor of Cambodia
  - 49 Sicilian spouter
  - 50 Antelope's playmate
  - 53 Whatever amount



Yesterday's answer 7-18

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		