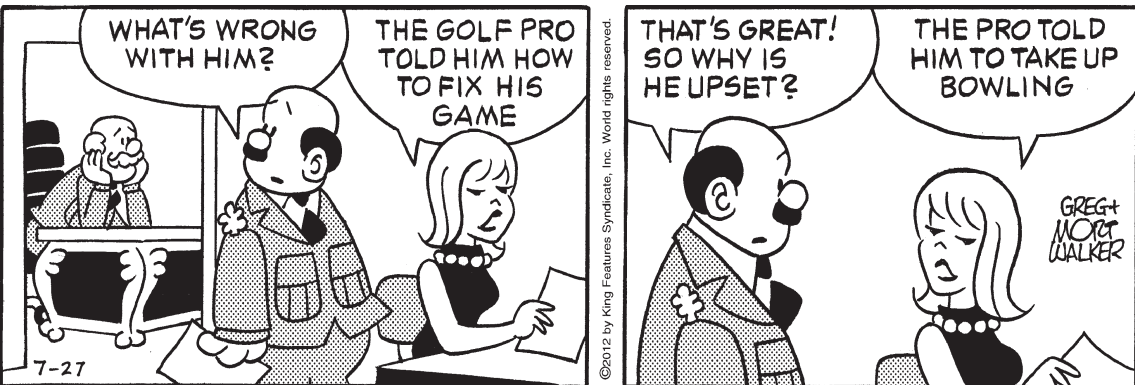


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



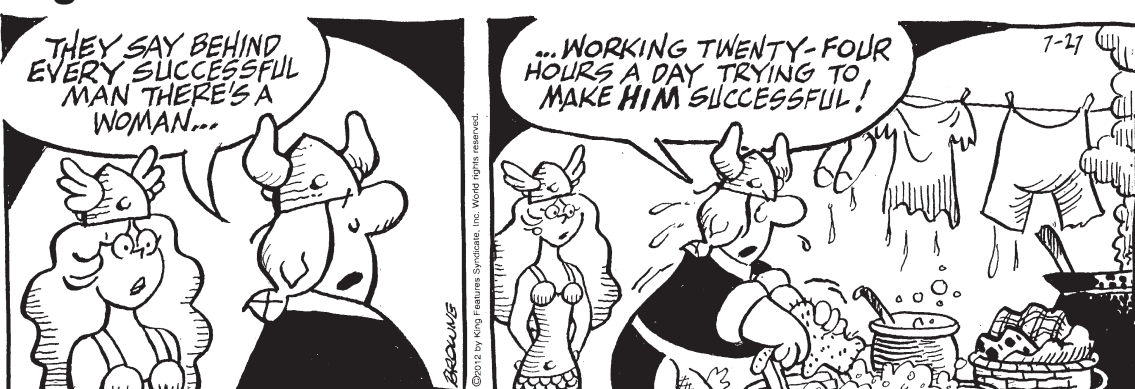
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



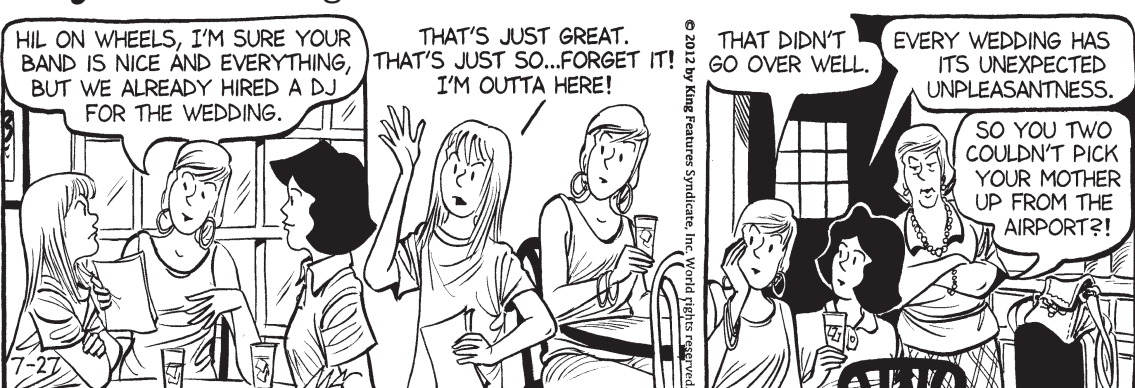
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



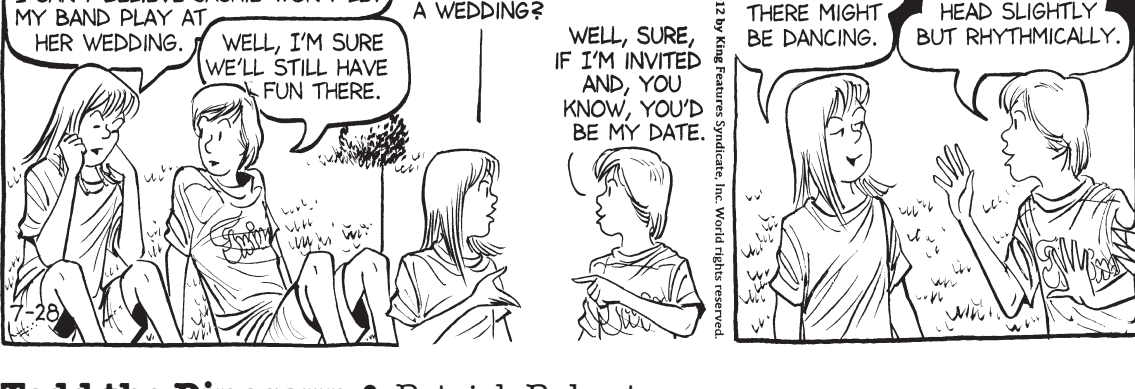
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



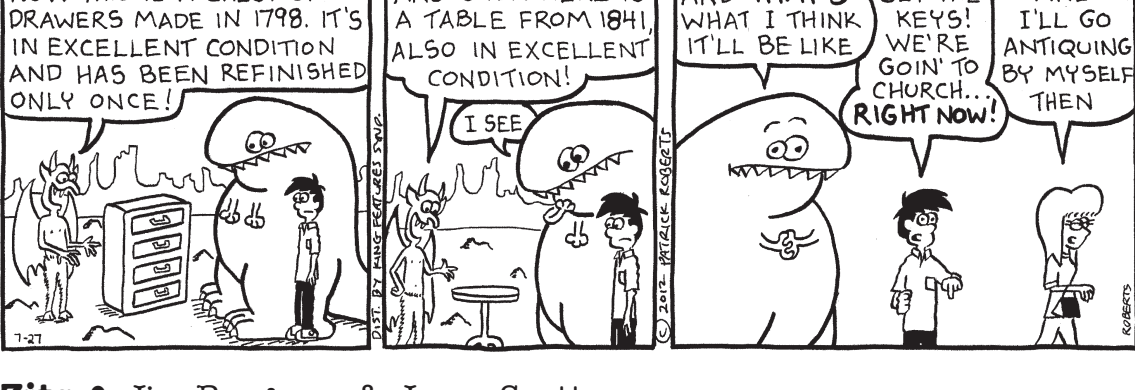
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



- Hints from Heloise

**Network sites need careful use**

Dear Readers: Are you active on a social-networking site? Here are some helpful hints to keep in mind when you are online:

- Potential employers, college admissions and loan reps may check out your profile as part of the information-gathering process.
  - Don't post embarrassing photos or personal information of friends or co-workers.
  - Do use privacy settings to limit access to your page.
  - Untag yourself from a photo, or delete comments that were posted without your permission.
- Here are some other things that are OK to do:
- Remove someone from your friends.
  - Ignore a friend request, especially if you do not know the person.

Many thanks to my friend Peggy Post (and the Emily Post Institute) for these points that will help you be safe online. Just remember, anything you post (even if you delete it) is out there forever!

Visit my website, [www.Heloise.com](http://www.Heloise.com), for links to my Facebook and Twitter pages – hints, fun facts and more! Come see photos and check out what's happening. – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
E-mail: [Heloise@Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise@Heloise.com)

**CHECKS AND BALANCES**

Dear Readers: Do you have leftover checks from an old bank account? Most banks will gladly shred them for you, even if they are not from their bank. Check with your branch. Some even have specific days that they will shred personal paperwork that you have for free. – Heloise

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: When traveling, I pack my cell-phone charger in my carry-on luggage. If my flight is delayed and I am stuck in the airport, I usually drain my battery using my phone. This way, I have the charger. Or if my luggage doesn't make it to my destination, I have my charger and can use my phone. – Sheila in Florida

**EXTRA ROOM**

Dear Heloise: In my first few months of pregnancy, my pants started to become tight. I wasn't ready to buy maternity clothes just yet, so I found a trick to make my pants last a little longer. I took a rubber band and slipped it through the buttonhole. I took the two loops and wrapped them around the button. It gave me the extra room I needed without having to spend a whole bunch on a new wardrobe. – Rebecca in Kentucky

**NAIL BITING**

Dear Heloise: I used to bite my nails. It had become a habit that I could not break. I finally broke it by painting my nails! I didn't want to mess them up, so I wouldn't bite them. It took a few months, but I finally broke the urge to chew on my nails. – Lee in Florida

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:  
West North East South  
1 ♦ Dble Pass ?  
What would you bid with each of the following four hands?  
1. ♠ A983 ♥ A983 ♦ 6 ♣ Q986  
2. ♠ J84 ♥ Q72 ♦ KJ83 ♣ A96  
3. ♠ 9 ♥ J642 ♦ 8653 ♣ AQ87  
4. ♠ KJ87532 ♥ 10 ♦ J4 ♣ 954  
\*\*\*

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Two diamonds. Assume you have this hand and your partner, the dealer, opens the bidding with a spade, a heart or a club. You would presumably drive the hand to at least a game – even if you were by nature an underbidder.

The fact that an opponent opens the bidding should not alter your assessment of a hand after partner doubles, indicating support for the unbid suits and the values for an opening bid. In this case, you should certainly feel your side has a game, and the only question is how to reach it.

Rather than try to guess partner's best suit by jumping to game in one of your own suits, it is better to cuebid diamonds and force him to choose a suit. You can then raise to game in whatever suit he names.

2. Two notrump. You don't often hold 11 points when partner makes a takeout double, but when you do, you must show them by making a jump-response (or by cuebidding the opponents' suit, as in the previous problem). Here, the most illuminating bid you can make is two notrump, showing a balanced hand of 10 to 12 points with the opponents' suit stopped. Partner can then pass or bid on as he chooses.

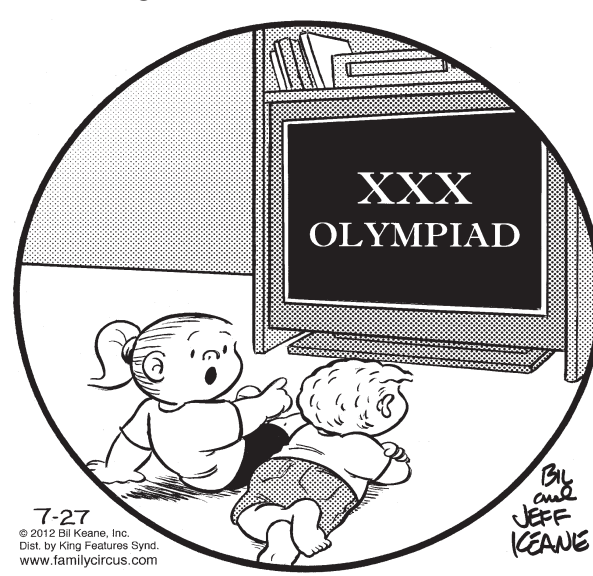
3. One heart. Here you're a trifle short for a jump-response, so the only problem is whether to bid one heart or two clubs. One heart is better largely because the doubler is nearly always more interested in hearing about a major suit than a minor suit. This is readily understandable, since it is easier to make a 10-trick game than an 11-trick game.

The heart response will lead to a sound game far more often than a two-club response, despite the great difference in the quality of the two suits.

4. Three spades. This is not a strength-showing bid; it merely says you have great spade length. It is a pre-emptive bid similar to an opening three-bid. Partner can pass with minimum values for his double or carry on to game with a bit extra. Strength-showing responses would be two spades (invitational), four spades or a cuebid of the opponents' suit.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



7-27  
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[www.familycircus.com](http://www.familycircus.com)

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/27

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

**Cryptoquip**

H TQIN BDIBJD NLI PHQC

HV PAQ VI CMHJJ LIJDW

VLMIAYL WIJHC MIST, RAV

H SIQWHCDM HV RIMHQY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD WESTERN FRONTIER LAWMAN WHO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF COMMITTING A CRIME HIMSELF: WYATT PERP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 CNBC's Cramer
  - 4 Oxen's burden
  - 8 Links warning
  - 12 Oklahoma city
  - 13 State with certainty
  - 14 Egyptian wading bird
  - 15 Observing
  - 17 Goes up and down
  - 18 LummoX
  - 19 Not just plump
  - 20 "Yippeel!"
  - 22 Classic Welles role
  - 24 Settled down
  - 25 Strong
  - 29 Director Howard
  - 30 Customs
  - 31 Compass dir.
  - 32 Brought into disrepute
  - 34 Elevator name
- DOWN**
- 1 Mandible
  - 2 Mrs. McKinley
  - 3 In harmony
  - 4 "Gulliver's Travels" brute
  - 5 "Metamorphoses" writer
  - 6 Barbie's companion
  - 7 Work unit
  - 8 Untruthful one
  - 9 Reed instrument
  - 10 Cage components
  - 11 Being, to Brutus
  - 16 Coagulate
  - 19 Individuals
  - 20 Hospital section
  - 21 Lotion additive
  - 22 "M\*A\*S\*H" locale
  - 23 Dumb-struck
  - 25 Space-craft compartments
  - 26 Attractive
  - 27 Monad
  - 28 Not so much
  - 30 Shopping center
  - 33 — in (restricted)
  - 34 Inauguration recitation
  - 36 Pie nut
  - 37 Sahara-like
  - 38 Sit for a photo
  - 39 Bronchial sound
  - 40 Goblet feature
  - 42 Tablet
  - 43 Glass of NPR
  - 44 Big Apple sch.
  - 45 Jewel

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-27

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	