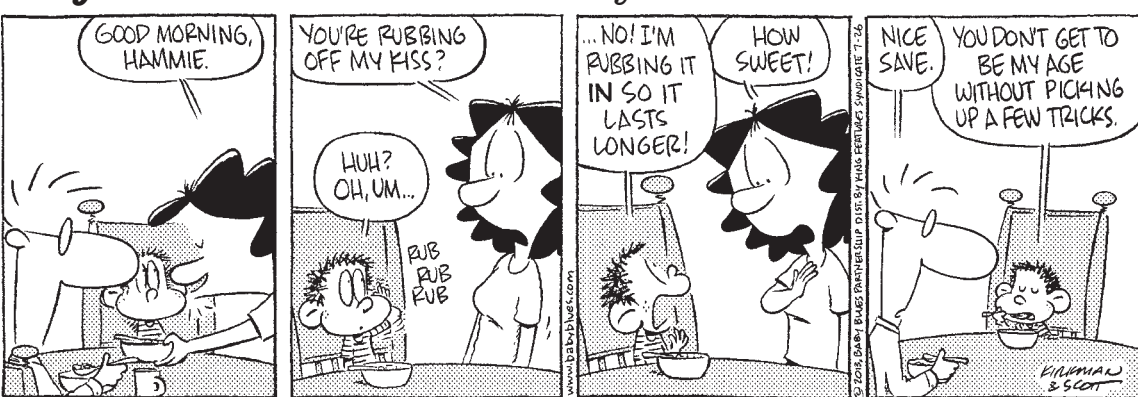
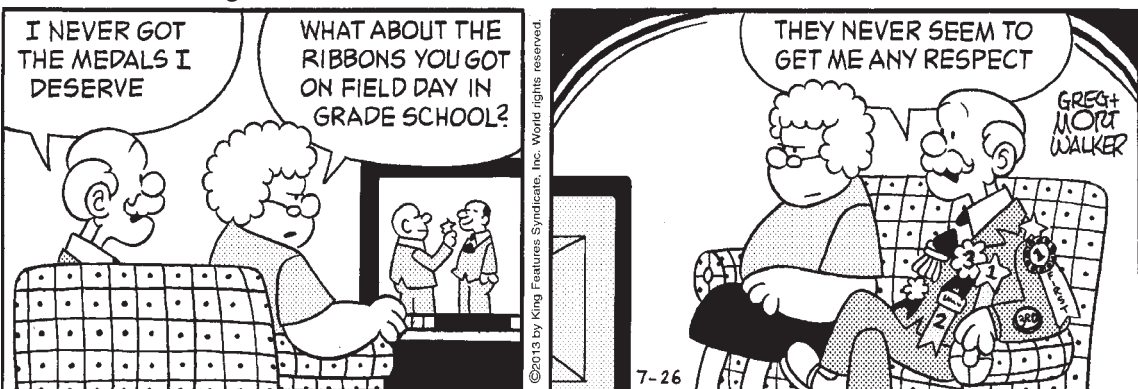


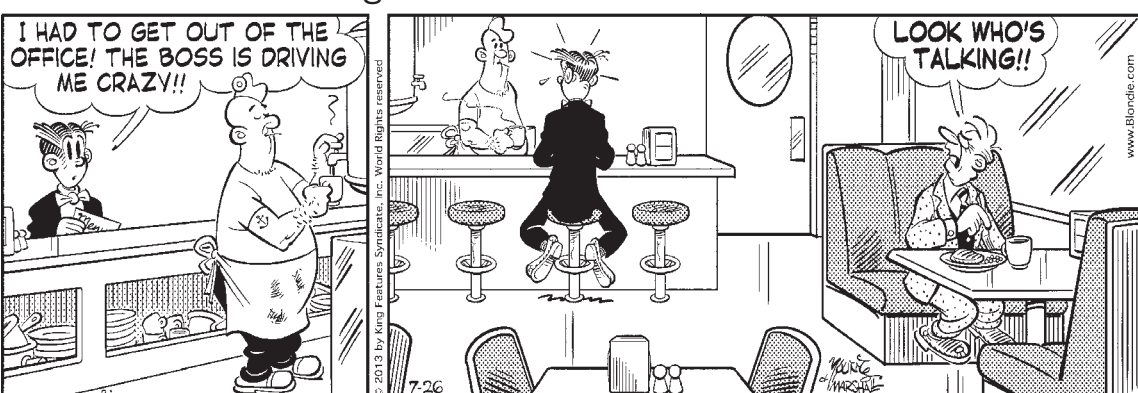
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



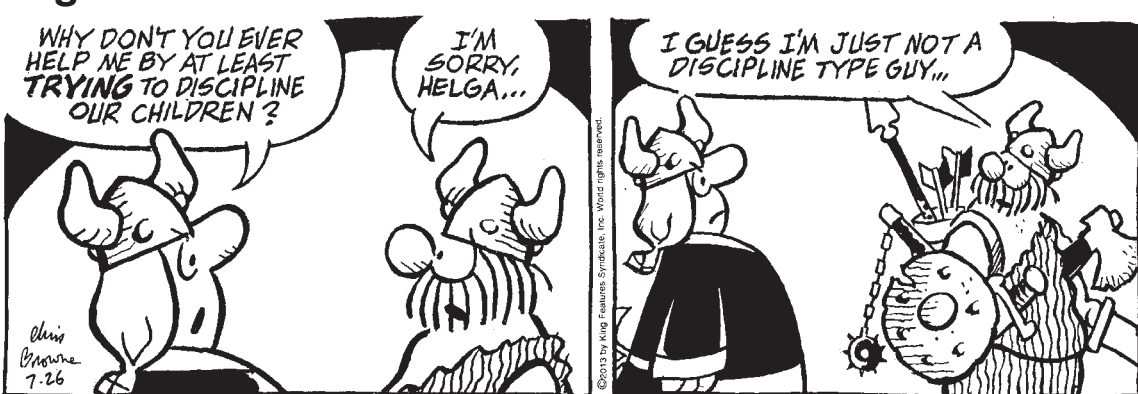
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



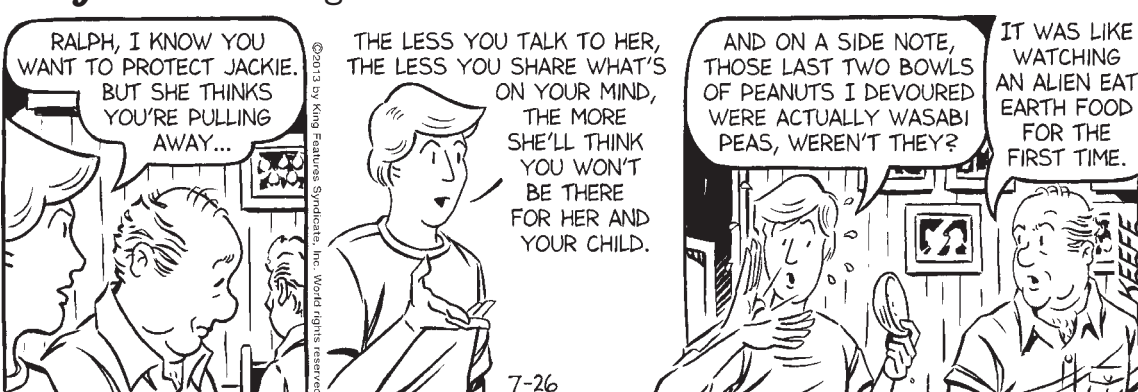
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



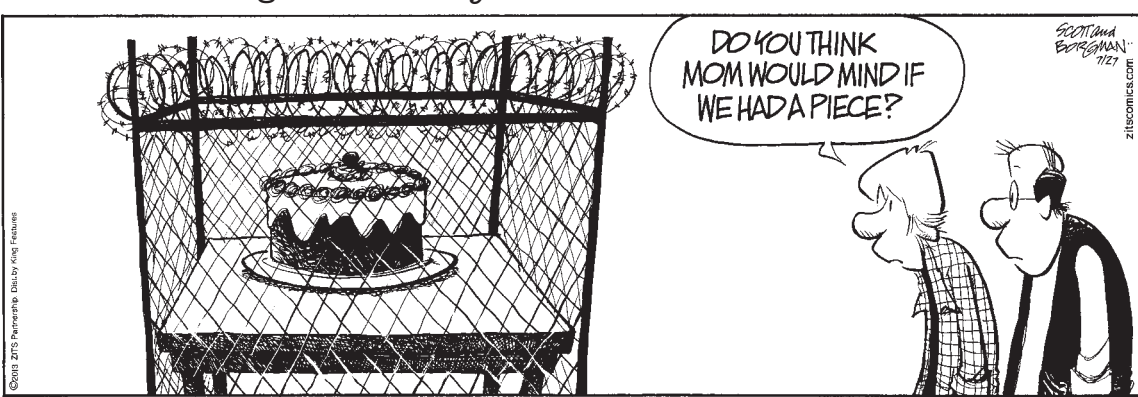
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Clean off rust in vinegar soak**

Dear Heloise: I am writing to you to see if you can help me with a problem. My husband was a mechanic, and he has a lot of tools. He is now retired. I am going through his tools, and a lot of them have rust on them. I would like to clean them up. Can you help me? – Beverly in Florida

You are going to love this easy and cheap hint. It's one of my favorite products: vinegar! Place small tools in undiluted white or apple-cider vinegar and let sit overnight or longer. Once they have soaked, scrub with a small brush, then rinse and dry well. Vinegar is such a great product to have on hand. I have put together a pamphlet of all my favorite vinegar hints. To order, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Have screws and bolts with rust on them? Soak them in vinegar to remove buildup. – Heloise

P.S.: Tools are very personal to folks who have used them for a lifetime. So, don't throw out something you may think is not important without permission.

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: I have a separate wallet that I use when I travel. I go through my daily wallet and transfer only the necessities I will need to take with me on my trip. That way, I am not carrying everything with me, and if I lose my wallet, I am having to cancel and replace only a few things. – Steve in California

Smart, Steve! A good "road warrior" hint indeed! – Heloise

**PUZZLE FRAMES**

Dear Heloise: I am a puzzle lover and want to frame my artwork. How can this be done without investing in saws, unfinished frames, etc.? I do not have access to websites, and the local library is 45 minutes away. – One Piece at a Time, Saltillo, Miss.

There are mats to work puzzles on. What if you glued the puzzle to that, trimmed it and then bought an inexpensive frame to fit? Readers, do you have any suggestions? Write in and let me know. – Heloise

**ALARM-CLOCK FOLLOW-UP**

Dear Heloise: Fluorescent green numerals on your alarm clock (that shine too brightly – Heloise) bothering you? Use a "newspaper" plastic bag. Cut to size for the face of the clock and tape in place. Try different colors of bags until you find the one that's best for your situation. I prefer the blue color. It's easy on the eyes, but still light enough to see the time through it easily. -- A Reader in Pennsylvania

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:

♠ QJ75 ♥ 6 ♦ A94 ♣ K10952

1. You pass, your left-hand opponent passes, partner bids One Spade, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Clubs. What would you bid now?
2. Partner bids One Notrump, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?
3. Partner bids One Notrump, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Diamonds. What would you bid now?
4. Partner bids One Heart, you respond Two Clubs, and partner raises to Four Clubs. What would you bid now?

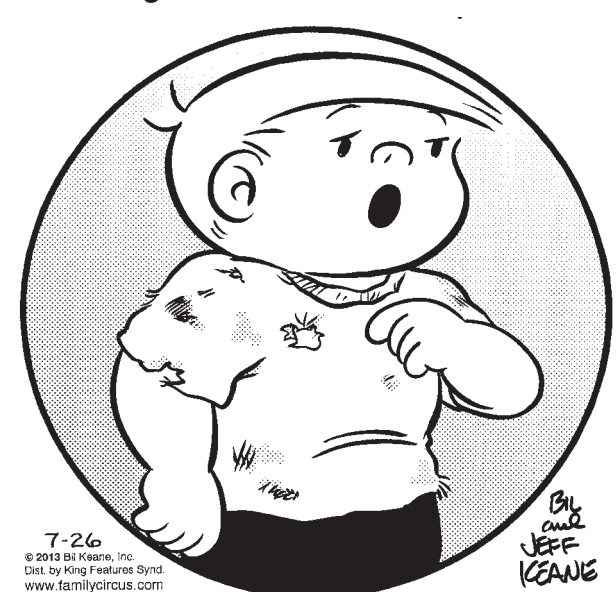
**Bidding Quiz**

1. Four Spades. You could double (if you play that for penalties) and probably beat two clubs badly if the bidding ended there, but your double would have to survive a pass by each of the others at the table before you could start counting your chickens. However, it is more likely that your opponents will discover a heart or diamond fit – perhaps quite a good one – if you double, and it is therefore better to leap directly to four spades. (If you play "splinter bids," an alternative would be to bid four hearts, indicating spade support and a singleton or void in hearts.)
2. Three hearts. Most players would treat a two-spade or three-club bid in this sequence as competitive and not forcing, so it is better to make a bid that leads to game. You hope partner will answer three hearts with three spades, which you will raise to four. If he rebids three notrump, indicating heart strength, you plan to pass, while if he bids four clubs or four diamonds, you will raise to five.
3. Double. Game is not absolutely certain, so it is best to take the sure profit. You can probably beat two diamonds two or three tricks.
4. Four diamonds. Slam is certainly a possibility, and the question is how to get that message across to partner. Four diamonds shows first-round control of that suit and interest in a slam; if you were interested only in game, you would bid five clubs over four.

The next step is up to partner. If he bids four spades or four notrump, you are on your way to six or seven, but if all he does is bid five clubs, you will pass because of the danger of losing two spade tricks. You would want to be in six if partner had something like: ♠ K6 ♥ AKQ92 ♦ 53 ♣ AQ84, but not if he had: ♠ 106 ♥ AKQ92 ♦ K3 ♣ AQ84.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



7-26  
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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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

**Cryptoquip**

J V B A P I J Q D V N H M B Y D M N

L V B Z S F D Y U Z D Y S D Z , B I D

H B T M O Y U N S F B Y D L M B A D V Y -

S B - W D U V D W T O V D M U S P Q D Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER REALIZING THE NATURE OF THE AILMENT, DOCTORS IN THE CZECH CAPITAL MADE A PRAGUE-NOSIS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                      |                                |                     |                     |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>        | <b>40</b> Surround-            | <b>3</b> Friedan's  | <b>19</b> Snail mai |
| <b>1</b> Sprite      | ed by                          | cause               | org.                |
| <b>4</b> "Cham-      | <b>41</b> Wheels               | <b>4</b> Beaver's   | <b>20</b> Cohn or   |
| pagne                | of                             | brother             | Chagall             |
| <b>Music"</b>        | fortune?                       | <b>5</b> Historic   | <b>21</b> Sandwich  |
| <b>man</b>           | <b>42</b> Intact               | times               | treat               |
| <b>8</b> Pleads      | <b>46</b> Duel                 | <b>6</b> Main-      | <b>22</b> Rich      |
| <b>12</b> Ball-      | tool                           | lander's            | veins               |
| bearing              | <b>47</b> Help a               | memento             | <b>23</b> Cupid's   |
| prop                 | hood                           | <b>7</b> Neb.       | specialty           |
| <b>13</b> Vicinity   | <b>48</b> Promptly             | neighbor            | <b>25</b> Point     |
| <b>14</b> One        | <b>49</b> Say it               | <b>8</b> The        | <b>26</b> Self-     |
| <b>15</b> Gripe      | isn't so                       | Enlight-            | indulgent           |
| <b>17</b> Prima      | <b>50</b> Wee                  | ened                | <b>27</b> Spool     |
| donna                | <b>51</b> Pirouette            | One                 | <b>28</b> Formerly, |
| <b>18</b> Troubles   | pivot                          | <b>9</b> Oklahoma   | formerly            |
| <b>19</b> Milk       | <b>10</b> Be                   | city                | <b>30</b> Eccentric |
| dis-                 | philan-                        | <b>11</b> Luminary  | one                 |
| penser?              | thropic                        | <b>16</b> "Not      | <b>33</b> "Nuts!"   |
| <b>20</b> Cash       | abbr.                          | Bus-                | <b>34</b> Botanical |
| <b>22</b> Whip       | <b>2</b> Writer                | caglia              | angle               |
| <b>24</b> Met        | Bus-                           | <b>37</b> Evi-      | <b>36</b> Barren    |
| <b>25</b> Buddy      | caglia                         | denced a            | <b>37</b> Evi-      |
| <b>29</b> Scale      | <b>Solution time: 25 mins.</b> | wound               | denced a            |
| notes                | BEAR HEM I B I S               | 38 Mature           | wound               |
| <b>30</b> Praise     | ORDO OVA REDO                  | <b>39</b> Portent   | 38 Mature           |
| <b>31</b> Always, in | LIEU OER ADO S                 | <b>40</b> Prayer    | <b>39</b> Portent   |
| verse                | LENGTH TATS                    | ending              | <b>40</b> Prayer    |
| <b>32</b> Bach       | HEAVYMETAL                     | <b>42</b> Garfield, | ending              |
| or                   | EMCEE CRY ENE                  | e.g.                | <b>42</b> Garfield, |
| <b>34</b> Experts    | LAUD OHS FATE                  | <b>43</b> Japanese  | e.g.                |
| <b>35</b> Bounds     | ALT SCI ELDER                  | sash                | <b>43</b> Japanese  |
| <b>36</b> Glorify    | LIGHT OPERA                    | <b>44</b> Overly    | sash                |
| <b>37</b> Stream     | LEAN ARGYLE                    | <b>45</b> Ram's     | <b>44</b> Overly    |
|                      | OMAN NOR DOOR                  | mate                | <b>45</b> Ram's     |
|                      | DISC OWN AKIN                  |                     | mate                |
|                      | DOSE RES YENS                  |                     |                     |

Yesterday's answer 7-26

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	