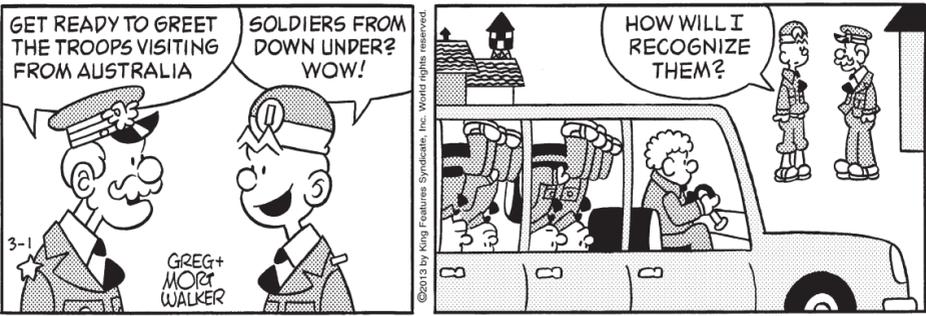


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



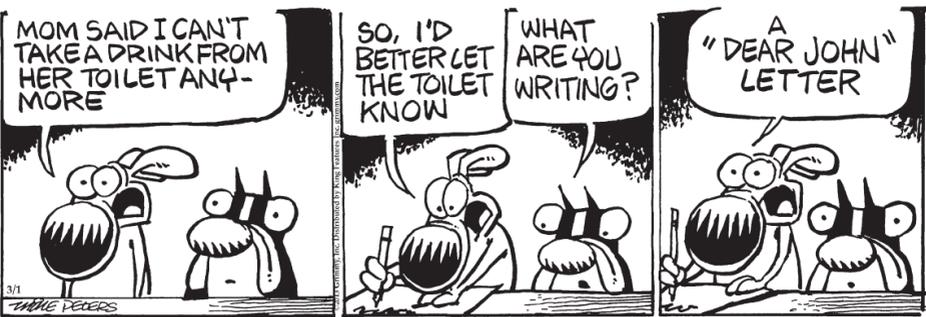
**Blondie** • Chic Young



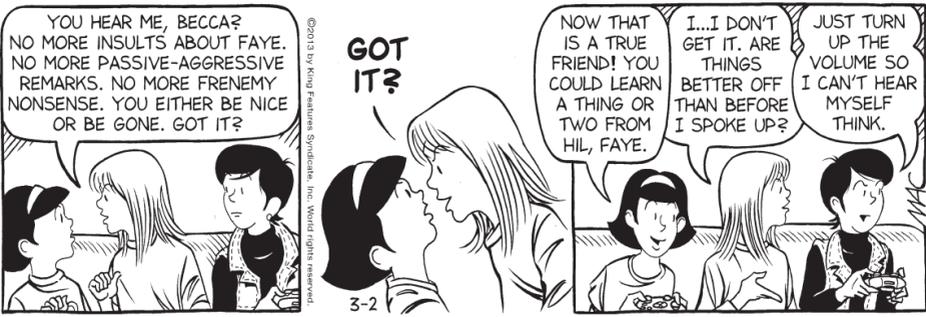
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Car seat choice a safety priority**

Dear Readers: How do you know if you have your child in the correct car seat? With so many options, it's hard to tell which one is the right one for your child's age and size.

Here are some general guidelines from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- A child under the age of 1 year should be placed in a rear-facing car seat. A child never should be front-facing before his or her first birthday and should weigh at least 20-22 pounds.
- Ages 1-3 years old can be placed in a front-facing car seat once they have outgrown the weight and height limits of the rear-facing car seat. Keep a child rear-facing as long as possible.
- Ages 4-7 years old and 40 pounds and above can be moved into a booster seat using the adult lap and shoulder belt.
- Around age 8, children start to outgrow their booster seat and can use only the adult safety belt, so long as it fits them properly.

Often people ask, "Should a child ride in the front seat?" Laws vary from state to state, but for safety, it is recommended that a child under 12 sits in the back seat. For information, you can visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's new website, dedicated to keeping children safe in and around cars. Go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov), or call 1-888-327-4236. — Heloise

P.S.: Don't buy a used car seat!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: When traveling, I always have phone numbers to the credit cards I am carrying. I also keep a copy of the numbers at home with someone I trust (e.g., my daughter, son, etc.). This way, if my cards are lost or stolen, I can call immediately and not give anyone a chance to use them. I can get the credit-card numbers if needed from my backup. — Teresa, via e-mail

**INSURANCE ASSURANCE**

Dear Heloise: At the beginning of the year, I called to set up a doctor's appointment. The receptionist asked what insurance I had. She said they were renewing their contracts with insurance companies and wanted to make sure they still took mine. I have never been asked that before once I am an established patient. So check with your doctor when making an appointment. I wouldn't have wanted to find out they no longer took my insurance when I showed up for my appointment! — Charlotte in New York

**DOGGIE REMINDER**

Dear Heloise: When we let our dog outdoors, we set the timer for five minutes, then fetch her in to our warm home (or cool home in summer heat). As we all know, there are times when we are too involved and time passes too quickly, and we may forget our pets. — Pat F. in Minnesota  
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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**Bidding Quiz**

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:

♠ AKQ7 ♥ 93 ♦ J65 ♣ AQ42

1. You are the dealer. What would you bid?
2. Your partner deals and bids One Diamond, and the next player passes. What would you bid?
3. Your left-hand opponent bids One Diamond, and your right-hand opponent bids One Heart. What would you bid?
4. Your partner deals and bids One Heart, and the next player doubles. What would you bid?
5. Your partner deals and bids One Heart, you respond One Spade, and partner bids Three Diamonds. What would you bid?
6. Your left-hand opponent bids One Club, and your right-hand opponent bids One Spade. What would you bid?

\*\*\*

1. One club. You have 16 points and balanced distribution, which would suggest opening one notrump, but you have two suits unstopped. It is therefore better to start with a suit bid. Furthermore, the one-club opening offers the advantage of enabling you, in the majority of cases, to show both of your suits on the one-level.

2. One spade. You're sure of game, but that doesn't mean you should bid two spades. A jump-shift would indicate a probable slam, and your values are simply not good enough for that. Change one of your hearts into a spade and you'd then have an acceptable two-spade bid. The one-spade response is 100 percent forcing, and you plan to bid strongly later on.

3. Double. This indicates opening-bid values and support for spades and clubs, the two unbid suits. It would be wrong to bid one spade, which would imply greater spade length and possibly much less in high cards.

4. Redouble. This shows 10 or more points in high cards. You plan either to get to game or to double the opponents for penalty.

5. Four clubs. A small slam is already certain, since partner's jump-shift shows at least 19 points in high cards and distribution. Your hope is to reach a grand slam. Four clubs is a waiting bid that gives partner a chance to further describe his hand. Your next move will depend on what he does over four clubs.

6. Pass. The value of a hand changes as the bidding progresses. Before the bidding started, you had a good chance of finding partner with spade or club support, but that hope is now a thing of the past. Your best strategy at this point is to pass and hope the opponents climb too high in the bidding.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/01

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

**Cryptoquip**

PILU N BEYLH SIL RTMBVNES  
 NZ IL'H YNUHVX ENUF SIL  
 MITQGE TRLQ BFBNU, IL  
 EBNH IL PTGVH QLZQBNU.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE GUY WHO WATCHES OVER THE IMPORTANT LIGHT-SPLITTING DEVICES IS A VERY VIGILANT PRISM GUARD.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals H

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ref
  - 4 Present
  - 8 Jeans-maker
  - 12 Seek damages
  - 13 Dunkable treat
  - 14 Mosque bigwig
  - 15 Jogged untogged
  - 17 Baby feeding finale
  - 18 Standing
  - 19 Parched
  - 21 Started
  - 22 Let slip
  - 26 Reservation residence
  - 29 Marry
  - 30 Part of "to be"
  - 31 Unoriginal one
  - 32 Pickle container
  - 33 Thick chunk
  - 34 Grant opponent
  - 35 Plague

- DOWN**
- 36 Coffin
  - 37 Duration
  - 39 Bill's partner
  - 40 Scooted
  - 41 Turmoil
  - 45 Gujarat garment
  - 48 Vigor
  - 50 Help hoods
  - 51 Unctuous
  - 52 "Holy cow!"
  - 53 Upper-case
  - 54 Untouchable
  - Eliot
  - 55 Agent
  - 2 Silent
  - 3 Culprit, for short
  - 4 Small beard
  - 5 Annoyed
  - 6 Retainer
  - 7 Little kid
  - 8 Tripoli's land
  - 9 Aussie bird
  - 10 Alt. spelling
  - 11 Mischievous tyke
  - 16 Swiss mathematician
  - 20 Scarlet initials
  - 23 Hardy cabbage
  - 24 Historic times
  - 25 "Pay later" aftermath
  - 26 Lofty
  - 27 Duel tool
  - 28 Hammer-head part
  - 29 Grow bigger
  - 32 Lincoln successor
  - 33 Rid of wool
  - 35 Sch. org.
  - 36 Rabbits
  - 38 Southern side dish
  - 39 Ringlets
  - 42 Early birds?
  - 43 Flight component
  - 44 Yon folks
  - 45 Pouch
  - 46 Counselors' grp.
  - 47 Agt.
  - 49 Dead heat

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
18							19	20			
26	27	28				29			30		
31					32				33		
34					35				36		
37					38				39		
					40				41		
45	46	47			48	49			42	43	44
50					51				52		
53					54				55		