

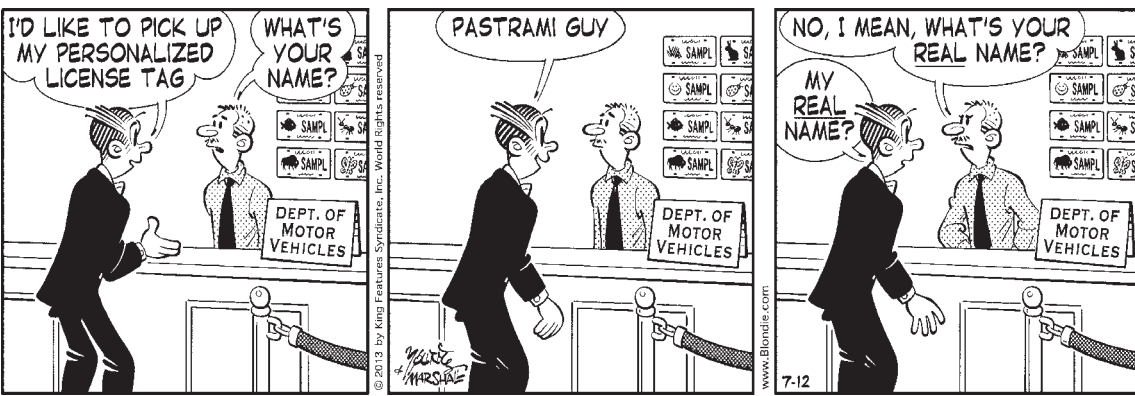
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



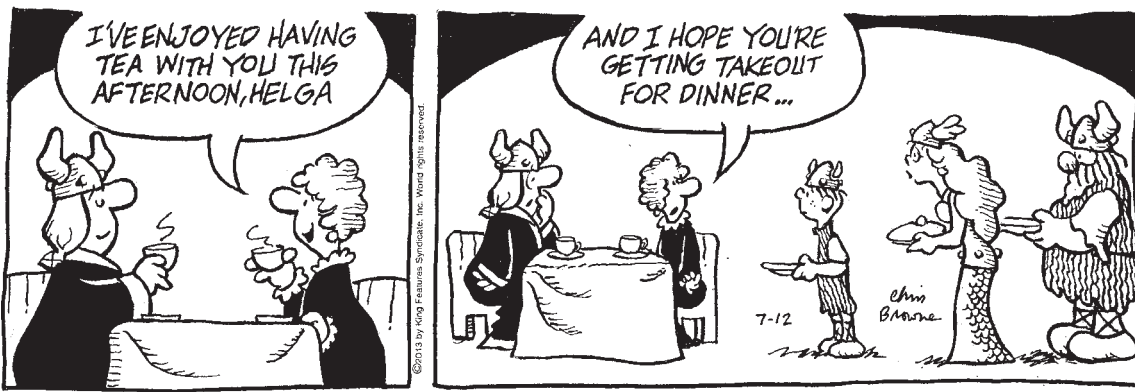
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



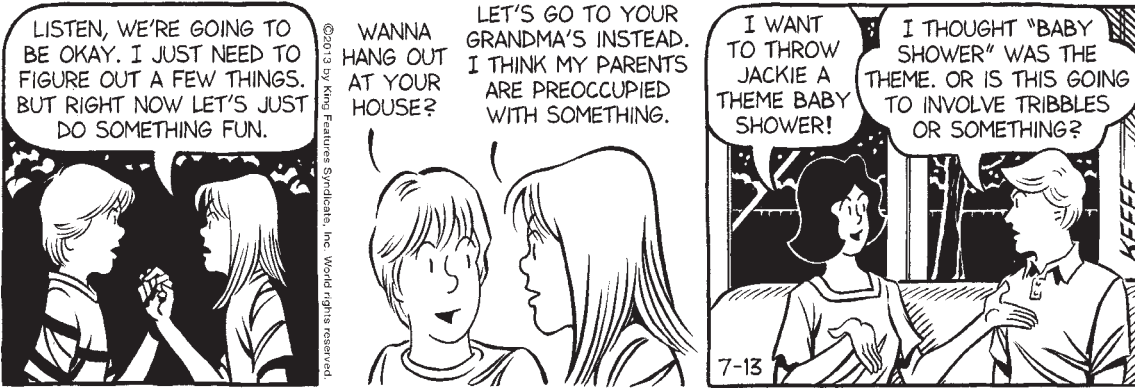
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



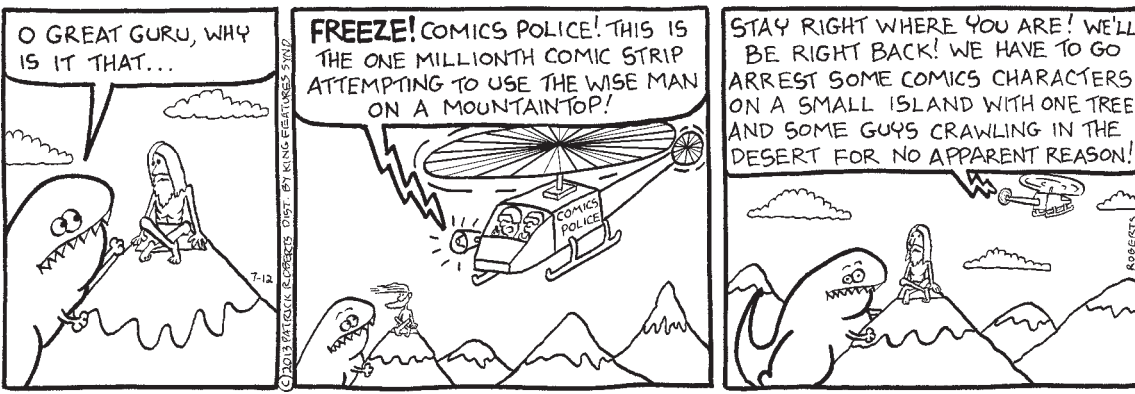
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Store address on camera card**

Dear Heloise: My parents recently lost the memory card for their camera after taking a beautiful vacation. My hint is to write your name and address on a 3-by-5-inch card. Take a picture of it. That way, if you lose the memory card, maybe whoever finds it looks on it for a clue to who you are and sends it back. — Kim in Lowell, Mich.

A very good hint indeed to hopefully have those vacation memories returned! Why not add an e-mail address so the "finder" can contact you? If the person does send it on, a special thank-you would be in order for the time he or she took. — 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

**BUYING BABY GEAR**

Dear Readers: Parents have been trying to save money by buying secondhand baby gear forever! But there are many items that should NOT be bought used, for the safety of your child. Here are just two that you should not buy secondhand:

- Car seats: A car seat should never be reused after an accident. When bought secondhand, you don't know the seat's history.
- Cribs: Safety standards on cribs frequently are updated. Never buy a crib with drop-down sides.

Many things can be bought secondhand. Inspect them before purchasing. Do not buy if the item has any loose, damaged or missing parts.

For the latest recall information, visit [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov). Don't take a chance with your baby's life! — Heloise

**CATS IN THE GARDEN**

Dear Heloise: In reference to your column about keeping cats out of flower beds: I put moth flakes in mine at times when cats come in, and this makes them stay out. I also sprinkle it in my yard if dogs come in for bathroom use. It doesn't hurt the yard, and the smell leaves in a day or so. You will have to redo if it rains. Hope this helps. — Mary W. in Houston

**GAS GLOVES**

Dear Heloise: I used to carry hand sanitizer in my car for use after pumping gas.

Instead, I now carry gardening gloves in the side pocket of my car door. When I pump gas, I slip them on, and when finished, I return them to the car door. My hands stay clean, and when the gloves get dirty (which they certainly do), they are easily added to a load of wash. — Selena P. in Houston

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the king of clubs. How would you play the hand?

- WEST**  
♠ A 6 5 3  
♥ K 10 4 2  
♦ K Q 10 7 3  
♣ —
- EAST**  
♠ K 10 4 2  
♥ A Q 5  
♦ A J 9 5 2  
♣ J

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, and North leads the ace of hearts. How would you play the hand?

- WEST**  
♠ A Q J 8 7 5 4 3  
♥ —  
♦ 8 3  
♣ K 8 6
- EAST**  
♠ K 10 9 2  
♥ K  
♦ A Q J 10  
♣ 7 5 4 2

**Test Your Play**

1. The slam is a sure thing regardless of how the cards are divided. Ruff the club, draw trumps, then play the ace and another spade. If North follows low, finesse the ten, thus assuring the contract whether the ten wins or loses. If North produces the jack or queen instead, you win with the king and again can be sure of losing only one spade trick whether South follows or not.

If North shows out on the first or second spade lead, the slam remains certain even though there seem to be two spade losers. After cashing both top spades, you next play the A-Q-5 of hearts.

First, let's suppose South shows out on the second or third round of hearts. In that case, you take the king and return the ten, discarding a spade from dummy. North wins with the jack, but whatever he returns, you discard dummy's last spade as you ruff in your hand. All you lose is a heart trick.

Now let's say South follows low when you lead dummy's third heart. This time you finesse the ten. If it wins, you have 12 tricks; if it loses, you also have 12 tricks, because North must return a club, which you ruff in your hand after discarding a spade from dummy. You then cash the heart king, discarding dummy's last spade to make the slam.

2. The only danger is that South has the king of diamonds and North the ace of clubs. In that case, if you ruffed the heart, cashed a trump and took a diamond finesse, you could go down one with a club return from South.

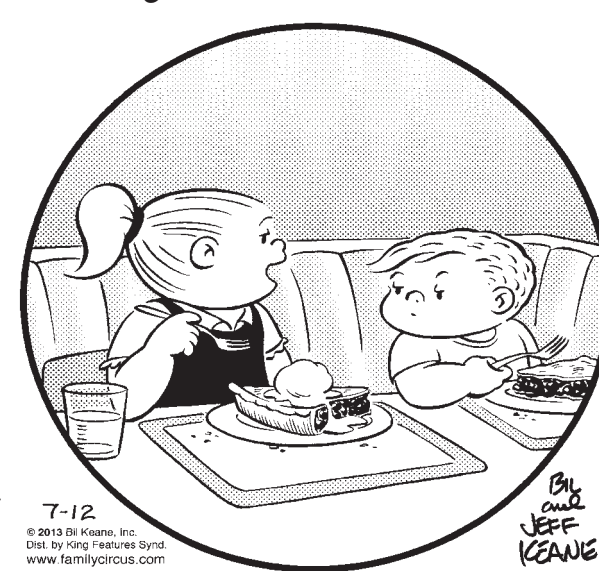
To guard against this, the best play is to discard a diamond on the ace of hearts! This ensures the contract against any lie of the opposing cards.

Let's say North shifts to a trump at trick two. You win and play the A-Q of diamonds. If South produces the king, you ruff and have 11 tricks. If South follows low, you discard a club, assuring 10 tricks even if North wins the trick with the king.

The diamond discard at trick one creates a position where you are able to take a diamond finesse that can lose only to North, the nondangerous opponent.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



7-12  
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[www.familycircus.com](http://www.familycircus.com)

"I learned in history class to always remember the alamo."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

XBYWW, EDBFKD ZHWCDERDXX

XSFQX ZSDED QDFQWD

ZDRK KF DRJYJD HR YRJEL

EYRKX: KHEYCHRJ QFXKX

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHE RECENTLY HIRED HER FORMER BOYFRIEND AS AN EMPLOYEE, BUT UNEXPECTEDLY HAD TO AX THE EX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Degrade job
  - 6 Lousy
  - 9 Matter-horn, for one
  - 12 Made on a loom
  - 13 Oprah's network
  - 14 Kin of alt. sp.
  - 15 Ransacks
  - 16 Swagging conduct
  - 18 Plump
  - 20 Capri or Wight
  - 21 "Eureka!"
  - 23 Slithery swimmer
  - 24 Clan emblem
  - 25 Melville's Billy
  - 27 Beelzebub
  - 29 Nicole Polizzi's nickname
  - 31 Vinegary
  - 35 Language of Sri Lanka
  - 37 Commotion
  - 38 Deceive

- DOWN**
- 2 Greet the bad guys
  - 3 Guacamole base
  - 4 Son of Adam and Eve
  - 5 Follow naturally
  - 6 Drop the ball
  - 7 Off "CSI"
  - 8 "CSI" evidence
  - 9 Seaman's "Stop!"
  - 10 Tureen accessory
  - 11 Preface
  - 17 Girl in "Peanuts"
  - 19 Make obscure
  - 22 Attila, for one
  - 24 — -tactoe
  - 26 Grandparents, often
  - 28 Legitimate
  - 30 Neb. neighbor
  - 32 Transport to Oz
  - 33 Lupino of movie lore
  - 34 Intimidate
  - 36 Snub
  - 38 Mafia bigwigs
  - 39 Dizzying designs
  - 40 Piquant
  - 42 Huge
  - 45 Pedestal occupant
  - 46 Petri dish material
  - 48 Nabokov title heroine
  - 50 Heroine
  - 51 Before

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 7-12

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				