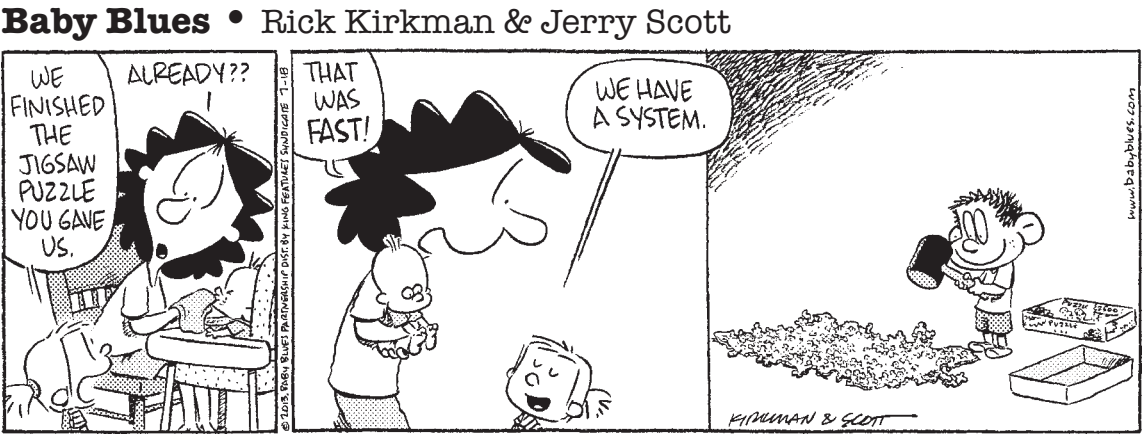
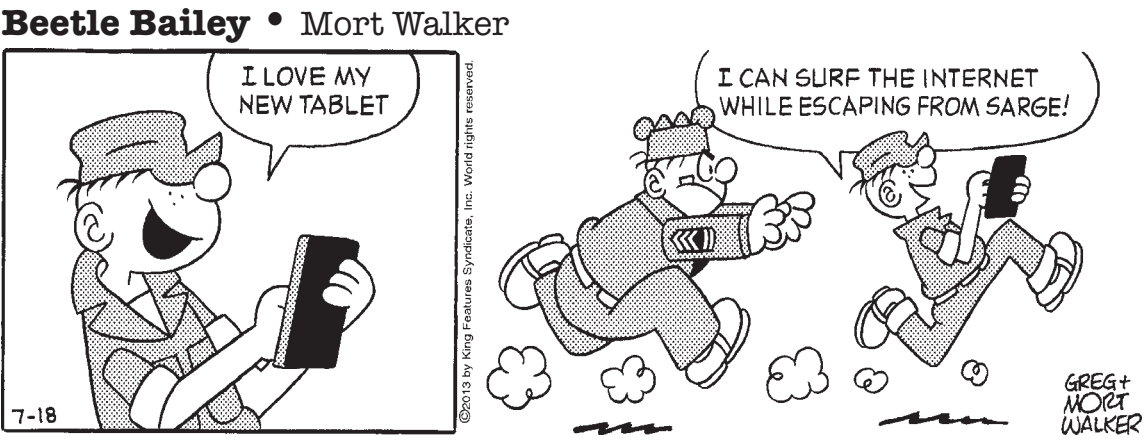
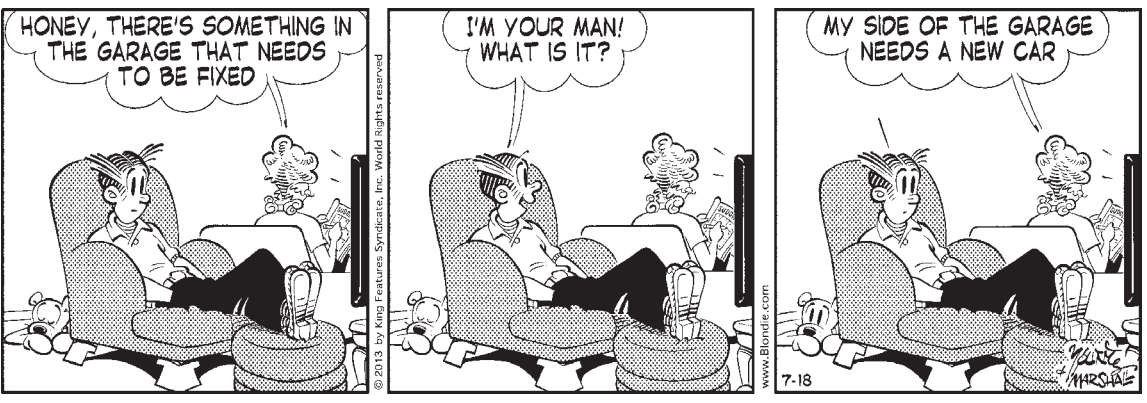
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



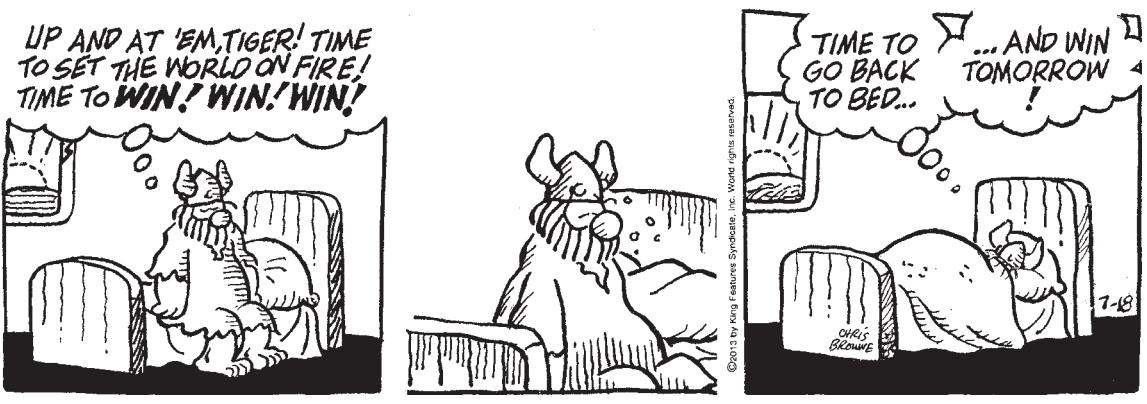
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young

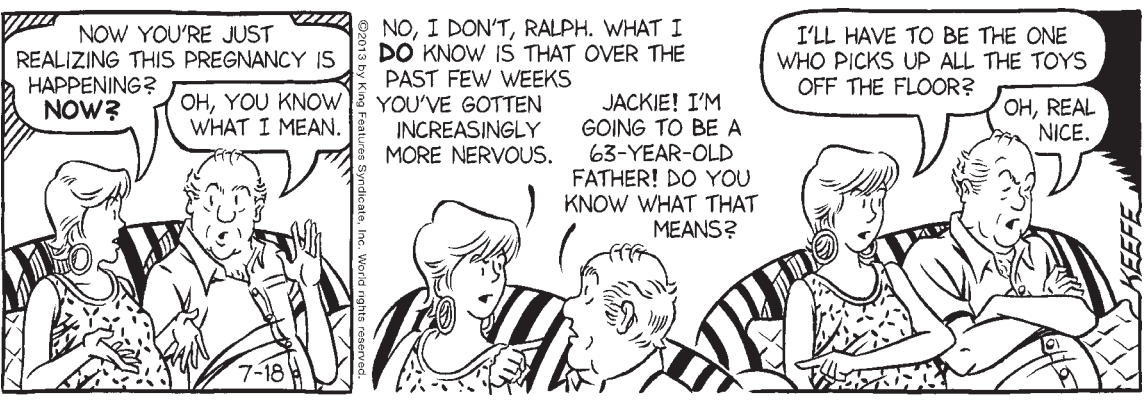


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



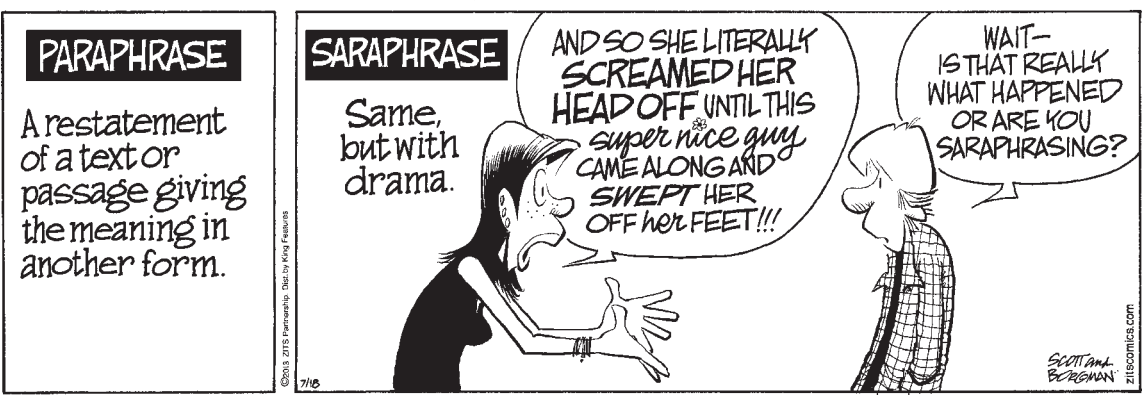
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Truck driver has special lighter

Q: When I was a patient at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor in 1970, I met one of Jimmy Hoffa's "lieutenants." We became friends and when he found out I was a truck driver and a member of the Teamsters Union, he gave me a gold-filled Zippo pocket lighter. It has a small plaque on the front with the Teamsters logo and the words, "A gift from James R. Hoffa," with Hoffa's signature. The lighter is pretty banged up because I was a smoker and showed off the lighter as often as possible. What's my lighter worth today?

A: Jimmy Hoffa, born in Indiana in 1913, became an organizer for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in 1932. He was the union's president from 1958 to 1971, but was convicted of racketeering in 1964 and sent to prison in 1967. As part of a plea agreement, he was released in 1971 but was barred from union activities. He disappeared outside a suburban Detroit restaurant in 1975 and was declared dead in 1983. His body has never been found. Your lighter was one of many that the union had made as gifts, so it's not rare and it was never used by Hoffa himself. But it's collectible and would probably sell for more than $60.

Q: I have a clear blue glass object 6 inches long and shaped like a bowling pin. It was given to me by my mother-in-law about 60 years ago. She called it a "sock darner." If it's meant for something else, I'd like to know. I'd also like to know its value.

A: A sock darner is a tool that used to be found in most homes. Designed to put inside a sock to help repair holes, it provided a solid rounded surface that held the sock firmly so holes could be sewn with tight and even stitches. Also called darning eggs, they were made of glass or wood. Most glass sock darners were whimsies made at the end of the day by glass workers for their own use, though production darners also were made. They are made of all kinds of glass. A blown-glass sock darner like yours sells for $60 to about $150. Gold or blue aurene sock darners by Steuben can sell for $400.

Q: I have a heavy metal belt buckle with a raised picture of a flying turkey and the words "Wild Turkey" on the front. Underneath in smaller letters it reads, "101 proof (8) eight years old." On the back it reads, "TM Reproduced by Arrangement with Austin Nichols New York, New York - 1974 Bergamot Brass Works." Is it worth anything?

A: Your buckle was made in 1974 as a promotion for the Austin Nichols Distillery Wild Turkey brand of bourbon. The buckle was made by Bergamot Brass Works, founded in Fox River Grove, Ill., in 1970. The company later moved to Lake Geneva, Wis., and then to Darien, Wis., in 1974. Its first products were belt buckles and hair ornaments. Later it made buttons, lapel pins, money clips and more. Bergamot also patented a belt buckle with a bottle opener on the back. Your buckle is found for sale online. Value: About $10.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J
♥ A K Q 2
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ A K 7 4

WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ 3
♦ J 7 4
♣ Q 10 9 8 6 5 3

EAST
♠ A 3
♥ J 9 8 6 4
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ J 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 8 7 6 4
♥ 10 7 5
♦ K 2
♣ —

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead — three of hearts.

What Can Defeat Me?

This deal occurred in a national pair championship. As usual, with several hundred pairs playing the same hand, there were many different results.

The most popular contract by far was six spades. However, some pairs climbed all the way to seven spades – a tad ambitious lacking the ace of trumps – while still others got no higher than four spades.

The hand is somewhat difficult to bid, especially from South's viewpoint. Thus, if South uses Blackwood, he learns that his partner has three aces. This alone should persuade him to undertake six spades, but it might leave him with a gnawing doubt about whether North could have the right three aces, in which case there might be a grand slam.

Surely the most disappointed players were those who got to six spades and went down one. This occurred at more than a few tables where declarer played the hand too quickly and lost the slam as a result.

At all these tables, West's opening lead was a heart. South won in dummy and led the jack of trumps. East went up with the ace and returned a heart, and that was the end of that. Down one.

The declarers who went down in the slam were certainly unlucky to run into a heart ruff, but, even so, they had only themselves to blame. The possibility of a heart ruff should have been apparent to these declarers, and they could have taken a simple step to prevent it. All they had to do was to cash dummy's A-K of clubs and discard two hearts before leading a trump.

Obviously, those declarers who went down in six spades had neglected to ask themselves "What can defeat me?" Had they done that, the answer would not have been long in forthcoming.

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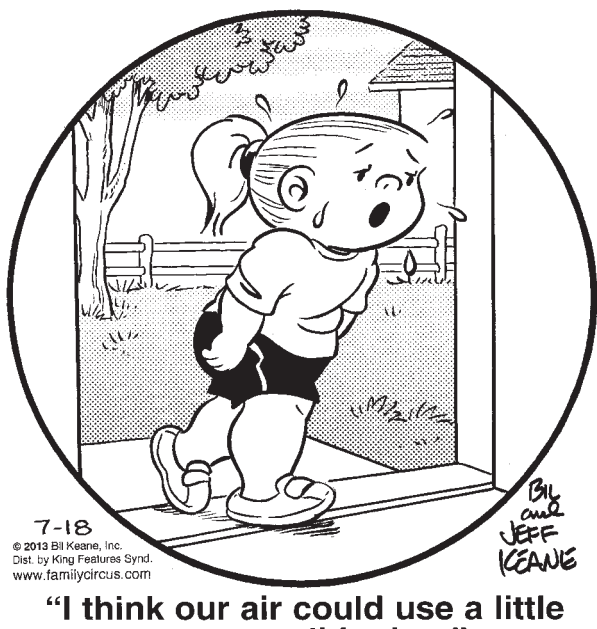
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I think our air could use a little more conditioning."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/18

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/17

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Cryptoquip

IENGLNP OBLSA TBPLASBT PCBRLGLRFUUZ GIJ WBS FST OIZP JBDBFJPLSA NDLSAP: WFUB CJFRNLRB PELNP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE MY HUGE PET DOG USES UP SO MUCH OF MY ENERGY, I LIKE TO TELL FOLKS IT'S A GREAT DRAIN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Peruvian ancestor
5 Facts
9 TV watchdog org.
12 In the area
13 Related
14 "Eureka!"
15 Speedy way to the top
17 Fool
18 Choice
19 Starbucks order
21 "Who cares?"
22 Pacify
24 Skilled
27 Schoolkids' carrier
28 Whip
31 401(k) alternative
32 Appomattox surrenderer
33 Born
34 Simple
36 Mess up
37 Equipment
38 Sycophant
40 Greeting
41 Terrible
43 Japanese temple
47 Pi follower
48 "Family Feud" endgame
51 Cattle call?
52 Concept
53 Scurvy preventive
54 Blue
55 A very long time
56 Elevator man

DOWN
1 Facts
2 Tide type
3 Throw
4 Manet or Monet
5 "Phooey!"
6 Alias abbr.
7 First X?
8 Shackle site
9 Jet-setter's way of life
10 Converse
11 Superhero garment
16 As well
20 Completely
22 Ask
23 Addict
24 Conk out
25 Historic time
26 Burger King offering
27 Evidenced a pinprick
29 Vast expanse
30 That girl
35 Addressee
37 Male escort
39 1966 Michael Caine movie
40 Overactor
41 Weaponry
42 Stallion stopper
43 Sch. orgs.
44 Taking care of business
45 Actress Moore
46 Nays' undoers
49 Commotion
50 Capitol Bldg. VIP

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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	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			