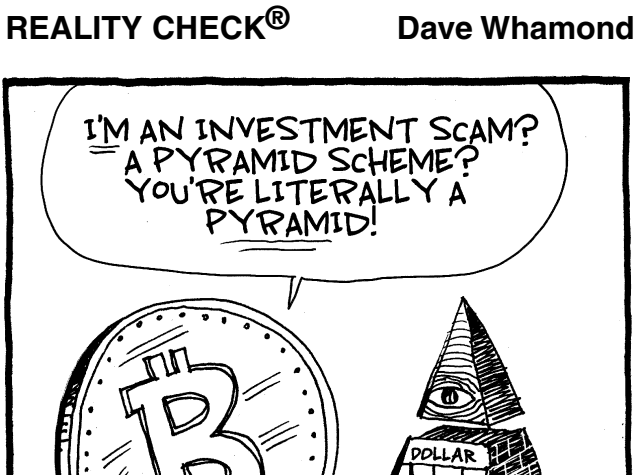
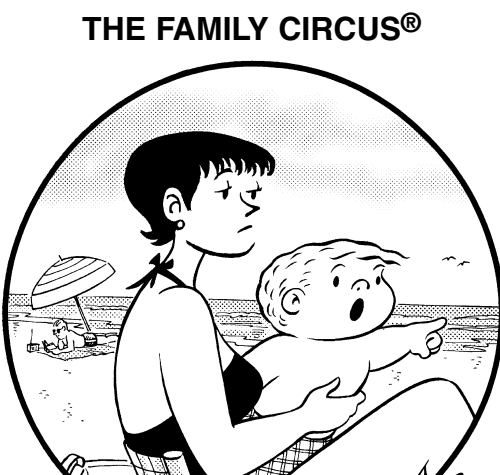
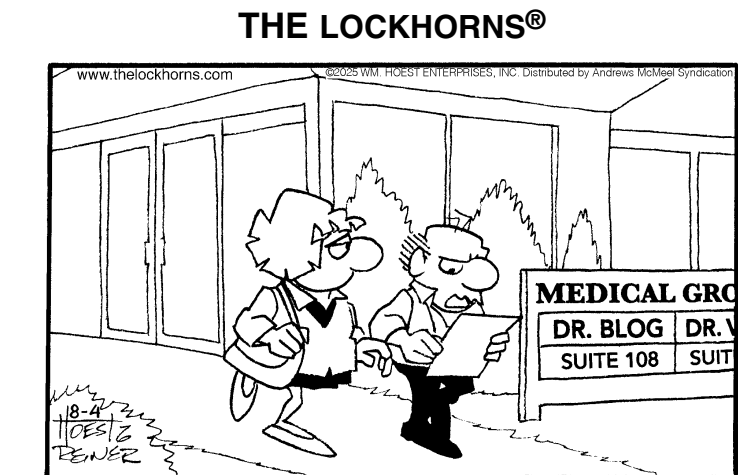
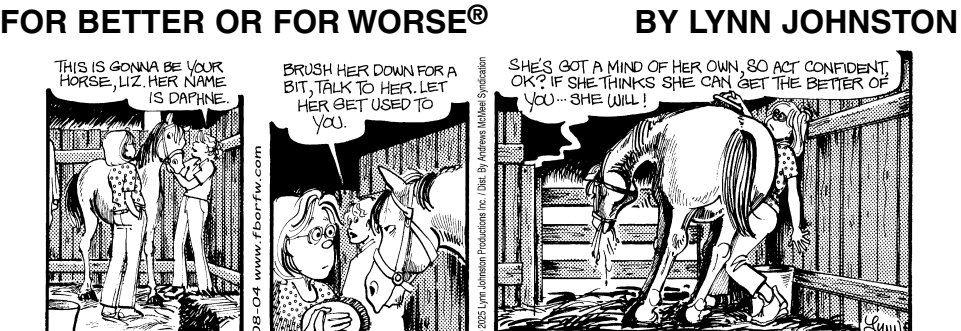
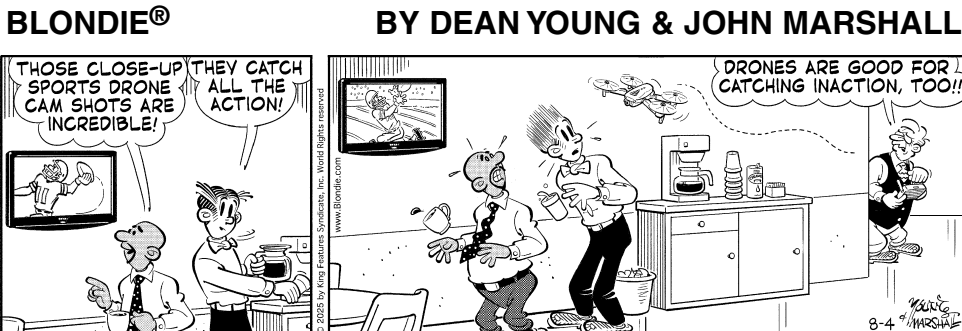
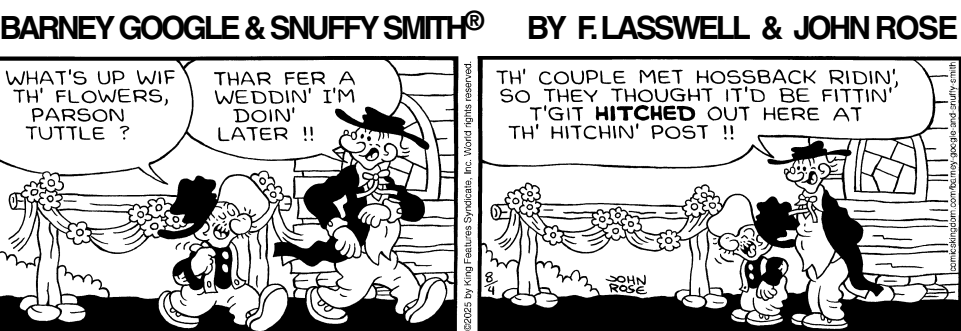
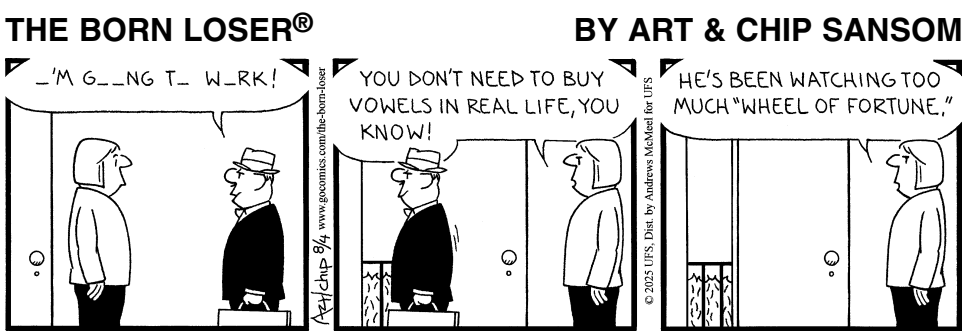
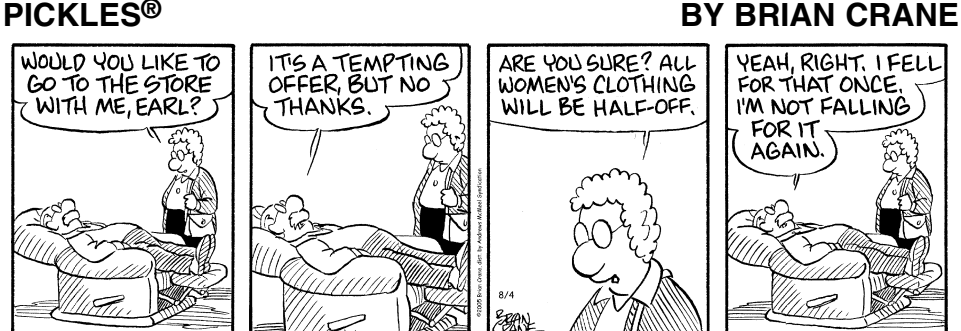
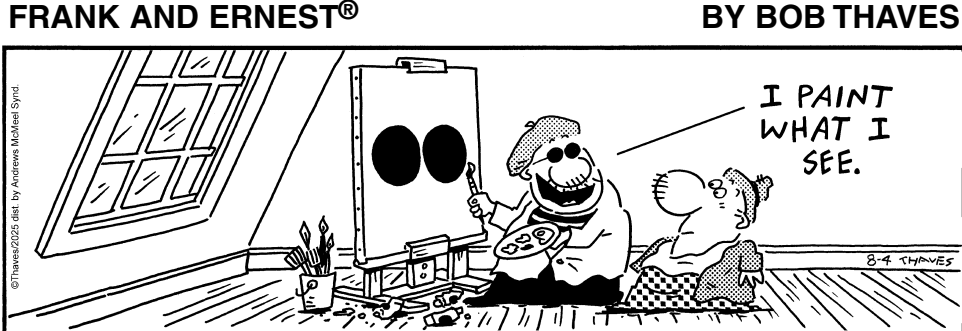
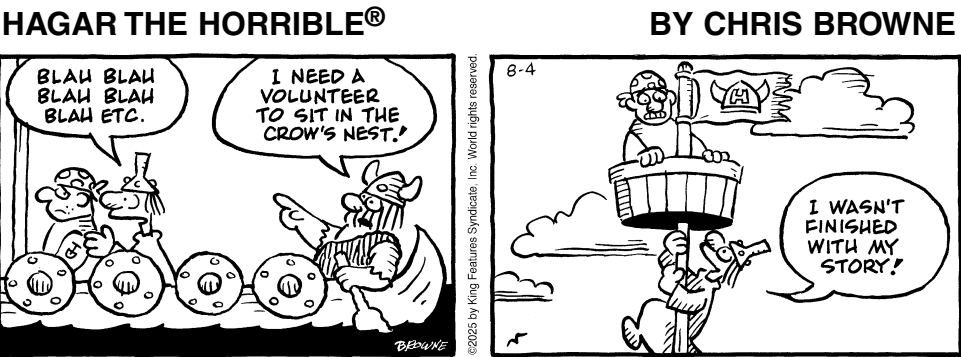




BRIDGE®

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 9 4  
♥ 7  
♦ K 8 4 2  
♣ 10 7 6 5 2

**WEST**  
♠ K Q J 5  
♥ 9 4  
♦ J 10 9 5 3  
♣ A 8

**EAST**  
♠ 8 7 6 3 2  
♥ 8 3  
♦ Q 7 6  
♣ K Q J

**SOUTH**  
♠ A  
♥ A K Q J 10 6 5 2  
♦ A  
♣ 9 4 3

The bidding:  

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 2♥    | 2♣   | Pass  | 3♠   |
| 3NT   | Pass | Pass  | 4♠   |
| 4NT   | Dble |       |      |

Opening lead — king of spades.

This deal occurred in the Open Pairs at the Eastern States Regional tournament many years ago. The heroine was Helen Sobel, considered by many to have been the greatest woman player of all time.

Sobel was South and opened with two hearts, in those days strong and forcing. Had the opposition remained silent, she no doubt would have settled into a quiet four hearts, making exactly.

But when East-West began bidding spades, Sobel adopted a different strategy. Looking at 10 tricks in her own hand, and certain West would lead a spade, she bid notrump at both her second and third turns! True, she didn't have the "book" distribution for notrump play, but this didn't stop her from making what she considered to be the best bid under the circumstances. She had not, after all, achieved her reputation by rigidly following textbook principles.

West doubled four notrump but wound up taking second money when Sobel ran off the first 10 tricks for a score of +810.

At several other tables, East-West also reached four spades, but at most of these tables, less-imaginative Souths continued on to five hearts and went down one.

The four-spade bidders who got doubled fared badly — although not quite as badly as the pair that doubled four notrump. North led his singleton heart, and South cashed two hearts and the ace of diamonds before leading a third heart. There was then no way declarer could prevent North from scoring a trump trick either immediately or eventually, and West wound up down three, -800.

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

VENOM WRECK PIGLET FLINCH

Answer: He was one out away from a perfect game, and the crowd's cheering reached a — FEVER PITCH

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIWLS

OGUDH

NBRENA

OCDRTO

THE

When the plumber got a call early Saturday, his weekend plans went ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

VENOM WRECK PIGLET FLINCH

Answer: He was one out away from a perfect game, and the crowd's cheering reached a — FEVER PITCH