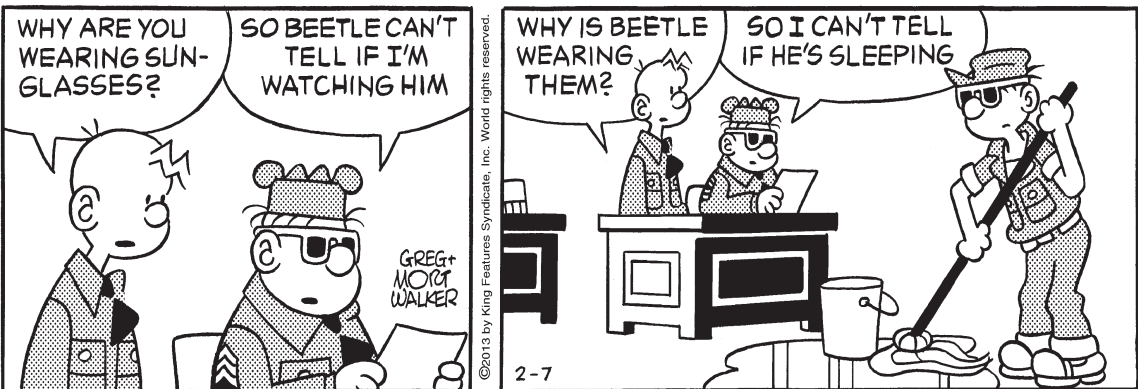


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



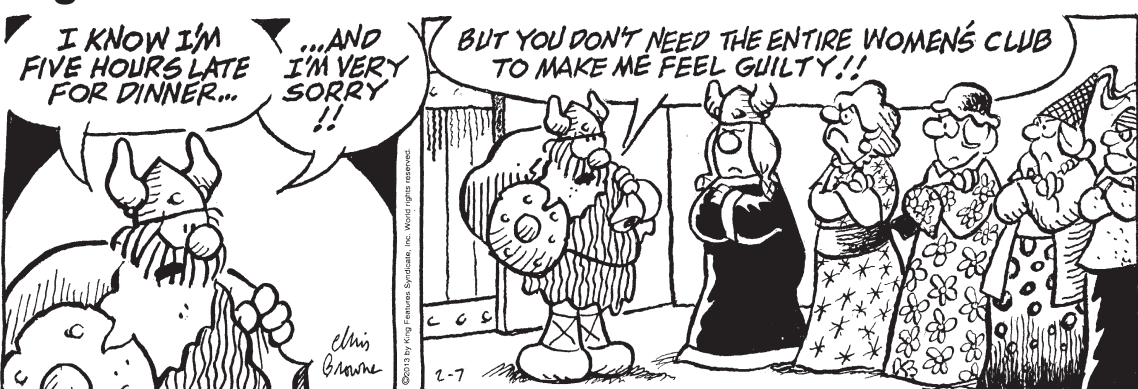
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



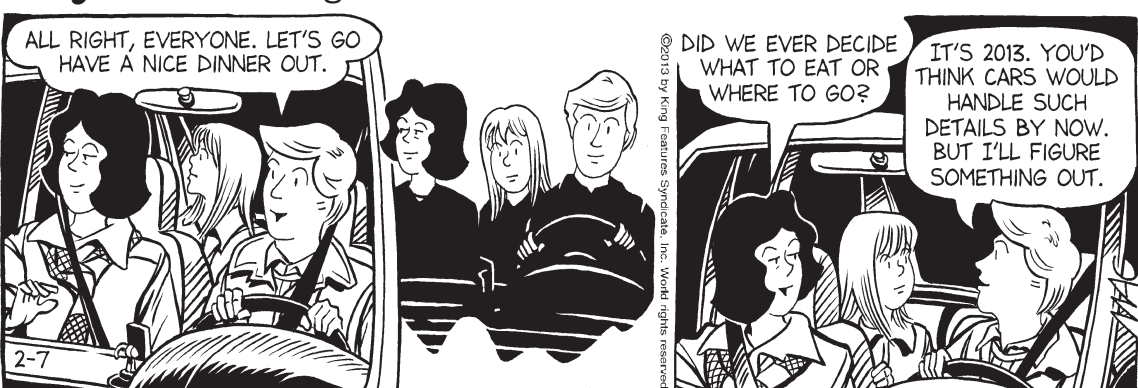
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



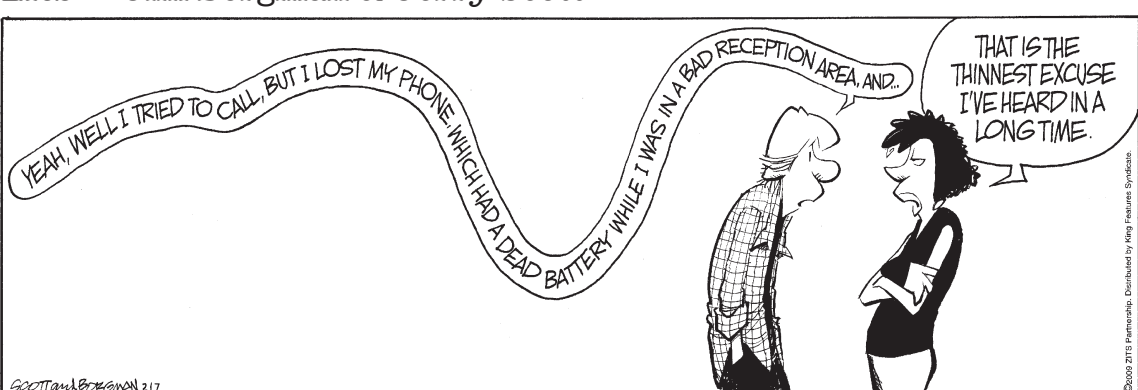
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Grand Rapids 'Furniture City'

Q: I'm considering buying an oak roll-top desk made by Grand Rapids Desk Co. It was painted black but has been restored to its original oak finish. The hardware is not original, except for the lock that's marked "1887, Grand Rapids Desk Co." The desk is 41 inches high, 40 inches wide and 18 inches deep. The asking price is \$600. Is that too much?

A: So many furniture companies were based in Grand Rapids, Mich., by the 1920s that the city was called "The Furniture Capital of America." It also has been called "Furniture City" because it has been a center of furniture-making since the late 1800s. The Grand Rapids Desk Co. was founded in Grand Rapids in 1893. It moved to Muskegon, Mich., in 1898 after a factory fire, and desks made after 1898 list Muskegon as the city of manufacture. The company changed owners a few times before closing in 1931. A retail price of \$600 is fair for a roll-top desk in good condition. Some sell for more.

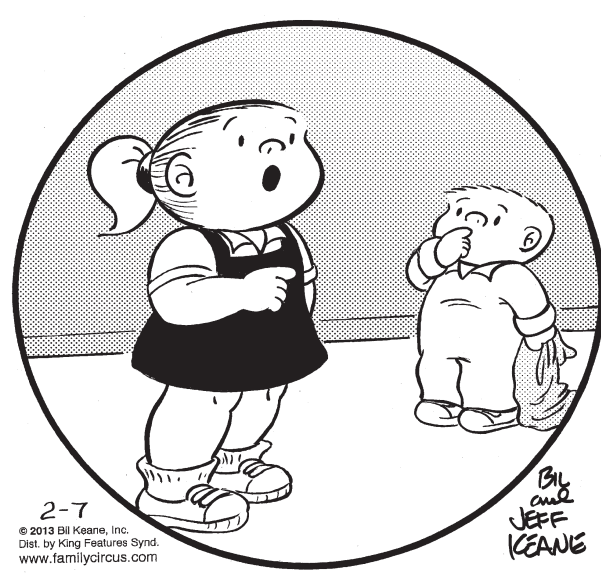
Q: Many years ago, I was given a battery-operated toy monkey holding a cymbal in each hand. When it's turned on, the monkey claps the cymbals together, and when it's tapped on the head, it stops clapping and makes a squealing noise. Then it goes back to clapping the cymbals again. It's about 10 inches high. How old is it and is it worth anything?

A: Your cymbal-playing monkey, called "Musical Jolly Chimp," was made in Japan from the 1950s into the '70s by the company "C-K." Similar versions were made by others. The cymbal-playing monkey even appeared in the movie "Toy Story 3." The value is \$150 to \$300, depending on condition. The original box adds value.

Q: I just read your column about vintage slot machines. I own a countertop machine still in its original box. The nameplate on the front of the blue machine states it's an "Atom Ball Gum Vendor." On the top are the words, "Win a carton, 10 packs of cigarettes, line up 3 of a kind." If you insert a dime, the windows show spinning cigarette brands. If the three line up with the same brand, a customer won cigarettes. If they didn't line up, you got a gumball. My dad placed these in bars and nightclubs in Iowa. When gambling machines were outlawed, he had to get rid of them. But I hid this one in the attic. What is it worth?

A: Your "trade stimulator" was made in 1949 by Groetchen Tool & Manufacturing Co. of Chicago. It's exactly like the company's Imp machine, introduced in 1940. But the dawn of the atomic age after World War II meant that a lot of things were renamed "Atom" or "Atomic." Trade stimulators, which made money for shop owners, were banned in many states even before the federal ban in 1951. Vintage machines can be legally bought and sold in many states now; just be sure to check your own state's laws before you sell. Your Atom machine is valued at about \$165. But with the original box, it could sell for much more. (c) 2013 by Cowles Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/07

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.

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

Cryptoquip

KTXBITQZ HBVBLDAZ DTAQ

XB DYUD DYB XTGLDUFL

QHFWFLN DBKD FK IBFLN

NHUQBQ TL UVGHWB

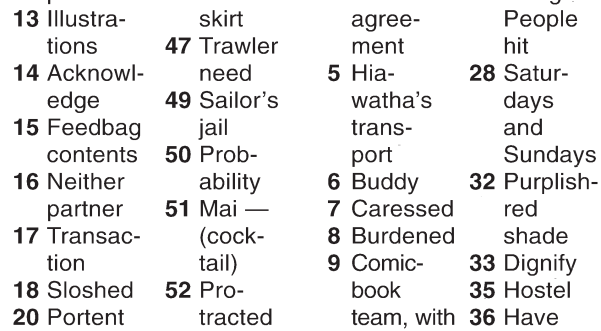
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE PEOPLE YOU'RE WITH ARE ALLOWED TO COME IN WITH YOU, IT'S "PRESENT COMPANY ACCEPTED."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Edinburgh resident
5 Letterman's network
8 Tibetan priest
12 Unaccompanied
13 Illustrations
14 Acknowledge
15 Feedbag contents
16 Neither partner
17 Transaction
18 Sloshed
20 Portent
22 What Sedaka said was "hard to do"
26 Side road
29 Tex-cuisine
30 Historic time
31 "So be it"
32 Dr.'s study
33 Work units
- DOWN**
19 Attempt
21 Blend
23 Alter a text
24 Incite
25 History
26 Fisherman's supply
27 Village People hit
28 Saturdays and Sundays
32 Purplish-red
33 Dignify
35 Hostel
36 Have bills
38 Hibernian
39 Eye-related
42 Front of a ship
43 Profession
44 Omelet basis
45 Swab
46 Altar affirmative
48 Corn spike

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20	21		
			22						24	25
26	27	28				29			30	
31				32				33		
34				35				36		
37				38				39		
				40				41		
45	46			47	48			49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 7 3
♥ A 6 5 2
♦ A Q
♣ A K J 10
WEST
♠ Q 2
♥ Q 9 4
♦ J 8 6 5 3
♣ 8 6 5
EAST
♠ A K J 9 6
♥ 8
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ 7 4 3
SOUTH
♠ 8 5 4
♥ K J 10 7 3
♦ K 10
♣ Q 9 2

The bidding:
North 1♠ East 1♣ South 2♥ West Pass
Opening lead — queen of spades.

All Rules Have Exceptions

Most players are taught early in life that they must never knowingly give declarer a ruff-and-discard. But, as with all general rules, there are times when this injunction should be violated. Assume you're East and your partner leads the queen of spades against South's four-heart contract. You overtake the queen with the king — just in case the queen is a singleton — and continue with the A-J. West discards a diamond on the third round of spades, and the question is what to do next.

Ordinarily, you'd discontinue the suit, bearing in mind the ancient ruff-and-discard bugaboo. In the present case, however, you should play a fourth round of spades!

There are basically two reasons for doing this. The first is that a heart, a diamond and a club return are all give-up plays that can't help your cause at all. The second is that you might manufacture a trump trick for your partner that does not exist naturally, and in that way defeat the contract.

In the actual case, once you lead the fourth round of spades, declarer is in a hopeless position. If he discards either a diamond or a club, or ruffs low, your partner ruffs with the nine to promote a trump trick for himself. South is in equally bad shape if he ruffs the fourth spade with the ten or king. In either case, West discards a club to assure a trump trick later on.

Note that if you fail to play a spade at trick four, South can bring the contract home by finessing against your partner's queen of trumps. Note also that playing a fourth round of spades would be equally successful if West's trump holding were the K-9-x.