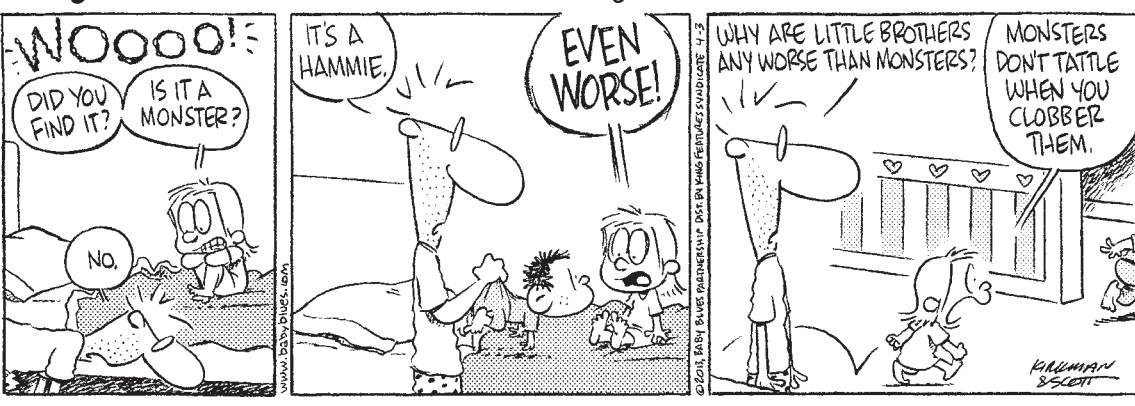
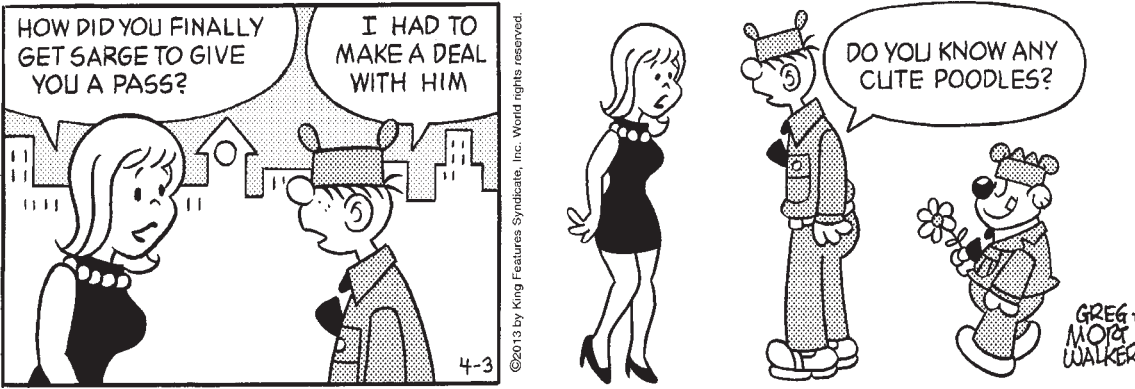


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



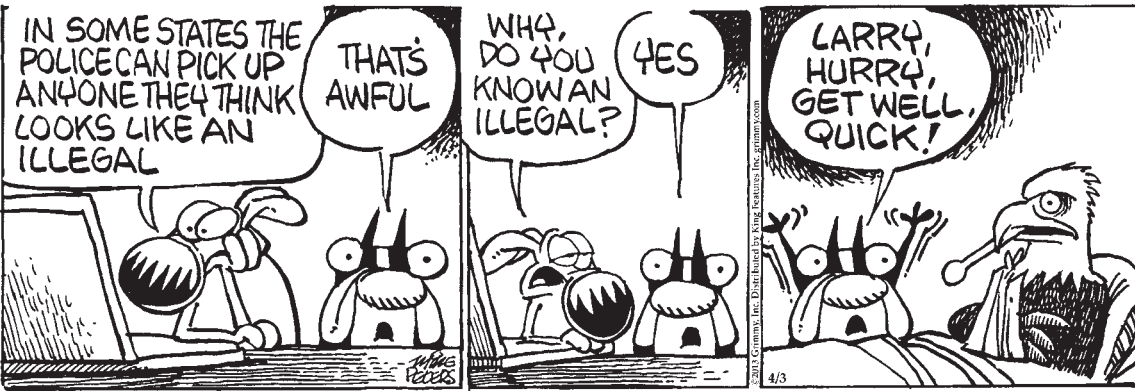
**Blondie** • Chic Young



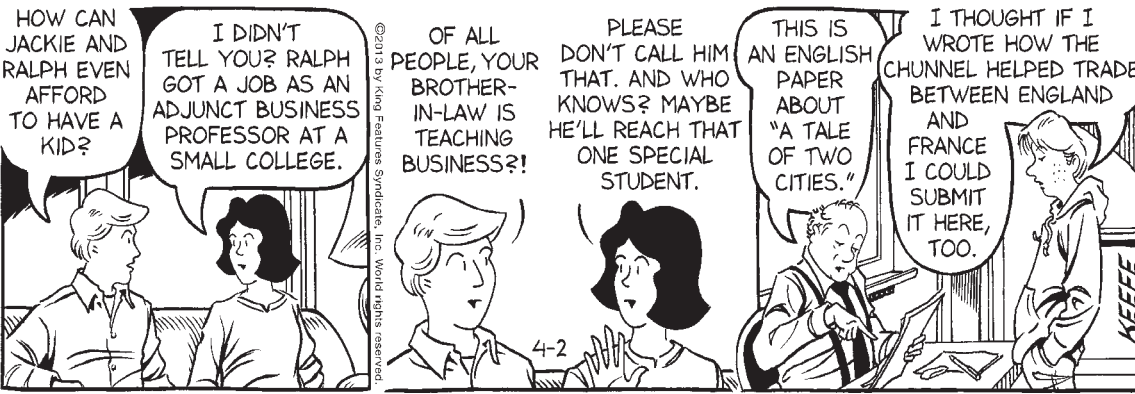
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



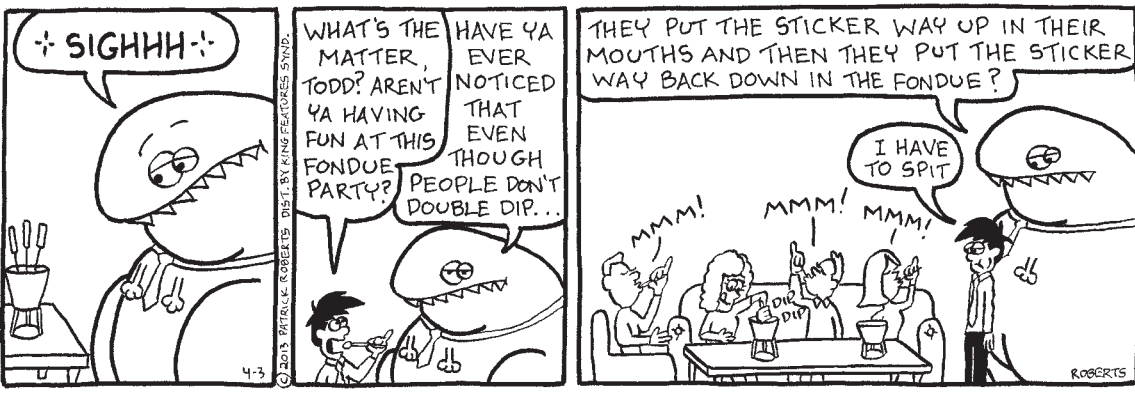
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



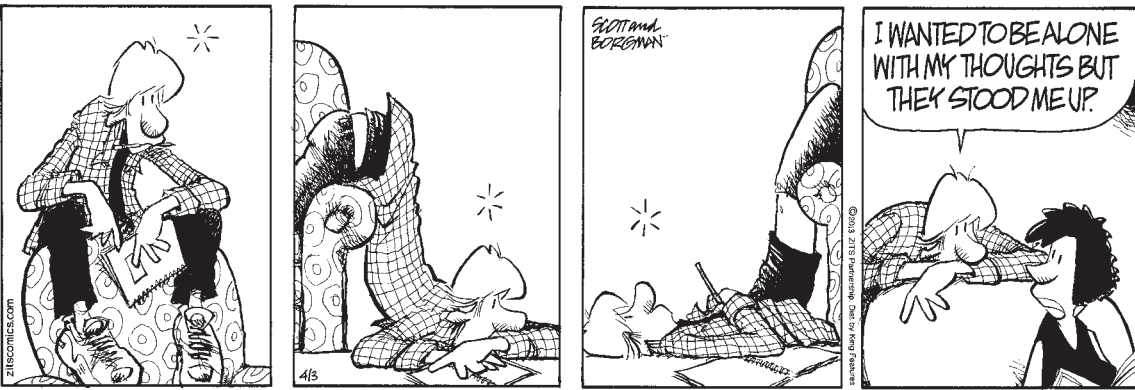
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**'Mothers' found in exotic vinegar**

Dear Readers: Guess what I found lurking in my pantry? A bottle of natural rice vinegar with algae-like growth floating in it.

The manufacturer was very helpful with answers to my questions. First and most important: It's not harmful.

The feathery looking blobs floating around are called "mothers," which the manufacturer says are harmless, and the vinegar is still safe to use. The representative said a mother is a healthy bacterium that grows after packing. Apparently, many types of vinegar found in stores contain "mothers." A mother forms when the vinegar contains nonfermented sugar and/or alcohol. It is more commonly found in unpasteurized vinegar.

You can still use the vinegar with the "mothers" in it, or simply strain them out before use. I have at least five large gallon jugs around and never had a problem with these - only the exotic types. - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**CAKE FLOUR**

Dear Heloise: I have a new recipe that calls for cake flour. All I can find in the market is all-purpose and self-rising flours. Any suggestions on what I can use to make cake flour? - Lillian H., Joplin, Mo.

Absolutely! Here is a easy recipe for cake flour: Take 1 cup of all-purpose flour. Remove 2 tablespoons of the flour and add 2 tablespoons of cornstarch. Mix together using a whisk or a fork. Now, simply use as directed in your recipe! - Heloise

**CANNED GOODS**

Dear Heloise: Recently, you had a letter about someone who opened cans of beans from the bottom to make it easier to get all the beans out.

Instead, I put all of my canned goods on the shelves upside down. It is still easy to read the labels, and it eliminates digging the product out of the bottom of the can. It also keeps the top of the can much cleaner.

When I pick up a can, I automatically turn it right side up before I open it, and some cans can be opened only from the top. I run a dishcloth around the rim to clean it, but there is never any accumulated dust down in the crevices. - Wally G., in Ohio

**STORING SHORTENING**

Dear Readers: Where do you keep a can of vegetable shortening - in the refrigerator, or in the pantry? You can keep it in either place, but it is recommended by major manufacturers to store it in the pantry.

If it is very hot where you live and the pantry is warm, you may prefer to store it in the refrigerator. Just remember to let it warm to room temperature before using it. - Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
—  
♥ A J 7 5  
♦ J 9 7 5 2  
♣ 7 4 3 2

**WEST**  
♥ Q 10 7 6  
♥ Q 9 4  
♦ A Q 8  
♣ A K 10

**EAST**  
♥ K J 9 5 3  
♦ 10 8 6 3  
♣ K 10 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♦ A 8 4 2  
♥ K 2  
♦ 4  
♣ Q J 9 8 6 5

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ 3 ♠  
3 ♣ 4 ♣ 4 ♣ 5 ♣  
Dble  
Opening lead — six of spades.

**Give a Little, Gain a Lot**

Point count is a marvelous guide to the number of tricks you can take, but it is not a perfect yardstick. Freak distribution can seriously affect the accuracy of high-card point count, particularly in the case of suit contracts.

Consider this deal where South got to five clubs doubled. West had 17 points and probably thought he'd tear the contract to pieces, especially with East having bid twice. But things didn't quite turn out the way he had expected.

West led a spade. Declarer won with the ace, played the king and another heart, finessing the jack, and discarded a diamond on the ace of hearts.

These four plays established a perfect crossruff position, and South proceeded to take full advantage. He ruffed a diamond, a spade, a diamond, a spade and then a third diamond and a third spade.

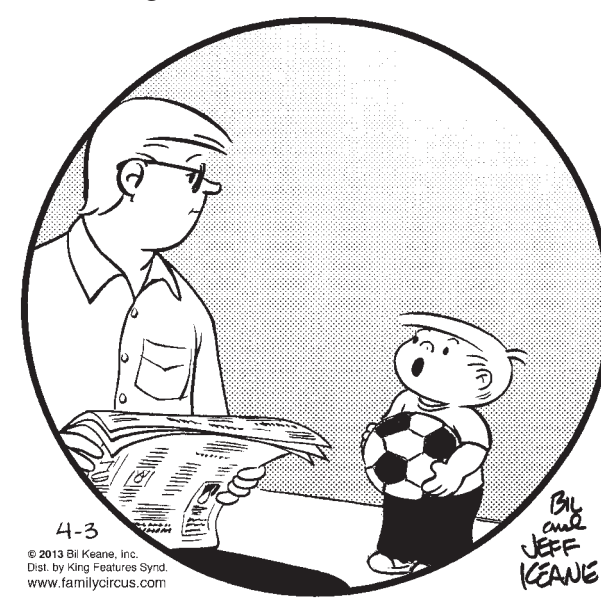
Ten tricks had now been played, and declarer had taken them all. West was down to the A-K-10 of trumps, and South the Q-J-9. When declarer next led a club to his queen, West could score only two trump tricks, so South wound up making five clubs doubled despite East-West's 24 high-card points!

Observe that the outcome would have been altogether different had West elected to start off with the A-K-10 of clubs. In that event, South would have gone down two.

It should be said parenthetically that there are very good reasons for West to begin with three rounds of trumps. North-South were obviously bidding on distribution rather than high cards, and West should have taken steps to short-circuit any impending crossruff. Although this was likely to cost West a trump trick, it was highly probable that the trick would come back with interest.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/03

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

H FDYDBSPX FDOPHIDG H'AD

ZOADG ER ZL KOBX YHSFEZ

RDDPZ LADF SHKD SNOS

H NOAD IDZS QLF PHQD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF ROUGH USE, THIS BEATEN-UP REAPING TOOL HAS BECOME A SICKLY SICKLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals V

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Taxi
  - 4 A-E
  - 7 Show-room
  - 8 Sag
  - 10 Sound
  - 11 Pter
  - 13 Fairy tale
  - 16 "— the
  - 17 Frogs' kin
  - 18 Also
  - 19 Flower-
  - 20 Perches
  - 21 Worship
  - 23 Nothing
  - 25 Elbow
  - 26 Hardly
  - 27 And
- DOWN**
- 2 Liniment
  - 30 Second
  - 33 Lawn-
  - 36 Blazing
  - 37 Cheer
  - 38 Cobbler's
  - 39 A rate
  - 40 Type
  - 41 Tit
  - 10 Way back
  - 12 When
  - 14 Angry
  - 15 "Help!"
  - 19 Adversary
  - 20 Crafty
  - 21 Bone
  - 22 Coffee
  - 23 Actor
  - 24 "The
  - 25 Times
  - 26 They
  - 27 Are A-
  - 28 Changin'"
  - 29 Scuti-
  - 30 nize
  - 31 Beauti-
  - 32 fully
  - 33 imagin-
  - 34 ative
  - 35 Small
  - 36 barrel
  - 37 Heaps
  - 38 Song of
  - 39 David
  - 40 Pin-
  - 41 naeles
  - 42 Leaven-
  - 43 ing
  - 44 agent
  - 45 Table
  - 46 scraps
  - 47 Employ
  - 48 — gin
  - 49 fizz
  - 50 Entreaty

