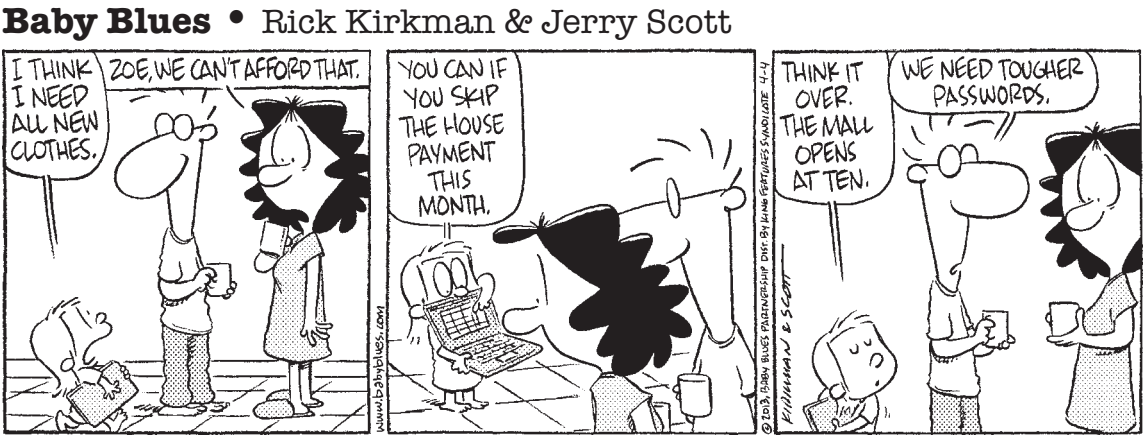
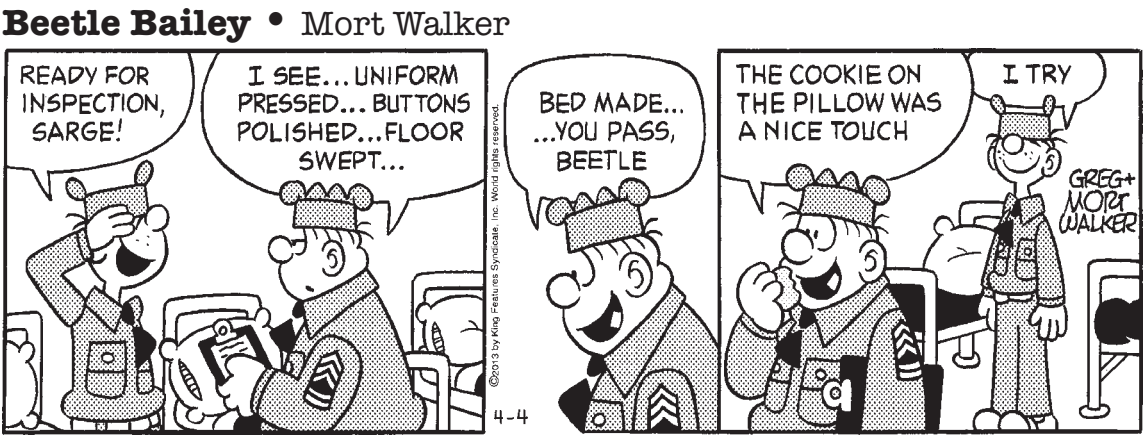
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

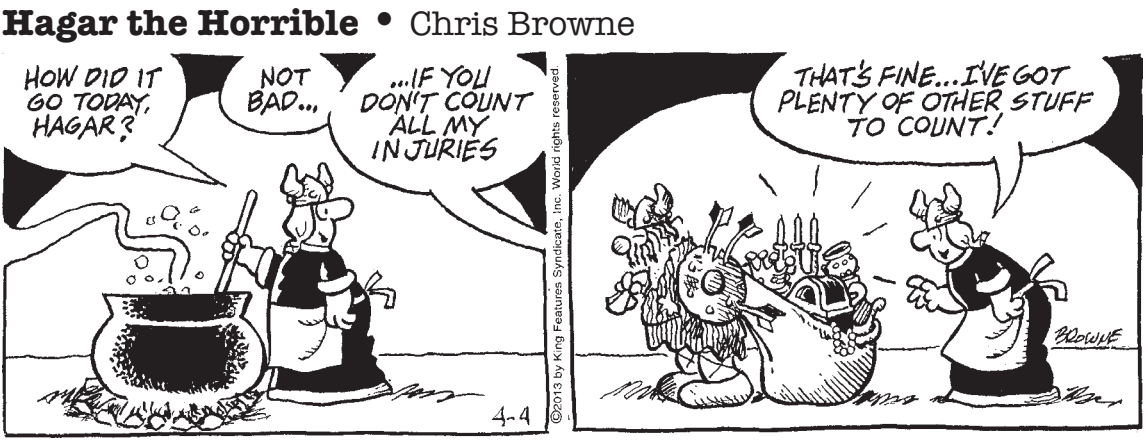


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

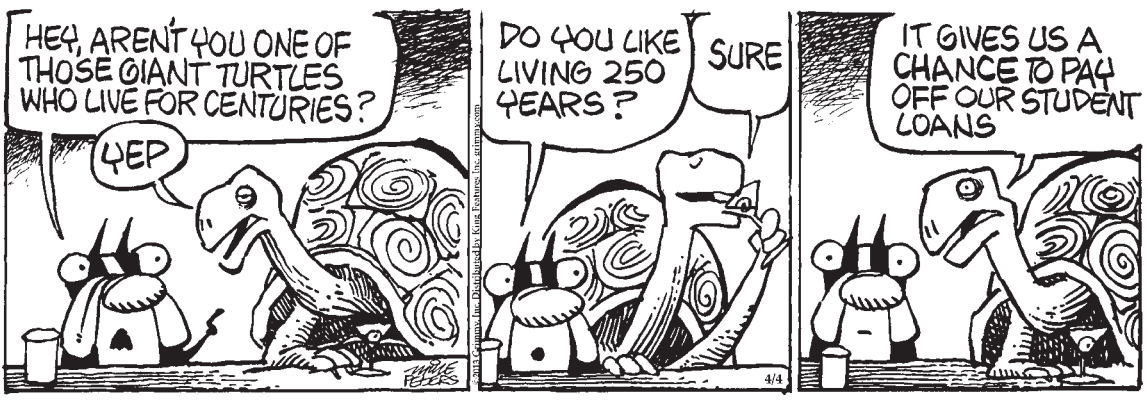


Blondie • Chic Young

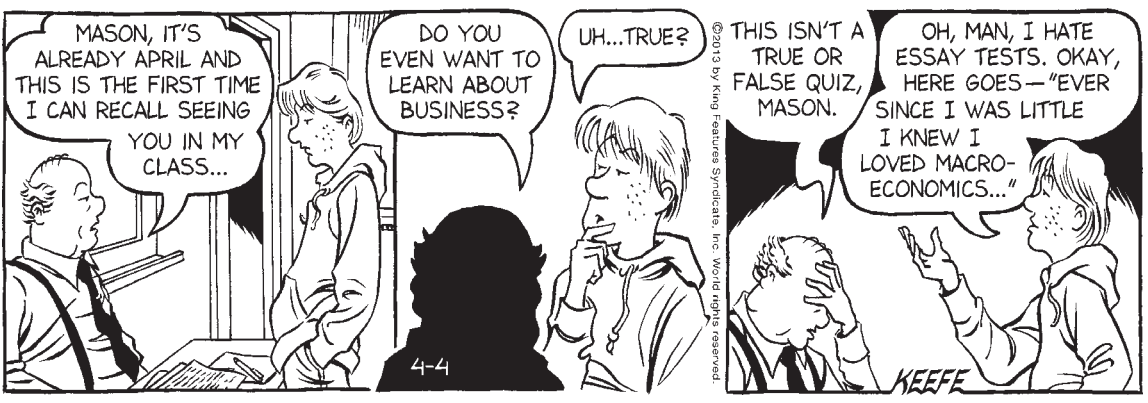
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

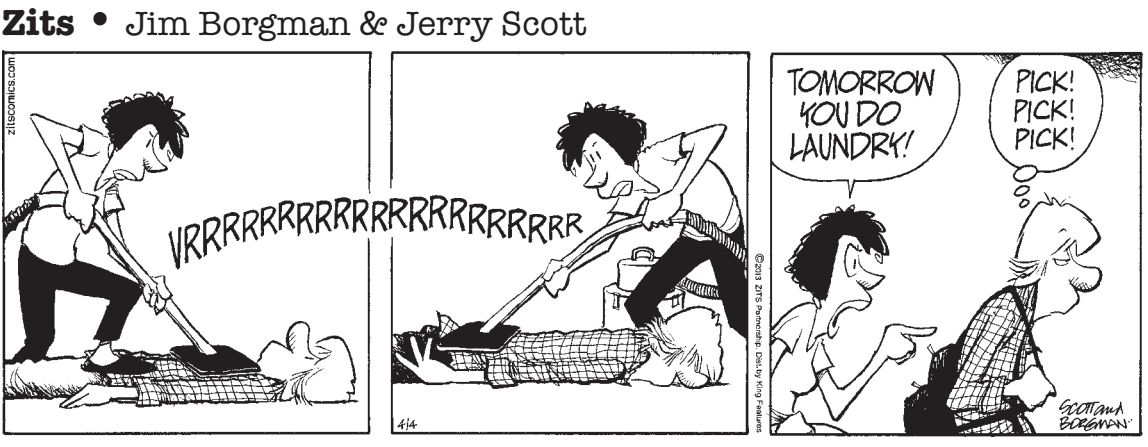


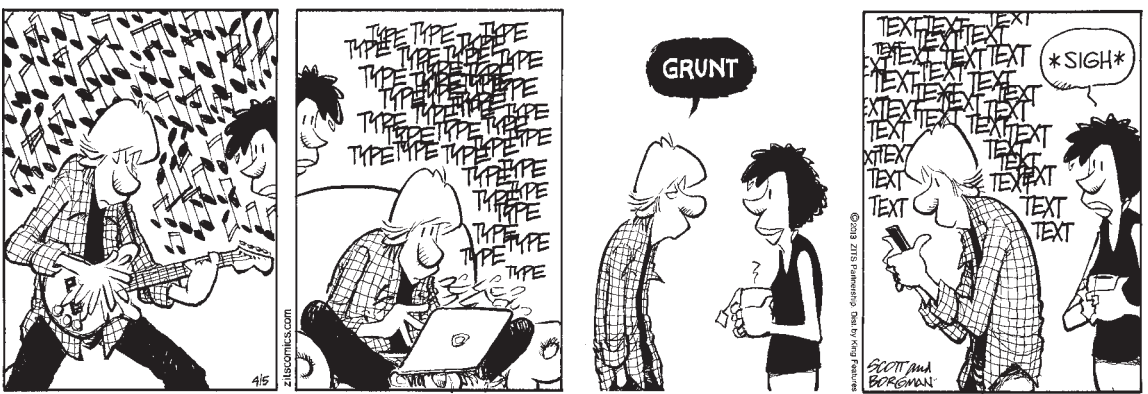
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Furniture maker imported pieces

Q: I have a dining-room chair that's blond wood with a green plastic seat. It has a lattice-like back. The back legs are one piece going from the floor to the top of the back. The bottom is marked "Daystrom Furniture, Model 455-175." The words "Made in Occupied Japan" are written in a small circle. It's not in perfect shape. Can you tell me what it's worth?

A: Daystrom was founded in Olean, N.Y., in 1934. At first the company made metal ashtrays. By 1938 it was producing chromium kitchen furniture and upholstered stools and chairs.

Daystrom moved to South Boston in 1962 and began using the name "Daystrom Furniture." Daystrom's low-end dinette sets sold well during the 1960s, but foreign competition began affecting the furniture market by the 1970s. The company was sold several times and closed in 1996.

Since your chair is marked "Made in Occupied Japan," Daystrom must have been making furniture in a Japanese factory or importing pieces between 1947 and 1952, years when the Allies occupied Japan after World War II.

Chairs like yours were inexpensive when made. Value today: about $100 to $150.

Q: In going through some old family papers, I ran across a souvenir program from a concert by Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra at the Grand Ballroom in Pleasure Beach Park in Bridgeport, Conn., on June 1, 1941. The program includes autographed photos of Dorsey, Frank Sinatra and Buddy Rich. My father was at the concert and saw them sign their pictures. Is there any value to the program and the autographs?

A: Frank Sinatra (1915-1998) signed with Tommy Dorsey in 1939 and appeared as a singer with the band from 1940 until late 1942. Souvenir programs don't ordinarily sell for more than a few dollars, but because yours includes an early Frank Sinatra autograph, it's worth more.

You should contact an auction house that specializes in autographs if you're interested in selling. It could be worth more than $200.

Q: I have a complete set of small metal license plates, 3 by 5 1/2 inches, from Wheaties cereal boxes. They are about 60 years old. Can you tell me if they have any value?

A: Wheaties first offered miniature auto license plates from all 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1953. Four different sets of 12 plates each could be ordered by sending in 25 cents and a Wheaties box top. The District of Columbia plate was available in random boxes of Wheaties. The promotion increased Wheaties sales and many boys and girls sent for the license plates and attached them to their bicycles.

Post Cereals issued plate sets in 1968 and 1982. Single plates sell for about $5 today. A set of 49 plates issued in 1953-54, with original mailers, sold several years ago for more than $600.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 7
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ 2
♣ A Q 8 6 4

WEST
♠ 8 5
♥ K 10 6 5
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ J 9 3

EAST
♠ 4
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 8 7 5 4 3
♣ K 10 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 6 3 2
♥ A Q
♦ A K Q
♣ 7

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♣ *	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
7 ♠			

* artificial, strong
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Charting Your Course of Play

One of the best ways to decide whether you have the values to open with a forcing two-bid is to imagine that you open with one of a suit instead and partner passes. If your immediate reaction is that you want to be in game even though partner has less than six points, you should open with a forcing two-bid.

Here South, looking at 11 solid tricks, had a clear-cut opening two-bid. When partner had enough to make a positive response and later showed the ace of clubs in response to Blackwood, South very reasonably undertook a grand slam. His next problem was how to play the hand after West led a diamond.

South has one potential loser to take care of – the queen of hearts – and there are three possible ways to take care of it. Two are obvious: He can try a heart finesse, or he can try a club finesse. If the finesse he chooses succeeds, he makes the grand slam.

But if the finesse loses, South does not get a second chance. Furthermore, there is no compelling reason to prefer one finesse over the other. Each has a 50 percent chance of success.

The third approach, not quite as easy to see, substantially increases declarer's chances. For starters, South gives up on the club finesse. This leaves him no worse off, since he still has the heart finesse in reserve.

But he gains something valuable in exchange – a chance to establish a club trick without risking a finesse. So he wins the opening diamond lead, plays a club to the ace and ruffs a club high.

A low trump to dummy's nine and another club ruff high are followed by a low trump to the ten and still another club ruff. This establishes dummy's queen of clubs as a trick on which South can discard his queen of hearts, with dummy's remaining spade as the entry, and the grand slam is home.

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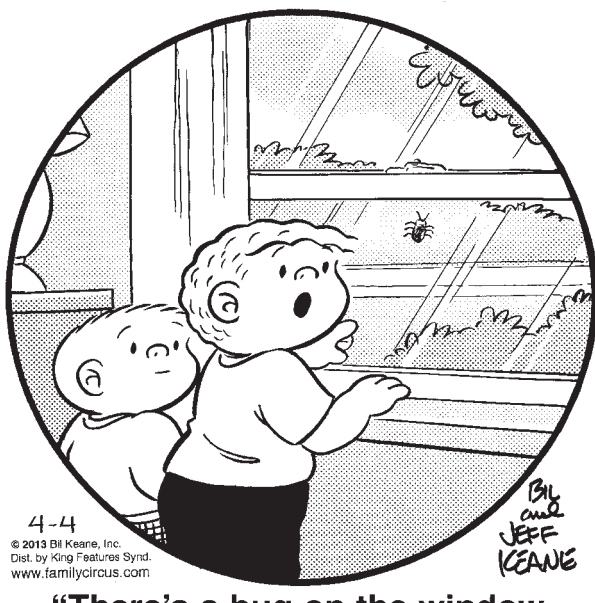
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"There's a bug on the window. Can I let him in?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/04

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/03

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Cryptoquip

JXJFOPNUO RFJTJQM DM MKJ JXJQM TJJGJU MN PJ XJFO KDRRO DM MKJ TDGJ MHGJ. PO VKJJF VNHQVHUJQVJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I RECENTLY REALIZED I'VE SAVED UP SO MANY CITRUS PEELS OVER TIME THAT I HAVE ZEST FOR LIFE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Healthful retreats
5 Meadow
8 "So be it"
12 Hay storage area
13 Plant bristle
14 Trademarked symbol
15 Emanation
16 Corral
17 Stench
18 Third-place medal
20 Honolulu's island
22 Waste time
26 Unexpected victory
29 Started
30 Nay opposer
31 Recording
32 Crazed
33 Pack away
34 Rd.
35 One of the Brady Bunch
36 Starts
37 Jerry Herman musical
40 Comic Jay
41 Brother of Andrew and Charles
45 Reed instrument
47 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
49 Wings
50 Gloomy
51 Rundown horse
52 Frost
53 Connect the —
54 Exist
55 "SportsCenter" airer

DOWN
1 Thick slice
2 Serve tea
3 Frizzy hairdo
4 Strap hanger
5 Boutonniere site
6 Ram's mate
7 Peeved
8 20-Across greeting
9 Vary, as a tone
10 Freudian concept
11 "Neither snow — ..."
19 Pimple
21 Toss in
23 Grassy plain
24 French city
25 Some conifers
26 Hexagonal state
27 Macadamize
28 Make absolutely plain
32 "Material Girl" singer
33 Computer security threat
35 Garfield's owner
36 Antiquated
38 Lecherous looks
39 Sill
42 Muhammad and Laila
43 Freeway access
44 TV chef Paula
45 Peculiar
46 Scary cry
48 Rowing tool

Solution time: 25 mins.

■	■	C	A	B	■	B	C	D
■	D	E	M	O	■	D	R	O
A	U	D	I	O	■	Y	A	R
G	L	A	S	S	S	L	I	P
O	E	R	■	T	O	A	D	S
■	■	■	F	E	R	N	■	■
■	A	D	O	R	E	■	Z	I
K	N	E	E	■	■	P	U	N
E	T	C	■	P	A	I	N	S
G	R	A	S	S	C	L	I	P
■	A	F	L	A	M	E	■	■
■	■	S	O	L	E	S	■	■
■	■	■	E	M	S	■	■	■

O R O O P
A R R O W
P P E R S
T O O
S I T S
L C H
Y
Y O U
P E R S
E L A T E
C E S S
T A T

Yesterday's answer 4-4

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			