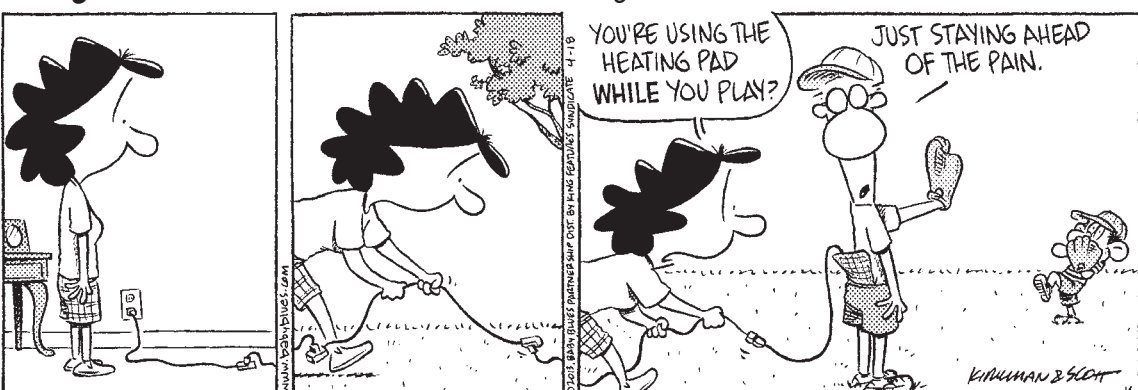


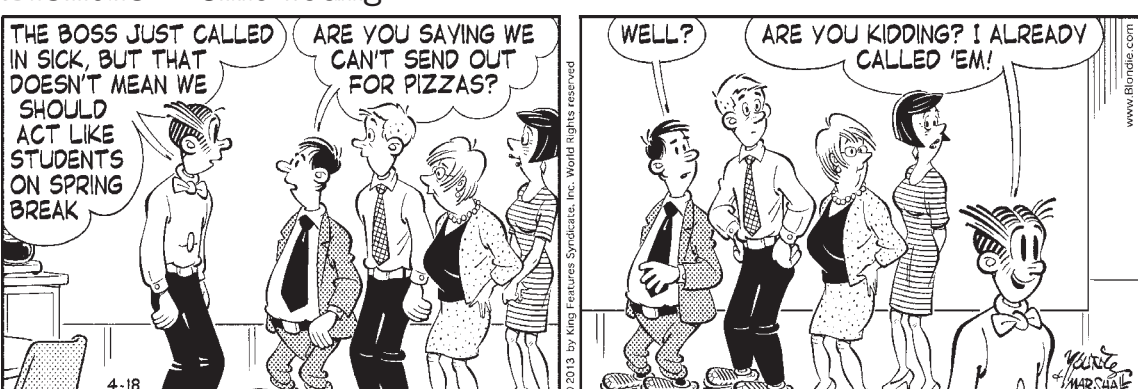
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



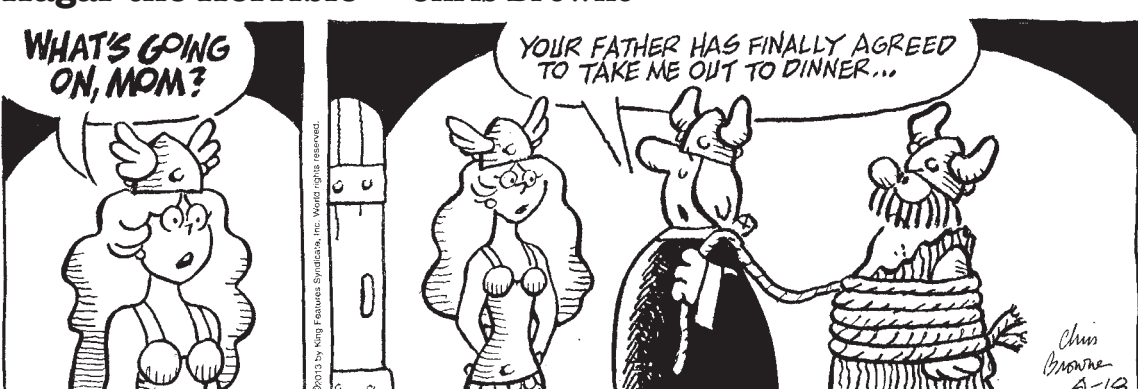
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



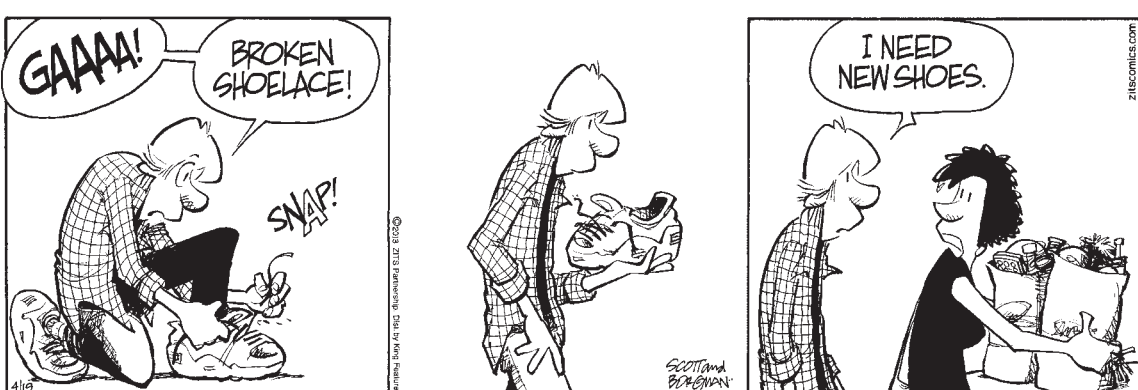
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**

• Antiques and Collecting

**Two-dollar bill favored at tracks**

**Q:** When I was going through my father's belongings after he died, I found a framed photo of a horseracing scene above an uncirculated U.S. \$2 bill with gold embossing. The framed pieces are titled "The \$2 Bill," and between the photo and the bill are these words: "The two-dollar bill with its unique gold embossing and portrait of a smiling Thomas Jefferson was the favorite of Nevada sportsmen and countless American horseracing enthusiasts. It was retired from circulation in 1966 never again to adorn the winner's circle." The bill shows it's from "Series of 1928 F" and the signatures on it are "W.A. Julian" and "John W. Snyder." Can you tell me about this?

**A:** The \$2 bill was introduced in the United States in 1862. All U.S. paper currency was produced in its current size starting with Series 1928, and the bills began circulating in 1929. The \$2 bill was discontinued in 1966, but it was reintroduced in 1976. The bills have not been widely used by the public, but they're favorites at horseracing tracks where the minimum bid is \$2.

The signatures on your bill indicate that it was issued between 1946 and 1949. The gold embossing was done by a private company, not the U.S. Mint. An uncirculated \$2 bill the series and age of yours could sell for about \$35. Another framed collage like yours mounted with a Series 1963 A \$2 bill sold online for \$20.

**Q:** When I was 6 or 7 years old in the late 1930s, I played with a tin toy boat that held water; below was another compartment with a candle. When I lit the candle, it heated the water and created steam that went through a pipe to the water in the boat and propelled it forward. I think it was made in Japan and cost just a few pennies. Can you give me information about the toy?

**A:** Your toy boat has several names. Most common is the name "pop-pop boat," but it's also called a "puf-puf boat." Its history dates to France in the 1880s, but it was patented by Frenchman Thomas Pitot in 1891. Heat is created with either a candle or a small oil burner.

The toys were popular in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, but they lost favor when plastic toys took over the market. Collectors hunt for them, but don't pay more than \$15 to \$25 for a used boat. If yours were in its original and unopened package, it could sell for up to \$50.

**Q:** I would like some information about my grandfather clock, made by J.J. Welsh from Hetton-le-Hole, Scotland. I have tried to look up the clockmaker and town but without luck. The clock must be about 200 years old. A previous owner painted the face plate, which was rusted out, so the face is not original.

**A:** Your clock may have been made by John James Welch, a clockmaker who worked in Hetton-le-Hole, Durham County, England, from 1877 to 1884. His last name is sometimes spelled "Welsh." He worked in Seaham Harbour, also in Durham County, England, in 1864. We did not find a town in Scotland called Hetton Lehole. Maybe when the dial was repainted, the name and location were mislabeled.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 10 3 2  
 ♥ 7 5  
 ♦ Q 6 2  
 ♣ J 8 6 5 3

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

**EAST**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ Q J 9 8 6 4  
 ♦ K 9 7 5 4  
 ♣ 10 7

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K Q J 9 8  
 ♥ A K 10 3  
 ♦ A K  
 ♣ A K

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

\* strong, artificial \*\* negative  
 Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

**Safeguarding a Slam**  
 This deal from a knockout team event illustrates the benefits of adopting a guarded approach when a high-level contract is at stake.

When the deal was played at the first table, South reached six spades as shown. He won the opening diamond lead, cashed the ace of spades and then played the A-K of hearts, planning to ruff both of his losing hearts in dummy.

Unfortunately, West trumped the king of hearts, after which South could not avoid going down one. When he later tried to ruff the three of hearts in dummy, West trumped with the spade six, forcing dummy's ten. This left West with the seven of spades and dummy with the three, so declarer had no way to dispose of the losing ten of hearts.

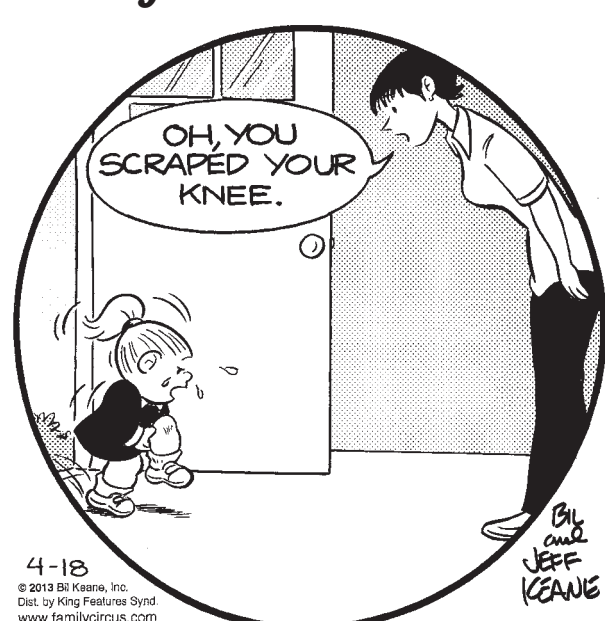
At the second table, South also arrived at six spades, and again the opening lead was a diamond. But here declarer took a more cautious approach and made the slam as a result.

After winning the diamond and playing the ace of trumps, he also cashed the ace of hearts. But instead of playing the king next, he led a low heart! His circumspection was rewarded when West showed out, and East won the trick with the eight. Whatever East returned, declarer could not be prevented from ruffing his remaining heart loser with dummy's ten of spades, after which he could draw trumps and claim the rest of the tricks.

It is true that the line of play adopted by the second South might have cost him an overtrick on many deals. But when a vulnerable slam is at stake, the question of an overtrick has no place in declarer's deliberations.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/18

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

**Cryptoquip**

PDJP COOCRPSXO JGKJSXKL

NJRJPXO HTJRQ PF VCGKJPD

DXQ OFLHTCPC CQPJPC PF

DXQ VCRC-NXQD-XJSXCQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS GAMBLING GUY I ONCE KNEW WOULD NEVER BET ON EVEN NUMBERS. HE'D ALWAYS MAKE ODD CHOICES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 39 Actor 1 Lily variety 5 Homer's outcry 8 Wax-coated cheese 12 Bivouac 13 Individual 14 Field mouse 15 Memo acronym 16 Series of battles 17 Actor McGregor 18 Fame 20 Easter hat 22 Stitch 23 Beast of burden 24 Commanded 27 Human-like robots 32 In olden days 33 "No seats" sign 34 Pizzazz 35 Detective 38 Say it isn't so

**DOWN** 1 Cicatrix 2 Facility 3 Fed 4 Go up against 5 Earthward airstream 6 — budget 7 KFC additive 8 Nevertheless 9 Fire some folks 10 Wings noun suffix 11 Common 19 1927 Lindbergh book 21 Rowing need 24 "Humbug!" 25 Khan title 26 Period of inactivity 28 Gun lobby org. 29 Pessimistic 30 Noise 31 Agent 36 Bit of grain 37 Star Wars inits. 38 Raining somewhat 41 On the other hand 42 Office part-timer 43 Great Lake 44 1940 Laurel & Hardy film, "— at Sea" 46 Tragic 47 Unsigned (Abbr.) 48 NASCAR circuits 51 Teensy

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

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				57				58			