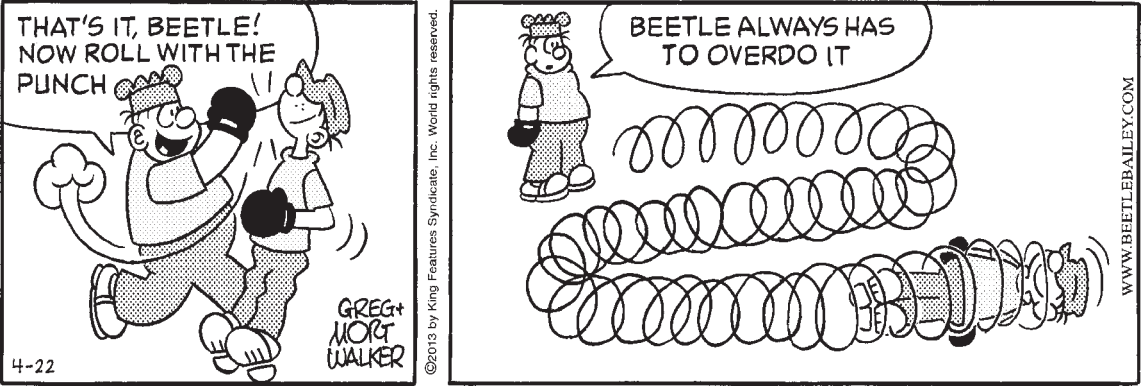


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



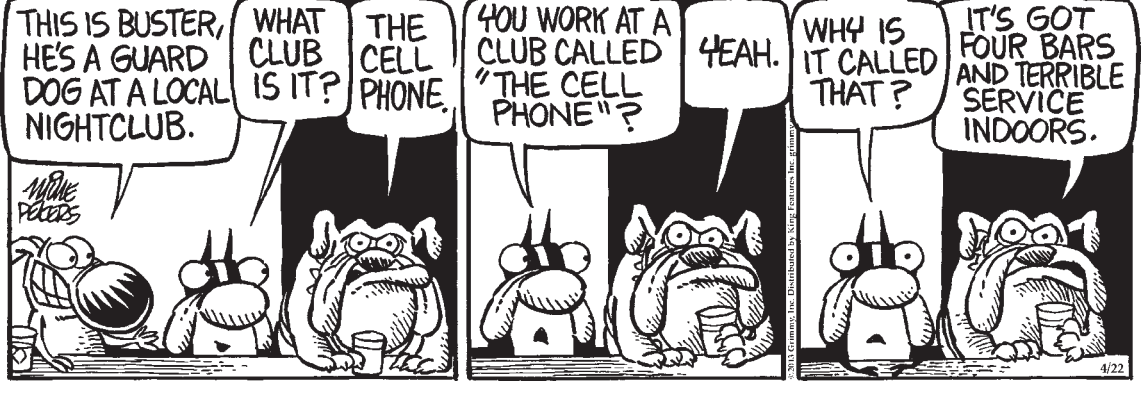
Blondie • Chic Young



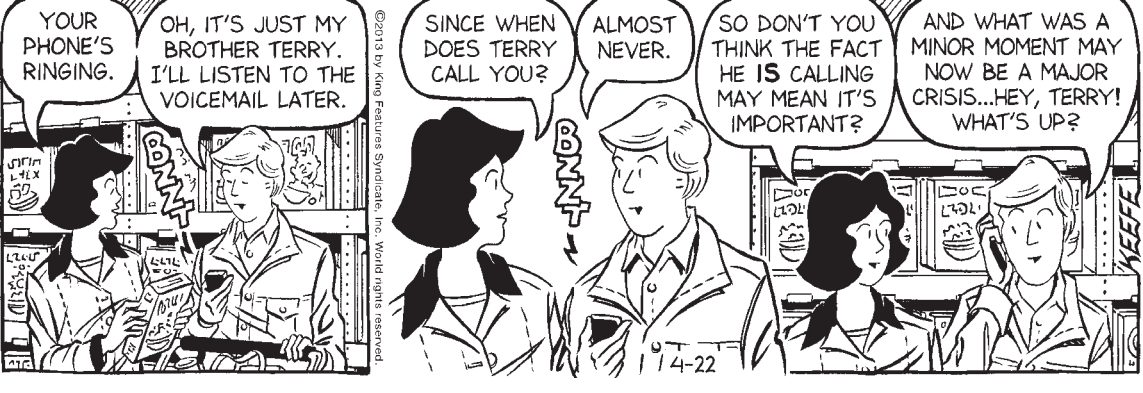
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



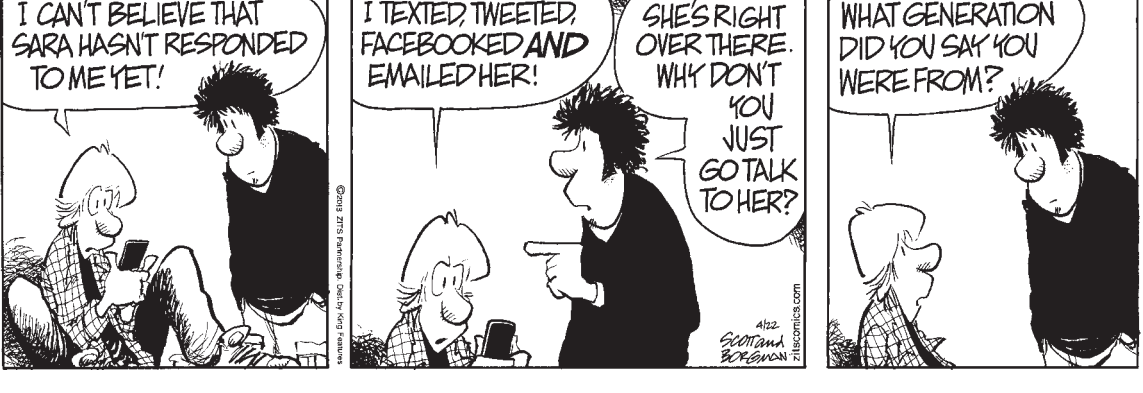
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

'Pteridomania' put ferns all over

Most people have heard about the bout of "Tulipmania" that spread through the Netherlands in the 17th century, but few know about "Pteridomania," or fern madness.

In the 19th century, ferns were part of a popular health regimen. People would go into the woods to hunt for ferns or to study nature. It was good exercise for body and soul. People from all levels of society joined in searching for new varieties of ferns they could record, plant or dry and put in albums.

The many varieties of ferns were soon featured on porcelains and iron garden furniture, and in paintings and interior decors. Green majolica plates shaped like fern leaves, iron benches by Coalbrookdale and children's toy porcelain dishes by Ridgways were decorated with ferns.

The madness continued into the 1880s, but even today ferns are popular house and garden plants. More than 10 varieties are offered in new mail-order garden catalogs, and even more can be found in nurseries in cities with a fern-friendly climate.

It would be easy to find decorative examples of Pteridomania and form a collection today.

Q: I was given an antique secretary, but the desk section is locked and I have no key. How can I open it without ruining the lock?

A: Don't try to pick the lock. Call a few professional locksmiths and find one who is comfortable working with an antique lock. You will find someone who can open it safely.

Tip: For best results, schedule your house sale at the beginning or middle of the month (near payday), but not during holiday weekends.

Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. Write to Kovel, (Colby Free Press), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 9 7 3
♥ K Q 9 6 2
♦ K 7
♣ Q 10

WEST
♠ A K 4 2
♥ J 10 8 7 5
♦ Q 9
♣ A 4

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 6
♥ —
♦ 10 5 4 3
♣ 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 5
♥ A 4 3
♦ A J 8 6 2
♣ K J 9 8

The bidding:
South 1♦ West 1♥ North 1NT East 1♣
Pass Pass 1NT Pass
2♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ Pass 3♦ Pass
Opening lead — king of spades.

Famous Hand
There's a play in bridge you won't find in any of the textbooks. It's called the Alcatraz Coup, and the reason it's omitted is that the play amounts to cheating.

The Alcatraz Coup, as might be surmised, originated in Alcatraz. Who invented it is in dispute, but its many practitioners include some of the most distinguished members of the rogues' gallery.

The first use of the play occurred in this deal. West led the spade king and shifted to a heart, ruffed by East. East returned a club to partner's ace and got another heart ruff, securing the fourth trick for the defense. East then led a spade, ruffed by South.

Declarer played a diamond to the king and a diamond back, East following suit with the ten. South was now at the critical point of the play. Only one diamond, the queen, was missing, and the question was whether to finesse or play the ace.

South analyzed the situation thoroughly. He reasoned that East's original distribution was either 5-0-4-4 or 4-0-5-4. If East started with five diamonds, finessing the jack was essential; but if East began with only four diamonds, going up with the ace would be the winning play.

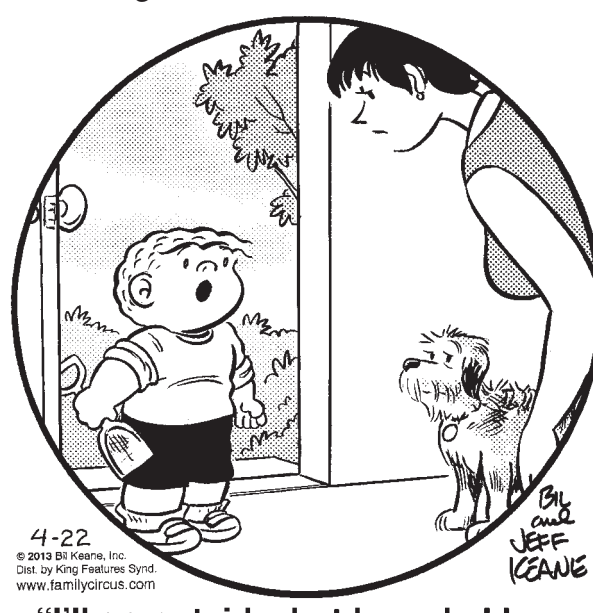
South eventually came up with a unique solution. On East's ten of diamonds he played the ace of hearts! West did not even look at South's card and mechanically followed with the queen of diamonds.

South thereupon corrected his deliberate revoke by substituting the diamond ace for the heart ace and so made the contract.

Of course, players who practice such shenanigans eventually get ostracized, and it was no different for South, who was sentenced to a period of solitary confinement — away from the bridge table — by his peers.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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.

Cryptoquip

G DRFS'M FNURV GSC RL TOM
MXRM PRKCU, FDRZNQ PRVU
TOMPUM SURK ZU. G
ZURSM MXU LRQTO LQ QTO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU WANT TO POUR THAT WATER ON SOMEBODY'S TIMEPIECE TO TEST ITS DURABILITY? NOT ON MY WATCH!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poehler's attention ment director Craven
pal 39 Balearic island DOWN 23 Kimmel's network
4 Alias 41 Went to a restaurant preposition 25 60 minutes
7 Envelope part 43 Cow's comment 2 Ireland 26 Drug dealer's foe
11 Frosty 44 Responsibility People hit
13 Wire measure 46 Formal decree 4 "I — 27 Earthenware pot
14 "The Amazing —" 50 On the rocks garment 28 Dalai
15 Killer whale 53 Jazz style 55 "Damn Yankees" vamp 6 Apportion 29 Came down
16 Everything 56 Pickle herb 8 Legislation 35 Water barrier
17 Basin accessory 57 "See ya" 9 High card 38 Helios' realm
18 Intended 58 And others (Abbr.) rider of song 42 Pudgy
20 Burg 59 Benefit 60 Shril bark 19 Can metal 45 Nutritious bean
22 Sedona auto-maker 61 Wonder- 21 Horror 47 Greek vowel
24 Electronic dance music

DOWN

1 Gift tag 23 Kimmel's network
2 Ireland 26 Drug dealer's foe
3 Village People hit
4 "I — 27 Earthenware pot
5 Scottish garment 28 Dalai
6 Apportion 29 Came down
7 Dwa-ger's pet, maybe 30 Region
8 Legislation 35 Water barrier
9 High card 38 Helios' realm
10 Apiece 12 Pony rider of song 42 Pudgy
11 Can metal 45 Nutritious bean
21 Horror 47 Greek vowel

Answers:
1 PAL 2 GIFT 3 ISLAND 4 ALIAS 5 SCOTCH 6 APPOINTMENT 7 ENVELOPE 8 LEGISLATION 9 HIGH CARD 10 APiece 11 FROSTY 12 PONY 13 WIRE 14 AMAZING 15 WHALE 16 EVERYTHING 17 BASIN 18 INTENDED 19 CAN METAL 20 BURG 21 HORROR 22 SEDONA 23 KIMMEL'S NETWORK 24 ELECTRONIC 25 60 26 DRUG 27 EARTHENWARE 28 DALAI 29 CAME DOWN 30 REGION 31 — KIPPUR 32 SANDBANK 33 LOTION 34 MASSACHUSETTS 35 WATER 36 KNITTING 37 STAYS 38 HELIOS' REALM 39 BALEARIC ISLAND 40 COFFEE 41 WENT TO A RESTAURANT 42 PUDGY 43 COW'S COMMENT 44 RESPONSIBILITY 45 NUTRITIOUS BEAN 46 FORMAL DECREE 47 GREEK VOWEL 48 TALON 49 STORY 50 EGOS' COUNTERPARTS 51 SPY NOVEL 52 WAPITI 53 JAZZ STYLE 54 ENERGY 55 "DAMN YANKEES" 56 PICKLE 57 "SEE YA" 58 AND 59 BENEFIT 60 SHRILL BARK 61 WONDER-
NATAL ORB FAB
ARISE BEE IDO
GENIE JINGLES
GARDEN REPS
PAL SEC BATTY
IDEM STAI D
GOSEEK DOESNT
KASHA DIRE
HUMOR OIL NAN
ERIN DURING
MIN GLES BALSA
PAT ICE EPEES
SHY DOS LASTS

Saturday's answer 4-22

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		
59				60				61		