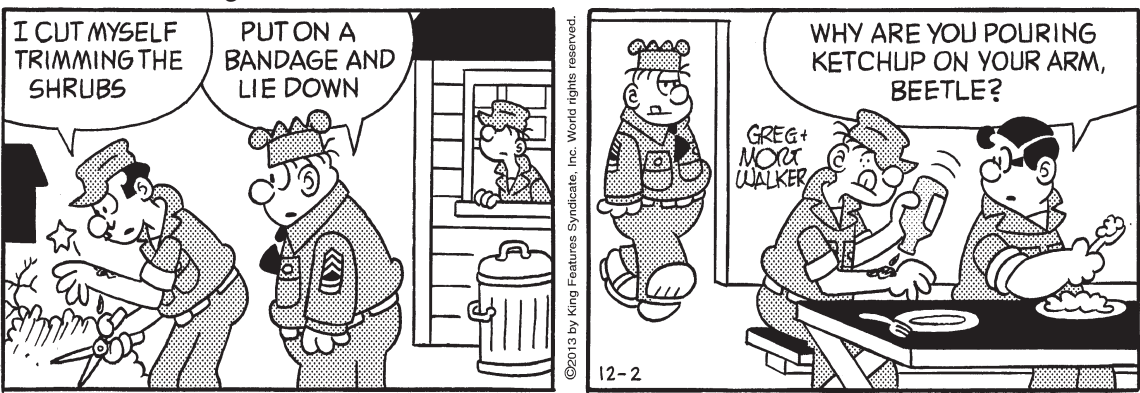


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



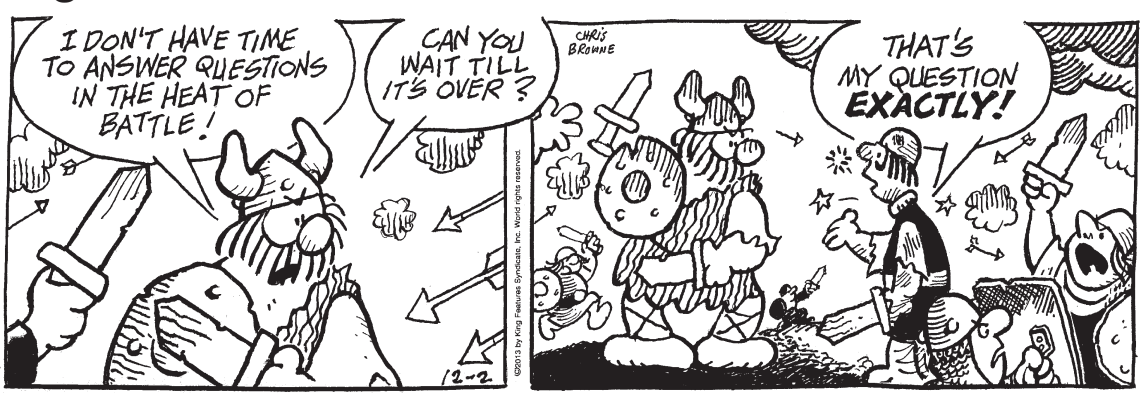
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



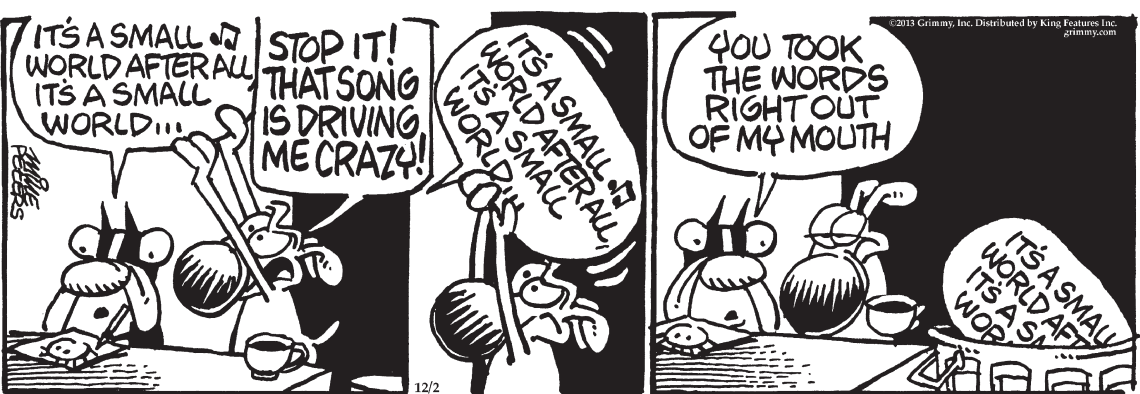
Blondie • Chic Young



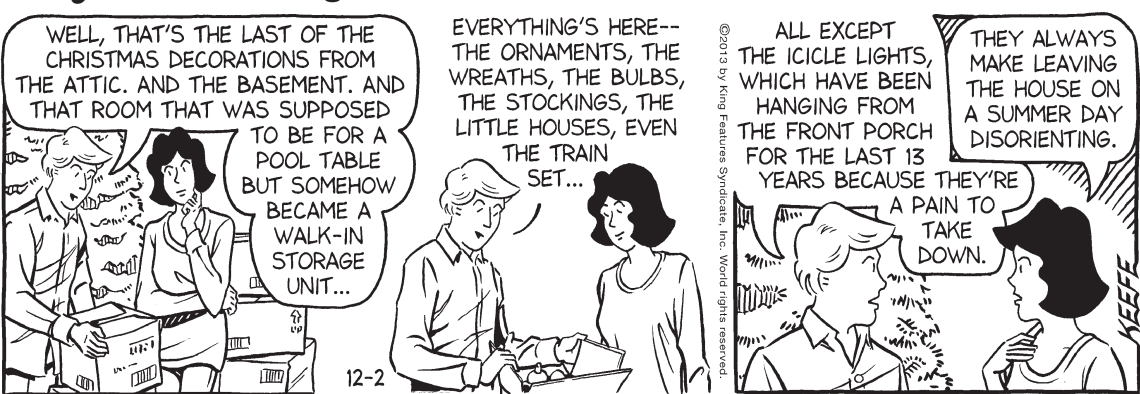
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



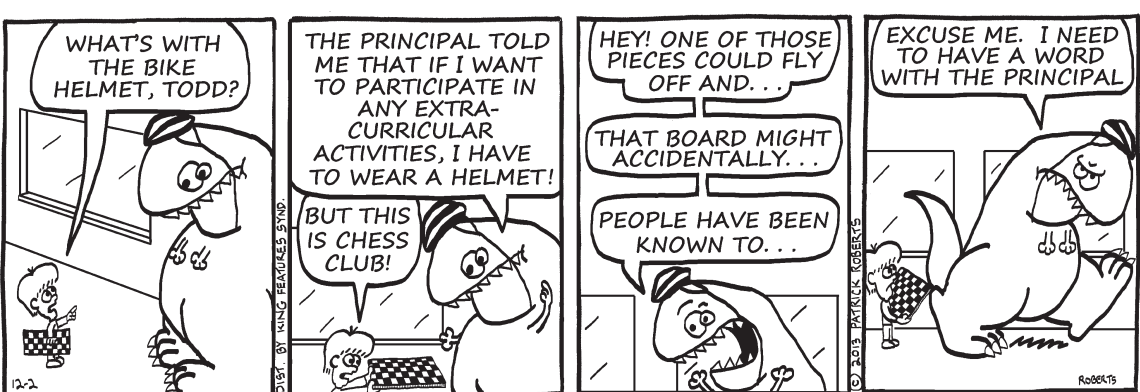
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



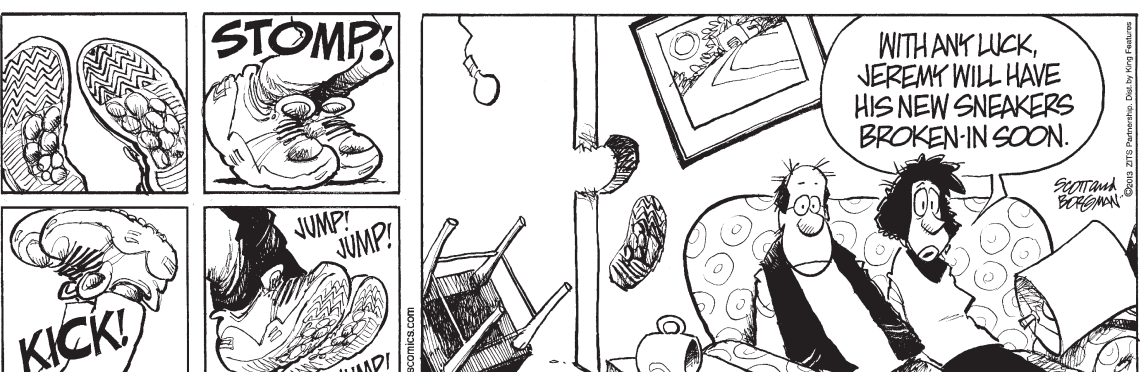
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



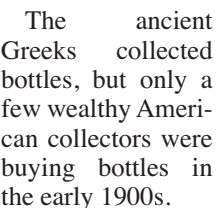
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Bottle collecting can get creative



The ancient Greeks collected bottles, but only a few wealthy American collectors were buying bottles in the early 1900s. At the time, only commercial flasks that held whiskey and other hand-blown bottles were thought important. Probably the earliest book for bottle collectors was written in 1921 by Stephen Van Rensselaer. In 1941, George and Helen McKearin wrote "American Bottles" and created a system of identification that listed, numbered, described and sketched all known historic American flasks.

Bottle collecting became a hobby of the middle class in the 1950s. Valuable bottles were dug from backyards and river banks or found at yard sales. The first collectors club, the Antique Bottle Collectors Association of California, started in 1959. By the 1960s, articles on old bottles were being published in magazines and books. Kovel's "Bottles Price List," written in 1971, was the first of 13 editions. We wrote the last in 2006.

Interest in bottles has gone up and down during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, but clubs, shows and collections remain. Prices of historic flasks have gone from less than \$100 to thousands of dollars. Fruit jars, soda bottles, commemorative bottles, perfumes, poisons and inks attracted collectors.

But who would have guessed old bottles could become part of modern art? Amateurs could buy kits to take old bottles and stretch them into elongated modern shapes. Early 1900s bottles were turned purple by exposure to the sun or radiation. Claire Falkenstein became famous for sculptures made from iron rods and drooping bottles. English artist Barry McGee, made modern art from bottles painted with pictures of heads. He chose empty whiskey bottles to picture street people. His bottle art sells for thousands of dollars.

Still, the most expensive commercial bottles today remain the historic flasks. Rarities can sell for more than \$40,000.

Q: I have a ceramic vase marked "Mougin Nancy" and "J. Mougin.dc." It has been in our family for more than 60 years. I would like to know who made it.

A: The marks on your vase were used by Joseph Mougin (1876-1961). Joseph and his brother, Pierre, were French sculptors and ceramists known for their Art Nouveau and Art Deco designs. They worked in Nancy, France, from 1906 until 1916, producing their own designs as well as works by other artists. In 1916 they moved to nearby Luneville. Your vase, marked "Mougin Nancy," was made between 1906 and 1916.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q J 8 4
 ♥ J 6 4 2
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ Q 8 6

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 6 3
 ♥ 9 8 3
 ♦ J 9 2
 ♣ J 9 4

EAST
 ♠ K 5
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A K Q 8 6 4
 ♣ K 10 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A 7 2
 ♥ A K Q 10 5
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ A 5 3

The bidding:
 East 1♦ South 2♥ West Pass North 1♠
 2♦ 2♥ Pass 3♥
 Pass 4♥
 Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This deal features Edwin Kantar, Los Angeles star, who played it in a national team-of-four championship. West led a diamond against four hearts, and East cashed two diamonds before returning a trump. Looking at all four hands, you might think the contract would fail by either one or two tricks.

But Kantar analyzed his prospects thoroughly and came up with an inspired line of play that brought home the game. He decided that his best chance was to play East for specifically the K-x of spades and the king of clubs, which East was likely to have on the bidding.

Accordingly, after playing three rounds of trumps, Kantar cashed the ace of spades and then led a spade to dummy's eight! This worked out just as he had hoped when East was forced to win the trick with the king, thus establishing an extra spade trick in dummy on which Kantar could later discard one of his club losers.

But that wasn't all Kantar accomplished with this play, for East now had to return a club or yield a ruff-and-discard, allowing South to escape his other club loser. So Kantar miraculously wound up making four hearts, finding a way to avoid losing any clubs at all.

Note that it would not have helped West to play the nine of spades on the second spade lead. Kantar, consistent with his play, had already assigned East the doubleton king of spades, and he would have proceeded on that assumption regardless of which spade West produced on the trick. It isn't easy to talk a fellow like Kantar out of a preconceived notion.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/02

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Q P M F M K M X P T I A V F V T X
 S X I R Z F S T X R M F S M A E M T E B M,
 V J I E E T J M O T I L T I B A J Z O
 S P M K V L S V R J Q M X M P Z X X V M A.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSE A PRIDE OF LIONS WERE TO HAVE AN INTERNAL CONFLICT. WOULD YOU SAY THAT'S A CIVIL ROAR?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 Palindromic woman's name
 4 Paintings, e.g.
 7 Imperfection
 11 Hearty laugh
 13 Scatter seed
 14 Swear word
 15 Franc replacement
 16 Weeding tool
 17 Follow orders
 18 Salivate
 20 Fender bender
 22 2012 movie about a stuffed bear
 24 Mortarboard adornment
 28 Rink-cleaning machine
 32 Chicken, on a Mexican menu
- DOWN**
 33 Operatic solo
 34 High card
 36 Bread quantity
 37 Sea birds
 39 Obvious
 41 Odors
 43 Inventor
 44 Workout venues
 46 Entered, as data
 50 Former larva
 53 Charged particle
 55 Exceptional workplace
 56 Neaten
 57 "Comin' Thro' the —"
 58 Unkempt person
- 19** Zodiac sign
21 Siesta
23 "NCIS" evidence
25 — gin fizz
26 Verve
27 Room at the top?
28 Sudden sharp turns
29 Calla lily, for one
30 Marathon fraction
31 "Rocks" alias
35 Leading lady?
38 Crafty
40 Sort
42 Smug look
45 Tofu source
47 Harvard rival
48 Cupid's alias
49 College loan aftermath
50 Sch. org.
51 Grecian vessel
52 Hole
54 Court divider

Saturday's answer 12-2

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
28	29	30		31		32			
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60					61