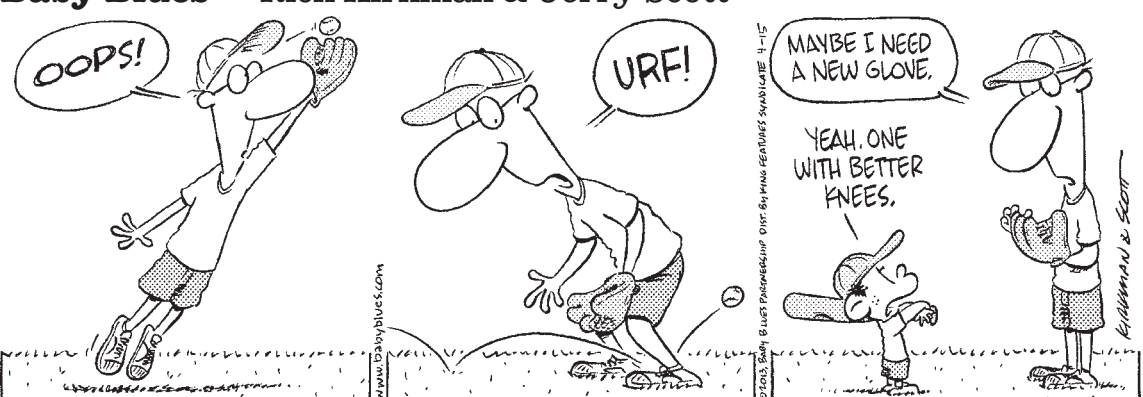
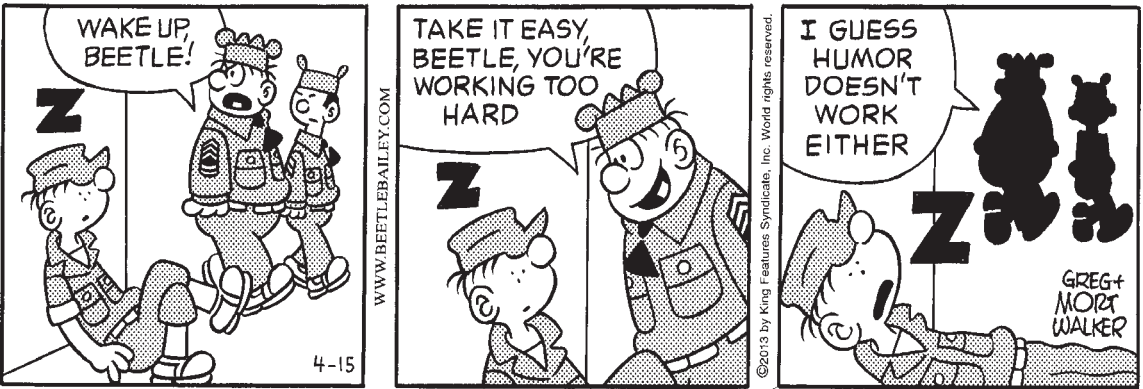


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



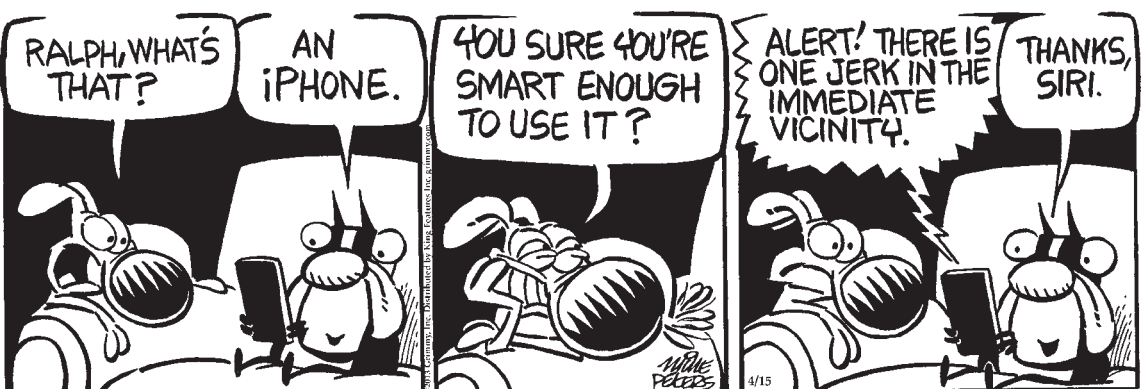
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



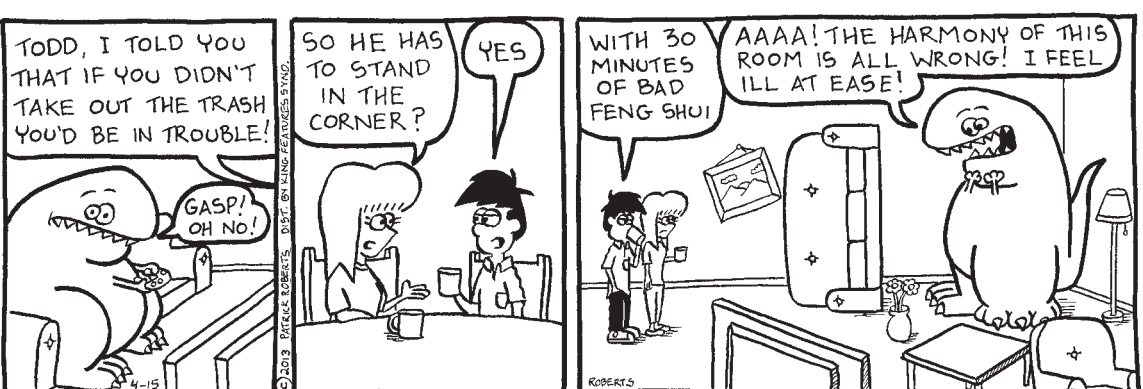
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Bottle colors show their age

A window shelf that holds a collection of cobalt-blue bottles attracts attention, so many new collectors buy their bottles by color.

Most early bottles were made of pale-blue or aqua glass. It was difficult to produce clear glass in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Early bottles were blown, sometimes shaped by the maker or sometimes blown into an iron mold. A bottle had small imperfections caused by tiny pieces of sand or other ingredients. Dark colors were rare.

By 1880, the quality of glass was improving. Whittle marks and tiny bubbles were seen less often, and chemicals were added to make colored glass smooth. Amber, green, brown, light-blue and clear bottles were made to hold medicine, whiskey, soda, ink, mineral water and canned food.

The most popular cobalt blue color was made by adding cobalt oxide to the glass mixture. The automatic bottling machine came into use in 1903, so the cobalt-blue bottles seen most often today were machine-made. Many held medicine, like Bromo-Seltzer or Milk of Magnesia. These are very inexpensive. But old cobalt bottles made earlier can be worth hundreds of dollars.

Buying tips: Old bottles probably have pontil marks (a pontil mark is a scar on the bottom), flaws and raised lettering identifying the contents or maker. Many new cobalt-blue figural bottles have been made. Bottles marked "Wheaton" on the bottom are new. There are cobalt-blue bottles in stores today that hold water or vodka.

Q: We have a cast-iron wood-burning stove in our garage that we salvaged from an old cabin. The markings on it read, "Lakeside Foundry Co., Chicago, Ill., Bell-Wood, Windsor." Can you tell us anything about it?

A: Lakeside Foundry Co. was in business from about 1902 until 1920, when the foundry was sold and the name became Lakeside Forge. Lakeside Foundry made stoves, bells, tableware and other items that were sold by Montgomery Ward. Windsor was one of the brands sold by Montgomery Ward.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q J 2
♥ A K 9 5 4
♦ 6
♣ 10 9 6 2

WEST
♠ K 10 4 3
♥ 3
♦ 10 7 4 3 2
♣ K 8 7

EAST
♠ 9 6 5
♥ Q 10 7 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ A J 3

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7
♥ J 8
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ Q 5 4

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

Famous Hand

When declarer has a strong suit that has not been disclosed during the bidding, it is usually wise to keep that suit concealed for as long as possible during the play. Today's deal from the 1989 Vanderbilt Teams demonstrates the windfall that can accrue from following this practice.

When Bobby Levin, whose team won the event, held the South hand, the bidding went as shown. North's two-diamond bid was a transfer, promising at least five hearts, after which South wound up in three notrump. West led a low spade, taken by dummy's queen, and Levin played a low heart toward his jack. East rose with the queen and returned a spade, taken by South's ace.

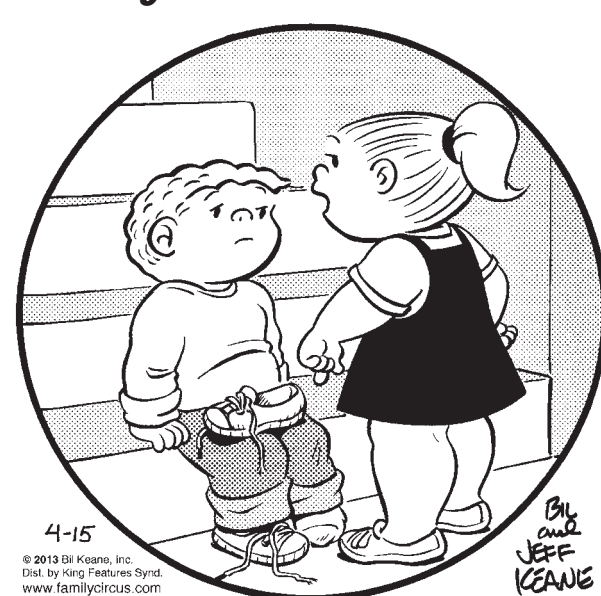
At this point, Levin could count only eight sure tricks — two hearts, four diamonds and the two spades already won. If either red suit could be run, the contract was in the bag. But if both the diamonds and hearts broke badly, the contract would almost surely fail.

Following the principle of keeping the unknown hidden, Levin next led the jack of hearts to dummy's king and cashed the ace. West had to make two discards on these plays, and one of them was a fatal diamond. Levin then ran all five of his diamonds to finish with nine tricks, plus 400.

At the other table, the play to the first three tricks was exactly the same. But here, after declarer won East's spade return with the ace, he tried to run his diamonds first, letting the cat out of the bag. When neither red suit broke, he could not come to more than eight tricks, giving Levin's team a gain of 10 IMPs on the deal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"If at first you don't succeed, see if Mommy will do it for you."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/15

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.

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

Cryptoquip

V Q F N T Q F X Y P Q G N Z Y B E A T W A

C B E V Z G O X F B G A Z W X G W A Z C B

W K B E Z P W G P T Z B O Q O O X Q E Z Y W

W N B K Z G W X N B K Z G Q X B

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AN OPTOMETRIST WANTS TO LISTEN TO MUSIC ON HIS COMPUTER, HE REALLY SHOULD USE EYE-TUNES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Donkey
4 Portion of an act
9 Mischievous tyke
12 Hawaiian garland
13 Overuse the mirror
14 Ultra-modern prefix
15 Clarified
17 Auto fuel
18 Upper limb
19 Lack
21 Uses tweezers
24 Long story
25 A billion years
26 Male offspring
28 Jockey's handful
31 "No — luck!"
33 Phone bk. data
35 Winter forecast

DOWN
2 Headly brew
2 Gender
3 Taste a drink
4 Activates
5 Shade of red
6 Still, in verse
7 Requirements
8 Ingratiate
9 Deep-seated
10 Vegan's no-no
11 Luxurious
16 Fond du —, Wis.
20 A long time
21 Mexican money
22 Lummo
23 "Django —" (film title)
27 Promptly
29 Brief letter
30 portrayal
32 Towel embroidery
34 Tranquillizes
37 Auction, so to speak
39 Caveat word
42 Cavalry sword
44 Blackbird
45 Cheese choice
46 Jeans-maker
50 Hot tub
51 Zero
52 First lady
53 Coloring agent



Saturday's answer 4-15

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		