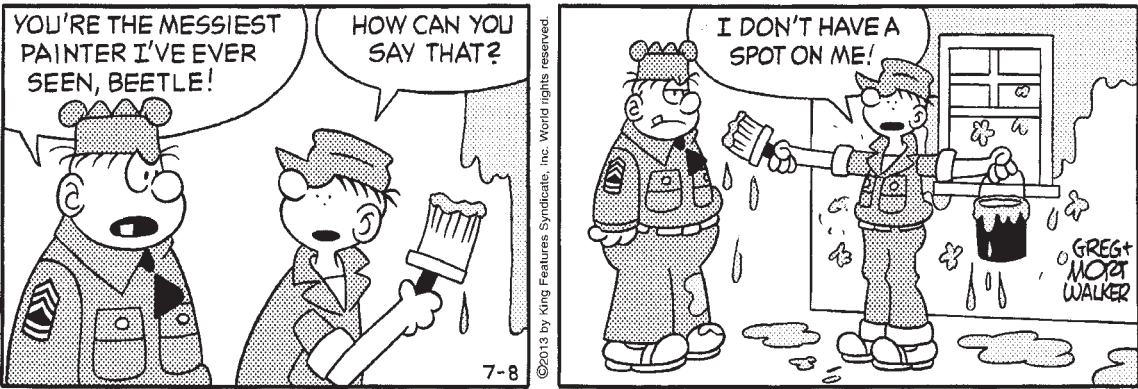


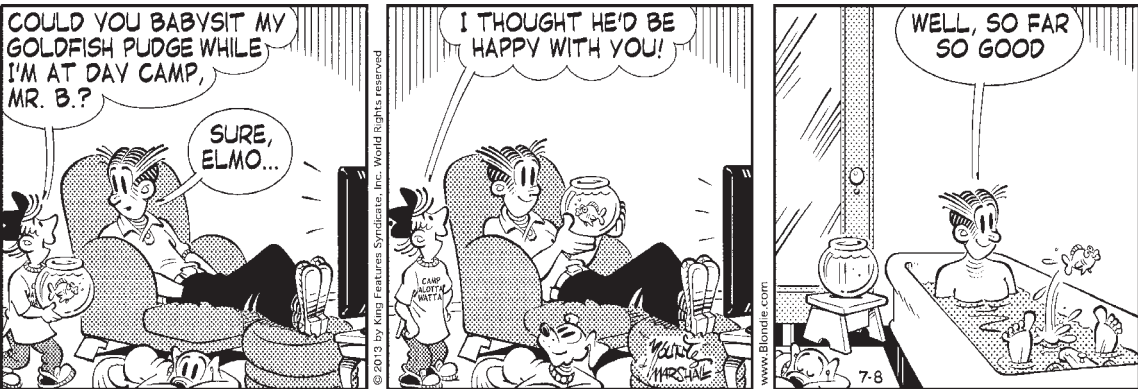
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**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

**Helpful shmoo a loved character**

Remember the Shmoo? It started one of the biggest assortment of collectibles in the 20th century.

The animal was first seen in a L'il Abner comic strip in August 1946, and it became a sensation. Al Capp, the artist, had invented an animal that laid eggs and glass bottles of milk, tasted like whatever you liked to eat and purposely died when someone seemed hungry.



Its button eyes made terrific suspender buttons, and its skin could be used for leather or lumber. They gave rides, played with children and were so amusing people stopped watching television.

They multiplied quickly so there was always a good supply, and they needed no food, just air. A Shmoo was shaped like a large upside-down comma with feet, but had no ears, arms or noses.

The Shmoo became a collecting sensation in the 1940s and '50s. There were dolls, toys, planters, sheet music, wallpaper, clothing, books, jewelry, salt-and-pepper sets, banks and even air fresheners and earmuffs. All are collected today.

But while they were lovable and wanted only to bring happiness, Shmoon (the plural of Shmoo) brought misery to the comic-strip people of Dogpatch. Because there was no need to work, society changed. Grocery and meat stores closed, and the owners organized squads to kill the Shmoon until they were thought to be extinct. But they managed to come back in later comic strips. And collectors search for them today.

**Q:** I have a wooden crank-type wall telephone handed down in our family. The nameplate says: "B-R Electric & Telephone Mfg. Company, Manufacturers of the Celebrated K-C Telephone, Kansas City, Mo., Portland, Oregon." Please tell me about this company.

**A:** B-R Electric Co. and Kansas City Telephone Manufacturing Co. merged in 1903 to form B-R Electric & Telephone Manufacturing Co. B-R continued to market the phones using the Kansas City (K-C) brand name. A phone like yours with the same nameplate recently auctioned for \$85. Of course, price depends on condition as well as age and manufacturer.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

Fast dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 5 4  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ Q J 5 4  
 ♣ Q J 8 7 6

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 8 2  
 ♥ A K 10 9 4  
 ♦ K 10 2  
 ♣ 5 2

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

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

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♣  
 Pass 2 ♥ Pass 2 NT  
 Pass 3 NT  
 Opening lead — ten of hearts.

**Famous Hand**

This deal was played in the Italy-Taiwan match during the 1972 World Bridge Olympiad. The final contract — three notrump by South — was the same at both tables, but the outcome was altogether different.

At the first table, where Giorgio Belladonna was declarer for Italy, West led the ten of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's queen, led the queen of diamonds, which held, then the jack of diamonds, losing to West's king.

West shifted to the ten of spades, and the Taiwanese East, overly impressed by his spade holding, signaled with the seven — a fatal mistake. Belladonna won with the king and ran 10 tricks for a score of 430 points. Had East taken the ten of spades with the ace and returned a heart, Belladonna would have gone down two.

East should have realized from declarer's approach to the play — leading diamonds instead of clubs — that South almost surely had the A-K-x of clubs.

At the second table, after the same bidding, West led the nine of hearts against three notrump. The Taiwanese declarer promptly let the cat out of the bag when he won the heart lead in dummy and cashed five club tricks before finessing the queen of diamonds.

This series of plays enabled East to signal possession of the ace of spades and, at the same time, allowed West to discard two low spades and a low diamond, thereby emphasizing that his sole interest was in a heart return.

Accordingly, upon winning the diamond queen with the king, the Italian West led the ten of spades to his partner's ace and got a heart return, and the Taiwanese declarer went down two for a team loss of 530 points.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/08

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

DCB QOADBENM RJQBWVOX

JXNM VQKBEAJXODBA ORDJEA

OXW KJNVDRVVOXA. VD'A

CVA VQVDODVJX NVQVDODVJX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU REMOVE A FEW ITEMS FROM YOUR SECRET SUPPLY, I'D SAY YOU'VE MADE A CACHE WITHDRAWAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 1 — Baba 4 Michael of R.E.M. 9 Energy 12 Writing implement 13 Wails 14 Gorilla 15 Worshipper of all gods 17 Born 18 Cyclades island 19 Almost fall 21 "Fantasia" ballerinas 24 Unrestrained revelry 25 McKinley's first lady 26 Allow 28 Indian title 31 Fasting period 33 Castaway's message 35 Lady of Lisbon 36 Yoga position

**DOWN** 1 Angry Birds, e.g. 2 Meadow 3 Hostel 4 Educational institution 5 Hair 6 Midafternoon, on a sundial 7 Green pasta topping 8 Perfumery compounds 9 Runs ruin them 10 Duel tool 11 Juror, in theory 16 Gratuity 20 "Zounds!"

21 Jack and Jill's terrain 22 Thought (Pref.) 23 Commedia dell'arte clown 27 Plaything 29 Cartoonist's supply 30 Sere-nades the moon 32 Melody 34 Where Star-bucks' started 37 Answer angrily 39 Runs 42 Ritzy violin 44 URL ending 45 Prayer conclusion 46 Lady — 50 Diarist Anais 51 Wall climber 52 Extinct kin of the kiwi 53 Wapiti

**ACROSS** 38 "Of course" 40 Firmament 41 Actress Paquin 43 Entry 45 Radiant 47 Also 48 Chinese chairman 49 It goes without saying 54 Id counterpart 55 Cockeyed 56 Encyc. section 57 A Bobbsey twin 58 Fork features 59 Tibetan critter

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