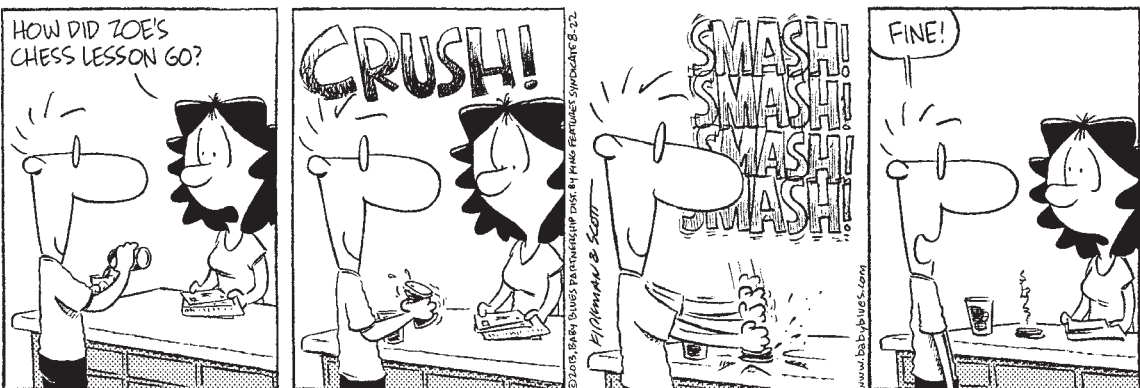
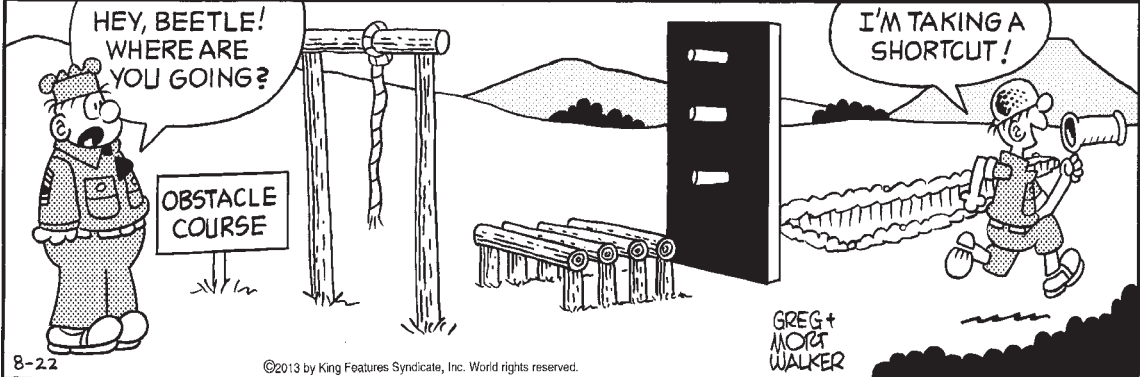


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



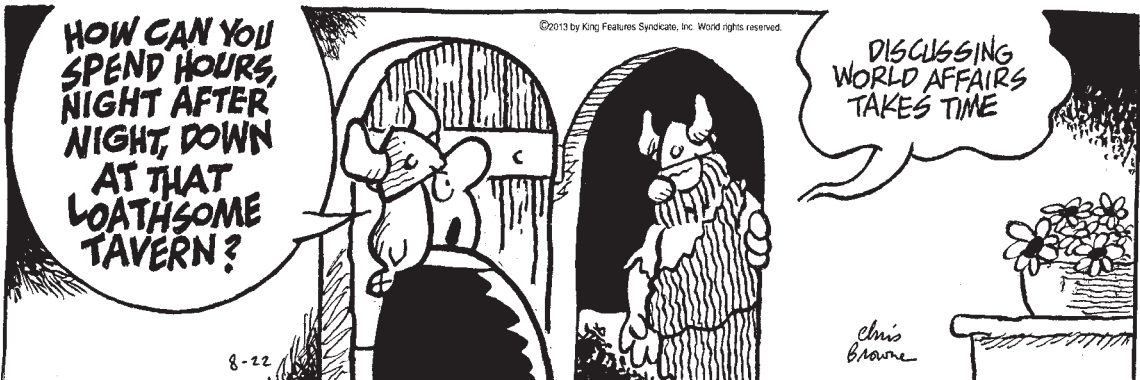
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



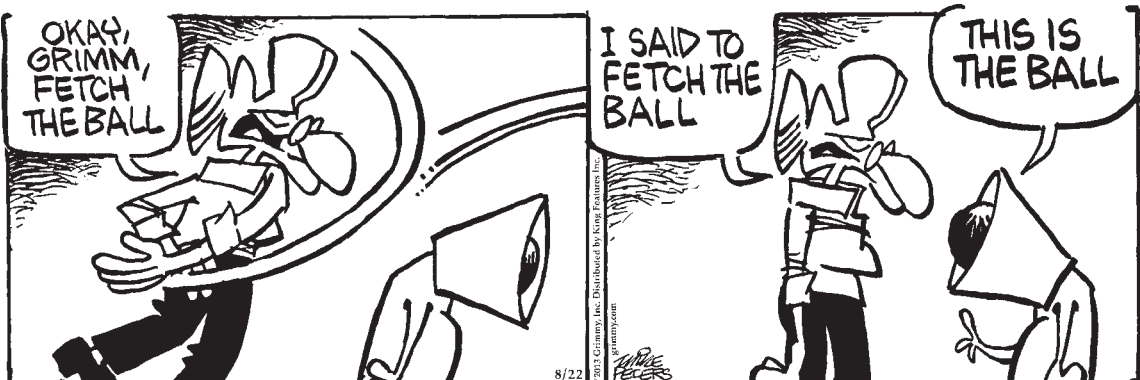
Blondie • Chic Young



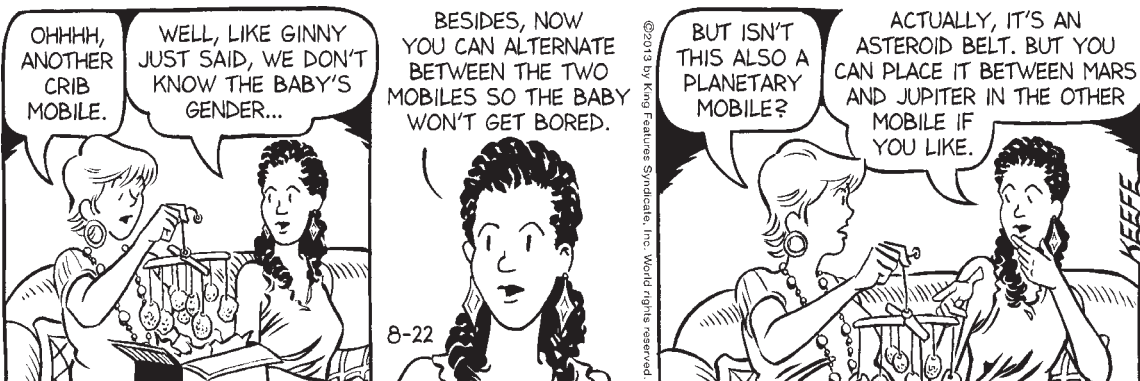
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



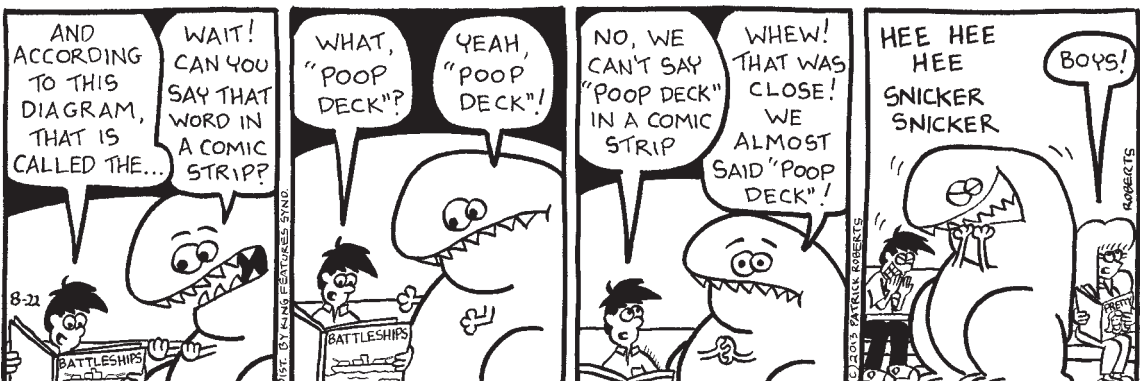
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



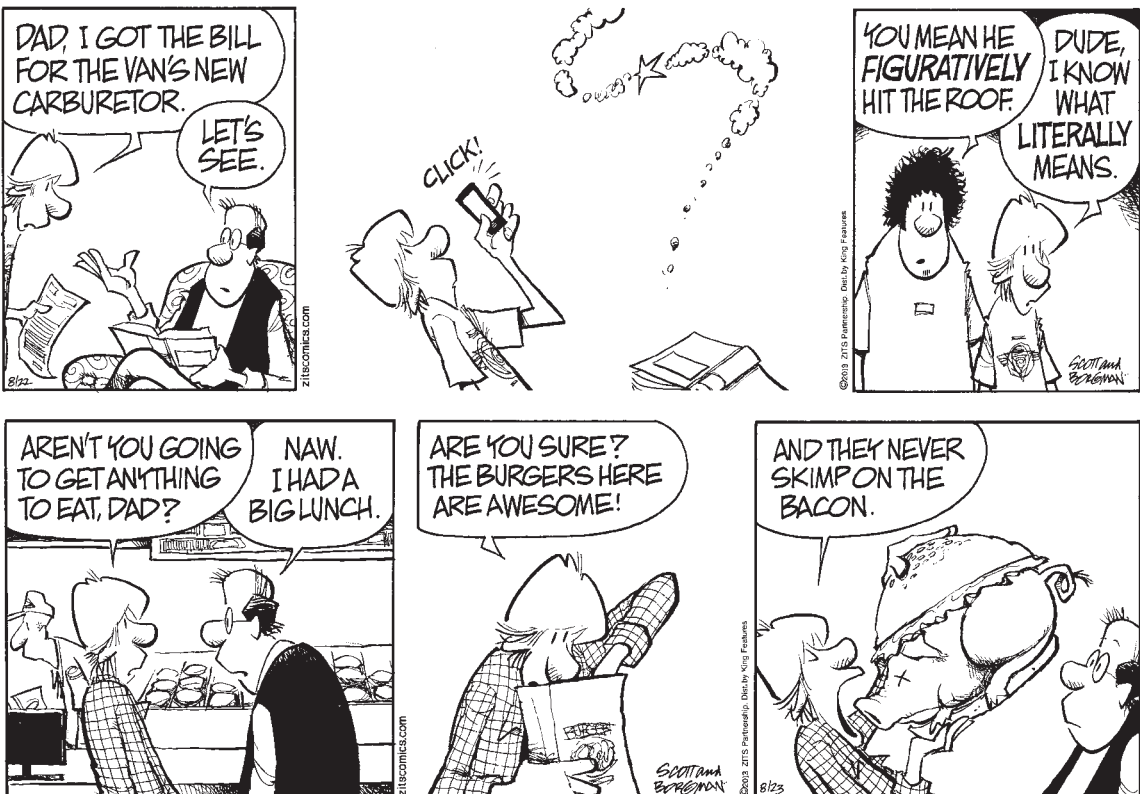
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
 • Antiques and Collecting

Batman buckle made in 1940s

Q: I have a solid-brass Batman belt buckle I think is from the 1940s. It's marked "National Periodical Publications, Inc." and has the number 0016 on the back. Can you tell me what year it was made?

A: Your Batman belt buckle was made in the early 1940s. National Periodical Publications published the first comic books that included original material, not reprints of comic strips. The company started out in 1934 as National Allied Publications. It has operated under various names, including Detective Comics and DC Comics. The company published the first Batman comic in 1939. Your Batman belt buckle probably is worth less than \$100.

Q: I have an antique grip machine that was used in my grandparents' tavern a century ago. Red metal, it works with a penny. It was made by D. Gottlieb & Co. of Chicago. A bell rings when you get the meter so high. A chart on the front has ages and grip numbers for men and women. How much is it worth?

A: Your grip machine is not quite as old as you think. D. Gottlieb & Co. was founded by David Gottlieb in 1927. Originally the company made pinball machines. Gottlieb's countertop grip tester was first made in 1928. It tested grip and arm strength and was a money-maker for stores, taverns, barbershops and other retail businesses. Keys were needed to open up the back and get the money out. The grip tester was in and out of production until at least the late 1940s. Gottlieb made hundreds of different games. A couple of years ago, a D. Gottlieb & Co. grip tester with keys sold for \$480.

Q: Several years ago, I received a six-piece set of little antique crystal bowls and matching tiny shovels. The set probably dates from the late 19th or early 20th century. Each little bowl is about 2 inches tall and 4 inches in diameter. What were the bowls and shovels used for? And what is the set worth?

A: Your little bowls were used to hold salt. They're called "open salts," "standing salts" or "salt cellars." An open salt with a shovel-like spoon and a little pepper shaker were set next to each place-setting at the dining table. Instead of shaking salt, diners used the shovel to sprinkle salt on their food. Sets like yours don't sell for high prices today. We have seen six-piece sets sell online for \$25 to \$50.

Q: Years ago I donated many valuable toys and games to various charities. Is there any way to get these sentimental items back?

A: Once things are given away, you can't get them back. Charities usually sell the items at resale shops and use the money to support their programs. Toys in good condition also may have been distributed to children in need. You could have taken a tax deduction for the value of the toys when you donated them, but now you can be happy your donation helped the charities.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A K
 ♥ Q J 10 5
 ♦ A K J 6
 ♣ 10 7 3
EAST
 ♠ 9 8 7 4 2
 ♥ 8 4 3
 ♦ 10 7 2
 ♣ 9 6
SOUTH
 ♠ J 5
 ♥ A 9 7 6 2
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ J 8 5 2

The bidding:
 West North East South
 1 ♣ 3 ♠ 1 ♥
 Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

No Way Out

Occasionally a defender finds himself in a position where, no matter how he proceeds, he must hand declarer the contract.

That was the situation faced by West in today's deal from a team contest. He started by cashing three top clubs, East following with the 9-6 to the first two clubs and discarding a low spade on the third one. The question then was what to do next.

Declarer was known to have the missing club, so West's natural play was to continue with a fourth club in the hope that East could overruff dummy. But West knew this could not succeed, since he was looking at the king of hearts in his hand. If he led another club and East could not overruff the queen, declarer would know West had the king and would sooner or later play the ace, hoping the king was singleton.

West's alternative was to switch to another suit at trick four, but this would be equally informative. Declarer would ask himself why West had not made the obvious club return, and the answer would not be long in forthcoming.

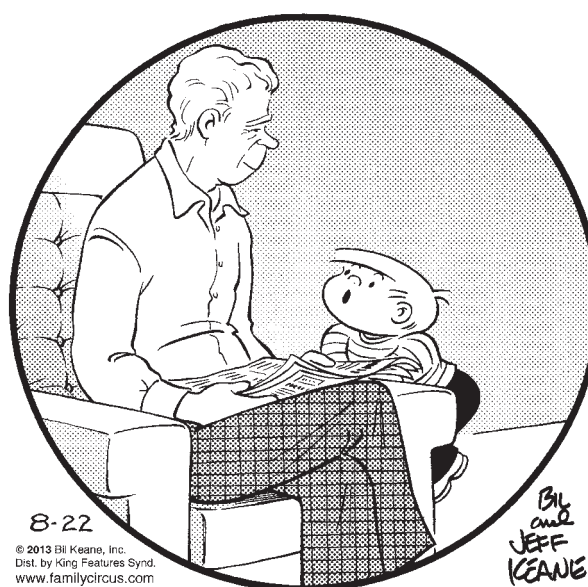
In practice, West shifted to a spade, but South had no trouble drawing the proper inference, playing the ace of hearts next to make his game.

At the second table, West, also defending against four hearts, gave more thought to the entire deal after his partner played the club nine at trick one. West could see the proverbial handwriting on the wall, and, rather than let the cat completely out of the bag, he switched to a spade at trick two.

Perhaps declarer should have asked himself why West had discontinued clubs, but he didn't. He tried the heart finesse at trick three and lost to the king, and West then cashed two more clubs to set the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Granddad, what were you when you were old enough to work?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/22

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Y X J K D N E Q K N Z Z Q X U L X F M

L W N L G N J K T B K D X K M U K P E I

L W K Z X D J L Y F D L N Q G F Y N M

F Z Y I L W : B N M P F D N ' J B F T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO WRITE ANYTHING IN THESE MARGINS, I WOULD SAY YOU CAN'T GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS** 36 Old Glory, e.g.
 5 Gear tooth
 8 Note from the brass
 12 Grown-up nits
 13 Coloration
 14 On the rocks
 15 Mosque VIP
 16 Bobby of hockey lore
 17 Zilch
 18 Toxic substance
 20 Complain
 22 1961 Jimmy Dean classic
 26 Barfly's perch
 29 Conclude
 30 Chinese chairman
 31 Stopper
 32 Thicker
 33 Narc's measure
 34 Exist
 35 Cattle call?
- DOWN** 19 Lubricate
 21 Peculiar
 23 Underneath and resell quickly
 24 Head light?
 25 Middy
 26 Wound cover
 27 Amos or Spelling
 28 Wild marjoram
 32 Computer program?
 33 Flowy garments (Var.)
 35 West of Hollywood
 36 Deli order, for short
 38 Censor, in a way
 39 Refuges
 42 Verve
 43 Smoked salmon
 44 Thought-provoking
 45 Boar's mate
 46 Lawyers' org.
 48 22nd Greek letter

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20	21		
				22			23			24
26	27	28				29				30
31				32				33		
34				35				36		
37				38				39		
				40				41		
45	46			47	48			49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		