

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



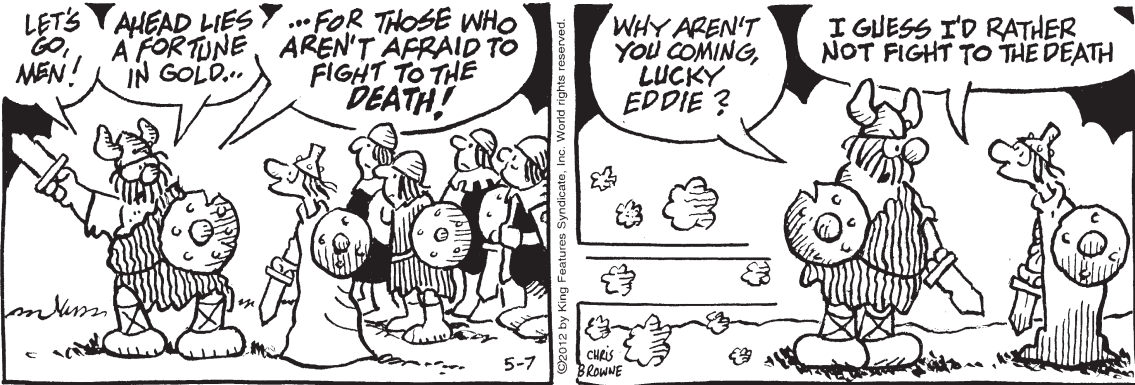
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



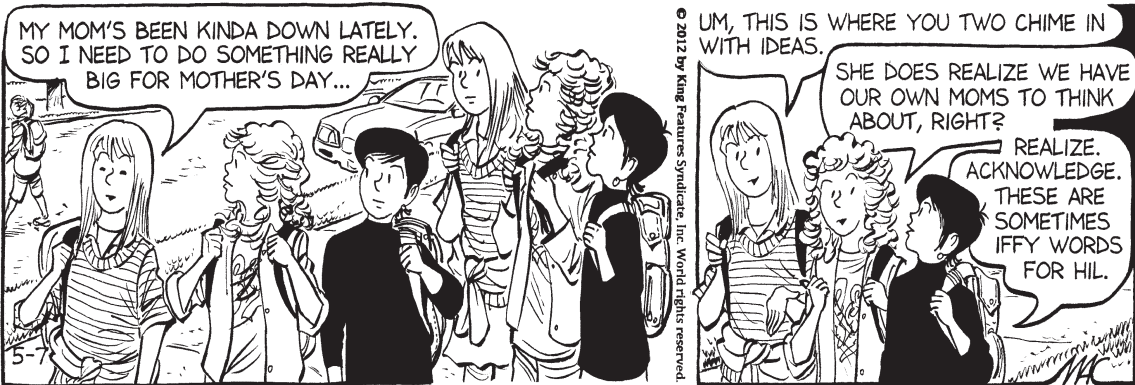
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



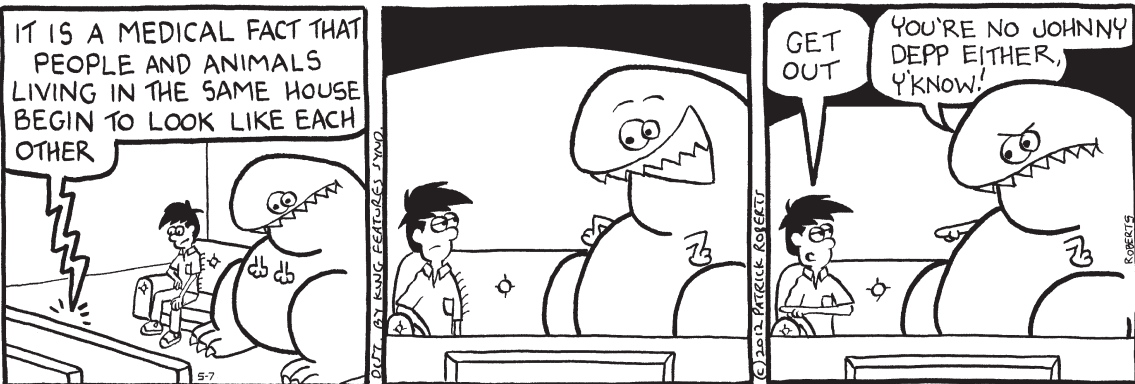
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



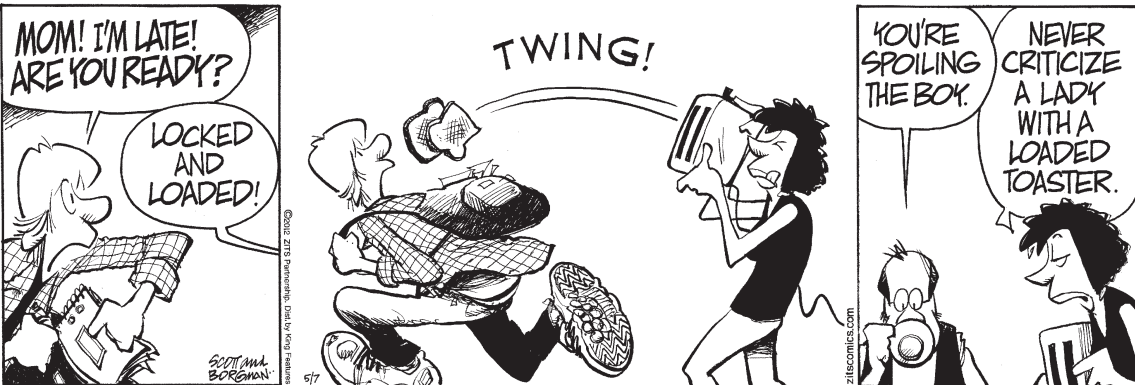
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Iron doorstops collectible today

Iron doorstops are among today's top-selling collectibles. They are probably not propped against a door to keep it open but are instead displayed like rare porcelain figurines on a prominent shelf.



The clever, colorful and often humorous doorstops favored today are made of painted cast iron. They were first popular in the late 19th century. Flower baskets, cottages, animals and people were the most common doorstop shapes. More than 1,000 American-made doorstops are known, and there are at least 35 different doorstops that look like Boston Terriers.

A new doorstop in 1920 cost 25 cents. Today a rare one sells for more than \$10,000. But most in average condition cost about \$100. Original paint is important and repainting a doorstop, no matter how battered, lowers the price. A broken or badly damaged piece has almost no value. Many reproductions have been made, most of them since the 1980s. That's when new collectors started searching for pieces for their collections.

Reproductions start out with overly bright paint, and any rust that develops on them is bright orange, not dark brown.

One unusual vintage cast-iron doorstop (shown above) is a clownish boy wearing a checkered shirt. He is standing with his legs and arms crossed. At his feet are piles of books and pamphlets. It may have been made to commemorate the New York Times Crossword Puzzle. Since the Times didn't publish its first crossword puzzle until 1942, the doorstop wasn't made before then. One sold in 2008 for \$4,025. In 2011 another one sold for \$1,725.

Q: My old child's rocking chair has a music box attached to one of the rockers. A rod extends from the music box to the floor so that when the chair rocks, the music box plays. Unfortunately, the music box no longer works. Do you know anyone who repairs something like this?

A: In the mid-20th century, a few companies made children's rocking chairs with music boxes. The mechanism on your chair was a feature of rockers made by the N.D. Cass Co. of Athol, Mass. See if you can find a Cass Toys label or mark on the chair. Anyone who repairs music boxes should be able to repair on your chair. We list a few in the directory at Kovel.com.

Tip: Valuable old wicker should never be painted. It should be misted once a month. Vacuum and dust it regularly. Once a year wash it with a natural soap.

(c) 2012 by Cowles Syndicate Inc.

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ A Q 8 6 3
♦ J 10 8
♣ K J 8 4

WEST
♠ K J 10 7
♥ K 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 6 3 2
♣ —

EAST
♠ 5 3 2
♥ 4
♦ K 7 4
♣ A 10 9 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 6
♥ J 10
♦ A 9 5
♣ Q 7 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 2♥ Pass 2NT
Pass 3♣ Pass 3♦
Pass 3NT

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Famous Hand
Today's deal occurred in the 1990 world team championship final between Germany and the United States, narrowly won by Germany. The Germans got off to a slow start, though, losing heavily on this, the very first board of the 64-deal match.

When Jochen Bitschene and Bernhard Ludewig of Germany held the North-South hands, the bidding went as shown. North's two-heart opening showed five hearts, four clubs and 10-15 points, and two rounds later Ludewig found himself in three notrump.

Declarer won East's king of diamonds with the ace and led the heart jack, covered by the king and ace. A low heart was then led to the ten, after which Ludewig played a club to the king and East's ace, West discarding a spade.

West won his partner's diamond return with the queen and exited with a diamond to dummy's jack, but he found himself right back on lead on the next trick when Ludewig, spotting a sure-fire endplay, conceded the heart six to West's seven. After cashing his good diamond — the defenders' fourth trick — West had to return a heart from the 9-5 to dummy's Q-8 or lead a spade into South's A-Q. Either way, Ludewig was sure to gain his ninth trick.

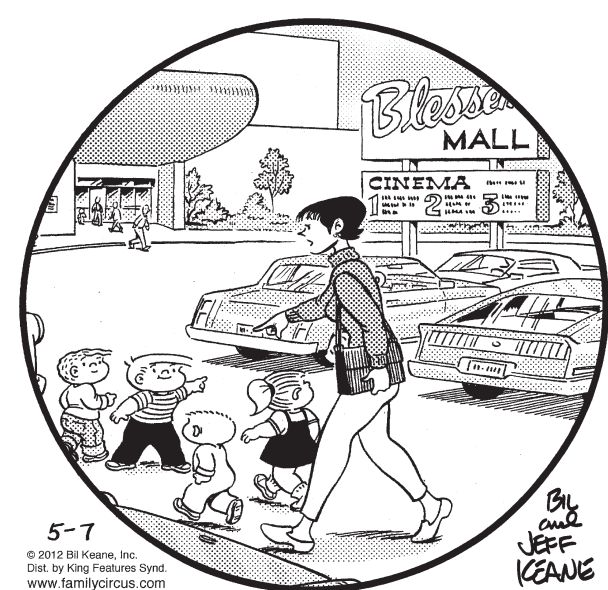
This appeared to be an excellent result, but at the other table, with Germany now East-West, the bidding took an unexpected turn:

West North East South
1♥ Pass 3♣ Dble
Pass Pass Pass

West's one-heart bid showed 10-15 points with a heart suit and perhaps a minor suit on the side. East's three-club response was weak, and Charles Coon of the U.S. found the winning action by doubling. Mike Moss, North, was delighted to leave the double in, and when the smoke cleared, the Germans were down four for -800 and a 9-IMP loss on the deal.

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 5/07

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.

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

Cryptoquip

NRHS CPT NDSE EP NGS

ERH "XBHDSHUE RDGI"

XPZQHEGEGPS, G'V UDC CPT

IHDBBC SHHV EP TUH XRDZQ-PP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A U.S. STATE IS SO DRY IT GETS ALMOST ZERO RAINFALL, I GUESS THEY SHOULD NAME IT ARID-ZONA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pickle flavor
5 Collection
8 Lingerie
12 Fragrant climbing plant
14 40-Across part
15 Outing for Neil Armstrong
16 Addict
17 Little louse
18 Mistakes in print
20 Confuse
23 Ignore
24 Not closed
25 Under-the-table flirtation
28 Golfer Michelle
29 A deadly sin
30 Wet dirt
32 Weather conditions
34 Challenge
35 Downs or Grant

DOWN

36 Devilish sort
37 Armadas
40 Listener
41 Small bit
42 Henry Hudson's ship
47 Tea hour
48 Natural aptitude
49 Okla-homa city
50 Bakery buy
51 Third son
1 Brit. mil. award
2 — Jima Swat"
3 Zodiac feline
4 One of the Beatles
5 Argument
6 Conger, for one
7 Pay heed
8 Book jacket
9 Passenger
10 Help a crook
11 Will be (Sp.)
13 Tiny branch
19 "The Sultan of Swat"
20 Arrow launcher
21 Grand-scale tale
22 Sense
23 Reality, old-style
25 Largest store in a chain
26 Mosque
27 Contingent
29 Pornography
31 Lair
33 — It Through the Grapevine"
34 Skin
36 Crazy
37 Mini-flute?
38 Exemplar of craziness
39 Needle case
40 Otherwise
43 Blackbird
44 Individual
45 Autumn mo.
46 To the — degree

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 5-7

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		