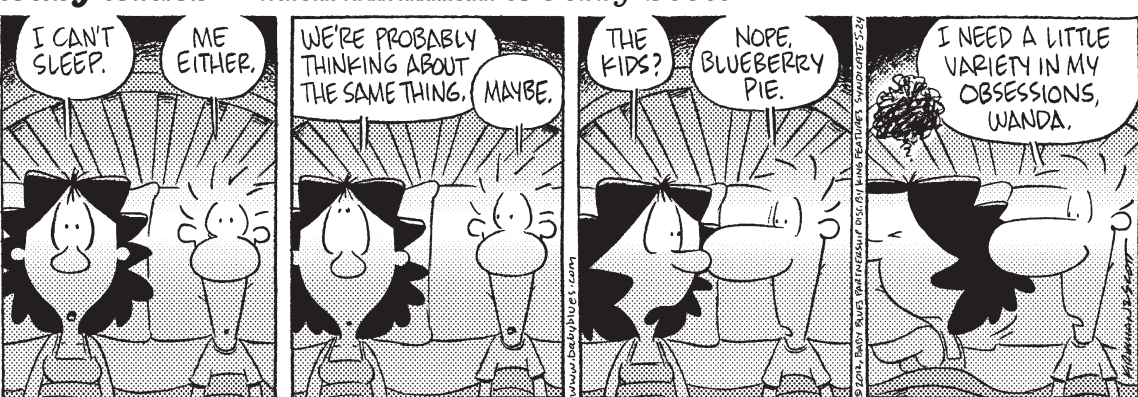
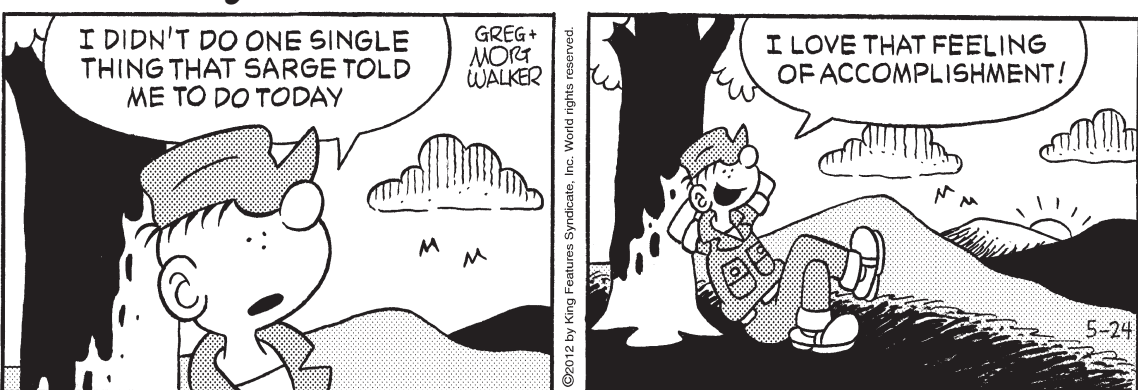


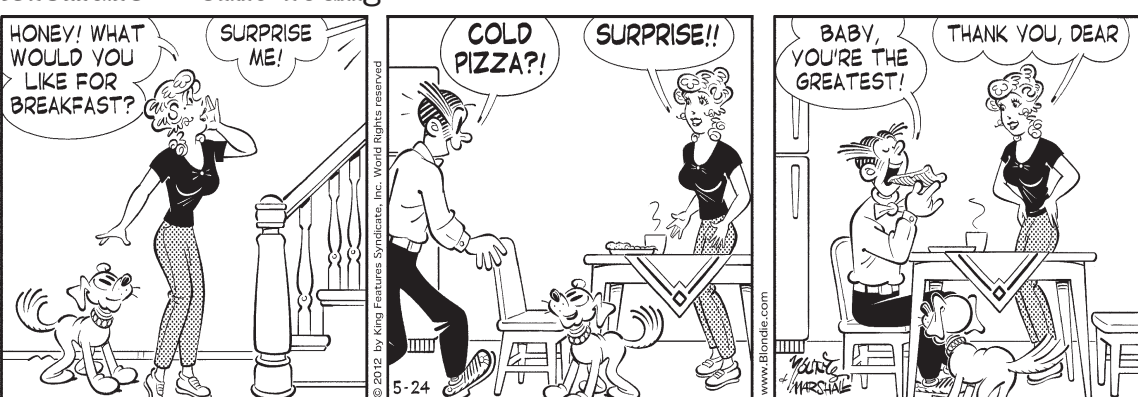
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



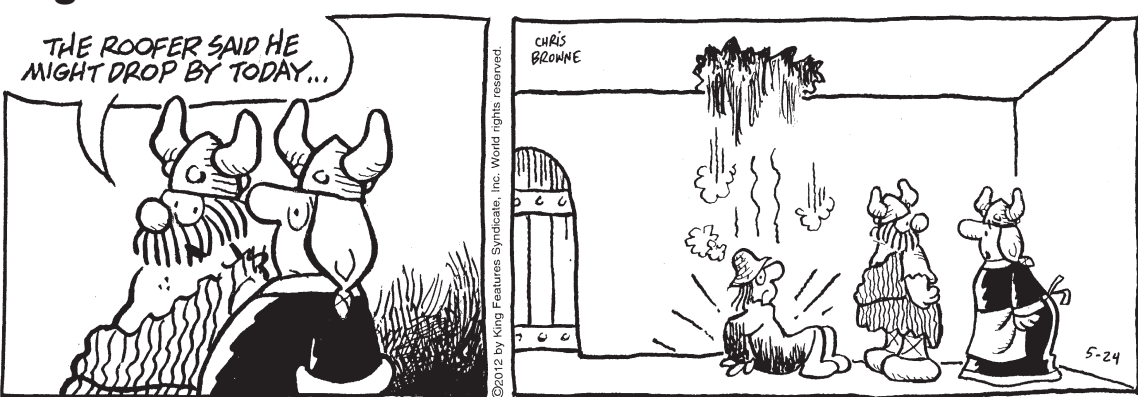
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



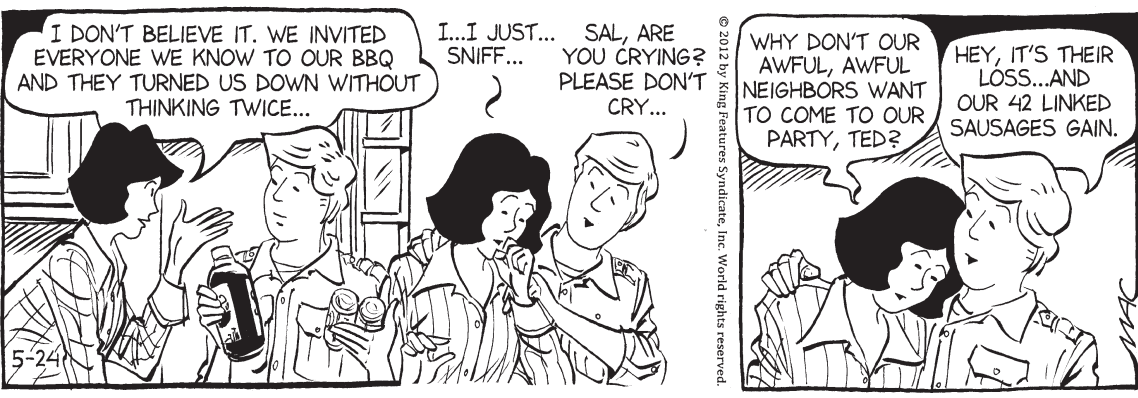
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



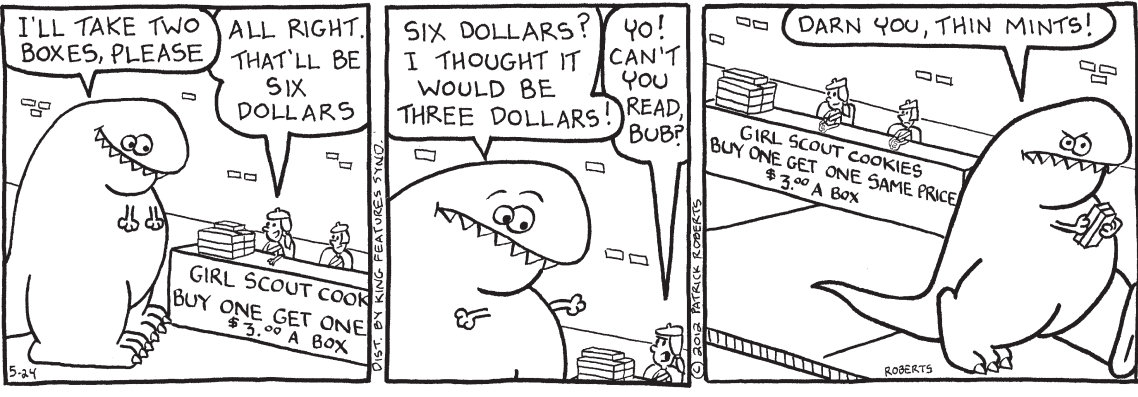
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



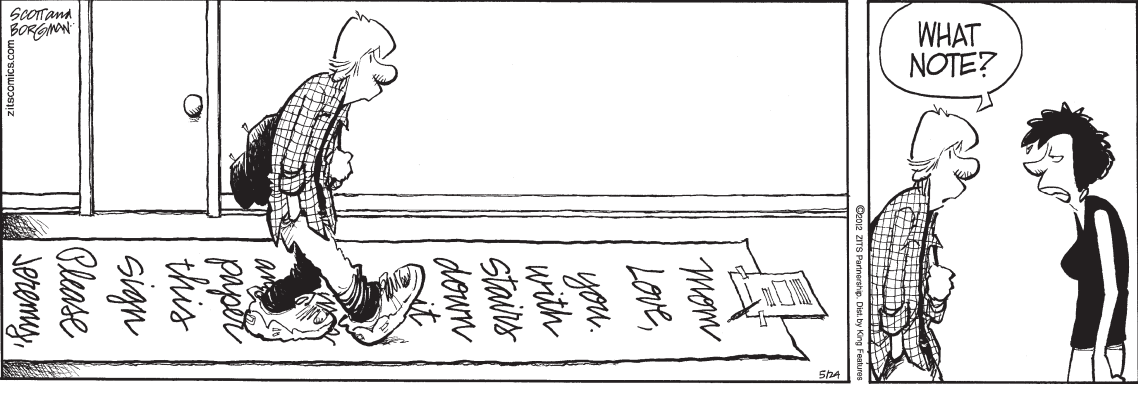
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Tray handles may not be silver

Q: What are the fancy decorations and handles on silver trays made of?

A: If the tray is sterling silver, its handles probably are sterling. The handles on silver-plated trays are often made of spelter, Britannia metal or another low-grade metal and then plated with the rest of the tray is plated. Be careful. We know of someone who put a silver tray in the oven to keep food warm. The heat melted the handles and they fell off.

Q: I would like to know how to clear the water in old snow domes. The water in mine has gotten very cloudy.

A: The liquid would have to be replaced. There are a few repair services that will do it, or you can attempt to do it yourself. But it's difficult. Hold the snow dome upside down before you try to separate the top from the bottom. If it's glued together, you may be able to soften the glue first by immersing the snow dome in hot water. Snow domes with black plastic bases or brown pottery bases made in the 1930s and 1940s were held in place by plaster of Paris, which can be carefully chipped away. Domes with new shiny black plastic bases, black pottery bases (1940s), or cobalt blue bases (1920s) cannot be opened unless they have a threaded base, and very few did. If you can open yours, pour the original liquid through a cloth so that the "snow" is separated from the liquid. Use distilled water to refill the dome. Adding about 1/2 teaspoon glycerin to the water will make the "snow" fall more slowly. Snow domes should not be stored in the dark. Exposure to light keeps the liquid clear. But don't keep them in direct sunlight. The glass can magnify light rays and may start a fire.

Tip: A diamond ring is durable but not indestructible. Don't wear it when using chlorine bleach that can discolor the mounting. Have a jeweler see it once a year to check for loose prongs or worn mountings.

Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Names, addresses or e-mail addresses will not be published. We cannot guarantee the return of any photograph, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. Write to Kovel, (Name of this newspaper), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

CURRENT PRICES
Current prices are recorded throughout the United States. Prices vary in different locations.
Gulliver's Travels cup and saucer, bone china, gold trim, saucer shows Gulliver pulling fleet of ships, cup shows Princess Glory and Prince David, Hammersley and Co., 1939, \$95.
Reddy Kilowatt advertising figure, red Lucite, glow-in-dark head, hands and feet, black Bakelite base, 1950s, 5 1/2 inches, \$195.
Rookwood vase, yellow roses on buff ground, flame mark, Rose Fehheimer, 1903, 9 3/4 inches, \$350.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ A Q 9 6 3
♦ A 4
♣ K Q J 7 2

EAST
♠ J 8
♥ K 10 8
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ A 10 9 4

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass
5♦ Pass 6♣ Pass
6NT Dble Pass Pass
Opening lead — three of diamonds.

A Trusty Counterweapon
It is said that in war every new weapon gives rise to a counterweapon. In much the same way, many bidding and play conventions can frequently be turned against their users.

Consider this deal where the bidding went as shown. South's two-spade bid was not based on the normal complement of at least 17 high-card points usually needed for a jump-shift response, but his bid was quite reasonable, considering the enormous trick-taking power of his spades. South knew he was on the verge of a slam the moment his partner opened the bidding, and he wanted the two of them to be on the same page.

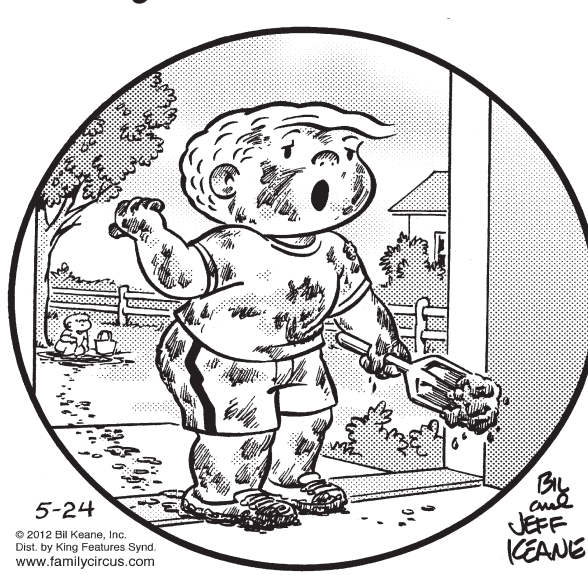
East's subsequent double of six spades was conventional. In the given sequence, it asked West to lead the first suit bid by dummy -- namely, hearts.

The significance of the double was not lost on North, who realized that a heart lead through the A-Q could prove fatal. So he wisely ran to six notrump, a contract that proved unbeatable against any opening lead. He lost a club trick, but that was all.

East was in the unfortunate position where, if he passed six spades, West would probably lead a diamond, while if he doubled, he risked chasing the opponents into six notrump. On the whole, East was right to double, since there was no assurance that either North or South would budge after the double. In the actual case, East was a goner either way.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



5-24
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/24

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.

Cryptoquip

H X N H O Z D L Z C M U K Z N J Y Q U
U K M X D , H B W X O Z Y B L Z D L Z Y
Z C U K W J Z Z N B H N L W X Z
M X W D L Z Y C M X J N M U U J Y Z D Q Y X N .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR APPRENTICE'S FISH-CATCHING MESH IS VERY NEAR YOU, YOU MIGHT HAVE INTERN-NET ACCESS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Cheers" supply
5 Vicinity
9 Pitch
12 Lotion additive
13 Stead
14 Rd.
15 Karaoke event
17 Solidify
18 Without difficulty
19 Frost-covered
21 Yours truly
22 Glorify
24 Advantage
27 Round Table address
28 Georgetown athlete
31 Commit perjury
32 Khan title
33 Without delay
34 Crumbly cheese
36 Bashful
37 Malaria symptom

DOWN

1 Foundation
8 Zero
9 Join the group
10 State with conviction
11 Hinge (on)
16 1-Across kin
20 "—la-la!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-24

