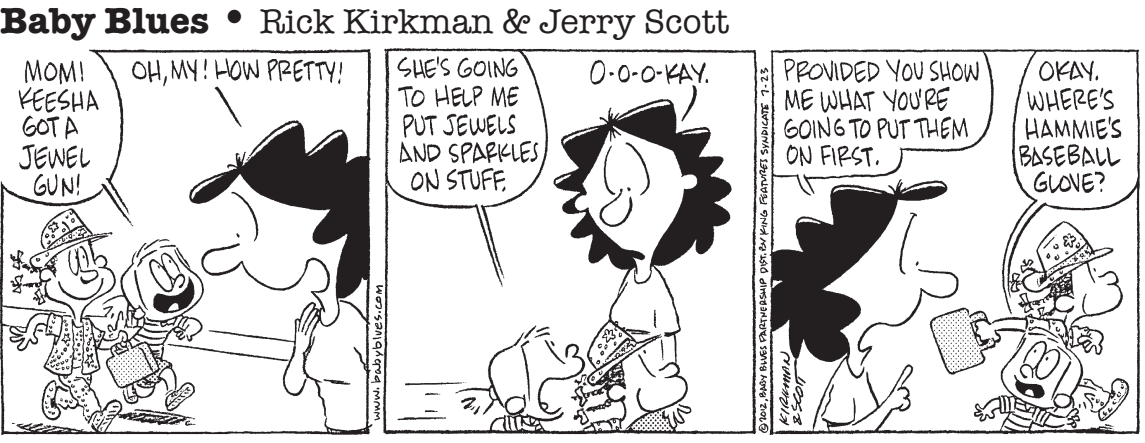
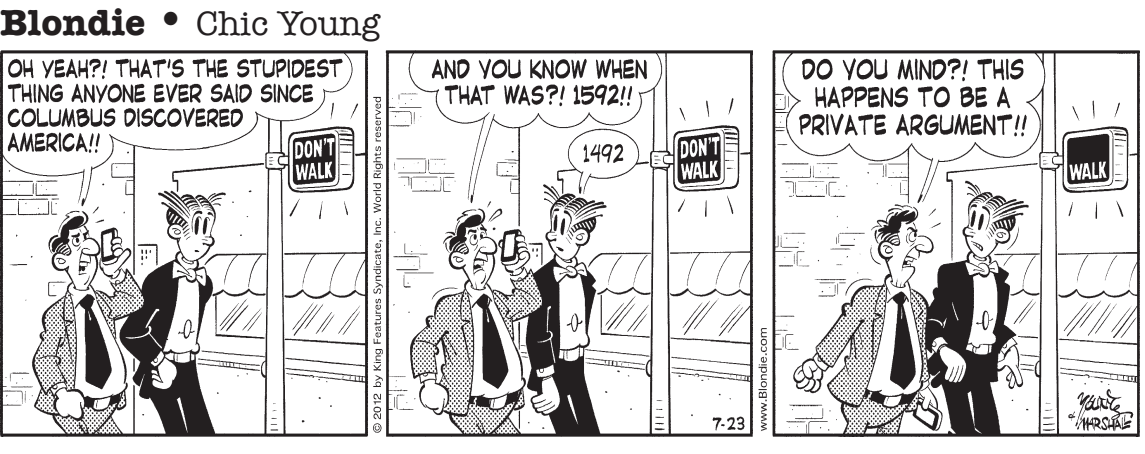
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

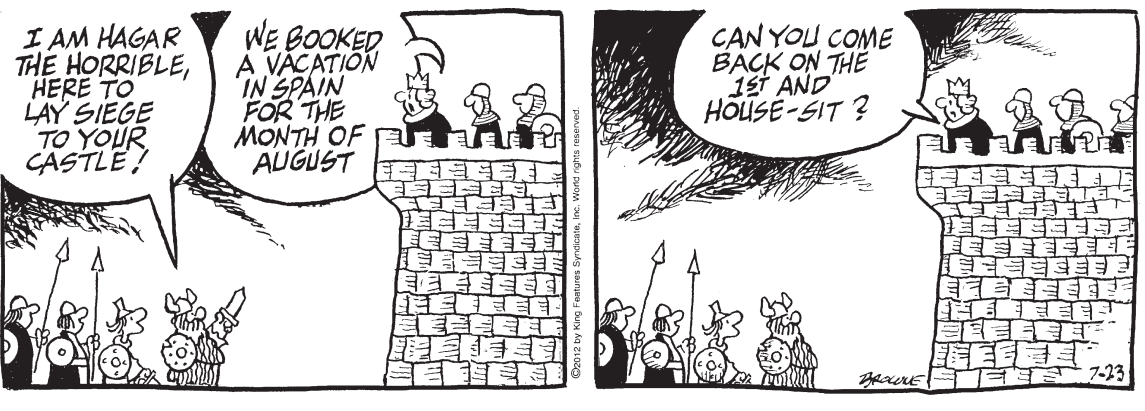


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

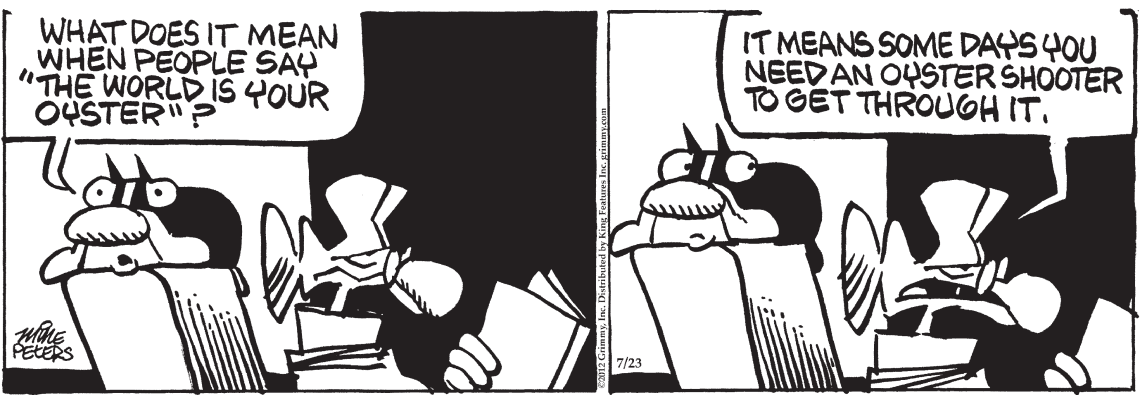
Blondie • Chic Young



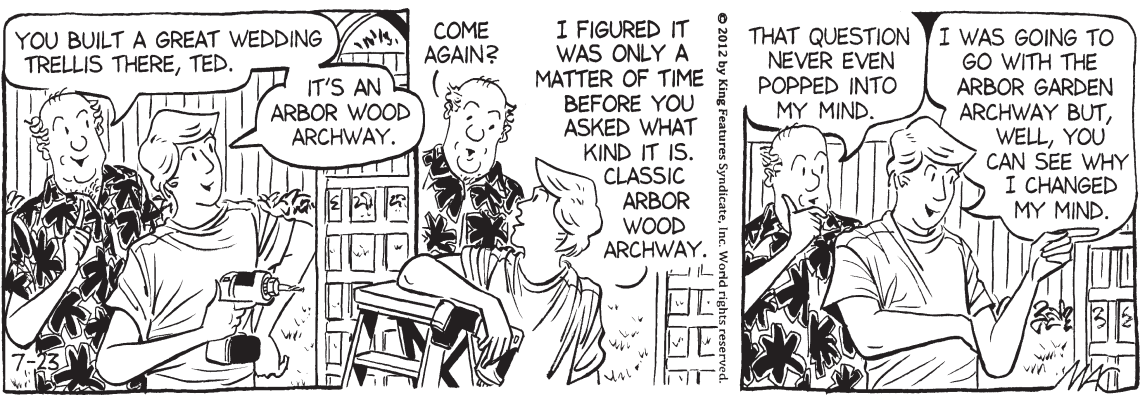
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Furniture maker layered rosewood

Collectors prize furniture created by a famous maker, but antique furniture is often not identified with a label. Experts can "attribute" a piece to a maker by comparing it to other known furniture that has a label or a history of ownership.

John Henry Belter was one of the most famous American furniture makers working in the late 1800s. He invented a way to glue six to eight thin layers of rosewood (with the grain going in different directions) into a large strong piece that could be curved, a type of plywood that he patented in 1858. He was a talented carver and added piercings and carvings of roses, busts of important people, grapes and grapevines, and scrolls.

Belter was born in Germany in 1804, came to New York City in 1833, and made furniture for the wealthy from 1844 until he died in 1863. He specialized in furniture for the parlor, including sofas, armchairs, side chairs and a center table. All were made of rosewood. The chairs had no upholstery on the back, just rosewood.

He favored the Rococo Revival style with curved legs, arms and tops of backs. Pieces were varnished to look shiny, new and well-cared-for. Few pieces were marked, but the laminated rosewood, the carvings of heads of poets and the founding fathers, and even the style of the grapevines can be identified.

In the 1950s his furniture was considered garish and in poor taste, but by the 1960s collectors started to realize it is well made and his designs are the best of the late Victorian period. It became an expensive collector favorite, but all antique furniture is selling for less than before 2008.

There is renewed interest in Belter. At a recent auction, a 40-inch-wide table attributed to Belter, made about 1850, sold for $27,060. It featured carved heads like those on labeled Belter tables.

Q: I have a 22-piece set of Frank Herschede silverware with black nonmetal handles. It's marked Gense Extrastainless Sweden on the backs. It was a gift from our uncle in the 1960s. Can you give me any information about this?

A: Your set was made by Gense (Gustaf Eriksson NySilverfabriken), a company founded by Gustav Erikson in Eskilstuna, Sweden, in 1856.

Gense introduced a stainless steel flatware pattern called "Focus De Luxe" in 1957. Pieces have modern shapes and black handles made of polyoxymethylene. The pattern was designed by Folke Arstrom, artistic director at Gense from 1940 to 1960.

Herschede is the name of the store that sold your tableware, a jewelry store in Cincinnati from 1877 to 1995.

Gense still makes stainless steel flatware, but your pattern has been discontinued. It is very collectible and pieces have been displayed in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. It is a famous flatware set, listed as one of 100 best designed products in modern times, and would sell for about $250.

Tip: Don't wear jewelry when swimming. Both salt and chlorine damage some types of stones, like opals or emeralds. Sand will scratch coral, pearl, opal, lapis, turquoise and other stones. Base metals will corrode.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 2
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 7 6 4 3 2
♣ 10 5

WEST
♠ 7 6 3
♥ K Q 6 2
♦ Q 9
♣ A J 8 2

EAST
♠ 4
♥ J 9 8 5 4 3
♦ K J 5
♣ 9 6 4

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred many years ago in a board-a-match team contest in Maryland. The North-South pair in the auction shown were Simon Becker and B. Jay Becker, this writer's uncle and father, respectively, both of whom passed away in the late 1980s.

The brothers Becker reached a shaky spade slam and were very fortunate to receive the opening lead of the ace of clubs, after which 12 tricks could not be denied. Had West led a trump, or had he led another suit and then shifted to a trump upon winning the ace of clubs, the slam could not have been made. The score came to 1,430 points (500 for game, 750 for slam and 180 for tricks).

Both Beckers thought they had won the board easily. They expected that even if the opposing North-South pair got to the slam, it would be defeated. But there was no way they could have anticipated the actual goings-on at the other table.

There, the Beckers' teammates competed vigorously in hearts against North-South's spade bids. When South eventually bid four spades, West, for some unknown reason, decided to double, and South redoubled.

West led the king of hearts and subsequently switched to a trump after taking the king of clubs with the ace. This held declarer to 11 tricks. After such a debacle, the Beckers' teammates naturally assumed the board had been irretrievably lost.

The declarer at this table scored 480 points for his tricks, 50 for making the redoubled contract, 400 for the redoubled overtrick and 500 for game. This came to 1,430 points, so the two teams wound up tying the board!

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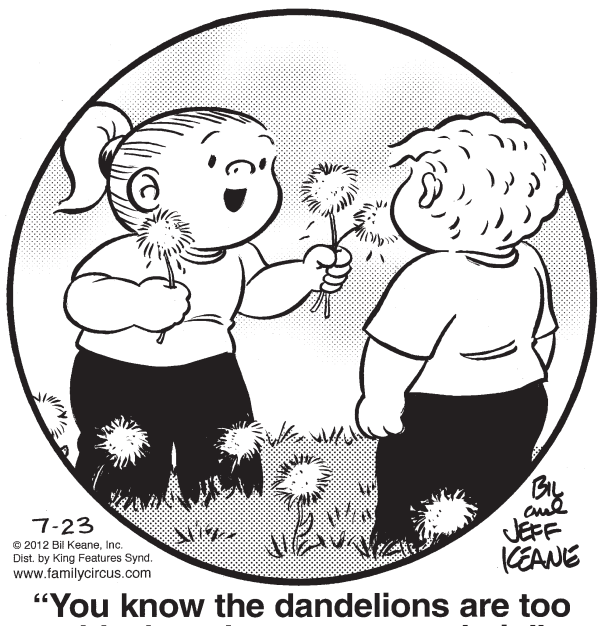
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"You know the dandelions are too old when they grow gray hair."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/23

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/20

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Cryptoquip

FUGTW JQUDM JF JGYJF CYCYEOTH MKJM JVUHTP MKT WYNDUH YF CJHRJHYMJP: "MTNDYWJ CUEOYFRQYHV."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASKED THE CHAUFFEUR IF WE WERE HEADED IN THE CORRECT DIRECTION, AND HE SAID "WEST ASSURED."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Nut's partner
5 Encountered
8 "The lady — protest too much"
12 Great Lake
13 Raw mineral
14 Franc replacement
15 On the briny
16 Legally requires
18 Fluffy dessert
20 Butter-and-sugar candy
21 Billions of years
23 Always, in verse
24 Flies south for the winter, e.g.
28 Standard
31 Bakery offering
32 Mila of "That '70s Show"
34 Neither mate
35 Slugs
37 Captains of industry
39 Mouse's cousin
41 Norse thunder god
42 Tolerates
45 Cheap
49 Serves as a go-between
51 — Minor
52 Andy's pal of old radio
53 Have bills
54 Hammer's target
55 Dexterous
56 Tiny
57 Dilbert's workplace

DOWN
1 Shaft of light
2 Approximately
3 Stead
4 Quick preview
5 Impetus
6 Historic time
7 Camp shelter
8 Be way too loud for
9 Leading
10 Genealogy chart
11 Firetruck need
17 Female deer
19 Drench
22 French legislature
24 Speedometer stat
25 Midafternoon, in a way
26 Discard
27 Take a vacation tour
29 Fish eggs
30 Wifely address
33 Winter forecast
36 Cruel person
38 In the vicinity
40 Earl Grey, e.g.
42 "Diary of — Housewife"
43 Everlys' hit, "Let It —"
44 Pack away
46 Scottish hillside
47 Egyptian fertility goddess
48 Chat
50 Ram's mate

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

Saturday's answer 7-23

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			