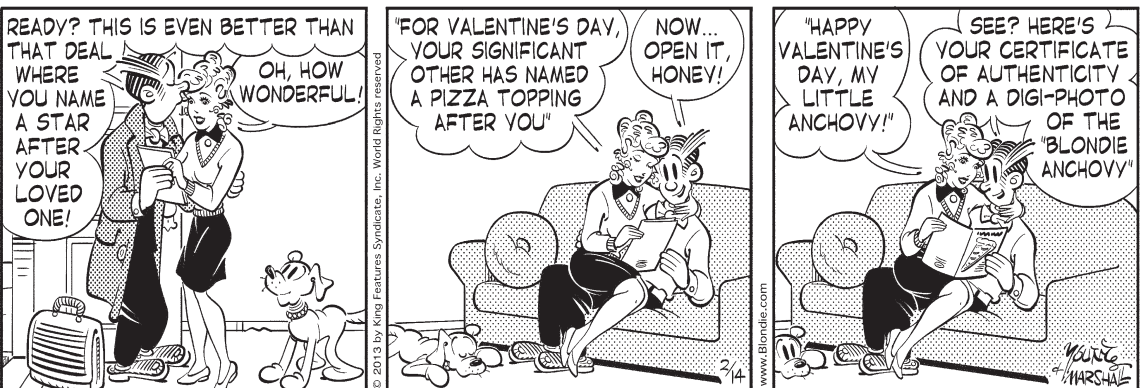**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott
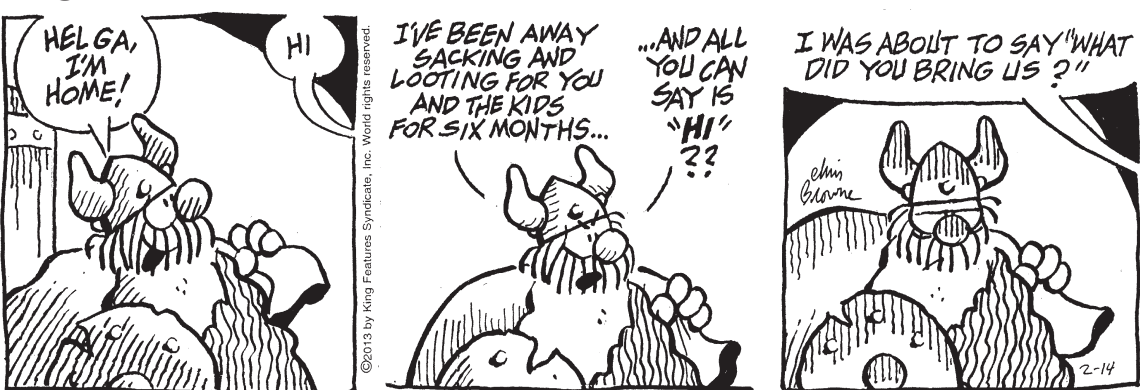
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne
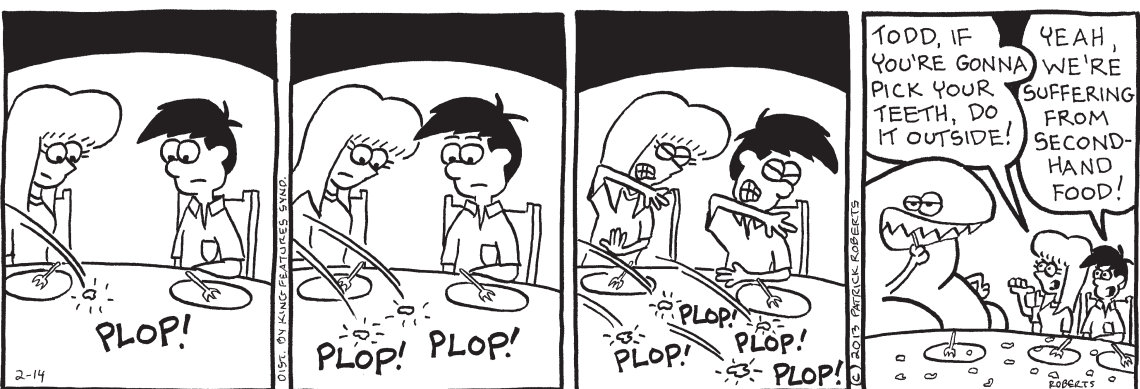
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Terry Kovel

● Antiques and Collecting

Tiny skyscraper holds its value

Q: I found an interesting object at a yard sale, a miniature Empire State Building with a thermometer in the front. It's 6 3/4 inches tall and made of plated metal with a golden patina. I paid $1 for it. Is it worth more than that?

A: Lots of souvenirs have been made of the Empire State Building since it was built in 1931. It was the world's tallest building for decades. Your souvenir thermometer was made in the mid-20th century. Souvenirs like yours usually sell online for $10 to $20, so you got a good deal.

Q: I have a ceramic vase that resembles some made by Canuck Pottery. It's freeform and rough looking. Someone told me it might be Beachcomber Ware. It's marked "St. John, Canada." Can you help identify the maker?

A: It's not possible to positively identify your vase without seeing it and the mark on the bottom. Canuck Pottery was located in St. John, New Brunswick, from 1938 until about 1964. The pottery moved to Labelle, Quebec, after a fire. Beachcomber Ware was made in about 1958. Canuck Pottery went out of business in the 1970s. Show it to a local antiques dealer.

Q: I have a pewter ice-cream mold in the shape of a ship marked "E and Co. N.Y. 1222" on the side. Is this valuable? Can I use it?

A: The mark was used by Eppelsheimer & Co. of New York City, in business from 1880 to 1947. It was one of the major U.S. producers of pewter molds for ice cream and chocolate.

Eppelsheimer sold molds to confectioners, ice-cream companies and other retailers. The number is its catalog number. When the company closed, the dies for the molds were sold. Another American company has been making tin molds from the old dies since the 1980s.

Old pewter molds may contain lead and should only be used for display, since they might contaminate food. The value of pewter molds ranges from $50 to $100.

Q: We have an "invalid rolling cart" made by Colson Corp. of Elyria, Ohio. Our school was going to put it in a dumpster. Can you tell us how old it is and what it's worth?

A: Colson started out as Fay Manufacturing, makers of the Fairy Tricycle, in 1885. There have been several changes in ownership and corporate name since then. By 1903, Fred Colson was one of the owners, then Worthington Manufacturing Co. The company made tricycles, wheelchairs, invalid chairs, carts and more. In 1917 it became Colson Co. and manufactured wheeled equipment for hospitals and industry. The company's name was changed to the name on your cart, Colson Corp., in 1933. Colson was bought by Sentinel Capital Partners in 2012 and is still in business. Your cart, made after 1933, is not old enough to be antique, but it's unusual. It would be hard to sell but might interest a historical society.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

```
              NORTH
              ♠ J 9 4
              ♥ A 8 5
              ♦ A Q J
              ♣ A J 10 9
  WEST                    EAST
  ♠ 6                     ♠ 5
  ♥ Q J 10 9 6            ♥ K 7 3
  ♦ 10 8 5 3             ♦ K 9 7 4 2
  ♣ K 6 2                 ♣ Q 8 5 3
              SOUTH
              ♠ A K Q 10 8 7 3 2
              ♥ 4 2
              ♦ 6
              ♣ 7 4
```

The bidding:
East	South	West	North
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Accidentally on Purpose

Some card combinations offer declarer a choice of finessing against either opponent. A typical case would be one in which declarer has, say, the A-J-2 and dummy has the K-10-3 of the same suit. Declarer can make three tricks in the suit by taking a finesse in the right direction, basing his decision on who he thinks is more likely to hold the missing queen.

Declarers who are successful most or all of the time in these situations are frequently deemed by their opponents to be "lucky." But in many cases, luck really has nothing to do with it.

Consider the North-South diamond holding in today's hand, where South is in six spades. It illustrates another version of a "two-way finesse." If declarer thinks West has the missing king, he leads the six and finesses the jack.

But if declarer thinks East has the king, he leads the six to the ace and returns the queen through East's king, ruffing if East plays the king or discarding a loser if East follows low. Declarer scores two diamond tricks either way.

Which way to take the finesse would therefore appear to be a guess, but that is not really true in this case since South can assure the slam by simply playing his cards correctly.
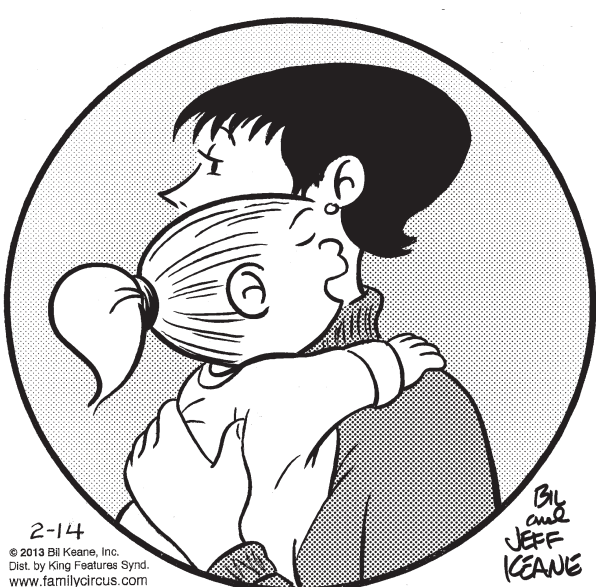
Declarer should win the heart lead with the ace, cash the ace of spades and ace of diamonds, then lead the queen of diamonds from dummy. Let's assume East follows low (it doesn't help him to cover).

In that case, South is sure to make 12 tricks by discarding a heart. Even if West wins the trick, declarer can later discard his losing club on the jack of diamonds to secure the slam.

The same, of course, would not be true if South elected to finesse against West for the king. If the finesse lost, as it would in the actual deal, East would cash a heart to defeat the contract. Thus there is only one right way to take the two-way finesse, and neither luck nor guesswork enters into it.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

2-14
"I love you just as much as Daddy, but that'll be our secret."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/14

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

FXAWD OQ FDIDWEXNA NK

WUNWNIJEDF XF ONYD

FTKKXWXDAE EUJA QNTYF,

XF XE JA JOCIDY FJOCIDY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I SURF THE INTERNET WHILE UP ON MY FEET, I OCCASIONALLY PROCLAIM "I STAND CONNECTED."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Light touch
4 Ducks' home
8 Creche trio
12 Swelled head
13 Acknowledge
14 Touch
15 Its capital is Gaborone
17 Give a darn
18 Massive weight
19 Mistake in print
21 Bouquet component
24 Online help page
25 CD —
26 Badly lit
28 Ancient African kingdom
32 Help surreptitiously
34 "— Town"
36 Billions of years
37 Now
39 Oft-tattooed word
41 Place-kicker's pride
42 Dylan or Dole
44 Potassium source
46 Set free
50 Can material
51 Off base
52 Form of food poisoning
56 Arp's style
57 Story-teller
58 Long sandwich
59 Watchful one
60 Hamburg's river
61 Afternoon affair

DOWN
1 New-comer to society
2 Past
3 Reached the nadir, with "out"
4 Hocked
5 Eggs
6 Zilch
7 Happy, for one
8 Rhesus monkey
9 Blind as —
10 Mentor
11 Thing
16 Boar's mate
20 Skedaddled
21 "Animal House" group
22 See 23-Down
23 With 22-Down, John Wayne movie
27 Silent
29 Gregor Mendel, e.g.
30 Part of the loop
31 Cruising
33 Arranged in rows and columns
35 Plagiarize
38 — Kippur
40 Ripe
43 Sacred text
45 Zero
46 Put together
47 Vacationing
48 Protuberance
49 Labor
53 Bill
54 Seek damages
55 Biz deg.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-14