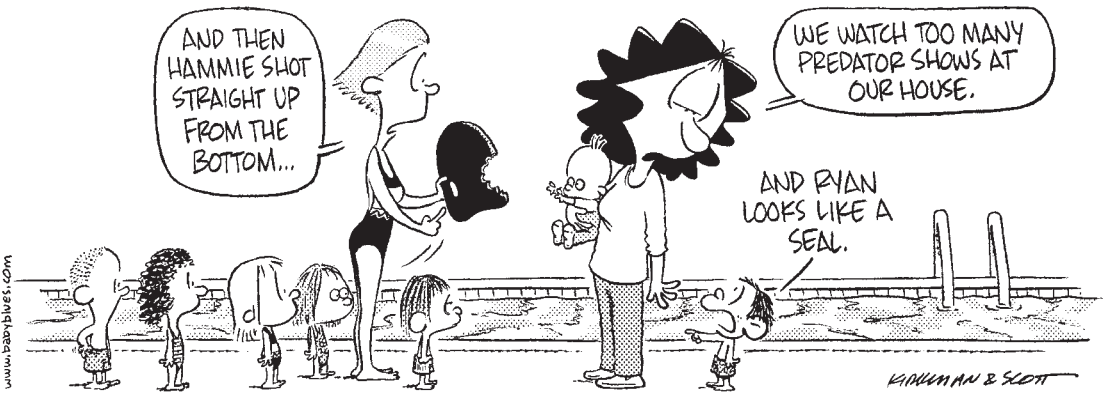
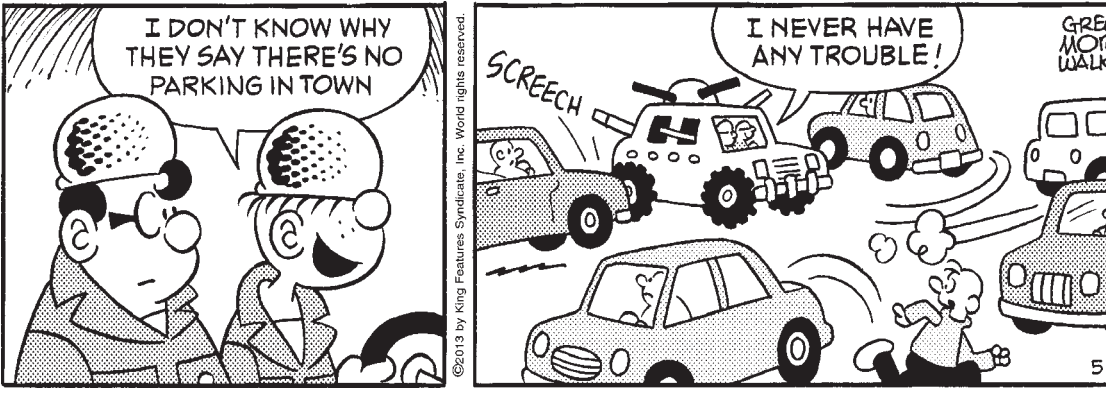


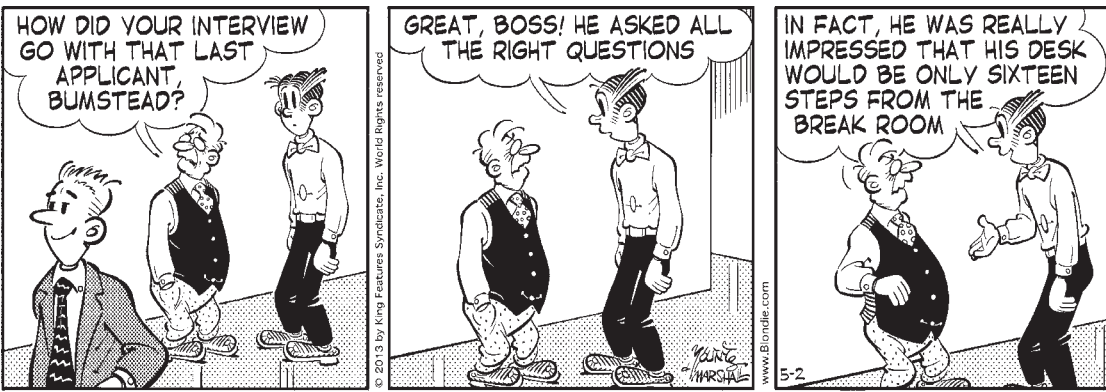
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



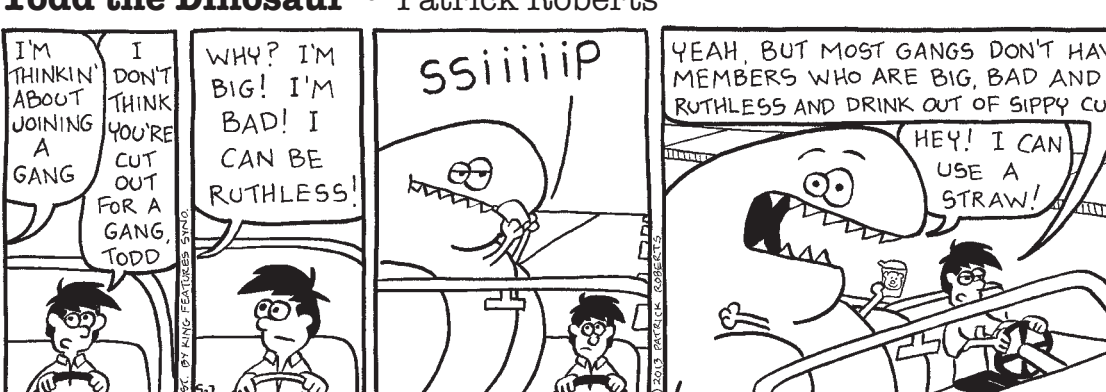
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



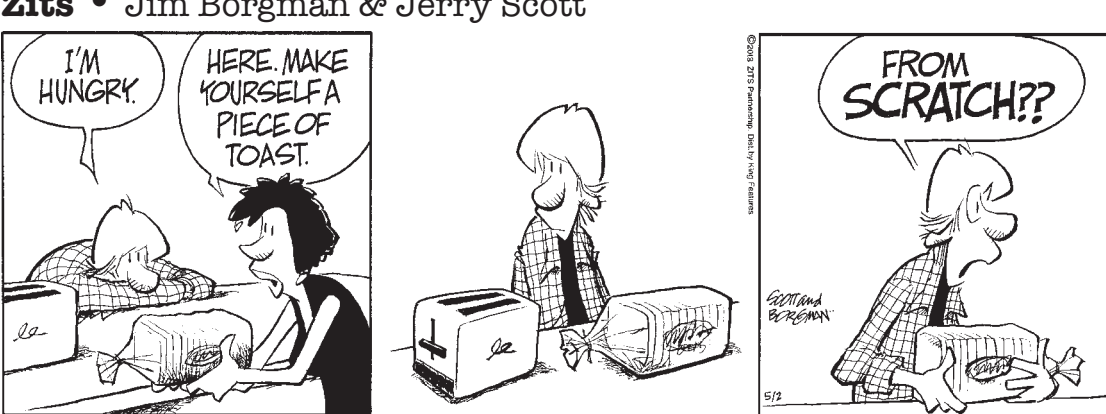
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel • Antiques and Collecting



Inkstand design is early souvenir

Q: Our grandmother left us an inkstand that has been in the family for more than 80 years. It's in the shape of a stag's head with long antlers that form a pen rest. The words "Niagara Falls" are on the top of the stag's head.

A: A pressed glass inkwell sits right behind the head on a base that looks like a pile of leaves and acorns. The antlers are 5 1/2 inches high, and the inkstand is about 6 by 4 1/2 inches. What can you tell us?

A: Your inkstand is a well-known American design that dates from the early 1900s. We have seen it without any notation on the stag's head, but it was probably sold as a souvenir at many tourist sites.

Q: My husband inherited a French mantel clock from his father. It's made of what looks like black marble with bronze columns and is shaped like a Greek building. Its face is porcelain. The mark on the back is a circle with the words "Medaille d'Argent" and "Vincenti & Cie 1855."

A: Vincenti & Cie (Vincenti & Co.) was a Paris clockmaker founded before 1834 by Jean Vincenti. It went out of business in about 1870.

Q: I inherited a plate from my aunt, who was an antiques dealer in the 1940s and '50s. The plate is octagonal and has an allover chintz pattern of flowers, leaves and berries.

A: The trade name "Crown Ducal" was first used in 1916 by A.G. Richardson and Co. of Tunstall, England.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K 10 4, ♥8, ♦Q 8 6 5, ♣A 9 8 7 3. WEST: ♠Q 9 8 6 2, ♥K 10 5, ♦J 4, ♣K 4 2.

Against the Grain. On rare occasions, both the declarer and a defender must make plays that are completely contrary to normal procedure.

West led the six of spades against three notrump, and declarer saw immediately that his best route to nine tricks was to try to score four club tricks.

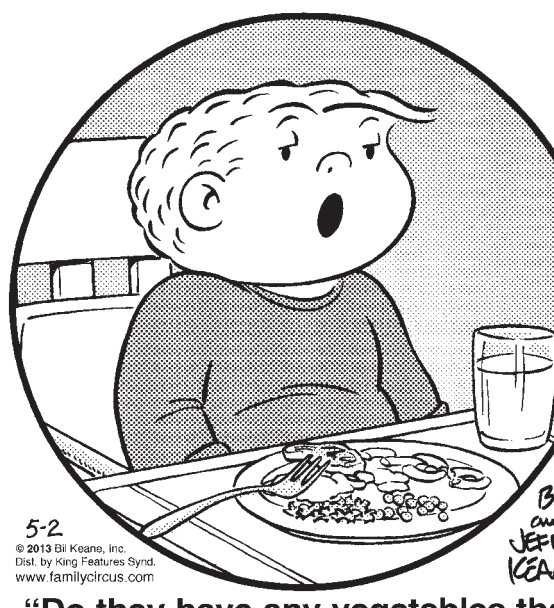
Anticipating this problem, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and, after East followed low, won the trick with the ace!

However, West could have thwarted South's plan by making an unusual play of his own when declarer led a low spade toward dummy's K-10.

Note further that declarer cannot circumvent this entry-killing play by leading the jack of spades instead, hoping West will play the queen.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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.

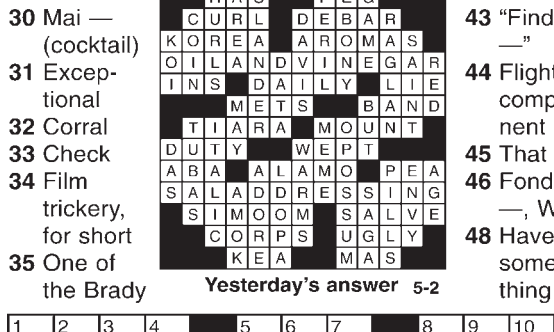
Cryptoquip

ZFQC SFOS WSKMCP HUOAQK
ZOCWS O UMPFS, WZQSS
NQWWQKS SKQOS, FQ BWBOUA
VFTTWQW VQUOT HBNNMCP.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT COULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSUME THIS HORRIBLE WATERY PORRIDGE. IT'S WAY TOO GRUELING.

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Cleans the floors, 5 Pouch, 8 One of the Three Bears, 12 Admitting customers, 13 Time of your life?, 14 Change for a five, 15 Draped dress, 16 Sailor, 17 Western state, 18 Deceptive, 20 Melody, 22 Length-wise, to 16-Across, 26 In spades, 29 Actress Farrow, 30 Mai (cocktail), 31 Exceptional, 32 Corral, 33 Check, 34 Film trickery, for short, 35 One of the Brady.

DOWN: 1 Rolling stone's lack, 2 Colorful fish, 3 Graceful woman, 4 Cold symptom, 5 Attendant of Bacchus, 6 Khan, 7 Foolproof, 8 100 pence, 9 Enemy of an "army"?, 10 Shade of green, 11 Shade of blonde, 19 Plaything, 21 Actress, 23 Make corrections, 24 Equitable, 25 Wee, 26 St. Louis landmark, 27 Creche trio, 28 Annoyingly proper, 32 Internet radio provider, 33 Numbers to be crunched, 35 Cookie container, 36 Deity, 38 Ballerina in "Fantasia", 39 Ginormous, 42 Last write-up, 43 "Finding —", 44 Flight component, 45 That girl, 46 Fond du —, Wis., 48 Have something.



Yesterday's answer 5-2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				13				14		
								17		
				19			20	21		
				22			23			24
		27	28				29			30
				32				33		
				35				36		
				38				39		
				40				41		42
									43	44
45	46			47	48			49		
				51				52		
50										
				54				55		