

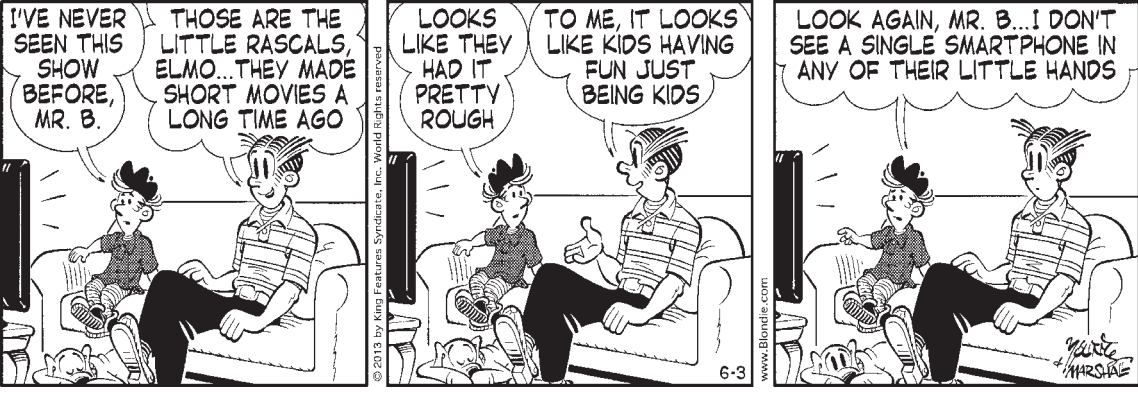
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



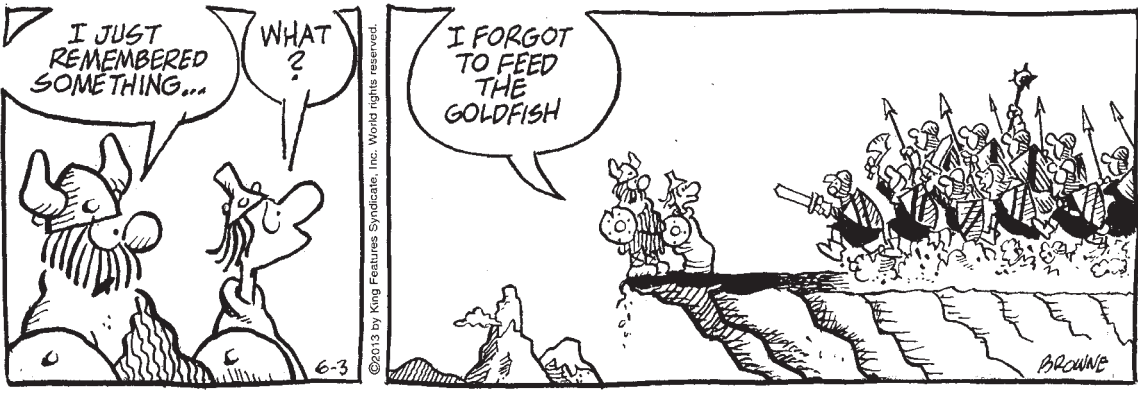
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



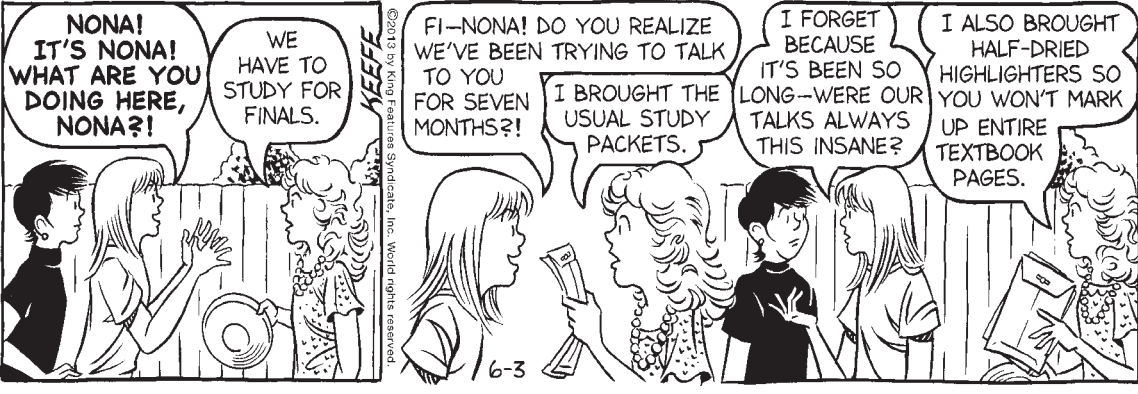
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



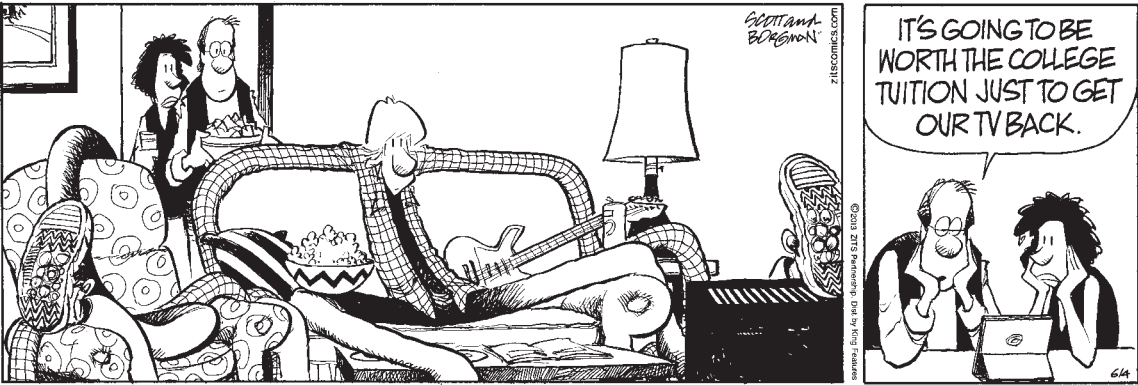
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Old signs still popular

Collectors like advertising signs and packages. In the 1950s when restaurants began decorating with old signs, they wanted material from the 19th century with graphics that featured husky women in period gowns and large hats or scenes with horse and buggies, high-wheel bicycles or old cars and buildings.

But collectors and their collections got older, and by the 1980s, a younger group was buying advertising from the 1930s to '50s, with scenes of happy housewives wearing aprons while making cookies with their children or landscapes with new cars, airplanes or trains.

While old advertising was expensive and hard to find, '50s pieces turned up at garage sales and flea markets for very low prices.

Today there are collectors who hunt for recent rock posters, advertisements and packaging by artists like Andy Warhol or Peter Max. It is the design that catches the eye and attracts collectors.

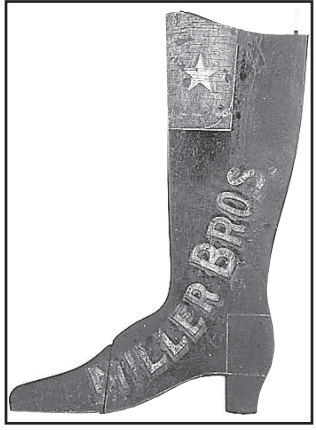
Some wonder if ads, packages and shop signs are going to be valuable in the future. Go back to the mid-1800s, when store signs often were simply pictures because many people could not read. A cigar-store figure represented a shop that sold tobacco, and a cutout wooden board shaped like a shoe or a red and white barber pole were instantly recognized by customers.

These signs are now classed as "folk art," and many sell for thousands of dollars. Great graphics that tell a story, products that represent the past, and nostalgia keep advertising collectibles selling well, even though the ads are getting younger.

Tip: When putting on earrings in front of the bathroom mirror, be sure the sink stopper is closed. Don't risk dropping the jewelry down the drain.

Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. Write to Kovel, (Colby Free Press), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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Clothing stores in the 19th century often displayed a sign that looked like a boot. It was a simple shape to make and easy to understand. This 47-inch-high wooden sign with its old paint sold for \$911 at a Garth's auction in Ohio. That was twice the pre-sale estimated price.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"If you don't know where something belongs, it belongs in this drawer."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

U G G H U O F D J U F D A O G U Z
Z E Q D H O Y C X K E H E Q D Y C E
X A O C D U H H U N E V C Y E V W G E E R D J
O Z Y C E G R : W K O H O W N A E C K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHILE PREPARING TO ENGAGE IN HIS FINAL FIGHT, THE DUELIST SHOUTED "THIS IS THE LAST DRAW!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7
♥ 7 6 5
♦ A K 10 4 2
♣ 9 8 3
WEST
♠ J 9 4
♥ K Q J 9 2
♦ 8 6
♣ J 4 2
EAST
♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ 8 3
♦ Q 5 3
♣ Q 10 7 5
SOUTH
♠ K Q 8 3
♥ A 10 4
♦ J 9 7
♣ A K 6

The bidding:
West North East South
2♥ Pass Pass 2NT
Pass 3NT
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Famous Hand

B. Jay Becker, the former editor of this column, was playing with one of his favorite partners, Jeff Rubens, when this hand arose. It was deal No. 2 of a 100-board match to determine the team that would represent the United States in the 1973 world championship.

Rubens was South and got to three notrump as shown. Ordinarily, he plays his cards deliberately, even though he is one of the fastest thinkers in the game. But on this occasion he played the hand very quickly.

West led the heart king, ducked by South, and continued with the jack, won by Rubens with the ace. Declarer promptly played the jack of diamonds and finessed. East took the queen and returned a club.

Rubens thereupon showed his hand and claimed the rest of the tricks, making five on a double squeeze! The only explanation he offered was that he assumed East had four or more spades, which in turn meant that the double squeeze was sure to succeed. The opponents conceded the claim, and the rest of the hand was not even played out!

They realized that Rubens would win the club and cash the A-K-Q of spades and A-K-10 of diamonds to produce this position:

North
♥ 7
♦ 4
♣ 9
West
♥ Q
♠ J 4
East
♠ 10
♣ 10
South
♠ 8
♣ A 6

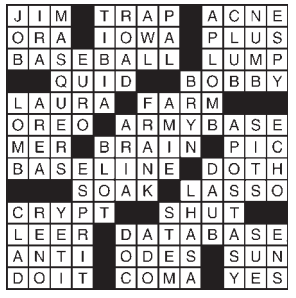
The lead of the diamond four now would first squeeze East out of a club, South discarding a spade, and then squeeze West out of a club to put an end to the proceedings. Rubens' claim at trick four was simply a timesaver!

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Fleet from far-away?
5 — Impossible
8 Get a look at
12 Strict disciplinary
14 Small grimace
15 Geometric curve
16 Former European capital
17 Can metal
18 "Gracias"
20 Orbital point
23 Affair of honor
24 Coalition
25 New Jersey borough
28 Coquettish
29 Parking lot structure
30 Bigwig, for short
32 "Semper —" (Coast Guard motto)

DOWN
3 Bobby of hockey
4 Radio interference
5 A party to
6 Aviv lead-in
7 Heights
8 Mummify, maybe
9 Any time now
10 Play a prank on (Sl.)
11 Longings
13 Sacred wading bird
19 Listen to
20 Kimmel's network
21 Fall into a beanbag chair
22 Sauce source
23 Piece of information
25 Jif rival
26 Eye layer
27 Portent
29 Partner
31 Cauldron
33 Disturbed the peace
34 Argentine grass-lands
36 Burn somewhat
37 Second-hand
38 Protuberance
39 Venetian magistrate
40 Get ready, for short
43 Literary collection
44 Lubricate
45 Wedding utterance
46 Venomous viper



Saturday's answer 6-3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15							16			
20	21	22		23						
24				25				26	27	
28				29				30	31	
32		33					34			
37	38	39					40			
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50				51		