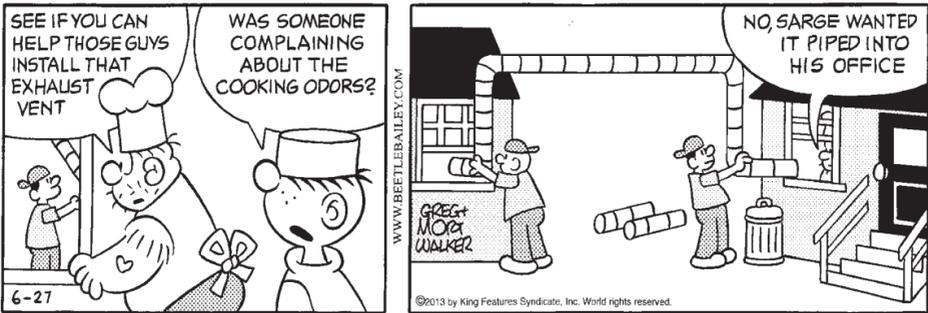


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



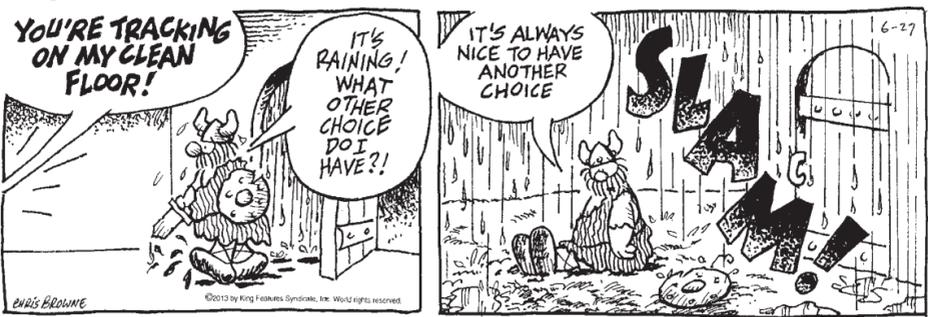
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



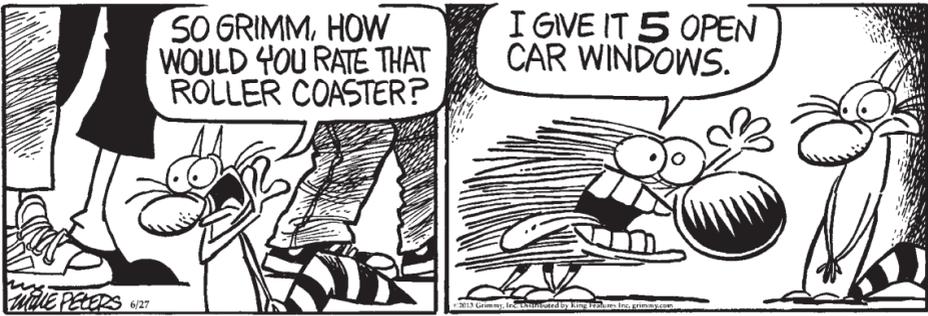
Blondie • Chic Young



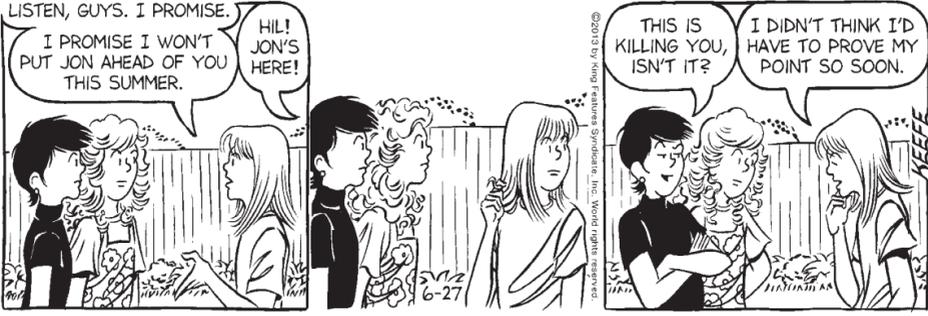
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



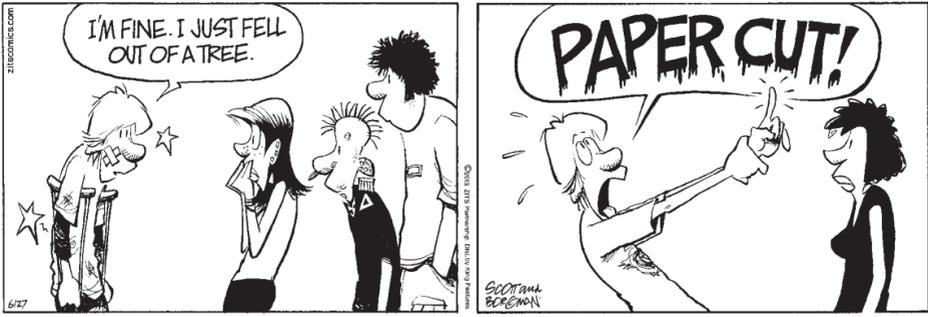
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Pottery makers also made tiles

Q: I have some Olin Russum Pottery and would like to know something about it. Is it collectible?

A: Olin Lansing Russum Jr. (1918-1998), known as "Russ," was a potter and sculptor who lived and worked in Maryland. In 1951 he and his wife, Jean, built a studio in a converted barn near Gunpowder Falls.

Russ made dishes, sculptures and watercolors, but is best known for his tile and bas-relief murals. His murals are in several buildings in the Baltimore area, and some of his work is in museum collections. He also taught a ceramics workshop at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Jean was a woodworker who made sculptures and furniture. They worked together on some projects until her death in 1986. Their work has been sold in several recent auctions and can be found in shops.

Q: My pottery stein holds a half-liter. It's in the shape of a child wearing a monk's hooded habit. He's holding a couple of radishes or turnips in his left hand and what appears to be a book in his right. His head, the stein's lid, has a pewter rim. Down the front of the child's clothing there's a long bib with the words "Gruss aus Munchen." The only mark on the bottom is "1880." What is the stein worth?

A: You have a "Munich Child" character stein. The "bib" down his front is a scapular, a traditional part of a monk's garb, and the German phrase on the front can be translated roughly as "Regards from Munich."

The design is based on the German city's coat of arms. Munich Child mugs, which can be in the traditional stein shape or figural, like yours, were first made in the last half of the 19th century. A mug like yours sold in 2011 for \$334.

Q: I still have the portable Brother typewriter my father bought for me 40 years ago. I have kept it stored in its original carrying case and it still works. I wonder what it's worth.

A: With few exceptions, only very early typewriters — those made and marketed in the late 1800s — sell for much money. Brother Industries, a Japanese corporation that dates back to 1908, still is in business today manufacturing printers, fax machines and other office and industrial equipment. Portable electric typewriters like yours don't excite collectors, but you might be able to sell it online for up to \$20.

Q: I found a funny pair of pins that look old. Each metal pin is in the shape of a man thumbing his nose at the other. One is wearing a hat with the word "Hancock," and the other, a bearded man, has a hat that reads "Garfield." Can you explain what is going on?

A: You have a pair of political lapel pins made for the Winfield Hancock and James Garfield 1880 U.S. presidential campaign. The gold-colored Hancock pin could thumb his nose, and the silver Garfield pin, often found blackened with tarnish today, could thumb his nose while a pointed tail appeared. Similar "nose-thumbers" were used in at least one other presidential election, between James Cox and Warren Harding in 1920.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K 9 8 2
♥ A 10 7
♦ K Q 2
♣ 9 7 3

WEST
♦ J 4 3
♥ Q 9 8 5 4 2
♦ 8 6
♣ Q J

EAST
♦ 6
♥ 3
♦ 10 7 5 4 3
♣ K 10 6 5 4 2

SOUTH
♦ A Q 10 7 5
♥ K J 6
♦ A J 9
♣ A 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
6 ♠

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Putting It All Together
There are hands where declarer must guess which of two feasible lines of play to pursue. In such cases, though, there are nearly always clues to lead declarer out of the realm of guesswork and into the sphere of precise reasoning.

The methods employed to achieve this goal are certainly not a state secret. Basically, what declarer does is assemble all the information he possibly can about the defenders' hands before he must commit himself one way or the other.

Consider this deal where the only problem is which way to take the two-way heart finesse. South wins the club lead with the ace, draws trumps, cashes the A-K-Q of diamonds and exits with a club.

If West's jack holds the trick, the contest is over because he is forced to return a heart and thereby relieve declarer of the guess in that suit. So let's assume East overtakes the jack with the king and continues with the ten. South ruffs and must now decide which way to take the heart finesse.

Despite East's alert defense, South's sequence of plays has yielded enough information to assure success. West has thus far shown up with precisely three spades, two diamonds and two clubs — neither more nor less — and so must have started with exactly six hearts. Cross-checking this, East has shown up with precisely one spade, five diamonds and six clubs — so he must have started with a singleton heart.

Accordingly, South cashes the king of hearts as East follows with his only heart, then takes a heart finesse through West with complete confidence that the finesse will succeed.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Time to say grace. Here comes dinner!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

TGD JGRMFO RL OFDBZTAAC
VGTZUDW LDYTAD WDDG
BTGGCZUJ RMV DUDYC GTZWO

BTAADW BRYYTUW-WRDO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK A NEW SOUTH ASIAN REPUBLIC RULED BY ELEPHANTS WOULD PROBABLY BE KNOWN AS PACHY-STAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Porter's burdens
5 Before
8 Dull
12 Enticement
13 Blend
14 Abundant
15 Opera show-stopper
16 U.K. broadcaster
17 Black, in verse
18 Fight
20 Like a lot
22 Solid ground
26 Entire
29 Smack
30 Zilch
31 Bees' home
32 Parsons or Gaffigan
33 Slangy negative
34 — out a living
35 One of the Brady Bunch

DOWN
36 Grown-up bug
37 Brownish orange
40 Warmon-ger
41 Barber-shop tools
45 First victim
47 Luau bowlful
49 "American —"
50 Ring out
51 Barn bird
52 Alaskan metropolis
53 Vortex
54 — Aviv
55 Get larger
1 Spill the beans
2 Emanation
3 Determination
4 Birth-place of Star-bucks
5 Fireplace bit
6 Cage component
7 Cry out
8 Italian fountain site
9 Ireland vessel?
10 Venusian
11 Lair

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20	21		
				22			23			24
26	27	28					29			30
31							32			33
34							35			36
37							38			39
							40			41
45	46						47	48		49
50							51			52
53							54			55