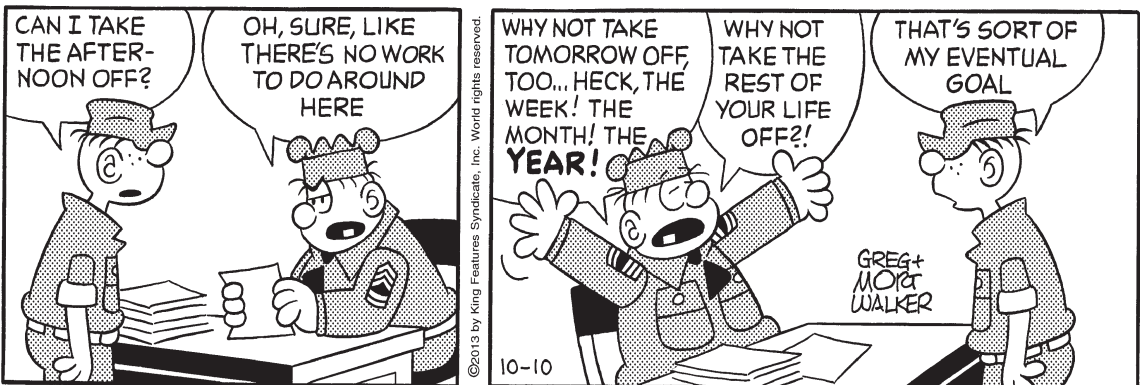


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



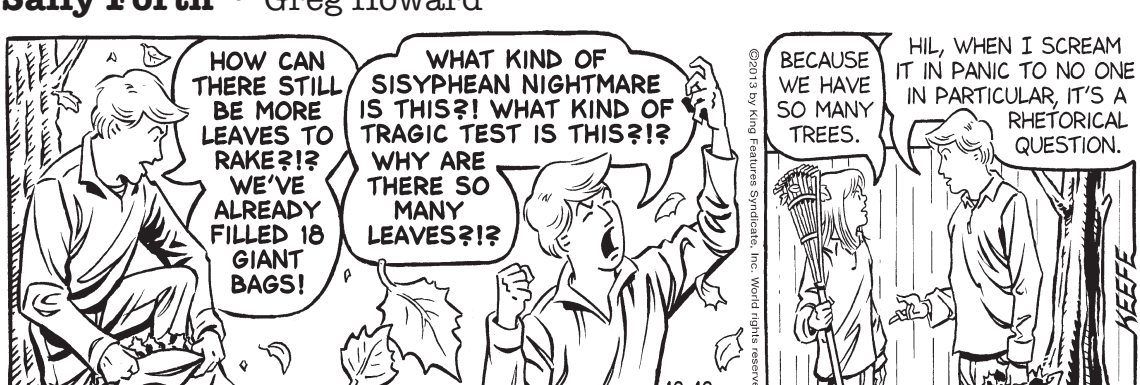
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



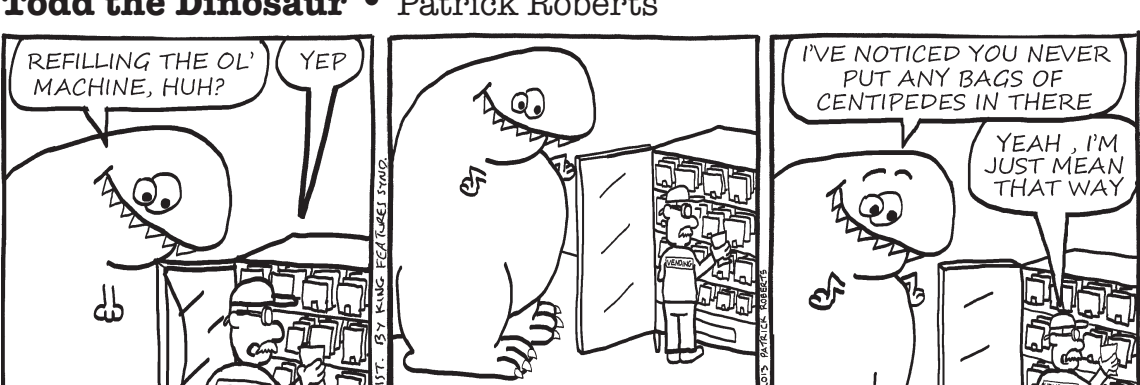
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



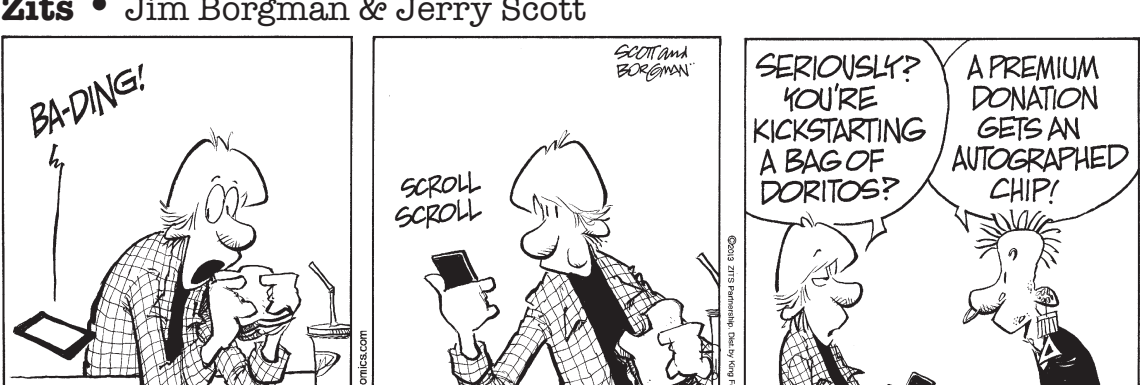
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Golden wheat dishes common

Q: I found a 25-piece set of Golden Wheat dishes in my mother's attic. The mark on each dish include the words "Golden Wheat, Made in USA, 22K Gold, Oven Proof," with a sheaf of wheat on each side. The set includes six dinner plates, six salad plates and a few serving pieces, but only a couple cups, saucers and soup bowls. What is the set worth?

A: Golden Wheat dishes were premiums first inserted in boxes of Duz detergent during the 1950s. Each month, a different packaged dish was inserted in a box of detergent. The pattern is a realistic image of five standing sheaves of wheat, and the rim of each dish was edged in gold. There is disagreement about the company that made the dishes, because the very same mark was used by Scio Pottery of Scio, Ohio; Homer Laughlin China Co. of Newell, W.Va.; and French Saxon China Co. of Sebring, Ohio.

It is possible all three pottery companies made dishes for Duz. Because so many dishes were made and so many people saved them, they are not rare and prices are low. Another problem is that defining a "set" is impossible because many of the dishes made it into homes one at a time. We have seen a 22-piece set offered for \$35.

Q: We were left a large figural owl by my wife's grandparents. It's about 3 feet tall and weighs 40-50 pounds. It appears to be made of fired clay. The base looks like tile used for roofing or old piping. It's marked "Evens & Howard, St. Louis, Mo." We don't intend to sell it, but we're interested in the background.

A: Evens & Howard Fire Brick Co. was incorporated in 1867, but a brickworks had been operating at the company's location since 1837. Fire bricks were used to line fireplaces, furnaces, fireboxes, ovens, etc. The bricks were made from clay dug from mines in St. Louis and Glencoe, Mo. The clay was weathered for at least six months before it was made into bricks.

The company began making sewer pipe in 1858. It also made fire-clay chimney tops, hot-air flues and floor tiles. Evidently the company also made figures like yours.

Evens & Howard remained in business until at least the second decade of the 20th century.

Q: I have a set of old metal ice tongs marked "Gifford Wood Co." I bought them at an estate sale more than 50 years ago. Can you estimate age and value?

A: Any tool marked "Gifford Wood Co." was not made earlier than 1905, the year Gifford Brothers of Hudson, N.Y., merged with William T. Wood & Co. of Arlington, Mass. The company specialized in tools to carry and handle ice.

Gifford Wood Co. ice tongs often are offered for sale online. Prices range from \$20 to \$50, depending on size, quality and condition.

Tip: Do not put wax on a wooden toy to preserve it. The wax may yellow and disturb any markings or paper decoration.

Need prices for collectibles? Find them at Kovels.com, our website for collectors. You can find more than 900,000 prices and more than 11,000 color pictures that can help you determine the value of your collectibles. Access to the prices is free at Kovels.com/priceguide.
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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 7 2
♥ 10 6 3
♦ A K J 8
♣ J 9 4
WEST
♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 4
♦ 6 3
♣ 8 7 5
EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ Q 9 5
♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ 6 3 2
SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K 8 7 2
♦ 10 9 5
♣ A K Q 10
The bidding:
South 1♥ West 2♠ North 3♥ East Pass
Opening lead — king of spades.

A Simple Rule of Thumb
There is certainly nothing unusual about reaching an uncertain contract — it happens all the time — but when you do, you should still do everything possible to try to make it. Consider South's plight in the present case where he got to six hearts and West led the king of spades.

With ordinary play, South would have gone down one, losing a trump trick and a diamond. But he managed his assets well and wound up making the slam.

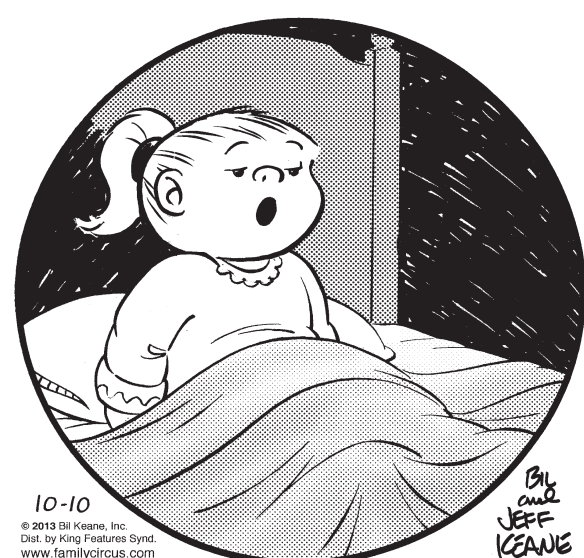
He won the spade lead with the ace, cashed the A-K of trumps and then embarked on a campaign to try to avoid the risky diamond finesse. He began by leading the ten of clubs to the jack, ruffed a spade, then led the ten of diamonds to the ace and ruffed dummy's last spade.

Having run East out of spades to set the stage for a potential endplay, declarer next played the A-K-Q of clubs, discarding a diamond from dummy on the last club. East refused to trump the fourth club and then he forced to lead a diamond into dummy's K-J, so he discarded a diamond instead.

This merely delayed the inevitable, because declarer next led his last trump, forcing East to win and return a diamond from the Q-7 to yield the slam.

In finding the winning line of play, declarer merely followed the general principle that one shouldn't stake the outcome on a finesse without first seeking a reasonable alternative. Once South applied the principle, the rest was as easy as pie.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My tummy has a headache. I don't think it wants me to go to class tomorrow."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/10

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

Cryptoquip

JXB OBCJ NFEWG UFCB JZ

XFUB OBBE KQZSTWBS ZUBQ

JXB KFCJ XTESQBS GBFQC

JXB TQE ZN JXB WBEJTQG

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE AMBASSADOR IS ENORMOUSLY UPSET TODAY, I SUPPOSE HE'S PROBABLY INCONSUL-ABLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 TV journalist Lisa
5 Hairless (Abbr.)
9 They're checked at the door
12 Birthright barterer
13 Bread spread
14 "The Matrix" role
15 Incidentally
17 "Erie Canal" mule
18 Barrel parts
19 Syrup flavor
21 Prop for Paul Bunyan
22 One of Donald's exes
24 Oration station
27 Literary collection
28 "American —"
31 Grecian vessel
32 Petrol
33 Ram's mate
34 "Beetle Bailey" dog
36 Last (Abbr.)
37 Scandinavian city
38 Disney's mermaid
40 Hirt or Gore
41 Not as important
43 Chihuahua chums
47 Conclusion
48 Behind closed doors
51 Noshed
52 Appear
53 Grand-scale
54 Comical DeLuise
55 Coop group
56 Leftovers
DOWN
1 Wahine's gifts
2 "Well,"
3 California wine
4 Tropical fruits used in jelly
5 Employer
6 "The Greatest" Deighton
8 Belief
9 Extremely
10 Transaction
11 Unrivaled
16 Driver's license datum
20 Singer DiFranco
22 Totally
23 Expansive
24 Twosome
25 Illustrations
26 Together
27 Chills and fever
29 Hooter
30 Zodiac sign
35 Acapulco gold
37 Dickens-based musical
39 Hibernian
40 "What Kind of Fool —?"
41 Anthropologist Margaret
42 Grooving on
43 Weaponry
44 Stare open-mouthed
45 Singer Redding
46 Religious offshoot
49 Born
50 Corral

Solution time: 25 mins.

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