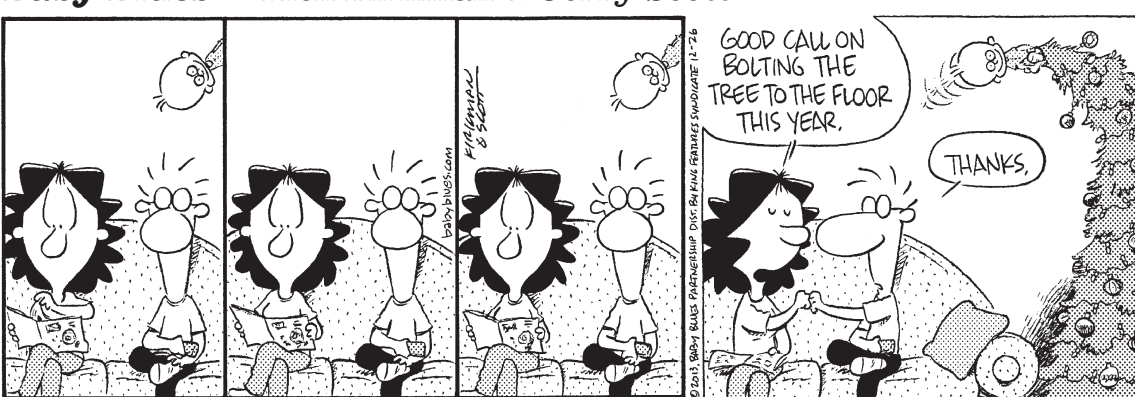
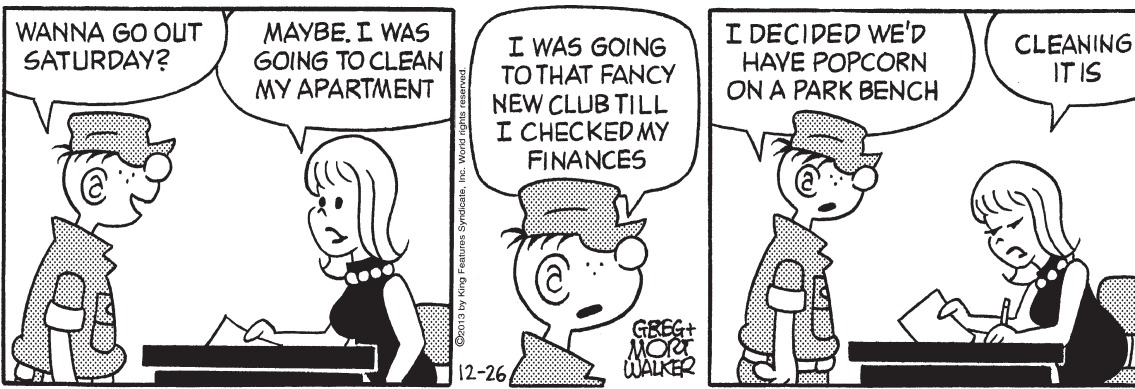


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



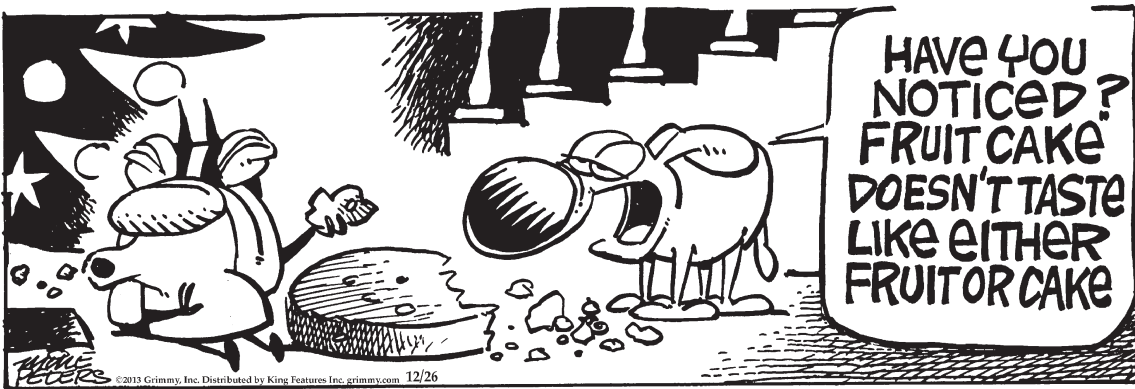
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**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 beer cans could top \$1,000**

**Q:** I have a six-pack of 1955 Blatz Holiday flat-top beer cans. The pack has never been opened and it includes cans in all six colors. I think the cans, especially the pink and light blue, are valuable. What is the whole set worth?

**A:** There are many dedicated collectors of old and rare beer cans. Some would be eager to buy your rare set of 1955 Blatz holiday steel cans. In addition to light blue and pink, the set included green, chartreuse, dark blue and orange cans.

Beer, previously sold in bottles, was first sold in cans in 1934. The cans were made of steel until 1958, when aluminum cans were introduced. Blatz Brewery opened in Milwaukee in 1846 and continued to operate under various owners until 1958, when it was sold to Pabst. The brand name is owned by Pabst today, too, but the original Blatz brewery has been converted to condos.

We have seen a single green 1955 Blatz holiday sell for more than \$250, so your complete set could top \$1,000. To sell your cans, do some research and find the right market. Contact experts at the Brewery Collectibles Club of America (BCCA.com) and at Breweriana.com.

**Q:** I have a 6-foot-tall silver metallic Christmas tree that's at least 50 years old. Does it have any value? Should I sell it?

**A:** Aluminum Christmas trees were popular in the 1960s.

The first ones were made by the Aluminum Specialty Co. of Manitowoc, Wis., in 1959. The trees have wire branches wrapped with aluminum strips to represent "needles."

Early trees had collapsible tripod bases. Later, revolving bases were made, some with music. The trees came in various sizes and colors, but silver was the most popular. Since lights couldn't be put on aluminum trees, most people used a lighted revolving color wheel at the base of the tree.

Millions of aluminum trees were made in the 1960s by several manufacturers. They went out of fashion by the end of the decade and could be picked up at garage sales for just a few dollars.

Reproduction and new aluminum trees are being made. Collectors have recently become interested in the old aluminum trees, and prices have risen. Some sell for over \$100. If you like the tree, you may just want to keep it and display it during the holidays.

**Tip:** Store fragile Christmas tree ornaments in plastic zip-lock bags. Be sure there is some air in each bag when you zip it. The air bubble protects like bubble wrap.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

- ♠ 5
- ♥ A 9 4
- ♦ 9 8 5
- ♣ A K Q J 9 3

**EAST**

- ♠ Q 6 4
- ♥ J 10 8 5
- ♦ A K 7 6 2
- ♣ 4

**SOUTH**

- ♠ K J 2
- ♥ K 7 6 3
- ♦ Q J 4
- ♣ 10 7 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
2♠ 3♣ 3♠ 3 NT  
Pass Pass 4♣ Pass  
4 NT  
Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

**Happy Ending**

This deal occurred in the 1992 Grand National Teams. North-South ended up in the unusual contract of four notrump after refusing to accept East's attempted sacrifice. Four spades doubled would probably have gone down one trick — meager compensation for North-South's vulnerable notrump game.

West led the diamond ten, hoping his partner could win and return a spade through declarer's spade stopper, most likely the king. West appeared to have struck gold when East put up the king of diamonds and shifted to the spade queen, covered by the king and ace. Declarer won the ten-of-spades continuation with the jack (he could not afford to duck since East's ace of diamonds would score the setting trick) and took stock.

Nine tricks — six clubs, two hearts and the spade already taken — were readily available, but there seemed no source of a 10th. A diamond could not be conceded to East, since his spade return would then sink the contract.

After long thought, South spotted a distinct possibility: If East started with four or more hearts in addition to the diamond ace he was known to hold, the contract was assured.

Accordingly, declarer ran dummy's clubs, producing this position as the last club was led:

**North**

- ♥ A 9 4
- ♦ 9
- ♣ 3

**West**

- ♠ 9 8
- ♥ Q 2
- ♦ 3

**South**

- ♥ K 7 6
- ♦ Q J

**East**

- ♠ 4
- ♥ J 10 8
- ♦ A

The three of clubs destroyed East. He could not afford to part with a heart or a diamond, so he was forced to discard his spade as declarer let go a heart. South then conceded a diamond to bring in his game.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/26

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

MKB YKTC BCSYKV G ASEC  
VK GVHCBCYH GV JBGYO,  
BCQ MBXGH. ZKX JKXUQ YSZ  
G'T ECBZ SOOUC-HACHGJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW STATE IN WHICH ALL RESIDENTS ARE INSTRUCTED IN THE LANGUAGE THAT GANDHI USED: HINDI-ANA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ice-cream flavor, for short
  - 5 TV overseer org.
  - 8 Competed
  - 12 Bay game
  - 13 Old card game
  - 14 Therefore
  - 15 Sandwich cookie
  - 16 Third-party abbr.
  - 17 Takeout request
  - 18 Remove a cork
  - 20 Unnamed one
  - 22 Pinafore letters
  - 23 "Of course"
  - 24 Church area
  - 27 Engrave
  - 32 Floral neckpiece
  - 33 "How — love thee ..."
  - 34 Use a spade
- DOWN**
- 35 In a con-tiguous line
  - 38 Block name
  - 39 A billion years
  - 40 Green org.
  - 42 Vampire's bed
  - 45 Like some lines
  - 49 Ottoman title
  - 50 Sub-machine gun
  - 52 Birthright barterer
  - 53 Channel marker
  - 54 "— the season ..."
  - 55 Back talk
  - 56 Stitches
  - 57 "Yecch!"
  - 58 "Star —"
  - 1 — En-lai
  - 2 Trumpet, for one
  - 3 Hasn't paid
  - 4 Dress
  - 5 B, on a 45
  - 6 Opposed
  - 7 Last few notes
  - 8 Bill killer
  - 9 Raymond Burr role
  - 10 Like an omelet
  - 11 Sorry fate
  - 19 Mantra
  - 21 Big Apple letters
  - 24 Hearty quaff
  - 25 Corral
  - 26 Carnival attraction
  - 28 French refusal
  - 29 Coleslaw or apple-sauce
  - 30 Huge
  - 31 Id counterpart
  - 36 Sweet Hungarian wines
  - 37 Inseparable
  - 38 Updated news
  - 41 A river or a Teletubby
  - 42 Urban fleet
  - 43 Malaria symptom
  - 44 Fonteyn frill
  - 46 Despot
  - 47 Facility
  - 48 Twilight time
  - 51 Sharp turn

Solution time: 25 mins

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18			19			20	21			
		22				23				
24	25	26		27	28	29			30	31
32				33					34	
35			36	37				38		
		39				40	41			
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		