

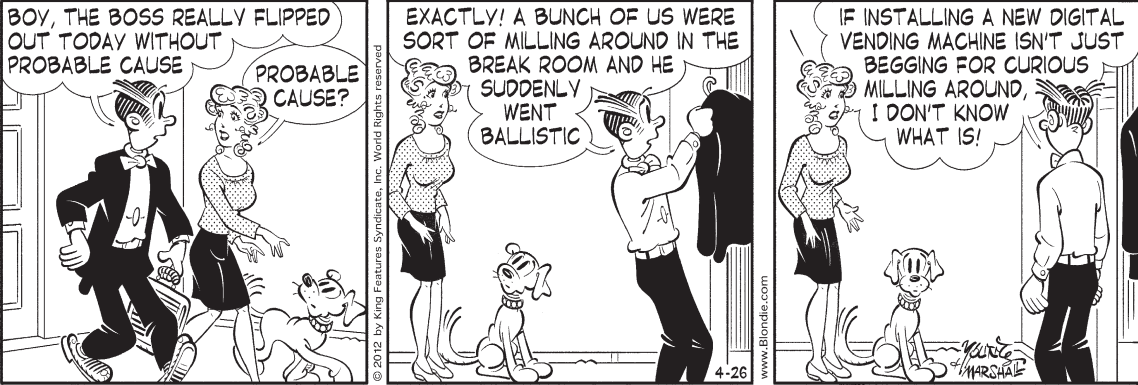
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



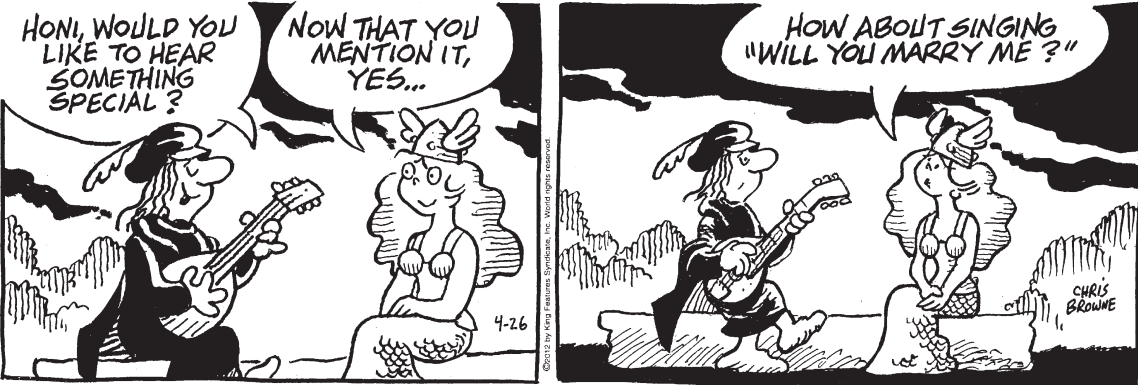
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



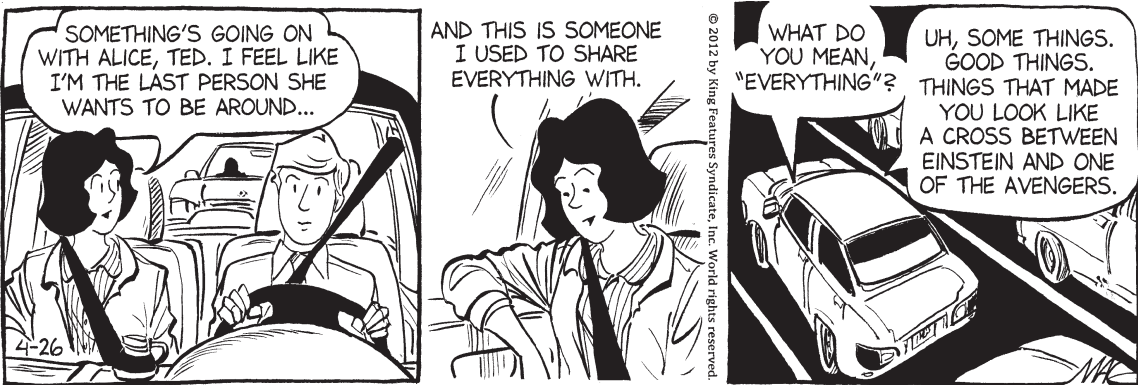
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



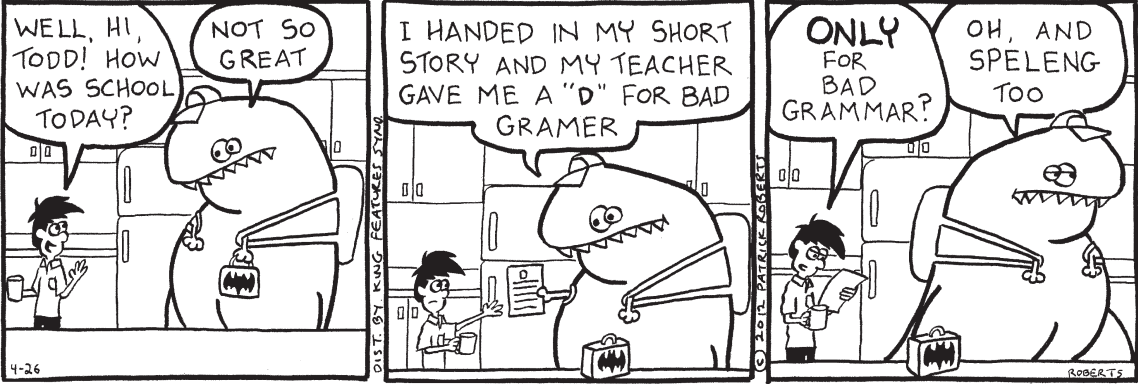
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel • Antiques and Collecting

Store figurines where it's dry

Q: I want to leave my collection of Hummel figurines to my 14-year-old great-granddaughter. What should I wrap them in and how should I store them?

A: Hummel figurines are based on the drawings of the nun M.I. "Berta" Hummel. They were first made in 1935 by the W. Goebel Porcelain Co. of Oeslau (now part of Rodental), Germany. The figurines are made of earthenware. Parts that aren't glazed will absorb moisture, so they need to be stored in a dry place. Don't store them in the basement, which often is damp, or in the attic, where they would be subject to extreme temperature changes, which could cause crazing. You can wrap the figurines in plain archival paper, white tissue paper or pieces of white bedsheets and pack them carefully in a box with bunches of tissue paper between them to prevent them from bumping each other when the box is moved. Don't wrap them in newspaper. Newsprint comes off and may stain the figurines. Don't wrap them in colored paper or plastic, either. The best way to store them is in their original boxes, if you still have them.

Q: My mother left me an oval brooch made of blue milk glass. I think it originally belonged to her grandmother, who died in 1924. It's a series of little blue balls and tiny silver balls. The gold-tone border is impressed "Czechoslovakia" in capital letters on the back. What do you think it's worth?

A: The country of Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918, when World War I ended. So your brooch was not made before 1918. The country split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Costume jewelry made of Czechoslovakian glass sells for a wide range of prices, depending on design and condition. Your brooch could sell for \$20 to \$50.

Q: I was pleased to see your recent column about furniture designs by Charles Rohlf. But being from Buffalo, N.Y., I was disheartened that you said Rohlf was a New York City furniture maker. He actually lived and worked in Buffalo.

A: Thanks for speaking up for Buffalo. Rohlf (1853-1936) was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and studied design at the Cooper Union in Manhattan. But he moved his family to Buffalo in 1887, when he took a job with a stove manufacturer there. In 1897 he opened his own workshop in Buffalo and created his unique furniture designs for a decade.

Tip: If you get gum on your Oriental rug or carpet, freeze it with an ice cube in a plastic bag, then scrape it off with a plastic credit card.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass 6 ♣  
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The Hand Is Quicker Than the Eye

Although there is no real magic in bridge, the nature of the game is such that you can sometimes cause a seemingly certain loser to disappear. Consider this deal where it appears you must lose a diamond and a club and go down one in six spades. Yet the fact is that if you play your cards correctly — and in a perfectly logical manner — you make the slam.

West leads the jack of clubs, which looks very much like a singleton, since you've got the ten in your hand. You therefore go up with the ace and draw three rounds of trumps, ending in the North hand.

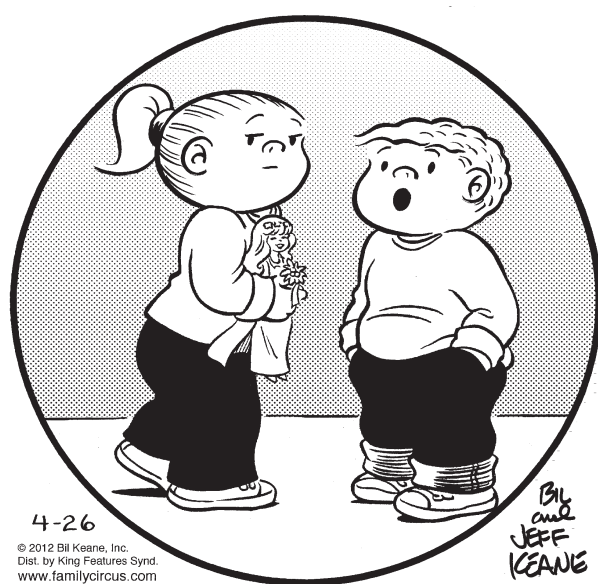
You next lead the four of clubs from dummy. If East goes up with the king, establishing your ten and dummy's queen in the process, the battle is immediately over. In that case you would eventually discard your queen of diamonds on the queen of clubs.

So let's say East plays low on the club lead from dummy, and that you win the trick with your ten. You still have a club loser, and it might therefore appear that the outcome now depends on a successful diamond finesse. But this is not true. As a matter of fact, at this point you should realize that the slam is in the bag regardless of where the king of diamonds is located.

Accordingly, you lead a heart to the king and return a low diamond from dummy. After East follows low, you finesse the queen. If the finesse wins, you have 12 tricks then and there, but even if the finesse loses, you still have 12 tricks. This is because, whatever West returns, you can later get rid of your club loser on dummy's jack of diamonds.

So, regardless of how East-West defend, there's no way they can stop one of your losers from simply vanishing into thin air. (c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy! Dolly says when I get married I HAFTA kiss the bride!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 4/26

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.

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

Cryptoquip

FUBG PIS UKNB JI FQZJB JUB

ABMKA JBYJ WIGWBQGGZGM

KAWIUIA ABNZBO, SOB

CQICBQ OZG-JKY OPGJKY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHILE FLOATING ON SOME RAGING WHITE WATER, MANY OF THE GUYS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF RAFT-DODGING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Labyrinth choice  
5 Skillets  
9 Half a dance?  
12 Lotion additive  
13 Fraternal baseball surname  
14 Attila, e.g.  
15 Unknown people  
17 Pismire  
18 Evening affair  
19 Depend (on)  
21 "And this should matter to me ... why?"  
22 Object  
24 "National Treasure" star  
27 Chart format  
28 Super-man's alias  
31 Melody  
32 Corroded  
33 "Go, team!"  
34 Let the cat out of the bag  
36 Badly  
37 Pale  
38 Aristocratic  
40 Ego counterpart  
41 Queenly  
43 Small beard  
47 Have bills  
48 Puts on the line  
51 "— the ramparts ..."  
52 About half the children  
53 Tiger Woods' ex  
54 "— Dalloway"  
55 Trade  
56 Logical  
DOWN  
1 Quarter-back's throw  
2 Choir member  
3 Actress  
4 Last car?  
5 Senate employee  
6 Hearty brew  
7 Neither mate  
8 Some Japanese fare  
9 They make alterations  
10 Suspended  
11 Initial stake  
16 Ultra-modernist  
20 Squid squirt  
22 Marquee datum  
23 Command to Rover  
24 "Cash —"  
25 Have something  
26 Farmers  
27 Bucket  
29 "Unh-unh"  
30 Your  
35 Feathery accessory  
37 Saws  
39 Consecrate  
40 Charged bit  
41 Leeway  
42 Basin  
43 React in horror  
44 Anatomical tissue  
45 Ireland  
46 Slave to cross-words?  
49 Without delay  
50 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-26

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			