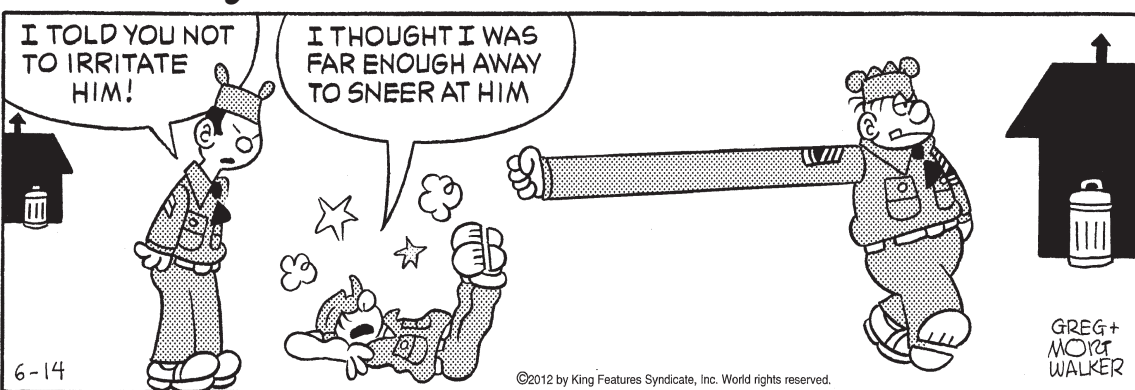


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



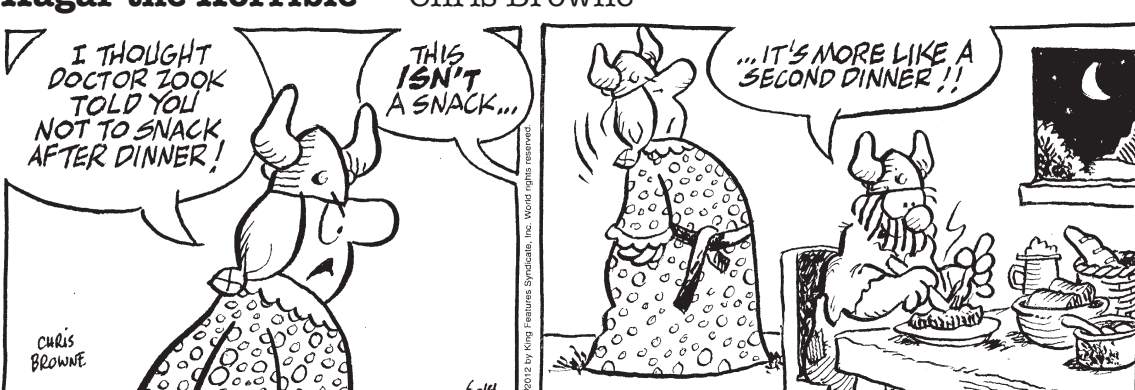
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



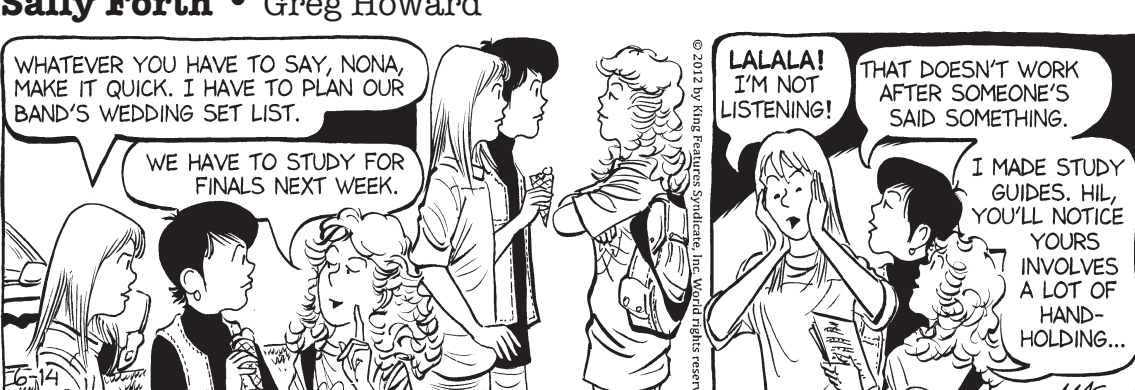
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Magnetic spelter looks like silver

Q: I bought what I thought was a set of coin silver flatware back-stamped "900." But the pieces are attracted by a magnet and I have been told that means they're not really coin silver. Is that true?

A: "Coin silver" has a slightly lower silver content than sterling silver. Pure silver is too soft and must be alloyed with copper for strength. Sterling is .925 parts silver, while American coin silver is .892 to .900 parts silver. Coin silver was the silver standard common in the United States from 1792, when the U.S. Mint was founded, until the 1860s, when American silversmiths reverted to the English sterling standard they had used before the American Revolution. Neither silver nor copper is attracted by a magnet. Some spelter, a white metal alloy that looks like silver, does attract a magnet. Your flatware is probably spelter.

Q: I have a small bronze vase that is about 3 inches tall and has raised work on one side. It is marked "Lauchhammer," with a crown over the name and crossed hammers beneath it. I would like to know who made this vase.

A: A bell and art foundry was established in Lauchhammer, Germany, in 1725. Bells, bowls, boxes, candlesticks, mirrors, plaques, sculptures, statues and other items were made in bronze, brass, iron, nickel, tin, zinc and other metals. The foundry is still in business, operating under the name Lauchhammer Kunstguss.

Q: A few months ago you wrote about a Bonnyware red plastic biscuit cutter marked "For Bisquicks." You asked if anyone had more information about the Bisquick cutter. My aunt collected biscuit and cookie cutters for years. One of her books, "Cookie Cutters and Cookie Molds: Art in the Kitchen" by Phyllis Steiss Wetherill, explains that Bonny Ware (two words) was a brand name for a hard plastic used in 1932 to make round biscuit cutters as product premiums for General Mills' Bisquick baking mix. A customer could mail in one Bisquick box top and receive a 2 3/8-inch green cutter and a 1 5/8-inch white cutter. Wetherill says a 2 1/8-inch yellow Bonny Ware cutter was sold in the General Mills company gift shop.

A: We have a copy of Wetherill's book in our library and didn't know it discussed Bonny Ware until we read your letter. A recent article in the Jackson (Mich.) Citizen Patriot confirms that Bonny Ware, a molded plastic, was made by the Reynolds Spring Co. of Jackson. Their plastics division opened in 1922 and made plastic products of all kinds. In the late 1920s or early '30s, the company introduced Bonny Ware, a line of plastic dishes and kitchenware that came in red, orange, pink or green. Pieces were marked "Bonny Ware." The article says Bisquick gave away the cutters "in boxes ... for years." Anything marked Bonny Ware is collectible.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A J 7 2
♥ 7
♦ A 9 8 3
♣ A 6 5 4

EAST
♦ Q 8 6 4 3
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ Q 7
♣ J 10

SOUTH
♦ 9
♥ K Q J 8 4 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ K 8 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Opening lead — three of clubs.

To Draw or Not to Draw Trumps
Whenever declarer plays a suit contract, he is faced with the question of when or whether to draw trumps. Unfortunately, it is impossible to formulate a perfect rule to cover this vexing problem. Hands simply vary too much from one deal to the next for anyone to devise a cure-all that provides all the answers.

What can be said is that in general, a declarer draws trumps unless there is a good reason not to. How he decides this question is mostly a matter of using good judgment.

Consider this deal where West leads a club against four hearts and South must decide whether to tackle trumps right away. Let's suppose he wins the club with the king and plays the king of hearts. East wins and returns a club to dummy's ace.

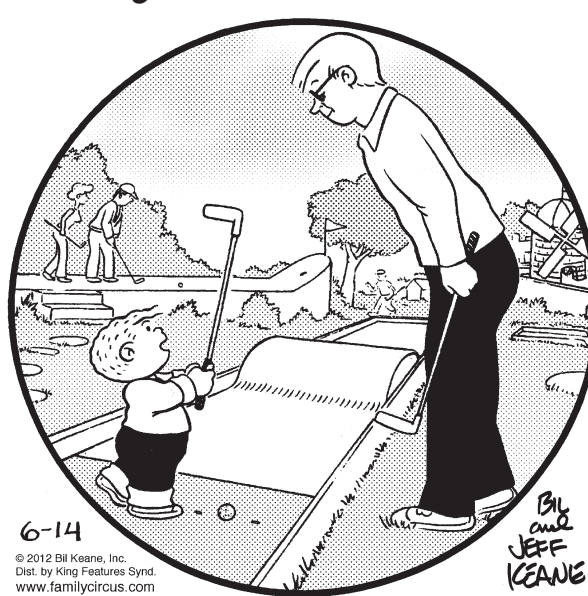
Declarer crosses to his hand with a diamond and plays the Q-J of hearts, hoping for a 3-3 break. When West shows out, South must go down one, losing a diamond, a club and two hearts.

The trouble with this approach is that declarer, in effect, stakes the contract solely on a 3-3 trump division. Instead, he should shape his play so that he has a chance to make the contract even if the hearts are divided 4-2.

After winning the first club with the king, he should play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. Now he leads the king of hearts. East takes the ace and returns a club. Declarer wins in dummy and ruffs another spade, then plays the Q-J of hearts, revealing the 4-2 trump division.

It is here that South's advance preparation pays off. He cashes the K-A of diamonds and then ruffs dummy's last spade with his last trump to produce his 10th trick. In this way, South scores five trump tricks despite the 4-2 division, as well as five tricks on the side in aces and kings.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/14

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.

Cryptoquip

Z WKJCEK OKGA RTIZCMH
ZB Z'E HSMJX SRXZTD R
SRIZ. Z DMKHH ACM EZDPS
HRA Z PROK JRW-ZT BKOKG.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PART OF THE WEEKEND WHEN YOU SIMPLY FEEL LIKE GOBBLING COLD COMFORT FOOD: ICE-CREAM SUNDAY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Use an old phone
5 Poorly lit
8 Atomizer output
12 "Karenina"
13 Anger
14 Golden Rule word
15 Fleet from far away
16 Cistern
17 Gulf War missile
18 Dwarf plant
20 Self-defense martial art
22 Egos' counterparts
23 Decks in the ring
24 Fashion
27 Listing alphabetically
32 Leave dumb-struck
33 Individual
34 Tic-tac-toe win
35 Couch potato's place
38 Heal, as a broken bone

DOWN
1 Smear
2 Data
3 Any time now
4 Timmy's pet
5 Math function
6 A Gershwin
7 Transcending (Pref.)
8 Tundra creature
9 Cut
10 Poker variety
11 — list (agenda)
19 Commercial
21 White House nick-name
24 Scratch
25 Have debts
26 Choice
28 Away from
29 Scorn
30 "There's — in team"
31 Obtained
36 Lizard's locale?
37 Hostel
38 Newsstands
41 "Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter"
42 Caspian feeder
43 Zilch, in Xochimilco
44 Jets or Sharks
46 1980s-90s German chancellor
47 Birthright barter
48 Finished
51 Wahine's gift

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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
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