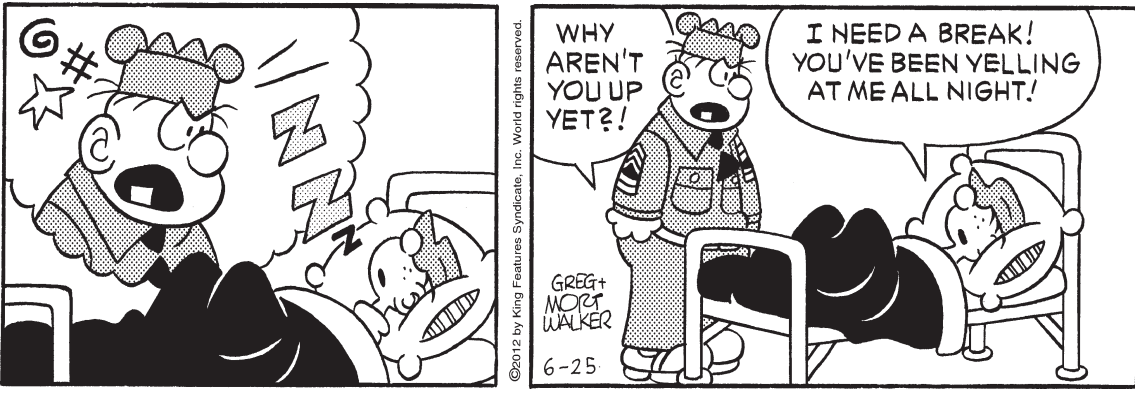


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



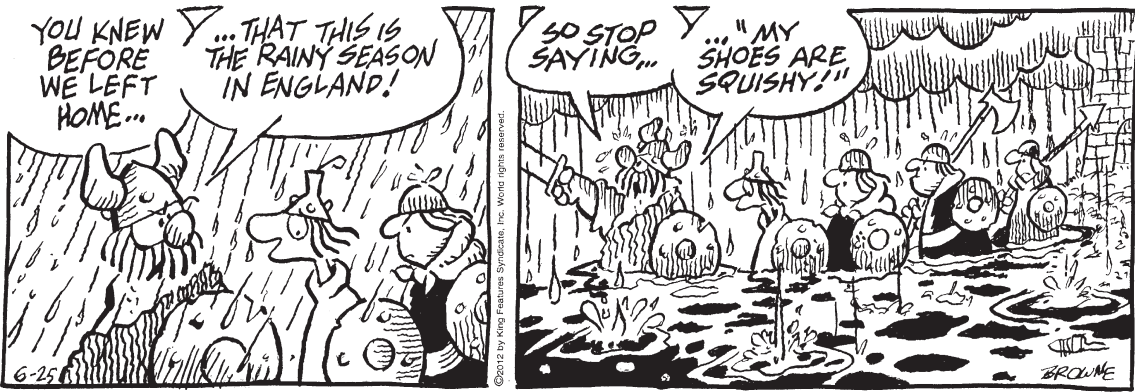
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



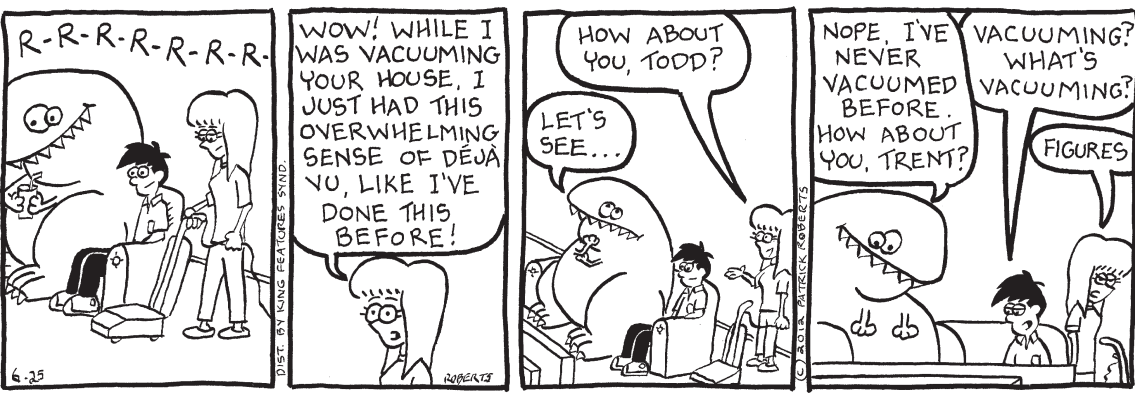
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



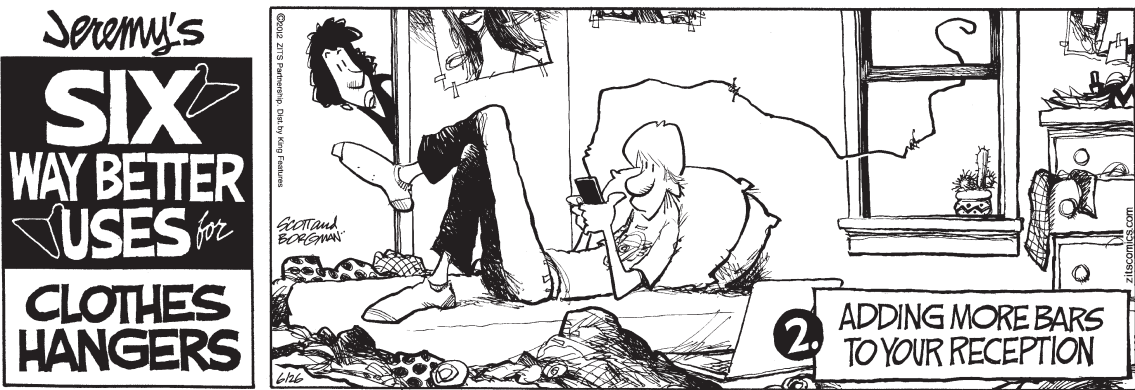
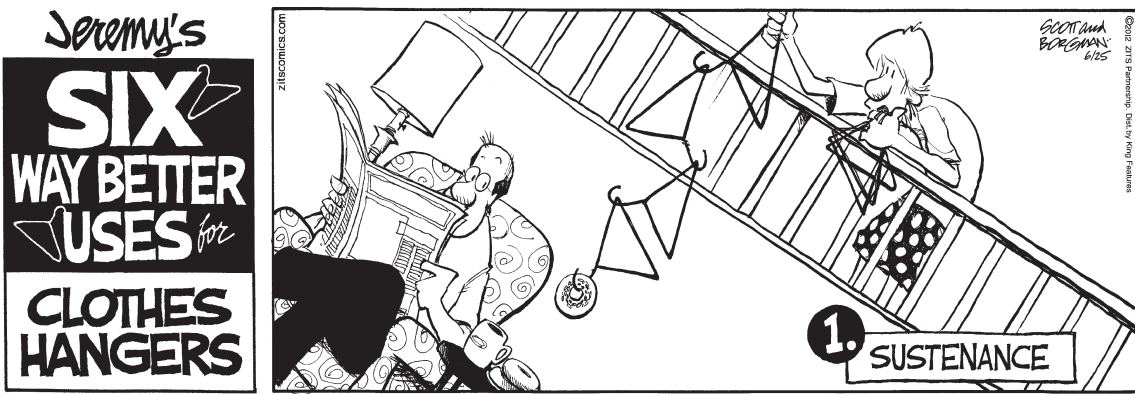
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**

• Antiques and Collecting

**America's image varied over time**

Many figures have been used through the years to represent America.

The earliest was the Indian Queen, who was the European symbol for North America from about 1570 to 1776. The attractive American Indian woman was represented in figurines and textiles. In 1776 her looks changed to a younger Indian Queen, who remained popular until about 1815.

There was also Miss Liberty, a woman who wore the French cap that represented liberty, and Miss Columbia, similar to Miss Liberty but wearing a tiara and standing near a flag and eagle. They are both seen in paintings as early as the 1770s, but Miss Liberty soon lost favor.

Columbia remained a symbol into the 1860s, when she lost out to Uncle Sam. He was invented in 1812 and is the most important and enduring representative of the United States.

Legend says that during the War of 1812, Samuel Wilson, a meatpacker, stamped meat packages for soldiers with the letters "U.S." for United States. Folks joked that the meat came from "Uncle Sam," and soon the tall, thin man with white hair and beard, top hat and striped pants was created and seen in political cartoons, ads, packaging and even toys. He is still a favorite.

**Q: My mother has a Little Red Riding Hood mechanical bank. It has Grandma in bed and Little Red Riding Hood sitting on the bed. If you pull the lever, Grandma's head comes up and reveals the Big Bad Wolf's face underneath. It you put a penny in, Red Riding Hood's head tilts back as if she is startled. The bank is marked "Red Riding Hood" on the side just below her skirt. On the bottom, below Grandma's head, are the words "Bits and Pieces." The paint and condition are excellent. We would like to know if it's a reproduction or an antique and what its value is.**

**A:** The antique Little Red Riding Hood mechanical bank does not have a maker's mark but is thought to have been made by W.S. Reed Toy Co., founded by William Reed in Leominster, Mass., in 1876. The company was known for its wooden toys.

Reed made three different mechanical banks in the 1880s: Old Lady in the Shoe (patented in 1883), Girl in Victorian Chair and Little Red Riding Hood. The Little Red Riding Hood bank came in three variations, with a blue, green or yellow bedspread. The company became Whitney-Reed Co. in 1898.

Your bank is marked "Bits and Pieces," the name of a company in Lawrenceburg, Ind., that sells reproduction mechanical banks, puzzles and other gift items. The original banks sells for more than \$30,000. Bits and Pieces sells reproduction banks for about \$25 to \$35, but the Red Riding Hood bank is no longer listed on the company's website.

(c) 2012 by Cowles Syndicate Inc.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 7  
 ♥ K 5 2  
 ♦ A K Q 8 6 5 4 3  
 ♣ A Q J 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 9 4  
 ♥ K 9 8 6 5 4  
 ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ 9 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 8 7 6 5 2  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ Q J 10 6  
 ♣ 10 7

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A Q J 3  
 ♥ Q 10 3 2  
 ♦ A 9 7 3  
 ♣ J

The bidding:  
 East 2NT South 3NT West 3NT North 4NT  
 Pass 5♥ Pass 7♣  
 Pass 7♦ Pass Pass  
 Dble 7NT Dble  
 Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

This improbable deal occurred in the 1989 Venice Cup final between two women's teams from the Netherlands and the United States.

It is perhaps best if the characters in the piece remain nameless. Suffice it to say that after the U.S. East opened with a weak two-spade bid, the Dutch South elected to bid two notrump, ostensibly showing a hand containing the values for an opening one-notrump bid.

This naturally sent North into orbit, and she eventually bid seven clubs, which cannot be defeated as the cards lie. All would have been well, except that South now decided to correct this contract to seven diamonds, which had no chance whatsoever. East then erred grievously by doubling, giving South a chance to recover by bidding seven notrump. South then subjected East to the final ignominy by squeezing her to bring home the grand slam.

Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy, led a club to the jack and a heart to the ace, then ran the remaining clubs. This was the position when the last club was played:

**North**  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ 5 2  
 ♣ 3

**West**  
 Immaterial

**East**  
 ♠ K 8  
 ♦ Q J

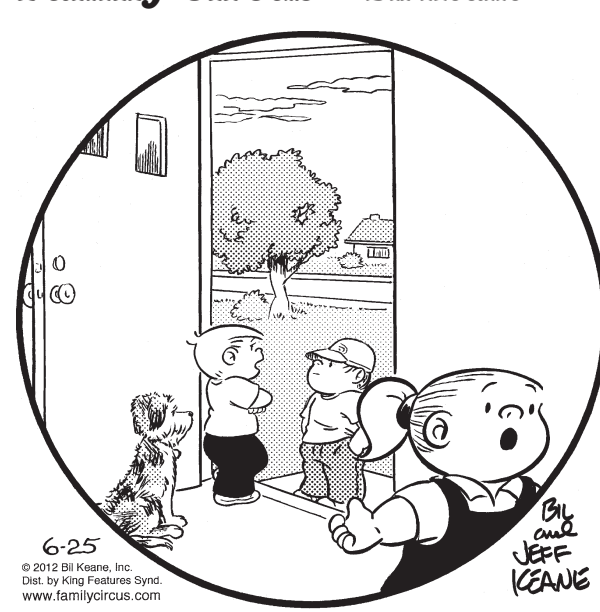
**South**  
 ♠ A Q  
 ♥ A 9

No matter what East discarded on the three of clubs, South was sure to take the rest of the tricks.

At the other table, the American North-South pair stopped at six clubs and made seven, giving the Dutch a 15-IMP pickup on the deal. Had East passed seven diamonds at the first table, the U.S. would have gained 17 IMPs instead.

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 6/25

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

ELKQYLWM FQVQIKEK  
 PJHWLJIH HTM GWN WQVVKIE  
 LN HKL PXLPTY QI QGPTY  
 YNL: Q IJIFQ GNXXJKX.  
**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** SUGARY TREAT

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** SINCE THAT SUPER CHESS PLAYER NEVER LOST EVEN A SINGLE GAME, COULD YOU SAY HE MATED FOR LIFE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
 1 Cheek by — (adjoining)  
 5 Woman ones  
 8 Two-timers  
 12 Geometry find  
 13 Singer Sumac  
 14 Leave out  
 15 Dissolve  
 16 Contingency funds  
 18 One of Henry VIII's Annes  
 20 Strike from the text  
 21 The Red and the Black  
 23 "— the season to be jolly"  
 24 Post-tragedy joking, e.g.  
 28 Layer  
 31 Bullring bravo  
 32 Rock

**DOWN**  
 17 Encourtered  
 19 Favorable votes  
 22 Brown ermine  
 24 Jazzy style  
 25 Muhammad or Laila  
 26 Lessen  
 27 Backed  
 29 Wapiti  
 30 In medias —  
 33 Jacob's brother  
 36 Wood-smoothing machine  
 38 User  
 40 Apiece  
 42 Look lecherously  
 43 Turn the soil  
 44 Carry on  
 46 Ration (out)  
 47 Greek vowels  
 48 Engrossed  
 50 Martini ingredient

Saturday's answer 6-25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
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		

