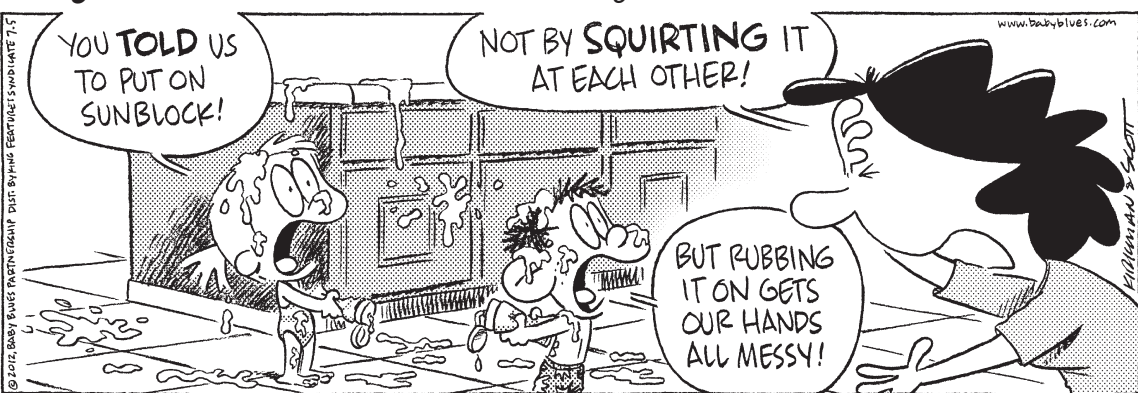


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



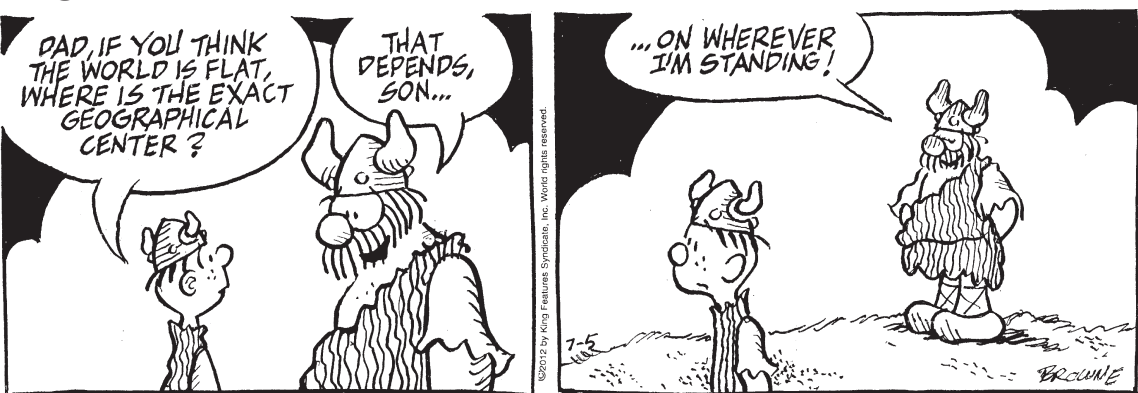
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



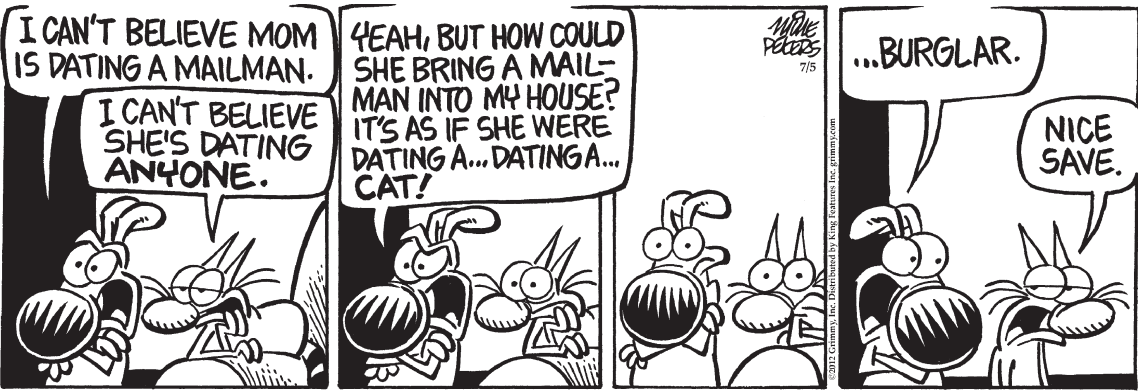
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



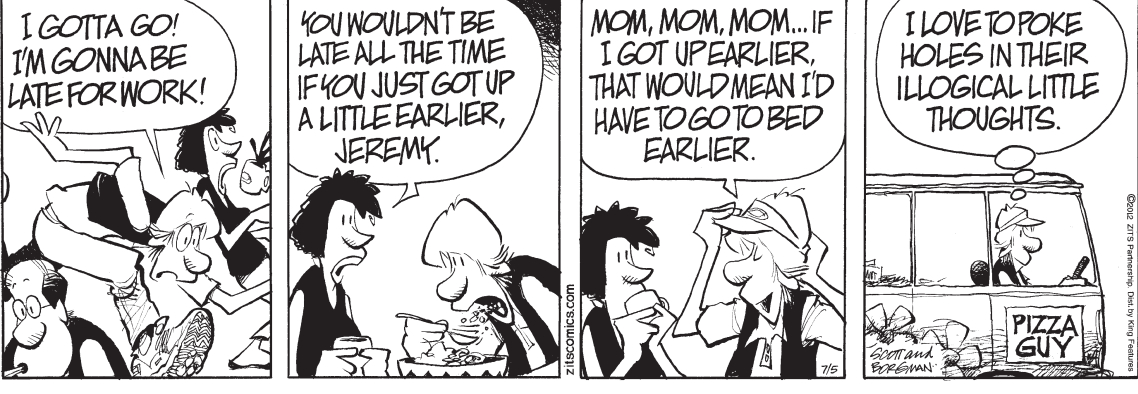
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Player matters on drum's value

Q: I have an old drum with "Union Drum Manufacturing Co. No 98 West Baltimore St., Baltimore Md." printed inside. The drum has 13 stars, but no other markings. Any history or price information will be appreciated.

A: Union Drum made drums for the Union Army during the Civil War. Drums were an important part of a martial band, serving to motivate soldiers before and after fighting on the battlefield. Boys under the age of 16 enlisted in the Army as field drummers.

Condition and verified history determine the price. A Union drum in fair condition with the name of the original drummer could sell for \$2,000 to \$3,000. With no name it could sell for \$300 to \$500.

Q: I have had a child's silver "Spirit of St. Louis" ring since I was 8 years old - in 1927, the year Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The ring pictures Lindbergh's airplane on the top and has the words "New York" above the plane and "Paris" below. What is my ring worth today?

A: Your ring is a known souvenir of Lindbergh's famous flight. If it's in tiptop shape, it could sell for close to \$250. Dings, bends and scratches would drop the price well below \$100.

Q: My parents left me a houseful of antiques, and I don't know what they're worth. A local appraiser wants \$500 to come to my house. Is this standard? What do you suggest I do?

A: We receive a lot of questions like yours and are preparing a report on how to deal with inheriting an estate, whether large or small, valuable or not so valuable.

There is no national accreditation agency for appraisers of antiques, but you can still ask appraisers about their training, experience, references, hourly rate and if they belong to a national appraisal association. And you can call a few appraisers before you hire one.

An appraiser should not charge a fee for simply coming to your house. Tell the appraiser how many antiques you would like to have appraised and ask about an hourly rate. Do you want a written or oral appraisal? A legitimate appraiser should never offer to buy anything.

You can find links to national appraisal associations and various appraisers on our website, Kovels.com. The website and many books list hundreds of thousands of prices of antiques and collectibles to use for research.

Q: Could you tell me what an original NFL Jeff Garcia figure is worth? It dates from when he was a quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers.

A: McFarlane Toys of Tempe, Ariz., issued a 7-inch figure of Jeff Garcia in 2002. Garcia, now 42, played for the 49ers from 1999 to 2003. If your figure is in its unopened original package, it would sell for \$35 to \$40. It's worth less than half if you have an unwrapped figure.

"Kovels' American Collectibles, 1900 to 2000" is the best guide to your 20th-century treasures. Out of print but online at Kovels.com, at (800) 303-1996, or send \$27.95 plus \$4.95 postage to Kovels, Box 22900, Beachwood, OH 44122.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♦A J 8 2
♥K 10 3
♠K Q 10 6 4
♣4
WEST
♦7 4 3
♥7 2
♠9 5 2
♣K Q 9 8 6
EAST
♦Q 10 9 6
♥8 6 4
♠A 7 3
♣J 5 3
SOUTH
♦K 5
♥A Q J 9 5
♠J 8
♣A 10 7 2
The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 2♠ Pass
2NT Pass 4♥ Pass
6♥
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Art of Slam Bidding

Point count, whether based on high cards or distributional values, does not necessarily provide the best guide to reaching the optimum contract. Good judgment and long experience are much more reliable guidelines than the arithmetical calculation of the worth of the combined hands. This is especially true in slam bidding.

Consider the present case where North-South arrived at six hearts. South opened one heart, and North, knowing that a game was already virtually certain and also that slam was a distinct possibility, responded with two diamonds. It was the first of three bids made by North that were specifically designed to describe both his high-card values and his distribution.

After South rebid his hearts, North continued the piecemeal description of his hand by bidding two spades. One effect of North's first two bids was that he indicated longer diamonds than spades, since he had bid diamonds first. Two spades was forcing because it was a new suit named by responder. It also implied extra values beyond those indicated by North's first response.

After South's two-notrump bid, North completed the picture of his hand by jumping to four hearts. This strongly suggested a 4-3-5-1 pattern and greater high-card values than a three-heart bid would have indicated.

South needed no further prodding. Recognizing that North had a very good hand with at most one club, he leaped to six hearts. After winning the opening club lead with the ace, he led the diamond jack at trick two, and there was nothing the defenders could do to stop the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/05

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

Cryptoquip

LZN EYVAXOA AY MXAXSCZVX

IGZEG OZMX ZO BLHX AY

LX CYSX EYVRZVEZVNHT

IGZVT: AGX OVZRXH IBS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVELTY SONG ABOUT FOLKS WHO NEVER FEEL LIKE BUYING OR WEARING LONG PANTS: "SHORTS PEOPLE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	44 Cheap and shabby	DOWN	20 Luftwaffe foe (Abbr.)
1 Matter-horn, for one	46 Cutting tool	2 Meadow	21 Greek salad
4 Bankrolls	50 Under the weather	3 Distress-free	ingredient
8 "Unh-unh"	51 Wrinkly fruit	4 Billfold	22 Raw minerals
12 Vast expanse	52 Lax	5 Hearty brew	23 Carpet
13 Others (Lat.)	56 Compared to	6 Platter	27 "Hum-bug!"
14 Mountain goat	57 Caspian feeder	7 Cordage fiber	29 Eternal
15 Bald	58 Try the sherry	8 Capital of old Assyria	30 Mid-month date
17 Zilch	59 Engaged in	9 Reed instrument	31 Say it isn't so
18 Zilch	60 News-paper page	10 Teller's partner	33 Spilling the beans
19 Lurches	61 Pigpen	11 Old partners	35 Snapshot
21 File container		16 Disen-cumber	38 More, to Manuel
24 Rest-room, for short			40 Protect
25 Before			43 Chocolate source
26 Bathroom fixture			45 Right angle
28 Malodorous			46 Shacks
32 Criterion			47 Turkish title
34 Space			48 Family
36 Stash			49 Distort
37 Black tea of India			53 "Norma _"
39 That man's			54 Perch
41 Chaps			55 Agent
42 Varnish ingredient			

Yesterday's answer 7-5

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
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	
59				60					61	