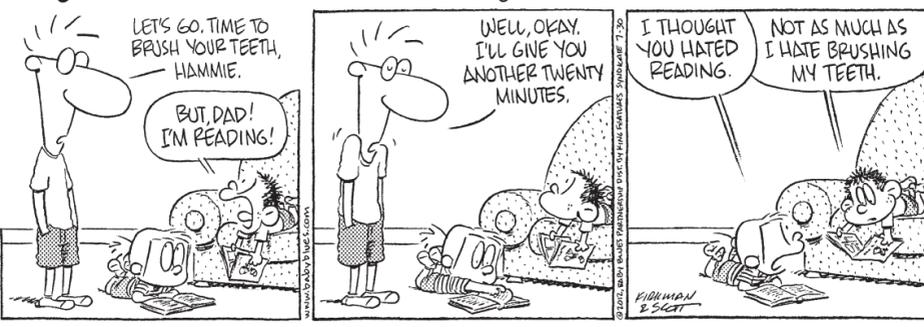


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



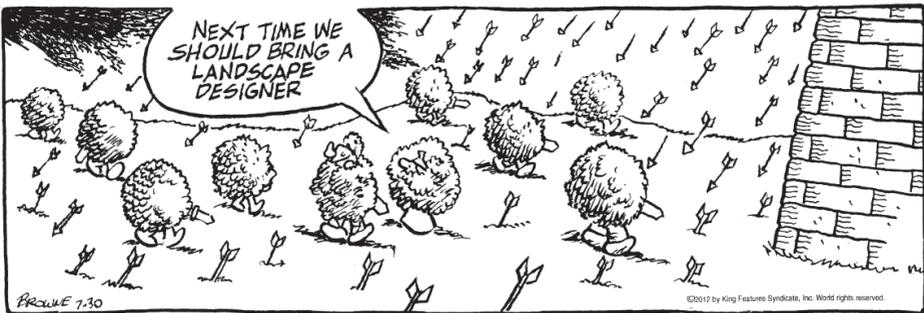
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



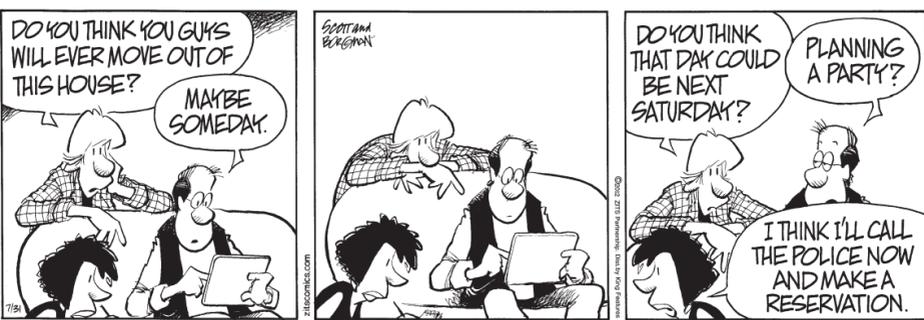
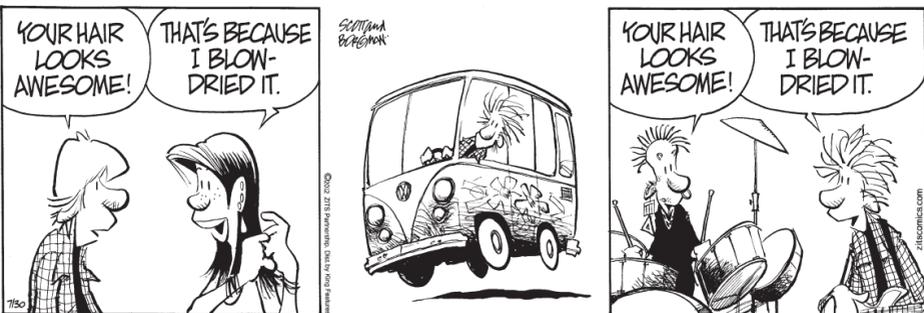
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Tobacco jars in surprise forms

Why would a tobacco jar from the 19th century be shaped like a lady in a long, full dress?



Tobacco jars were made in many unexpected shapes, and there are many figural tobacco-jar collectors today. Most were made from 1850 to 1900 in Bohemia and nearby countries, of majolica, bisque, pottery, wood, even bronze.

Most common today are "heads." Life-like heads of men, women, children, ethnic groups, animals and even a rare fish were made. "Full figurals" were made that looked like 19th-century ladies, historic figures, peasants, sailors and animals in suits or dresses.

There was humor seen in many of the jars, some very subtle. The lady in a full skirt looks demure and proper, but her ankles are showing below the hem of her skirt; she's flirting. In those days, an ankle was considered erotic.

Figural jars cost hundreds of dollars today.

Q: I have a pair of heavy bookends with figures of a Chinese boy and girl. The boy is standing on two books and looking over the top of another. The girl is sitting on two books and reading one.

One bookend says "Fashioned by Ronson" and the other "Ronson All Metal Art Wares" and "Royal Old Gold." The figures are gold, and the books are black with gold edges. Can you tell me something about them and what they are worth?

A: Ronson was founded in New York by Louis V. Aronson in 1886. The company moved to New Jersey in 1887. Best known for its cigar and cigarette lighters, it also made ashtrays, bookends, lamps, desk sets, fraternal and religious items, medals and toys. Your bookends were made in the 1930s; similar ones were made with Dutch children. Zippo bought most of the Ronson assets in 2010. Value of your set: \$125.

Tip: To clean old paper, try talcum powder. Take a soft brush or powder puff, sprinkle on the powder, leave for an hour, and brush it off.

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 3 2
♥ A K 10 8 5 2
♦ Q 4
♣ J 7

WEST
♠ J 9
♥ Q 6
♦ 10 8 5
♣ A K 9 6 5 3

EAST
♠ 7 6 4
♥ 7 4 3
♦ J 7 3
♣ Q 10 8 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 8 5
♥ J 9
♦ A K 9 6 2
♣ 4

Final contract: six spades.

Famous Hand
Today's deal features another in the seemingly endless stream of spectacular triumphs for Zia Mahmood, who has provided reams of material for bridge columnists since he first appeared on the international bridge scene about 30 years ago.

The deal occurred in the 2001 Cap Gemini Pairs, an elite invitational pair tournament held annually in The Hague. Zia and his partner, Andrew Robson, won the event for the second straight year.

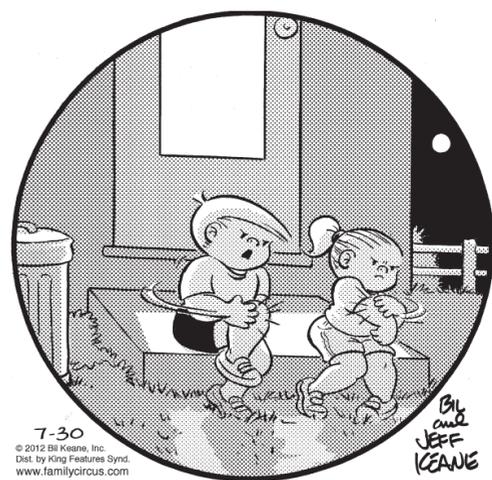
The bidding of the Polish pair who held the North-South cards is not available. All that matters is that they reached the excellent slam in spades, and Zia, West, led the A-K of clubs.

Looking at all four hands, you might wonder how the Polish declarer — a member of the team that finished second in the 2000 World Team Olympiad — failed to make six spades. The diamonds are divided 3-3, the trumps are 3-2, and the heart queen is doubleton outside. But with Zia at the table, anything is possible.

South, of course, could not see how favorably the cards lay. His primary concern was what to do if the trumps broke 4-1 or the diamonds 4-2. Accordingly, he played a diamond to the queen, returned a diamond to the ace and ruffed a low diamond with the ace of spades. He then led a spade to the eight — finessing against East's "marked" nine — and prepared to claim. But when Zia unexpectedly produced the nine of spades, the seemingly unbeatable slam went down one!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



7-30
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/30

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

F T V X T B L D V D O
Z O G Z H T W D N Z O H Y E E Y X N
T O P V . Y G Y W I N Z F Y B Y
D W Y N L Y W Y B Y H Y N D
W P V V Z D Y O Y W H I .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I KNOW PEOPLE WHO FIND IT FUN TO DRILL HOLES THROUGH SOLID ROCK, BUT I CONSIDER IT BORING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Rosary component
5 Ever-green
8 Apple's center
12 Make undue claims
14 By word of mouth
15 Drunk, in slang
16 "Darn!"
17 Brewery product
18 They're read on a Kindle
20 Braid
23 Bruin
24 Antler
25 Pet rodent, often
28 "Rocks"
29 Sensitive spots
30 Midafternoon social
32 Darrell of "SNL"
34 Catches some rays

DOWN
1 "Phooey!"
2 Historic period
3 Upper limb
4 Realm
5 Bus rider's expense
6 Resident (Suff.)
7 Cashed in
8 Companion
9 Sandwich cookie
10 — and pinion
11 BPOE members
13 Hanukkah gift
19 Low voice
20 — Beta Kappa
21 Nessel, for one
22 Geometry calculation
23 Farm structures
25 Basketball tactic
26 Needle case
27 Land-lord's due
29 Pornography
31 Fire residue
33 Wonder
34 Works in a refinery
36 Use a teaspoon
37 Old World duck
38 Unembellished
39 Met melody
40 "So be it" Rd.
44 Youngster
45 Individual
46 Fresh

Saturday's answer 7-30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
20	21	22			23					
24				25				26	27	
28				29				30	31	
32			33					34		
37	38	39					40			
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50				51		