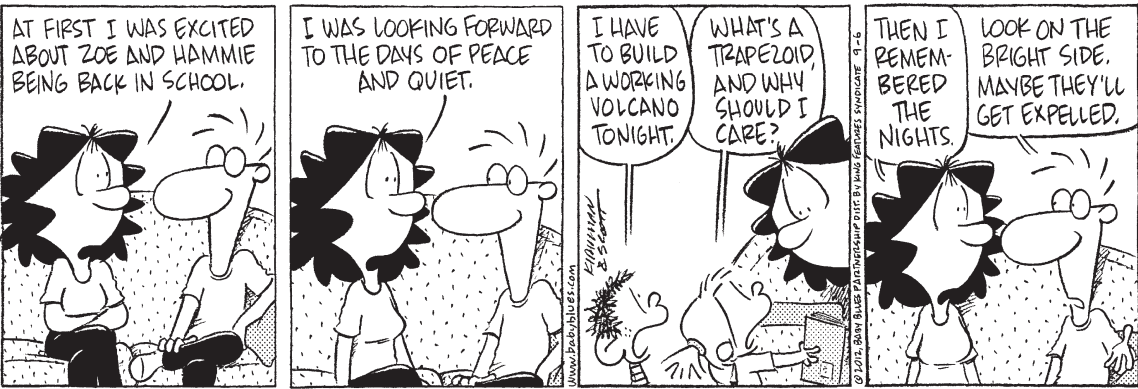
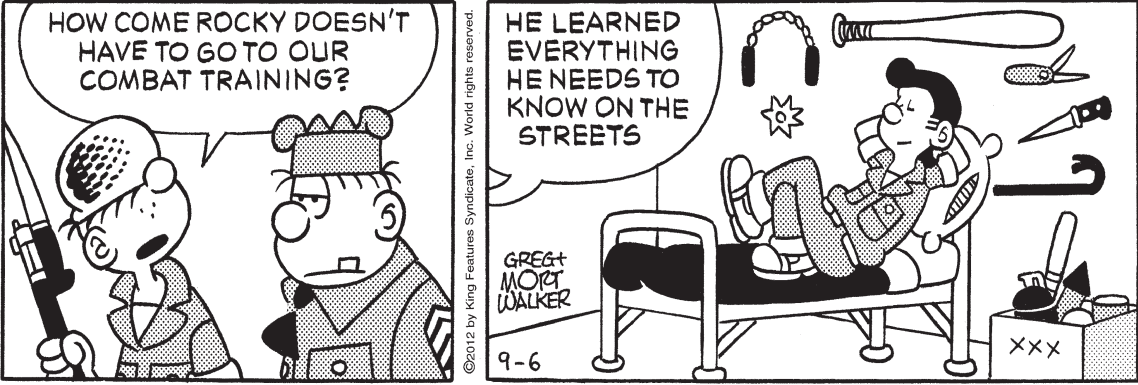


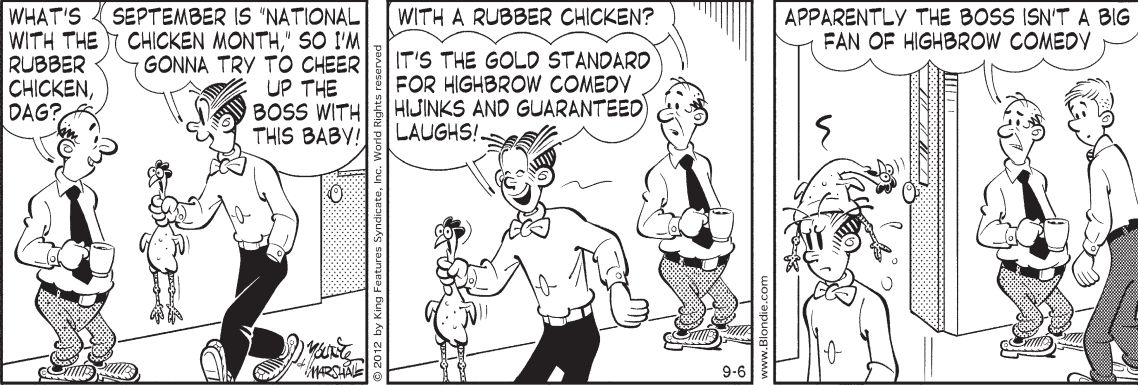
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



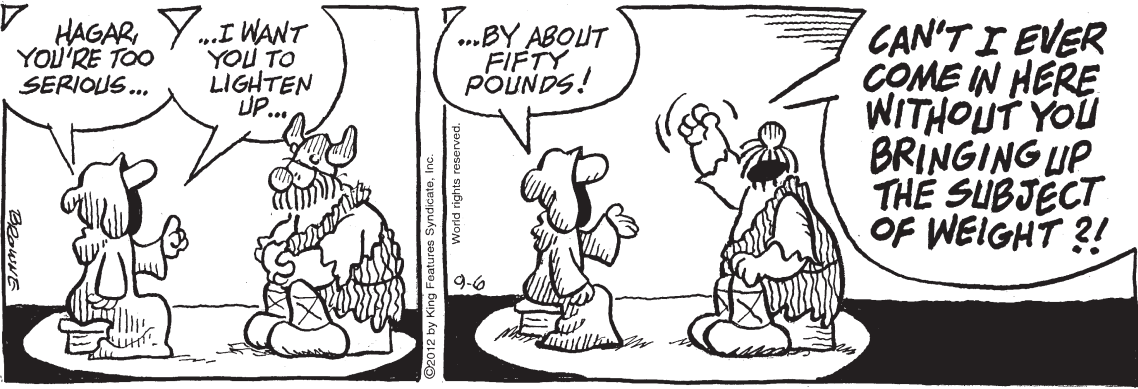
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



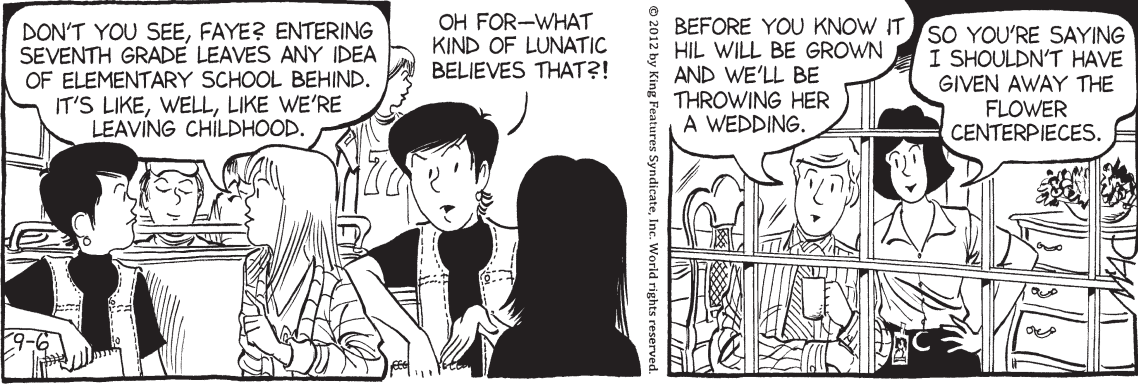
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



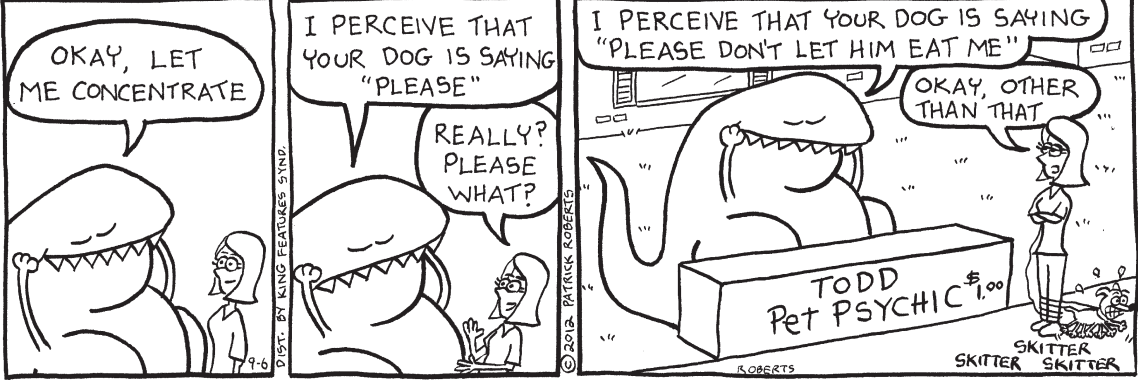
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



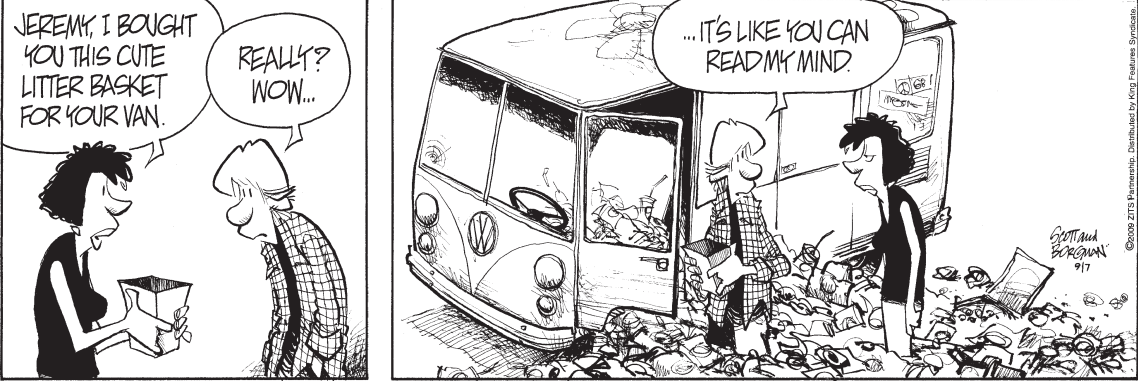
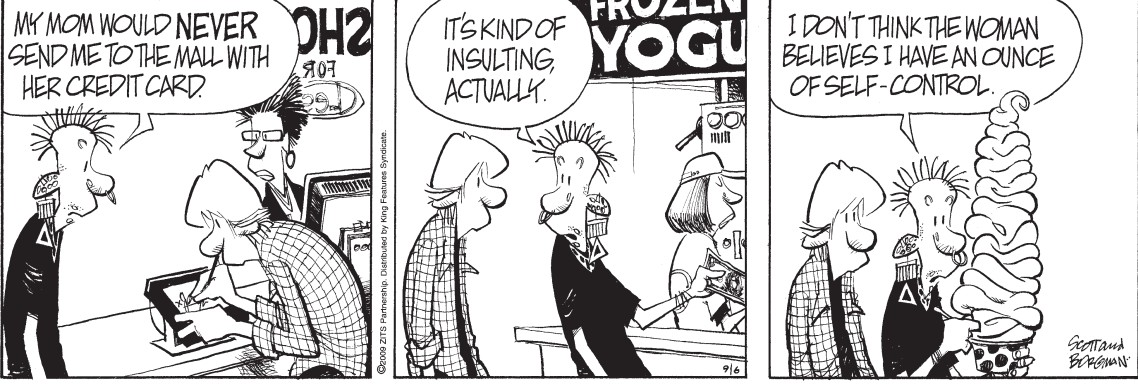
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

Antiques and Collecting

Chinese inkcake unusual in U.S.

For the past few years, auctions of Chinese antiques have attracted many bidders and high bids. The auctions have included many items not recognized by American bidders. A recent auction sold a "Chinese polychrome-decorated inkcake" for more than \$1,000. I had to do some research.

An inkstick or inkcake is a piece of solid ink that might be a mixture of soot and animal glue made from egg whites, fish skin or animal hides. Its scent was enhanced with cloves, sandalwood or other natural products. Other types of inkcakes were made of burnt material, plant dyes or minerals. The mixture was kneaded and pressed into a carved mold to dry.

The inkcake had to be ground on an inkstone with water. The ink could be mixed to be thick or thin. An ink brush was dipped into the ink and used to write or draw on paper. Early examples date back to the 12th century B.C. New ones are in stores now.

The auction's inkcake dated from the mid-1700s. The colored raised decoration on one side pictured a landscape with a temple, table, sculpture and candle. The other side was decorated with a colored dragon in the sea, a mark and an inscription. The inkcake was stored in a carved wooden box 4 7/8 inches by 3 1/8 inches by 7/8 inch. Inkcakes, inkstones, inkbrushes and paper, are highly regarded as symbols of culture.

Q: I have an unusual chest I would like to sell. It has many small drawers. On the inside of one it reads, "The Practical Glove Holder, Patented October 7, 1897, A.N. Russell & Sons, Canadian Patent August 7, 1897."

A: A.N. Russell & Sons was founded in Ilion, N.Y., in about 1883 by Albert N. Russell. The company made cabinets for gloves, ribbons and thread, as well as umbrella holders. The ribbon and glove cabinets were most popular. It later made museum cases until closing in 1932. In 2007 an A.N. Russell & Sons ribbon cabinet in very good condition sold for \$1,300 at auction.

Q: I inherited my grandfather's collection of 600 cigar bands in an old scrapbook. Only a small corner of each band is glued onto the page. There are pages that have cigar bands picturing every president from George Washington to Teddy Roosevelt. Are they of value?

A: Collecting cigar bands was a popular hobby in the early 1900s. Cigar manufacturers used the bands to keep cigars from unrolling and to identify and advertise their brands. Single bands as well as sets like your U.S. presidents were made. Collectors looked for sets that interested them or for particularly beautiful designs. As with most paper collectibles, pasting or gluing them into an album lowers their value, unless they can be safely removed without damaging the paper. There are few cigar-band collectors today, but there are many collectors of cigar memorabilia. Look for dealers or auctions that sell cigar-box labels, cigar cutters and other tobacciana.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 9 4	♥ K Q 7 6 2	♠ K Q 7 6 3	♥ K 9 3
♦ A 8 2	♣ A J 3	♦ 6	♣ Q 10 9 2
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ A 8 2	♥ A 8 5	♠ J 10 5	♥ J 4
♦ K J 5 4	♣ K 7 4	♦ Q 10 9 7 3	♣ 8 6 5

The bidding:
South 1♦ North Pass East 1♥ West Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — jack of spades.

Sylvia Adopts a New Strategy

When I ran into Sylvia the other day and asked her to give me one of her favorite hands for old times' sake, she came up with this gem.

The deal occurred only a few weeks after she had joined the club, and at that stage in her legendary career, she had at long last decided to fight fire with fire by adding the falsecard to her already bizarre repertoire of defensive weapons.

As usual, Sylvia was playing in the all-expert game and held the West hand. South got to three notrump as shown, and, as East had overcalled North's heart bid with a spade, Sylvia started by leading the J-10 and another spade.

Declarer won the third round with the ace and saw that by far his best chance for the contract was to try to establish dummy's hearts. However, this would have to be done without allowing East to gain the lead. As it seemed highly likely from the bidding that East had the king of hearts, declarer had to hope that Sylvia held the jack.

Accordingly, he crossed to dummy's ace of diamonds and led the queen of hearts. East and South followed low, and it was at this juncture that Sylvia introduced her newest weapon, the falsecard, by playing her jack on the queen! She was hoping that this play would somehow fool the declarer.

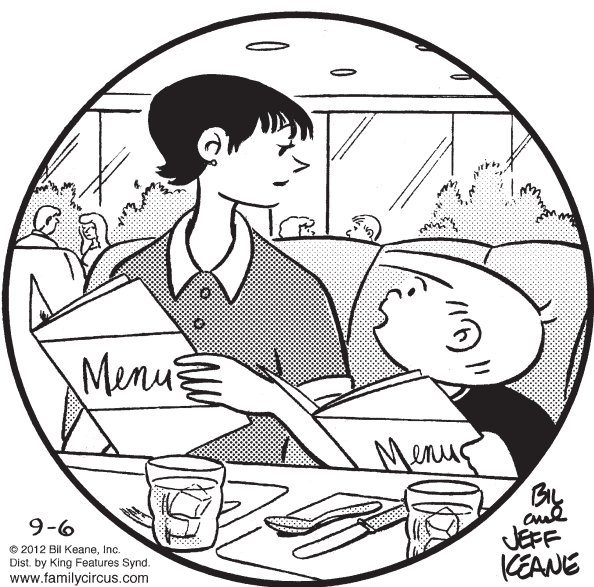
But the odd effect of the falsecard was that South could no longer establish the hearts without surrendering the lead to East's king or nine, so declarer now could not avoid going down.

Had Sylvia made the more normal play of the four on the queen of hearts, South undoubtedly would have made three notrump. He would next have led a low heart from dummy, playing his eight on East's nine and thus forcing Sylvia to win the trick with the jack. Then nothing could have stopped him from making four heart tricks and the contract.

Sylvia had triumphed again!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/06

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

Z X Y R L E Y A A B V C X B R

V M B E E S Z X V I H K T M I T E M ' R

T E B K R Y K Z I C Y R B V V B S . I X

H M E E , Z X B Z ' R R K I H L Y A !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEFORE THE RACE BEGAN, THE FISH THOUGHT HE COULDN'T DO WELL, BUT HE WON IT AGAINST ALL CODS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Eco-friendly org. | 58 Pianist Dame Myra | 19 Freudian concept |
| 1 Frosty's "eyes" | 42 Homes | | 21 Skater Babilonia |
| 5 Family member | 45 Froot Loops spokes-bird | DOWN | 24 Prohibit |
| 8 Burden | 49 Hindu princess | 1 Barber-shop item | 25 Off-chanted initials |
| 12 Earthen pot | 50 Blond shade | 2 A bit of everything | 26 Not necessary |
| 13 Alias abbr. | 52 Appellation (Abbr.) | 3 Too | 28 Eggs |
| 14 Crooner Jerry | 53 Country that's an anagram of 49- | 4 Menial servant | 29 On-air fundraiser |
| 15 Uncate-gorized (Abbr.) | 54 Carnival city | 5 Willy Loman, e.g. | 30 Way back when |
| 16 Journey segment | 55 Cornfield intruder | 6 A Turner story | 31 Started |
| 17 Sicilian spouter | 56 Skilled | 7 Long | 36 Cut |
| 18 Bet collector | 57 B&B | 8 Exaggerate | 37 Indivisible |
| 20 Of a heart chamber | | 9 Country-wide | 38 Beer belly, maybe |
| 22 Mag. staffers | | 10 Arm bone | 41 Italian river |
| 23 Big bother | | 11 Close | 42 Met melody |
| 24 Channel marker | | 12 Zinger | 43 Garment for 49- |
| 27 Re movement | | 13 Across | 46 Give a darn |
| 32 Cleo's slayer | | 14 Across | 47 Old Testament book |
| 33 "Hail!" | | 15 Across | 48 Information |
| 34 Life time? | | 16 Across | 51 Sermon subject |
| 35 Sane | | 17 Across | |
| 38 Trudge | | 18 Across | |
| 39 Charged bit | | 19 Across | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

DOCS	ACT	ALAS			
AVOW	RHO	TAME			
MALARKEY	STOW				
SLATY	SPECKS				
	HELP	RAH			
LIME	IOWA	KID			
SKI	HOKEY	ERA			
DEN	ONER	CYAN			
	OWE	YELL			
FARADS	SAULT				
ELKS	TOFURKEY				
DIET	ADO	KEEP			
STYE	REX	ESSO			

Yesterday's answer 9-6

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
49					50	51		52		
53					54			55		
56					57			58		