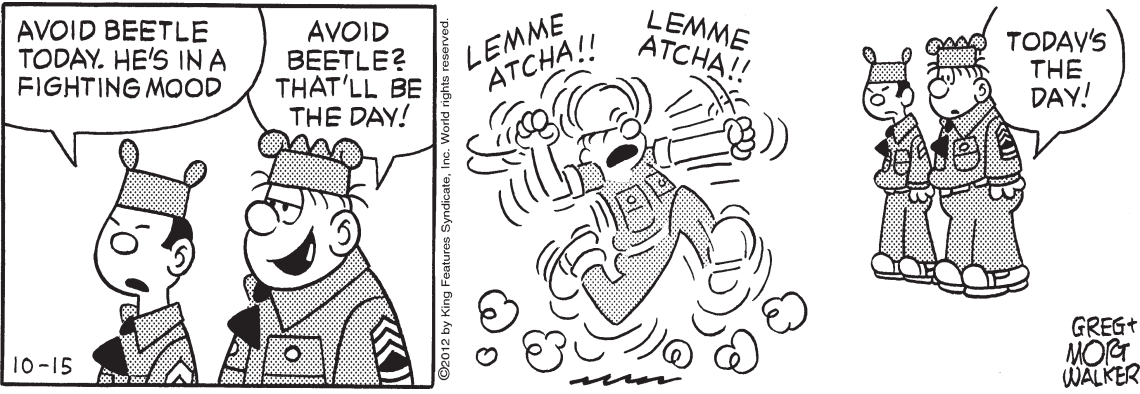


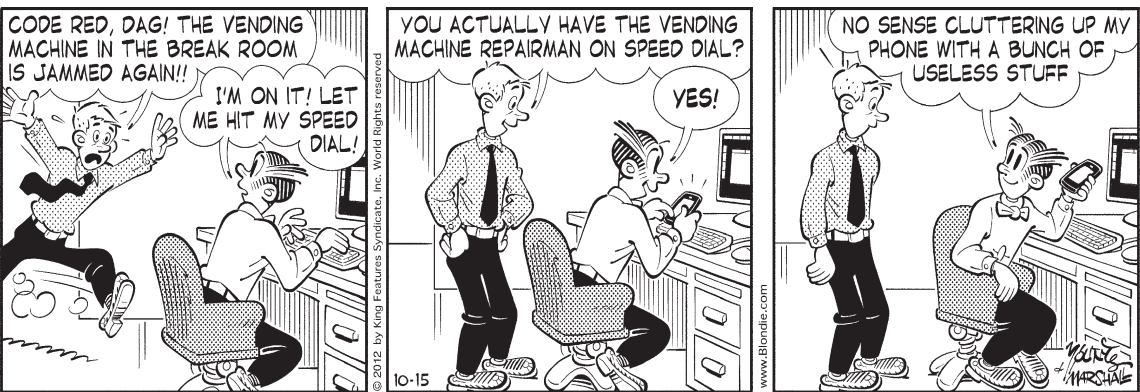
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



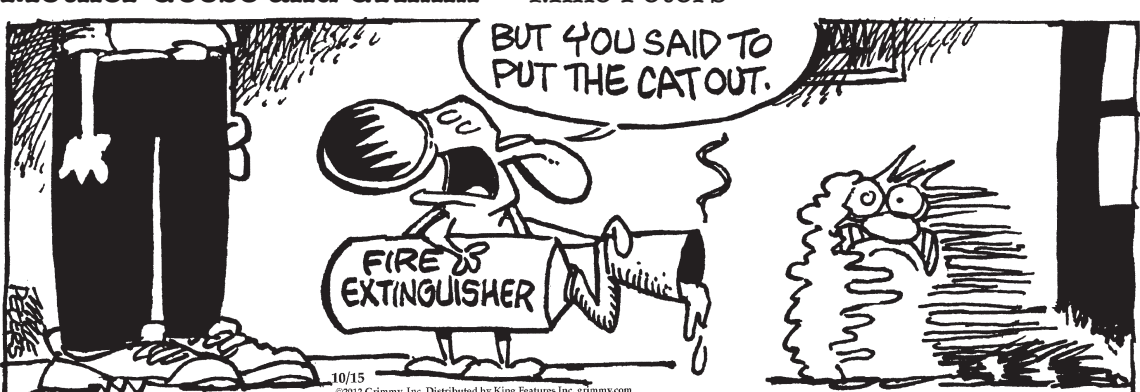
**Blondie** • Chic Young



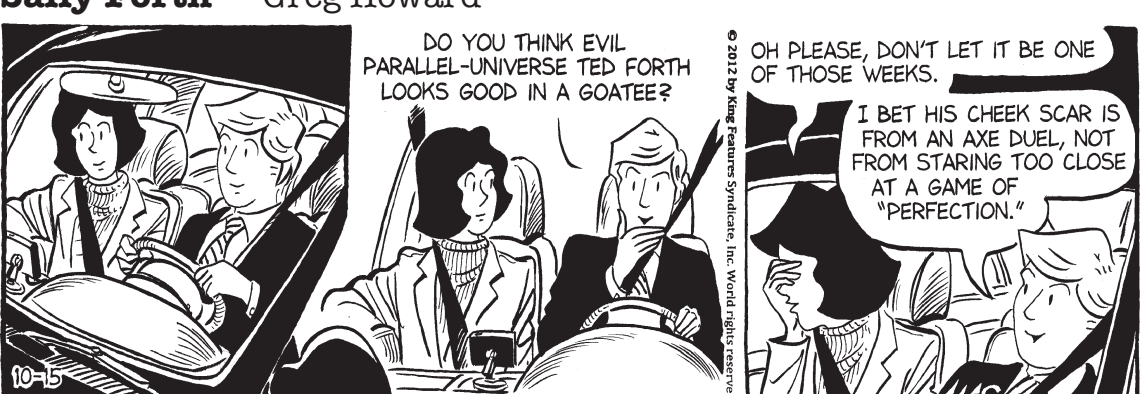
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



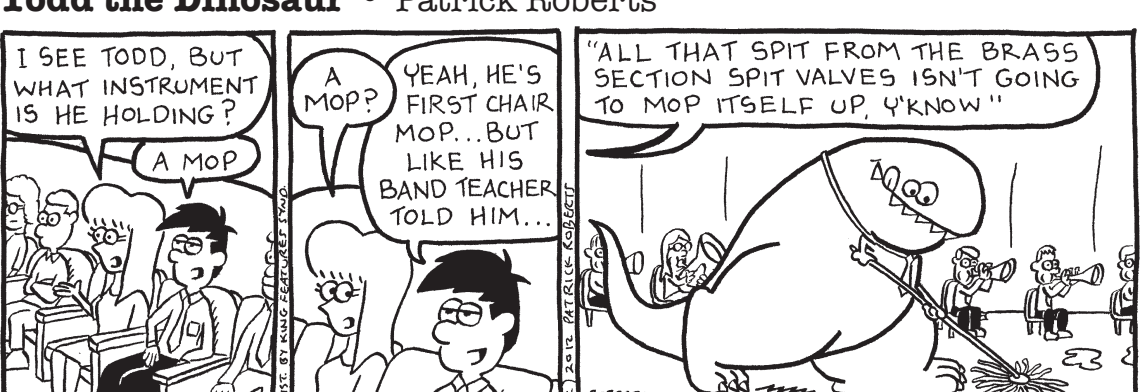
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



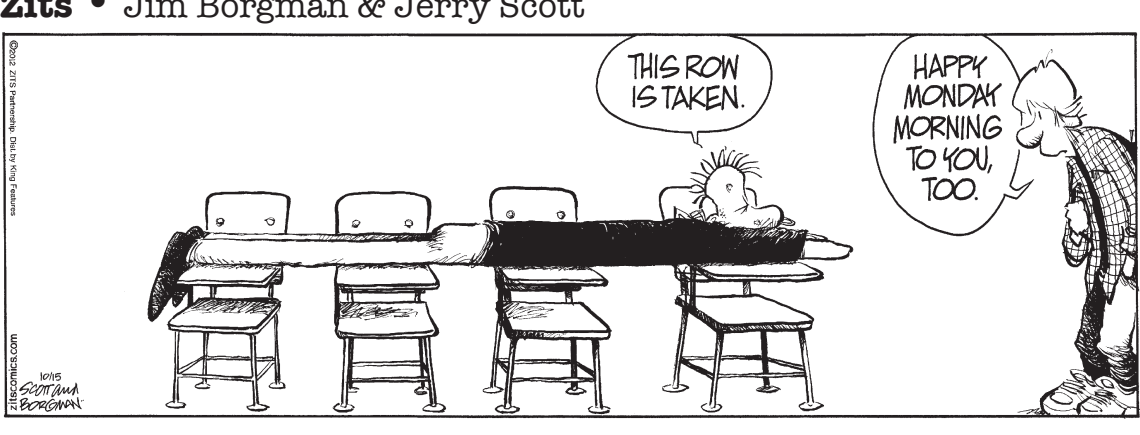
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**  
• Antiques and Collecting

**Fertility jester is still popular**

Babies don't always arrive as soon as they are wanted. Today a woman might consider getting medical help to conceive, but since ancient times the fertility symbol was thought to be an aid. Frogs, rabbits, entwined snakes and even shoe figures were at one time given to the want-to-be mother.

Some ancient peoples took small pottery figures of pregnant women to a religious service as an offering. American Indians put pictures on textiles and pottery of an old, bent man playing a flute or carrying a cane who brought babies to a household.

Perhaps most interesting to collectors is the German "Kinder Bringen." He or she was a figure, often a jester, who carried armloads of babies dressed for baptism. The babies were covered in tight cloth wraps much like swaddling clothes but called "tauffling."

All of these German words are used today, even by English-speaking collectors, to describe the dolls or figurines given to a new bride as a wish for children.

A few of these figures have sold at recent doll auctions. At a 2012 auction, a 19th-century five-inch porcelain figure of a smiling jester holding four wrapped babies sold for almost \$1,000.

**Q: I have six oval-back dining room chairs made by the Aimone Manufacturing Co. of New York. Please tell me something about the company.**

**A:** Aimone Manufacturing Co. was in business in New York City from the late 1870s until at least 1919 and perhaps until the Depression hit. It started as an importer of English, French and Italian furniture and decorative arts, but later concentrated on manufacturing its own furniture at factories on East 22nd and East 23rd streets.

Under the name Aimone Furniture Co., it operated wholesale showrooms in Jersey City, N.J., and on East 32nd Street in New York City.

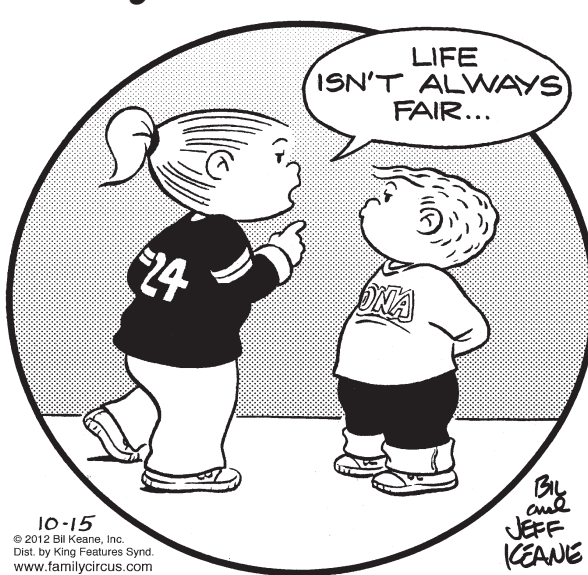
**Q: I have a purse from the early 1950s, when just about everything was plastic. This purse has a hard, flat plastic top that opens to the oval pierced-metal body. The handle attached to the top is plastic, too, and the top is latched to the bottom with an attractive metal hook. You could put a colorful scarf inside the clear purse to match your outfit and hide the purse's contents. I can't find a maker's name on it, but I'm wondering what it would sell for.**

**A:** Plastic purses from the 1950s are very collectible. Some women not only display the purses, but also use them. We couldn't find any old ads that showed clear plastic purses with a colored scarf inside, but we have friends who remember using a scarf that way. Even if you don't know who made your purse, if it's in good condition it could sell for \$250 or more.

**Tip:** Natural, unpainted wicker is more valuable than painted wicker, so do not paint a natural piece. It will lower the value.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"... Be glad you learned that now 'stead of waiting 'til you're as old as me."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/15

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

**Cryptoquip**

UZGHOG XLD PDSQY KUHTGHTF  
OCZZQUPHOGHA KHAGCZQO  
DV ADPDZVCP FUZYQT  
VPDXQZO: OUPSUYDZ YULPHU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAO PAULO'S COUNTRY IS CERTAINLY ENORMOUS. I SUPPOSE THERE MUST BE A BAZILLION BRAZILIANS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♦ K Q 10 5  
♥ A 8 3  
♦ Q J 7 4  
♠ A J  
WEST  
♥ 8 2  
♦ Q 5  
♠ 10 9 6 2  
♣ 9 7 5 4 3  
EAST  
♠ 6 3  
♥ J 9 7 4  
♦ 5  
♣ K Q 10 8 6 2  
SOUTH  
♠ A J 9 7 4  
♥ K 10 6 2  
♦ A K 8 3  
♣ —  
The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♣ 2♣ 3♣ 5♣  
Pass 6♣ 7♣  
Opening lead — four of clubs.

**Famous Hand**  
This fantastic deal occurred in the match between Mexico and Great Britain during the 1964 Women's Olympiad Teams. With Mrs. Odon Duran and Mrs. Enrique Gerard North-South for Mexico, the bidding proceeded in the extraordinary manner shown. The Mexicans were playing the Neapolitan Club, and North's artificial one-club bid guaranteed at least 17 high-card points.

The British East, not vulnerable, overcalled with two clubs, and Mrs. Gerard indicated a potential slam by cuebidding clubs. West then tried to jam the bidding by leaping to five clubs. After North suggested a relatively balanced hand by passing, East complicated matters still further by bidding six clubs. Thus, the first five bids made were all in clubs, with all four players bidding the suit at least once!

Mrs. Gerard's indignant response to these shenanigans was to leap to seven spades, which she then proceeded to make! Seven spades was certainly not a sound contract, but — with Mrs. Gerard at the helm plus an assist from Dame Fortune — she made the grand slam for a score of 2,210 points.

She won the club lead with the ace, discarding a heart, and played five rounds of trumps, discarding a heart from dummy. Four rounds of diamonds followed, leaving dummy with the A-8 of hearts and jack of clubs, while in her own hand Mrs. Gerard had the K-10-6 of hearts.

But on the last diamond lead, poor East could not find a suitable discard from her J-9-7 of hearts and king of clubs. As a result, Mrs. Gerard wound up making the rest of the tricks and the grand slam.

When the British North-South pair played the hand, they stopped at six spades, making seven in the same way. But the British pair, not having bid the grand slam, lost 750 points on the deal.

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**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Timber wolf  
5 U.K. television option  
8 Lily variety  
12 Opposed to, slangily  
13 Always, in verse  
14 Mimicked  
15 Get bigger  
16 Banner  
18 "— Street"  
20 Leads  
21 Edges  
23 Adam's mate  
24 Recklessly  
28 Book after Joel  
31 Sphere  
32 "SNL" alumna Cheri  
34 Debt notice  
35 Seniors' dance  
37 Vexing situation  
39 By way of  
41 Use scissors

**DOWN**  
1 Trails behind  
2 Shrek is one  
3 Life stories, for  
4 Ahead  
5 Huge monster  
6 Spelling contest  
7 Rugged cliff  
8 Digestive aid  
9 Wide-spread illness  
10 Kelly or Hackman  
11 Rhyming tributes  
17 Payable

**19 Venus de —**  
**22 Old daggers**  
**24 Bounce one**  
**25 Blunder**  
**26 Especial-ly**  
**27 Baby-sitters, often**  
**29 Partner of aah**  
**30 Take to court**  
**33 Personal (Pref.)**  
**36 Paid heed to**  
**38 Attraction**  
**40 Atmosphere**  
**42 Thin wedge**  
**43 Relinquish**  
**44 Buffalo Bill's last name**  
**46 Capri, e.g.**  
**47 Siestas**  
**48 Sudden rush of wind**  
**50 Individual**

Saturday's answer 10-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19			20				
				21			22				
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				