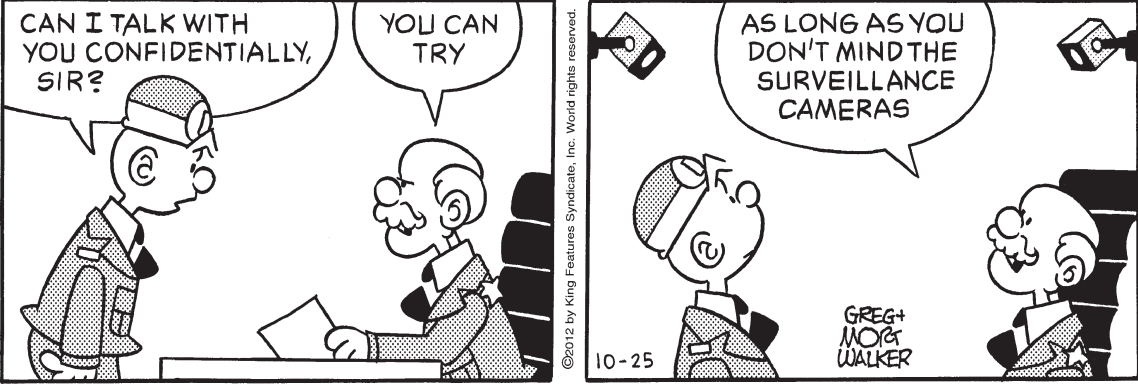


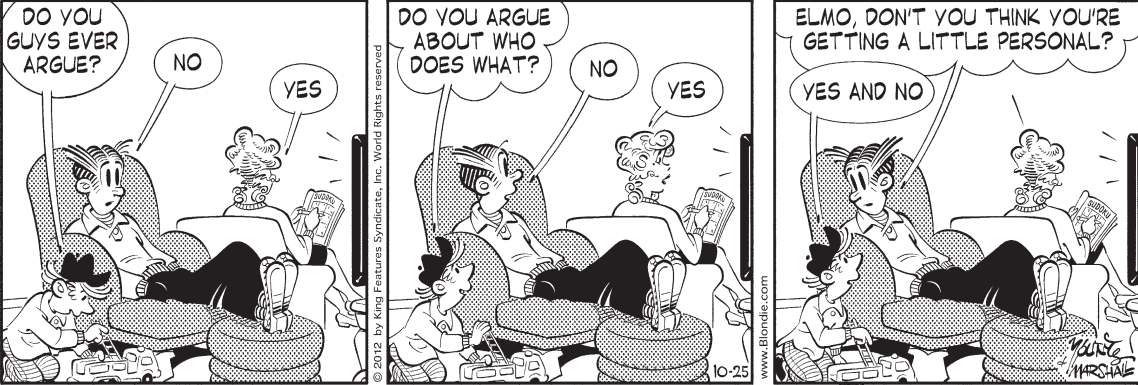
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



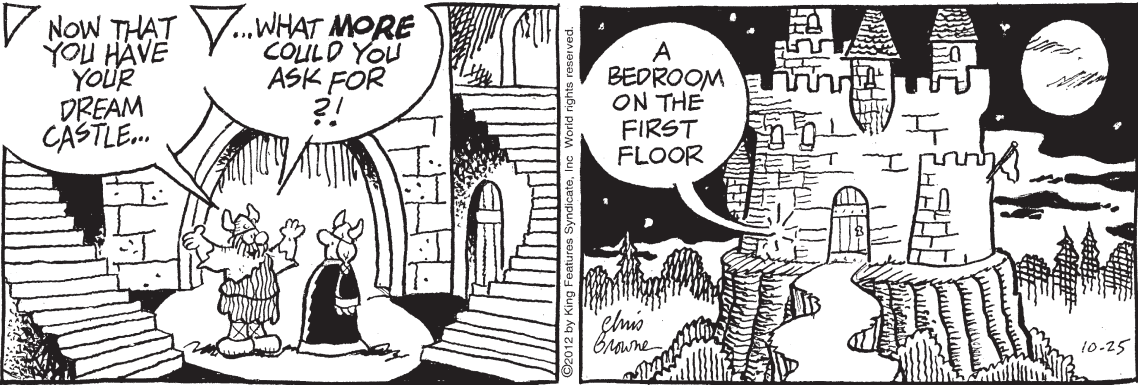
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



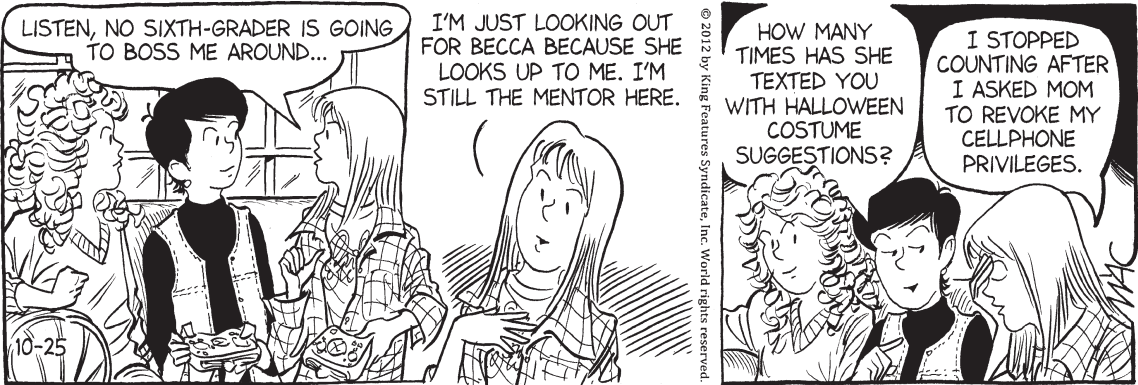
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



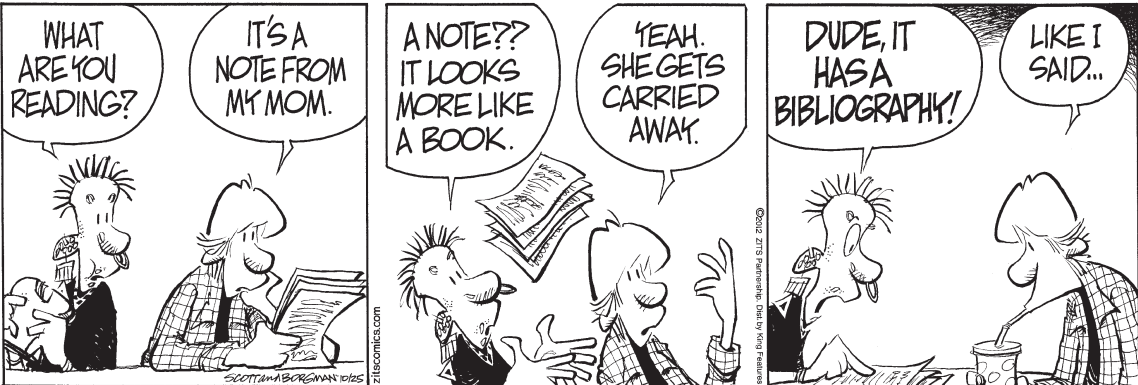
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

Antiques and Collecting

Name on desk seller, not maker

Q: Back in the 1970s, my mother's friend gave her a desk with a pull-down door that serves as a writing surface. The desk appears to be made of different types of wood and has a lot of carving, inlay and applied designs. There's a metal plaque on the back that says "Furniture of Lasting Elegance and Worth, Detroit Furniture Shops, Detroit, Michigan." I can't find any reference to this maker online or in reference books. Can you help?

A: Detroit Furniture Shops is listed in a 1922 Detroit directory as a store that buys and sells furniture, not as a furniture manufacturer. It was located on Riopelle Street in the Forest Park neighborhood.

Q: When my mother died, I was left the figural chef cookie jar she received as a wedding present in 1941. The chef's outfit is dark yellow, and his hair and shoes are brown. The jar's bottom is stamped "Red Wing Pottery, Hand Painted." I need some history and an estimate of its value.

A: Your "Pierre the Chef" cookie jar was one of the most popular ever made by Red Wing Pottery of Red Wing, Minn. It was first made in 1941 and remained in production until about 1956. It was also made in light green and light blue. We have seen your jar selling online for \$155.

Q: My very shiny hammered aluminum platter is 16 1/2 inches in diameter and looks like it is made of silver. It has four egg-shaped indentations that could hold a small ostrich egg. The bowl-like center is set with multicolored tiles held in place by rivets. On the bottom is a triangular mark made up of the words "Cellini Craft, Argent, Handwrought." In the center of the triangle are the letters "MW." How old is it and what was it used for? Some auctions describe similar dishes as "trays," but I think there must be a reason for the tiles and the indentations.

A: Cellini Craft made aluminum serving pieces from 1934 to 1966. Argent translates to "silver-like." The aluminum was hand-hammered. We have looked at hundreds of aluminum trays and have found no catalog that explains a platter like yours. It is listed in catalogs as either a tray or an undertray.

An undertray held a glass or covered aluminum bowl that could have served soup, stew or some other juicy food. The indentations may have been designed to catch drippings. Only one or two other aluminum manufacturers made trays that included a ceramic piece in the center. It may have kept the tray from getting too hot or it may just have been a decoration.

Aluminum regained popularity for a brief time in the 1990s. Prices went up as collectors searched for wares from the 1950s and '60s. Trays the size of yours with a tile insert retail for \$150 to \$350, even though most hammered aluminum has dropped in price during the past 15 years.

Tip: Almost all Grueby pottery is expensive today, but some pieces have rare features that add to the price. Applied handles or added tendrils increase value. So does extra color added to the floral design on a vase.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ —
♥ A J 6 5 4 2
♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ 10 7 3

EAST
♠ 6 4 2
♥ K 9 7 3
♦ A 10 6 5 3
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ A K 9 8 7
♥ Q 8
♦ K J
♣ 9 6 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — two of diamonds.

The Secret of Good Defense

A good defensive pair will often transmit highly valuable information to one another through the judicious use of signals. Such signals, properly interpreted, can frequently spell the difference between the making and breaking of a contract.

Consider this deal where South's one-spade opening was raised to four spades by North. East found it difficult to bid at this point, and he passed. It was later discovered that East-West, who never bid, could have made a small slam in hearts or diamonds!

West led a diamond, won by East with the ace. East then cashed the ace of clubs, on which West played the ten, and was faced with the problem of how to put West on lead in order to get a club ruff.

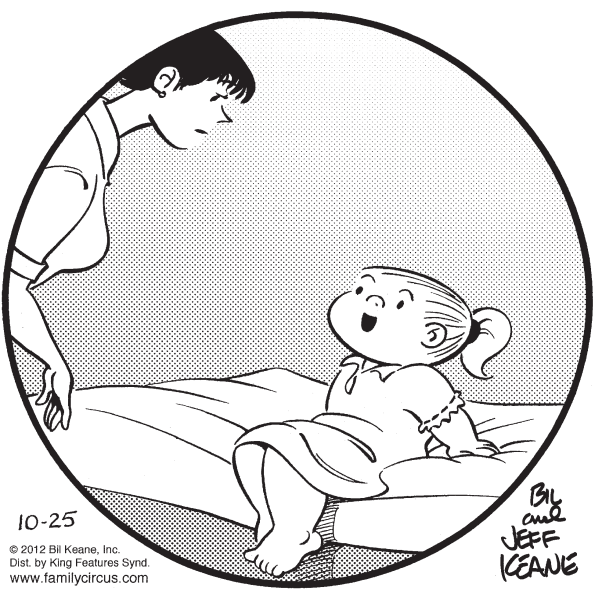
East found the winning solution by leading a low heart. West won with the ace and returned a club, and South went down one.

Had East led a diamond at trick three, hoping to find West with the king, South would have made the contract. It might seem that East was lucky to hit on the heart return, but actually his play was much more than a shot in the dark.

In a potential ruffing situation, it is sometimes possible to use a suit-preference signal to solve a problem. In the given case, when West played the ten of clubs on East's ace at trick two, he was signaling that his entry card was in hearts rather than diamonds. Had West held the king of diamonds instead of the ace of hearts, he would have played the three of clubs on East's ace instead.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

10/25

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

10/24

Cryptoquip

DW YQQ JW Y KOMGIQDR U

KOUDBOLZU IORYEO IYNOKU,

XJG EDVAZ UYX ZAOX'B

EYNO Y BJGVA-LYZDJL

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU SHOULD NEVER USE CREDIT CARDS EXCESSIVELY, AS THAT COULD BE EXTREMELY DEBT-RIMENTAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Paid player
4 Taxi
7 Expert
12 Potential syrup
13 Lennon's lady
14 Similar
15 Citric beverage
16 Underwent reduction
18 Jeremy of basketball
19 Tijuana toodle-oo
20 Rolling stone's lack
22 Poetic nightfall
23 Antitoxins — de
27 deux
29 Maintenance
31 Quibblers split these
34 Señorita's wiggle?
35 "Rabbit, Run" author
37 Feedbag morsel
38 Piratic quaff
- DOWN
- 1 Any of 150 in the Bible
2 Deejay's domain
3 Starts
4 Last few notes
5 Battery terminals
6 Jim at the Alamo
7 Church service
8 "The Greatest" Kin of "i.e."
9 out a living
10 Therefore
11 Homer's neighbor
17 Bourgeois, to Brits
21 Parsley serving
23 Revue segments
24 Conger or moray
25 Roulette bet
26 Mimic
28 Request
30 Sch. org.
31 Embrace
32 Spring mo.
33 Bachelor's last words
36 Needle case
37 Corsage bloom
40 Point of view
42 Milk dispenser
43 Moe's brother
44 Rulebook compiler
45 A "Desperate Housewife" Director
46 Preminger
48 Doo follower
49 Praise in verse
50 Took the prize
51 Peacock network

Yesterday's answer 10-26

