

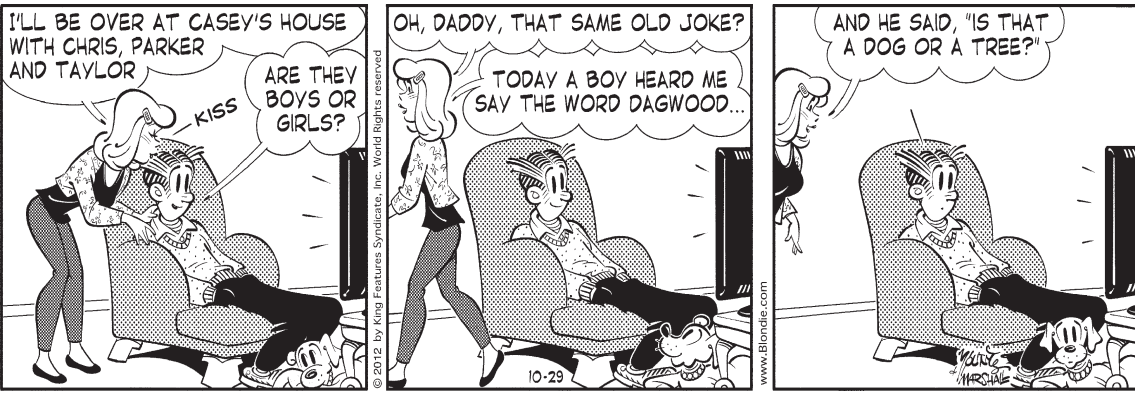
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



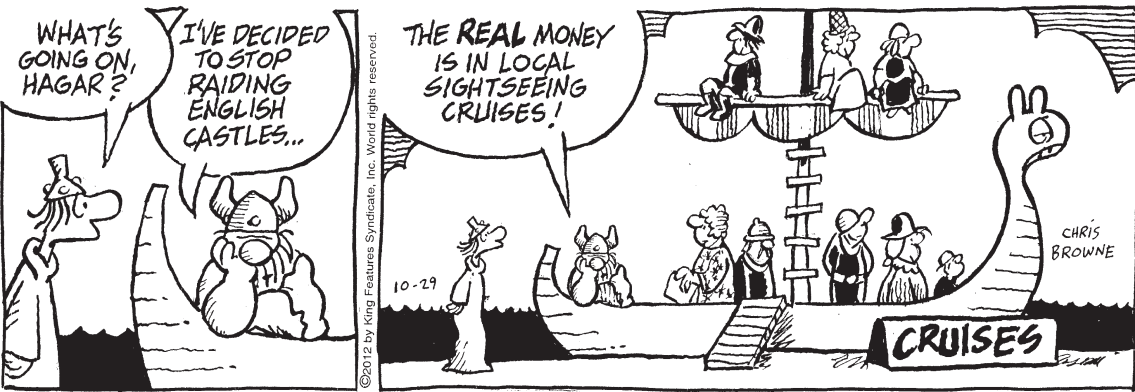
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



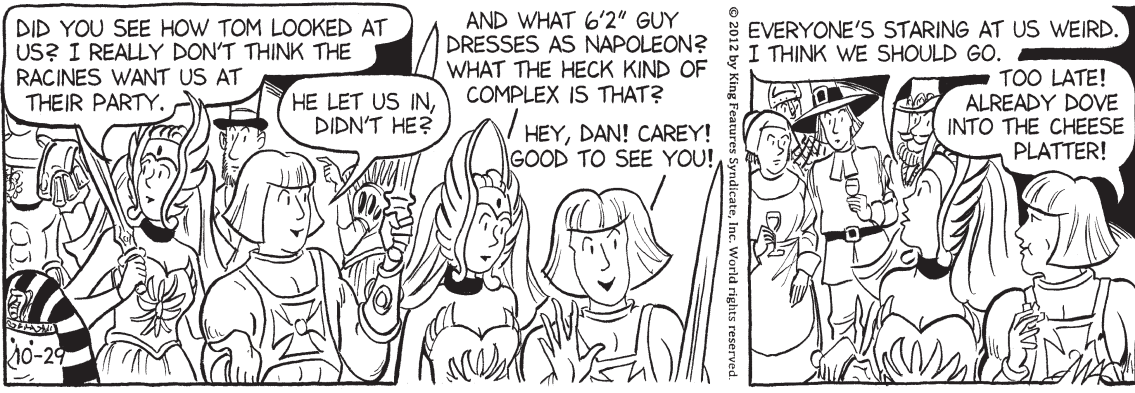
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



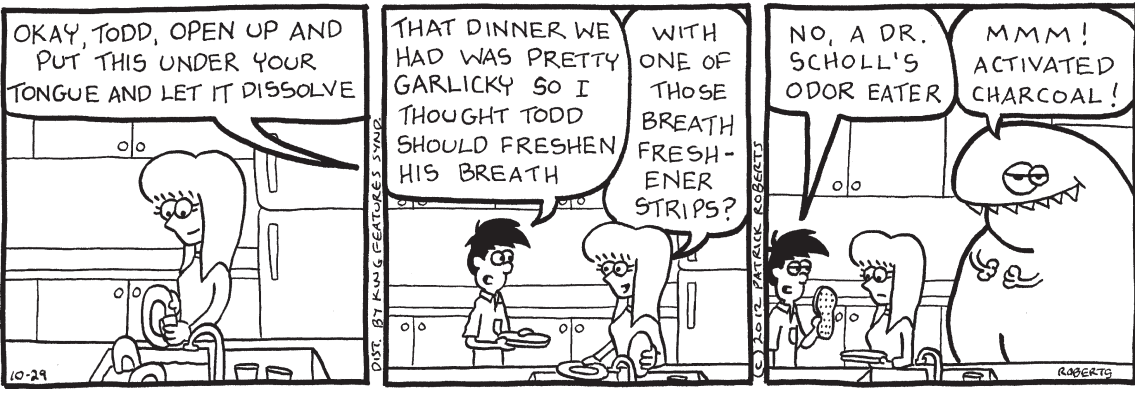
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



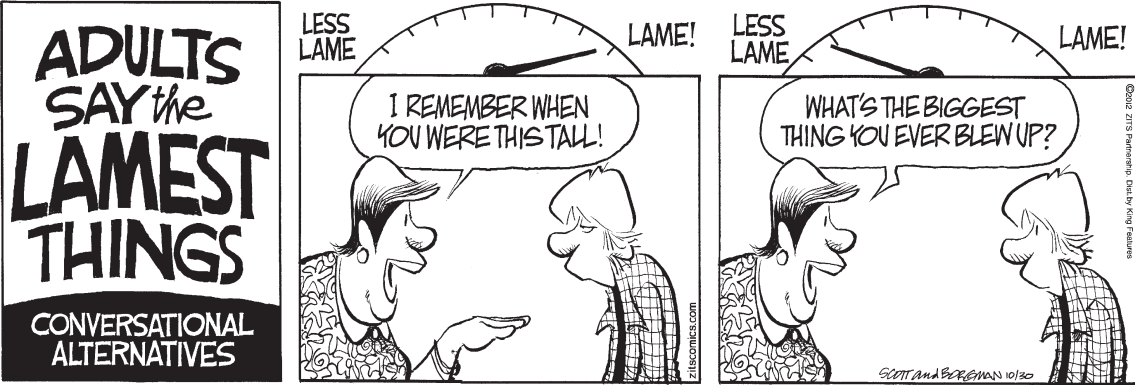
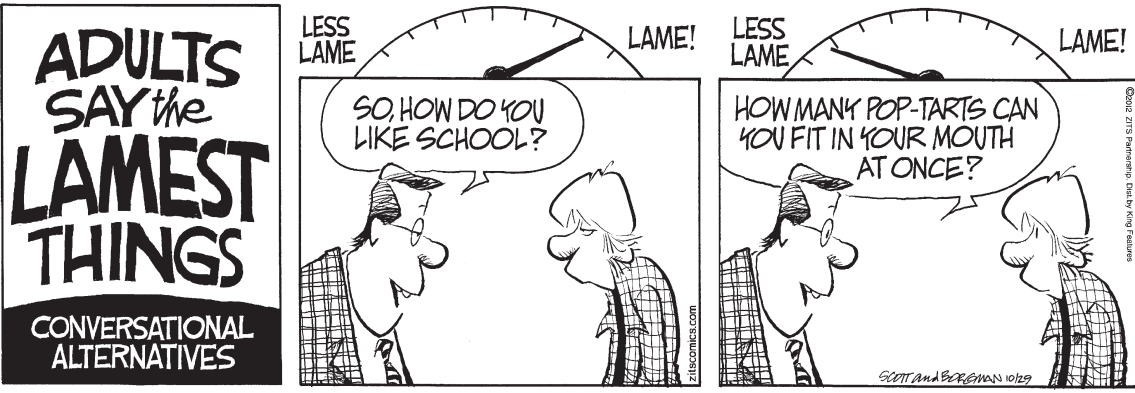
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Bats, spiders not always scary

Halloween decorations today include jack-o-lanterns, black cats, spiders, bats, ghosts, vampires, witches and other spooky things. But in past years, many of these were not threatening.

In the early days of Rookwood Pottery, an art pottery in Cincinnati (1880-1960), several decorators included bats, spiders and spider webs in the hand-painted scenes on vases and bowls. Maria Longworth Nichols, Albert Robert Valentien, Laura Fry, Matthew Daly and Josephine Zettel were decorators who made similar pieces in the late 1800s. They marked pieces with their initials as well as the word "Rookwood."

Their designs were influenced by the Japanese pottery shown at the 1876 World's Fair in Philadelphia. Spider designs continued to be popular until as late as 1946, when Kay Ley created a vase covered in spiders and spider webs. Bats and spiders were not part of Halloween decorations until the 1920s and did not become popular features of collectibles until the 1970s.

Today we might not choose a flower vase for the dinner table that included "bugs," but in Victorian times the little creatures were considered lucky, not frightening.

Q: I found a 1950s election item of unopened cigarettes with a picture of Eisenhower and the words "I Like Ike" on the front. On the back it says "Eisenhower for President." Is it worth anything?

A: Cigarette packs for Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Republican candidate, and Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic candidate, were made by the Tobacco Blending Corp. of Louisville, Ky., during the 1952 presidential campaign. The packs were displayed on store counters, and the number of packs sold for each candidate was thought to predict the outcome of the election — a "straw poll."

The sales of these two packages matched the actual presidential vote count better than political commentators' predictions. The Smithsonian Institution includes the two packs in its collection of political memorabilia. Full packs can bring \$30 to \$45 today.

Tip: Clean dirty postcards with a piece of white bread. Be sure to cut the crust off first.

Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Names, addresses or email addresses will not be published. We cannot guarantee the return of any photograph, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The volume of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovel, (Colby Free Press), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K 6 5
♥ K J 9
♦ K Q 9 7 3
♣ K 2

WEST
♦ 9 8
♥ 10 4
♦ A J 5 4
♣ A Q J 10 3

EAST
♦ Q 10 4
♥ 3
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ 9 8 6 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 3 2
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 2
♦ 7
♣ 7

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♥ 2♣ 3♣
4♣ 4♦ Pass 4♦
Dbble Rdbl Pass 5♦
Pass 5♦ Pass 5♥
Pass 7♥ (1) Pass 5 NT

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Famous Hand

This was the most dramatic, endlessly discussed and hotly debated deal of the 2012 Summer North American Bridge Championships held in Philadelphia. The setting was the final of the annual Grand National Teams. The contestants were teams representing New York City and Florida. As the teams picked up their cards for the last hand of the 64-deal match, the New Yorkers were leading by 4 IMPs.

When the deal was first played, New York bid and made six hearts, an excellent result that would seem to have secured their victory. But that was before the bizarre goings-on at the second table, where the relatively new partnership of David Berkowitz and Gary Kohler produced the auction shown to reach seven hearts — off two aces — with the player holding both aces on opening lead!

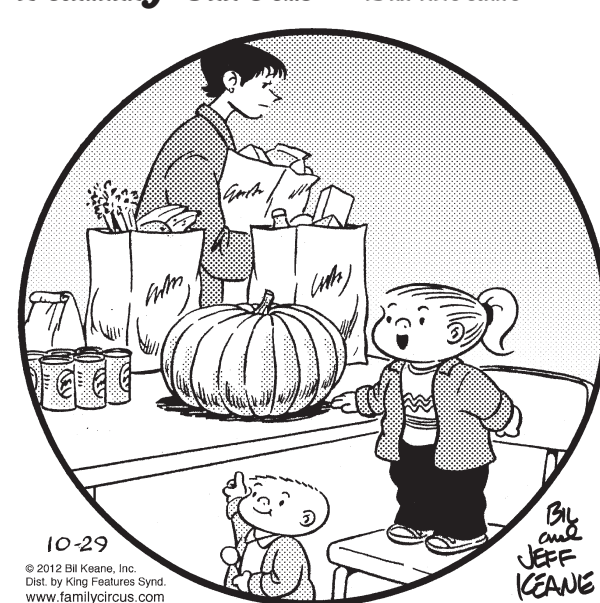
That player, John Hurd, was certain North-South were void in one or both suits, and so was reluctant to lead either of them for fear of establishing additional tricks for the declarer. As his partner, Joel Wooldridge, appeared to have the spade suit stopped for his double of four spades, Hurd felt no tricks would get away if he made the neutral lead of a trump.

This line of reasoning may have seemed to have merit, but that's not the way it worked out in practice. Kohler won the trump lead in dummy, ruffed a low diamond, returned to dummy with a trump and led a spade to the jack. After this held and the suit divided 3-2, Kohler discarded dummy's two clubs on his last two spades and then ruffed his club loser to make the grand slam and win the match.

Berkowitz later explained that his second and third calls were control-showing cuebids that he hoped would enable Kohler to bid a small slam. But Kohler interpreted the bids as indicating a singleton spade and the ace of clubs. He acknowledged that the wheels came off in the auction at some point, but he bid the grand slam because "I knew I had to go big or go small, and it's not my style to go small."

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/29

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

X T F V C B I H Y S C V V F M I H P

S V A D T Z B F A G I F V F V G G

T U C V P D H K X H K K V F G T U H U O

O P H M C P V D : H Y V F T U Z X V V F .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: RUSSIAN MONARCH WHO WAS KNOWN TO HAVE NOTABLY WEAK MUSCLES AND TENDONS: IVAN THE TEARABLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

41 "Zounds!"
43 Rouse
45 Autobiography's cousin
47 Carnival city
48 —
49 "Monopoly" purchase
54 Tit for —
55 More than enough
56 Explanation involving a tee
57 Type measures
58 Called garment
59 Gorilla

DOWN

2 Evening hour, in a way
3 Asia's neighbor (Abbr.)
4 Pruned cart
5 Florida city
6 Khan title
7 Mother-of-pearl
8 Derisive looks
9 Football tactic involving a tee
10 Roman garment
11 On sense, for short
16 Sixth sense, for short
18 Sprite
19 Called for short

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	T	S	L	A	M	P	S	E	T	H		
A	T	E	O	D	O	R	L	U	R	E		
P	E	G	L	O	N	E	A	R	E	S		
S	M	A	L	L	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	
Y	E	T	Z	E	E							
T	R	E	N	D	S	E	C	W	O	K		
H	O	A	X	G	E	L	S	M	T	L	E	
O	T	T	F	O	X	S	A	N	D	Y		
A	D	O	O	A	K							
B	I	G	B	A	N	G	T	H	E	O	R	Y
A	R	E	A	I	O	T	A	W	O			
C	O	N	S	E	Y	E	R	L	U	G		
K	N	E	E	S	A	R	A	L	S	E	A	

Saturday's answer 10-29

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					
48			49		50				51	52	53
54			55						56		
57			58						59		