

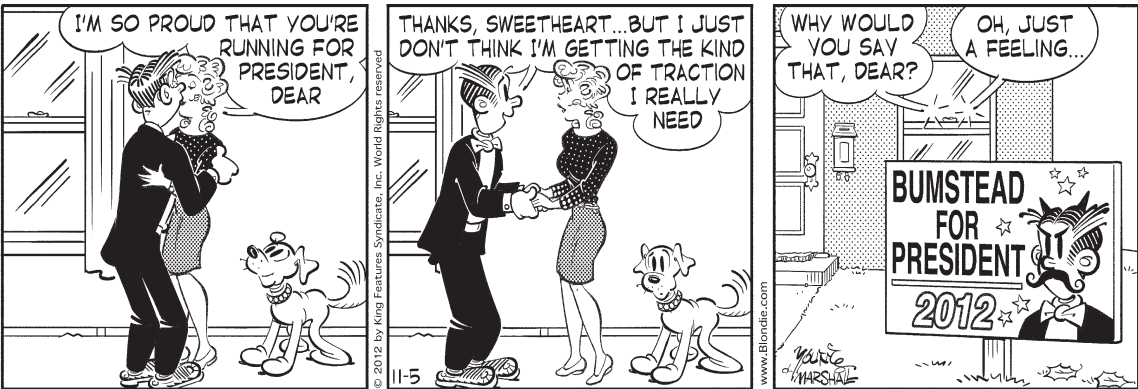
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



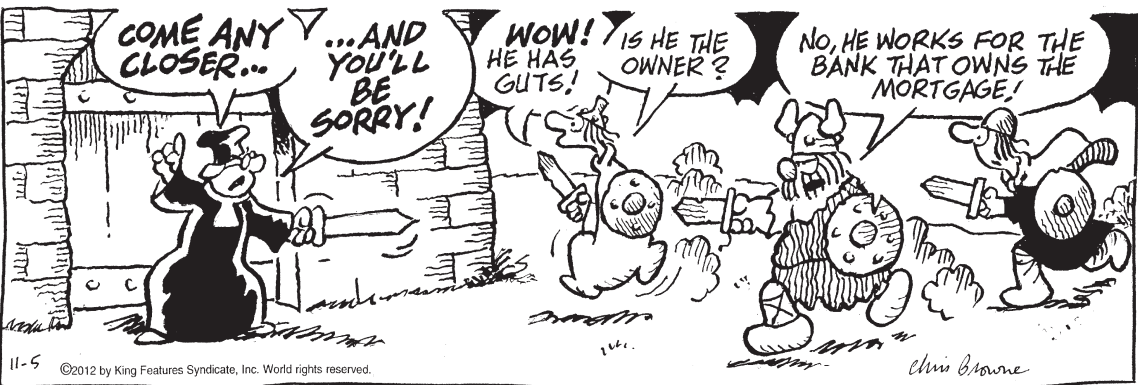
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



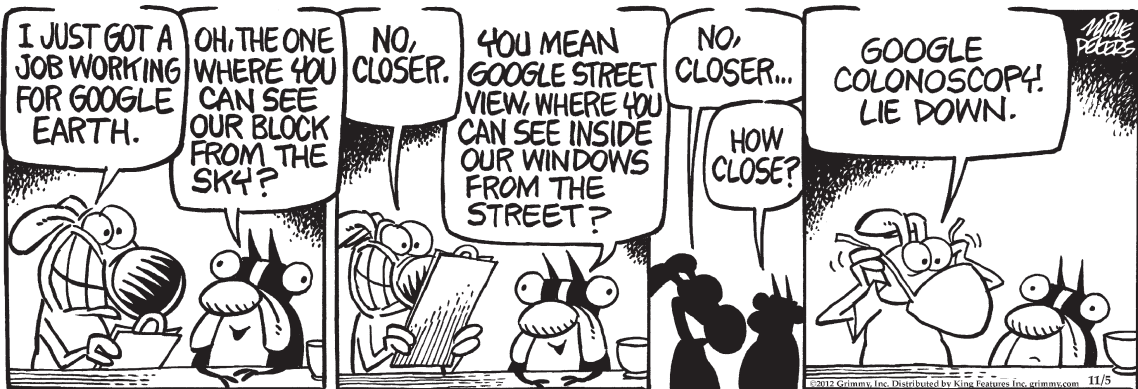
Blondie • Chic Young



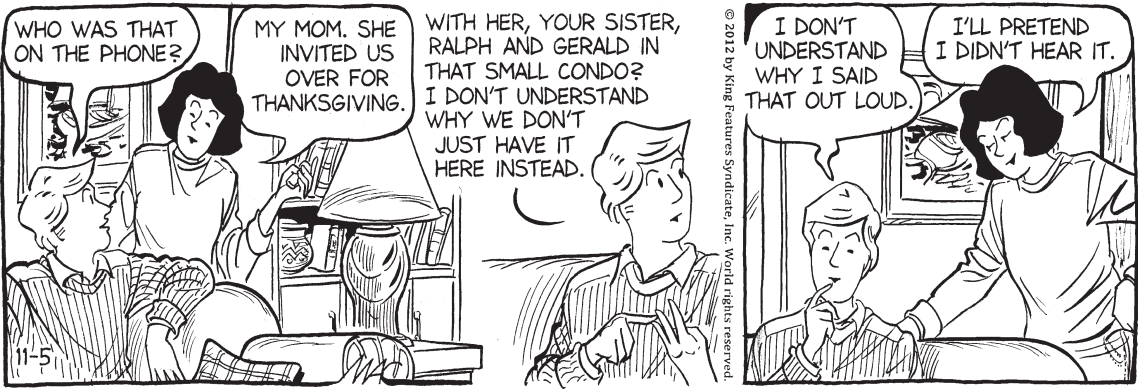
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Vintage stands difficult to find

Starting in about 1885, plants were among the decorations in a house because central heating kept homes – and plants – warm in the winter, and glass windows let light into most homes.

Only a small group of plants were popular, partly because of the look of the foliage, partly because they could tolerate the dry air of the home. Boston ferns, Maidenhead ferns, palms, jasmine, citrus trees, aspidistra and mother-in-law tongue's (sansevieria) were most common.

Houseplants required large decorative pots, so ceramic jardinières consisting of a pedestal and bowl were made by many companies like Roseville and Weller.

Wooden pedestals to hold potted plants were made by Victorian cabinetmakers like Mitchell & Rammelsberg of Cincinnati, and companies like Bradley and Hubbard of Meriden, Conn., made metal plant stands.

Because fewer plant stands were made than more common furniture forms like chairs, it is hard to find an interesting vintage stand. Prices are high.

Q: I have a pyrography-decorated wooden wall plaque of five kittens. It's about 12 by 8 inches. On the back, it's marked "Flemish Art Company, New York" and "866." Can you tell me anything about it or its value?

A: The word "pyrography" means "writing with fire." It's sometimes called "pokerwork" because the design is burned into the wood with a thin poker-like tool. The earliest examples were done in China more than 2,000 years ago. The technique became popular in the United States in the late 1800s, when a method of coloring the designs by using benzoline was developed. By the early 1900s, boxes, candlesticks, plaques, novelties and furniture were being decorated with pyrographic designs. The Flemish Art Co., also known as Flem-Ar-Co, was the major producer of pyrographic items in the United States. The term "Flemish art" is sometimes used generically to refer to any pyrographic work. The company was in business in the late 1800s and early 1900s and sold finished pieces, unfinished pieces, wood-working supplies and pyrographic kits through Sears catalogs. Pyrographic wall plaques usually sell for less than \$10 today.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Famous Hand

Brilliances are not always rewarded. For example, take this deal from the match between Taiwan and the United States at the 1979 world team championship.

The U.S. North-South pair at the first table got to four spades doubled as shown, and West, Che-Hung Kuo, made the remarkable opening lead of the nine of hearts! After East, Patrick Huang, won the trick with the queen, he recognized that the purpose of his partner's underlead of the ace of hearts was to get a ruff. Huang also recognized that West's lead of an unnecessarily high heart was a suit-preference signal, asking for the return of the higher-ranking of the two remaining side suits.

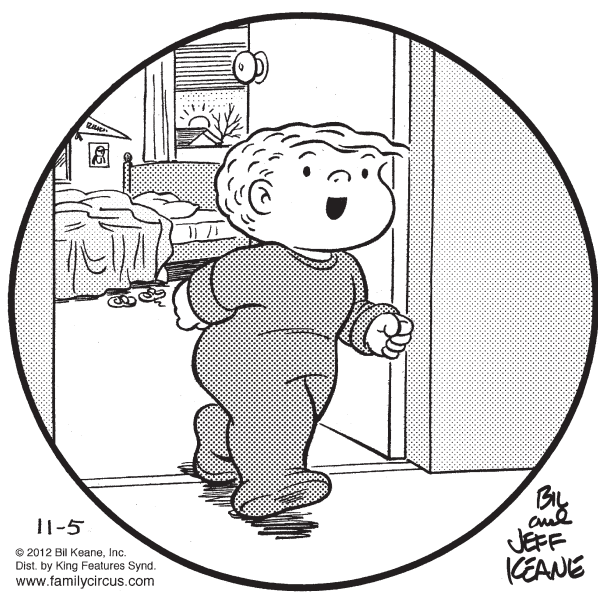
Accordingly, Huang returned the deuce of diamonds, transmitting a suit-preference signal of his own. West ruffed the diamond and, obeying East's signal, returned the seven of clubs! West's second underlead of an ace was likewise successful. East won with the queen and led another diamond, and West ruffed to put the contract down one.

But alas, this brilliant defense by the Taiwanese East-West pair was more than offset by what occurred at the second table, where the U.S. West wound up playing at five hearts doubled. Ordinarily, he would have gone down one, losing the first three spade tricks. But luckily for declarer, North's singleton spade was the ace, which he led, and that was the only trick scored by the defenders.

So the outcome was that the American East-West pair at the second table made five hearts doubled with an overtrick for a score of 1,050 points. This was 950 points more than the Taiwanese pair at the first table had scored with their extraordinary defense, providing ample proof that brilliances are not always adequately rewarded.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Guess what, Mommy! You were the star of my dream last night!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

11/05

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

TXFHILCB ZDG IQALTFD

FRZQS F RVDZNVG RHVYVG

RVNVHFBV YLSX XVFDSX

RVCVPLSA: "ZP SVF L ALCB."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE FOLKS REALLY LIKE PLAYING EIGHTEEN-HOLE ROUNDS WAY DOWN SOUTH IN THE GOLF STATES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 37 Naval prisons | 60 Ever-green type | 12 Trumpet-shaped flower |
| 1 Scrooge's cry | 39 Own | | |
| 4 Astronaut Grissom | 41 Rachmaninov or Prokofiev | 61 Plaything | 19 Encountered |
| 7 Indiana politico | 43 — -jongg | | |
| Bay | 44 Volcanic outflow | | |
| 11 Egg residue | 46 Luxury boat | | |
| 13 Fire | 50 Bullets and | | |
| 14 Predicate part | 53 Autumn mo. | | |
| 15 Thin tie with a clasp | 55 Entrance | | |
| 16 Shelter, at sea | 56 Serve tea | | |
| 17 Corp. bigwig | 57 Pi follower | | |
| 18 Honey bunch? | 58 Napoleon's exile site | | |
| 20 Rhett's shocking word | 59 Nervous | | |
| 22 Fresh | | | |
| 24 Short-coming | | | |
| 28 Custodian | | | |
| 32 Broad-casting picture | | | |
| 34 Set of tools and parts | | | |
| 36 Singer Campbell | | | |

Saturday's answer 11-5

