

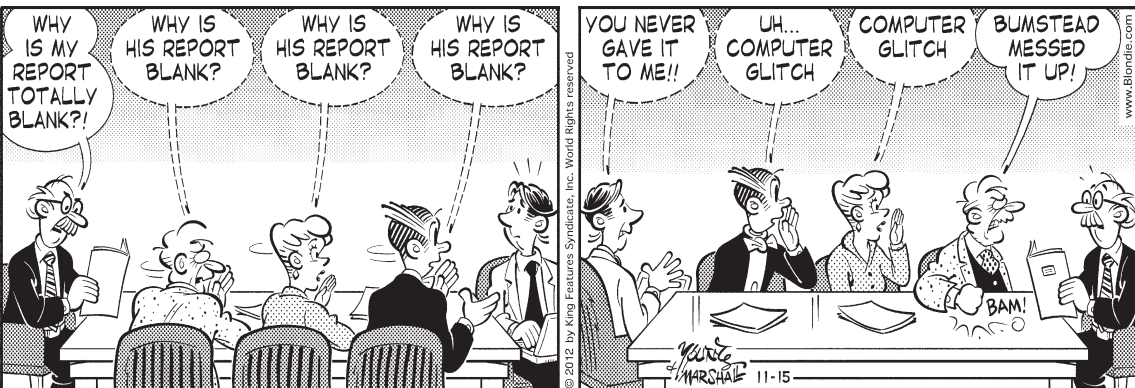
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



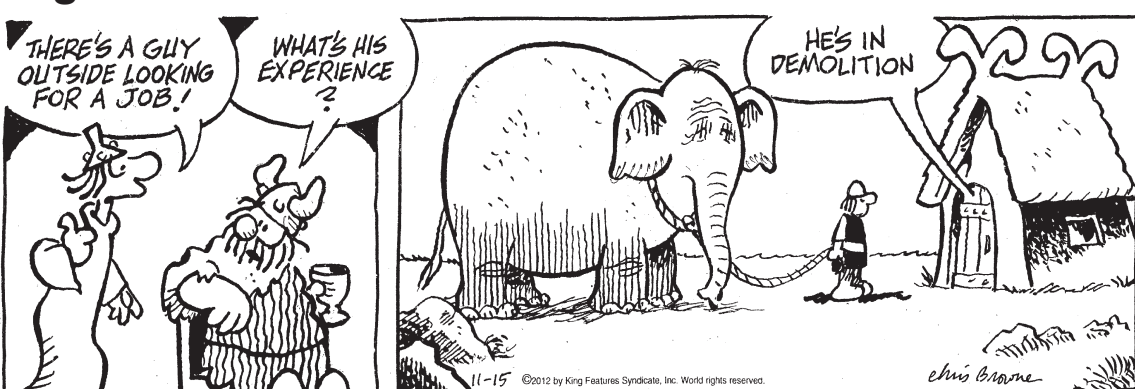
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



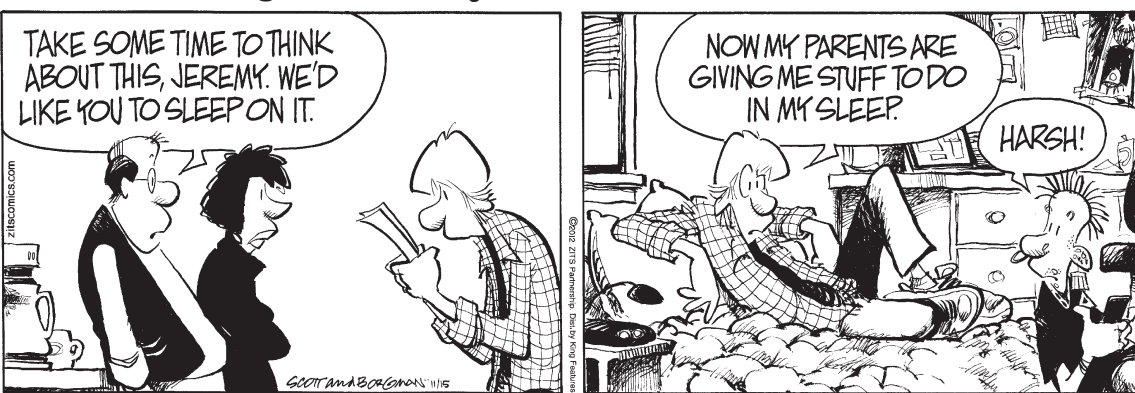
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting
Furniture maker a family concern

Q: We recently bought a French provincial-style sideboard from a friend of ours and would like to learn about the maker. There is a plastic label inside one of the drawers that reads "Made by John-Widdicomb Co., Designed by Ralph H. Widdicomb, Grand Rapids."

A: There were two furniture companies in Grand Rapids, Mich., with the name Widdicomb. George Widdicomb emigrated from England in 1858 and opened a cabinet shop. His four sons joined the business, which became Widdicomb Furniture Co., in 1873.

In 1893 George's son John established a business making fireplace mantels and woodwork. His company became John Widdicomb Co. in 1897 and acquired several other furniture companies. In 1970, it bought the name Widdicomb Furniture Co.

Q: My old Wheaties box is intact and has eight sports cards printed on it, including football players Otto Graham and Johnny Lujack and baseball star Stan Musial. Can you tell me when the box was originally sold and what it's worth? And where should I try to sell it?

A: Your old cereal box was on store shelves in 1952. Boxes were sold that year with a total of 60 different trading cards of 30 athletes, shown in both portrait and action poses, and the images are in Wheaties colors - blue and white on an orange background.

An uncut box is more valuable than the eight cut cards printed on the box. Depending on the identity of the other athletes pictured on your box, the box could sell for more than \$100, perhaps a lot more. Your box is a crossover collectible, but it would be worth more to a sports collector than to an advertising or cereal-box collector. You probably would get the best price by selling it at an auction that specializes in sports memorabilia.

Q: We own a 6-foot cigar-store Indian made of wood or composite. It weighs nearly 200 pounds. He is stylized, with closed arms and legs. We paid \$800 for it at auction 20 years ago. There are no marks or words on it, but it was used in window displays at a Joseph Horne department store in Pennsylvania. The chain closed in 1994. What is the figure worth?

A: Your figure could be sold at an auction of antique and vintage advertising. We suspect it would sell for roughly what you paid for it, because it was probably made for Horne's in the mid-1900s. The most valuable figures date from the late 19th or early 20th century and are realistic, with arms and legs posed away from the body. Many old ones are clearly labeled with the name and even the address of a cigar store.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ —
♥ K 8 7 2
♦ A K Q 10 9 3
♣ 10 7 4

WEST
♠ K Q 10 6 2
♥ 9 6 4
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 3

EAST
♠ A J 8 5 3
♥ 10
♦ 7 4
♣ K 9 8 6 5

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 4
♥ A Q J 5 3
♦ J 6
♣ A J 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3♠(!) Pass
4♥ Pass 5NT(!) Pass
7♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

Ultrasane Insanity
Without an explanation, the bidding by North on this deal suggests that he may have taken leave of his senses, but nobody would criticize the final contract, which is laydown. It just goes to show that crazy-looking bids are sometimes very successful, even though they don't mean what they seem to say.

A number of years ago, some genius (according to the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge, it was Dorothy Hayden Truscott) came up with the idea that a jump-shift response one level higher than necessary indicates a void or a singleton in the suit bid, adequate support for partner's last-bid suit and sufficient values for at least a game, with a reasonable potential for slam. That accounts for North's three-spade bid, commonly called a "splinter" bid.

Certainly the North hand is ideally suited for such a convention. The moment partner opens one heart, North should start thinking in terms of a slam. From North's viewpoint, the key to the slam is South's holding in spades and clubs. South could have spade strength and three club losers, or, ideally, club strength and three spade losers.

The three-spade bid thus encourages South, who has no wasted values in spades, to cooperate by cuebidding the ace of clubs.

North is delighted to hear this bid, leaving South's trump holding the only question remaining to be resolved. Accordingly, North next invokes the "grand slam force" convention by leaping to five notrump. This commands South to bid seven hearts if he holds two of the top three trump honors.

So South dutifully bids the grand slam, with full confidence that North has not gone completely berserk.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy, do we know any princes?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/15

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.

Cryptoquip

SR FIY NISBSNNSRYH, CRY
VCGBE NWYHGQY FIFP FIY
QCHF NWYUYWWYE FWYPFH
PWY QP RSBP VPUYWH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO RELATED FACTORIES ARE BUILT BESIDE EACH OTHER, I WOULD SAY THEY'RE A PAIR OF PLANTS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals N

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slender
 - 5 Cribbage scorer
 - 8 Pinnacle
 - 12 Defense acronym
 - 13 Yon
 - 14 Capricorn
 - 15 Port of Yoko
 - 16 Yokot music
 - 17 Juli Inkster's org.
 - 18 Lament
 - 20 Sea greeting
 - 22 Complete win
 - 26 Coral structure
 - 29 Allow
 - 30 24 horas
 - 31 Bear lair
 - 32 Rowing need
 - 33 Obsolescent letter opener?
 - 34 PC file extension
 - 35 Jewel
 - 36 Silences

- DOWN**
- 2 Weak, as an excuse
 - 3 Thing
 - 4 Eyeglass
 - 5 Cell, e.g.
 - 6 Poetic time of day
 - 7 Bad pun
 - 8 Radiant
 - 9 Work on manuscripts
 - 10 Periodical, for short
 - 11 Greek vowel
 - 19 Every iota
 - 21 White House monogram
 - 23 Texas mission land
 - 24 Green land
 - 25 Just say no
 - 26 Scored 100 on Urban
 - 27 Riddle of the Sphinx
 - 28 Take too much medicine
 - 32 Solver of the Riddle of the Sphinx
 - 33 Old timer?
 - 35 Workout locale
 - 36 Chaps
 - 38 Entice
 - 39 Very quick
 - 42 Sans siblings
 - 43 Stench
 - 44 Memorization method
 - 45 "Eureka!"
 - 46 Bill
 - 48 Devil's minion

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18				19			20	21		
				22			23			24
26	27	28				29				30
31						32			33	
34						35			36	
37						38			39	
						40			41	
45	46					47	48		49	
50						51			52	
53						54			55	