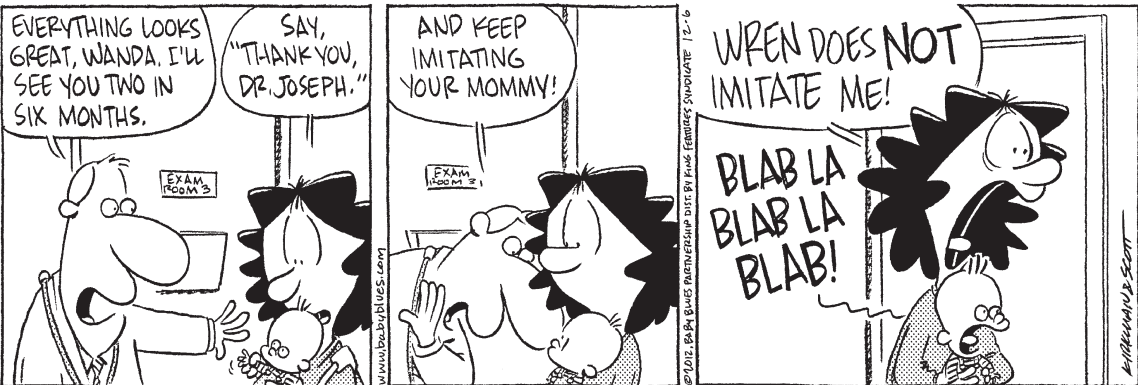


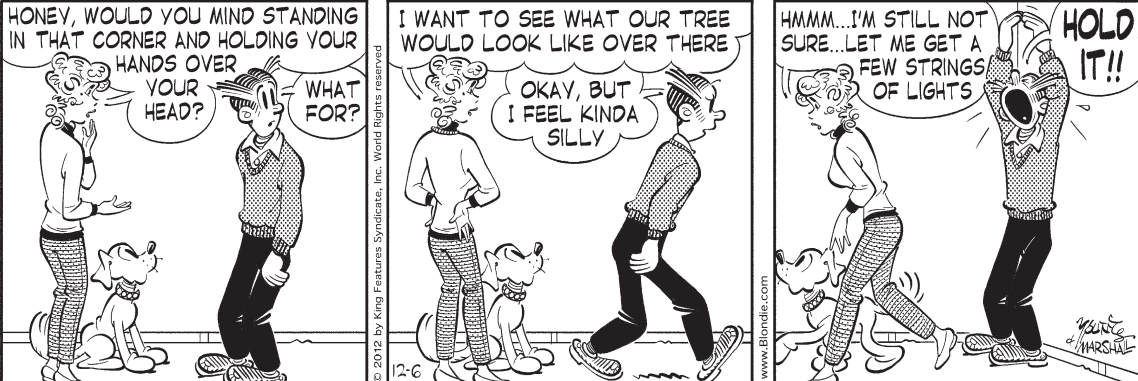
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



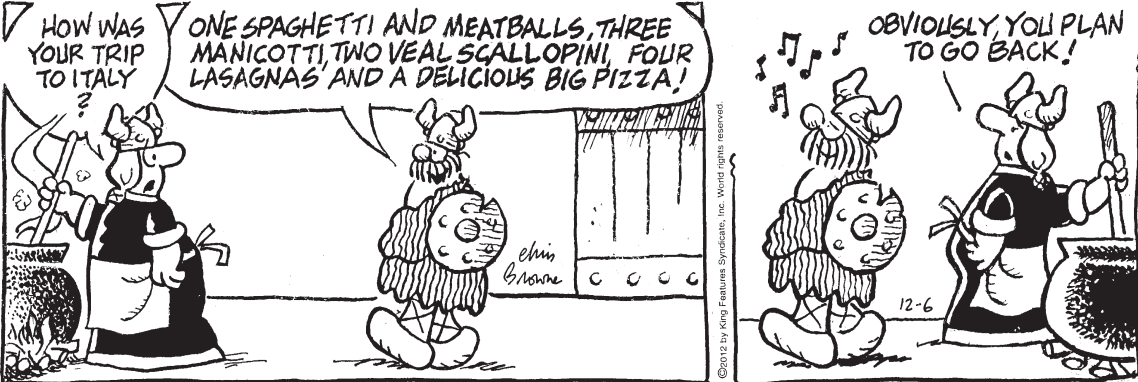
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



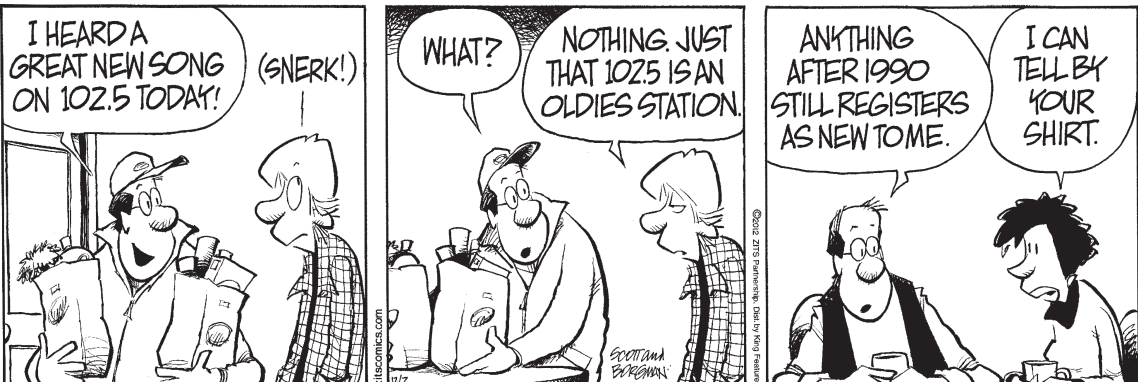
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Figurine values run fairly high

Q: I have a figurine that's marked "Pasadena, California, Patent Pending" in a circle and "Florence Ceramic" inside the circle. I bought it at a garage sale a long time ago for less than \$5. Did I get a bargain?

A: Florence Ceramics was in business in Pasadena, Calif., from 1942 to 1977. Florence Ward (1894-1977) began making ceramics in her garage in about 1940. She established Florence Ceramics Co. in 1942. The company made figurines, boxes, candleholders and other items. Many of the figurines were designed by Florence Ward.

The company was sold to Scripto Corp. in 1964. Scripto made cups, mugs, trays, banks and advertising items under the name, but it did not make the figurines. Scripto closed in 1977. Reproductions of the figurines made in Asia have been imported since the '60s. The more common Florence Ceramic figurines sell for \$30 to \$50.

Q: I bought an old trunk 40 years ago and would like to know something about it. The emblem on the trunk says "Wheary Cushioned Top Wardrobe Mfg. by Wheary-Burge Trunk Co., Racine, Wisconsin." Can you tell me the vintage and value of it?

A: Wardrobe trunks were first made in the late 1800s and were popular in the 1920s and '30s. When stood on end, they served as a temporary closet for the traveler, with space for hanging on one side and drawers on the other side. George H. Wheary was a designer for the Hartmann Trunk Co. and was granted several patents for improvements from about 1907 to 1947.

Wheary and fellow employee Harry Burge opened the Wheary-Burge Trunk Co. in 1922. The Wheary-Burge Cushioned Top Wardrobe came with a removable shoebox, hat carrier and laundry bag, along with 10 hangers. The cushioned top held the hangers in place. It was advertised in a 1923 newspaper for \$49.50. Later, the company became Wheary Luggage Co. It was sold to Hartmann Luggage in 1954. Collectors today use old trunks as coffee tables or for extra storage space. The value of your trunk is \$25 to \$50.

Q: I have two 9-inch plates marked "Delfts Blauw Chemkefa." One plate pictures a small church and is titled "Hasselt Kapel." The other pictures a man and is titled "Petrus Donders." I'd like to know something about them. Are they of any importance?

A: Your plates were made by Chemisch Fabriek (Chemfeka Earthenware Factory), a company in the Netherlands. The trade name "Chemfeka" is an acronym of the factory name. The company started operating in 1969 and was in business for several years, but it seems to be out of business now. Chemfeka made collector plates with blue Delft (Delft Blauw) Dutch scenes. Hasselt Kapel (Hasselt Chapel), the church shown on your plate, was built before 1536 near Tilburg in the Netherlands. Peter Donders (1807-1887) was born in Tilburg and became a Roman Catholic missionary and later a priest in Surinam. Value of your 20th-century plates is about \$75 each.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

NORTH
♦ Q J 10 9 8
♥ A 5
♠ A 10
♣ A K 9 3

WEST
♥ A K 4 3 2
♦ K 4 3
♠ 8 3
♣ 6 5 2

EAST
♥ 7 6 5
♦ —
♠ J 9 7 6 5 4 2
♣ Q J 10

SOUTH
♦ —
♥ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 2
♠ K Q
♣ 8 7 4

Contract — Six Hearts.
South to make 12 tricks after West leads the king of spades.

Double-Dummy Problem
Here is a curious hand, the likes of which you've probably never seen. It was not actually dealt, but was composed by Bruce Bell, well-known New Zealand expert.

It seems that declarer must ultimately lose a heart and a club to go down one, but careful play brings the slam home.

South ruffs the opening spade lead with the six and returns the deuce of hearts, finessing dummy's five as West follows low. After ruffing the nine of spades, South cashes the king of diamonds, continues with the queen to dummy's ace and ruffs a third spade.

Now a club to dummy's king and another spade ruff are followed by a club to dummy's ace and the fifth and final spade ruff. As a result of these maneuvers, this is now the position, with the lead in the South hand:

North
♥ A
♠ 9 3

West
♥ K 4
♠ 6

East
♦ J 9
♣ Q

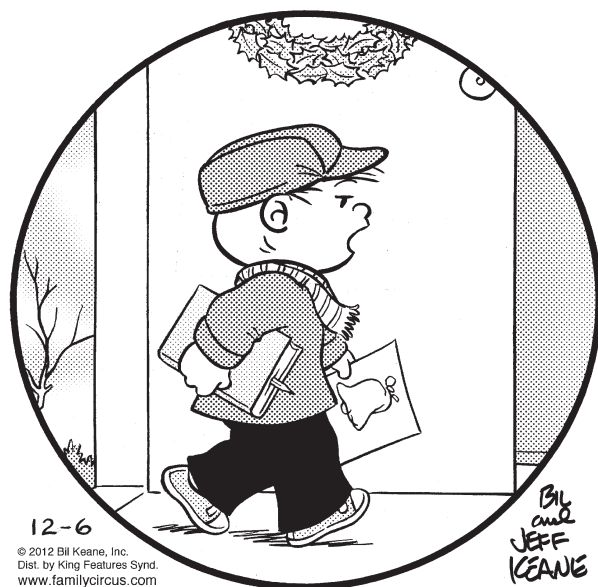
South
♥ Q J
♠ 8

Declarer exits with the eight of clubs, won by East with the queen, and East is forced to return a diamond. South ruffs with the jack, and West's apparently certain trump trick is trapped whether he elects to overruff or underuff.

Note that declarer must arrange to trump all five of dummy's spades in order to achieve the position where he can obliterate West's seemingly certain trump trick. Smother plays, of which this is an example, are so rare that they're practically nonexistent, but they're great fun — even if only on paper.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/06

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/05

Cryptoquip

Q I MCNMAC VHC VFAC EN

JLQXXB TM V HNMC PCHB

UVJECHITAAB, Q JTMNJOC

ELCB LVPC OAQUF-QE ONXEHNA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT BALLERINA'S SPANGLED GARB IS SO VERY PRETENTIOUS, I'D HAVE TO SAY IT'S A TOO-TOO TUTU.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Stroller
 - 5 Goya subject
 - 9 Playwright Levin
 - 12 Emanation
 - 13 Press agent?
 - 14 Affirmative action?
 - 15 Stormy, as weather
 - 17 IRS employee
 - 18 Dwell
 - 19 Bygone anesthetic
 - 21 "Monopoly" corner
 - 22 "Car Talk" medium
 - 24 Clone
 - 27 Solidify
 - 28 Coconut provider
 - 31 Many millennia
 - 32 Lubricate
 - 33 Afternoon social
 - 34 Ness or Lomond
 - 36 Whatever number
- DOWN**
- 1 Two-some
 - 2 Mysterious character
 - 3 Curved paths
 - 4 Speak evil of
 - 5 Marceau's specialty
 - 6 Exist
 - 7 Stewart of
 - 8 Chipped in a chip
 - 9 Not fully developed
 - 10 Lasso
 - 11 Hebrew month
 - 16 Tokyo's old name
 - 20 Gratuity
 - 22 Jockey's handful
 - 23 Partner
 - 24 Aviv
 - 25 Court
 - 26 Grow
 - 27 Capri-corn
 - 29 Meadow
 - 30 Wrestling surface
 - 35 Height of fashion?
 - 37 Record holder
 - 39 Backbone
 - 40 Intent
 - 41 Self-satisfied
 - 42 Crosby pal
 - 43 Dandies
 - 44 Use a teaspoon
 - 45 New Mexico art colony
 - 46 Wheel-base terminus
 - 49 Kan.
 - 50 Taxi

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-6

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
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		