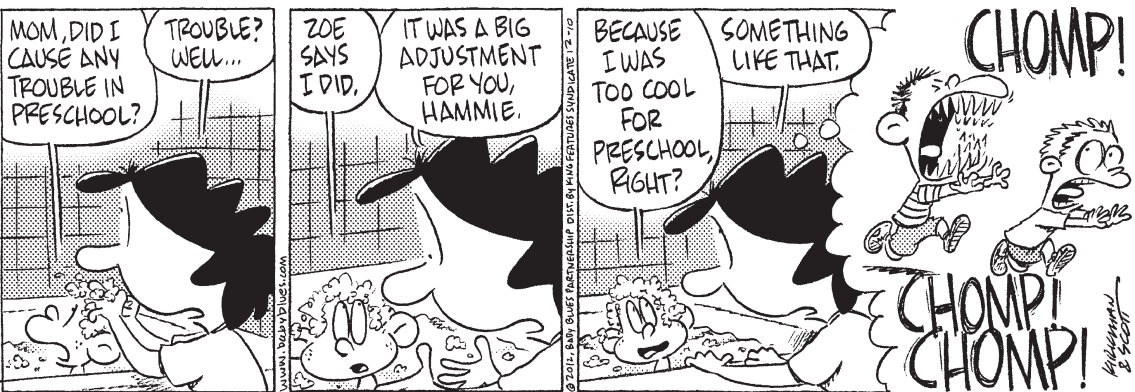


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



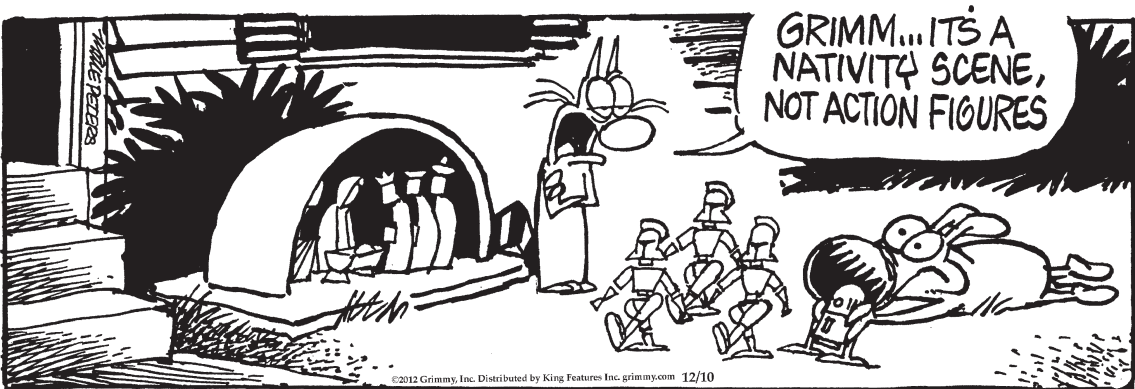
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



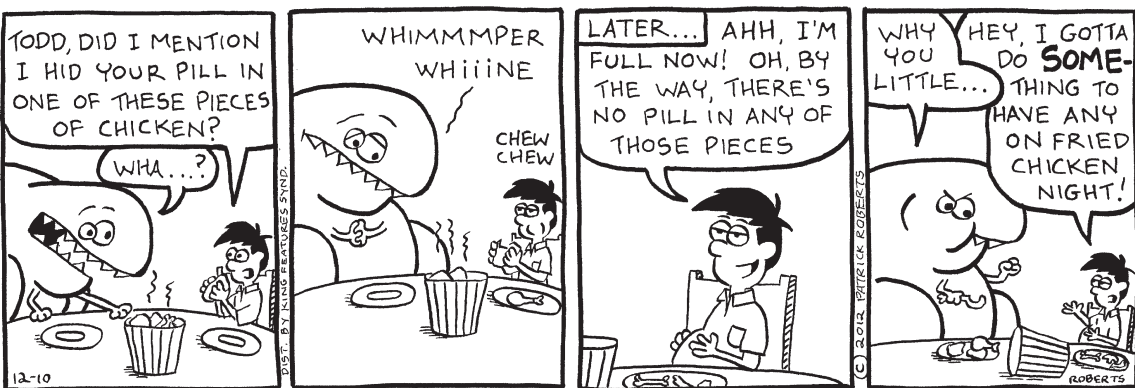
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



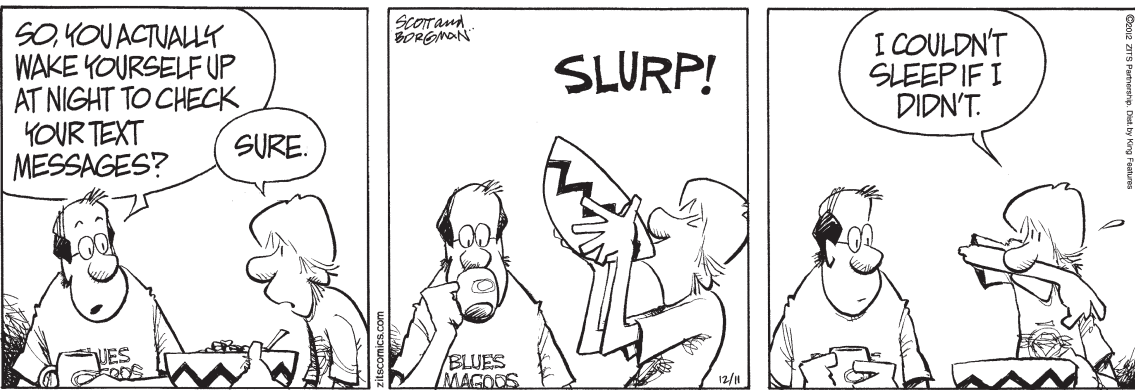
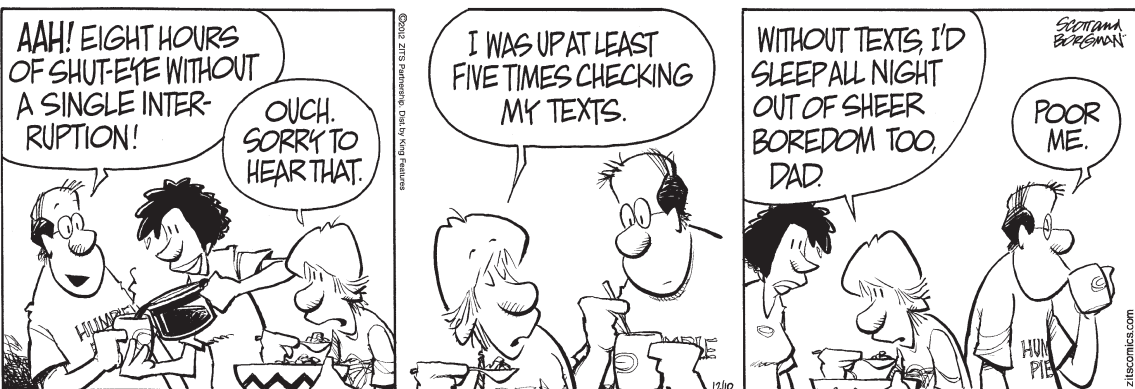
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel • Antiques and Collecting

Pitcher maker finally identified

In the 1980s, collectors tried to solve the mystery of who made a series of red, black and cream-colored pitchers shaped like animals and birds. They were all marked “hand painted Erphila” in a round cartouche. Some were also marked “est. 1926,” some “Germany” and some “Czechoslovakia.”

Years of research has finally solved the riddle. The pitchers come in two sizes, 9 inches or 6 inches high. The set includes a toucan, rooster, parrot, cat, dog, ram, goat, elephant, duck and perhaps others. They were made in Czechoslovakia at the



This 9-inch toucan pitcher is marked “Ditmer-Urbach, Made in Czechoslovakia, hand painted.” It was bought at a flea market in 1982 for \$25. Today it’s worth almost \$500.

Ebeling and Reuss, a Philadelphia importing company, ordered the set of pitchers for its customers and had them marked “E” for “Ebeling,” “R” for “Reuss” and “Phila” for “Philadelphia” (Erphila). That mark was used on many types of imported decorative wares. Ebeling & Reuss is still in business in Allentown, Pa., and still uses the same mark on pieces it imports.

The vintage cat pitcher is the most expensive, selling for as much as \$1,000. Other prices: rooster, \$235; ram, \$440; toucan, \$485; and goat, \$775.

It sometimes pays to buy an unidentified piece that you like. The pitchers were about \$25 each in the 1980s.

Q: Years ago, we bought a grandfather clock from a friend whose ceiling was not high enough for it. The clock is marked “Royal Furniture, Grand Rapids.” Can you tell us something about the maker and age of our clock?

A: Royal Furniture Co. was in business in Grand Rapids, Mich., from 1892 to 1931. But the company’s ownership changed in 1919, and the new owner’s name, Robert W. Irwin, was added to Royal’s marks that year. So your clock was made between 1892 and 1919. Royal made high-quality furniture, including grandfather clock cases, but the internal clock mechanism was made by another company, probably the Charles Jacques Clock Co. of New York City. Charles Jacques was known to supply some grandfather clockworks to Royal.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K 7
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ J
♣ K Q J 7 6 5

WEST
♦ A 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 7 6
♣ 10 8 2

EAST
♦ Q J 10 9 8
♥ 7
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ A 4 3

SOUTH
♦ —
♥ K Q J 6 4 3 2
♦ K Q 9 8 5
♣ 9

The bidding:
South West North East
4♥ Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥ Pass 5♠ Dbld
Opening lead — ace of spades.

This deal occurred in the 1932 national pair championship. The hand itself was not extraordinary, but what happened at one of the tables provides a most amusing story.

East-West had already played half the afternoon session when they encountered the deal. During that time, they had accomplished the unenviable feat of losing no fewer than seven aces during the play (mostly on defense).

They were naturally disconsolate by the time this hand came along. North-South then proceeded to reach six hearts in jig time, mostly due to North’s overly optimistic five-heart bid. (It was back in the days before Blackwood.)

Trying desperately to recover some points for his side, East, holding two aces, doubled the slam. West, on lead, promptly plunked down the ace of spades, announcing jubilantly, “Well, here’s one ace we won’t lose.”

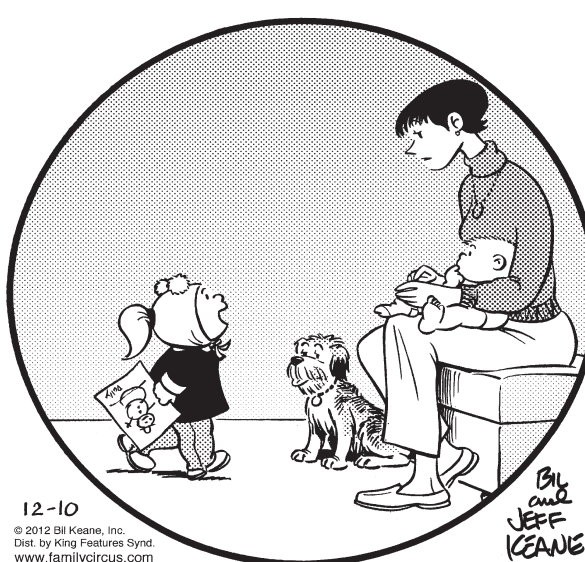
West was mistaken. South trumped the ace, led a heart to the eight and discarded a club on the king of spades. He then led the king of clubs and ruffed out East’s ace.

Warning to his task, declarer crossed to dummy with another trump, cashed all five of dummy’s remaining clubs — which luckily were divided 3-3 — and discarded all five of his diamonds. As a result, he wound up making the doubled contract with an overtrick!

Of course, had West led any suit but spades, South would have gone down one, and West’s words would not have achieved immortality. As it was, though, East-West, who had started the deal having had seven of their aces put to sleep, finished the hand with three more aces to add to their collection.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Guess what! We’re not just having parents at our Christmas play, but REAL people, too.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/10

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/10

Cryptoquip

DXQNDQ, FYVAH TDH FSJ

QXSYZQMI Y VOUMYQX

UYMSOU CYUTO VQMH QX MSO

IJDMSFOIM: YC Z. NDQUAH.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: PHRASE ABOUT KIDS’ CHEWING GUM THAT FOLKS MAY INTERPRET TWO DIFFERENT WAYS: A BUBBLE ENTENDRE.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: X equals N

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Eye layer
 - 5 Poorly illuminated
 - 8 Answer an invite
 - 12 Send a naughty photo
 - 13 Environmental prefix
 - 14 Elevator name
 - 15 Goblet part
 - 16 Carriage-eating birds
 - 18 Highly ornate
 - 20 Most up-to-date
 - 21 Satan’s purchase
 - 23 Pod occupant
 - 24 Snapshots
 - 28 Omit
 - 31 Web address
 - 32 Diarist Samuel
 - 34 A Gabor sister
 - 35 Settled a debt
 - 37 False teeth
- DOWN**
- 2 Kill a bill
 - 3 One of the brass, for short
 - 4 Maximally
 - 5 Ate greedily
 - 6 Hosp. area
 - 7 Gangster’s girlfriend
 - 8 GPS findings
 - 9 One who jogs sans togs
 - 10 Competes
 - 11 “Hey, you!”
 - 17 Spigot
 - 19 Master-stroke
 - 22 Shunned person
 - 24 Young dog
 - 25 Playwright
 - 26 Reached a peak
 - 27 Short story?
 - 29 “Got a Secret”
 - 30 — de deux
 - 33 Old portico
 - 36 Marks meaning “same as above”
 - 38 Baseball arbiter
 - 40 Romanian money
 - 42 Urban blight
 - 43 Old Italian coin
 - 44 Sketch
 - 46 Hebrew month
 - 47 Relaxing discipline
 - 48 Brewery products
 - 50 Away from WSW

Saturday’s answer 12-10

