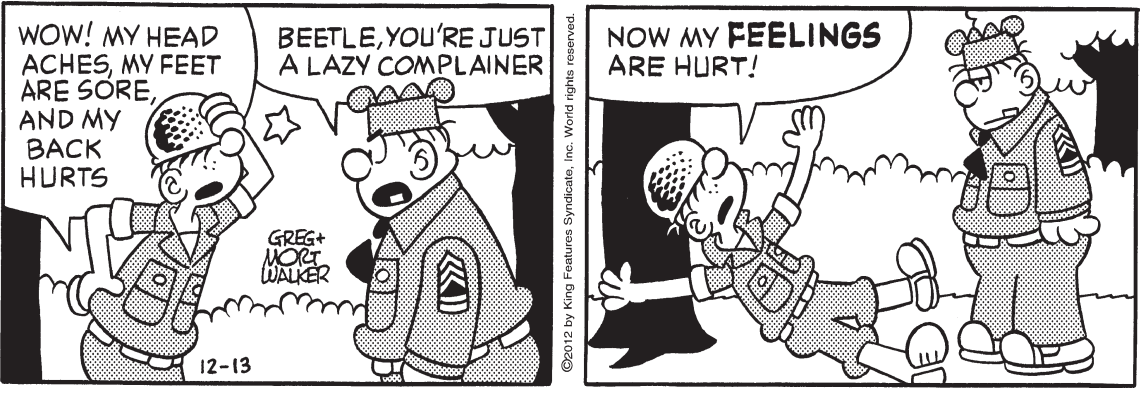


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



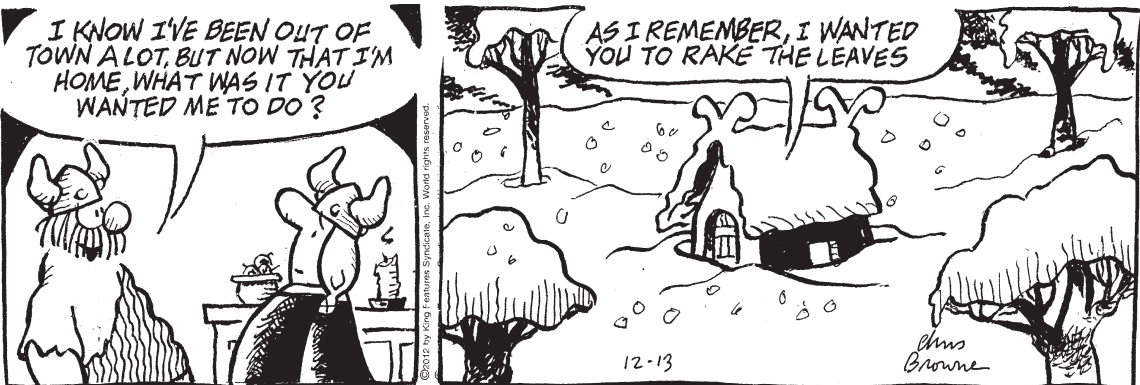
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



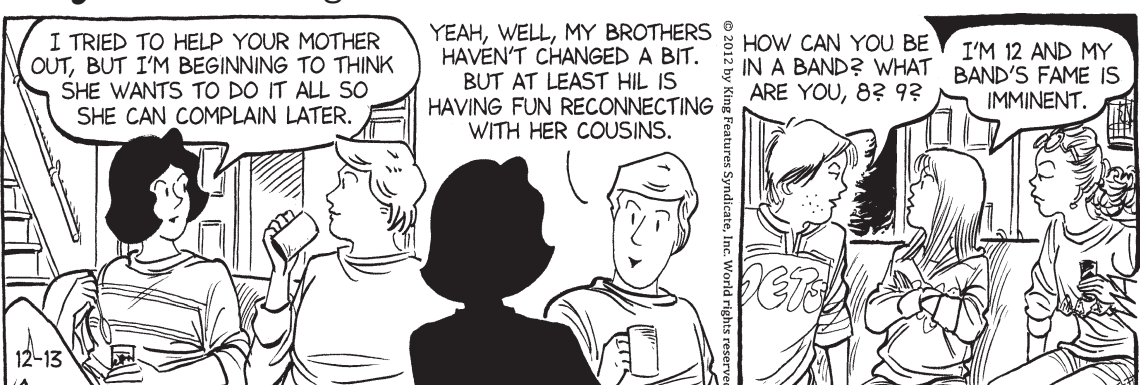
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**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

**Wash bowl set had two makers**

**Q:** I have inherited an antique wash bowl and pitcher set. The pieces have a matching floral blue transfer pattern. The bowl is marked "Porcelain Royale, Pitcairns Limited, Tunstall, England." The pitcher has a different mark: "Old Hall, England, E'Ware." Please explain the difference in the marks. How old is the set, and what is it worth?

**A:** Your bowl and pitcher were both made by pottery companies that operated in the Staffordshire district of northern England. The bowl was made in Tunstall by Pitcairns Ltd., in business from 1895 to 1901. The pitcher was made at Old Hall Pottery in Hanley, a town near Tunstall. The company that operated Old Hall was called "Old Hall Earthenware Co." from 1861 to 1886, then "Old Hall Porcelain Works" from 1886 to 1902.

Even after the company's name changed, it continued to make earthenware. It is unusual but not surprising that your bowl and pitcher were made by two different companies. Many potteries used the same transferware patterns and their items were sold in the same shops. A set like yours auctioned for \$30 a couple of years ago.

**Q:** At a local thrift store, I purchased a Punch and Judy mechanical bank for \$18. It looks old and is cast iron. The bank is in the shape of a puppet-show stage. If you place a coin in the plate Judy is holding and push a lever on the side of the bank, Judy turns to deposit the coin in the bank while Punch moves forward and brings down the club he's holding. The bank is 6 inches high, 5 1/2 inches wide and 2 inches deep. What is my bank worth?

**A:** The original and now antique Punch and Judy Bank was patented in 1884 by Shepard Hardware Co. of Buffalo, N.Y. Shepard produced high-quality cast-iron mechanical banks until the early 1890s. Reproductions of the bank have been made in abundance since the 1950s, and it is extremely likely that your bank is one of the many reproductions. Originals are 6 1/8 inches wide; most reproductions were cast from originals and, like yours, smaller than originals.

Genuine old Punch and Judy banks sell for close to \$4,000 if the original paint is in good condition. Reproductions, depending on quality and age, sell for \$20 up to about \$150. Consult an expert about the age and quality of your bank.

**Q:** My very old upright piano is marked "Starck Cabinet Grand, Chicago, U.S.A." How old is it? What is it worth?

**A:** Starck Piano Co., also known as P.A. Starck, was in business in Chicago from 1891 to 1968. It is likely that your piano dates from the 1920s or '30s, but you can verify that by looking for a serial number on your piano; it might be on the back of the piano or inside the case. The value of a piano is based not just on age and quality, but also on condition. A professional technician would have to look at it. Most old uprights don't sell for a lot of money, though, because moving a piano is expensive.

**Tip:** Switch dishwasher detergent brands periodically. This helps to keep the inside of the dishwasher and your dishes free of any chemical buildup. Glass will have more sparkle.  
(c) 2012 by Cowles Syndicate Inc.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K 6 3  
♥ J 9 4  
♦ A 7 5  
♣ Q 6 2

**WEST**  
♠ 9  
♥ A K Q 7 6  
♦ K J 10 4  
♣ A J 9

**EAST**  
♠ 8 5 2  
♥ 5  
♦ 9 6 3 2  
♣ 10 8 7 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J 10 7 4  
♥ 10 8 3 2  
♦ Q 8  
♣ K 5

The bidding:  
West 1♥ Pass East 2♣ Pass  
Dbl Redble 2 Pass  
Pass 3♣

Opening lead — king of hearts.

**Strike While the Iron Is Hot**  
Consider this deal played in a team-of-four match. The contract at both tables was three spades, but at one table the contract was made, while at the other table declarer went down one.

At the first table, West led the K-Q-A of hearts and continued with another heart. Declarer ruffed with dummy's king, played a low trump to his queen and led the five of clubs.

Had West gone up with the ace of clubs, South would have made the contract easily, scoring five trump tricks in his hand, the heart ruff in dummy, two club tricks and the ace of diamonds. But West correctly played the nine of clubs on South's five, and dummy's queen won the trick.

Declarer then cashed his remaining trumps, reducing his hand to the Q-8 of diamonds and king of clubs. West's holding at this point was the K-J of diamonds and ace of clubs, while dummy had the A-7 of diamonds and six of clubs. South now exited with the king of clubs, endplaying West to make the contract.

At the second table, the play started the same way when West also led the K-Q-A of hearts. But here the play varied dramatically when East realized that his partner might eventually get endplayed if left to his own devices. So at trick three, East ruffed his partner's ace of hearts (!) and returned a diamond.

As a result of this brilliant defensive play, declarer now had to go down one. It is not often that a defender with a hand as terrible as East's has the opportunity to make a spectacular play, but obviously East was not just sitting there with his mind elsewhere.

(c)2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



12-13  
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.  
www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/13

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/13

**Cryptoquip**

TEHVPNMS CEVKF, N ERTEDF  
CIIH QIC HPK IMK TPI'F E  
OKOUKC IQ HPK VRKCS D.  
OED HPK URKFH OEM TNM!  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOME INK-SHOOTING MOLLUSKS HOLD EACH OTHER IN THEIR MANY ARMS, I GUESS THEY'RE CUDDLE-FISH.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
1 Bean curd  
5 Scot's chapeau  
8 Read bar codes  
12 Portent  
13 Gorilla  
14 Exam  
15 Body powder  
16 Coffee holder  
17 Egyptian cross  
18 Catch in a snare  
20 Norway's capital  
22 Outrageous  
26 "— Foolish Things"  
29 All-day link  
30 Carte lead-in  
31 Enervates  
32 Hollywood trickery, for short  
33 Whirl  
34 Muhammad or Laila
- DOWN**  
1 Carry  
2 Mideast nation  
3 Touched  
4 Straight-en, as one's legs  
5 Hosiery shade  
6 Spring mo.  
7 "Amahl and the Night Visitors" composer  
8 Tritite  
9 Tomb of a sort  
10 Inquire  
11 To the degree  
19 Rd.  
21 — Na Na  
23 Correct  
24 Hodge-podge  
25 Glass sheet  
26 Autocrat  
27 Head light?  
28 Gourmets  
32 Lice, slangily  
33 Needle-point creation  
35 Japanese sash  
36 As well as  
38 Piece of cutlery  
39 Sandal type  
42 Macadamize  
43 Arden and Plumb  
44 Carry on  
45 Opposite of "post-"  
46 Wet wriggler  
48 1950 "who murdered me?" movie

Yesterday's answer 12-13

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				