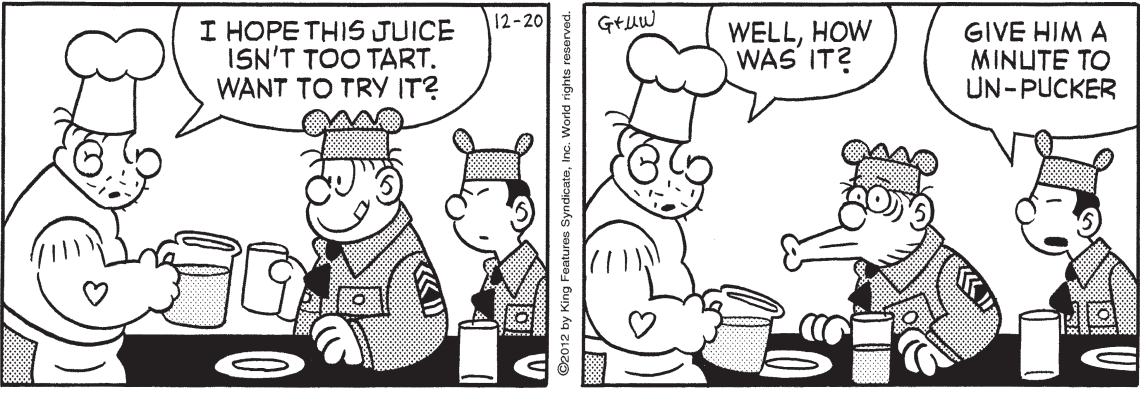


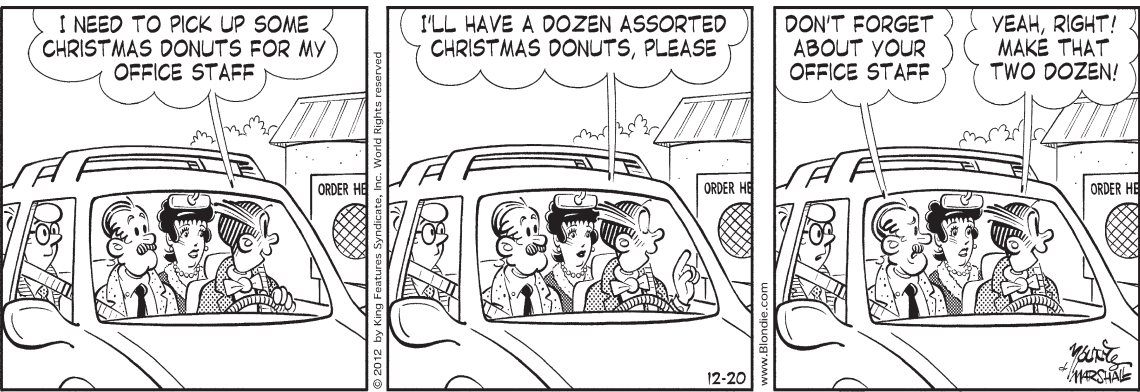
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



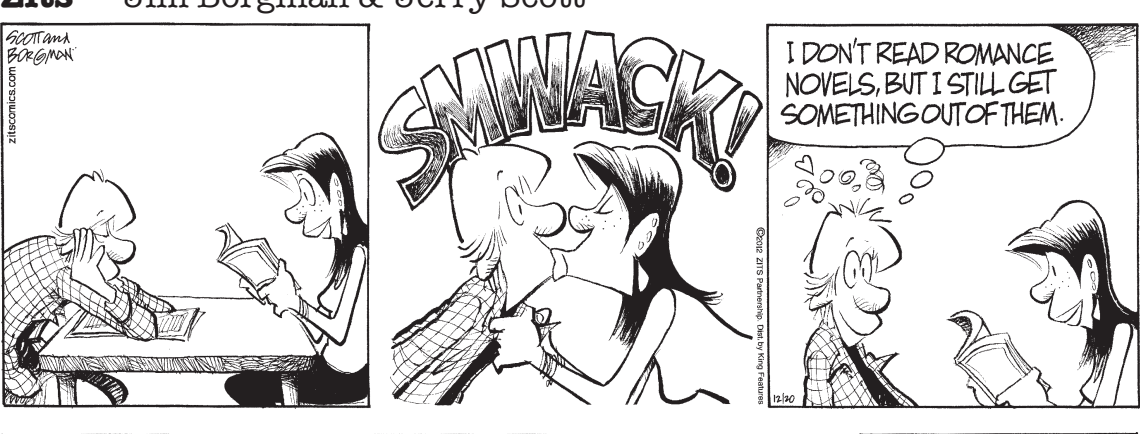
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**  
• Antiques and Collecting



**Q:** Before my parents were married (I'm 87), my father gave my mother a bisque Kewpie figurine that's 8 inches tall. Kewpie is sitting in a blue chair with a high back and is holding a single rose. The only mark I can find on it is "1912" on the bottom.

**A:** Kewpies, little naked angelic babies with small wings, were the creation of American illustrator Rose O'Neill. They first appeared in 1909 as drawings in *Ladies' Home Journal*, but within a few years dolls and figurines were being produced.

The earliest figurines were bisque, like yours, and were made in Germany. Production rights were controlled by Geo. Borgfelt & Co., a New York City importer. Kewpies as old as yours sell for high prices if they're in excellent condition. One that matches the description of yours sold for more than \$900 at a recent doll auction.

**Q:** My old tabletop slot machine is called a "Twin Jack Pot." It's 19 1/2 inches high, 15 inches wide and 14 inches deep. The front and top are cast iron, the sides and platform wood and the back heavy-gauge steel. It must weigh close to 75 pounds. All the parts appear to be original and everything works. There's a "W" cast into the top face of the machine. Please tell me more about the machine and its value.

**A:** Your Twin Jack Pot slot machine is a classic model introduced in 1931 by the Watling Manufacturing Co. of Chicago. Slots and other coin-operated gaming machines were very popular in the U.S. from the 1890s until 1951, when a federal law went into effect that prohibited the interstate shipment of gambling devices except to states where the devices were legal. Watling, which had been founded in 1901, stayed in business another 15 years, but it primarily made scales. Twin Jack Pots sell today for more than \$1,500.

**Q:** I found an old glass bottle about the size of a regular Coke bottle but with straight sides. The bottom of the bottle is embossed "Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Terre Haute, Ind." The side of the bottle is embossed "Coffey and Souders, Terre Haute, Ind." How old is the bottle and is it worth anything?

**A:** Your Coke bottle is about 100 years old. Edgar Coffey and Elmer Souders of Terre Haute purchased franchise rights to bottle Coke in 1904 and incorporated the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Terre Haute in 1908.

The company, still in business, bottled Coke for local consumers until the late 1980s. Straight-sided glass bottles were used by Coke bottlers from about 1903 to 1916-17, when the now-standard Coca-Cola bottle was introduced. That bottle design was the brainchild of another Terre Haute man, Chapman J. Root. Your bottle would probably sell for about \$30.

**Tip:** Missing an earring? An antique drop earring can be converted to a necklace pendant. Very fashionable today.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 7 5  
♥ J 9 6 3  
♦ 6 2  
♣ 9 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ J 9 3 2  
♥ Q 7 2  
♦ 8 5  
♣ K Q J 4

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 6  
♥ A K 10 8 5  
♦ A K Q J  
♣ A 8

The bidding:  
South 2♥ Pass  
West 2♣ Pass  
North 4♥\*\* Pass  
East 2♦ Pass

\* strong, artificial \*\* negative  
Opening lead — king of clubs.

**A Bit of Extra Effort**

You wouldn't think that the order in which declarer played his diamonds would make a difference in the outcome of this deal. But by going to great lengths to disguise his actual holding in the suit, South managed to deceive one of the defenders and made the slam as a result.

West led the king of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and cashed the A-K of trumps, learning that he had to lose a trump trick. This unlucky development placed the slam in obvious jeopardy, since South also had a potential club loser.

Declarer would have gone down had he simply tried to cash his diamonds at this juncture in an effort to discard two clubs from dummy. This very reasonable line of play would have succeeded had West held more than two diamonds, but would have failed on the actual lie of the cards.

However, South was not inclined to rely only on this one possibility. He decided to mask his actual diamond holding so that he'd have an additional chance for the slam even if West had only two diamonds.

So at trick four, he led a spade to the king, returning a diamond and "finessed" the queen, trying to sell West the idea that East had the king. South then cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the jack.

If West ruffed and played the queen of clubs, it would have been the end of the line for South. But declarer's diamond play had convinced West that East had the king of diamonds, so he discarded a club, and so did dummy.

West's discard proved fatal when South now produced the king of diamonds and disposed of dummy's last club. West ruffed, but South's club loser had flown the coop.

It is easy to blame West for the outcome, but the fact remains that South should get full credit for luring West down the garden path to disaster.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/20

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**

KWDR LJ VWCV TXMBZ BRJLBO  
PL LFRVVLZ RE C UMO TLDL  
VX SRGJ WRK ECGL HLDO  
PCZBO: KWCHRSU KGDLCF.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE ARE ABOUT TO SEND A FIERY DISTRESS SIGNAL INTO THE AIR. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN FLARE WARNING!  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Winter woe  
4 Movie fragment  
8 Restaurant employee  
12 Deteriorate  
13 Stash  
14 Head light?  
15 Formed rust  
17 Too  
18 Felon's flight  
19 Tasted  
21 Miss Muffet's bugaboo  
24 Prune dispenser  
28 Rid of frost  
32 Sandwich cookie  
34 Yuletide quaff  
36 Crucial time  
37 Re-ebb and flow

**DOWN**  
1 To and  
2 Bagel topping  
3 Worked with  
4 Door-bells, often  
5 Claiborne of fashion  
6 Mid-month date  
7 Accelerator, e.g.  
8 In need of balm, maybe  
9 Corridor  
10 Different-ly  
11 Comestibles  
16 Father  
20 Chic, in the '60s  
21 Location  
22 Actress Gilpin  
23 Take off  
27 Violinist's need  
29 Put on a pedestal  
30 Chaplin prop  
31 Spud's buds  
33 U-shaped part of a rowboat  
35 Petrol  
38 Hawaiian souvenir  
40 Parts of an act  
43 Big glitch  
45 — Baba  
46 Teeny bit  
47 Piece of info  
48 Great Lake  
49 Ids' counterparts  
53 Raw rock  
54 Before  
55 Beavers' construct

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

OWN	SAND	AFRO			
SEE	OBOE	CLAP			
LEA	PARAMOUNT				
OPRAH	FOR				
	MICA	ANGST			
PARASOLS	SOLE				
ERA	TOTAL	BAR			
ACNE	PARADIGM				
SHIRT	RIIDE				
	SIR	DECOR			
PARACHUTE	ALE				
ALOT	EMIR	PIE			
RITZ	YAPES	SOD			

Yesterday's answer 12-20

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
32			33		34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	