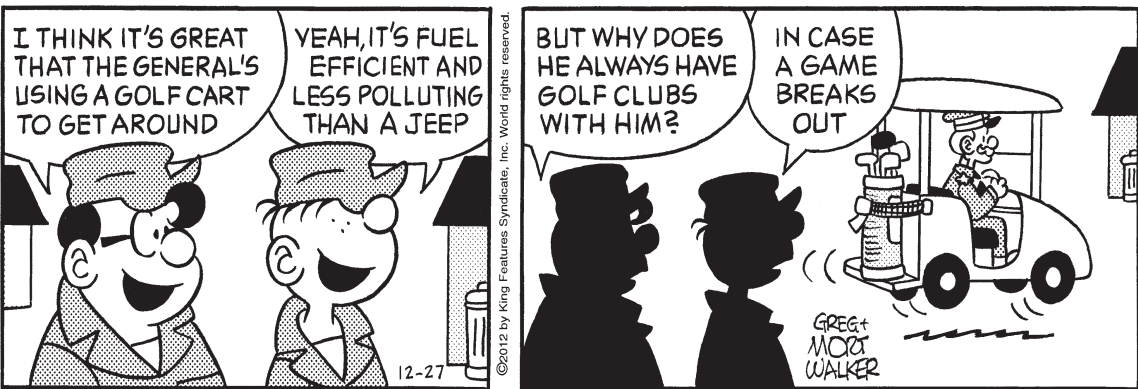


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



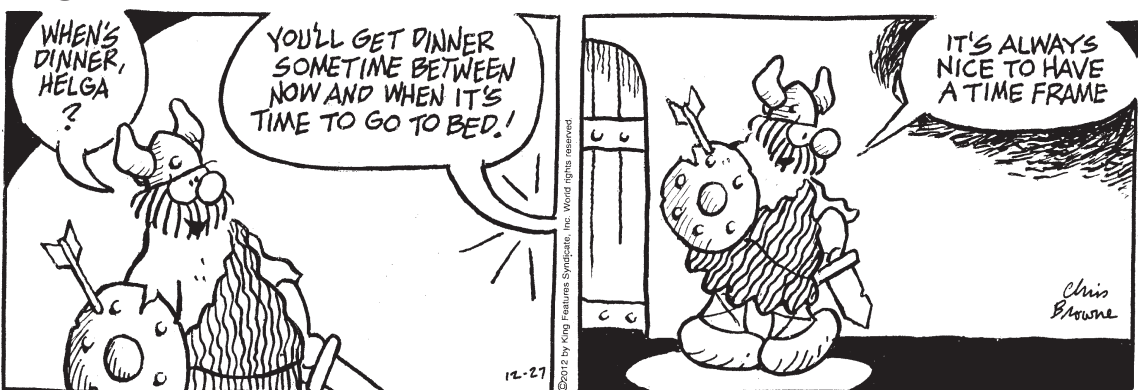
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



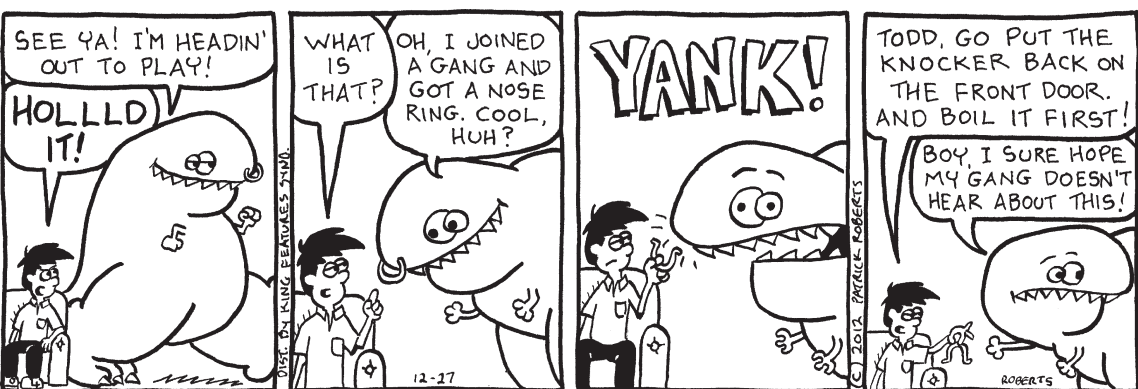
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



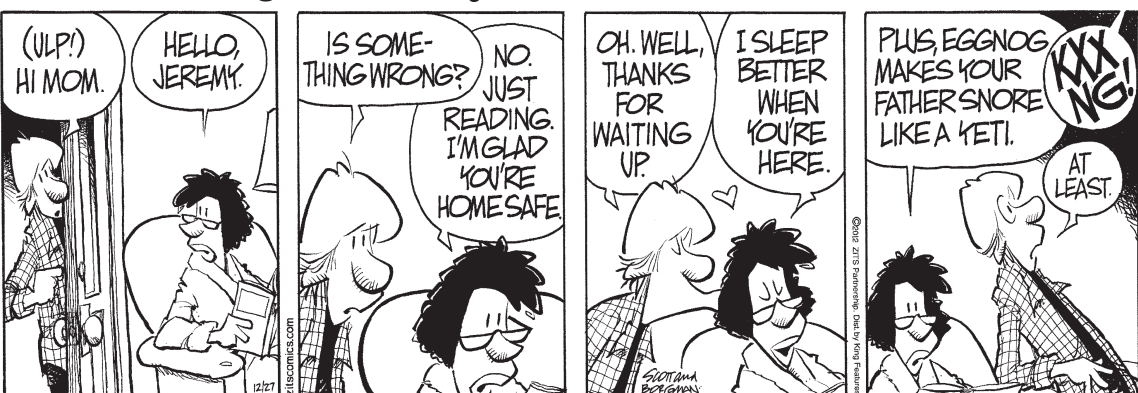
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Christmas menu has dark history

Q: My husband has a colorful menu for the 1941 Christmas dinner for U.S. Marines and Navy seamen stationed on Wake Island. What is it worth and how should we sell it?

A: Christmas dinner never took place on Wake Island in 1941 because Japanese forces captured the island on Dec. 23. Americans who survived the December battles for the Pacific island, a U.S. territory, were taken prisoner. At least one other copy of your menu has been sold online. You could offer it through an auction that sells historic Americana and military memorabilia. Several auction houses in the country specialize in that field. Many are listed in the directory link under "Free Resources" on our website, Kovels.com.

Q: I have inherited a unique combination dining table/pool table from my great-grandmother. She must have purchased it in 1902 or '03, because I found a 1903 magazine ad for the table among her papers. The table, made by the Combination Billiard Manufacturing Co., has five heavy hand-carved legs and is 7 feet long. The ad says this particular style sold for \$125, but that other styles were available for \$30 to \$150. I had the cloth restored and I have the dining table top and the triangle for the balls. But I don't have the cues or balls. Can you tell me more, including the table's value today?

A: Around the turn of the 20th century, pool was enjoying a popularity boom among both men and women. During the same era, furniture manufacturers were becoming excessively creative in combining pieces of furniture. Pool-table beds, pool-table bookcase desks and pool dining table combinations were on the market. The Combination Billiard Manufacturing Co. of Indianapolis sold combinations like yours during the first decade of the 20th century. An Arts and Crafts model made by the same company at about the same time was up for bid at a fall Rago auction in Vineland, N.J. Presale estimate was \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Q: I have an old wooden bench with a metal Coca-Cola advertising sign on the backrest. The sign reads, "Drink Coca-Cola" and "Fountain Service." The crossbar on the metal legs is embossed "Fountain Service" on each side. I would like to know if the bench is a reproduction and if it's worth some money.

A: Benches like yours are not exceptionally rare, and we have not seen any reproductions. The benches, which probably date from the mid-1900s, most likely sat outside soda fountains that served Coca-Cola. Single benches sell for \$100 to \$150, depending on the condition of the bench and of the Coca-Cola sign on the backrest.

Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Write to Kovels, (Colby Free Press), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 8 4
♥ Q 10 8 2
♦ A Q J 10 5
♠ A

WEST
♦ K J 9
♥ K 6 4
♦ K 7 3
♣ J 10 8 3

EAST
♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 5
♦ 8 4
♣ K 9 6 5 4 2

SOUTH
♦ 10 7 3
♥ A J 9 7 3
♦ 9 6 2
♠ Q 7

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥
Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

A Drop in the Bucket

In most cases, declarer's prime objective is to make his contract. He pays very little attention to scoring overtricks — worth only 20 or 30 points per trick — if doing so would jeopardize making the contract.

Similarly, a defender's aim is to stop declarer from making the contract. He should be willing to yield an overtrick to declarer if, in doing so, he gives his side a chance to defeat the contract. A defender should be acutely aware of the vast discrepancy between the value of a game and the value of an overtrick, and shouldn't mind risking a small number of points while trying to avoid losing a much larger number.

Consider this deal where West leads a club to dummy's ace and declarer returns the queen of trumps, losing to West's king. West is now at the critical point of the play.

It should be evident to him, in view of the diamond position, that there is virtually no chance to stop the contract unless East has the ace of spades. West does not know whether East has the ace, but he assumes it. To assume otherwise would amount to conceding the contract.

West therefore decides to shift to a spade. He knows that this play might hand declarer an extra trick if South has the ace of spades, but it does not bother him at all. An overtrick is a mere drop in the bucket. The only problem West has to solve is which spade to lead.

It is not difficult to prove that the jack of spades is the correct play. In the actual case, South cannot avoid losing three spade tricks in succession, whether he covers West's jack with the queen or plays low from dummy. But if West returns either the king or the nine of spades at trick three, South makes the contract with proper play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/27

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Cryptoquip

C Q P G N Z Q T Z G T H " T

H T Z M T R Q X V Z J M Q O H T O F

T O Z J T J N J T V O Z, " V O Q X T F Y J

P G M M J Y G J G C G O R Z J G J Q X Q O J.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN MY FRIEND FINALLY BECAME A CELEBRITY LIKE ME, I HAD TO ASK HIM "WHO'S STARRY NOW?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Emanation
 - 5 — de deux
 - 8 Location
 - 12 Fiddler, e.g.
 - 13 Right angle
 - 14 Father (Fr.)
 - 15 "Peter Pan" pooch
 - 16 Ultra-modernist
 - 17 Machu Picchu builder
 - 18 Bring forth
 - 20 Northern
 - 22 Mex. neighbor
 - 23 Zilch
 - 24 Matter-horn et al.
 - 27 South African city
 - 32 Born
 - 33 Caustic fluid
 - 34 Actress Zadora
 - 35 Nearly a score
- DOWN
- 38 Flushing team
 - 39 "CSI" evidence
 - 40 Khan title
 - 42 Political meeting
 - 45 Hang around
 - 49 Scandinavian city
 - 50 Mai — (cocktail)
 - 52 Symbol of thinness
 - 53 Poker variety
 - 54 Wood-shaping tool
 - 55 Oklahoma city
 - 56 Fourth dimension
- 10 "Jaws" boat
- 11 Blue hue
- 19 "The coast — clear"
- 21 Individual
- 24 Mitt's Mrs.
- 25 Island neckwear
- 26 Foucault's gadget
- 28 Sailor's assent
- 29 Fine
- 30 Humor
- 31 Brooklyn-born rapper
- 36 Write cryptograms
- 37 Greek cross
- 38 Lass
- 41 "Monopoly" square
- 42 Price
- 43 Italian wine region
- 44 Luminary
- 46 Fork part
- 47 Eastern bigwig
- 48 Change the decor
- 51 Fuss

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-27

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		
42	43			44		45			46	47
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		