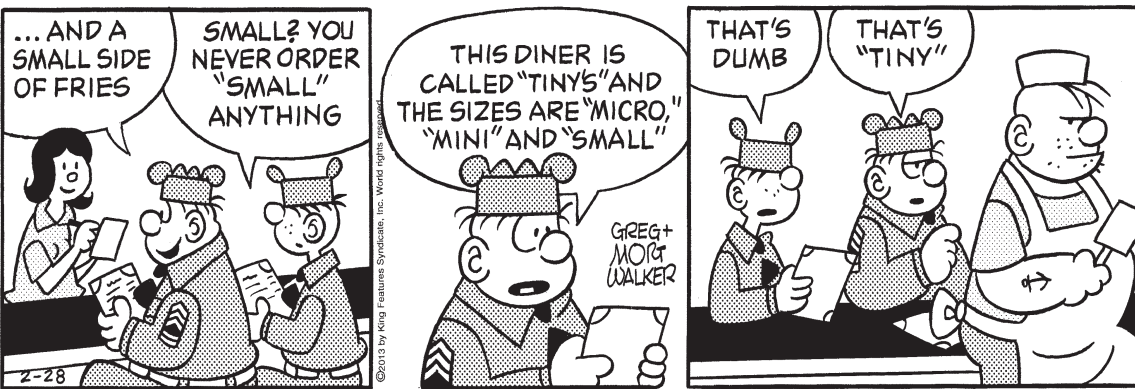


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



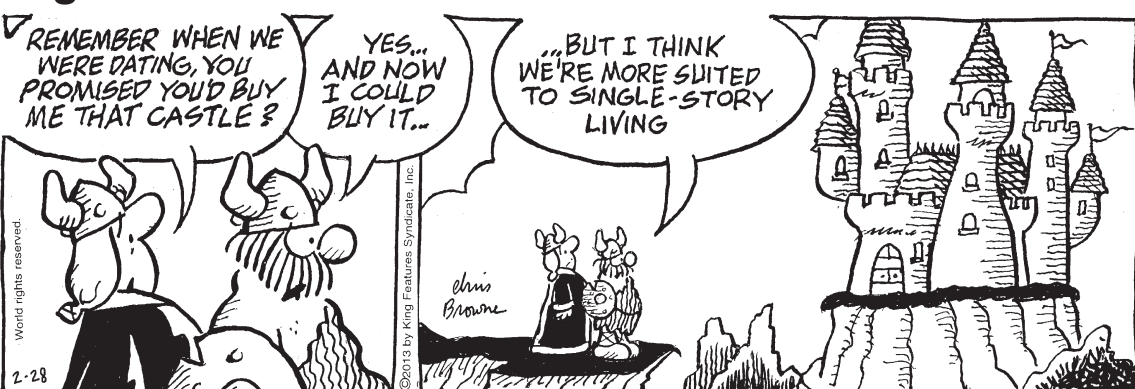
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



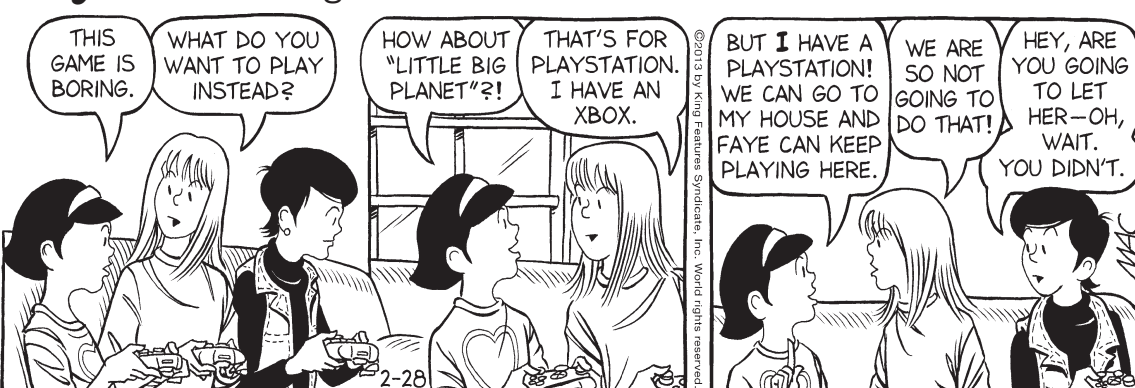
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



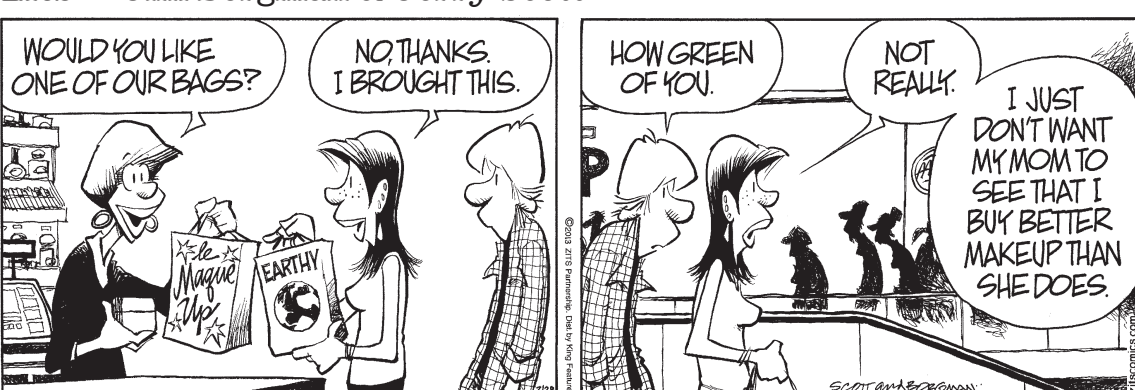
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Japan's labels show item's age

Q: I would like to know the order of marks on items made in Japan. Which is oldest, "Nippon," "Made in Occupied Japan," "Made in Japan" or just "Japan"? Does it make a difference if the mark is red, green, black or another color?

A: Most pieces marked with the name of a country were made after 1891, when the McKinley Tariff Act was passed. Pieces from Japan were marked "Nippon," the transliteration of the Japanese word for Japan. After 1915 the words "Made in..." usually were added. Beginning in 1921, U.S. Customs required country names to be in English, and the word "Japan" was used instead of "Nippon." Items marked "Made in Occupied Japan" were made between February 1947 and April 1952. After that, just the word "Japan" was used again. According to experts on 19th- and 20th-century Japanese ceramics, the color does not help date a mark. Red, green and black were used most years. There is no explanation for when other colors were used.

Q: I recently bought a desk and chair at a thrift store for \$29. The front of the desk pulls down to reveal a storage compartment. There is a sticker under the desk that says "Ferguson Furniture, Hoboken, N.J." Can you tell me how old it is?

A: Ferguson Brothers Manufacturing Co. was founded in 1898 by Harry and Louis Ferguson. The company was incorporated in Hoboken in 1900. It was run by members of the family until 1953, when it was sold to Sun-Glo Industries. Ferguson made inexpensive reproduction furniture and "furniture novelties," including cedar chests, cellarettes, folding screens, folding tables, humidors and smoker stands. Your set sounds like a bargain.

Q: My Wonder Woman hand mirror from Avon is in its original box marked "DC Comics Inc., 1978." The handle of the mirror is in the shape of Wonder Woman and the mirror is surrounded by her lasso. I have treasured this for years and have never used it. Is it worth anything?

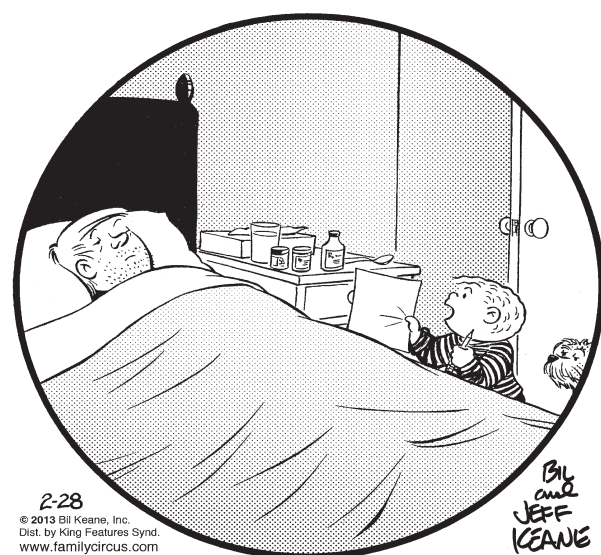
A: The Wonder Woman mirror cost \$7.50 when it was introduced. The value of your mirror in its original box is about \$25 today.

Q: Years ago, my mother gave me a pair of heavy antique bronze candlesticks. One of them is decorated with four clear hanging glass prisms. The second matching candlestick is missing the prisms, but has hooks to hang them. How can I find replacement prisms?

A: There are suppliers of glass prisms in the United States. We list some in the free directory on our website, Kovel.com. Just go to our home page and search for the word "prisms." You also can do an Internet search for "replacement glass prisms." You will want to measure the length and examine their cutting design to be sure you buy new ones that closely match your old ones.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-28
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www.familycircus.com

"I'm gonna make you a get-well card, Daddy. Can you show me how to draw a bird and a flower and a ..."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

LEV RNF KEB KCLWEVY BDVZ

LEV QSXBZLCTL UQREL-

YXUQLLQTR MVDQWVY QY C

DVZF DQRQUCTL XZQYS RNCZM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D LIKE TO PRODUCE A HYBRIDIZED CHINESE FRUIT WITH FUZZY SKIN. IT WOULD BE A PEACHY LITCHI.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K 7 4
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J 4
♣ A J 4 3
WEST
♠ 9 6 5
♥ K J 6 2
♦ 5 3
♣ 8 7 6 5
EAST
♠ Q 10 8 3
♥ 10 9 4
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ 10 2

SOUTH
♠ J 2
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ A K 10 7
♣ K Q 9
The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♣ Pass
2NT Pass 6NT Pass
Opening lead — eight of clubs.

Two for the Price of One
Let's say you're declarer at a slam and that if a certain finesse succeeds, you'll make the contract. If your only way to make the slam is to rely on the finesse, you are said to have a 50 percent chance.

But in some deals you can do much better than to stake the outcome on a finesse. A different line of play might elevate your chances to 75 percent and, in some cases, even to 100 percent. Finding a way to improve on one's chances is what distinguishes the expert player from the middle-of-the-road player.

Here is a typical example. South is in six notrump, gets a club lead and has a golden opportunity to exercise his skill. He counts his sure winners and sees there are only 11. If he is by nature a man in a hurry, he immediately attempts the heart finesse and goes down one.

But if South is a more thoughtful player, he realizes there is no reason to put all his eggs in just this one basket. Instead, he adopts a line of play that gives him two chances instead of just one to make the slam.

He wins the first club with dummy's jack and leads the four of spades toward his hand! As it happens, this one play solves all of South's problems. Since East has the queen of spades, declarer is now sure to score three spade tricks instead of two and so make the slam. But the great advantage of this play is that even if West turned up with the queen of spades, declarer still has the heart finesse to fall back on.

The only time declarer goes down, if he uses this approach, is when East has neither the queen of spades nor the king of hearts. The odds are about 3-to-1 that East was dealt one or both of these cards, so South can raise his chances from 50 percent to 75 percent by leading a low spade from dummy at trick two.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Gumbo ingredient	1 Small
5 MasterCard alternative	22 Rendezvous
9 Night flier	23 Stay away from
12 Conks out	24 Source
13 State with conviction	25 Wise one
14 Formerly called	26 Cheese choice
15 Healing dam org.	27 Pueblo building
17 1933 port.	28 Black, poetically
18 Porter	29 Dine
19 Different	30 Afternoon affair
21 What @ means	31 Smell
22 A crowd?	32 A crowd?
24 Soon, in verse	33 Cook-ware
27 Exist	34 Cook-ware
28 Cain's pop	
31 Chaps	
32 Workout venue	
33 Eggs	
34 Cook-ware	

Yesterday's answer 2-28

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	