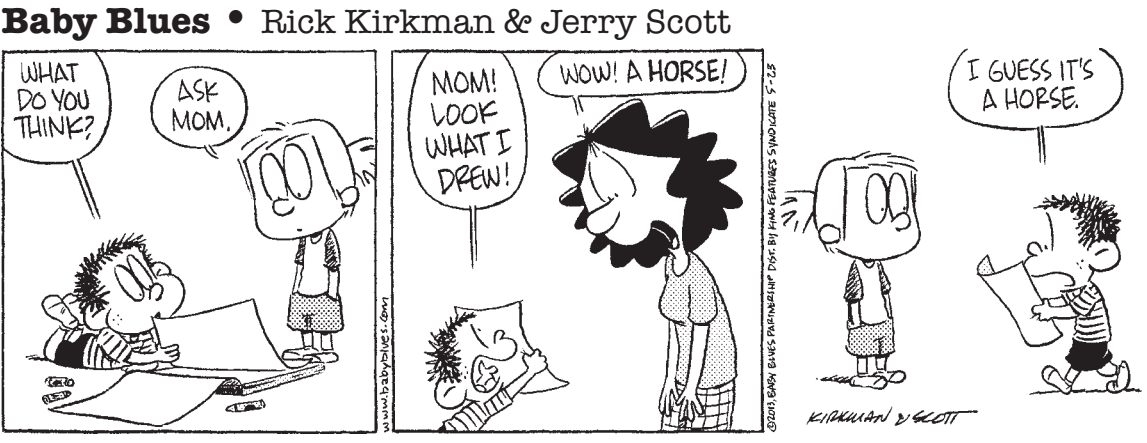
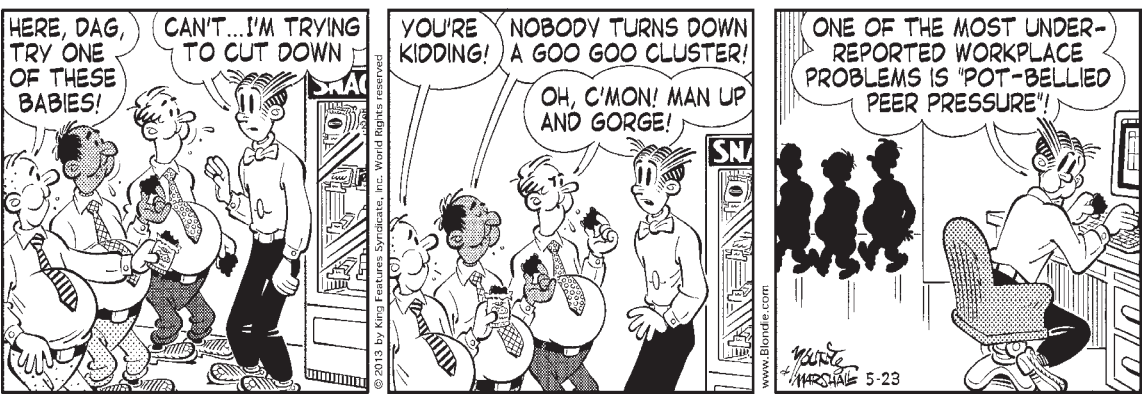
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

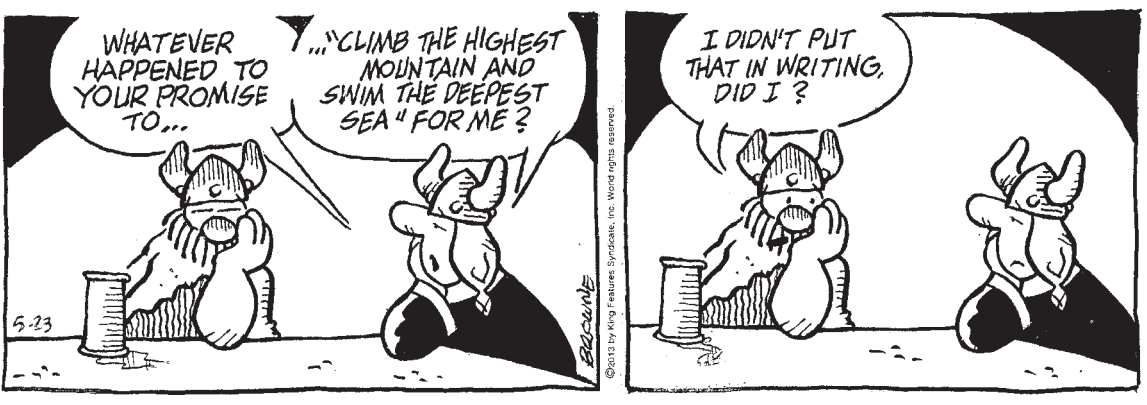


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

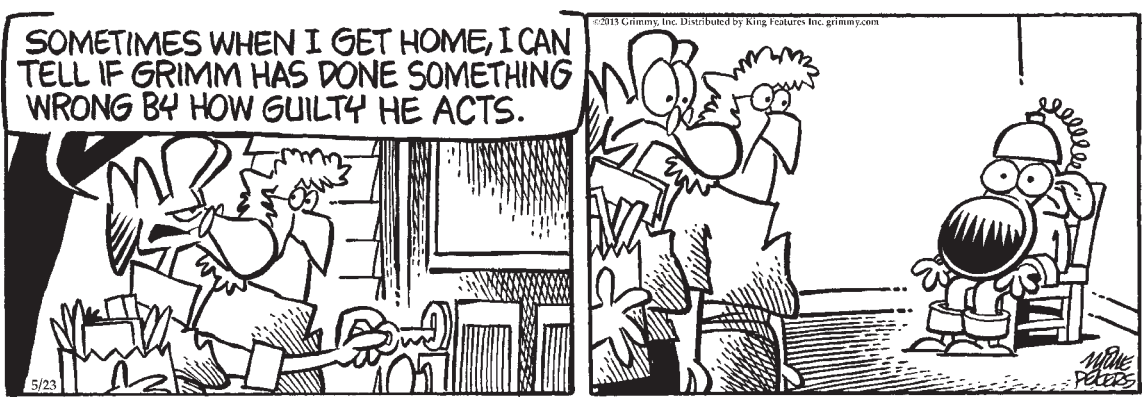
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



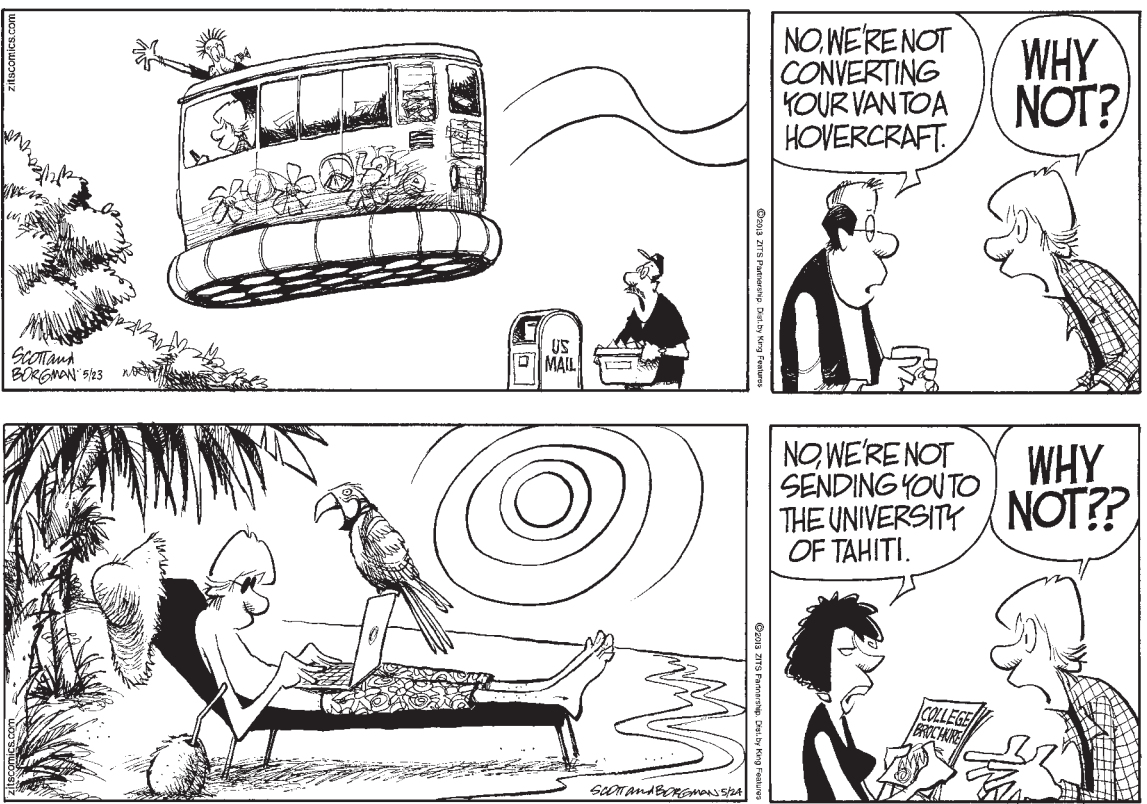
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Statue's maker French sculptor

Q: Our statue of a peasant girl is 25 inches tall. She is sitting on a tree stump and holds a basket of cherries on her lap. On the round base, there's a plaque in the shape of a scroll that says "La Cerises par Cana." Wasn't there a famous 19th-century French sculptor named Cana? How can I find out what it's worth?

A: Louis Emile Cana (1845-1895) was a French sculptor of bronzes, but specialized in animals. Another French sculptor, Francois Hippolyte Moreau (1832-1927) created a bronze sculpture titled "Les Cerises" ("The Cherries") that matches the description of yours.

His original bronzes are signed. Known copies signed like yours were made of spelter, a zinc alloy. If yours is one of those and in excellent condition, it could sell for several hundred dollars. An original is worth more than $2,000.

Q: I know about Teco pottery and its matte green vases, but I just heard the company also made tiles. Is that true?

A: Yes. A color ad in a 1913 catalog shows a variety of tile murals and single tiles for trim made by Teco. Earlier black-and-white ads show different tiles. Teco advertised that it made "architectural terra cotta, Teco and garden pottery and wall, floor and art tile" until 1917 or later.

Q: Years ago, I won a "basket of cheer" at a church bazaar. I still have one unopened bottle from that basket, a bottle of Benedictine liqueur with a red seal on the front and a label that reads "D.O.M." and "86 proof." I would like to sell it, but I don't know how.

A: Benedictine is an herbal liqueur that has been produced in France since the 1860s. "D.O.M." stands for "Deo Optimo Maximo," which can be translated as "Praise be to God, most good, most great." Bacardi owns the brand today.

Your bottle is not an antique, since it has to date from after the end of Prohibition, but it was bottled before the alcohol content was lowered to 80 proof. U.S. liquor laws come into play when you want to sell a full bottle of an alcoholic beverage, even one some consider collectible.

Some national auctions hold special whiskey auctions. Unless you just spread the word among acquaintances to sell your bottle, you might contact a nationally known auction house. Your bottle might sell for $50 or more.

Q: You mentioned that old glass bottles and insulators and even pressed glass goblets may turn purple if left in the sun a long time. Why?

A: We learned from an article in Antique Bottle & Glass Collector magazine that coloring changes in glass are caused by chemicals in the glass. Arsenic was used in glassmaking before World War II, and when left in the sun turns yellow. Manganese was used before 1930, and turns pale purple in sunlight. The very dark purple bottles seen today are irradiated with modern machines, not by the slow rays of the sun.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9 5 2
♥ Q 6
♦ K 4
♣ K J 8 6 2

WEST
♠ 7 6
♥ A K 8 4
♦ A 8 3 2
♣ 7 4 3

EAST
♠ K
♥ J 9 5 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 6 5
♣ 9 5

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 8 4 3
♥ 10 7
♦ Q J
♣ A Q 10

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

When to Abandon the Percentages

Most books on the play of the hand contain one or more chapters on the mathematics of bridge. Among other things, they list how suits can be expected to divide and the proper way to handle a large variety of card combinations.

One subject sure to be covered is the question of whether or not to finesse when you have 10 cards of a suit missing the K-x-x, which was declarer's problem in the spade suit in today's hand.

Mathematically, the percentage play is to finesse rather than try to drop the singleton king behind the ace. What this means is that if you experimented hundreds of times with this combination, the finesse would succeed far more often than the play for the drop.

South was fully familiar with the proper percentage play, but when the moment of truth arrived, he played dummy's ace and felled East's king! However, he had ample reason for rejecting the finesse.

West began by cashing the K-A of hearts and shifted to the deuce of diamonds, hoping his partner had the queen and that declarer would misguess which card to play from dummy. But South played dummy's king, which won the trick.

Then, without bothering to enter his hand for a finesse, declarer simply played the ace of trumps, caught East's singleton king and so made the contract with an overtrick. Had he taken a trump finesse, he would have gone down one.

Declarer's decision to reject the percentage play was based on the fact that West couldn't have the king of spades after his first three plays revealed he had the A-K of hearts and ace of diamonds. It was inconceivable that he would have passed originally had he held the king of spades also.

Since East was thus marked with the king of spades, South's only hope was to find the monarch unguarded.

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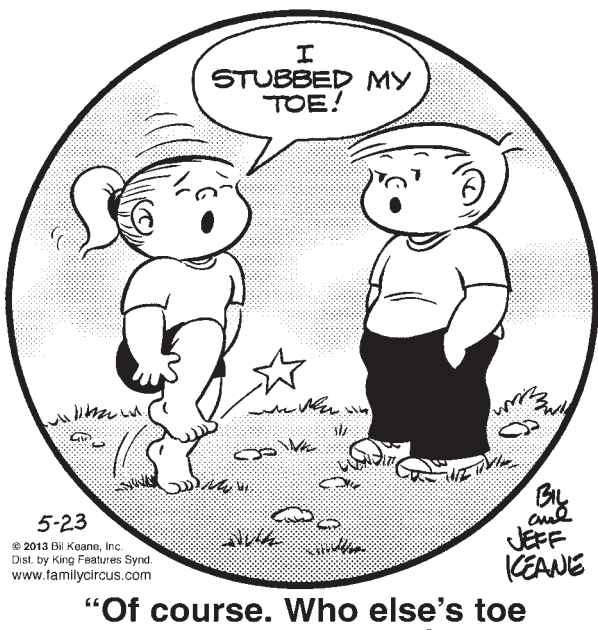
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Of course. Who else's toe would you stub?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/23

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/22

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Cryptoquip

CGNIB CKN XTXEBI GTUB OBVRTHBHCZP IQCQVBW FZNCG ITROZBI. CGBP RQIC'UB XBBH IKTCFGBW TC XEVCG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DON'T KNOW WHY I JUST PLAYED A JOKE ON THAT SMALL BIRD, BUT PRESUMABLY I DID IT ON A LARK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Comes together
5 Sail support
9 Drenched
12 Met melody
13 From the beginning
14 Wall crawler
15 Voles
17 Back talk
18 Man's hat style
19 Confound
21 First word of "America"
22 Gotham City super-villain
24 Renown
27 Standard
28 Linger
31 Chicken-king link
32 Recede
33 Mongrel
34 Two-wheeler
36 Ph. bk. listings
37 Relinquish
38 Occurrence
40 Letter after lambda
41 Discussion group
43 Insect with pincers
47 Hawaiian neckpiece
48 Crockett and Tubbs' show
51 Tolkien ogre
52 Beige
53 North Sea feeder
54 Buck's mate
55 Deli loaves
56 Reps.' rivals

DOWN
1 Handled hook
2 Great Lake
3 Told a whopper
4 Biblical dancer
5 One of the Three Bears
6 Blackbird
7 Moment
8 Make slight alterations
9 Grain also called water oats
10 Satan's forte
11 Work at the keyboard
16 Parched
20 Society newbie
22 Frilly blouse accessory
23 Spheres
24 "Great!"
25 Clay, today
26 "Stop fighting"
27 Teller's partner
29 Flop
30 Before
35 Leading lady?
37 Not straight
39 "Wabbit" hunter
40 — tai
41 Walk wearily
42 Prefix re planes
43 Flightless flock
44 — E. Coyote
45 Warhead weapon, briefly
46 The Bee —
49 Unfriendly
50 Exist

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-23

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				■	56			