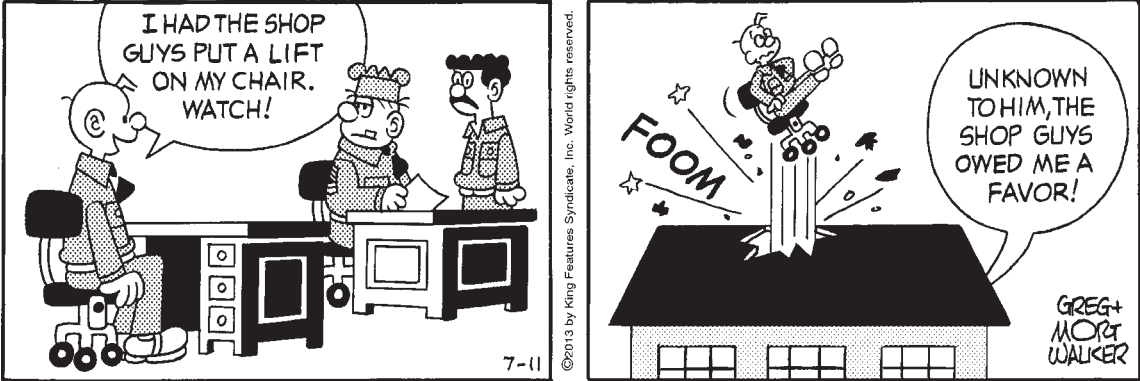


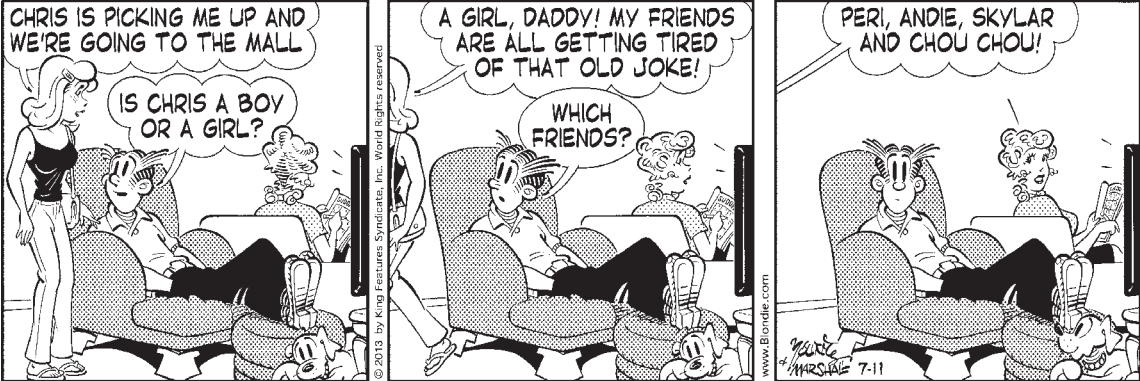
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



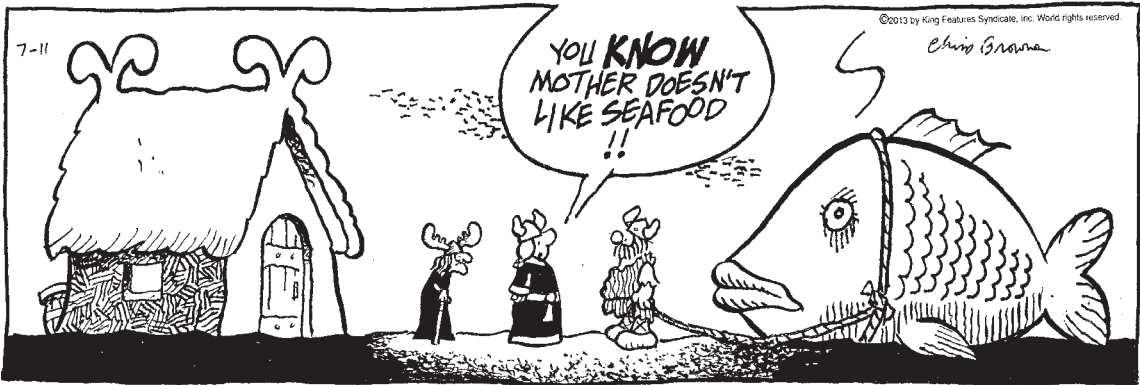
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



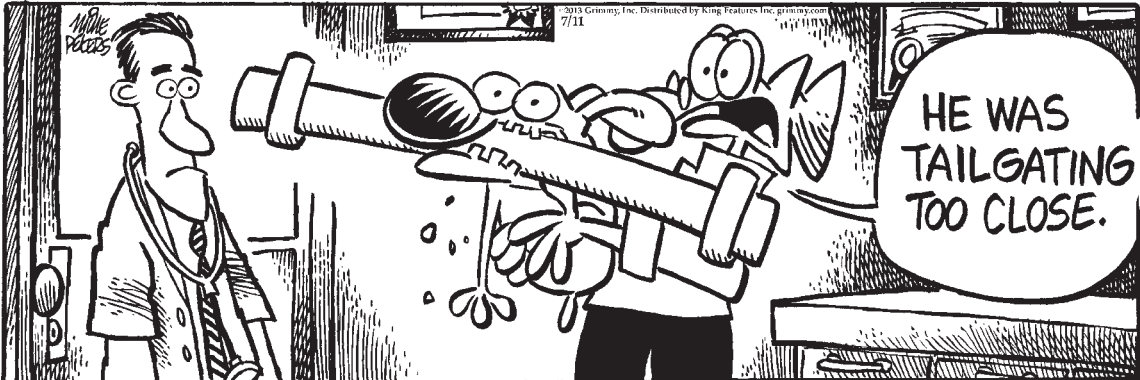
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



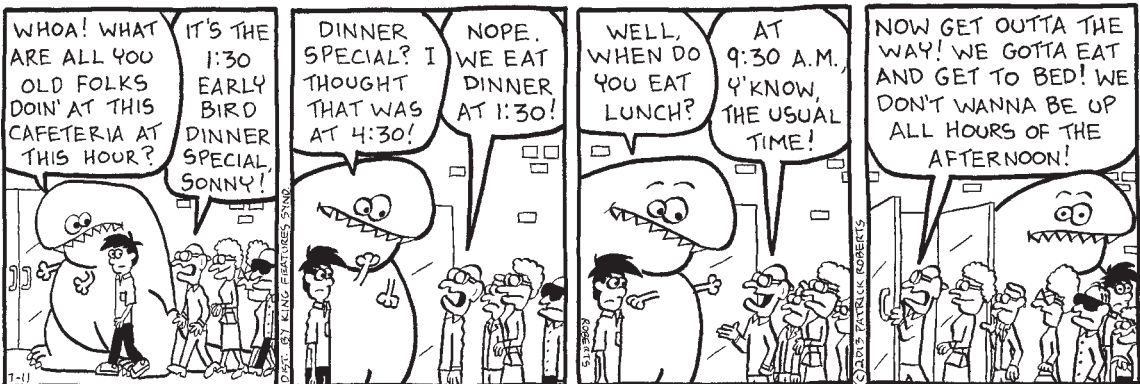
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



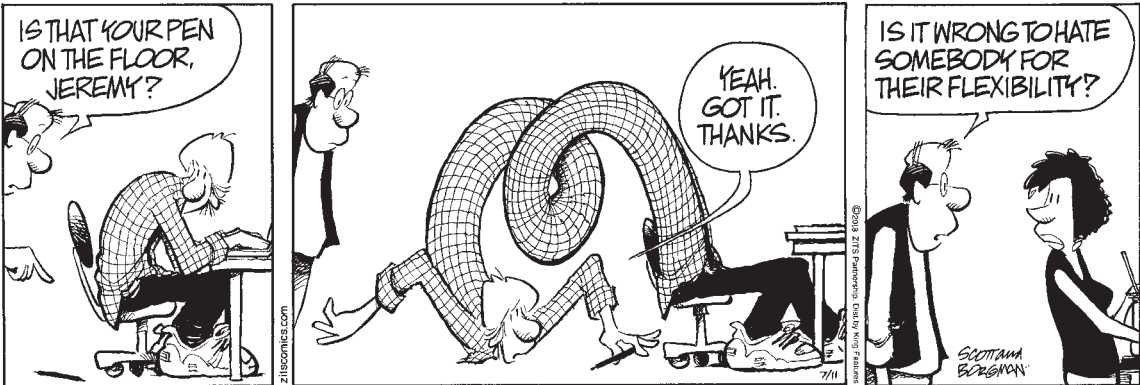
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Desk may be from old hotel

**Q:** Grand Rapids Desk Co. made our mahogany roll-top desk. It is 46 inches tall, 40 inches wide and 28 inches deep. We were told when we bought it that it had been used at the old Angus Hotel in St. Paul, Minn. What can you tell me about the desk and its value?

**A:** The Grand Rapids Desk Co. was in business in Grand Rapids, Mich., from 1893 to 1898. The company moved to Muskegon, Mich., in 1898 following a fire at the Grand Rapids factory, but it kept the same corporate name.

If the company mark on your desk reads "Muskegon," the desk was made after 1898. Grand Rapids Desk Co. manufactured desks and other office furniture in mahogany and oak. Many were sold to hotels in the Midwest.

From 1911 to 1971, the Angus Hotel occupied a Victorian apartment building built in 1887 at the corner of Selby and Western avenues just west of downtown St. Paul. The fact that your desk may have been used at the hotel probably does not increase its value, except to a St. Paul collector. But high-quality antique roll-top desks like those made by the Grand Rapids Desk Co. are valuable. One auctioned for \$1,400 a few years ago.

**Q:** I have a bell imprinted "MS Bremen 1911." It looks like it's made of brass. It has a hanger and a clanger. I cannot find any information about this on the Internet. Is this worth much?

**A:** The MS Bremen was a ship owned by North German Lloyd Steamship Co. The initial "MS" indicates it was a motor ship and had an internal combustion engine. It was launched in 1896 and made trips from Bremen, Germany, to New York and from Bremen to Australia beginning in 1897. Her last trip to Australia was in 1911.

The date on your bell may commemorate that voyage, but it was made much later. After World War I, the ship belonged to a British company. It was sold again and renamed twice before being scrapped in 1929. Reproductions of this bell have been made. Often it is mounted with an anchor-shape bracket so it can be hung on a wall. We have seen examples of this bell selling in the United Kingdom for about \$20 to \$40.

**Q:** My antique flow-blue platter belonged to my great-grandmother. She brought it to America from Germany in the 1860s.

The oriental pattern includes two houses and other buildings, two figures and two large birds flying above treetops. The printed mark on the underside of the eight-sided platter is a phoenix above the words "Chusan" and "J. Clementson." The word "Clementson" is impressed. Please tell me history and value.

**A:** Your platter was made in England by Joseph Clementson and possibly dates from as early as the 1840s. Clementson operated his pottery at the Phoenix Works in Shelton, Hanley, in the Staffordshire District from about 1839 to 1864, but the phoenix mark was introduced in the 1840s.

Several English manufacturers of flow-blue china (patterns with deliberately smudged blue designs) made oriental patterns named "Chusan," but the designs are not identical. Your platter, if in excellent condition, would sell for \$150 to \$200.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♦ K 7 5 3	♠ 7 4	♥ 10 9 6	♣ 10 8 2
♥ 7 4	♦ K 6	♦ Q 7 5 3	♣ K 6 4
♠ A Q 10 9 5	♦ A 8 4	♠ Q J 2	♥ A Q 5
♥ K J 9 6 3	♦ J 9 2	♠ A 10 8 4	♥ J 8 3
♦ 7 2			

The bidding:  
East Pass 1 ♦ South Pass 2 NT West Pass 3 NT North Pass  
Opening lead — six of hearts.

Lay That Pistol Down

If someone points a gun at your head, it is a good idea — as a matter of self-preservation — to disarm him if you can safely do so. An analogous situation arises at the bridge table when a particular opponent threatens your chances of making the contract. In that case, you should do all you can to eliminate the threat.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart and you win East's ten with the queen. Obviously, you'll have no trouble making three notrump if West has the king of clubs. Indeed, in that case a successful finesse would net you 11 or 12 tricks.

But if you begin by attacking clubs and East has the king, you might not make the contract. This could occur if West started with five or six hearts and the ace of spades.

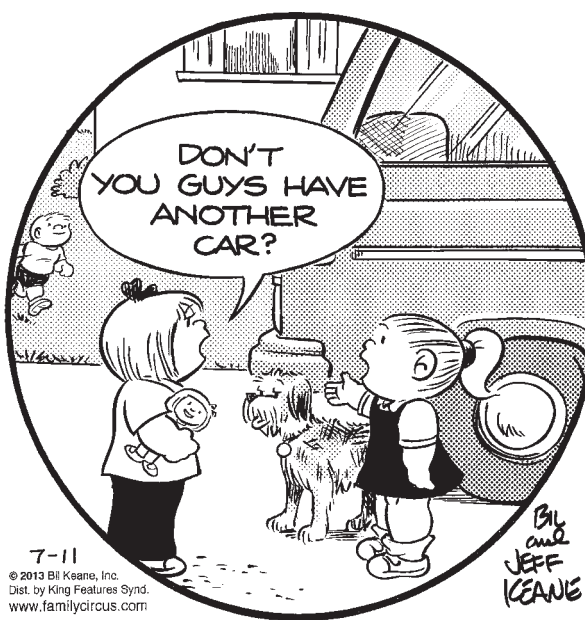
Once you recognize the nature of the threat posed by West, it is not difficult to find the right countermeasure. So at trick two you lead the queen (or jack) of spades instead of attacking clubs. This play virtually eliminates any chance of going down.

If West has the ace and takes it, you plan to duck his heart return and win the next heart. When you now try the club finesse, you're on safe ground. Even if the finesse loses, either East will not have a heart to lead (because West had five originally), or East will have a heart (because he started with four, which means that West had only four).

Of course, if West does not take the first spade, you can then turn your attention to the club suit to guarantee making nine tricks. Thus, whatever West does when you lead the first spade, the contract is assured by attacking spades first.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Cryptoquip

Y J A P A R A B L D O J S P A I  
J A P Z M P W A P F M O Z P S A B I  
T Y T B A W H D M O A A , F V L  
V B A U H A R L A I D O J T I L M T U  
L J A A U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THOSE CROWS FIRST FLEW INTO THE SPLENDID GRAND CANYON, THEY FOUND IT TRULY CAW-INSPIRING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals X

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Comics' stock-in-trade
  - 5 Unruly group
  - 8 Urban pall
  - 12 Atmosphere
  - 13 Piercing tool
  - 14 Glass sheet
  - 15 Thing
  - 16 Modern (Pref.)
  - 17 Machu Picchu native
  - 18 Villainous
  - 20 Guard
  - 22 Tackle moguls
  - 23 Pod occupant
  - 24 Pro-longed sleep
  - 27 Attacks vigorously
  - 32 Lawyers' org.
  - 33 "Little Women" author's monogram
- DOWN**
- 1 Profit
  - 2 Jam ingredient?
  - 3 Diver
  - 4 Indian Louganis
  - 5 Lower jawbone
  - 6 Have bills
  - 7 Huff and puff
  - 8 Ornamental shrub
  - 9 Chinese language
  - 10 Not again?
  - 11 Equipment
  - 19 Fine alert, for short
  - 21 Police
  - 24 Trash receptacle
  - 25 Japanese sash
  - 26 Comic strip magician
  - 28 Cockney dwelling
  - 29 Guitar's cousin
  - 30 Parch
  - 31 Gender
  - 36 Main dish
  - 37 Mai — language
  - 38 Artist's body of work
  - 41 2009 Pixar movie
  - 42 — Clinic
  - 43 Quite enthusiastic
  - 44 Almost black
  - 46 Tart
  - 47 "Desire Under the —"
  - 48 Calendar abbr.
  - 51 Whopper

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-11

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
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		