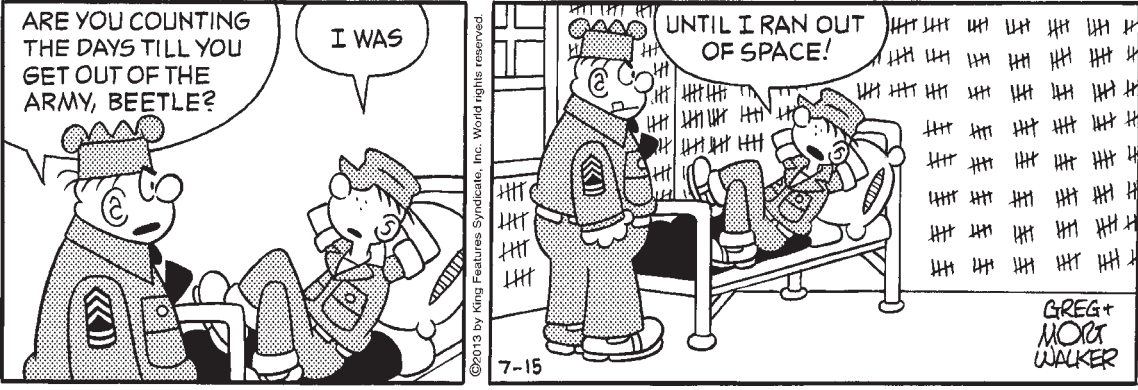


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



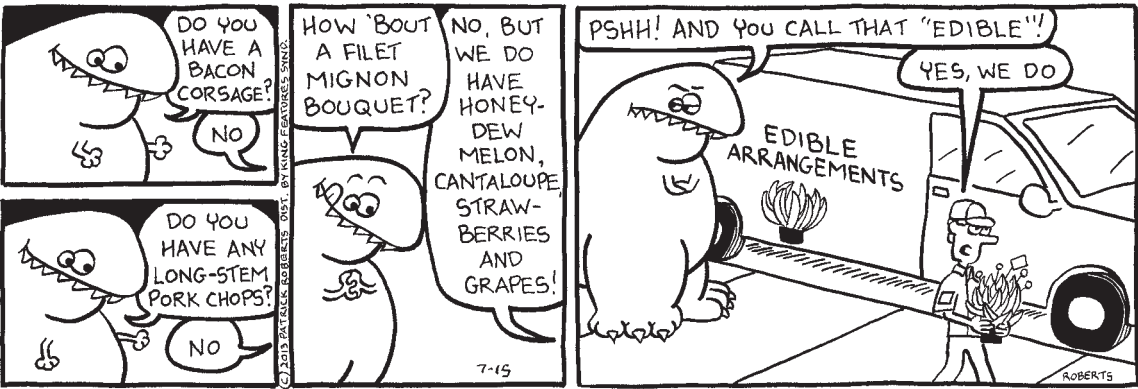
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



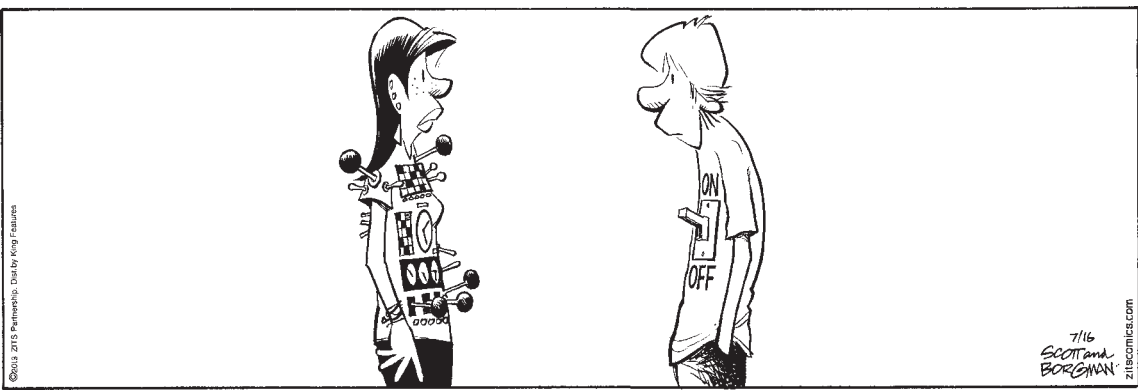
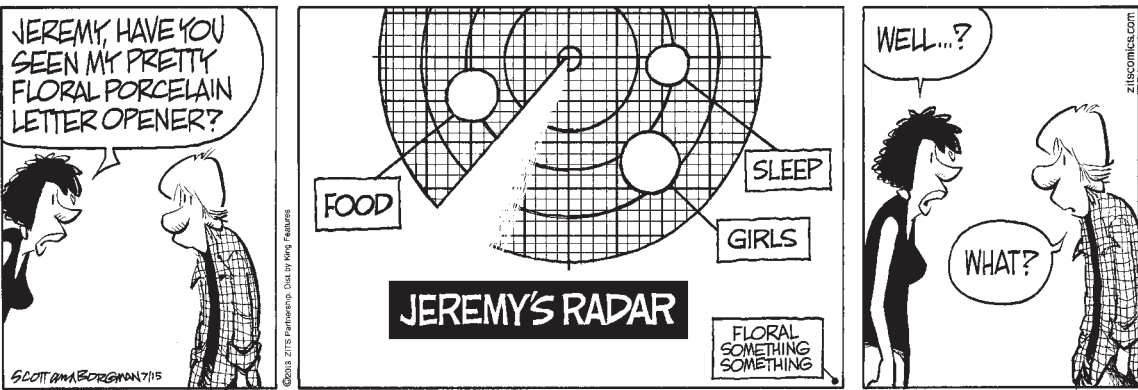
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel



• Antiques and Collecting

Commodes find new uses

A small table next to the bed is necessary today to hold a lamp, cellphone, clock and perhaps a book, eyeglasses and tissues.

But in past centuries the table might have held a candlestick with a handle to carry to the bedroom for light. It also had to store items that acted as the toilets of the day. The potty, a large round but squat bowl, served as the toilet seat. A large, tall bowl with a cover was used to hold waste until morning. Covered sections of the table held and hid everything, so the bedside "table" really was a commode.

But only the wealthy and royalty had such luxurious equipment. Most people had an outhouse near the back of the yard.

The flush toilet is older than most people think. Leonardo da Vinci designed a flush toilet, but it was never made and people thought the idea was as ridiculous as another one of his ideas, the airplane. The first flushing toilet was made by Sir John Harrington for the Queen of England in 1596. It was improved in 1775 by Alexander Cummings, and soon the "water closet" made of porcelain was installed in homes in a special room.

Although they're no longer needed, antique commodes still sell well and are used as bedside tables with storage for books. They can be found in many styles. The drawer-table combination is useful and copies ignore original use.

Q: I have a battery-operated toy called "McGregor." It's an old man wearing a plaid coat and tam, smoking a cigar and holding a cane. It's in the original box, which reads "Rosko Toys with Imagination." I would like to know how old it is and what it's worth.

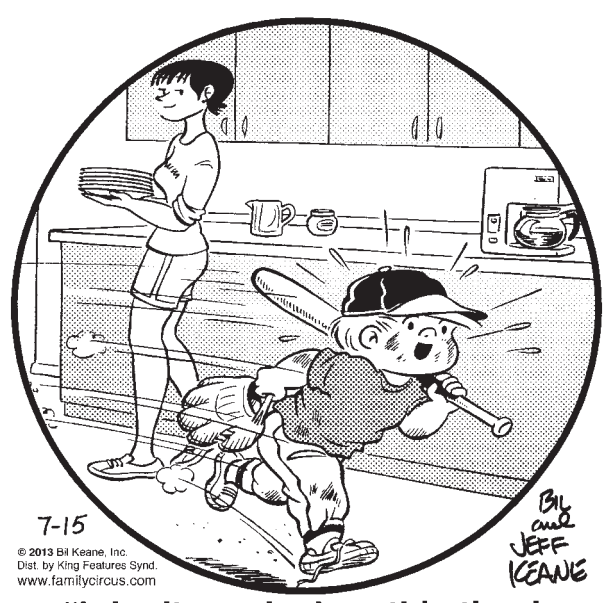
A: This is a well-known toy made in Japan by TN Nomura in the 1960s and imported by Rosko, an import company in Tokyo active in the 1950s and '60s. McGregor stands up, "smokes" his cigar, exhales smoke through his mouth, sits down, takes another puff, closes his eyes and exhales through his nose. The end of the cigar lights up when he puts the cigar in his mouth. Replicas are being made. The value of your toy is about \$150.

Tip: When moving a chest of drawers or a cabinet with doors a long distance, tape the drawers and doors shut with masking tape, or tie them shut with rope.



This George III mahogany piece is a commode, not a table. It was made in the 18th century to hold the necessary night-time "toilet" equipment behind tannour doors. It sold for \$950 at a New Orleans sale in October.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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"I don't need a hug this time! WE WON!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 7/15

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Q T S W U Z N X K J I C H Q C L I J V

J P Q J J V G L F Q U U V Z Q Y I K Z I Q U K

N W J N S Q Z W K I Z I X J K P N T

T N C Y I C K : Q F Q C X L I - H N C I .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SMALL, REMOTE WILDERNESS SHOPS WHERE PEOPLE WENT TO ENGAGE IN ANGRY RANTS: TIRADING POSTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13			14
15						16			17
18				19			20		21
				22			23		24
28	29	30				31			32
33						34			35
37						38			39
41						42			43
						44			45
50	51	52				53			54
56						57			58
59						60			61

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Last-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 9
 ♥ A K Q 4
 ♦ A 10 8 5
 ♣ A J 2

WEST
 ♠ 8 6 3
 ♥ 9 7 6 3
 ♦ K J 3 2
 ♣ 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 7 2
 ♥ 10 8 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K Q 10 9 7 6

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 10 5 4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q 9 7 4
 ♣ 8 5 4

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 3 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 Pass Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Opening lead — three of clubs.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the 1990 World Open Pairs, held in Geneva. The hero of the deal was Ralph Katz, who, partnered by Peter Nagy, finished second in the event.

Katz held the West hand and sat quietly as his opponents reached six diamonds on the auction shown. South's two-spade opening was weak and promised no more than a good five-card suit. North then employed a series of relay bids by which he learned that South had a minimum with precisely 5-1-4-3 distribution.

Katz led his singleton club, and declarer rose with the ace and played the A-K-Q of hearts, discarding his two remaining clubs. South then started on the right track to making the slam by leading a low diamond to the seven. After the seven lost to the jack, declarer could ruff a heart in his hand, pick up West's king of diamonds via two finesses and then collect five spade tricks by cashing the ace and taking a finesse against East's queen. South would lose only one trump trick on this line of play and would make the slam for a score of 920 points.

But a funny thing happened on the way to 12 tricks. When declarer led a diamond to the seven at trick five, Katz won the trick with the king! He then returned a spade, allowing declarer to pick up East's queen and establish the spade suit.

Understandably, South now thought he was home free. With the jack of diamonds "marked" on his right, he led a diamond to the ace, planning to finesse against East's jack next (if necessary) and so score the rest of the tricks. But when East showed out on the second diamond, declarer realized he had been had, and he immediately offered his congratulations to Katz for his brilliant deceptive play.