

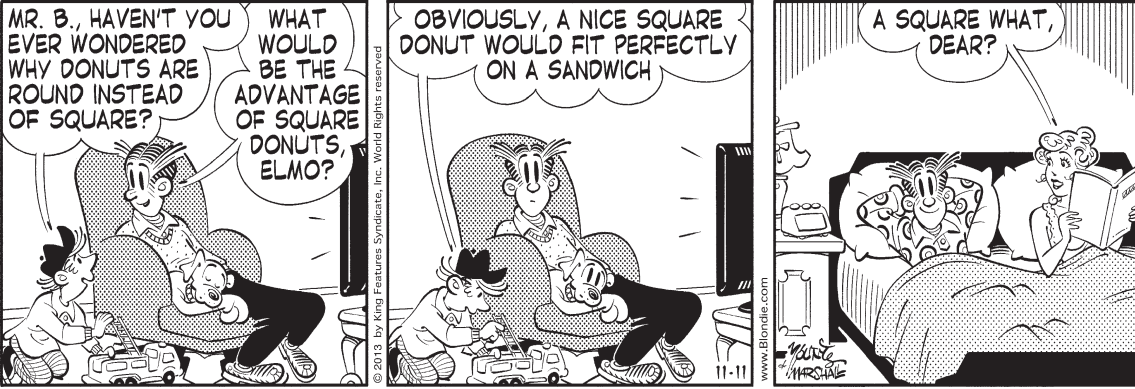
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



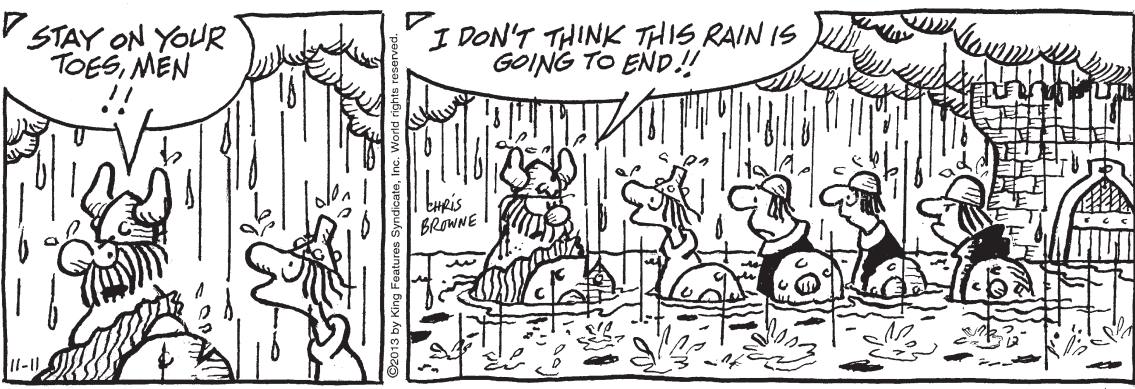
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



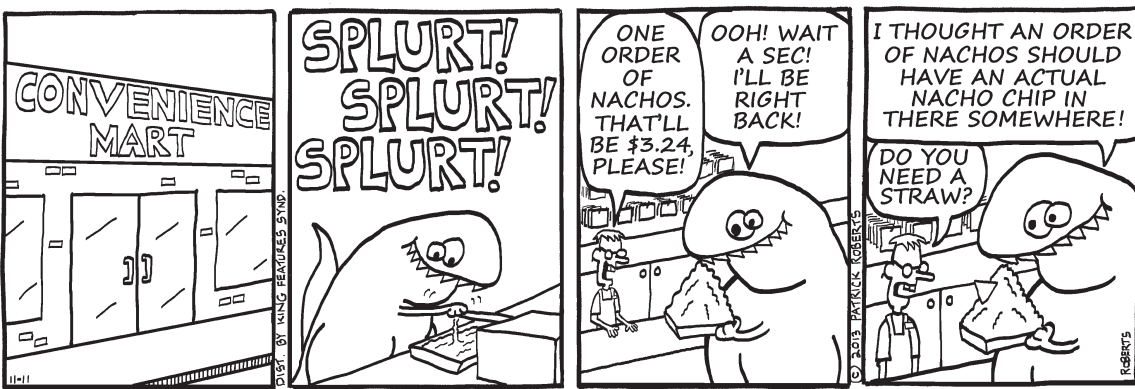
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Aquariums reflect times

Keeping fish in an aquarium is said to be one of the top hobbies in the U.S. Some enthusiasts search for antique-looking aquariums that fit with room styles from the past.

It was not a hobby for an average household until the 1830s, when the Wardian case was created as a simple container for live fish. By the opening of the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851 in London, aquariums were wonders suitable for a home, and two years later the London Zoo built a large aquarium for the public.

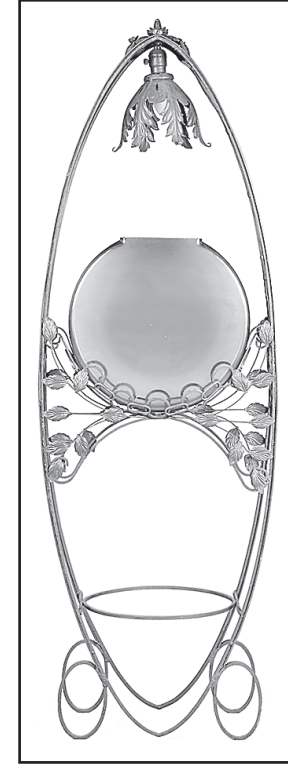
The United States had enough people interested in raising fish indoors to form an "aquarist society" by 1843, and fish became a full-blown fad by the 1860s. That meant there were things to collect — an aquarium and equipment — like pumps and filters, rocks, small figures and scenery for the fish tank. Decorators planned rooms with planters and aquariums in the prevailing styles of the time.

Old tanks made of wrought iron and glass, tanks bordered by heavy Mission-style oak planks, glass bowls held in wicker stands, and Art Deco designs using plastic instead of glass are sometimes found at antiques sales. And the small glass fishbowl for guppies or goldfish so popular in the 1950s still is available.

Recently, a Deco aquarium made of wrought iron vines and leaves, and a clear, slightly green glass bowl was sold for \$805. It had a light at the top and a holder for a large potted plant at the bottom. It's probably the focal point of a room today.

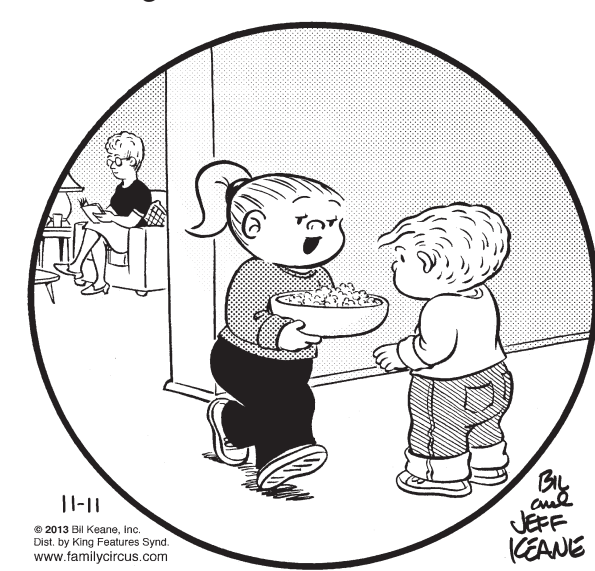
Tip: Keep silver, sterling or plated, out of humid storage areas. The ideal humidity for silver is 40 to 45 percent. You can keep small pieces in a glassed-in cupboard with anti-tarnish paper or camphor balls (moth balls). Big pieces can be kept in tarnish-preventing bags found at department and jewelry stores or online.

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An Art Deco aquarium caused excitement at a Cottone auction in Geneseo, N.Y., in October. The 5-foot-high metal and glass lamp and fish bowl sold for \$805.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Good news! Grandma decided this WAS too much popcorn for just her to eat."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/11

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.

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

Cryptoquip

CMAUJM OXXB OZ K NHIJUEL
OKOZ BKEKLCXX FQX FKD
SX OMAXIM K DHJMC AQMP:
"SQM NXMZ XP AXXBUEL."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TAXI DRIVER WHO WEARS A CLOTH CAP WHILE EXPERTLY SERENADING EVERY RIDER: A CAB BERET SINGER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Mop the deck
- Brit. flying force
- Pack (down)
- Jason's ship
- Id counter-part
- Jannings of old movies
- Clarinet insert
- Friendly
- Behind with payments
- Permeated
- Fellows
- Crony
- Mis-labeled
- Donated
- Wise bird
- Sire
- Pinch
- Begin
- Plato's teacher
- Namely (Abbr.)

DOWN

- Ganges garment
- Small songbird
- On in years
- Urban program
- Some Pacific salmon
- Emanation
- Bargain measures
- Type
- Deposited
- Deuce topper
- Sandra or Ruby
- Begged
- Little demon
- Tulip, at first
- Some lilies
- Scale member
- Have bills
- Collar-bone
- Changes a coiffure
- Inferior status
- Central points
- Pekoe packet
- Able to walk about
- Marathon fraction
- Begged
- Decorated Easter eggs
- Waikiki wingding
- Burnett of CNN
- Piquancy
- Away from WSW

Saturday's answer 11-11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
18				19				20				
				21				22				
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				
52								53				54
55								56				57

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦K J 5
♥7 3 2
♠K J 5 2
♣Q J

EAST
♠A 6
♥AK Q 10 6
♦A 8 3
♣9 4 3

SOUTH
♦Q 10 8 3 2
♥9
♠Q 6
♣AK 10 8 5

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1♦ 1♥
1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass 1NT
Dble 2♥ 2♠ Pass
3♣ Pass 3♦ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — eight of hearts.

Famous Hand

At the highest levels, winning at bridge is determined less by system or card play than it is by accurate judgment in the bidding. Sound players who consistently display fine bidding judgment are almost certain to wind up on top of the heap.

Today's deal, which occurred in the 1993 Spingold Knockout Teams, is exceptional in that it featured a surprising lack of judgment on the part of just about everyone concerned with it.

At one table, the bidding went as shown. After South initially passed with a hand that most players would open, North decided to pass his partner's one-spade response. North-South were thus about to miss a cold game when East unwittingly came to the rescue by reopening the bidding. Given another chance, North-South quickly zipped into four spades and shortly thereafter entered plus 620 on their scorecards.

One can sympathize with poor East for refusing to sell out to one spade, but the fact remains that his misjudgment cost his side dearly and spared North-South a similar embarrassment.

But that was not all. At the other table, the bidding went:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Redble	All Pass

Here South did open the bidding and later bid his spades twice to identify a five-card suit. This should have led to the routine four-spade contract, but North opted to play in notrump despite his tenuous heart holding and lack of controls.

East then miscalculated by doubling three notrump, which gave North a chance to reconsider. Incredibly, North not only refused to budge, but redoubled! This contract went down two — 1,000 points — after East led the A-K-Q and another heart, giving his team a total gain of 1,620 points on the deal!

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