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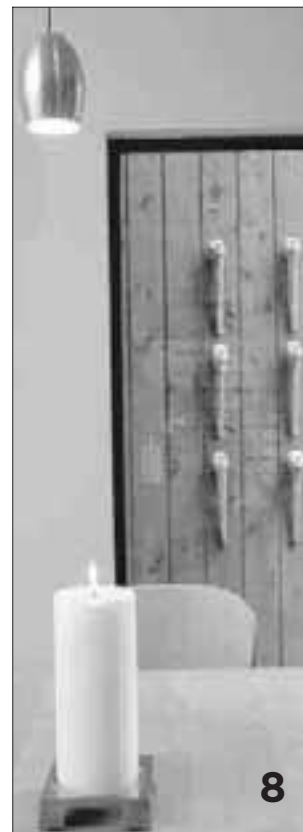
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Out of the rattan rut
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ON THE COVER: The airy living room of Kelly and Karen James' remodeled contemporary home in East Dallas went from retro to right now. A dramatic metal staircase leading to the master bedroom loft was designed by Kelly James and built by Design Fabrications in Forney. A low-slung sofa from Smink and chairs from Design Within Reach cozy up to a clean-lined coffee table from IKEA. Underfoot, limestone floors are warmed up with a hip, geometric rug. Adorning the walls are replicas painted by Karen James under her artist name, "Francesca."
Photo by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

TIME ALREADY? Cash registers ka-chinging. School bells ringing. The temp may say summer, but the calendar says school. To help you get in the mind-set for school zones and homework, starting Sunday the living sections will help you transition from summer break. Look for these stories:
Sunday: Remembering the first day back
Monday: Keeping perspective on activities
Tuesday: The new gym teachers
Wednesday: A better breakfast
Thursday: The high cost of senior year, plus cool lunchboxes
Friday: Great dorm rooms, plus study spaces at home
Saturday: A \$300 spending spree
For more back-to-school content, watch *Good Morning Texas* on WFAA-TV (Channel 8) at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday.
Connie Dufner, Home Editor

DigitalEXTRA
📖 **Online resource:** Log on beginning Sunday and return throughout the week for a collection of stories, links and suggestions designed to help you and your kids transition from summer to school.
DallasNews.com/Back2School

Home
© 2006 The Dallas Morning News
DallasNews.com
Features Editor: Thomas Huang
Home Editor: Connie Dufner
CONTACT US
Phone: 214-977-8834
Fax: 214-977-8321
E-mail: home@dallasnews.com
Mail: P.O. Box 655237
Dallas, TX 75265
Advertising: 214-977-8000

At Pier 1, the tide is turning

We all know to hit Pier 1 for a rattan loveseat, wooden stool or Asian accents. But mod chairs and shag rugs?

Yes, the Fort Worth-based retailer's new line, Loft 21, is a home furnishings and accessories collection that gives the chain's signature global style a contemporary spin.

Many of the pieces channel classics such as a new black rattan Orbit chair that was inspired by a 1950s "Swan" style. Other newcomers include low-slung sofas, modular shelves, graphic cutout wood screens and pillows, all at the store's affordable prices.

According to company officials, the motivation behind the ethnic-to-edgy aesthetic shift is to cater to urban sophisticates searching for simpler looks.

A team of nearly 20 designers devoted more than a year to creating the look of this cohesive collection. Prices start at \$60 for accessories and range in the \$300-\$500 range for furniture.

"It's definitely more design-oriented than anything we've ever done before," says Daryle Gibbs, Pier 1's director of trend and product development. "We took a lot of our inspiration from hotel lobbies and lounges; we wanted to convey a youthful, urban vibe."

Influences include midcentury modern furniture and graphic wallpaper from the 1930s. The 90-item grouping was conceived with "a harmony to it," says Mr. Gibbs. "Everything works together, or you can invest in a few statement pieces."

Brittany Edwards and Lisa Martin



Pier 1

Pier 1 gives a retro redo to some of its signature global styles.

Pressing needs in Dallas

In well-maintained Dallas, nearly nine out of 10 of us iron our jeans. And nearly two out of three iron our T-shirts.

These and other tidbits about our lives in the laundry room were revealed by the Rowenta Ironing Personality Survey, conducted by telephone to 3,000 people in 15 cities across the nation. Dallas had the highest number of people who ironed jeans, 85.9 percent, and T-shirts, 64.8 percent. A third of us, 33.7 percent, iron our sheets, and 37.7 percent iron pillowcases. These preferences make us an "ironing aficionado" city, and Rowenta, match, has just the iron for us, the Rowenta Professional Iron (Model DX8800, pictured below), \$125, available at major stores.

You couldn't get through your day without knowing, however, that Cleveland scored the highest in four categories of ironables: towels, gym clothes, boxer shorts and socks.

Socks?

For more information or to take the survey yourself, see rowenta.com.

Connie Dufner



A 15-city survey by iron maker Rowenta finds that Dallas has the highest number of people who iron their jeans.

Picture-perfect leather pillows



NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

It's a marriage of Old-World materials and modern-day technology. A year ago, Eric Williams, a Northern California entrepreneur, perfected a way to put images onto leather. Soon LeatherPillowFactory.com was born; the company has grown into a significant Internet resource for leather pillows.

Customers longing for a completely custom creation can simply send images via e-mail or snail mail. Mr. Williams and his crew then run the images through their computers and apply them to the leather. The results are surprisingly effective. And quick.

Currently, the turnaround time is about seven days for a custom pillow. Prices start at \$60, depending on the size.

For those less interested in creating their own masterpiece, LeatherPillowFactory.com offers standard choices. You can choose plain leather pillows or choose from an array of designs including vintage bird illustrations and old book covers. Prices range from \$50 to \$400.

For more information, visit leatherpillowfactory.com or call toll-free 1-877-723-7253.

Lisa Martin

This story has a long-lasting morel



The artist shops gourmet grocers for bluefoot, morel, shiitake and portobello species (right); prices per stem are \$6 to \$45 at North Star Antiques in the industrial district. Planters (above) cast from vintage faux bois are ideal for succulents.



Richard Taylor casts mushrooms and other natural objects as permanent decorative accessories for the garden or indoor tablescapes.



Photos by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

On a vacation in northern New Mexico one summer, while walking through a cool, damp forest, I came upon brilliantly colored mushrooms — pink, coral, orange and the size of a saucer. Captivated, I wanted to take one home as a souvenir of the pine-washed air, the crystalline streams and the chilly temperature.

I uprooted a couple from the tender leaf mold and placed them on paper towels back in our room, wondering if, like flowers and leaves, the mushrooms could be dried or preserved in some way to keep the memory alive. The next morning, the paper towels were crawling with maggots. My scalp itches at the recollection.

Richard Taylor has a better idea. He casts molds of mushrooms, toadstools, tree fungi, sea creatures and other natural objects to create permanent decorative accessories from a plasterlike concoction. Although they do not sport the living colors, the reproductions bear all the other superficial physical characteristics.

Mr. Taylor, a Scotsman living in Georgia, casts these objects by the dozens to keep pace with demand. Celebrities including Martha Stewart and the actress Mary Steenburgen, who owns the Santa Monica shop Porch, are customers.

Even regular people happen upon his tent at perennial antiques events at Warrenton, Texas (part of the Round Top shows), and Brimfield, Mass. A former member of the Royal Air Force, Mr. Taylor is crotchety and abrupt — unless and until a customer is hyperventilating with desire for his merchandise. Then he's talkative and friendly. Sweet, even.

"I always wanted to be an artist," says Mr. Taylor, who will share neither his "fast-setting" formula nor his Web site (and he's made sure you can't Google him, he says). "I've never been driven for any amount of money. Martha Stewart's people had the Bernhardts people talk about doing this bench. I'm not interested. I stay

GARDENING FOOL



MARIANA GREENE

sane and happy. I want business, but I want it on my terms."

During Round Top Antiques Week in spring and fall (Sept. 30-Oct. 7), he sets up headquarters in a tent along State Highway 237 near Warrenton. He sleeps on a cot, cranks up his cappuccino machine, chills his beer and keeps his grocery list updated on a blackboard: Beer, Beer, Beer, Beer, Food.

With the trend for natural history as decorative object remaining strong, customers of the Mushroom Man (as he is known among fellow vendors) use his inventory to accent floral designs, garden containers and flower beds and for tabletop accents and centerpieces. The most imaginative incorporate them into still lifes that follow through on the woodland theme and include mosses, seedpods, lichens, tiny ferns, feathers, eggshells or acorns.

Although Martha Stewart is known to shudder at anything new, the Mushroom Man's fungi look realistic enough to suit her tender sensibilities. He casts molds from shelflike tree fungus he rips off trunks, but he also shops gourmet grocers for bluefoot, morel, shiitake and portobello species. He has yet to master reproductions, he says, of French horn and oyster mushrooms.

"I just want people to go, 'That's concrete?!'"

Although he was in negotiations with the national chain Anthropologie last April, the only local store I know of that has his mushrooms and faux bois planters in stock is North Star Antiques, 1500 Market Center Blvd., 214-749-7003.

E-mail magreene@dallasnews.com



Photos by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

SLICE OF TEXAS HEAVEN: Botanicals from the Lone Star State star in these soaps from A Wild Soap Bar, available at Alchemy Salon in Dallas. \$6.95 each. Shown: prickly pear, wildflower, bluebonnet and sunflower.

WATCHING OVER US: “Butterfly Faerie Soap” from Queenz of California, attractively packaged and earnestly described in the “holy bath” line by the company, is available at Tiecoon in Dallas, along with Our Lady of Guadalupe and Buddha in the Bathroom, \$25 each.



BIRDS OF A LATHER: One of the doves in “A Perched Pair” by Gianna Rose is displayed in a decorative nest. \$22 for pair, Stanley Korshak.

Bars of gold

Make stylish soaps your bath’s not-so-hidden asset

By **HANNE K. KLEIN**
Special Contributor

You want to add some oomph to a guest bathroom. You’re used to being practical, but tempted to indulge this time. The solution? Think soap.

A number of Dallas area boutiques, along with some Web sites, feature handmade soaps that add as much to the look of your bathroom as they do to the feel of your skin. And if you believe that decor should reflect your interests or personality, a piece (forget bar) of soap can do that, too.

Do you want a spiritual aura in your bath? Invoke bathroom blessings with soap icons.

Are you a serious lover of animals? Let guests lather up with everything from Scotties to hens to the black and

white sheep that allude to family secrets.

And if you want your guests to understand how passionate a Texas

See Page 6



A TEXAS SALUTE: Flag-shaped soap, \$4 each, from sweetergifts.com hitches up with Gianna Rose horseshoe, \$11, Peacock Alley.

Continued from Page 5

booster you are, you have choices there, too. Be blatant with a bar that flaunts the Texas flag. Or be subtle with soaps that show off Texas botanicals.

You also might choose just simple elegance. Try a bowl of soap-covered silk petals. Or mark an occasion with a visual cake feast too gorgeous for mere washing — in fact, you may want to make it part of a centerpiece (with a cautionary “do not eat” sign attached).

A number of these artisans work right here in Texas. The Texas Soapmakers Association lists more than 100 members ranging from hobbyists to full-time professionals.

Whichever way you go, find your (soap) muse, and plan on surprising those who use your guest bath with some good, clean fun.

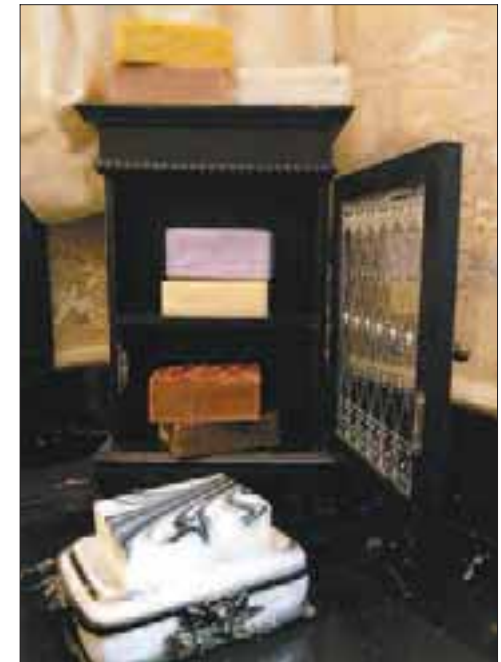
Hanne K. Klein is a Dallas freelance writer.

CHOOSE YOUR PERSONALITY:

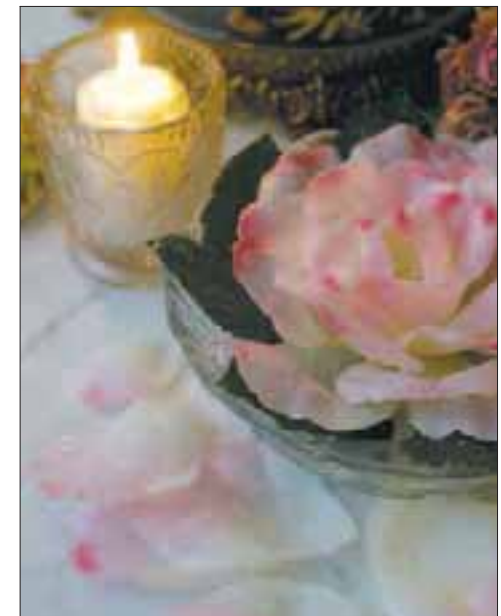
“Black Sheep White Sheep” French milled soap by Gianna Rose Atelier, \$22. Polly DuPont and Stanley Korshak. Other retailers: see giannarose.com.



THEY TAKE THE CAKE: Yes, these are soaps. The Bundt-shaped megabars look good enough to eat, but only sniffing and touching are allowed. Paula Pearson, owner of Canyon Creek Soap Co., suggests putting them in the bathroom with a slicer. “As guests come to stay for the weekend, they can slice off a hunk of cake and use it as their soap to shower.” \$40 to \$45, ellacrissoaps.com.



LOCAL INFLUENCE: Handmade soaps from Canyon Creek Soapmaker in Canyon, Texas, use natural oils and fragrances. In foreground, mica glistens in vetiver soap. \$6 each, www.canyoncreeksoapcompany.com.



PICK A PETAL: Twenty glycerine-dipped silk petals come packaged in a glass bowl, \$10, or bag, \$5, at Barbara Fowler of Irving’s Sweetter Gifts Web site, www.sweetergifts.com.

Photos by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

Don't assume the ants are villains

QUESTION: We are new to taking care of trees and yards. Our oak trees are dying, and we're guessing the problem is ants. I read on your Web site that pests attack because a tree is unhealthy.

Is there something we can do quickly to save the trees while we get started on an organic program?

G.C., Eastland

ANSWER: You are correct: Some insects attack trees that are in stress. Ants, however, aren't in that category. Fire ants will eat some food crops, and Texas leaf cutter ants will take leaves to make compost. But other ants are mostly beneficial.

Use my Sick Tree Treatment to help the trees and other plants on your property. (See Resources to obtain instructions.)

QUESTION: After spending more than \$4,000 trying to make our Reveille grass grow, we have given up and are taking it out. We've decided to grow a little St. Augustine and plant the rest of the yard with decorative grass and shrubs. We have two trees, a crape myrtle and an oak.

We want to add earthworms and hydrogen peroxide to loosen the soil. We plan to use a vinegar spray to kill all the weed grass that may be coming up after we took out the sod. How close to the base of the trees can we come with the spray?

R.T., Dallas

ANSWER: It's too bad the Rev-

ORGANIC ANSWERS



HOWARD GARRETT

eille hybrid bluegrass didn't work. The weather is probably too hot.

A hydrogen peroxide spray will help the soil, but something such as Medina Soil Activator would do more good. If you use hydrogen peroxide, add it to compost tea or Garrett Juice for best results. (See Resources to obtain instructions.)

A vinegar herbicide can be sprayed right up to the trunks of the trees. That's one reason we like it.

And if you improve the soil with organic amendments, earthworms eventually will come.

QUESTION: Our yard is infested with gnats. It is difficult to be outside without a cloud of bugs hanging over you, especially at dusk. They also come into the house if windows are open after dark. Is there any way to control them?

S.S., Bailey, N.C.

ANSWER: Gnats are not harmful, just a nuisance. Spray them with garlic-pepper tea or a plant-oil product called Bioganics, if necessary.

RESOURCES

ONLINE:
www.dirtdoctor.com/
home.php for free organic-program handouts

RADIO: KSKY-AM (660),
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Sugar lips



Erykah Badu, Jill Scott and Queen Latifah have joined forces to create The Sugar Water Festival. Read how their message delivers positive, self-assured lyrics with organic soul and street-savvy hip-hop. Today in Guide.

Today in Guide

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OFFERINGS

Concrete edging, including eight straight pieces and eight corners. Heavy. Take all. You haul. Kathleen, Plano, 972-423-4355.

6-inch terra-cotta quarry tile. 400 square feet. You haul. Sheila, Dallas, 214-320-2762.

Sigrid Mureen

For better, worse, or remodeling

Kelly and Karen James took on the ultimate marital challenge: a live-in whole-house renovation

By CHRISTOPHER WYNN
Staff Writer

There are defining moments in any home renovation when you question your decision to remodel.

For East Dallas homeowners Kelly and Karen James, it was when the window contractor went missing and left them with a floor-to-ceiling hole in their upstairs bedroom. In the middle of December.

“We piled on the blankets, but in the mornings, you didn’t even want to stick a toe out from underneath the covers,” says Kelly.

As luck would have it, the couple was also waiting on a glass partition for the loft-style room’s balcony to arrive. The space juts out 9 feet above the living room below.

“You could literally walk right off the edge,” says Karen.

The Jameses, however, are the first to admit: Great reward requires great risk, especially when renovating a home while living in it. The couple purchased their then-dreary 1970s contemporary home near White Rock Lake six years ago amid protests from friends and family.

“It was pretty much a tear-down, and everyone thought we were crazy,” says Kelly, a Dallas landscape architect. “The bones were good, though, and we liked the size and openness of the rooms. So we pushed up our sleeves and

went to work.”

Sitting in the home today with the couple, it’s hard to envision its time-warped *Brady Bunch* design beginnings. Glass and light now abound in this thoroughly modern space. In the living room, limestone floors (solid, not veneers) have replaced dated shag carpeting. A custom-designed metal staircase with maple hardwood steps leads up to the master bedroom loft, which also doubles as a painting studio for Karen, a PR exec and emerging artist. Her paintings adorn many of the walls here, giving the home a gallerylike feel.

Each window-filled room in the house is oriented around a central courtyard, which Kelly has groomed to serve as its own form of art. Mature trees shade an inviting deck that seems to float amid lush plantings. An outdoor spa



Light and glass abound in Kelly and Karen James’ remodeled ’70s contemporary artist Mark Saxe. To the left in the main entryway, a dated-looking built-in gla

and cascading wall of water designed by Kelly is a cooling family retreat on a hot day.

The transformation here is impressive, even more so when you consider that the Jameses did nearly all the work themselves, with help from their family of four children (mostly grown). “It’s taken a long time, but whatever we do, we try and do well,” says Kelly.

Lifelong learning curve

That same philosophy has served both Kelly and Karen their entire lives.

Karen, a British native who grew up in Dallas, is a former television news crime reporter. “I hung out with FBI agents and detectives a lot,” she says. After a while, though, covering crime and the unforgiving hours took their toll. “I felt like I just needed to see a better side of

life,” says Karen, who eventually moved communications and public relations.

Once she got back on the social circuit, friend set her up with Kelly in 1997.

Kelly had grown up in Lake Highlands and put himself through school at Texas Tech. started out studying agronomy — or “dirt,” as he likes to say — before shifting to landscape architecture.

“I just fell in love with it,” says Kelly. “It was a combination of art, architecture and the doors all sort of wrapped up in one.”

See Page 16

The home’s central courtyard designed around two existing mature trees and is a serene, inviting space for outdoor entertain

HOROSCOPE

By LINDA C. BLACK
Tribune Media Services

Your day ... on a scale of 1 to 10.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY: Save up as much as you can this year and pay off all your bills. If it's freedom you're after, this is a very powerful plan of attack.

7 LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Count your change just to make sure there haven't been miscalculations. This goes for anything else you're doing now that concerns your finances.

7 VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's going to be harder than usual to restrain your natural impulses. Put in the effort and do it, though. Otherwise, you might break something.

6 LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Give yourself extra time to finish the task you've been assigned. The odds are very good that anything that can go wrong will. Take necessary precautions and be patient.

7 SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't discuss financial matters with your team, yet. There's not enough to go around. Do more planning, so you'll have a few ideas to suggest.

6 SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Authority figures want to know just what you've been doing. This is not a good time to come up with a witty response. Be respectful and accurate.

7 CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Travel is still not well favored. Don't even go if you can put it off. Home with family is the best location for you now.

7 AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'd love to go along with friends on an expensive proposition. If you do, the odds are good you'll hate yourself in the morning.

7 PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): All of a sudden you realize you can't get there from here. You'll have to view the situation from another perspective.

7 ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your assignment is to be as accurate as possible. Accuracy is a function of intention as well as of practice. You should have already practiced.

7 TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's not a good time to gamble. There are too many variables. The most important thing to remember is not to bust your budget.

7 GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Pay attention to the little stuff, especially sharp objects. The "caution" flag should be up, because odds of breakage are high. Take care.

7 CANCER (June 22-July 22): Take deep breaths. Don't let anybody hurry you. Follow the directions, but don't get stuck in them. And be forewarned — everything you try doesn't work.

BIZARRO

By Dan Piraro



DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



IN THE BLEACHERS

By Steve Moore



LUANN

By Greg Evans



CRANKSHAFT

By Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston



PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



ONE BIG HAPPY

By Rick Detorie



ZITS

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



PICKLES

By Brian Crane



DILBERT

By Scott Adams



GET FUZZY

By Darby Conley



FUNKY WINKERBEAN

By Tom Batiuk



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CANDLES

Solution: 7 letters

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

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Yesterday's Answer: Complete
 SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate, include \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4620 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

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A ₁	O ₁	S ₁	C ₃	P ₃	M ₃	S ₁	Blank	RACK 1
Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank
A ₁	O ₁	G ₂	B ₃	L ₁	K ₅	C ₃	Blank	Double Word Score RACK 2
Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank
O ₁	O ₁	U ₁	B ₃	L ₁	M ₃	C ₃	Blank	1st Letter Triple RACK 3
Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank
A ₁	I ₁	P ₃	S ₁	G ₂	H ₄	M ₃	Blank	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
 BEST SCORE 227
 FOUR RACK TOTAL _____
 TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 3rd Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**
 For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033.
 07-28

YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE SOLUTION

Q ₁₀	U ₁	A ₁	N ₁	T ₁	U ₁	M ₃	RACK 1 =	104
A ₁	F ₄	F ₄	I ₁	R ₁	M ₃	Blank	RACK 2 =	14
J ₈	U ₁	G ₂	U ₁	L ₁	A ₁	R ₁	RACK 3 =	66
P ₃	L ₁	Y ₄	W ₄	O ₁	O ₁	D ₂	RACK 4 =	66
PAR SCORE 155-165							TOTAL	250

Focus on daughter is unsuitorable

Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby: I am a 26-year-old single mom with a 5-year-old daughter. I have been seeing "Rhett," a wonderful, sweet man, for more than a year. I have fallen very much in love with him and he with me — I think.

Ever since Rhett met my daughter, all the fun, romantic, serious stuff we used to talk about has flown out the window. Anytime I try to talk sexy or serious about our relationship, he acts uncomfortable and changes the subject to my daughter and how she's doing in school, what her interests are, how she's feeling, etc.

I am thrilled that Rhett loves my daughter. But it's like the romance has turned into a relationship that's centered exclusively on my daughter. Help!

Not Selfish in Georgia

Dear Not Selfish: As it stands, your romance is dead in the water. He may have hang-ups about being romantically involved with a woman who has given birth — or his preoccupation with your daughter could be sexual.

P.S. If your daughter has not already been made aware of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching, she is old enough now.

Dear Abby: I am 86 years old. My husband died six months ago, after 60 wonderful years of marriage.

As I have been mourning and re-living our life together, my 50-year-old daughter — my only child — has



JEANNE PHILLIPS

informed me that when she was a teenager her father molested her often and raped her one week before her marriage.

Why did she have to tell me now? She says it is because she could no longer stand me talking about how "wonderful" he was. Now my heart is broken, and all I want to do is die.

Wouldn't it have been better to have left me with my illusion than ruin what life I have left?

Heartbroken in Denver

Dear Heartbroken: Better for whom? Your daughter has already tried to answer your question. After all those years of keeping quiet, what broke the camel's back was listening to you idealize your husband. What I don't understand is why your daughter kept silent so long.

Please don't think I'm heartless, but you and your daughter will both be better off if you try to see your husband as less of a saint and more of a fallible human being, and forgive each other.

Write to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

E-mail via DearAbby.com

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Universal Press

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

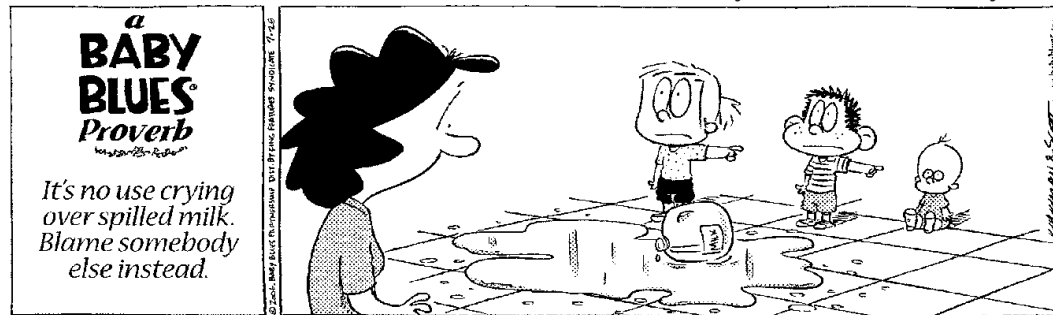
			8			2	7	
				3		8		
	8	7				3		6
	5			6				1
1		6				8		3
2			1				5	
5		2				7	9	
	1		5					
8	4			7				

7/28

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

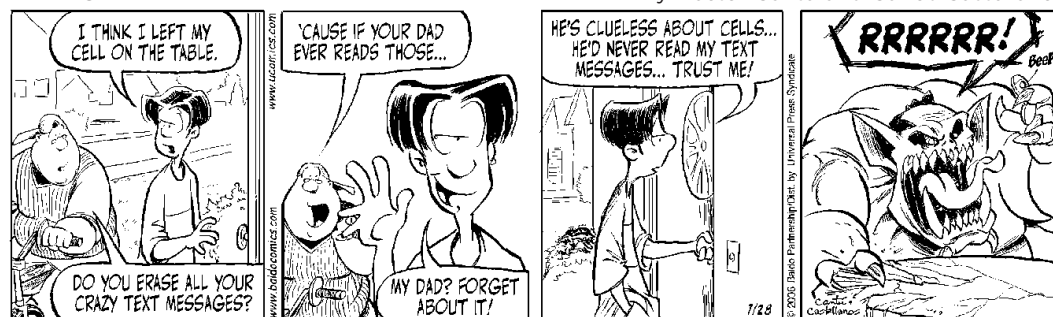
BABY BLUES

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



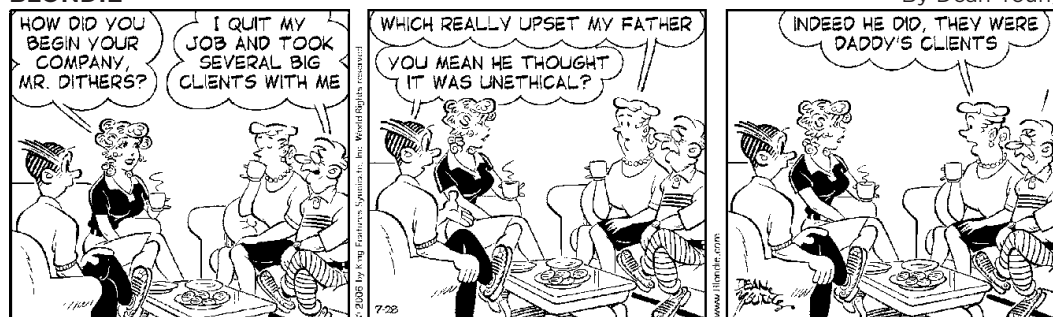
BALDO

By Hector Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



BLONDIE

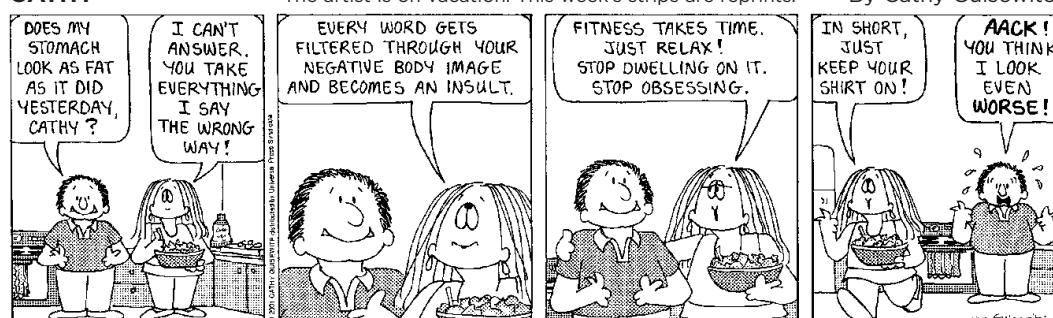
By Dean Young



CATHY

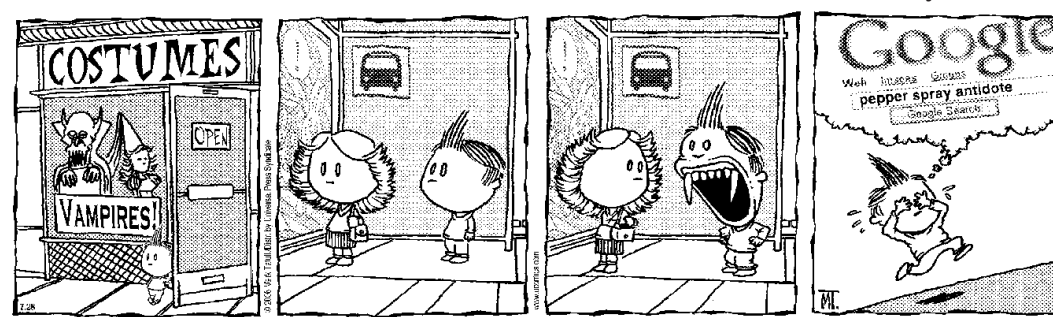
The artist is on vacation. This week's strips are reprints.

By Cathy Guisewite



LIO

By Mark Tatulli



NEW IN THE FUNNIES

Lio (above) is one of four new strips replacing The Boondocks during artist Aaron McGruder's six-month sabbatical. We'll ask readers to choose a favorite in late summer.

See more Lio, Over The Hedge, Brevity and The Boondocks, plus an interview with the creator of Lio, at DallasNews.com/comics.



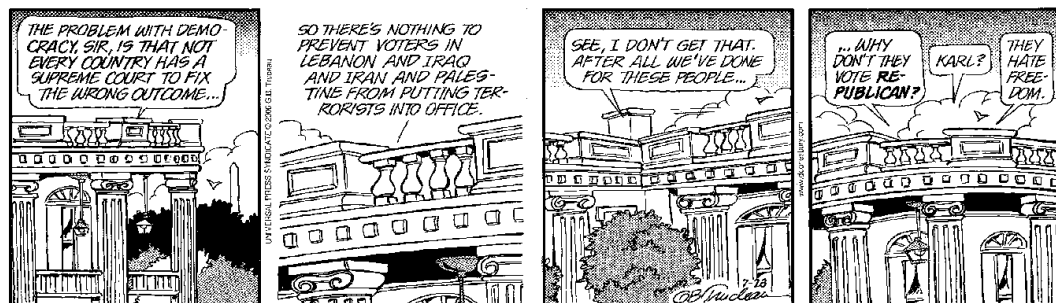
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau



DRABBLE

By Kevin Fagan



FOX TROT

By Bill Amend



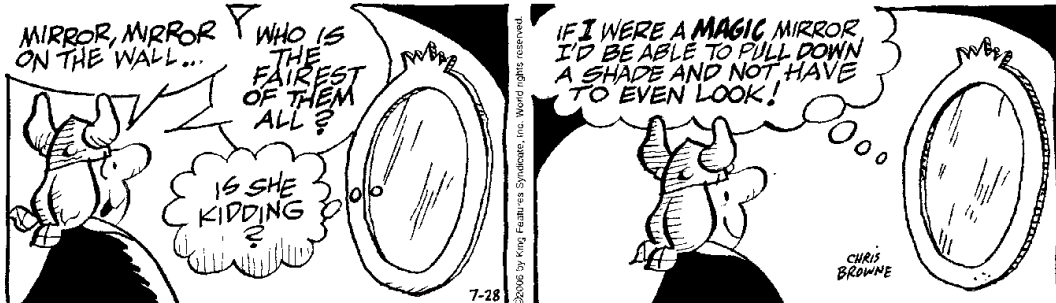
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



HAGAR

By Chris Browne



DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lacking freshness
 - 6 Swine meat
 - 10 Yorkshire fellow
 - 14 Day in September
 - 15 Presently
 - 16 Jimi Hendrix's "Purple "
 - 17 Sphere of action
 - 18 Flat charge
 - 19 Touch on
 - 20 Polaris
 - 22 Whole
 - 24 Old sailor
 - 26 Aquatic mammal
 - 27 Nobel Institute city
 - 30 Hotel hopper?
 - 32 Home of the Dolphins
 - 34 Manor owner
 - 35 WWW address
 - 38 Arms storehouse
 - 41 Claptrap
 - 43 Take-home total
 - 44 Worm, perhaps
 - 46 Quilt filler
 - 47 Taiwan, once
 - 50 Ore deposit
 - 51 Smithy, at times
- DOWN**
- 54 Billy the Kid, for one
 - 56 Despot
 - 58 Make-believe
 - 62 Southern Johnnies
 - 63 R&D product
 - 65 Poet T.S. _
 - 66 Part of BTU
 - 67 Coral colony
 - 68 Extreme
 - 69 Flat, tangled masses
 - 70 Take the pressure off
 - 71 H.S. juniors' exams
- DOWN**
- 1 Sarcastic rebuke
 - 2 Poi base
 - 3 Genesis victim
 - 4 Missing people
 - 5 Expunge
 - 6 March
 - 7 Streaking
 - 8 Go bad
 - 9 Leg bender
 - 10 Talkative
 - 11 Equestrian outfit
 - 12 Sky-blue hue
 - 13 Firth or Finch
 - 21 Bar bill
 - 23 Ribbon-shaped pasta
 - 25 Dollop

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

- 27 Muscat's land
- 28 Term fit for a king
- 29 Final
- 31 Bikini part
- 33 Hereditary
- 35 Help menu option
- 36 Marsh plant
- 37 Classic Greek instrument
- 39 Bern's river
- 40 Stretched ride
- 42 Black gold producers
- 45 Hairpieces
- 47 Sumptuous spreads
- 48 Fire from the air
- 49 Schooner filler
- 51 Play the uke
- 52 Al Capp's Lena
- 53 Pluto's path
- 55 Relished
- 57 Wear out
- 59 Naldi of silent films
- 60 Classify
- 61 JFK stats
- 64 Narc's org.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
20						21			22	23					
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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						57		58					59	60	61
62						63	64				65				
66						67					68				
69						70					71				

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff
United Feature Syndicate

After West's takeout double, North's jump raise was pre-emptive, not a limit raise. (With a sound raise, North could bid two no-trump, the Truscott convention.) Even though South had some extras, in context he did not have nearly enough additional values to press on to game.

Against three hearts, West started passively by leading king, ace, and another spade. Declarer won and cashed the top clubs, played a trump to the dummy, and ruffed a club. He then took the heart ace, led a heart to dummy's queen, and played a low diamond. When East soporifically followed low, South inserted the eight. West could win the trick, but now was endplayed. He had either to lose a diamond trick, or else give a ruff and discard.

Well played by South, but this was an uninspired defense by East, who should have foreseen the possibility that his partner would be endplayed. When declarer led a low diamond from the dummy, East should have flouted the rule that second hand plays low by flying up with his queen. This may look impossible to find at the table, but East knows for sure that declarer has two clubs, three spades, five hearts, and therefore three diamonds. Thus he can be sure that his side needs three diamond tricks to set the hand, and his only realistic chance to do so is to find this precise lie of the suit. When East puts up the diamond queen, declarer is sunk, whatever he does.

Send bridge questions via e-mail at bobbywolff@mindspring.com, or write to *The Aces*, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

NORTH 07-28-A
 ♠ Q 8 7
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ 7 6 2
 ♣ 8 7 2

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ A K 10 6 ♠ 9 5 2
 ♥ J 9 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ A J 10 ♦ Q 5 4 3
 ♣ Q 9 4 3 ♣ J 10 6 5

SOUTH
 ♠ J 4 3
 ♥ A 7 6 5 2
 ♦ K 9 8
 ♣ A K

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South West North East
 1♥ DbL 3♥ All pass

Opening lead: Spade king



MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



PLUGGERS By Gary Brookins

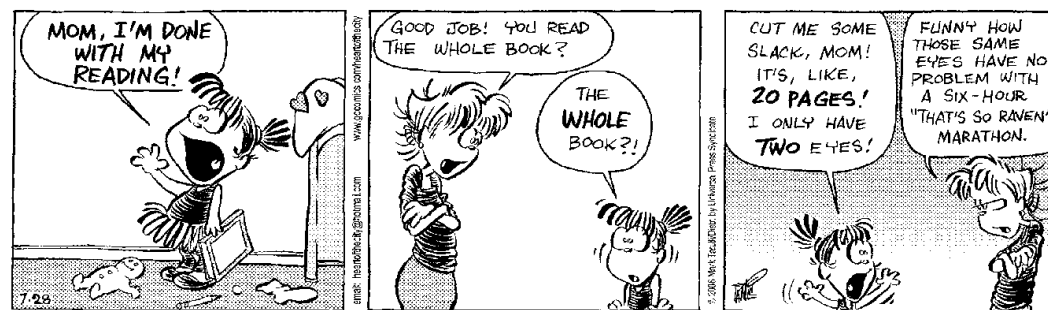


SUNDAY FUNNY SUNDAY

Don't miss Opus, everybody's favorite penguin, in The Dallas Morning News every Sunday.

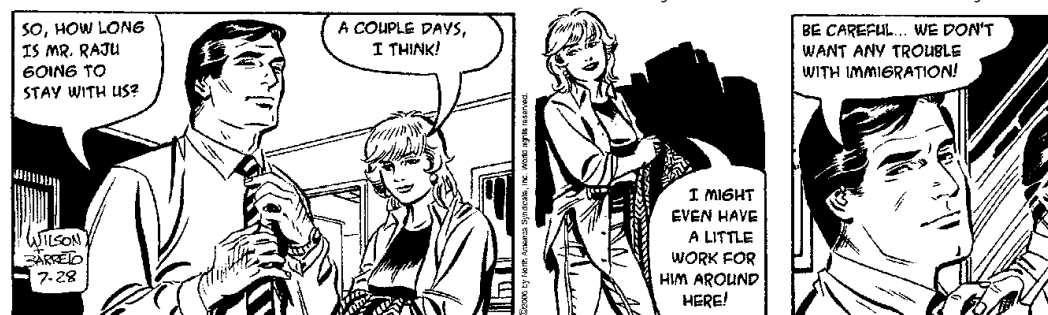
HEART OF THE CITY

By Mark Tatulli



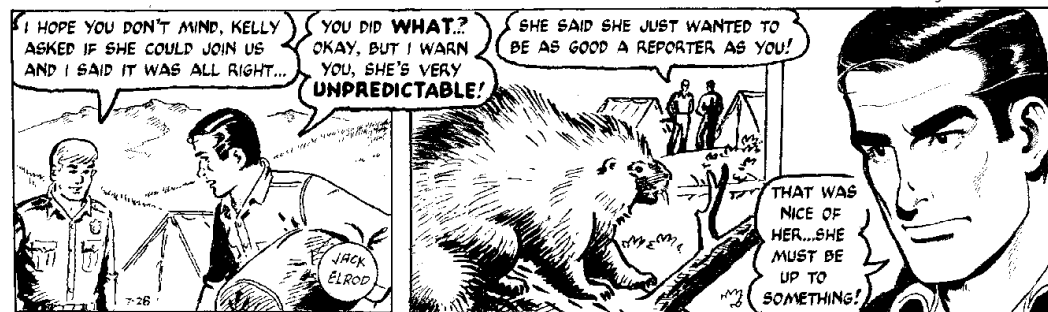
JUDGE PARKER

By Eduardo Barreto and Woody Wilson



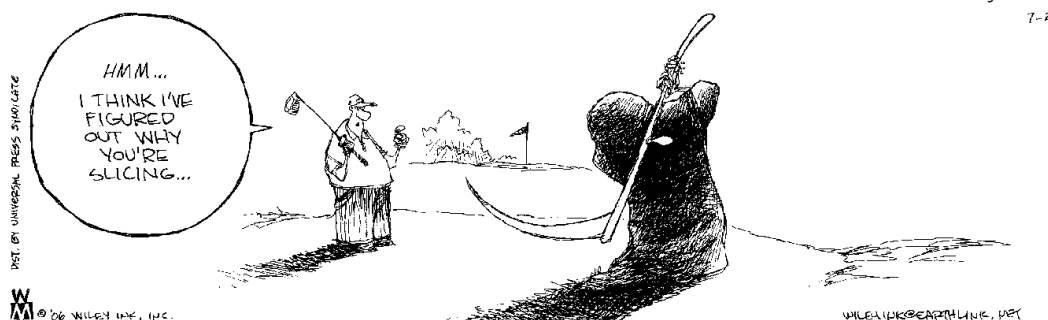
MARK TRAIL

By Jack Elrod



NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley



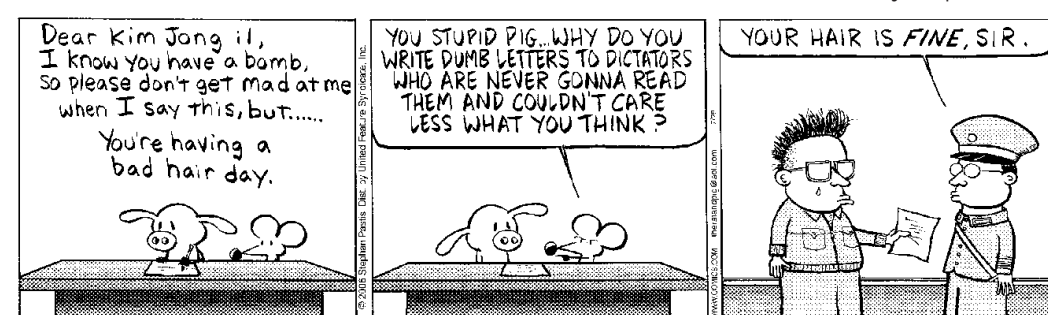
THE OTHER COAST

By Adrian Raeside



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis



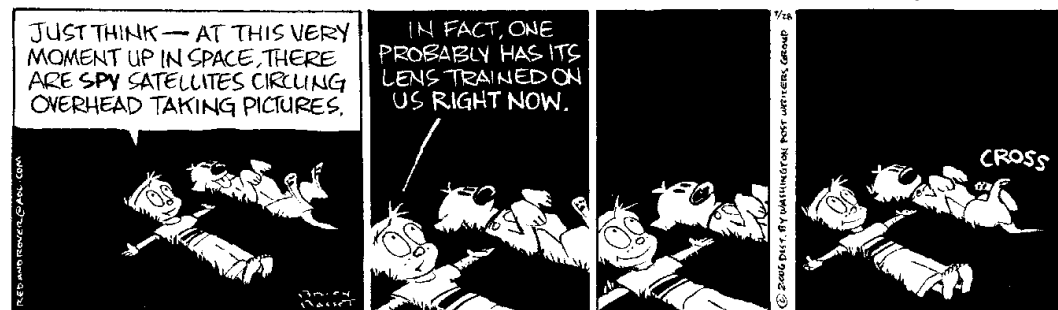
THE PIRANHA CLUB

By Bud Grace



RED & ROVER

By Brian Basset



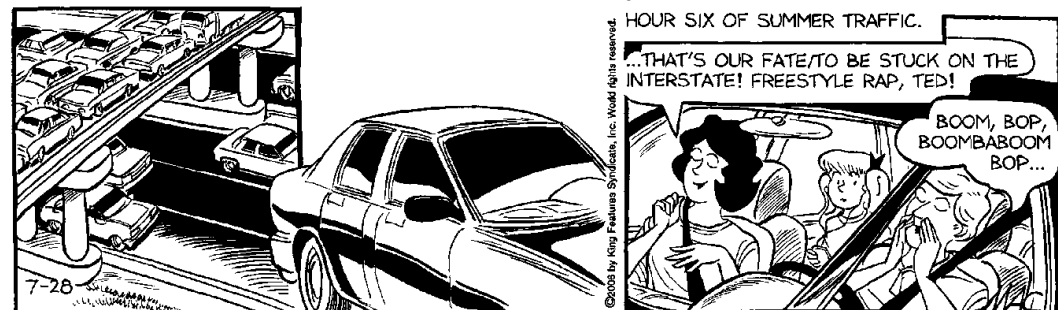
ROSE IS ROSE

By Pat Brady



SALLY FORTH

By Steve Alaniz and Francesco Marciuliano



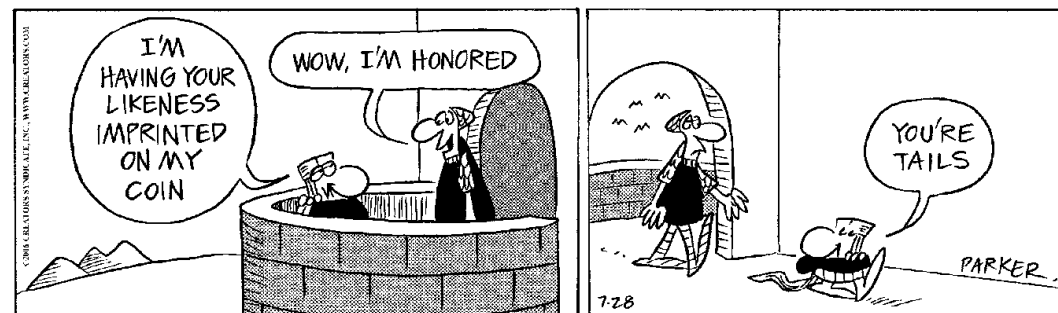
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

By J.P. Toomey



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



NEW YORK TIMES DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No.0616

ACROSS

- 1 Sec
- 6 What a germ may become
- 10 Heads, slangily
- 14 Former company with a torch in its logo
- 15 Georgia Tech's Sam ___ School of International Affairs
- 16 Uplift
- 17 Phileas Fogg, for one
- 20 London's place: Abbr.
- 21 Local supporter?
- 22 ___ whale
- 23 Telly giant, with "the"
- 25 Office stamp
- 27 Luyendyk of racing
- 28 Sounds of understanding
- 30 Topic at a family planning center
- 32 Hurdle for some srs.
- 34 A bit off, sadly
- 40 Company buyer of materials
- 41 In a precarious position
- 42 Place at which to board: Abbr.
- 43 Teutonic pronoun
- 44 ___ grass
- 45 Brick holders
- 48 Nucleotide chains
- 50 Here, in Honduras

- 54 Very pleasant places
- 56 Egyptian port
- 58 Abbr. on a pill bottle
- 59 Piano classic in C sharp minor
- 62 "Suicide Blonde" band, 1990
- 63 Hair removal option
- 64 Havens
- 65 "___ sow ..."
- 66 Notice
- 67 Special delivery?

DOWN

- 1 One of the brothers Grimm
- 2 Ammonia derivative
- 3 Talent
- 4 TV watcher?
- 5 "___ turn"
- 6 Feature of many a stomach
- 7 Emigration aspiration
- 8 Posting need: Abbr.
- 9 Córdoba cordial flavoring
- 10 Hornet, e.g.
- 11 Equipped so as to prevent capsizing
- 12 Backfire
- 13 Desert land: Abbr.
- 18 Treats since 1936
- 19 Student's concern, for short

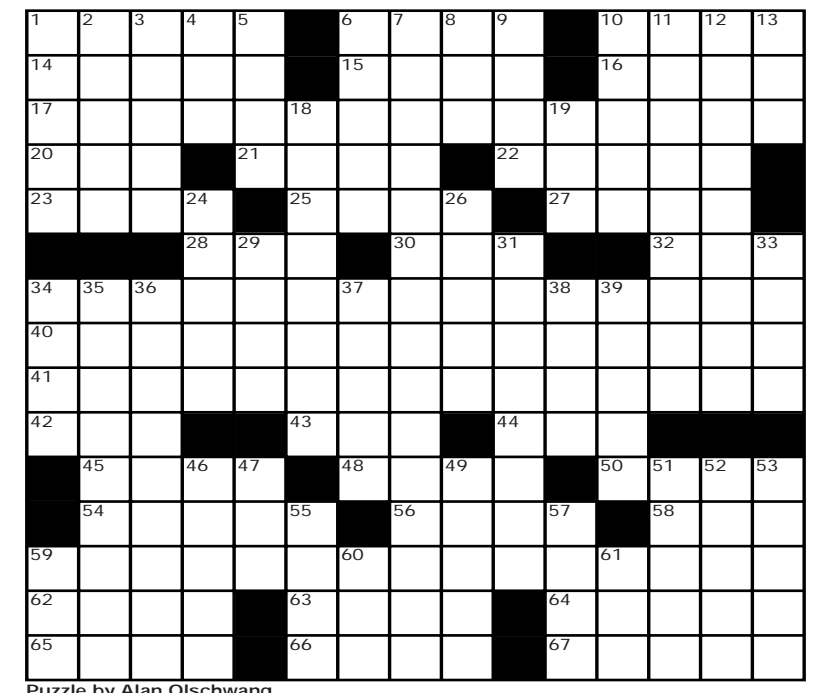
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

- 24 "The Temptation of St. Anthony" painter
- 26 "No clue"
- 29 Schemer's syllables
- 31 Pink-flowered plants often used as grafting stock
- 33 Designer for Lillian Gish
- 34 Some ship personnel, briefly
- 35 Society affairs
- 36 What most people believe
- 37 Former name in flight
- 38 Latin quarters?
- 39 Bon Jovi's "___ Rush"
- 46 Concentrated
- 47 Springboard for new comics, briefly
- 49 "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" singer
- 51 Virtual
- 52 Rte. that crosses Lake Michigan by ferry
- 53 "Not me"
- 55 ___ wave
- 57 Kind of suit
- 59 War stat.
- 60 Hoot and a half
- 61 Dogpatch demurral



Puzzle by Alan Olschwang

For better, worse, or remodeling

Continued from Page 8

Back in Dallas, Kelly became a principal at Tary Aterburn and in 1989 launched his own firm specializing primarily in high-end modernist design.

"I've learned a lot along the way through osmosis by working with great architects," says Kelly. "My modern design aesthetic is also the result of my rebellion after having grown up with lots of antiques and lots of clutter.

"People understand modern when they see it, but don't always know how to create it. What I've come to realize is that I understand restraint, and once you master restraint in anything, whether it's art, architecture or interior design, then you sort of arrive. You get it."

Kelly also felt he had arrived after hitting it off with Karen. An

avid mountaineer and rock climber, Kelly had been luring Karen on his rugged expeditions after the couple first met.

On one trip to the snowy summit of Mount Rainier in 1999, Kelly surprised her with a proposal.

"I sat her on this boulder and asked her what she was doing for the rest of her life," says Kelly. Karen was stunned at first and then started crying.

"I was completely surprised," she says. "You're at 10,000 feet in a parka with no makeup. You're not thinking proposal. I was so happy, though."

Back to earth

Back on lower ground, the couple married in 2000 and went about the task of combining two households (and design sensibilities) into their newly



Photos by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

In the home's rear courtyard, a custom limestone spa and fountain provide a soothing retreat where the family can relax on warm summer evenings.

purchased '70s contemporary.

"Merging personal styles was a challenge," says Karen, "because I wasn't really a modernist. I was minimal at the time, but it was a different kind of minimal."

"You went to her house and it was very clean and perfect, and it wasn't cluttered up, but it was, well, gold frames and stuff — lots of gold — which drove me crazy," says Kelly.

"I would describe it as more Pottery Barn-ish," says Karen.

"We both have strong personalities, and I think we were originally trying to hold our grounds, stylistically."

Time to call in an expert. The couple's friend architect Cliff Welch recommended they consult an interior decorator. Kelly and Karen took his advice and met with a designer, but then ended up not caring for any of the designer's ideas.

"We decided we could do this better ourselves," says Karen.

"It was at that moment that we began working together and really coming up with our own vision as a couple for the house," Kelly adds. Both soon focused on a soft modern scheme.

Sure, there were a few snags. Kelly originally wanted all white, but Karen persuaded him to try a little color, such as the pale green in the breakfast room. "I remem-

ber Kelly called me, worried that it was too dark, and when I got home and saw this very pale color of green on the walls, I just said, 'Ho-neeey ...'"

Another space that got a splash of color was the powder room. The walls are painted rich chartreuse, an exact computer color-match of Karen's favorite fuzzy green bathrobe.

When the couple were ready to dress up their bare walls, the budget had hardly any money left for art. So Karen began painting.

She started by copying masterworks and playfully signing these pieces "Francesca," her middle name. She then began creating her own works on canvas.

Friends soon commissioned her work, word spread, and today Karen has pieces exhibited in Santa Fe and also has a display of paintings through Aug. 8 in the Cerulean Gallery at Snider Plaza.

"If we had had a lot of money, I would never have learned how to paint, because we just would have gone out and bought art," says Karen. "It turned out to be the biggest blessing."

Is this couple's six-year renovation finally over?

"Hardly," says Karen.

E-mail cwynn@dallasnews.com

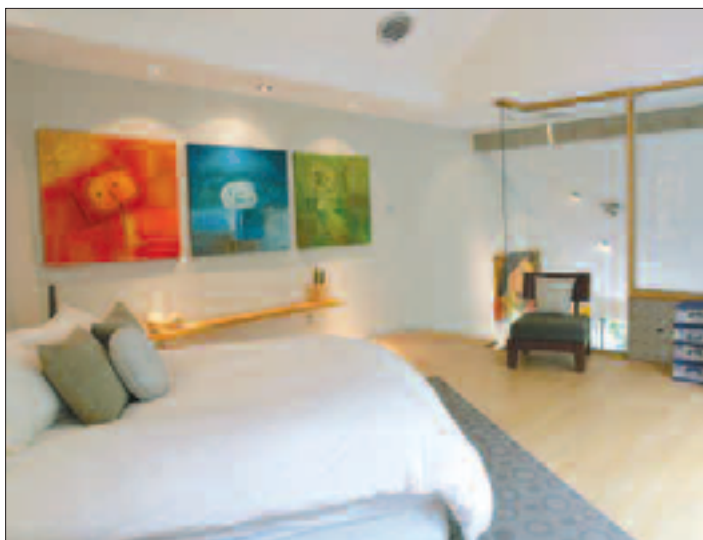


Karen and Kelly James' snowy betrothal atop Mount Rainier in 1999

RENOVATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

Kelly and Karen James share tips from their experience on remodeling the house while keeping harmony at home.

1. Be willing to let go of your old ways and embrace new things. ("I was unsure about going with a completely modernist style in the beginning," says Karen. "Now I love it.")
2. Trust each other, and respect each other's taste.
3. Listen to your mate, discuss your ideas, then find something you both can agree on.
4. Live in a space first, and try out your ideas. ("As we functioned as a family here, we realized that some of our initial ideas were not very practical for daily life," says Kelly.)
5. Don't forget to dream together.



The master bedroom loft also doubles as Karen James' painting studio. Her original works adorn the walls.