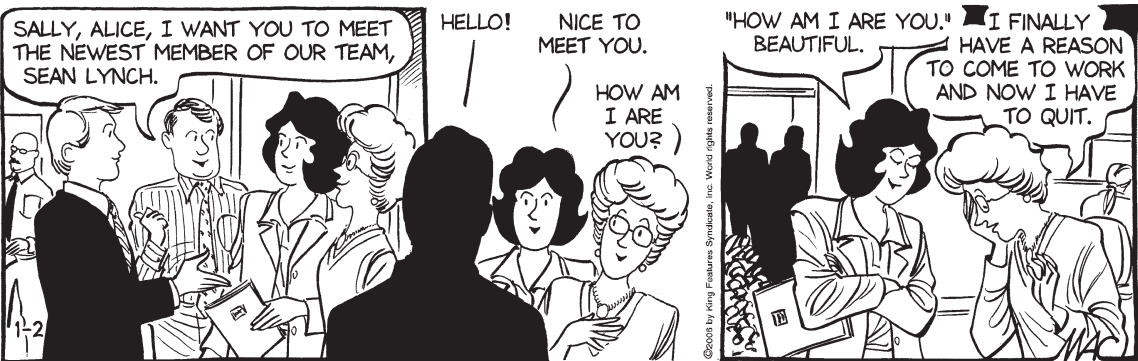
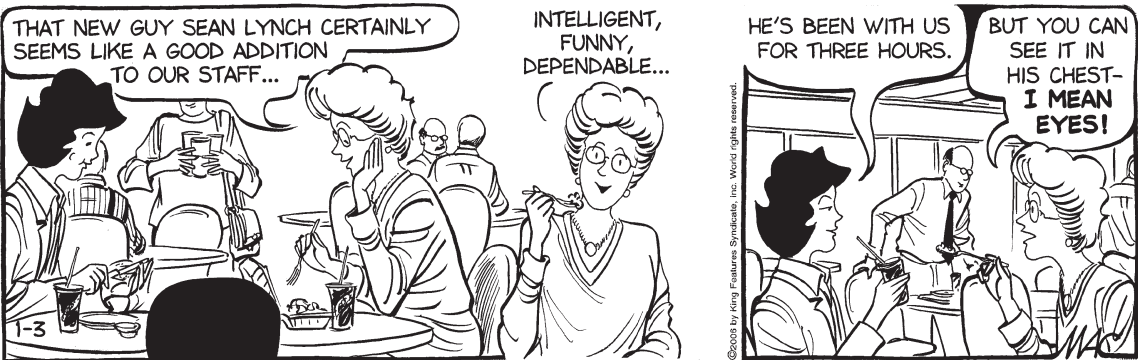


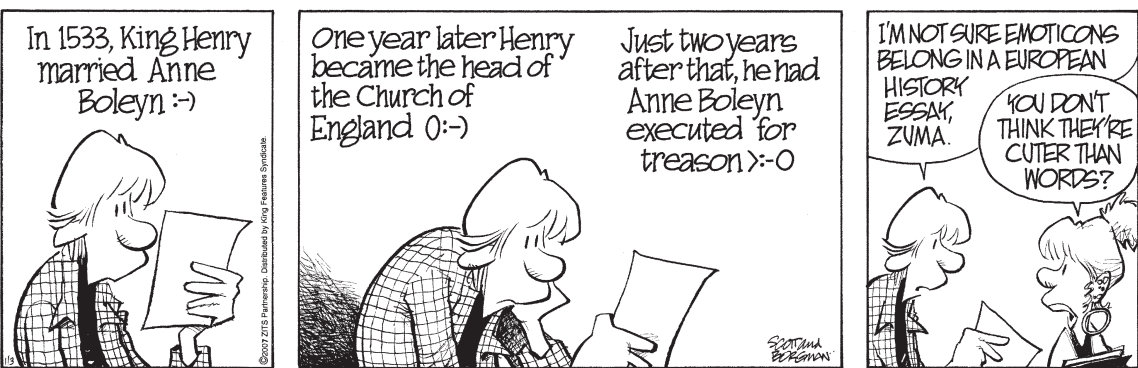
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



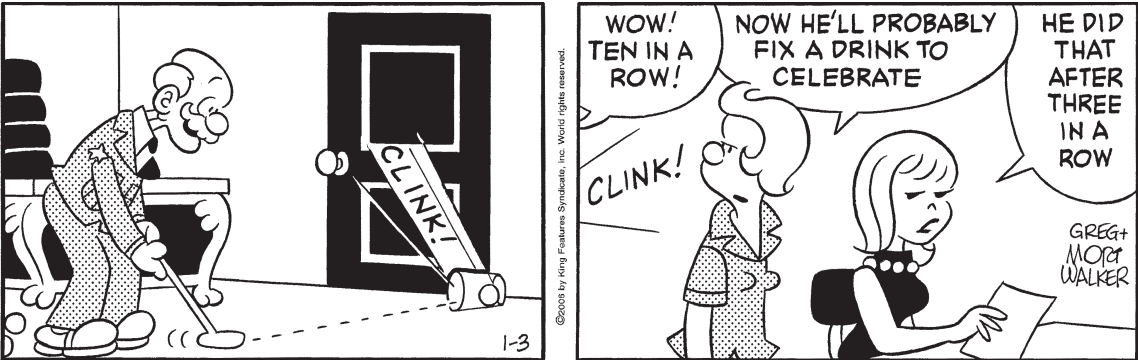
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



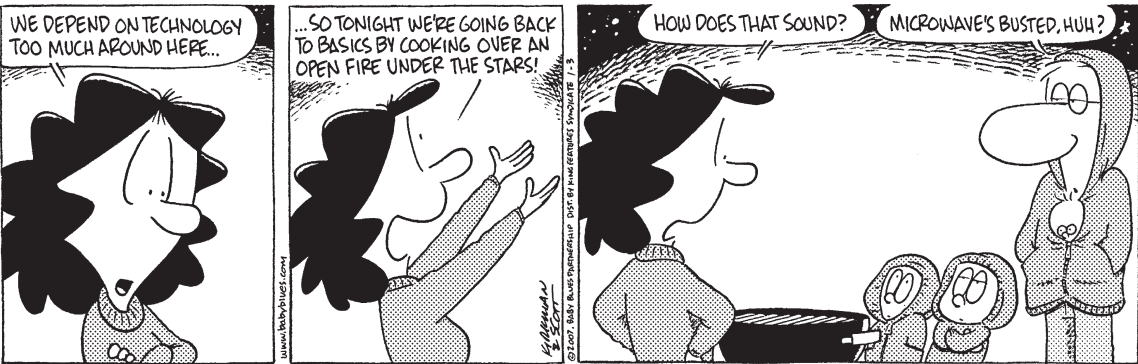
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

HT U LDVHUX TCOVYHDO'L
XSUNSM NSGUONL ISMA
VULCUX NMSLL, HY'L GDLY
XHWSXA U XUVW-YHS SISoy.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS THE CLOCKMAKER TRAINED HIS YOUNG APPRENTICE, HE GAVE HIM MUCH TIMELY ADVICE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/03

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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/03

Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 8 5 4 3
♥ 9 3
♦ 10 4
♣ 9 8 2

WEST

♠ J 10 9 7 2
♥ K Q 10 7
♦ 8 5
♣ A 3

EAST

♠ 6
♥ 8 6 5 4 2
♦ 9 7 3 2
♣ K 6 4

SOUTH

♠ Q
♥ A J
♦ A K Q J 6
♣ Q J 10 7 5

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♦ | 1 ♠ | Dble | Pass |
| 3 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♣ | Pass | 5 ♣ | |

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The Striptease Coup

Today's deal illustrates a rare play some times called the "striptease coup."
West leads the king of hearts, and declarer sees he might lose a heart and two trumps and go down one in five clubs.
To try to avoid this outcome, South wins the heart lead with the ace, cashes the queen of spades, crosses to the ten of diamonds and plays the ace of spades.
East ruffs with the four to stop declarer from discarding his heart loser, and South overruffs with the five.
Declarer cashes the ace of diamonds and continues with the king, planning to discard dummy's heart loser if West follows suit.
But West trumps the third diamond with the three, and dummy overruffs with the eight as East follows suit.
Continuing his campaign, declarer plays the king of spades from dummy, forcing East to ruff with the six as South overruffs with the seven.
The striptease has now been accomplished. Both East and West have been denuded of their low trumps, leaving the king and ace as the only trumps they have left.
Declarer next leads the queen of diamonds, and West can do no better than ruff with the ace as dummy's nine of hearts is discarded.
Sooner or later South ruffs the jack of hearts in dummy, and his only losers turn out to be the A-K of trumps.
The sequence of plays described here is, of course, an unusual way of extracting trumps, but that is hardly a bar to its use.
Any port in a storm!
Tomorrow: Upping the percentages.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS
1 Diamond Head locale
5 Taxi
8 Pub refreshments
12 Press agent?
13 Dos Passos trilogy
14 Stick in the mud
15 Languid
17 Largest of the seven
18 Pianist-composer Erik
19 Tea Party figure
21 One-on-one battle
24 Conk out
25 Cheat on a test
28 Faction
30 Thanks-giving abbr.
33 Mono-kini's lack
34 Argonauts' skipper
35 Cain's mother

DOWN
1 Rem-brandt's creations
2 Met melody
3 Emcee
5 Poolroom need
6 Ninny
7 Wild party
8 Cremona craftsman
9 Audience member
10 Pennsylvaniana port
11 Burn somewhat money
16 Romanian gulf
20 Mideast
22 Birthright barterer

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-13

23 "Mephisto Waltz" composer
25 "60 Minutes" home
26 Raw rock
27 "Meet the Press" participant
29 Entrance
31 Eggs
32 What couch potatoes do
34 Mono-logue compo-nent
38 Prepared lobster
40 Cheer up
42 Mrs. McKinley
43 Movie
44 Lotion additive
45 Almost here
47 Contem-ible
48 Being, to Brutus
49 Dance lesson
52 A female deer
53 A billion years

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | |
| 57 | | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | | |