

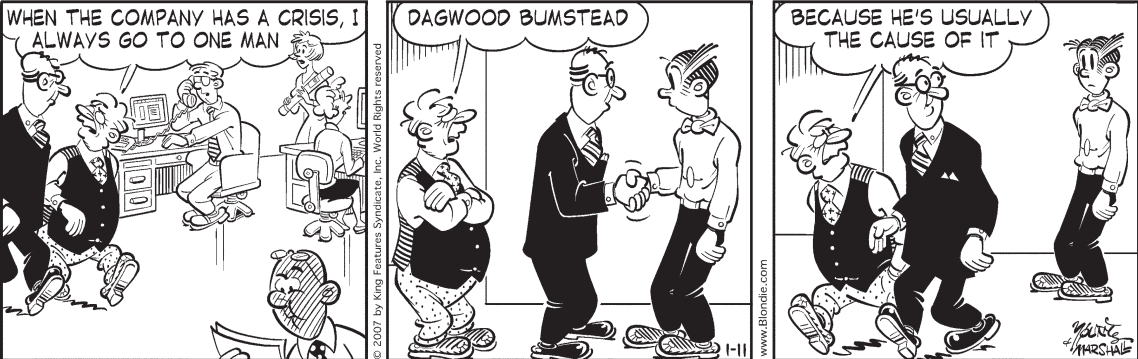
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



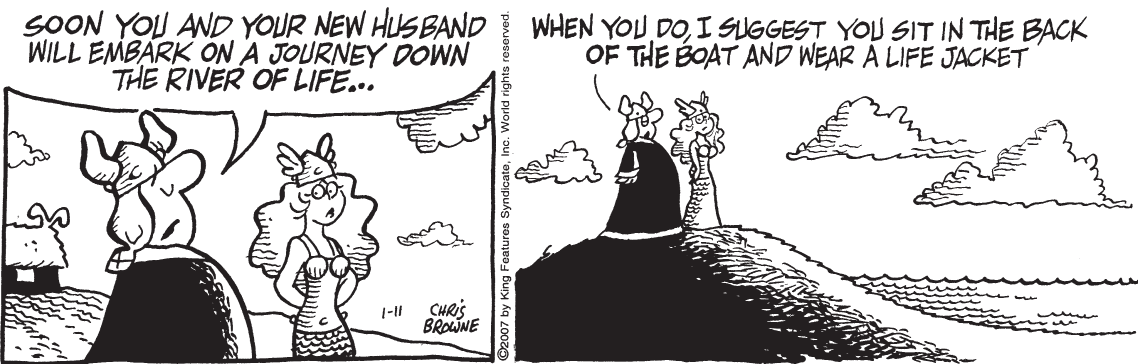
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



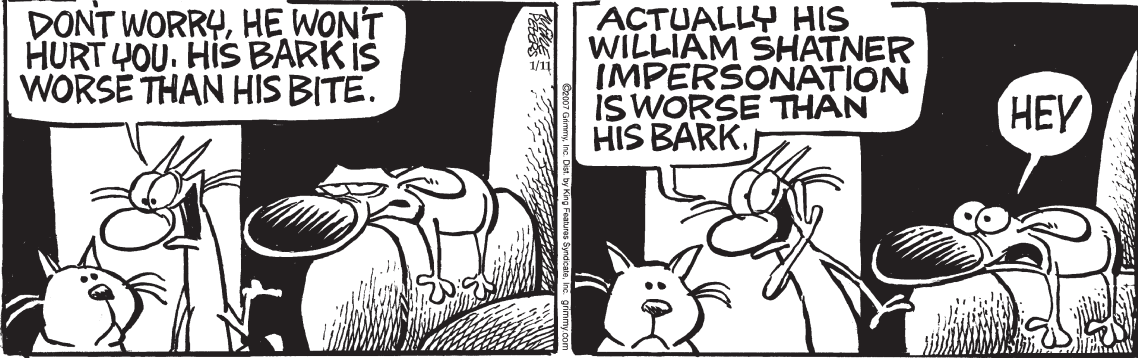
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters




Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1 / 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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1 / 11

Bridge

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

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

WEST

♠ 7 5 2  
♥ A Q 8  
♦ Q 9 6 4  
♣ J 10 9

EAST

♠ 8 6  
♥ 10 9 7 4 3  
♦ J 3  
♣ K 8 5 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 4 3  
♥ K J 5  
♦ A K 10  
♣ A Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Wrong Way to Run a Railroad

One tends to become a victim of habit in certain situations because they seem to be similar to others encountered previously.

This tendency can prove costly at times, as witness what happened to South in this deal.

West led the jack of clubs against South's four-spade contract. Declarer won with the queen, crossed to dummy with a trump and led a heart to the jack, losing to the queen.

West made the fine return of a second trump, which declarer took in dummy to lead another heart.

When the king lost to the ace, West returned a third round of trumps.

Declarer was now at the end of his rope. He could not avoid losing a diamond and another heart, and so finished down one.

The odd part of the hand is that if declarer had been dealt three small hearts instead of the K-J-5, he would surely have made the contract! In that case, given the same opening lead, he would have arranged to ruff one of his heart losers in dummy.

After winning the club, he would have returned a heart.

Then, regardless of what the defenders did next, he would play another heart, putting him in position to trump his third heart in dummy.

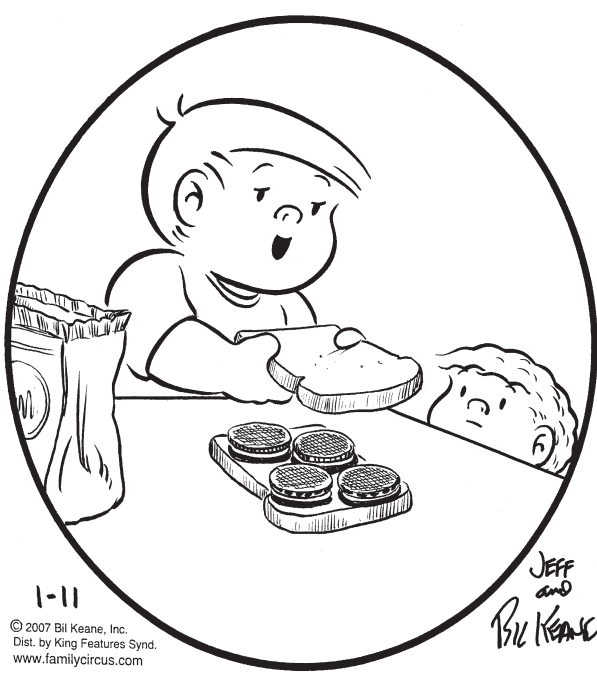
But the presence of the K-J-5 of hearts induced declarer to cross to dummy with a trump in order to lead toward his heart honors.

This in turn opened the gate for repeated trump leads by the defense and eventually brought about South's downfall.

To avoid this pitfall, declarer should have led any heart from his hand at trick two, and 10 tricks would have been assured.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS	36 Fellow	DOWN	20 Affront
1 Pedestal occupant	37 Radar-screen spot	1 The same	(Sl.)
5 Pita sandwich	38 Hawk-eye	2 Russian legislature	22 Old show
9 Autumn abbr.	40 French article	3 Smell	23 Off
12 Fellow	41 Production number?	4 Show anger, maybe	24 Symbol of intrigue
13 Places	43 Ignite	5 Radiance	25 Exist
14 Greek consonant	47 Samovar	6 Thither	26 Sane
15 Not stoic	48 Unreal	7 —	27 Grand scale
17 Stannum	51 —	Victor	29 Black bird
18 Bone content	Khan	8 Lubricated	30 Diastema
19 Decree	52 Salver	9 Yours if you want it	35 Stolen
21 Fashionable	53 Medley	10 Stylish	37 Caused to go
22 Walkman, perhaps	54 First st.	11 Hue	39 Lightly travels on air
24 Distortion	55 Withered	16 Charged bit	40 Main-lander's memento
27 Kitten's comment	56 Rote of football lore		41 Campus area
28 Hose woe			42 Incite
31 Historic time			43 Eyelid problem
32 Mess up			44 Sole
33 Literary collection			45 Not even get a D
34 "Little Women" woman			46 Ice mass
			49 Rage
			50 Automobile

Solution time: 25 mins.

EARL	CAB	SHAD
CLAY	OIL	HAVE
HANDMADE	ANEW	
ORGIES	AT	DRY
ANT	TIER	
ASH	DEB	IRATE
COAL	ROD	SIAM
TUNAS	GET	LBS
DYKE	FEE	
ALBEIT	INST	P
RIOT	HANDSOME	
TROT	EVE	AMIR
SAKE	LED	YETI

Yesterday's answer 1-11

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				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		