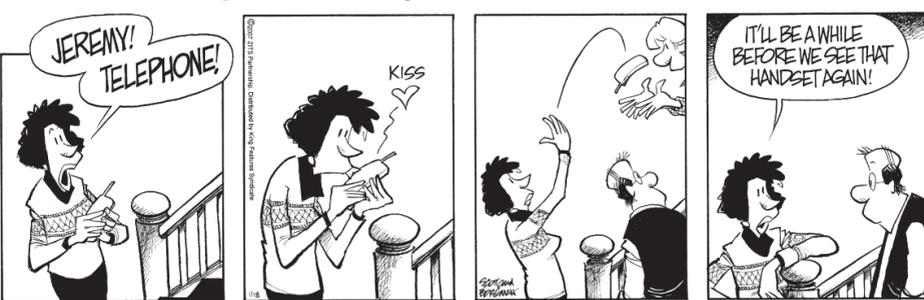


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



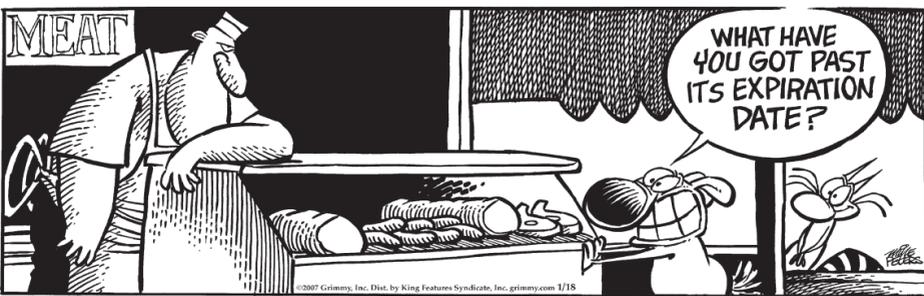
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

1/18

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

1/18

Bridge

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 7 4
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 5 3
WEST
♠ 5 3
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ 10 9 7 2
EAST
♠ A K J 10 9 8 6
♥ K
♦ 8 5 3
♣ K 4
SOUTH
♠ Q 2
♥ Q J 9 7 5
♦ K 10 4
♣ A Q 6

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♣ 4♠ 5♥
Opening lead — five of spades.

Creation of an Illusion

Most decisions made at the table are clear-cut. You have an obvious bid or play to make, and you make it without much thought. But there are times when it is not at all clear what you should do. These are the times when good judgment is the deciding factor and when the failure to guess right can prove fatal. Consider the South hand, for example. What should South bid after East's overcall of four spades? In the actual deal, he bid five hearts. Apparently, South was more intent upon scoring a vulnerable game than he was upon taking the sure profit he could collect by doubling four spades. Had we been in his boots, we would have doubled. West led a spade, East cashing the A-K before shifting to a diamond. Declarer won with the king and led the queen of hearts, West following low. South was sufficiently inspired to play the ace, catching East's king. Had we been in his boots, we would have finessed and gone down one.

After drawing two more rounds of trumps, declarer led a low club from dummy and finessed the queen, on which West dropped the nine. South fell for the falsecard, deciding that West had started with the 10-9 alone. Accordingly, he crossed to dummy with a diamond and led the jack of clubs, hoping to pin East's king and West's ten on the same trick and thus make dummy's eight high. This was a fatal decision, and South went down one, eventually losing a club to the ten. Had he led the five instead of the jack, he would have made the contract.

South's play of the jack was clearly wrong. If he had first cashed his remaining diamond, he would have learned that East had started with three diamonds, a heart, seven spades (for his bid) and, hence, exactly two clubs. A low club lead from dummy was therefore bound to catch the king.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS
1 Detail, briefly
5 Trinity member
8 Treat to a makeover
12 Premier transportation
13 Meadow
14 Roulette bet
15 Ear-related
16 Branch
17 Unruly hair
18 Boa, for one
20 Actor McGregor
22 Gilbert and Sullivan specialty
26 "Lonesome George" of TV lore
29 Sturdy wood
30 Droop
31 Gumbo ingredient
32 Ailment
33 Farm measure
34 Cravat

DOWN
1 Feed the hogs
2 Compassion
3 Send out
4 Inner ear tube
5 Word on the street?
6 "— the fields we go"
7 Stick-on ID
8 Change the chart
9 Dissipate like vapor
10 Lair
11 Inseparable
19 Lubricant

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-18

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		

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

LIBVCUI Z QNGID EIG
BPVXZDEU NQP LPIVS VDS
KVUGV, OQCYS KIQKYI UCKKQI
Z RVXI VORIVG GQQGR?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW POLICE PROGRAM ABOUT CUSTOMS AGENTS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: "LAW AND BORDER."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P