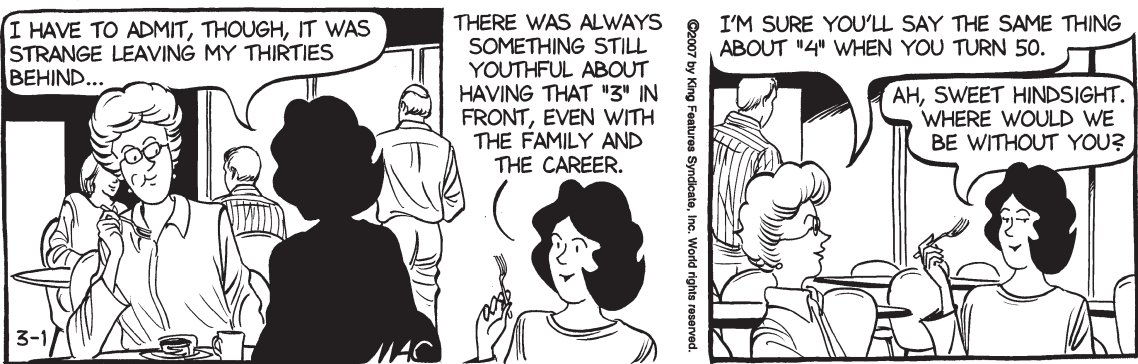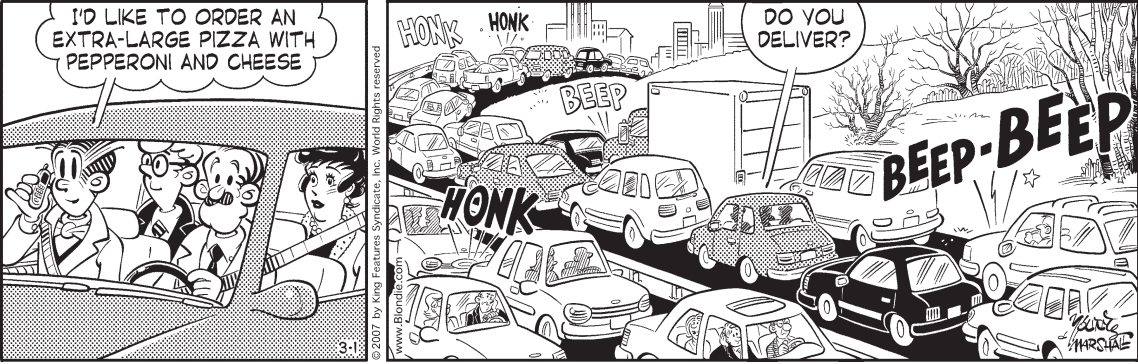**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard

**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

**Blondie** • Chic Young
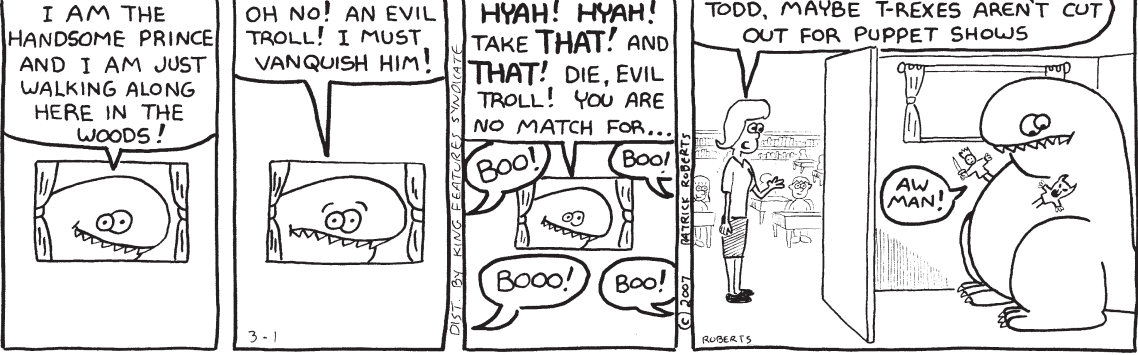
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne

**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker
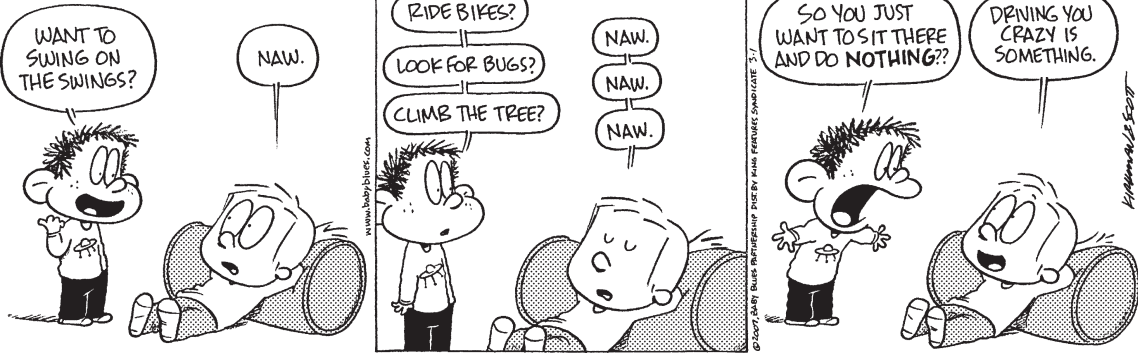
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters

**Tod the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts

**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## Conceptis Sudoku
by Dave Green

**Difficulty Level ★ ★ ★**   3/01

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

**Difficulty Level ★ ★ ★**   3/01

## Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

```
           NORTH
        ♠ J 9 8
        ♥ A Q 10
        ♦ 8 5 2
        ♣ 9 7 4 3
WEST                   EAST
♠ 6 3                  ♠ A 4
♥ J 7 6 2              ♥ K 9 5 4
♦ Q J 10 4             ♦ 9 7 3
♣ A J 5                ♣ 10 8 6 2
           SOUTH
        ♠ K Q 10 7 5 2
        ♥ 8 3
        ♦ A K 6
        ♣ K Q
```

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

### Bridge Is a Game of Probabilities

If you toss a coin in the air, it is even money it will come down heads. If you toss two coins, however, it is 3-to-1 that they will not both come down heads. With three coins the odds become 7-to-1.

Although it is not essential for a competent bridge player to be able to compute various probabilities exactly, it is nevertheless helpful in many hands to be generally familiar with the principles of chance. Bridge is, after all, a game of probabilities, and the player who consistently adheres to the percentages will come out best in the long run.

Consider this deal where South was in four spades. He won the diamond lead and led a spade to the jack, losing to the ace. East returned a diamond to declarer's king. After drawing another round of trumps, South led a heart to the queen, losing to the king. He then lost a diamond and a club to go down one.
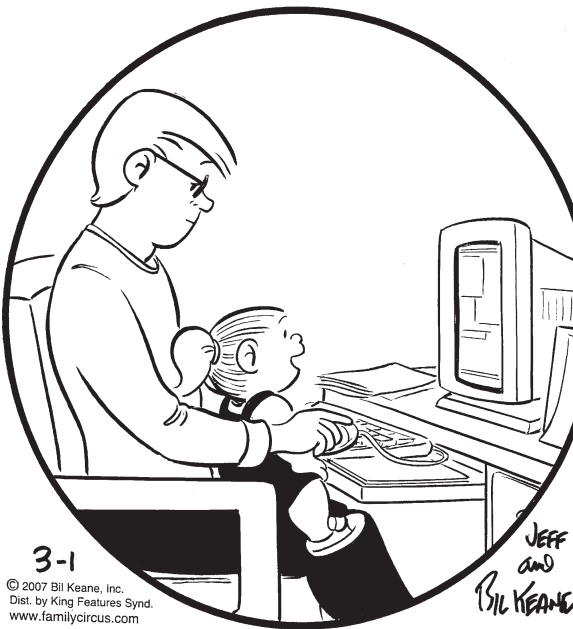
Declarer erred by staking the outcome strictly on a simple heart finesse. In effect, he gave himself only a 50 percent chance to make the contract, since it was even money whether East or West had the king of hearts.

But he would have had a 3-to-1 chance in his favor if he had taken the queen-of-hearts finesse at trick two, instead of later on. If it won, 10 tricks would have been assured.

Suppose, however, the queen lost to the king, as in the actual deal. South could then win the diamond return, lead another heart to dummy and finesse the ten. If West held the jack, the finesse would succeed, and South could then dispose of his diamond loser on the ace of hearts to make the contract.

By this method of play, declarer gets two chances to get home safely instead of just one. He combines two even-money shots, which, as in the case of the coins, make him a 3-to-1 favorite.

## Family Circus • Bil Keane

"In kindergarten we're learning to cut and paste without even using a computer."

## Crossword

**ACROSS**
1 Rue the run
5 Tucker's partner
8 Detail, for short
12 Wheedle
13 Lubricant
14 Advertising award
15 Reverberate
16 Story of a lifetime?
17 Aesopian also-ran
18 Strappy shoe
20 Kept afloat
22 Exploit
23 Scepter
24 Urban fleet
27 Sticky stuff
32 Kyoto cummerbund
33 ___ budget
34 Also
35 Novice
38 Humble laborer
39 Part of "to be"
40 Ostrich's kin
42 Two-edged sword
45 Sailor's assent
49 Pumps up the volume
50 Lummox
52 Cereal selection
53 Awful
54 Foreman foe
55 Impart temporarily
56 Mid-month date
57 Fuel stat
58 Squirrels' hang-outs

**DOWN**
1 "Dead man's hand" pair
2 Caesar co-star
3 Chemist Otto
4 Mass departure
5 Hall of Fame pitcher
6 XX percent of XV
7 Amorphous mass
8 Educate
9 Tots' scheduled time together
10 Green land
11 Not single-gender
19 While
21 William Tell's home
24 Cygnet's dad
25 Rush-more face
26 New York City
28 French "a"
29 Have the slightest interest
30 Moo — gai pan
31 A billion years
36 Van Gogh subject
37 Born
38 Colorado city
41 "Gra-cious!"
42 Sitarist Shankar
43 Sur-rounded by
44 Wander
46 Vicinity
47 Tug
48 Remnants
51 Heidi's height

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer   3-1

## Cryptoquip

US EGR ULYPOJJ YGIA SOKULB

GL O QRUJTULB DUPM

YGIAQGTE AJYA, KGRJT

EGR QA YUTULB DUPM MUI?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals U

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN YOUR WOODEN SHIPPING CASE IS QUITE LOW IN QUALITY, YOU MIGHT CLAIM IT'S SECOND-CRATE.