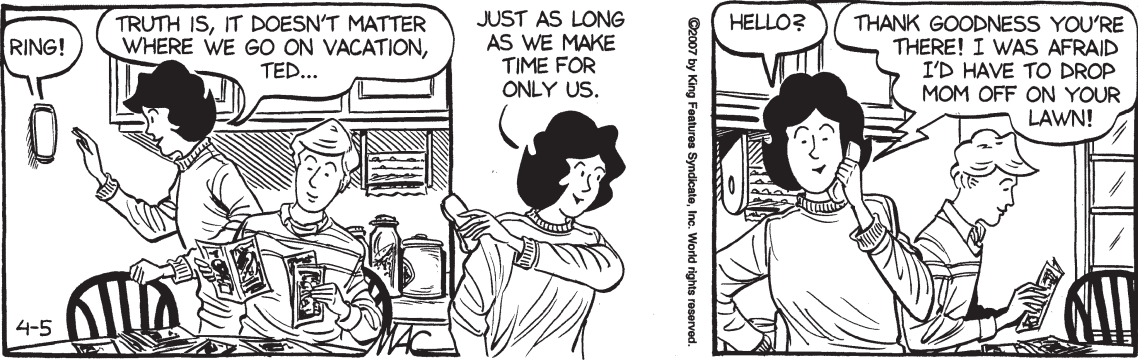


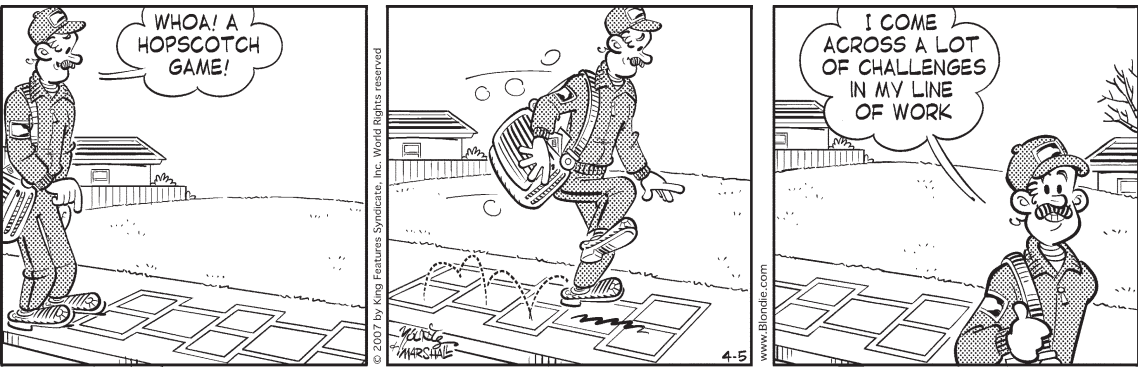
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



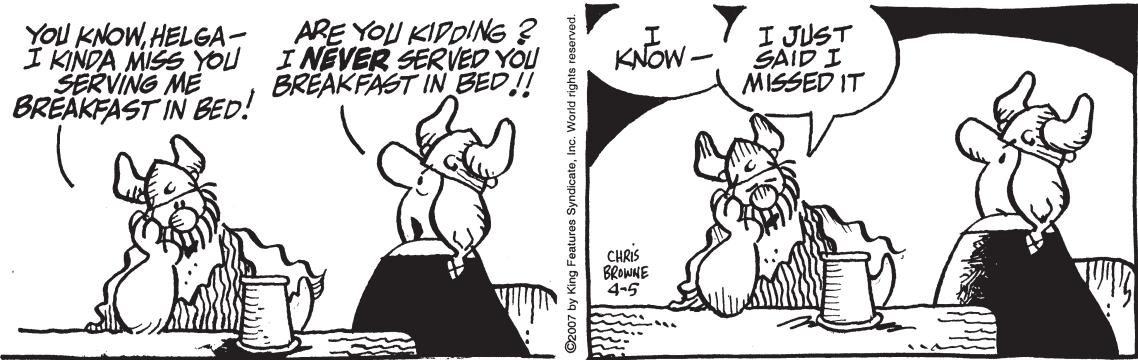
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



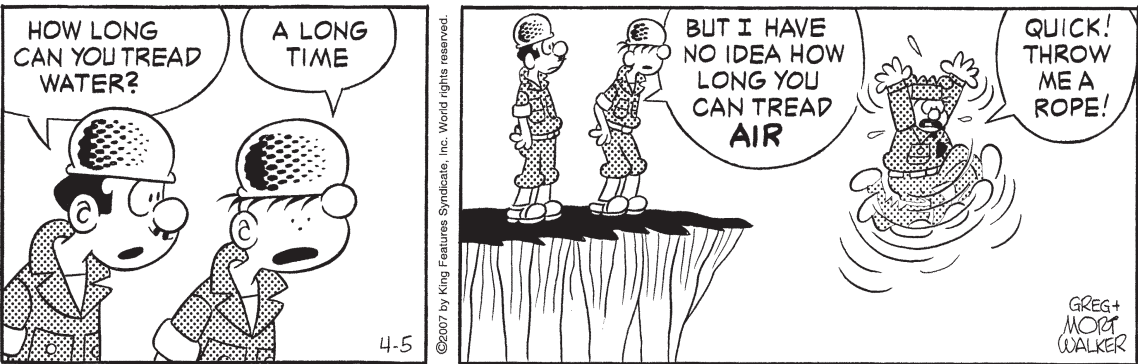
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



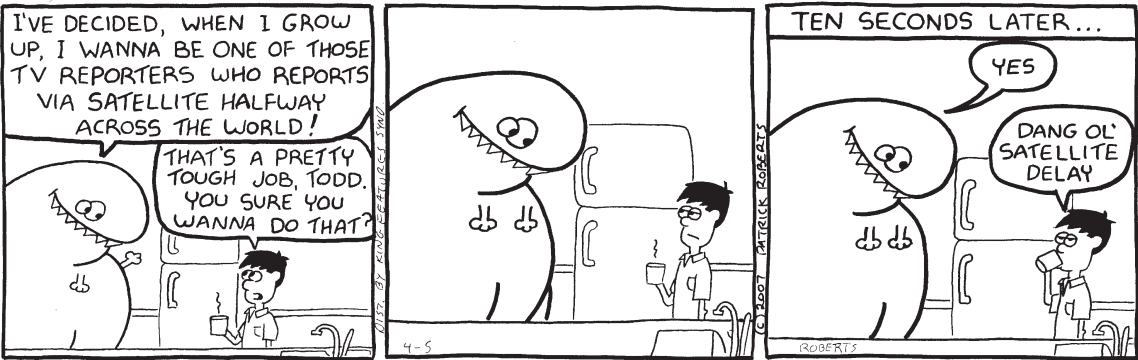
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



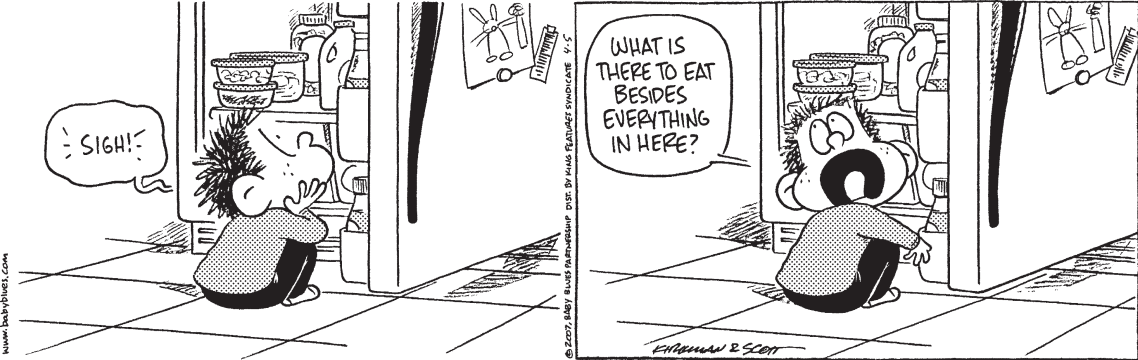
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/05

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/05

Bridge

|                                           |      |       |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| South dealer.<br>Neither side vulnerable. |      |       |      |
| <b>NORTH</b>                              |      |       |      |
| ♠ 8 6 2                                   |      |       |      |
| ♥ K 7 5                                   |      |       |      |
| ♦ 7 4 2                                   |      |       |      |
| ♣ A K 10 3                                |      |       |      |
| <b>WEST</b>                               |      |       |      |
| ♠ Q J 10 4                                |      |       |      |
| ♥ 6 3                                     |      |       |      |
| ♦ K Q 9 6                                 |      |       |      |
| ♣ Q 7 4                                   |      |       |      |
| <b>EAST</b>                               |      |       |      |
| ♠ K 9 5                                   |      |       |      |
| ♥ 8 4 2                                   |      |       |      |
| ♦ 8 3                                     |      |       |      |
| ♣ J 9 6 5 2                               |      |       |      |
| <b>SOUTH</b>                              |      |       |      |
| ♠ A 7 3                                   |      |       |      |
| ♥ A Q J 10 9                              |      |       |      |
| ♦ A J 10 5                                |      |       |      |
| ♣ 8                                       |      |       |      |
| The bidding:                              |      |       |      |
| South                                     | West | North | East |
| 1 ♥                                       | Pass | 2 ♠   | Pass |
| 2 ♦                                       | Pass | 2 ♥   | Pass |
| 4 ♥                                       |      |       |      |
| Opening lead — queen of spades.           |      |       |      |

Like a Hole in the Head

The longer you play the game, the more you come to realize that success at bridge depends more on plain common sense than on anything else.

For example, take this deal where West led the spade queen against four hearts. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the A-K of clubs, discarding a spade, then led a diamond and finessed the ten.

West won with the queen and returned the queen of clubs, ruffed by South. Declarer then led the ten of trumps to the king, returned a diamond from dummy and finessed the jack, losing to West's king.

Back came the spade jack, which held, and another spade that declarer ruffed. By this time, South had lost three tricks, and his last four cards were the A-Q of trumps and A-5 of diamonds. Whether South pulled East's last trump before playing the ace of diamonds or played the ace first, he had to lose another trick and so finished down one.

However, declarer missed a practically certain way to make the contract. There was no good reason to take any diamond finesses at all, since he needed them like a hole in the head.

All he had to do, after playing the A-K of clubs, was to lead a diamond to the ace at trick four and return a diamond. The defenders would have been unable to stop South from eventually ruffing his fourth diamond with dummy's king of hearts to produce his 10th trick. His only losers would have been a spade and two diamonds.

Expressed differently, South's 10 winners would have consisted of the ace of spades, ace of diamonds, A-K of clubs, his five natural trump tricks and the fourth-round diamond ruff in dummy. The diamond finesses South attempted created a risk that was not justified by the circumstances.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"The restrooms are on the next floor."

Crossword

|                            |                               |                                |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>              | <b>DOWN</b>                   | <b>Solution time: 25 mins.</b> |
| 1 Urban fleet              | 1 Part of a superhero costume | SMOG ELM IDEAS                 |
| 5 Stroller                 | 22 Hackneyed                  | AIDE LEI MOAT                  |
| 9 Embrace                  | 23 Slithery                   | UNDERDOG AGRA                  |
| 12 Grad                    |                               | LESSEE HIGHLY                  |
| 13 John/Rice collaboration |                               | EAR TRIO                       |
| 14 NAFTA signatory         |                               | COW PLY KNUTE                  |
| 15 Military sky divers     |                               | SWAP YES ESAU                  |
| 17 Journey segment         |                               | INTRO TAP ERR                  |
| 18 Lotus model             |                               | CAWS VEG                       |
| 19 Burdens                 |                               | AWHILE AERIES                  |
| 21 Yours truly             |                               | BIDS DOGPATCH                  |
| 22 Choppers                |                               | ALO ERE SERA                   |
| 24 Sculptor's medium       |                               | BEGS RED SMUG                  |
| 27 Preceding               |                               |                                |
| 28 Takeout request         |                               |                                |
| 31 Army rank (Abbr.)       |                               |                                |
| 32 Be unwell               |                               |                                |
| 33 Indivisible             |                               |                                |
| 34 Pop choice              |                               |                                |
| 36 Pigpen                  |                               |                                |
| 37 Incite                  |                               |                                |
| 38 Overact                 |                               |                                |
| 40 "Monopoly" corner       |                               |                                |

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

ZTWJG RKIJ ABZON LCN PZR

TKFCX WK AJ YFLBWM KT Z

OGLIJ, WDJM PKFCX FS

SFWWLCY LW LC WDJ SJC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN PLANT PROCEDURE IS BROADCAST ON THE TUBE, MIGHT SOMEONE CALL THAT A TELEGRAFT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T