

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



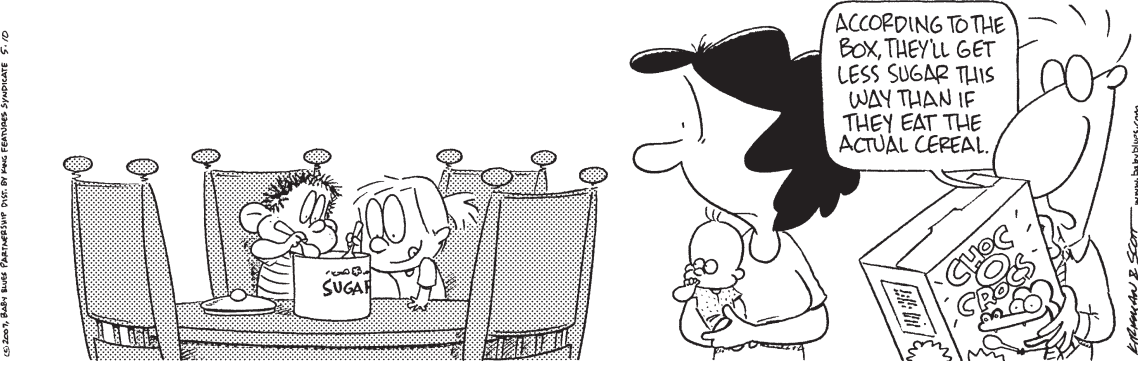
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

NGAOL DJ MWRFLY YLWXXJ

XZBLN XGOVGAP LABLXZTLN,

TLZTXL ZMRLA XGVL RZ

OWXX FGD W NLWXGAP MWA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FEMALE MONARCH WERE A FAN OF LOW-QUALITY BEDS, SHE COULD BE CALLED MARY, QUEEN OF COTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/10

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/10

Bridge

North dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

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

WEST

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

EAST

♠ Q J 5 3  
♥ Q 9 5  
♦ A 9 6  
♣ K 7 4

SOUTH

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — seven of diamonds.

Diagnostic Defense

Defending well is partly a matter of diagnosing how the unseen cards are divided and then partly a matter of determining how to take advantage of your diagnosis.

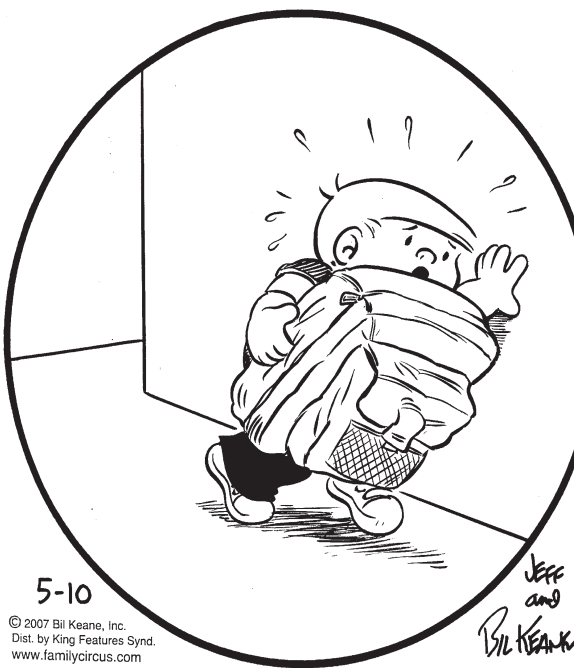
Assume you're West and lead a diamond. East wins with the ace and returns the nine, South playing the queen on the second diamond. If you win with the king and start to think of what to do next, it is already too late because declarer is now sure to make 10 tricks, whatever you do.

But if you take the time to analyze the probable diamond distribution after declarer plays the queen on East's nine at trick two, you should reach the conclusion that East started with the A-9-x and South with the Q-J-x-x. You therefore play the three on the queen and eventually score a one-trick set.

How can you know how the diamonds are divided in the unseen hands? To begin with, the bidding tells you that South is unlikely to have five diamonds — and if he does, the chances are that the contract cannot be defeated. Nor can South have three diamonds, because that would mean East had four, in which case he would have returned his original fourth-best diamond at trick two rather than the nine.

It follows that South started with exactly four diamonds headed by the Q-J, and that ducking the queen is necessary in order to maintain communiOf course, South could have fixed your wagon beyond repair had he ducked the second diamond instead of putting up the queen, but that is a play he will have plenty of time to regret if you fulfill your obligations by ducking the queen after South plays it. Worrying about the opponents' errors is their problem, not yours.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>33</b> Oberlin locale	<b>54</b> Firmament	<b>19</b> "— the season ..."
<b>1</b> Fem. counterpart	<b>34</b> Sodom evacuee	<b>55</b> Portent	<b>21</b> Explan-
<b>5</b> Seek damages	<b>35</b> Nosh	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>1</b> Carte
<b>8</b> Layer of paint	<b>36</b> Before	<b>2</b> Covering	<b>23</b> Mrs. Archie Bunker
<b>12</b> List-ending abbr.	<b>37</b> 1984 Goldie Hawn movie	<b>3</b> Hour-glass fill	<b>24</b> Henry —
<b>13</b> Mess up	<b>40</b> Metric syllable	<b>4</b> Wash	<b>25</b> Carbon com-pound
<b>14</b> Luau dance	<b>41</b> Rough	<b>5</b> Twilight time, maybe	<b>26</b> Piercing tools
<b>15</b> Zilch	<b>45</b> Vivacity	<b>6</b> Swiss canton	<b>27</b> Cat call
<b>16</b> Compete	<b>47</b> Main-lander's memento	<b>7</b> Put up	<b>28</b> Ruse
<b>17</b> Particular	<b>49</b> Disturb	<b>8</b> Leader	<b>32</b> Rooks
<b>18</b> Latest news	<b>50</b> Poolroom prop	<b>9</b> Com-pletely	<b>33</b> Erie neighbor
<b>20</b> Chas-tity's mom	<b>51</b> Moray, for one	<b>10</b> Pub order	<b>35</b> Swelled head
<b>22</b> 1980 Jane Fonda movie	<b>52</b> Title	<b>11</b> High-lander's chapeau	<b>36</b> Venusian vessel
<b>26</b> Collect	<b>53</b> "Planet of the —"		<b>38</b> Crannies
<b>29</b> Morning moisture			<b>39</b> With aloofness
<b>30</b> Martini ingredient			<b>42</b> Leeway
<b>31</b> Existed			<b>43</b> Location
<b>32</b> Spanish literary hero			<b>44</b> Verve
			<b>45</b> Support system?
			<b>46</b> Eminem's genre
			<b>48</b> "A mouse!"


Solution time: 25 mins.

PAW	FMS
TAXI	ARIAS
POLLS	DEGREE
SWEET	NOTHING
INS	FIRST
LUKE	ATOP
WHALE	DOYEN
VIEW	DIVE
IRA	SPOKE
ZEROT	TOLERANCE
STROLL	DIANA
HANKY	URGE
LEA	ESS

Yesterday's answer 5-10

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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