

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



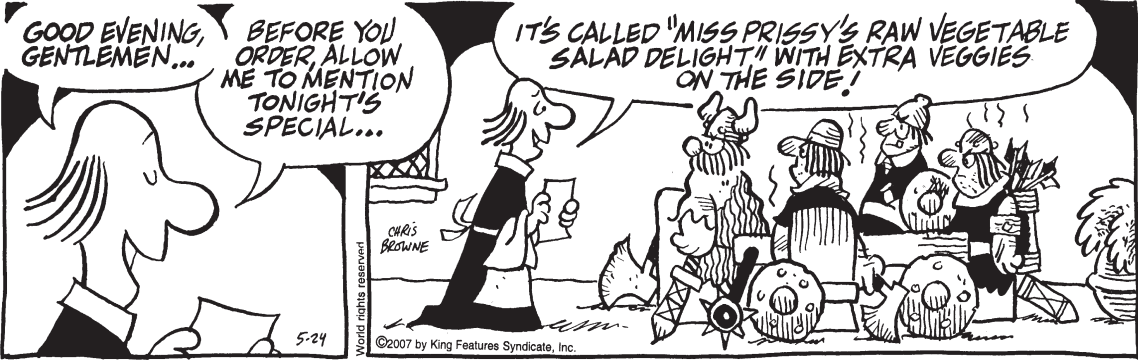
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



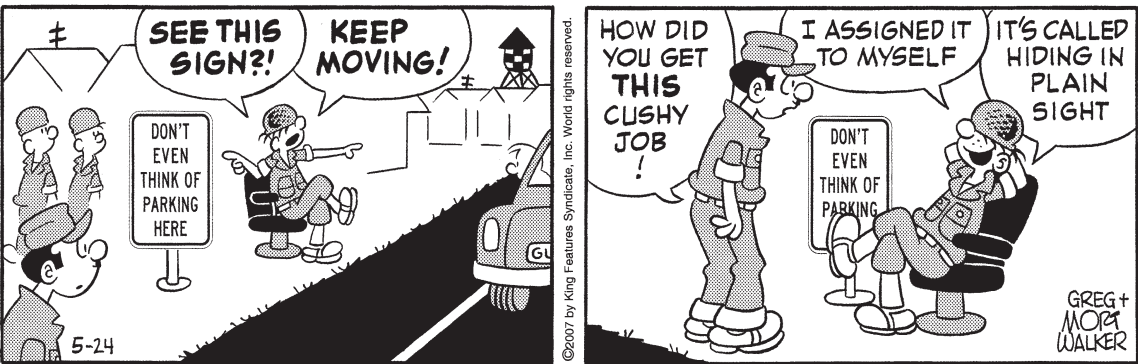
Blondie • Chic Young



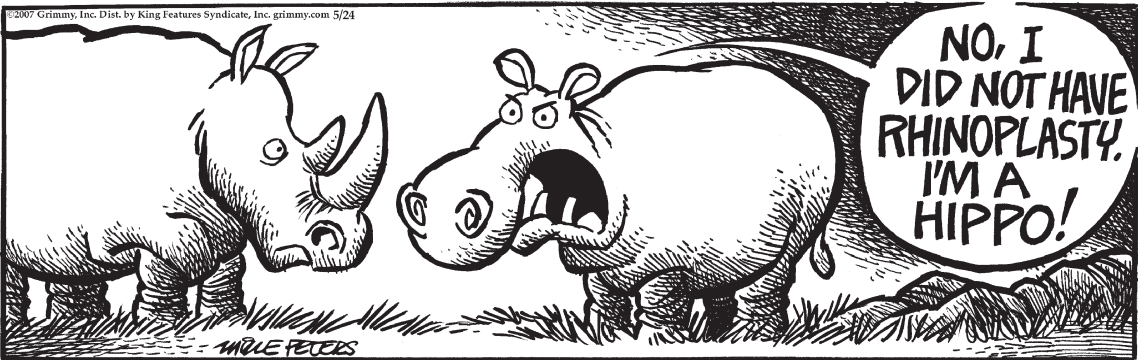
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



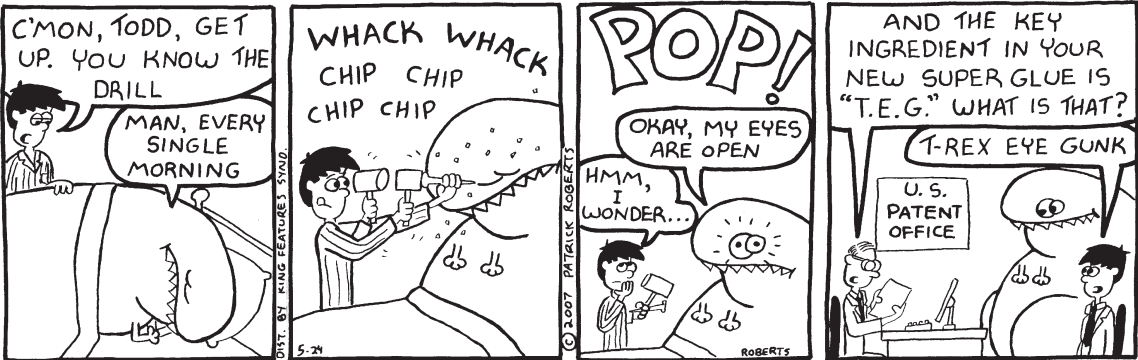
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

BL PLR IREELIW DMCP

XMDI LA RCWVDWC

ALLB OVP XW ZVUUB

VUMOWCDVYP EVYDMZUWI?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF MS. FONDA DECIDED TO BECOME A JET PILOT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY SHE'D BE A PLANE JANE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals Y

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/24

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/24

Bridge

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

|              |            |              |              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>NORTH</b> |            | <b>EAST</b>  |              |
| ♠            | J 9 7 4    | ♠            | Q            |
| ♥            | A K Q      | ♥            | 7 6 5 2      |
| ♦            | Q 8        | ♦            | J 9 7 3      |
| ♣            | A K 8 4    | ♣            | Q 10 9 6     |
| <b>WEST</b>  |            | <b>SOUTH</b> |              |
| ♠            | K 3        | ♠            | A 10 8 6 5 2 |
| ♥            | 10 9 8 3   | ♥            | J 4          |
| ♦            | K 10 6 4 2 | ♦            | A 5          |
| ♣            | J 5        | ♣            | 7 3 2        |

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♦ Pass  
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♣

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

With a Little Bit of Luck

The best that can be said for arriving at an anti-percentage contract is that it frequently presents declarer with a challenge during the play. That was the case in this deal where South stretched his values somewhat to bid a shaky slam. However, he then justified his rosy assessment by finding a way to bring in 12 tricks.

When dummy came down, prospects were not too good. To begin with, there was at least one trump loser, and on top of that there was either a diamond or a club loser, depending on what South discarded on dummy's third heart.

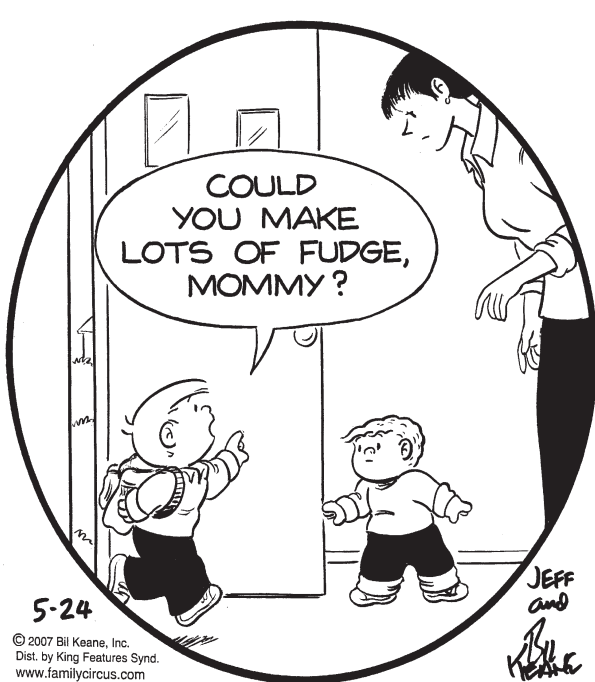
The slam was not hopeless, though, since there were two legitimate chances to make it. Accordingly, after winning the heart lead in dummy, declarer led the jack of spades and took East's queen with the ace as West followed low.

Next came two more heart winners, South discarding a club, followed by the A-K of clubs and a club ruff, on which West discarded a diamond. Had the clubs divided 3-3 instead of 4-2, the slam would have been in the bag at this point since dummy's fourth club would provide a parking place for South's diamond loser.

But even after the clubs failed to break, the battle was not yet lost. South still had one last chance, and so, with fingers crossed, he exited with a trump in the hope of finding West with both the king of spades and king of diamonds.

The hope became a full-fledged reality when West won the trump lead with the king and was forced to return a diamond or a heart, handing declarer the slam.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I'm running for class president and I need votes."

Crossword

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | <b>DOWN</b>         |
| 1 "Dragnet" star             | 1 Texas city        |
| 5 Potential syrup            | 2 Grand story       |
| 8 Portent                    | 3 Pulsate           |
| 12 Unoriginal one            | 4 Pin               |
| 13 George's brother          | 5 Evil              |
| 14 Ersatz swing              | 6 Exist             |
| 15 Arri-vederci              | 7 Cracker spread    |
| 16 Trawling need             | 8 Futile            |
| 17 B&Bs                      | 9 Give service (to) |
| 18 They're marine and "army" | 10 Sea flock        |
| 20 Braggart, perhaps         | 11 Egg container?   |
| 22 Opposite of "trans-"      |                     |
| 23 Pompous fool              |                     |
| 24 Poison-ivy symptom        |                     |
| 27 Dining surface            |                     |
| 32 Vast expanse              |                     |
| 33 Mount stat                |                     |
| 34 Mess up                   |                     |
| 35 Variety of orange rival   |                     |
| 38 Hydrox                    |                     |
| 39 Annoy                     |                     |
| 40 Prankster                 |                     |
| 42 Cuff-to-crotch measure    |                     |
| 45 Vacillate                 |                     |
| 49 Track trans-actions       |                     |
| 50 Make up your mind         |                     |
| 52 Narthex neighbor          |                     |
| 53 Enrages                   |                     |
| 54 Neckline shape            |                     |
| 55 Okla-homa city            |                     |
| 56 "Finding Nemo" character  |                     |

Solution time: 25 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | K | I | N | A | B | E | S | O | A | P |
| C | O | D | A | R | O | Y | I | N | F | O |
| T | O | E | T | O | T | O | E | N | E | R |
| S | P | A | I | N | D | O | C | T | O | R |
| T | I | D | E | A | R | O | D | O | R | B |
| E | R | A | G | R | I | N | S | N | E | O |
| D | E | Y | A | X | E | L | B | E | V | E |
| T | O | P | D | Y | N | E |   |   |   |   |
| P | L | O | V | E | R | A | G | R | E | E |
| L | A | D | E | N | D | T | O | E | N | D |
| O | M | A | N | E | A | U | F | A | Y | E |
| W | A | Y | S | D | A | Y | E | F | R | A |

Yesterday's answer 5-24

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |

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