

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



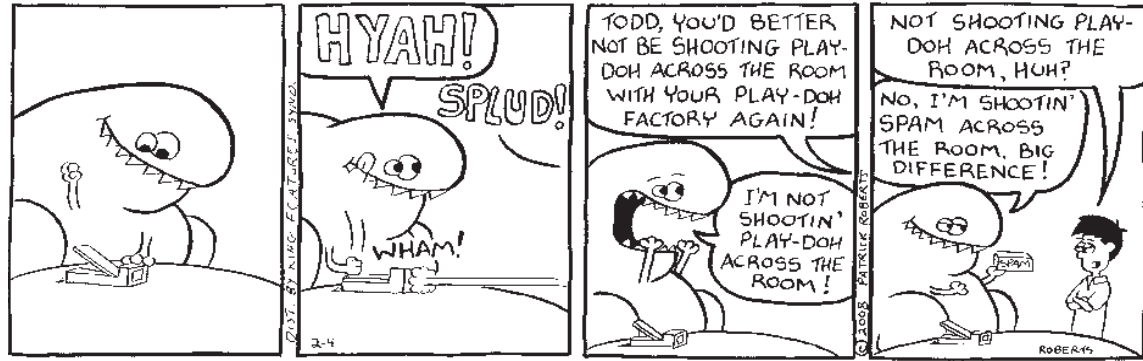
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

NIMYK GDT GDTDX YQ RJ
CKYY ZSGNYHC CKJG ZSN
JIRYK XDKGYTR. ZY VDHYYQ
SR "RZY N-VDMY YNVDY."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE GINGERBREAD MAN IS SO STRONG-MINDED, I OFTEN THINK OF HIM AS ONE TOUGH COOKIE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/04

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/04

Bridge

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 3 2
♥ 10 8 7
♦ A K J 9 8 7 6
♣ 4

WEST
♠ K 10 7
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 7 6 3

EAST
♠ Q J 8 4
♥ A K J 9 3
♦ 5 3
♣ 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A 9 6 5
♥ 4
♦ 2
♣ A K Q J 10 8 5

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1♥ Dble
3♥ 5♦ Pass 6♣

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the quarter-final match between Norway and Italy at the 1997 world team championship in Hammamet, Tunisia. It features a truly brilliant play by Italy's Lorenzo Lauria, who found the only way to defeat a slam that appeared certain to succeed.

The deal was the last in the 96-deal match. At one table, the Italian North-South pair reached five clubs and made six. After a heart lead and a trump shift, declarer drew trumps and led a diamond to the jack. When the finesse worked and the diamonds divided 3-2, declarer had the rest of the tricks.

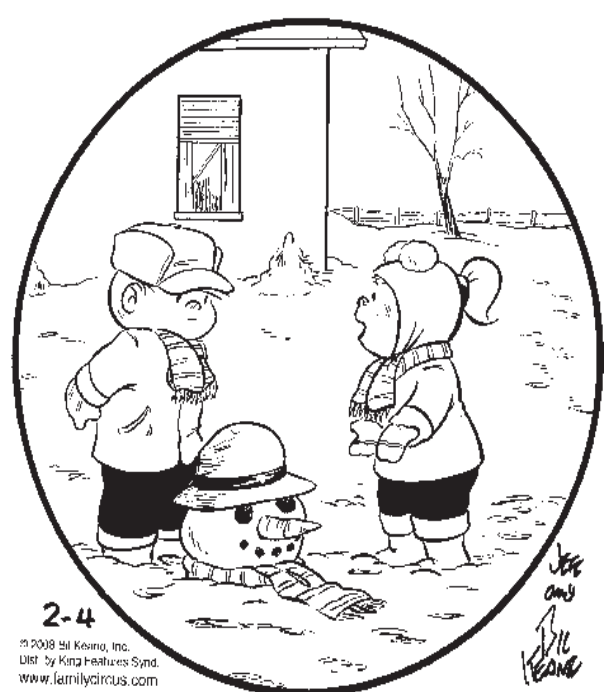
At the second table, the Norwegian pair of Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo were North-South, and the bidding went as shown. Lauria, East, won the opening heart lead with the king and went into a lengthy huddle.

As Lauria contemplated his next move, the Vu-Graph commentators analyzing the deal before a large audience observed that the only way to defeat the slam was to return a diamond into dummy's strong suit. This is not a play that would occur to many, and most players would no doubt elect to continue with a second heart, shift to the queen of spades or perhaps return a trump.

After several agonizing minutes, Lauria, crediting Helgemo with a hand such as the one he had, found the killing diamond shift. With his only diamond thus expended before trumps could be drawn, declarer could no longer utilize dummy's long suit, and the slam went down.

Despite Lauria's magnificent effort, the Italians narrowly lost to the Norwegians, who were then eliminated in the semifinal by the eventual champion, France.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My snowman is standing in a hole."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Matter-horn, for one
4 Stir-fry vessel
7 En-grossed
11 Yeses' cancelers
13 Ostrich-like bird
14 Loosen
15 Beige
16 Auction action
17 Command to Fido
18 Egg-beating tool
20 Throw
22 Intend
24 Oration
28 Marked by a rancher
32 First Greek letter
33 Branch
34 Wrigley product
36 Slender
37 Poppy derivative
39 Tonsorial artists
41 Tried

43 Small legume
44 Film fragment
46 Slezay one (Sl.)
50 Especially
53 Doggy
55 Great Lake
56 Tom Joad, e.g.
57 Bonfire residue
58 Depend (on)
59 Have on
60 Pigpen
61 DDE's opponent

3 "Frasier" actress
4 "Charlotte's —"
5 Leave out
6 Praise
7 Pulitzer-winning New York Times columnist
8 Pismire
9 Handheld organizer, for short
10 Plaything
12 Four-time Iditarod winner
19 Tease
21 Resort
23 "Little Women" woman
25 Duel tool
26 Burn something
27 — Christian Andersen
28 Rorschach picture
29 Mature writer
30 Writer Kingsley
31 Fix the sound-track
35 Chart
38 Blanc or Brooks
40 In medias —
42 Prima donnas
45 Nuisance
47 Neighborhood
48 Cleopatra's river
49 Jailer's janglers
50 Scatter seed
51 Guitar's kin
52 Spy org.
54 "Honor — father ..."

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 2-4

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
28	29	30		31		32			
33			34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		
41			42		43				
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52		53		54		55	
58				57				58	
59				60					61