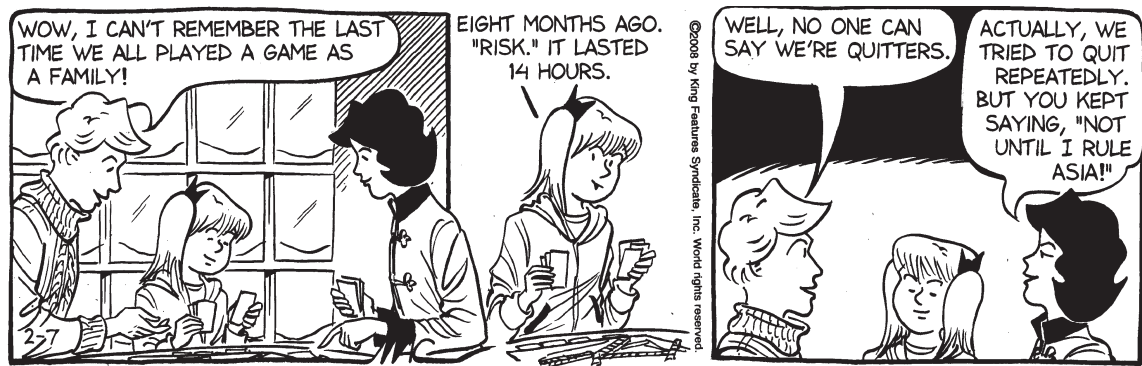
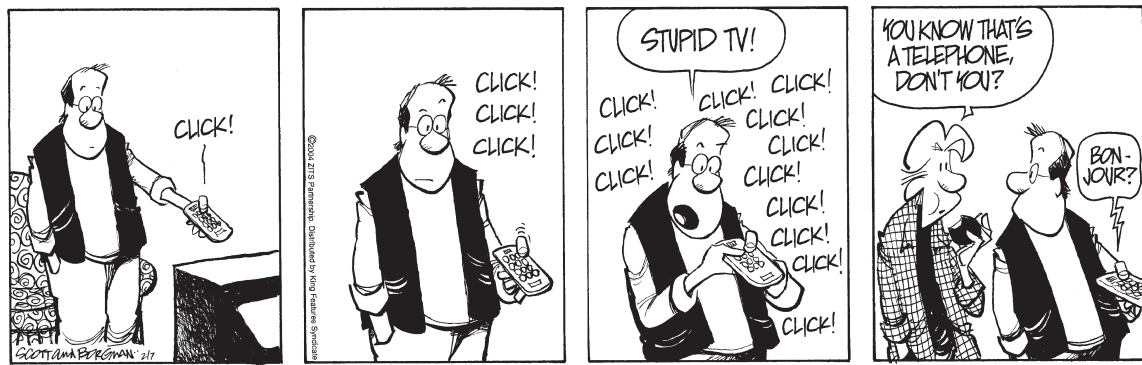


**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



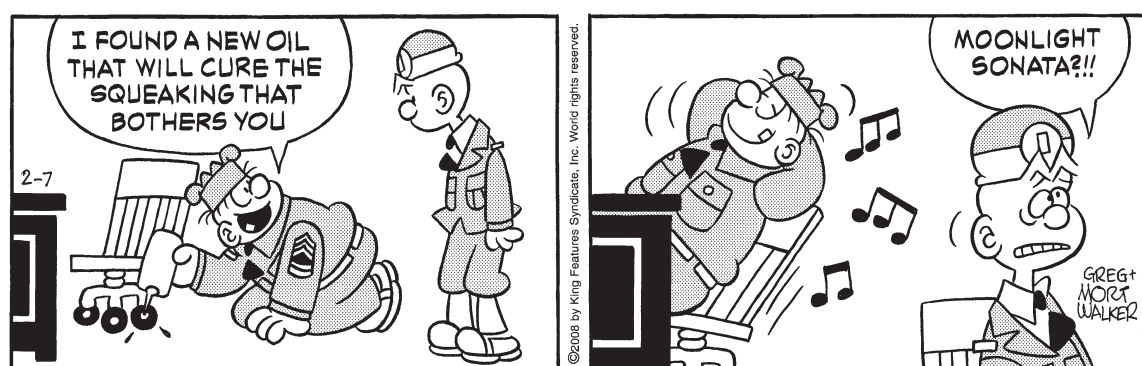
**Blondie • Chic Young**



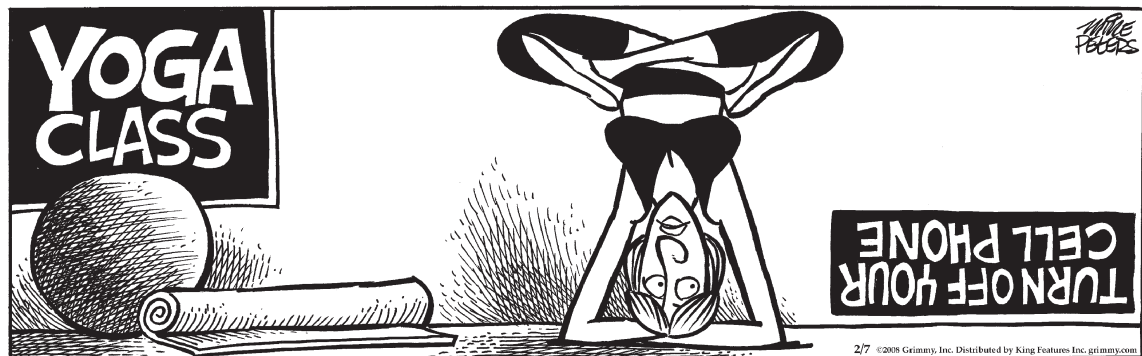
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



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



**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

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**Cryptoquip**

MTYV O FUGXOVS'I JUX  
WUK IJOSI IUGYMTYDY  
CUVK-JYDG, E'W FOCC TEG  
JTY DYIEWYVJ XDYIEWYVJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WONDER, WOULD A SPORTSCASTER WHO CALLS SOME BIG GAME BE CONSIDERED THE COURT REPORTER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals I

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/08

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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**Bridge**

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ A J 10 3  
♦ K Q 5  
♣ 9 7 6 4

**WEST**  
♠ K 9 6 5 4 3 2  
♥ 9 8 7 4  
♦ 10 3  
♣ —

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 8 7  
♥ K 6 2  
♦ J 7  
♣ Q J 10 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ —  
♥ Q 5  
♦ A 9 8 6 4 2  
♣ A K 8 5 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass  
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
4 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Opening lead — nine of hearts.

**Accidentally on Purpose**

"What can defeat me?" is a question every declarer should ask himself, even when there seems to be only a remote chance of defeat. If the answer is that a particular distribution, however unlikely, would put the contract in jeopardy, declarer should start looking for a way to overcome that distribution.

Consider this deal here -- without seeing the East-West cards -- it seems highly probable that South will make 12 or 13 tricks in six diamonds. That would be the outcome in most deals, since the missing diamonds and clubs would be divided 2-2 or 3-1 more than 80 percent of the time.

But South has no right to assume that either suit is divided favorably, and from the start he should cater to the possibility of a 4-0 division in one suit or the other.

Accordingly, he wins the heart lead with the ace and discards his other heart on the ace of spades. Trumps are the next order of business, and, as there is no way of avoiding a trump loser if either opponent has all four of them, declarer starts to draw trumps by cashing first the ace and then the queen.

When the diamonds turn out to be divided 2-2, South's only remaining concern is a 4-0 club division. He cannot protect against West having all four of them, so he proceeds on the assumption that East has them.

He leads the four of clubs from dummy, and, after East produces the three, he plays the deuce from his hand! As a result he makes the slam, losing only one club trick. Note that declarer goes down if he fails to make this play.

If East plays the ten on the first club lead, South wins with the king and returns a club to dummy's nine. East wins with the jack, but declarer trumps the spade return, crosses to dummy with a trump and finesses against East's Q-3 of clubs to make the slam.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Venus de Milo's lack  
5 Basilica area  
9 King preceder  
12 Mile fraction  
13 Depilatory brand  
14 Boxer  
15 Hors d'oeuvre  
17 Opposite of "post-"  
18 Affleck's "Hollywood-land" role  
19 Lubricated  
21 Former mate  
22 Tuesday, in Toulouse  
24 Role in "Evita"  
27 Not worth a —  
28 Blue shade  
31 Sound intensifier  
32 "Father, ..."  
33 Sailors' org.  
34 Navigator's stack

**DOWN**

1 Some-where out there  
2 "Clue" weapon  
3 Look dejected  
4 Spielberg or Tyler  
5 Black-birds  
6 Peace, to Pancho  
7 "Sprchen — Deutsch?"  
8 Slip-up  
9 Garment decoration  
10 Entice  
11 On in years  
16 Cowboy nickname  
20 Actress Lupino  
22 Click-and-drag device  
23 Atmosphere  
24 Bread spread  
25 Ms. Thurman  
26 Book supplement  
27 Earth  
29 Work with  
30 Moreover  
35 — Paulo  
37 Statistic for a  
39 Tennis surface, sometimes  
40 Affliction  
41 Cleans the floors  
42 As well  
43 Puffed  
44 Asian nation  
45 Sicilian spouter  
46 Antelope's playmate  
49 Bit of wordplay  
50 Expert

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 2-7

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		