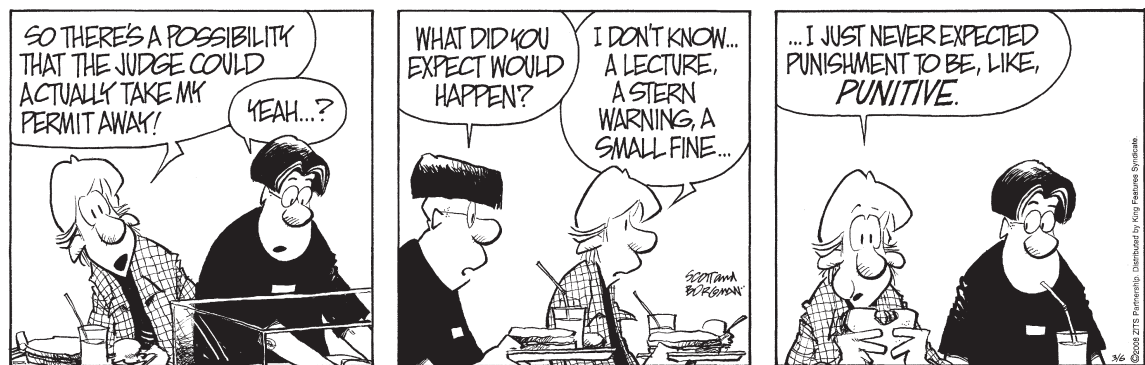


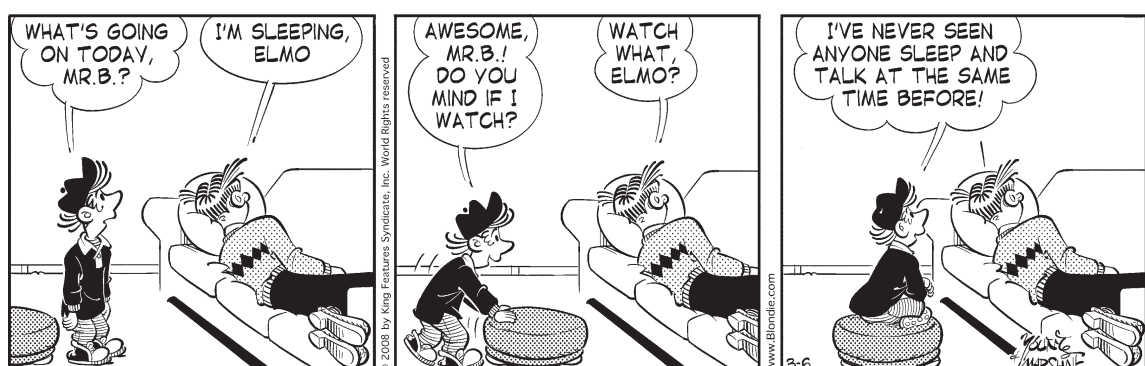
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



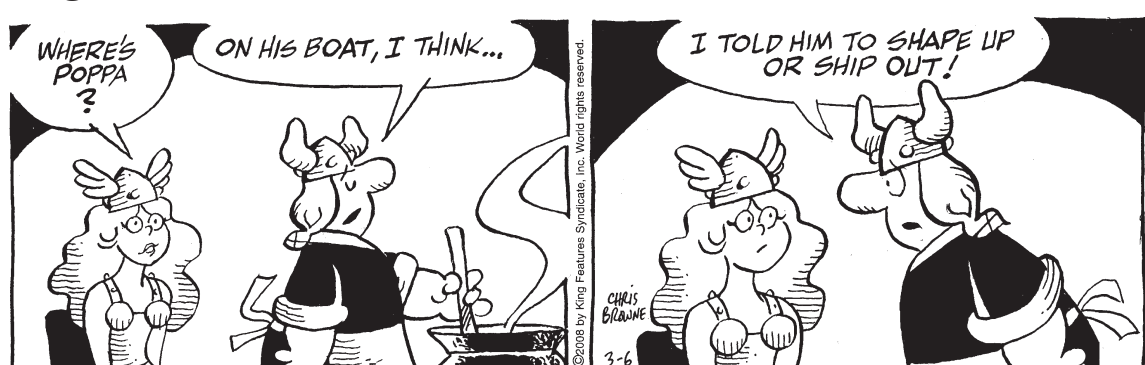
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



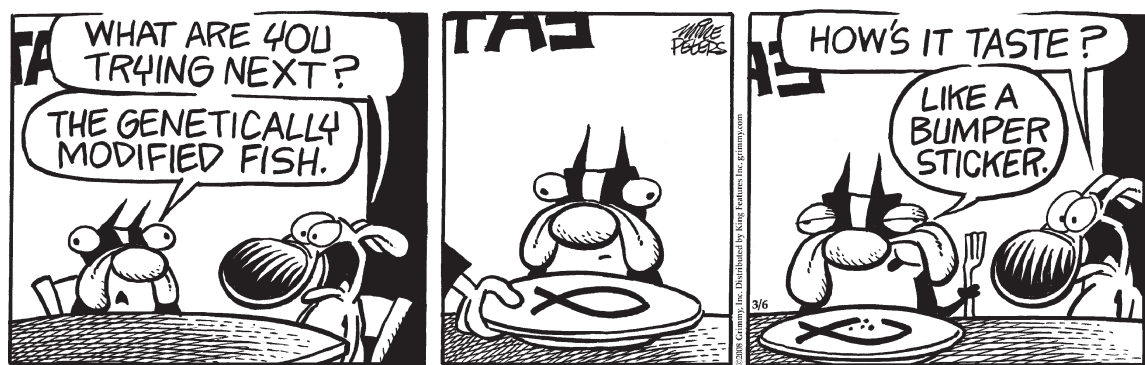
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



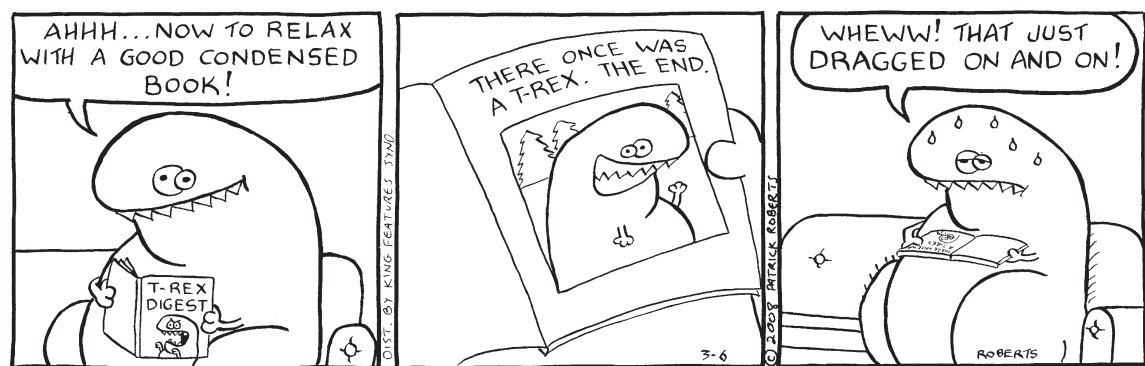
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



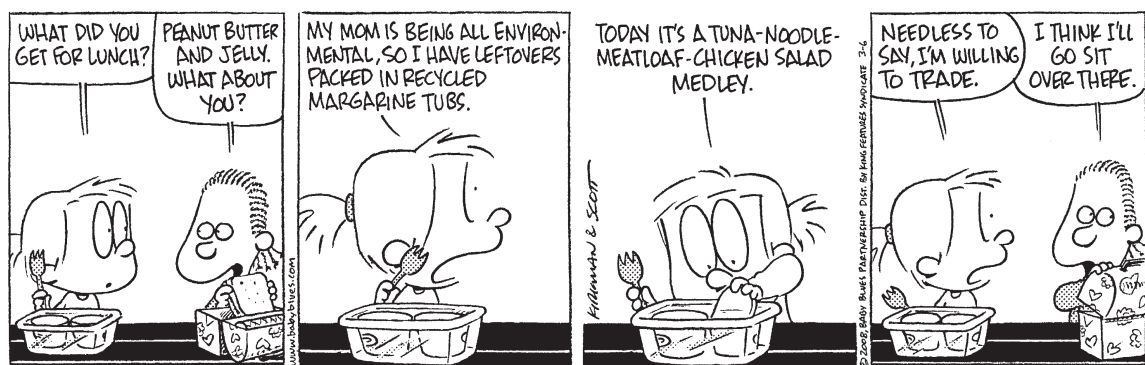
**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



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



**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

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**Cryptoquip**

3-6 CRYPTOQUIP

W X K K D W J M V H Z G Q C X T J W  
D X F W J N Q D M H W Z D C Z G J M V  
G D F N H O, Z D X P N G Q T Q

H M J M Q F O - N Q V C Q Q H M V Q P?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME LOUSY EGGS I PURCHASED TODAY ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SCRAMBLE. THEY CAN'T BE BEAT!  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/06

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/06

**Bridge**

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 4  
♥ Q 9  
♦ A 8 7 4 3  
♣ A Q 6 5

**WEST**  
♠ Q J 10 3  
♥ 8 6 4  
♦ K J 5  
♣ J 9 2

**EAST**  
♠ 8 7 6 2  
♥ 5 3  
♦ Q 10 9 2  
♣ K 10 8

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♥ Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

**Charting your course of play**

There are many hands where declarer has no choice but to rely on luck, but before resigning himself to the whims of fate, he is obligated to try to reduce the luck factor as much as possible.

Consider this deal where South got to six hearts and West led a spade.

At first glance, the outcome seems to depend entirely on a club finesse, but declarer found a way to improve his chances considerably with a minimum degree of risk.

After taking the spade ace at trick one, South led a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond.

This was followed by a heart to the queen and a second diamond ruff. When both opponents followed to this trick, the slam became a heavy favorite.

At trick six, South cashed the king of spades and then ruffed a spade with the nine of hearts. Another diamond was led and ruffed, establishing dummy's eight as a trick.

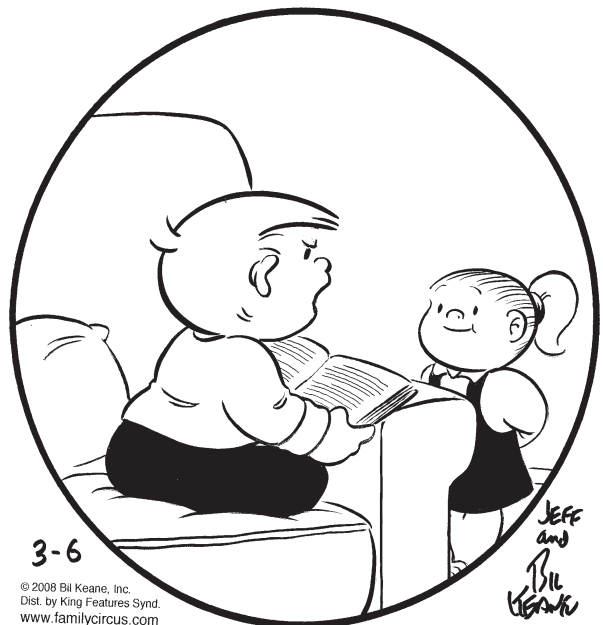
Declarer then played the A-K of hearts, drawing West's last two trumps, after which a club to the ace allowed South to discard a club on the diamond eight and thus make the slam.

By adopting this method of play, South added the chance of a 4-3 diamond division -- about 62 percent -- to the chance that West might have the king of clubs. Had the diamonds failed to divide 4-3, or the trumps 3-2, declarer would still have had the club finesse to fall back on.

As it turned out, the finesse -- which would have lost -- became unnecessary. Thanks to declarer's willingness to seek a way to reduce the luck factor, the slam came sailing home.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



3-6  
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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Close  
5 Succumbs to gravity  
9 Lid for a lad  
12 Surface measure  
13 Tactic  
14 Call — day  
15 "Sweeney Todd" director  
17 Mid-May honoree  
18 Turn to bone  
19 Doughnut topping  
21 Infinitive part  
22 Sajak's prop  
24 On the — (un-friendly)  
27 Chart format  
28 Heidi's venue  
31 Omega precursor  
32 — the ramparts ...  
33 Prior  
34 Big rig  
36 Leary's hallucinogen

**DOWN**

1 Peace-keeping grp.  
2 Eye part  
3 Lapidary's supply  
4 Customs  
5 Agile  
6 Ht.  
7 Sticky stuff  
8 Irish dramatist  
9 "The Santa Clause" star  
10 The gamut  
11 Jerry Herman title  
16 E.T.'s carrier  
20 Meadow  
22 Actress Dianne  
23 Flock  
24 Chances, for short  
25 Work with  
26 Dr. Frank-N-Furter portayer  
27 Staff  
29 Expert  
30 Wield a needle  
35 Charged bit  
37 Chess piece  
39 Correspond path  
40 Curved path  
41 Adversaries  
42 Emanation  
43 Dark cloud, maybe  
44 One of HOMES  
45 Ayes' undoers  
46 Noah's passengers  
49 George's brother  
50 Feline sound

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-6

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |
| 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |    |    | 33 |    |
| 34 |    |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |
|    |    |    | 38 |    | 39 |    |    | 40 |    |    |
| 41 | 42 |    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    | 44 | 45 |
| 47 |    |    |    |    | 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    | 53 |    |
| 54 |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    | 56 |    |

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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