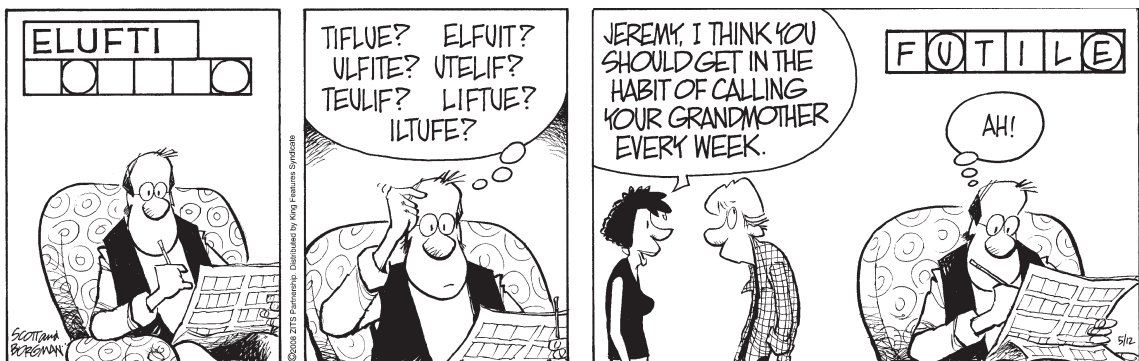


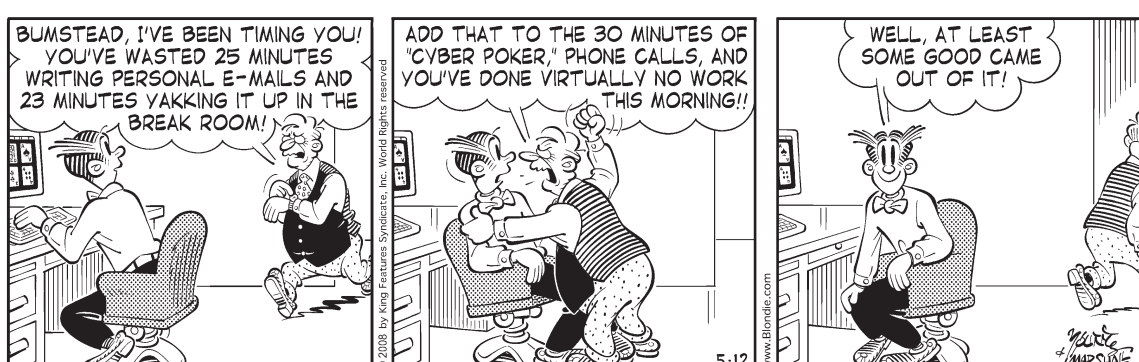
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



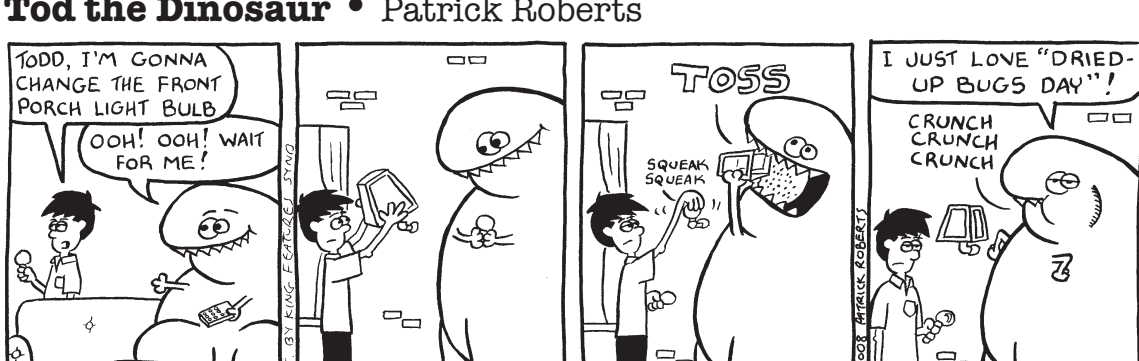
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**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**

BYU LBXIYSAR ZCB ZVA  
TVFBGA TBQ GASLK ZIVAIY  
ZBQUA RCQBGKCBGR CSA  
ZQSRSLKA: IQFSLI FIYXSYYI.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN COMPLIMENTING ME ON HOW MUCH SHE LIKED MY HOMEMADE SYRUP, SHE REALLY POURED IT ON THICK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals W

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 5/12

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

Difficulty Level ★ 5/12

**Bridge**

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 9 7 5  
♥ K Q J 5 3 2  
♦ K 7  
♣ 10

**WEST**  
♠ K Q 10 8 6  
♥ 10 7 6 4  
♦ 8 4  
♣ A 3

**EAST**  
♠ A 4 3  
♥ A 9 8  
♦ A 10 9 6 5  
♣ J 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ 2  
♥ —  
♦ Q J 3 2  
♣ K Q 9 8 7 5 4 2

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1 ♦ 4 ♣ Dble Pass  
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead — king of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

At the highest levels of the game, judgment, rather than superior card play or esoteric bidding systems, plays a key role in many deals. Consider this case from France's victory over the United States in the final of the 1997 world team championship.

The bidding shown took place when Michel Perron and Paul Chemla were North-South for France, playing against Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman of the U.S.

After Nickell's one-diamond opening, Chemla elected to bid four clubs with his 8-4-1-0 distribution. Freeman's double was not for penalties, but instead showed moderate values, a method that has gained many advocates in recent years.

The trouble with this type of nebulous double is that it frequently poses a difficult rebid problem for the doubler's partner. That's exactly what happened here.

Considering that East had a minimum opening bid -- including three aces -- and no certainty of a fit in any suit, it would seem that East's best choice was to pass and settle for defeating four clubs one or two tricks. But East elected to rebid his flimsy five-card diamond suit, and everyone passed.

Four diamonds did not fare well. Nickell took the king of clubs with the ace and ducked the eight of diamonds to South's jack. Chemla cashed the club queen and led another club, ruffed by North with the king and overruffed by the ace.

Nickell returned the ten of diamonds to South's queen, and Chemla, who still had the 3-2 of diamonds, forced declarer to ruff another club, leaving Nickell with only one diamond. No matter how declarer continued, he could not prevent Chemla from eventually running his clubs, and the result was down five, minus 500.

At the other table, the U.S. South, Eric Rodwell, bid five clubs rather than four at his first turn, was doubled by West and went down two, losing two diamonds, a club and a spade for minus 300. The combined loss for the U.S. came to 800 points, or 13 IMPs.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



Why? My hands are really clean.

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- Star-spangled banner
- Baseball headgear
- Sunrise
- Suave
- Arthur of tennis
- Capital of South Australia
- Comedian Caroline
- \$5 bill
- Twain lad
- Flat
- Big rig
- Winged
- Voiced phonemes
- Omega precursor
- Capital of Western Australia
- Owens
- Stores grain
- Minimal change
- Holler
- Allen or Harrelson
- Treelless plain
- Pitch (Abbr.)
- Capital of Queensland
- Donate
- Certain Protestant
- Remain
- Id counterpart
- Bestow temporarily

**DOWN**

- Consumer watchdog org.
- Started
- 34-Across face track
- Tiger Woods, e.g.
- Abel's slayer
- Help
- Santa's sackload
- Capital of the Northern Territory
- Wan
- Roller-coaster cry
- Approach
- Perform perfectly
- Asian nurse-maid
- Once around the track
- Other-wise
- Concoited
- Soap actress Louise
- Apt to be bought
- Vincent van Gogh's brother
- Beach stuff
- Wharf
- Pigpen
- Capital of New South Wales
- Supportive projection in a wall
- Lave
- Labels
- One
- Scotia
- Salsa legend Puente
- Carpet
- Exist
- A
- Bobbyey twin
- Conclusion

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

OUR	PLEA	AMP								
PROW	HANS	TEE								
ESSE	ITCH	ONE								
NASA	LEA	SPUR								
	TRI	MOW								
PASSUP	PREFAB									
ADHOC	DAILY									
PSYCHE	SETTLE									
	KEY	ARS								
BAGS	SELF	HERD								
UFO	SLUE	ODOR								
FAT	HINT	PIISA								
FRO	EDGY	STAB								

Saturday's answer 5-12

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		