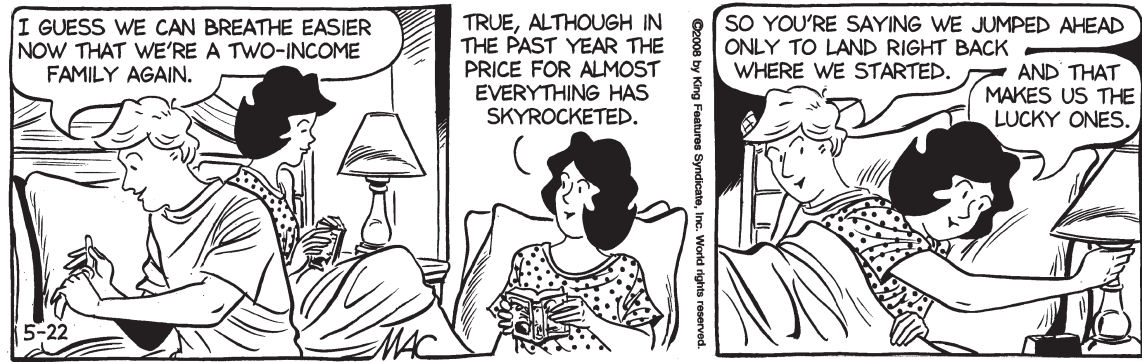


**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



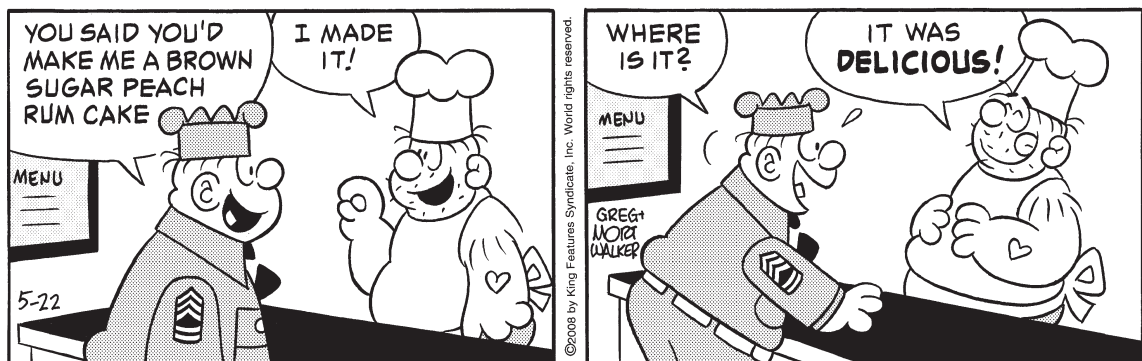
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**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**

PT WTI UETR ROW GOJ  
VXGTK VXGIVZZW AKTUJ OCN  
TRE VKL? CG NJLN OJ  
RVEGJP GT AJ CE GOJ XVNG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SCARABS, FIREFLIES AND LADYBUGS ARE BECOMING WILDLY POPULAR. I WOULD CALL IT BEETLEMANIA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/22

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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**Bridge**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ K Q 10 8 5  
♥ 9 5 2  
♠ A Q 7  
♣ Q 10

**WEST**  
♦ 9 7 3 2  
♥ A K J 10  
♠ 10 8 4  
♣ 9 5

**EAST**  
♦ J 4  
♥ 7 6 3  
♠ 6 5 2  
♣ A 8 7 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♦ A 6  
♥ Q 8 4  
♠ K J 9 3  
♣ K J 6 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT  
Opening lead — ace of hearts.

**The Rationale of Good Defense**

In most circles, the opening lead of an ace against a notrump contract shows a nearly solid suit missing only one honor, and asks partner to play that honor on the ace if he holds it.

One purpose of dropping the honor is to clarify its location for the opening leader; another purpose is to unblock the suit so that it can be run. If the leader's partner does not have the honor, he gives count instead, playing his lowest card with an odd number of cards in the suit, and starting a high-low with an even number.

Consider this deal where East played the heart three on his partner's ace at trick one. Since the deuce was in dummy, it was easy for West to place East with three low hearts and South with the Q-x-x. West now had to decide how to try to reach his partner's hand.

West reasoned that if East had the ace of spades, he would surely gain the lead before declarer could make the contract. The only way South could score nine tricks with out a spade trick would be if he held nine cards in the minors, theoretically impossible on the bidding. It was therefore pointless to lead a

West further reasoned that if declarer needed a diamond finesse to score nine tricks, East would win with the king and make the killing heart return. A diamond shift was therefore also without merit.

And so, by elimination, West found the necessary club shift that quickly set the contract after East took the ace and returned a heart. In shifting to the club, West was guarding against the possibility that declarer might have the ace of spades and four diamonds to the king -- as he actually did -- and was duly rewarded for his incisive thinking.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



5-22

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www.familycircus.com

"How many socks do I need to wear Daddy's shoes?"

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- Medley component
- Airline initials
- Luminary
- Curved molding
- Chit
- Motion picture
- Blueprint
- Always, poetically
- Descartes or Magritte
- Regarding this document
- Entertained
- Sports-caster Scully
- "Ugly Betty" network
- Speck
- Shelters closely
- "... — a puddytat!"
- Lubricate
- Knock
- Colombo is its capital
- Quite

**DOWN**

- Second-year student
- Look lasciviously
- Approach
- Swiss metropolis
- Imbibe (Sl.)
- Affliction
- Emanation
- Hospital garb
- Reason for OT
- Boleyn or Hathaway
- Marsh growth
- Scale note
- Long March leader
- "Monty Python" opener
- Scully need
- Trash-bag closer
- "Ferdinand" cartoonist
- Formal
- Scratch
- Agent
- Rental contracts
- Plant bristle
- TV audience member
- That guy
- Homer Simpson's local watering hole
- Tongue akin to Hindi
- Turnpike fee
- Brazilian rubber
- " — Brockovich"
- Stench
- Tina of "30 Rock"

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

L	A	M	A	P	I	N	A	B	E	L	
A	N	T	S	D	O	E	R	O	L	E	
M	Y	S	T	I	Q	U	E	O	U	S	
B	A	C	O	N	D	I	S	T	E	R	
B	A	C	R	A	C	K	P	E	T	I	
G	A	P	S	L	I	E	S	G	E	D	
A	S	H	B	U	N	N	Y	U	F	O	
S	K	Y	R	E	D	O	B	E	T	H	
S	E	A	A	L	A	E					
A	S	I	A	N	S	C	R	A	S	H	
F	A	O	S	C	R	I	T	I	Q	U	E
A	G	U	E	A	O	K	N	U	D	E	
R	E	E	D	M	O	E	G	A	S	P	

Yesterday's answer 5-22

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		