Sally Forth • Greg Howard
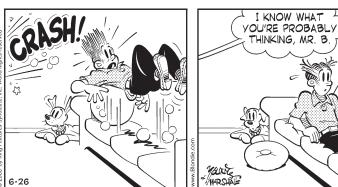

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott
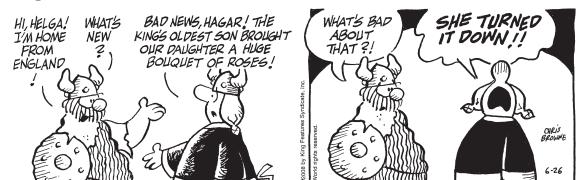
Blondie • Chic Young
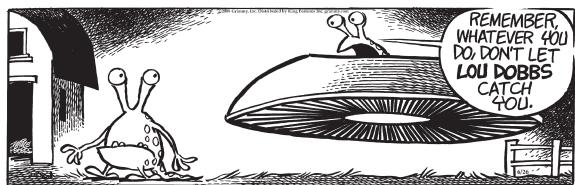
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne
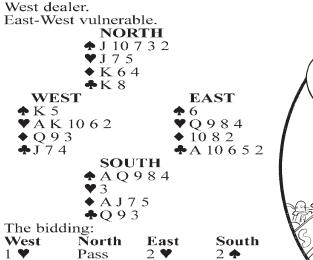

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★   6/26

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

Difficulty Level ★★★   6/26

Bridge

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

```
              NORTH
              ♠ J 10 7 3 2
              ♥ J 7 5
              ♦ K 6 4
              ♣ K 8
WEST                      EAST
♠ K 5                     ♠ 6
♥ A K 10 6 2              ♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ Q 9 3                   ♦ 10 8 2
♣ J 7 4                   ♣ A 10 6 5 2
              SOUTH
              ♠ A Q 9 8 4
              ♥ 3
              ♦ A J 7 5
              ♣ Q 9 3
```

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Accentuate the Positive

The finesse is an extremely valuable tool, but its overall value is greatly reduced if it is used to excess. The aim of a finesse is to gain a trick by neutralizing a high card held by the defenders, but it should not be employed when that trick can be gained by a different approach that is less hazardous.

Consider the present case where West leads the K-A of hearts against four spades. Declarer ruffs and observes that he may lose a trick in each suit. He does not know where the king of spades and queen of diamonds are located, but he is aware that if East has either of these cards, the contract can be made via a successful finesse in either suit.

But there is no urgency about taking either finesse, so at trick three South leads a low club to the king. When this loses to the ace, declarer obtains vital information not previously available. East's possession of the ace of clubs vastly increases the chance that West -- who opened the bidding -- has both missing key cards. The spade and diamond finesses, if attempted, are therefore very likely to lose.

East returns the queen of hearts at trick four and South ruffs. Acting on the information he has gained, declarer cashes the ace of trumps, spurning the finesse, and continues by playing the queen of clubs and a club ruff. He then plays a trump, saddling West with the lead.

West has no safe return. A heart lead yields a ruff-and-discard, while a diamond lead goes into declarer's A-J, so the contract is home.

Note that if South attempts either finesse, he goes down. The bidding and the early play tell him that a finesse is the wrong weapon to use in this deal, and he adapts his play accordingly.

Family Circus • Bil Keane

"...I wanna use it up so I grow bigger faster!"

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Cream of the crop
5 Supermarket supply
9 Ovine comment
12 Lotion additive
13 Chills and fever
14 Performance
15 Spanish city
17 Plato's P
18 Country song?
19 Clan emblem
21 Stylish
22 Actor Rathbone
24 Infant
27 Scott Joplin's genre
28 Author Uris
31 "Born in the —"
32 Raw rock
33 Pair
34 Lass
36 Signs off on
37 Rose feature
38 Smiles broadly
40 Lindbergh book
41 Run the meeting
43 Necktie
47 Cover
48 Lionel or Drew
51 Commotion
52 Hodgepodge
53 "Desire Under the —"
54 "Certainly"
55 Freeway exit
56 Egg container?

DOWN
1 Ali —
2 Verve
3 Type
4 Computer pro
5 Soother
6 Past
7 Pistol
8 Moviehouse furniture
9 "Familiar Quotations" man
10 Rue the run
11 Fermi's particle
16 Still, in verse
20 Tin Man's need
22 Kennel sounds
23 Census stats
24 Annoy
25 "— was saying,..."
26 Bridgetown's island
27 Leeway
29 Have bills
30 — de plume
35 Islander's adornment
37 Tars
39 Viny shelter
40 Distorted
41 Sculptor's medium
42 Conceal
43 Cut short
44 Meadow mouse
45 Weaponry
46 Criterion
49 Carte lead-in
50 Edge

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-26

Cryptoquip

```
[ O K Z M   I W P M W K M   B T L M R G

[ R Y I Q M L     P G   N Y S O W

B M Z R O K M B,   O   I T N N W I M   S Q Y S ' I

Y   Z T S   S W   S Q M   Z Q Y O I M .
```

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE AWFULLY TIRED OF GETTING TEASED ALL THE TIME, ONE MIGHT SAY YOU ARE AT TWIT'S END.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T