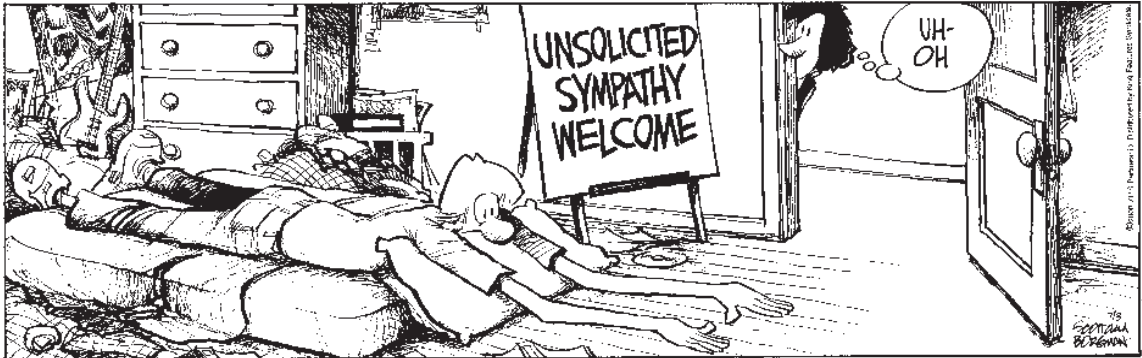


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



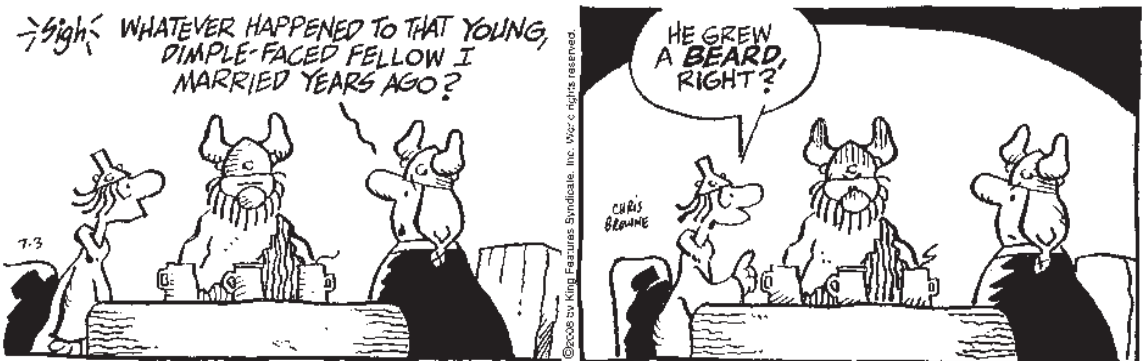
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



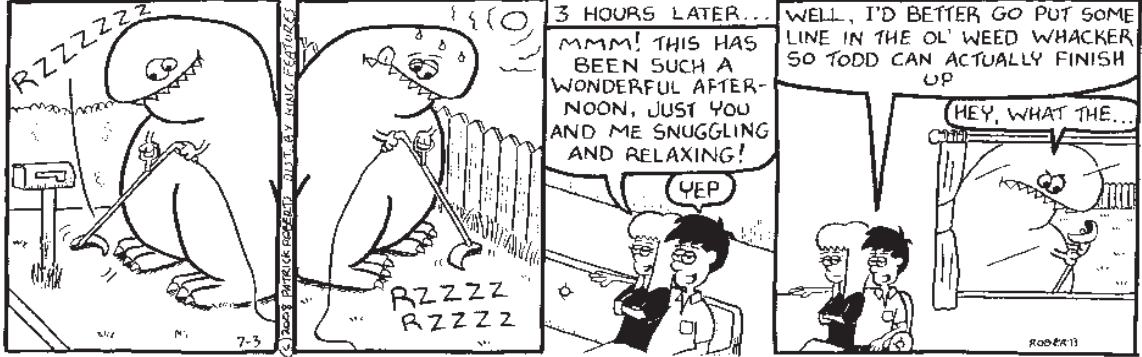
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

EF HFS GSCCFGM XFORMOG TD
DQM BTAEH-JTRKAZ YTBDFOH
JKZQD XTAD DF DTRM T
VOKMY DFFYYMM VOMTR?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOME FLIMSY
PANCAKES ARE LEFT SITTING OUT FOR DAYS, I
RECKON YOU'D GET SOUR CREPES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

Concepta Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/03

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/03

Bridge

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ 8 5 4
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ 10 3
♠ A K J 5

WEST

♦ K 10 7 3 2
♥ 6 4
♦ K Q 9 5
♣ 7 3

EAST

♦ J 9 6
♥ 5
♦ 8 7 6 2
♣ Q 10 9 8 4

SOUTH

♦ A Q
♥ K Q J 9 8 3
♦ A J 4
♣ 6 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	

Opening lead king of diamonds.

A Trap for the Unwary

Occasionally, a player has a chance to win by deception what might be lost by straightforward play. Today's deal provides an interesting example, both from the offensive and defensive points of view.

South won West's king of diamonds with the ace and saw he could make his slam if either the spade or club finesse succeeded. Since both finesses had an equal chance of winning, he decided to forgo the club finesse because the queen might fall on the first, second or third round of the suit.

So, after drawing two rounds of trump, he cashed the A-K of clubs and ruffed a club. When the queen did not drop, the slam appeared to depend on the location of the spade king.

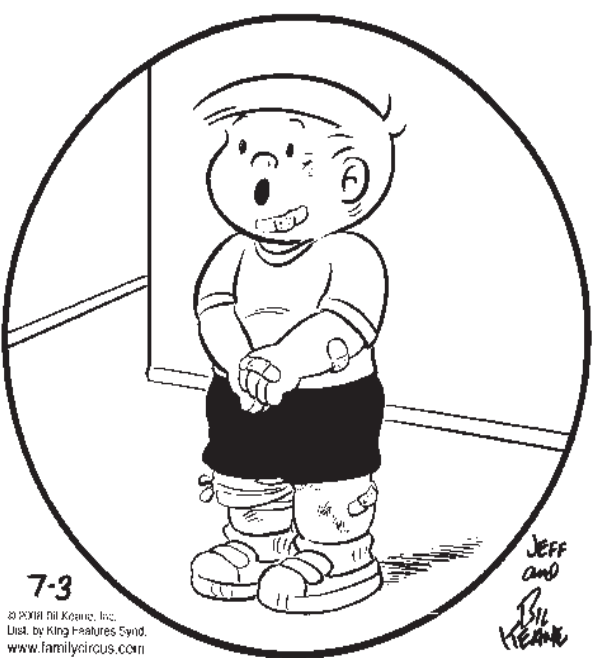
However, declarer was still not inclined to pin all his hopes on a successful spade finesse. Instead, he led a trump to dummy, ruffed the jack of clubs and then led the jack of diamonds!

West won with the queen and found it hard to believe that South would waste the jack of diamonds if he had a low diamond left to lead toward dummy's ten. So, to avoid presenting declarer with a ruff-and-discard, he shifted to a low spade, handing South the slam.

While we have nothing but admiration for South's clever play, West should nevertheless have found the winning counter play. At the point where West won the diamond, declarer had shown up with precisely six hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

If South actually started with only a doubleton diamond, he had to have three spades. So even if a diamond return yielded a ruff-and-discard, it would still leave declarer with a spade loser, assuring that the slam would go down one.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Singer Vikki
5 Witticism
8 Fat
12 Lotion additive
13 Onassis, familiarly
14 Dangling locale
15 45, for one
16 Profit
17 Gilligan's home
18 Not come unglued?
20 Oldsters' org.
22 Wool-worth's was one
26 Weeps loudly
29 Sartorial mishap
30 Sportage maker
31 Farm fraction
32 Tic- -toe
33 Garment borders
34 Half a dance?
35 Fowl often served au vin

DOWN

1 Scoundrels
2 Settled down
3 Parks or Bonheur
4 Use again
5 Food from heaven
6 Mined stuff
7 DiCaprio/Winslet movie
8 Border
9 Tacit
10 Moray, for one
11 Ball holder
19 Reactions of surprise
21 Cleopatra's slayer

23 Baghdad denizen
24 Optician's selections
25 Facility
26 "Art of the Fugue" composer
27 Sore
28 Pre-birthday task
32 "War and Peace" author
33 Revolutionary War mercenary
35 Sob
36 Firmament
38 Third rock from the sun
39 Futile, as a situation
42 Heavy reading?
43 Pitcher
44 McNally partner
45 Type units
46 "Ostentatious? -?"
48 Copper head

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-3

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			