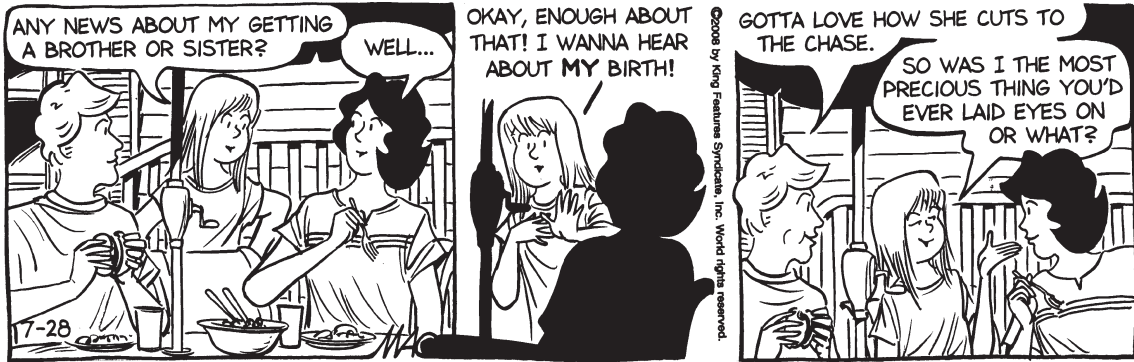


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



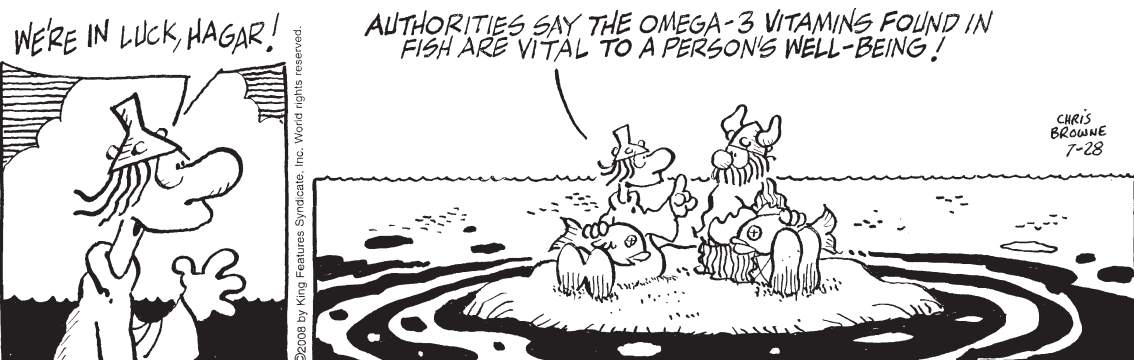
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



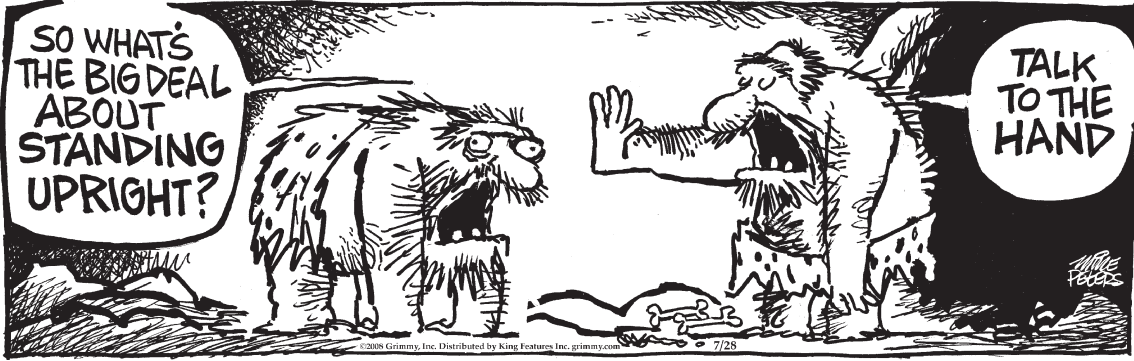
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



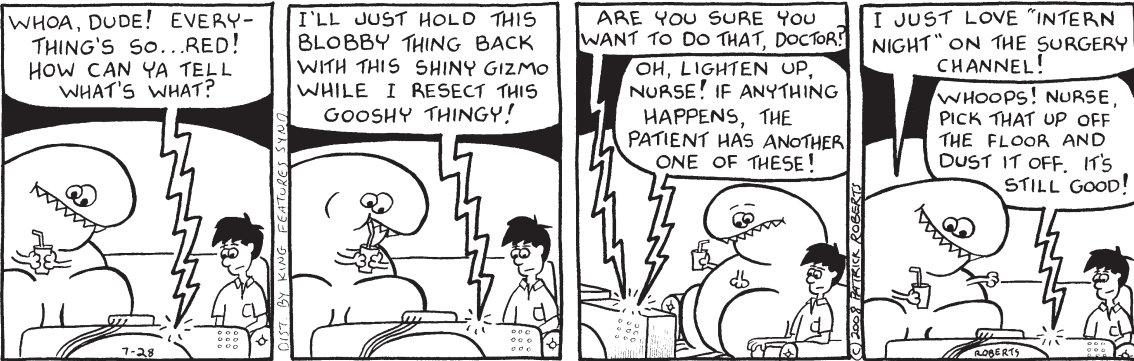
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



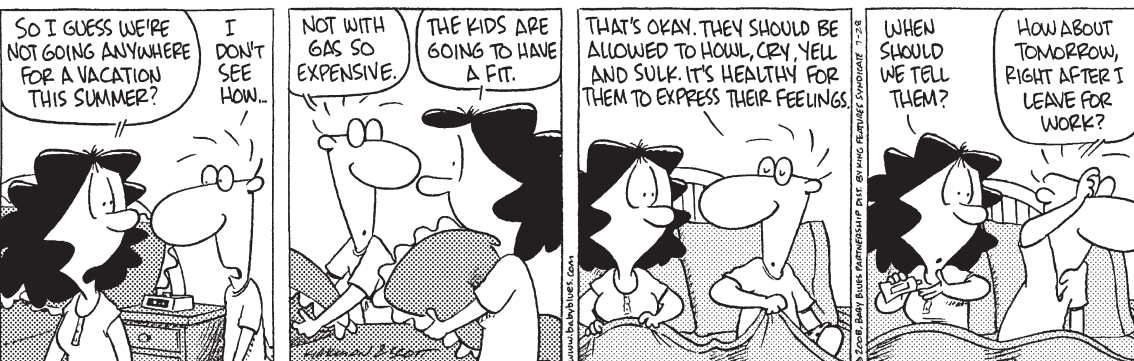
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

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Cryptoquip

E RWXL F TPTKEND LEDV DLCKGC  
GCVETKCN XS QESSCMCWD  
NEHCN. CGCMPOXQP TFKKN  
ED F OERCM'N QXHCW.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTOR TOM OBSERVES A LATE-AUTUMN HOLIDAY, I RECKON HE WOULD BE CELEBRATING HANKS-GIVING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals I

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

7/29

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

7/28

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Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 6  
♥ K 9 6 5 4  
♦ Q 5  
♣ 10 9 7 4

**WEST**  
♠ J 3  
♥ J 8 2  
♦ K J 8 6 4  
♣ A J 3

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 8 5 4 2  
♥ A 3  
♦ A 10 9  
♣ K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass  
Opening lead — two of hearts.

Famous Hand

It is easy to become confused when you play against an artificial bidding system. Most players don't encounter this difficulty because, in the groups in which they play, a spade bid shows spades, diamonds means diamonds, and so on.

However, when you play in tournaments, where advanced bidding methods are used by some pairs, artificial bids are fairly common. How much they gain in the long run is questionable. Here is a case where an artificial bid was successful, but for a peculiar reason.

The deal was played in a match between Great Britain and Italy in 1954. Nothing much happened at the first table, where Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro got to four spades as shown. Reese made six instead of five as the result of a defensive error, but the extra trick he gained was of minor consequence.

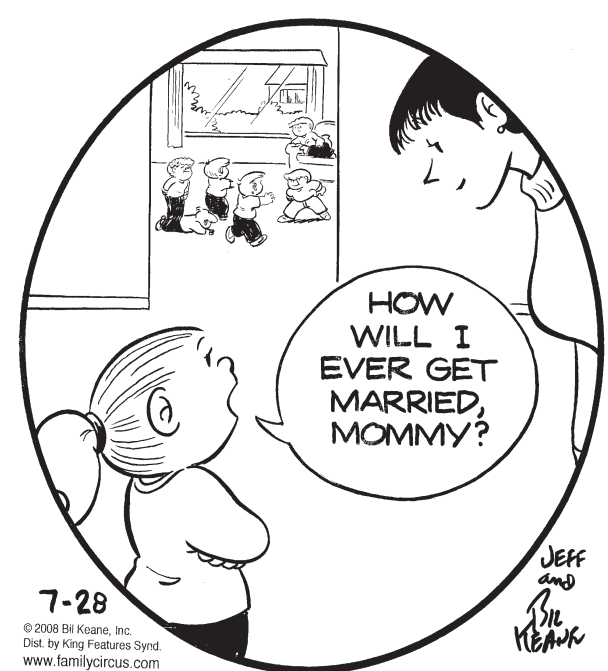
It was at the second table that the fireworks occurred. There, Michele Giovine and Mario Franco held the North-South cards for Italy. They were playing the highly artificial Marmic system.

Giovine opened the South hand with one diamond, a strong bid that had nothing to do with diamonds. Franco responded with one spade, which had nothing to do with spades. It showed a king and some additional values. Eventually, Franco and Giovine arrived at six spades.

Adam Meredith (West) led the jack of spades and thereby handed declarer the contract. Declarer won with the queen, cashed the A-K of hearts, ruffed a heart and then crossed to the ten of spades to obtain two vital discards on the established hearts to make the slam. It was an unfortunate lead, all right, but it was doubly unfortunate because Meredith had led out of turn! Due to the artificial one-spade bid, the actual declarer was North, and East should have made the opening lead.

As it was, North accepted Meredith's lead out of turn, which was his privilege, and so made the slam.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



7-28

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"The only boys around are those friends of Billy's and Jeffy's!"

Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Picket line  
5 San Diego attraction  
8 Lather  
12 Corporate emblem  
13 Squid's fluid  
14 Largest continent  
15 Trebek or Haley  
16 Butcher shop item  
18 Car's tank cover  
20 Ventilation gizmos  
21 Vicinity  
23 Mal de —  
24 Three Bears' meal  
28 Prima donna  
31 Before  
32 Tribe of Natal  
34 Zero  
35 Needing liniment  
37 Part of Iberia

**DOWN**  
39 Dine on  
41 Courts  
42 Answer irritably  
45 Beer gut  
49 Dolphin's kin  
51 Portrayal  
52 Church section  
53 Meadow  
54 Cardinal O'Connor's successor  
55 Requirement  
56 PC-sharing setup  
57 Scepters

2 Pop flavor  
3 Census data  
4 Freight-train component  
5 Closed, as a jacket  
6 Music-maker  
7 Yoko  
8 Gumbo veggie  
9 Holy  
9 Leader's job?  
10 Couturier  
11 Christian  
11 Enervates  
17 Kipling lad  
19 Four Corners st.  
22 Radiant  
24 Legume  
25 Imaginary creature  
26 Go over your lines  
27 French or German, e.g.  
29 By way of  
30 Every iota  
33 Old portico  
36 Barked furiously  
38 One taking great interest?  
40 Lao Tzu's way  
42 Bridge  
43 "Unh-unh"  
44 Up to  
46 "Entry forbidden"  
47 Dressed  
48 Coop group  
50 Red or Black

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

DOMED	ZEBRAS
TORERO	ORIENT
OUTLAW	ORNATE
ORSO	NAME CIT
NETS	DOT
PEA	GOTO
TTSNOW	NEVER
PASO	NUDE
ANT	NABS
TFS	WADI
MOSAIC	NUNCTO
PRINCE	ESCAPE
SENDER	DEEMS

Saturday's answer 7-28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
				21			22			
24	25	26				27	28		29	30
31				32			33		34	
35				36			37		38	
				39			40		41	
42	43					44	45			
49						50			51	
52						53			54	
55						56			57	