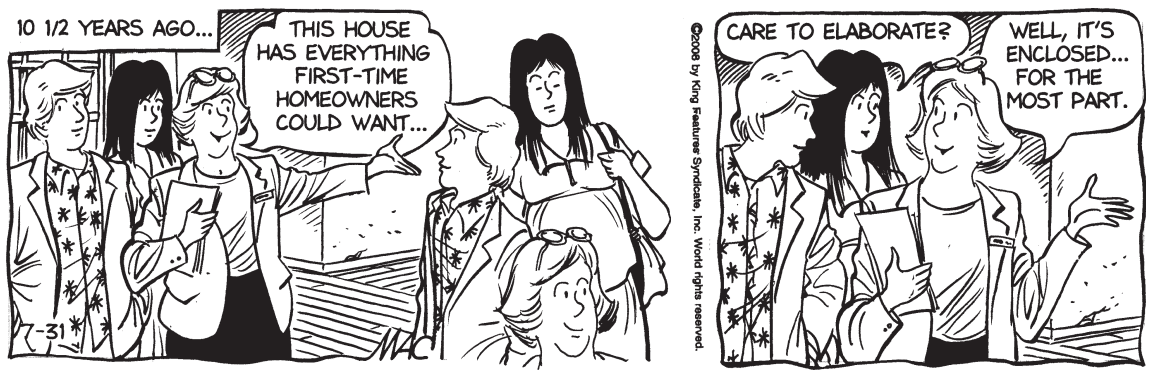
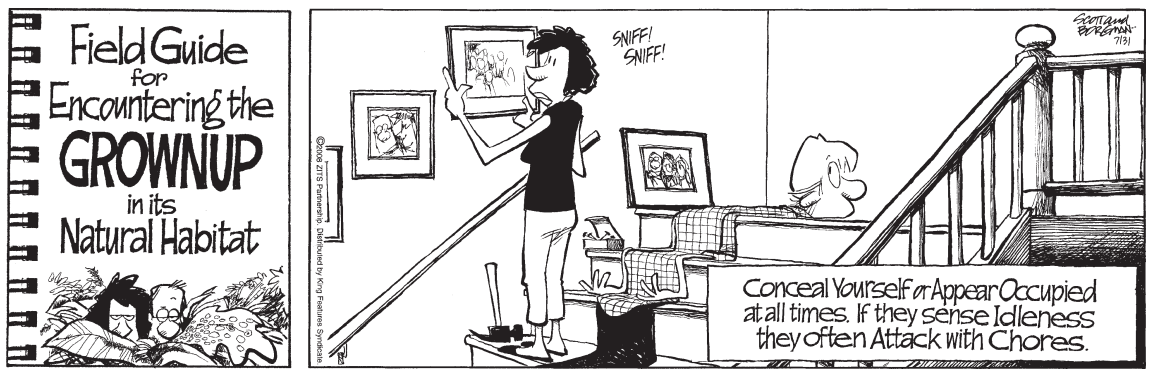
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

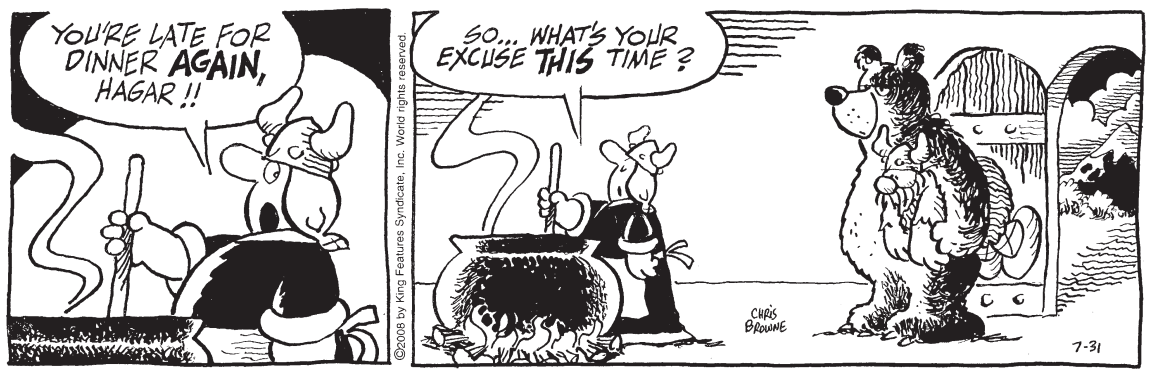


Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

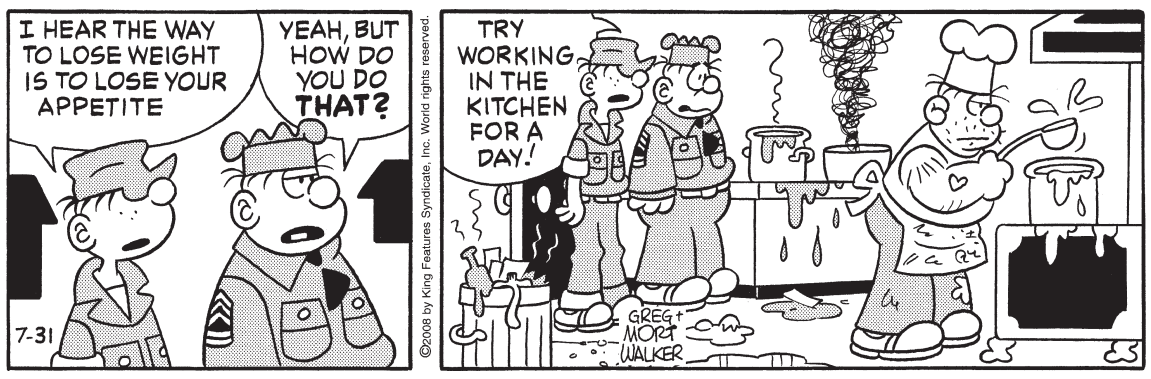


Blondie • Chic Young

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



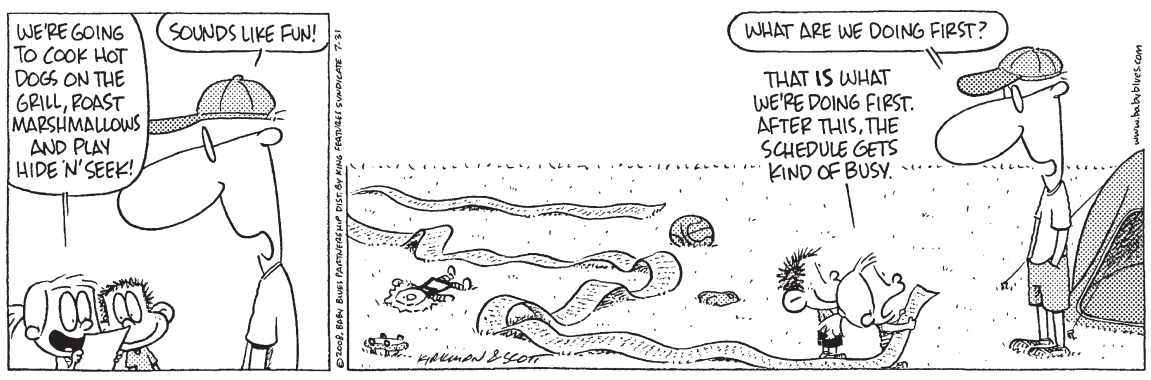
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

BMNMDPDXM RZW PUTLM LDNS UA N ODYUHD BWOODXGR BMZVB ZVDSNMUXT:

"ODADHMUYD UPPDOUNMDGR."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL WISECRACKING FOLKS, THEN I GUESS YOU HAVE YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals F

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/31

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/31

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Bridge

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7
♥ A 7 5 2
♦ 8 3
♣ A K Q 10 7 3

WEST
♠ K 5
♥ 9
♦ Q J 7 5 4 2
♣ J 9 6 4

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 6 2
♥ J 10 8 4 3
♦ K 9
♣ 8

SOUTH
♠ A J 8 4 3
♥ K Q 6
♦ A 10 6
♣ 5 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

The Worst-Case Scenario

For declarer, the bottom line on almost every deal is to make the contract. To this end, any play -- no matter how unusual -- that enhances his prospects of making what he has bid is a good one. Conversely, any play -- even though seemingly normal -- that jeopardizes the contract is a bad one.

Today's hand provides a classic illustration of this principle. After West's opening diamond lead, South held up his ace until the third round of the suit, East discarding a heart on the third diamond after dummy discarded a spade. Declarer then cashed the A-K of clubs, discovering to his dismay that West had started with the J-9-6-4 of clubs.

Since South could not afford to concede a trick to West's jack of clubs, he turned his attention to hearts. But when that suit failed to divide favorably, he could do no better than take the eight top tricks he had started with.

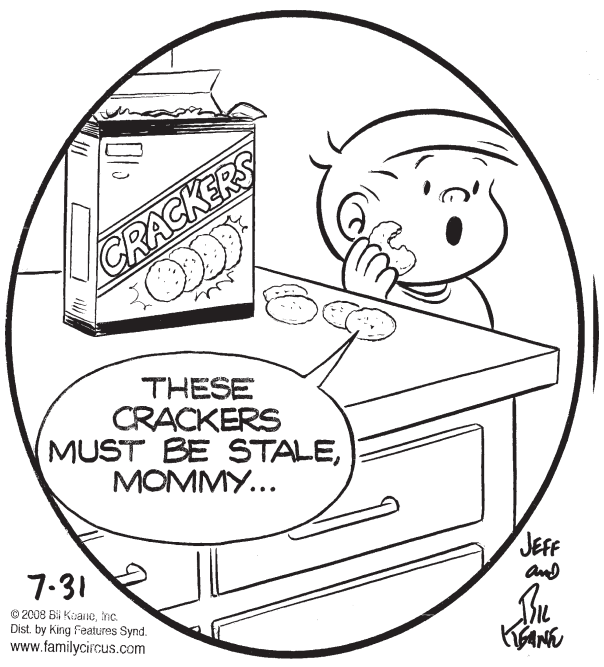
Although declarer admittedly ran into unlucky suit breaks during the play, he had no one but himself to blame for the outcome. The fact is that after the first three tricks had been played, he was virtually certain to make three notrump if he took the steps necessary to guarantee the contract.

The proper line of play after winning the third diamond is to cash one high club, cross to the king of hearts and lead a second club. After West follows low, dummy's ten is finessed.

In the actual case, the finesse succeeds, and declarer finishes with two overtricks, scoring six clubs, three hearts, a spade and a diamond.

And what happens if the finesse loses? In that case, declarer would wind up with 10 tricks instead of 11, but would feel secure in the knowledge that, win or lose, the finesse assured him of making the contract. And that, as we said before, is the bottom line.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



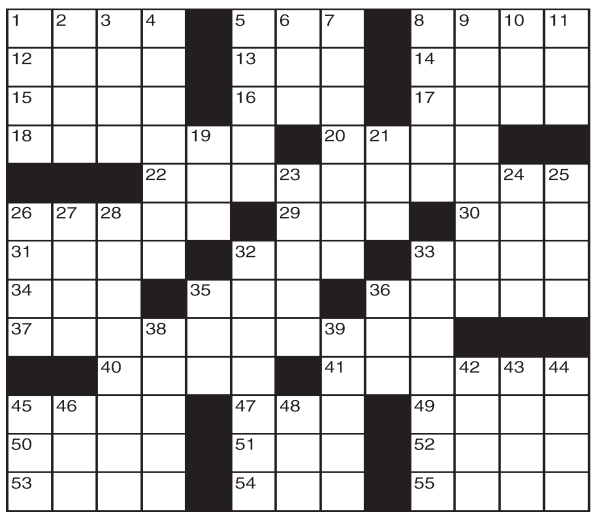
"...when I bite into them they don't make any noise."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Cupid's alias
5 Matterhorn, for one
8 Benefit
12 Wander about
13 Grazing territory
14 Wield needles
15 Mosque bigwig
16 Back talk
17 Mormon state
18 Blotchy critter
20 Eli's campus
22 Electricity-generating station
26 Rueful
29 "— Sera Sera"
30 Earl Grey, e.g.
31 Sandwich cookie
32 Clear the tables
33 Anthropologist Margaret
34 Without delay
35 "Mamma —!"
36 Heart line?
37 Boston fern, often
40 "— do for now"
41 Apiarist's woes
45 Paddock papa
47 Clay, now
49 Osso buco base
50 Concept
51 Affirmative action?
52 Erstwhile Canadian ballplayer
53 Lincoln in-law
54 Storm center
55 Mulligan, e.g.

DOWN
1 Actor Stoltz
2 "Arrivederci, —"
3 Ellipse
4 Part-time jock
5 Let
6 Mainlander's memento
7 Scroll material
8 All we see of Yorick
9 One may attack an army
10 Spectra or Sportage
11 Ordinal suffix
19 Coquettish
21 Mimic
23 Peer
24 Spruced up
25 "I did it!"
26 Ex-frosh
27 "Novus — Seclorum"
28 Necessary
32 Sopwith Camel, for one
33 Whodunits' reasons
35 Blanc or Brooks
36 Adam of rock music
38 Place
39 Remark to the crowd
42 Adjacent
43 Stare stupidly
44 Decelerate
45 Perch
46 Bachelor's last utterance
48 Powell co-star

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-31