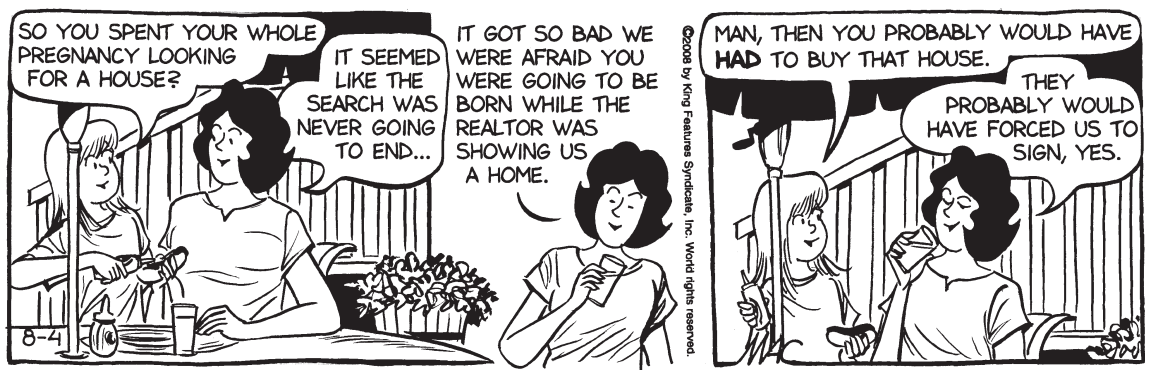
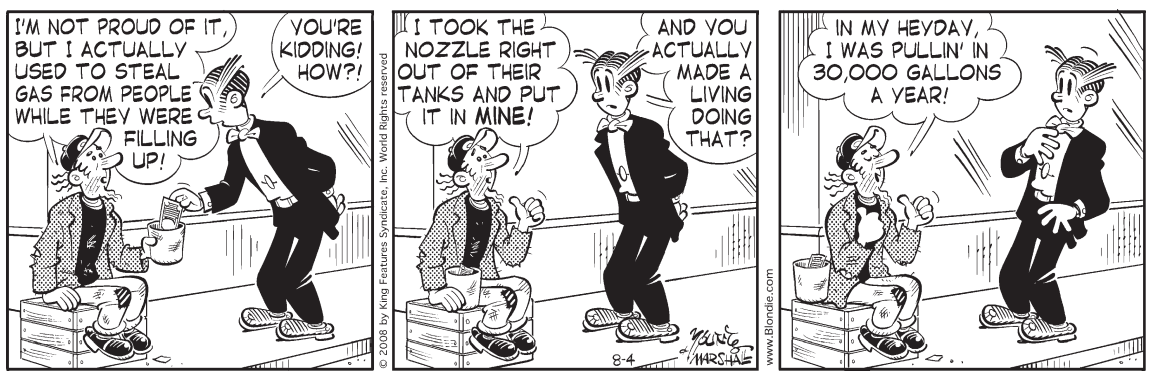
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

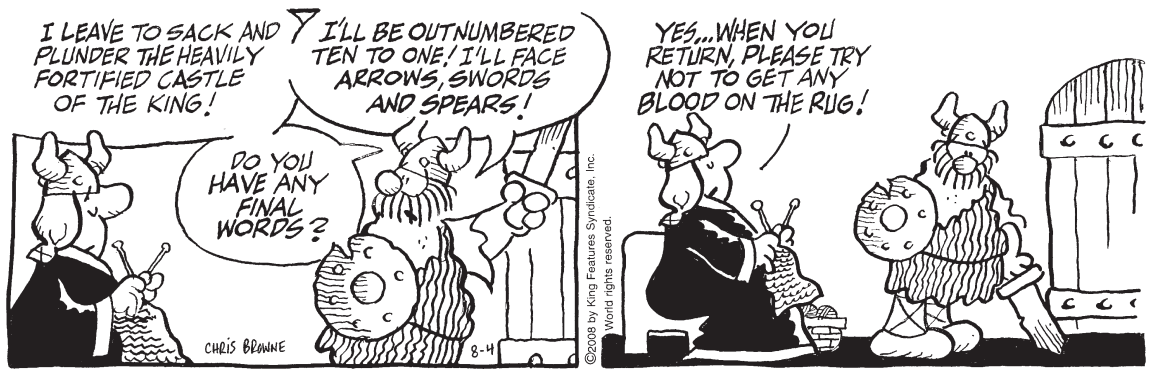


Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

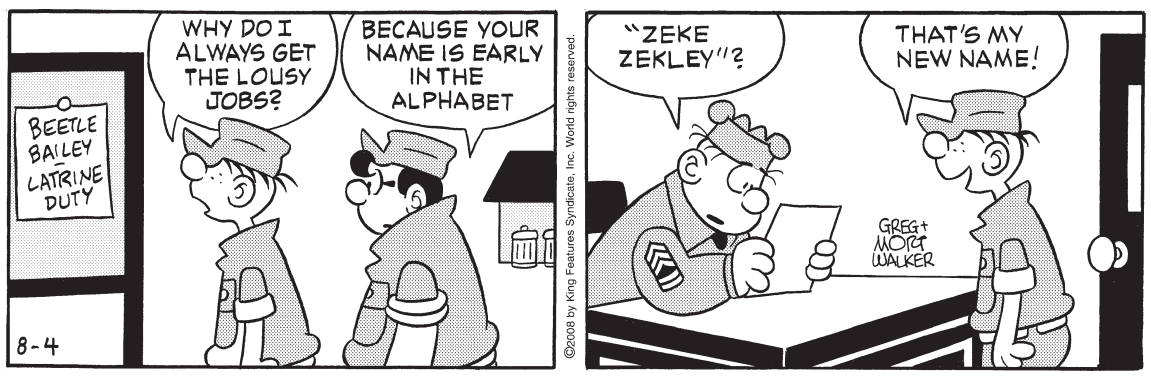
Blondie • Chic Young



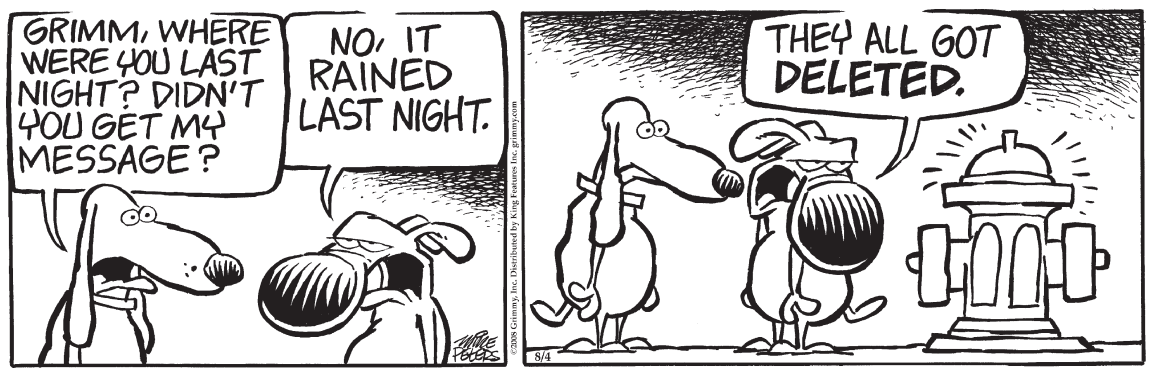
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



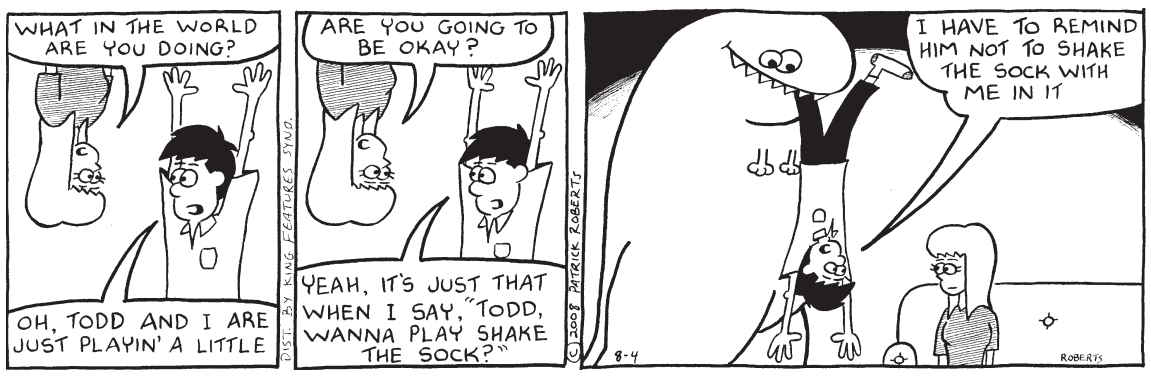
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



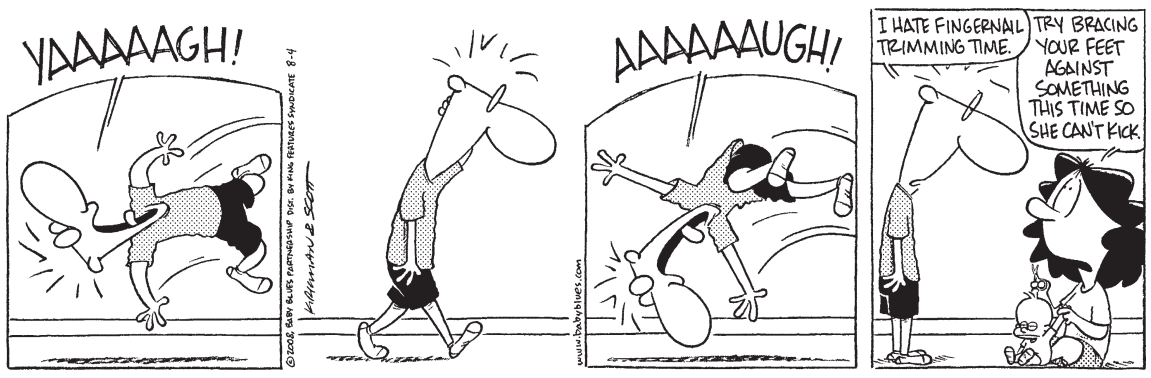
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

J F W Q A N M L R T X I K X S G D N Q R V N Z J A M B Z F D G S N L G K S G W G W W A Y N. F G K J A B V S Y T Z Z S V T S N Z N Y S A G M N I N Y S A G M.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: A SONG WRITTEN ABOUT SOMEBODY WITH A LEGAL CLAIM ON HIS PROPERTY COULD BE TITLED "LIEN ON ME."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals J

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/04

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 8/04

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Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 2
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A Q 8 7 2

WEST
♠ J 9 8 4
♥ —
♦ A K Q J 9 8 7 4
♣ 3

EAST
♠ K 10 7 6 5
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ 5
♣ 9 4

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	5 ♣	Dble	Pass
6 ♣			

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

Famous Hand

One of the great attractions of bridge is its intrinsic ability to generate a steady supply of unexpected situations. For example, imagine how East must have felt at the end of the first trick on this deal, which occurred in a match between Canada and Bermuda.

The bidding requires some explanation. The Bermuda South's club bid guaranteed 16 points or more but said nothing whatever about clubs as a suit. West's five-club overcall also had nothing at all to do with clubs, but instead showed very long diamonds and instructed his partner to bid them.

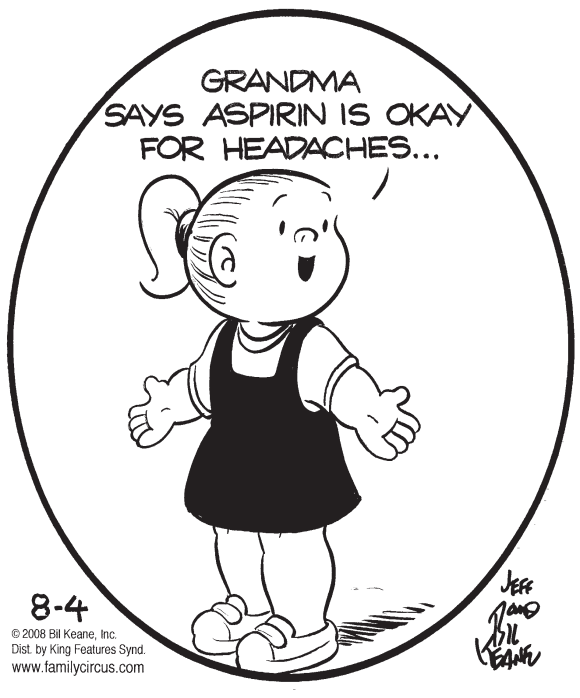
Against six clubs, the Canadian West (Subhash Gupta) decided that his best chance to get two tricks was to try to get a heart ruff. Since this required his partner to be on lead at trick two, he elected to lead the four of diamonds, hoping to find East with the ten!

The scheme should have miscarried, since dummy had the ten, but the unusual opening lead caught declarer fast asleep. South could have won the first trick with either the six or the ten, but when he played dummy's deuce instead, an astonished East found himself East may have been flabbergasted, but he certainly was not paralyzed. After the five held the trick, it did not take him long to figure out what to do next.

Since his partner had obviously gone to great lengths to try to put him on lead, there had to be a reasonable explanation. And the only conclusion East could reach that made any sense was that West was trying to get a heart ruff.

The heart return was duly trumped by West at trick two, and declarer quickly went down one. At the other table, there were no fancy doings, and declarer bid and made six clubs, giving the Canadians a gain of 1,470 points, or 16 IMPs, on the deal.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"...but lovin' is best for heartaches."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Stroganoff meat
5 The stuff we breathe
8 Ship's chassis
12 Partnership, as on reality TV
14 Operatic solo
15 Like many wines
16 The same (Lat.)
17 That woman
18 Cash for a Czech
20 Powerful
23 Mary — Lincoln
24 Gumbo ingredient
25 She of the ill-fated box
28 Teensy
29 Kevin of "King of Queens"
30 Historic time
32 Explained a word's meaning
34 — accompli
35 Pub offerings
36 Teeming crowd
37 Second glassful
40 Old French coin
41 Microwave
42 Not 15-Across
47 Crooked
48 Ocean occurrence
49 Finishes
50 Petrol
51 Pianist Dame Myra

DOWN
1 Rotten
2 "Hold On Tight" band
3 Shade source
4 Party in Puebla
5 Initial chip
6 Here (Fr.)
7 Considered
8 Coiffure
9 Pakistan's language
10 Mortgage interest
11 Tibetan monk
13 Wan
19 Racetrack figures
20 Request for instructions
21 Supplemented, with "out"
22 Gratis
23 Domesticates
25 Wallpaper alternative
26 Hindmost position
27 Desertlike
29 Jack's companion
31 Chowed down
33 Swoons
34 July holiday
36 Rim on a basketball court
37 Judicial garb
38 Divisible by two
39 Ward (off)
40 Resorts
43 — culpa
44 Cravat
45 Mag. staffers
46 — Moines

Solution time: 24 mins.

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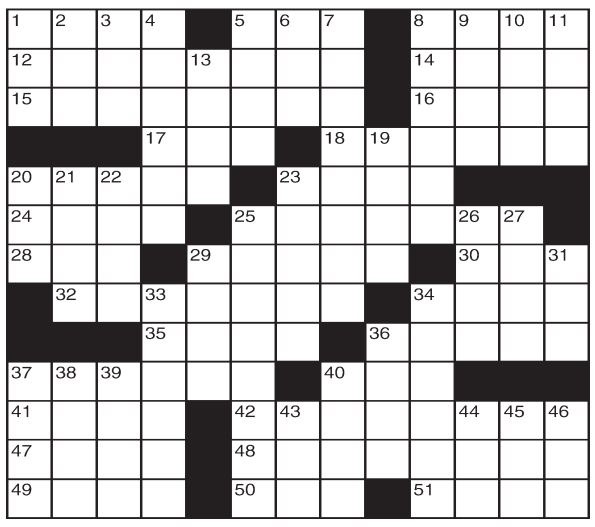
P	E	G		O	N	L	Y		E	W	E	R		

Saturday's answer 8-4