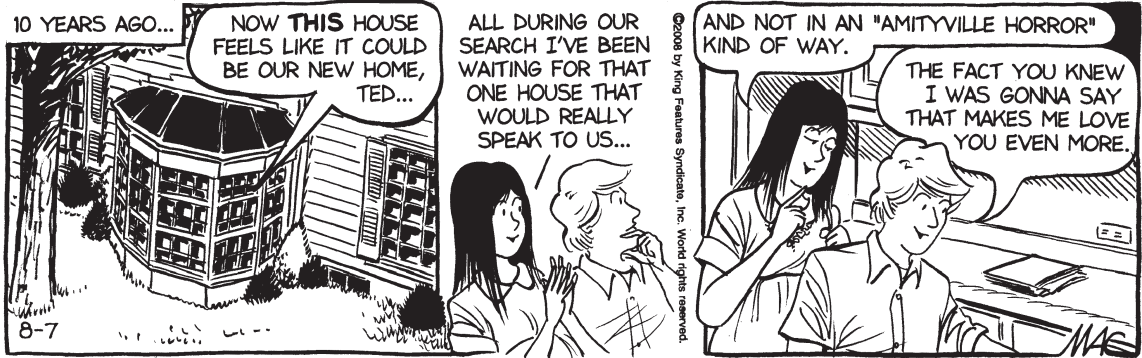
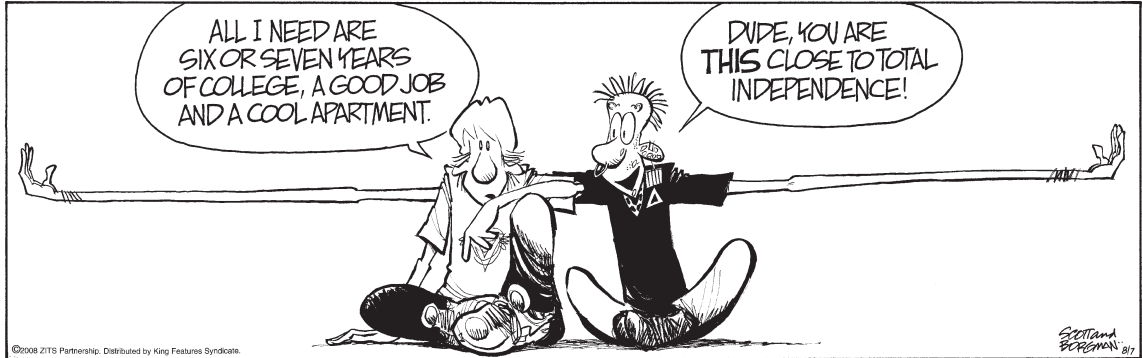


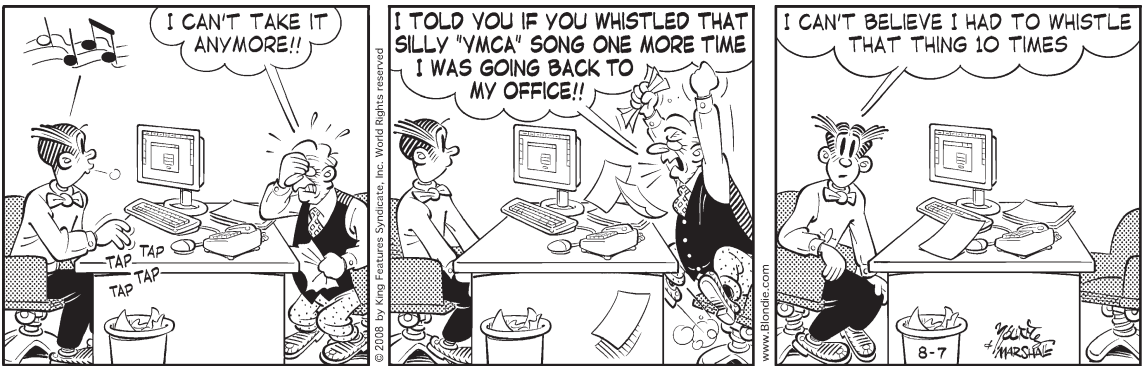
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



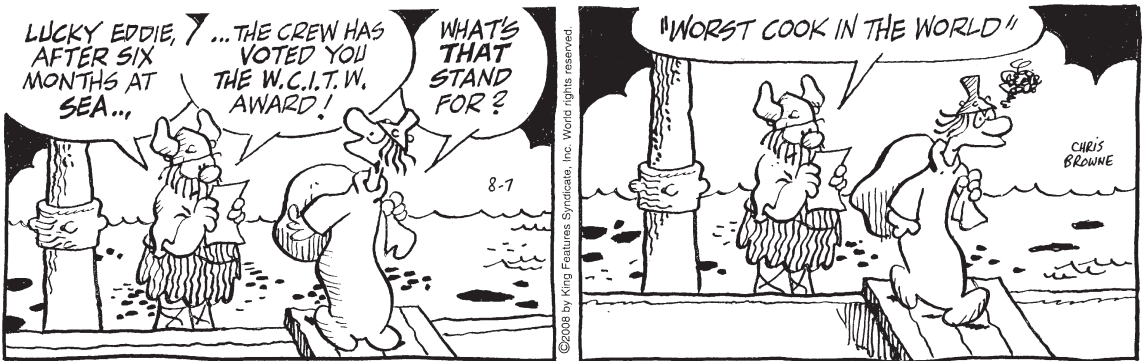
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



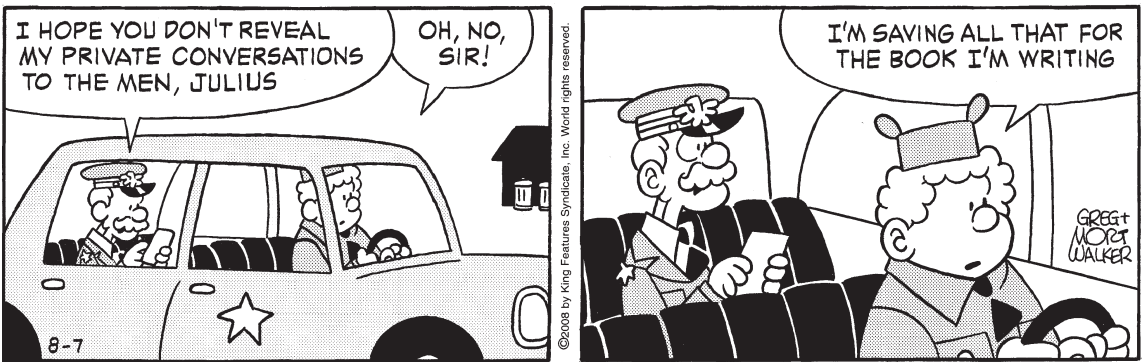
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



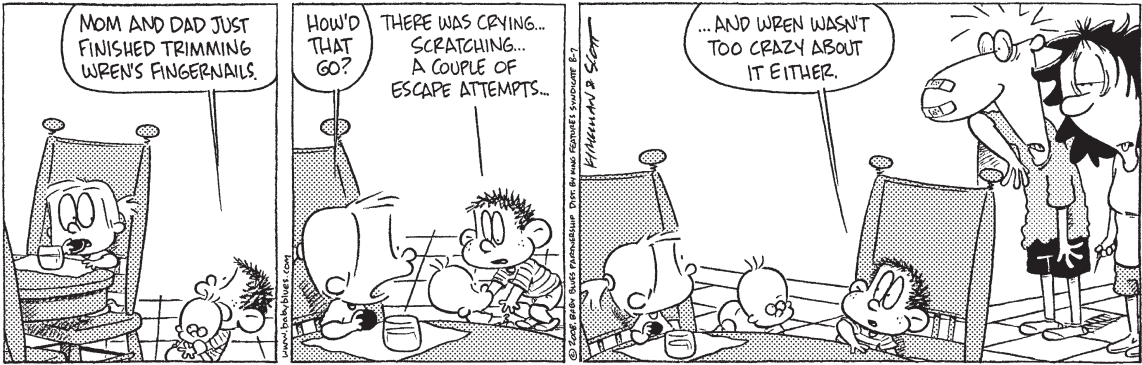
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

KW U OKGGL QHJJIBFL
PCGQ GP ZUOI U QPHBJ,
RPHFJ LPH RUFF GXUG U
CHVV - PW - GXI - ZPZIBG
JIRKQKPB?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I KNOW A GUY WHO COMPLIMENTS HIS FELLOW CARPENTERS BY DECLARING "BOY, YOU DO MITER FINE WORK!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/07

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Bridge

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
East Pass 1 ♦
South 3 ♥
West Pass 5 ♦
North 2 ♦
4 ♦
Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal occurred in a masters pair championship. As often happens, the results at the various tables differed strikingly from each other. Games and partscores in spades and diamonds were attempted with varying success, but the play was generally most interesting where the final contract was five diamonds.

There was nothing complicated about the play at most of these tables. West led the king of hearts and continued with a heart after East signaled with the eight or nine.

Declarer ruffed, cashed the A-K of diamonds and then finessed the queen of spades. East won with the king and returned a club. South naturally declined to finesse because he could avoid a club loser by taking the ace and playing three rounds of spades, discarding a club from dummy.

However, South would not have made the contract if the defense had been sharper at trick one, when East should have overtaken the king of hearts and returned a club. Had he done this, declarer would have gone down one.

It is not really an extraordinary play for East to overtake the king of hearts and shift to a club. He knows from the bidding that West's heart overcall was almost surely based on a five-card suit, which in turn gives declarer only one heart. If it develops that declarer has either no hearts or two hearts, overtaking with the ace does no harm.

East should count on the ace of hearts as one trick for the defense, and on the king of spades as a second trick, leaving the club suit as the primary hope of providing a third trick.

East therefore cannot afford to adopt a passive attitude at trick one by allowing West to win the king of hearts. Once it has been decided that the best chance for the setting trick lies in clubs, it is clearly more advantageous that the club lead at trick two come from East rather than West.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

Family Circus • Bil Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Dopey companion?

4 Cripple

8 False deity

12 Mendes or Longoria

13 Destroy

14 Additionally

15 Dry red wine

17 Waikiki wingding

18 Evil

19 Try

21 Spread outward

24 LummoX

25 Trail the pack

26 Ingredient in 44-Across

28 Huey, Louie and Dewey

32 From the beginning

34 Follow relentlessly

36 Actress Turner

37 Harass

39 "Humbug!"

41 Cranberry territory

42 Charged bit

44 Trendy cocktail

46 Interrupt rudely

50 Pale

51 Beehive

52 Night-clubs

56 Leave out

57 State with certainty

58 Ball prop

59 Strong desires

60 Act

61 Witnessed

DOWN

1 Year-end abbr.

2 Eggs

3 Kale and kohlrabi

4 Whodunit occurrence

5 Designer Taylor

6 Concept

7 Words to live by

8 Sinister

9 Grad

10 Now, on a memo

11 Boorish sort

16 Listener

20 Young Mr. Lincoln

21 Toning target

22 Kent co-worker

23 Flop

27 Unruly crowd

29 Kitchen storage areas

30 Entangle-

31 Palm starch

33 Burdens

35 Whale group

38 Pirouette pivot

40 Stern or Cosell

43 Recharge-

46 Channel marker

47 "Don't throw bouquets —"

48 Ballgame delayer

49 Church section

53 Spell-down

54 After-noon quaff

55 Stitch

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-7

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |
| 32 | | | 33 | | 34 | | 35 | | 36 | |
| 37 | | | | 38 | | 39 | | 40 | | 41 |
| | | | 42 | | 43 | | 44 | | 45 | |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | | | 49 | | 50 | | | |
| 51 | | | | | 52 | | 53 | | | 54 |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | |