

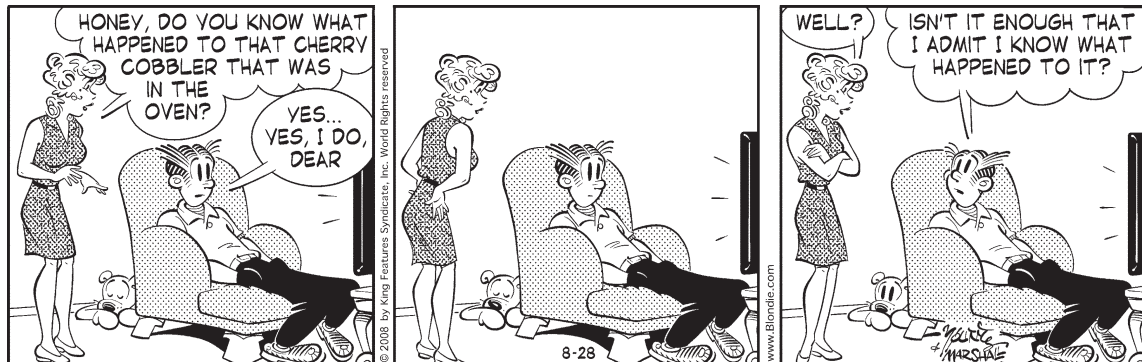
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



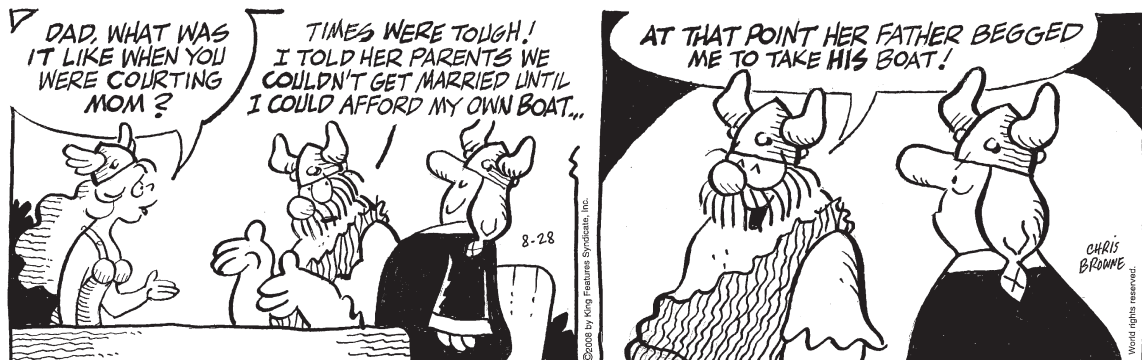
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



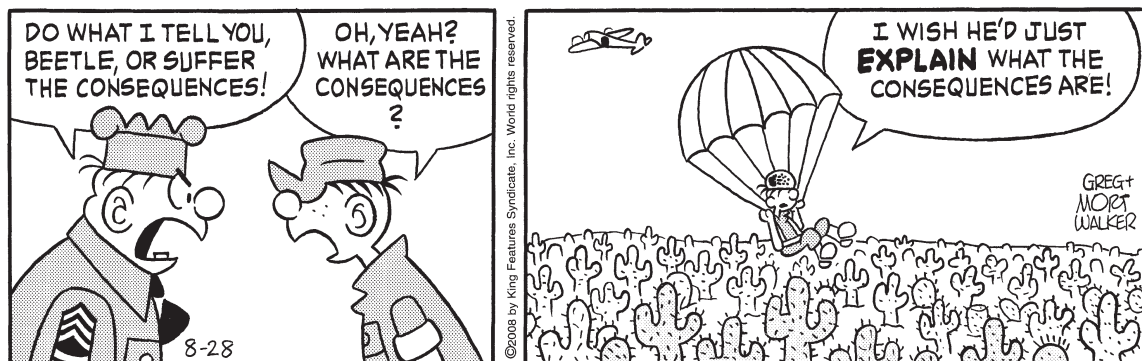
Blondie • Chic Young



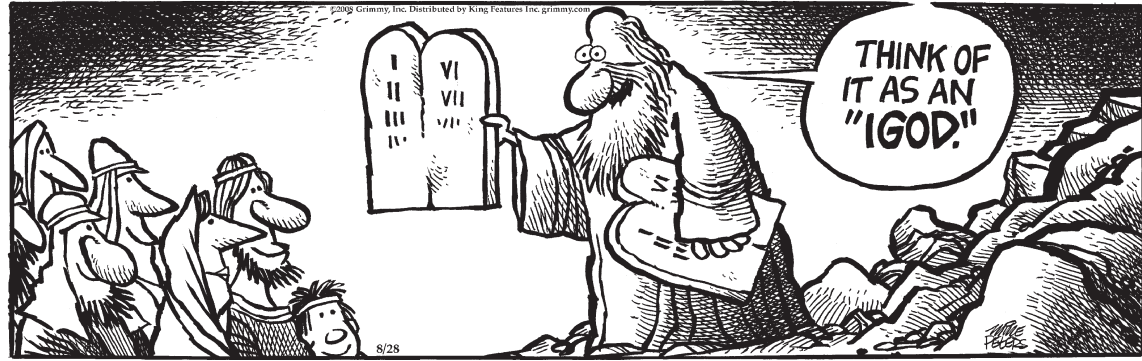
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



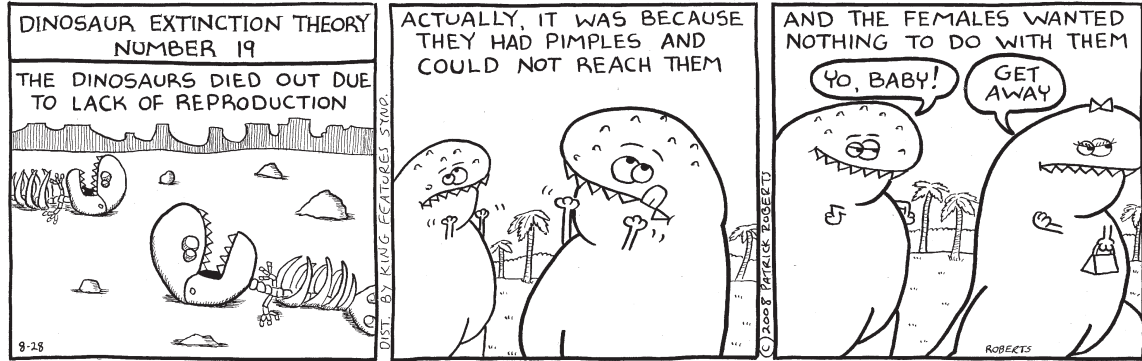
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



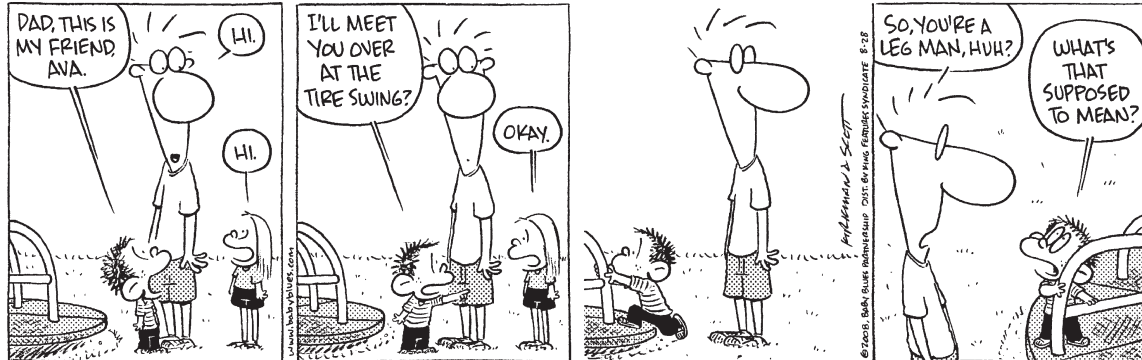
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

ML ZJT ATFNBRHY MUAHFLHNQ
 UHFNBKRKWMYH ZJT JTXBQ
 QJ XHQ R FHLTKW — JF
 YJUHQBKX QJ QBRQ WHLHNQ.

Today's Cryptoquip: WHEN A GUY IS SMILING THROUGHOUT HIS WHOLE LIFE, I GUESS HE'S GRINNING FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/28

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Bridge

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ Q J 9 2
 ♣ K 8 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 7 4
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ K 8 6 4 3
 ♣ 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 9 6
 ♥ A Q J 7 2
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ A 9 5

The bidding:
 South 1♥ West Pass North 2♥ East Pass
 4♥

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Dangerous waters ahead

This deal features a play that's easy enough to appreciate after the hand is over, but one that might easily be overlooked in actual practice.

When the deal occurred, South won the opening diamond lead with the ace and played the ace and another trump to the king. He then led dummy's queen of clubs and, when East followed low, let it ride.

West won with the king and led a diamond to East's king.

East then shifted to a spade, and the defense scored two spade tricks for down one.

While it is true that South was unlucky to find West with both the king of clubs and ace of spades, the fact remains that South was responsible for his own demise.

Had he refused to take West's queen of diamonds with the ace at trick one, he would have overcome the unfriendly lie of the cards.

The purpose of ducking West's queen at the outset is to prevent him from later putting his partner on lead with a diamond. By severing this line of communication between the defenders, declarer assures the contract even though the club finesse loses and the spade ace is offside.

Let's say West continues with a diamond at trick two. Declarer wins, draws trumps as before and tries the club finesse. West takes his king but is helpless.

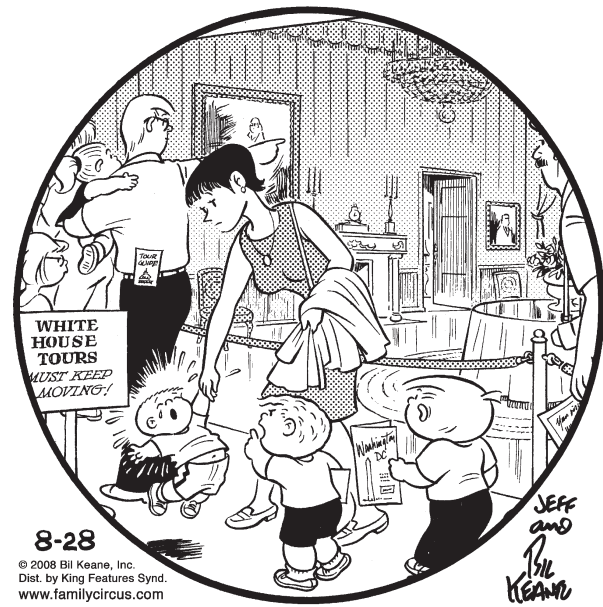
A diamond return presents South with a ruff-and-discard; cashing the spade ace establishes South's king; and a club return allows declarer to discard two spades on dummy's clubs.

All roads thus lead to at least 10 tricks. Note that if East elects to overtake West's queen with the king at trick one, South can counter by taking his ace at once.

The presence of dummy's ten ensures that East will at no point gain the lead to threaten declarer's king of spades.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



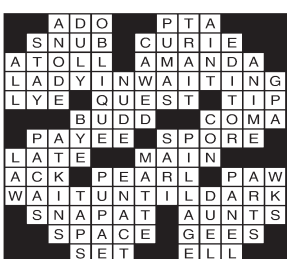
8-28
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"Quiet, PJ! If President Bush is takin' a nap and you wake him up, you're gonna get it!"

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Un-escorted
 - 5 Weekend abbr.
 - 8 Convince
 - 12 Henry VIII's sixth wife
 - 13 — Beta Kappa
 - 14 Employ
 - 15 Out of the storm
 - 16 Operated
 - 17 Omar of "House"
 - 18 Shrimp recipe
 - 20 Harvard rival
 - 22 Sunrise
 - 26 Un-embellished
 - 29 Have a bug
 - 30 Have a balance
 - 31 Describe
 - 32 Muppets creator
 - 33 Fervent following
 - 34 Scepter topper
 - 35 Take a chair
- DOWN**
- 1 Resorts international?
 - 2 Post-bath application
 - 3 Vicinity
 - 4 Glitch-causing gnome
 - 5 Piece of parsley
 - 6 "I thought so"
 - 7 Cratchit kid
 - 8 Ledge
 - 9 Obliterated
 - 10 Dadaist Jean
 - 11 "Absolutely"
 - 19 Brooch
 - 21 "You've got mail" biz
 - 23 Part of Hispania
 - 24 Puncturing tools
 - 25 Bigfoot's cousin
 - 26 Trudge (on)
 - 27 Old Italian coin
 - 28 Food of the gods
 - 32 Putting a whammy on
 - 33 Pirate's weapon
 - 35 Firmament
 - 36 With 37-Across, Batman
 - 38 Final bell?
 - 39 Spirit
 - 42 Tittle
 - 43 Monad
 - 44 No more than
 - 45 Foundation
 - 46 Rd.
 - 48 Payable

Solution time: 25 mins.



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		
45	46					47	48		49	
50						51			52	
53						54			55	