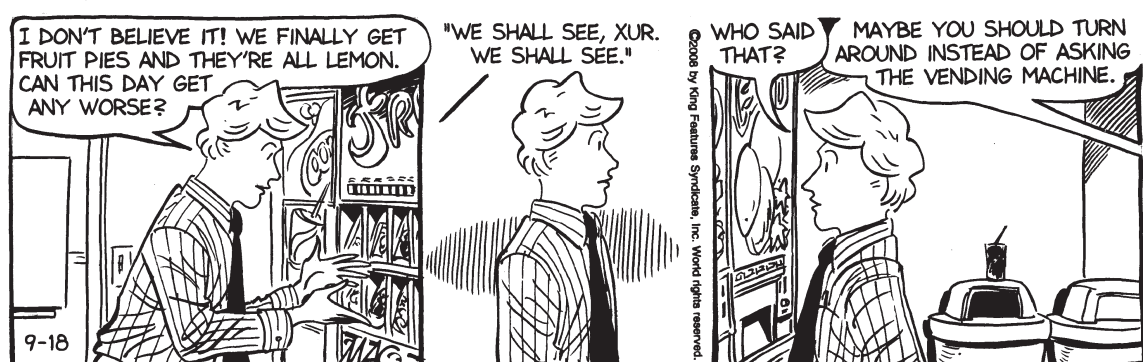


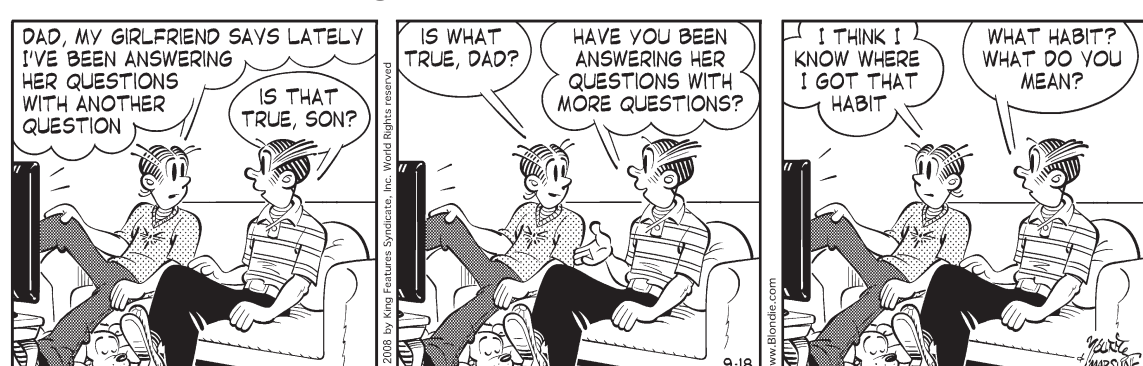
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



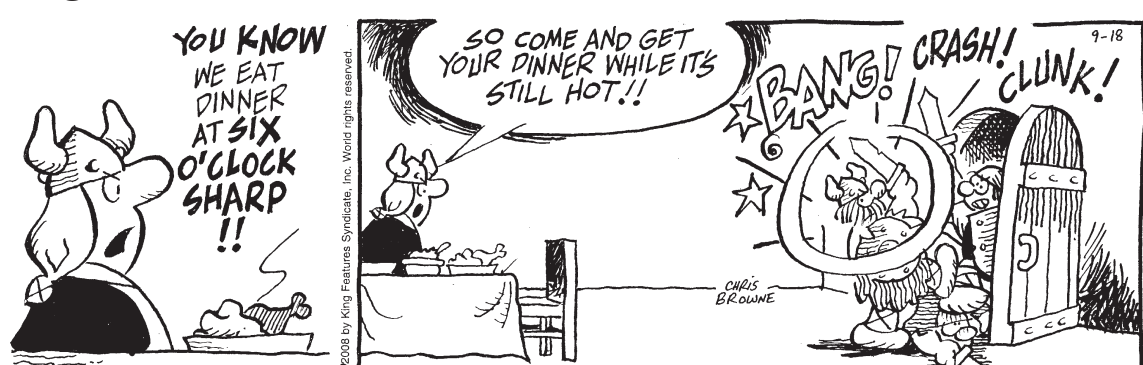
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



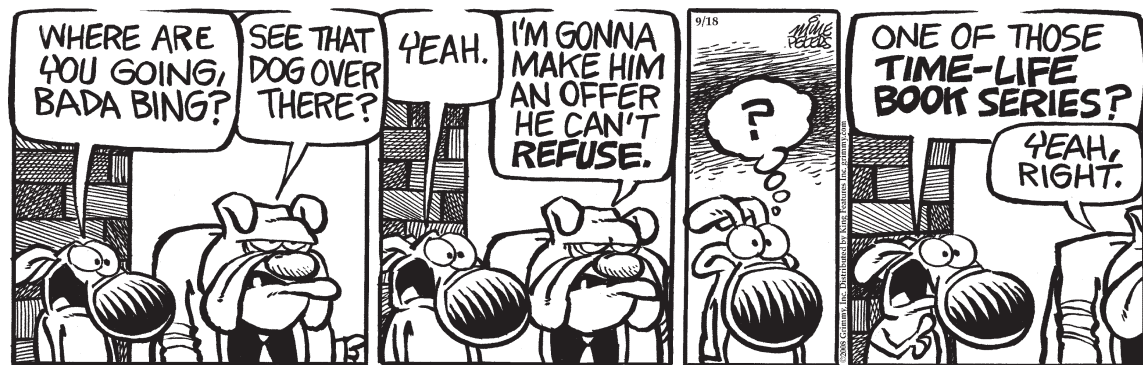
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



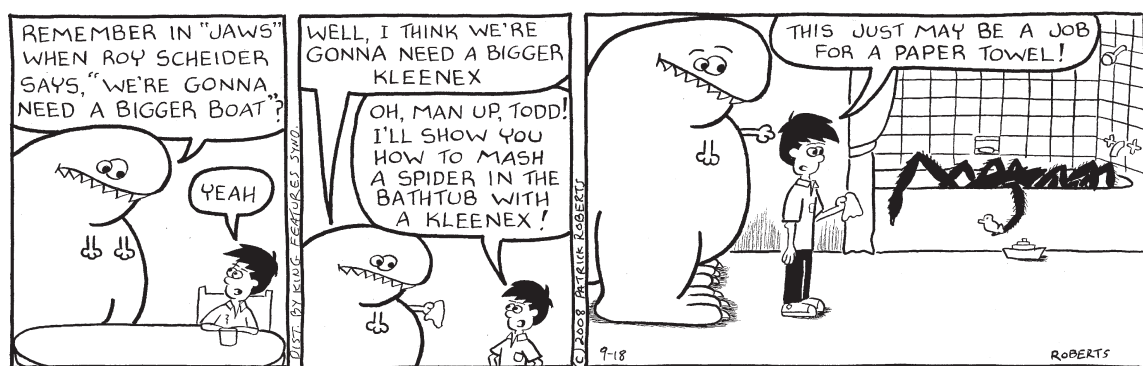
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



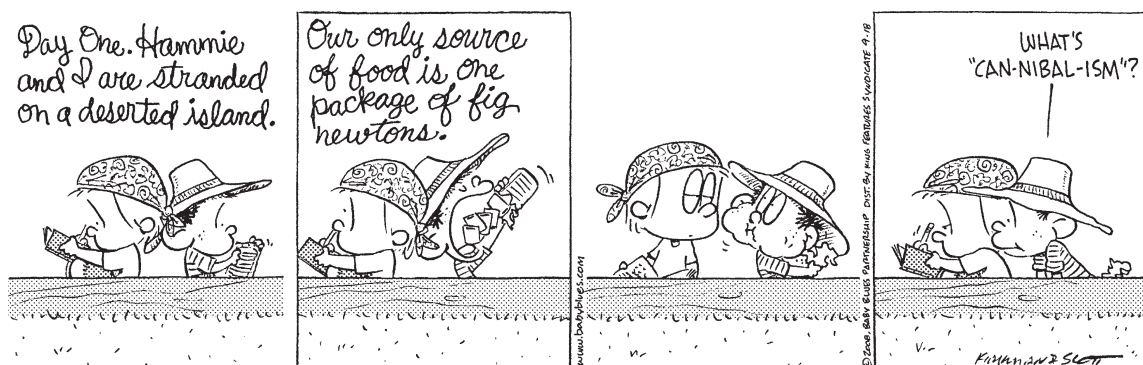
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

M A G M F G E G J Z U C
D G E N T K G M T K W Q T M X D
M U T J T G C X H B T J H Y W Z B .
T M ' Y Y Q Z G M X H W A D G N M
M X D X Y Y X F !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COUPLE OF AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS WERE BATTLING IT OUT, MIGHT THAT BE WOMBAT COMBAT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals L

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/18

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/18

Bridge

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 7
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ K 3
♣ A Q J

WEST
♠ J 9 5 2
♥ K Q 9
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 10 4 2

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

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2NT Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 6♥ Pass
Pass Dble Pass

Opening lead — two of spades.

Any Port in a Storm

It rarely pays to double opponents who voluntarily undertake a slam unless you feel certain of defeating it. This is particularly true in cases where declarer may be able to alter his play to take advantage of the information furnished by the double.

Consider this classic example where declarer got to six hearts as shown. It is certainly unlikely he would have made the slam had West continued to pass throughout. But West let the cat out of the bag by doubling six hearts.

A spade was led, and declarer reasoned that the only sensible explanation for West's double was that he expected to score two trump tricks. South therefore formulated a line of play designed to do West out of one of these tricks.

He cashed the A-K of spades and then -- acting on the assumption that West had the 4-3-3-3 distribution that would allow the slam to be made -- ruffed a spade in order to reduce his trump length. Next he cashed three club tricks, followed by the K-A of diamonds and a diamond ruff in dummy. Finally, declarer ruffed dummy's queen of spades.

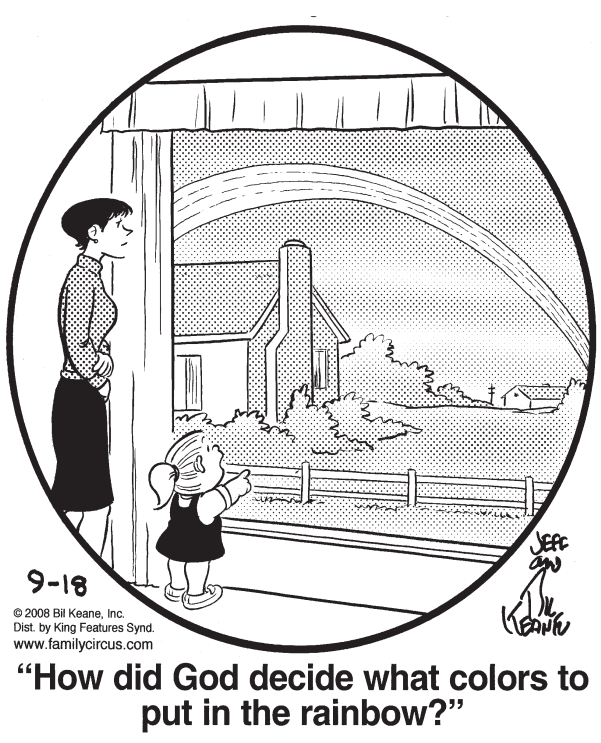
At this point, 10 tricks had been played, and South still had the A-J-10 of trumps while West had the K-Q-9. The jack-of-hearts lead then settled West's hash. He could win one trump trick but no more.

Declarer thus scored 1,660 points for making the doubled slam. Had West remained silent during the bidding, as he should have, he would have wound up plus 100. In attempting to gain an extra 100 points by doubling, West cost himself 1,760 points.

Such foolhardiness can be very expensive indeed.

Tomorrow: Test your defensive play.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

- Pocket bread
- Gentle soul
- Force
- Tel —
- Winglike
- Performance
- Sheik
- portrayer
- Grazing area
- Main course
- Indigent
- "Why should I care?"
- One of Santa's team
- Donated
- Wrestling surface
- Mounties' org.
- Mideast potentate
- Hearty brew
- Savings-plan acronym

DOWN

- Ultra-modernist
- Alway
- Price
- Particular
- Petrol
- Way back when
- Maiden of Odin
- Creche trio
- "— Doubtfire"
- Vanna's colleague
- Olive —
- Procession
- Not bumpy
- Coal carrier
- Garage event
- Layer
- "Got —?"
- Elevator name
- Leak slowly
- Vortex
- 49 St.
- Whopper

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	S	K	T	A	T	A	D	O	S
O	R	C	A	O	R	E	S	T	I	G
D	I	A	Z	E	P	A	M	C	A	R
S	A	B	O	T	T	S	P	L	I	E
C	Y	D	A	I	D	P	I	L	O	T
D	A	I	S	L	O	P	C	I	A	O
S	K	A	T	E	E	E	K	C	R	Y
M	I	R	A	A	I	L				
P	E	E	P	E	D	S	N	O	O	Z
R	A	T	E	D	I	A	G	O	N	A
O	V	E	N	E	O	N	S	U	P	S
N	E	R	D	R	U	T	E	S	S	E

Yesterday's answer 9-18

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	42					43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		