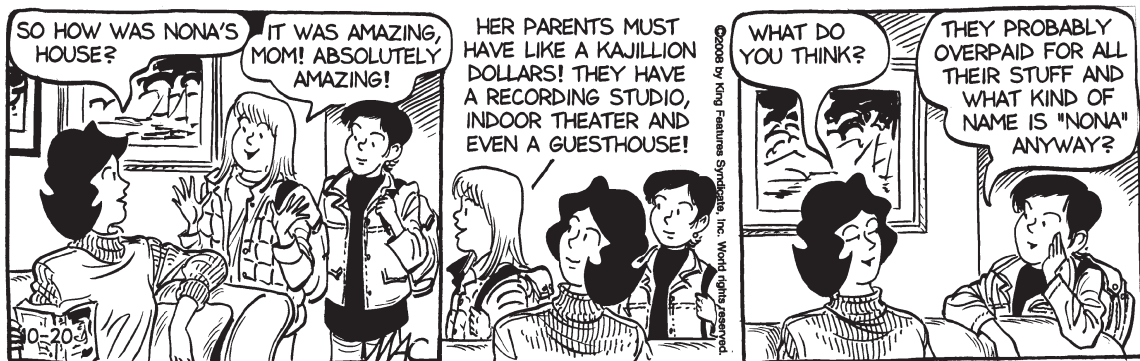


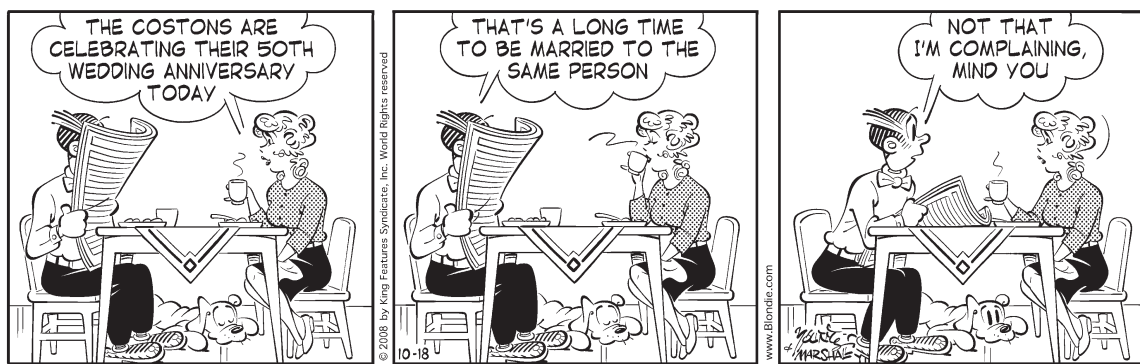
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



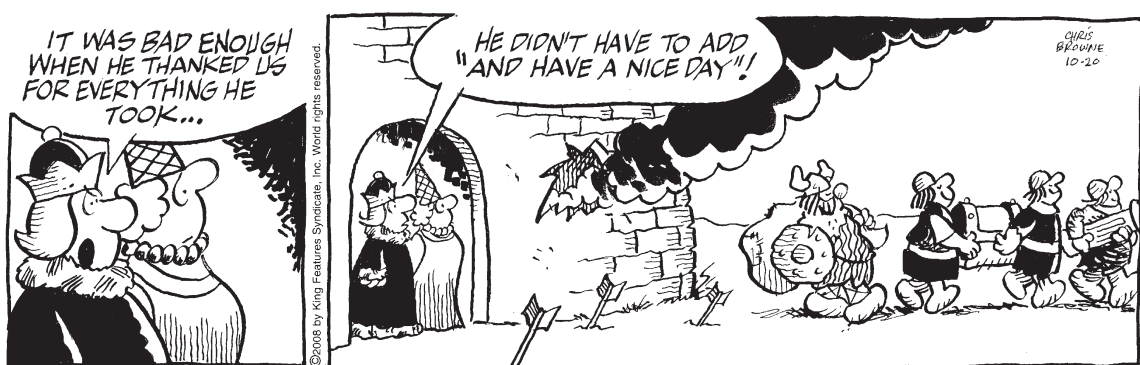
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



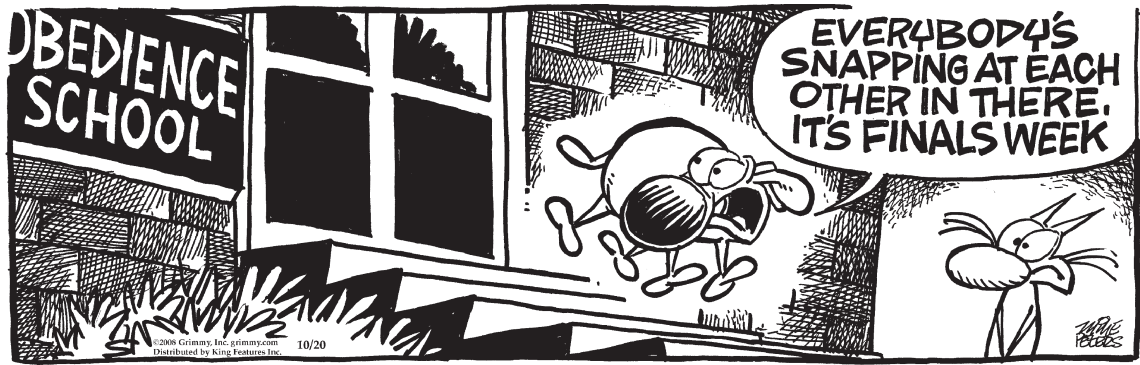
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



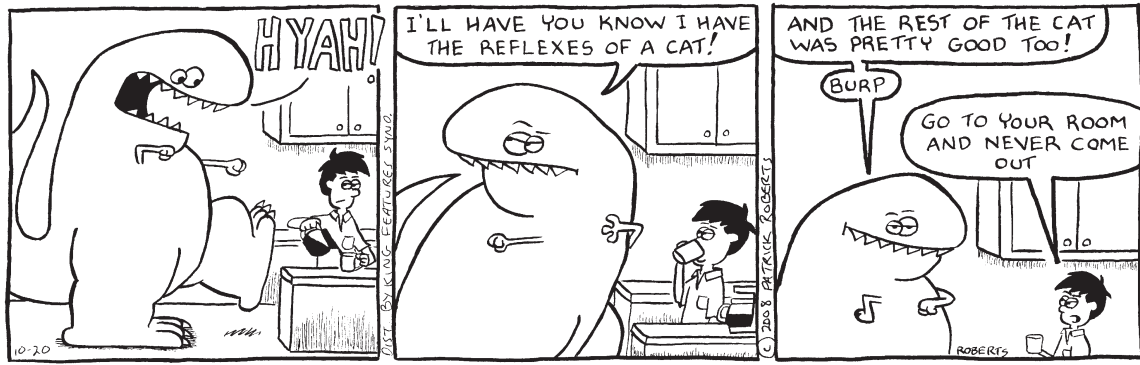
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



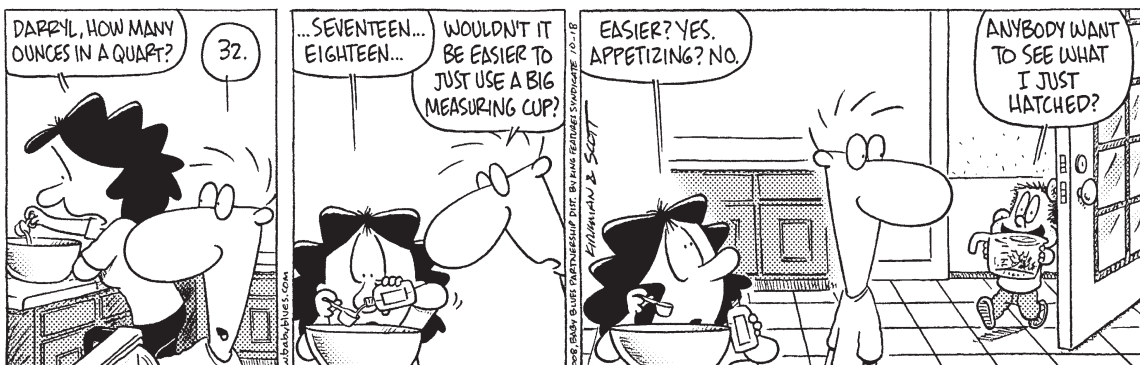
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

10/20

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

10/20

Bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 5
♥ A 10 4
♦ A Q 10 2
♣ K 7 6 2

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

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

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 7
♥ K J 8 3
♦ 7 5 3
♣ A Q J

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

Opening lead — king of spades.

Famous Hand

Pakistan's Zia Mahmood, one of the world's top players, is especially noted for his ability to guess the location of missing key cards.

In this deal from the 1984 World Team Olympiad, Zia demonstrated that there is often more to a successful "guess" than first meets the eye.

Zia got to four hearts as shown, and West started with the K-A-Q of spades, dummy ruffing the third spade with the heart four. Zia could see that a successful trump finesse would greatly aid his cause, and he also realized that West did not have to have the queen of hearts for his opening bid.

Nevertheless, at trick four Zia crossed to the club queen, led a low heart and finessed the ten. The heart ace was followed by a club to the ace and the heart king, felling West's queen. Although the diamond finesse later failed, South still finished with 10 tricks -- four hearts, four clubs, the diamond ace and a spade ruff in dummy.

How did Zia know West had the heart queen? The answer is that he didn't, but he had good reasons for playing as he did.

First, West's spade continuation at trick three, forcing dummy to ruff, made it seem that he was trying to protect a potential trump trick.

Second, finessing against West was the better technical play. It would bring in the entire suit if West had started with Q-x or Q-x-x, while a finesse against East would pick up the suit only if he had started with Q-x-x.

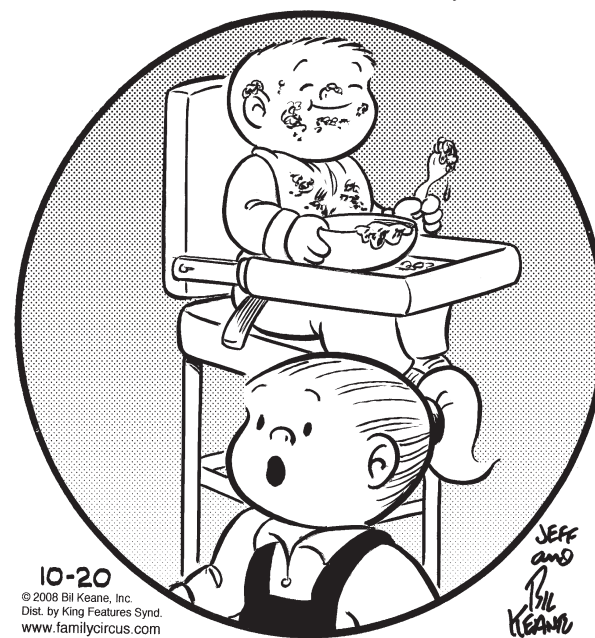
Third, if the finesse lost to East, West would then become marked with the diamond king for his opening bid, giving declarer his contract with the aid of a diamond finesse later on.

And so, a lot more thought went into Zia's successful "guess" than might appear at first glance, which is usually the case when a player of his caliber "guesses" correctly.

Tomorrow: The percentage factor.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How old do you have to be to start feeling food on your face?"

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Friend
5 Egos' counterparts
8 Leading man?
12 Sax-playing Simpson
13 Born
14 Arizona city
15 Greek war god
16 Somewhat sore, as a throat
18 Know-it-all, maybe
20 Desert waterway
21 Bound
23 Distant
24 Wrote hastily
28 Philosopher Immanuel
31 Gorilla
32 Done in
34 Plaything
35 Cleanse
37 Ice-removing gadgets
39 Pitch

DOWN

1 Applaud
2 Employ

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	I	P	E	R	N	A	S	S	A	U		
S	E	S	A	M	E	O	D	I	U	M		
P	O	N	Y	U	P	V	O	X	P	O		
A	N	T	E	A	S	A	P	E	S	S		
O	A	K	O	R	A	L	O	M	O	O		
W	H	I	T	E	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
E	A	C	H	D	E	M	I	N	E	T		
D	A	B	O	M	E	N	A	M	I	S		
O	R	A	C	L	E	A	S	T	U	T	E	
R	I	C	H	E	S	D	A	H	L	I	A	
Y	A	K	I	M	A	E	P	E	E	S		

Saturday's answer 10-20

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			57			

THANK YOU FOR READING THE



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Cryptoquip

AIYD HAEMDT RYXP EAXXE

KNWPR NDF KYWMPR, XE

FNATLVPC ICYKPPFPF VY

HCMDT LYXP VLP HNWMD'

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I RECENTLY READ A MOTTO THAT A LIGHTING STORE HAD BEEN USING: "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS BRIGHT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals B