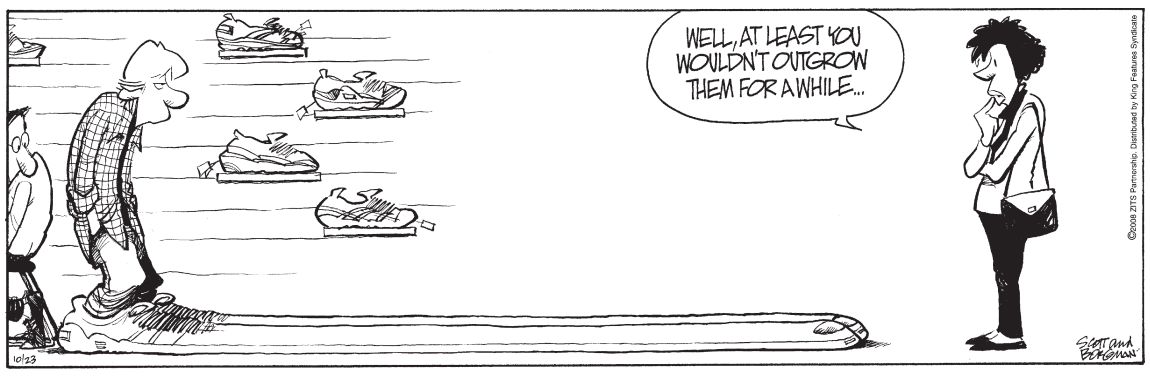
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

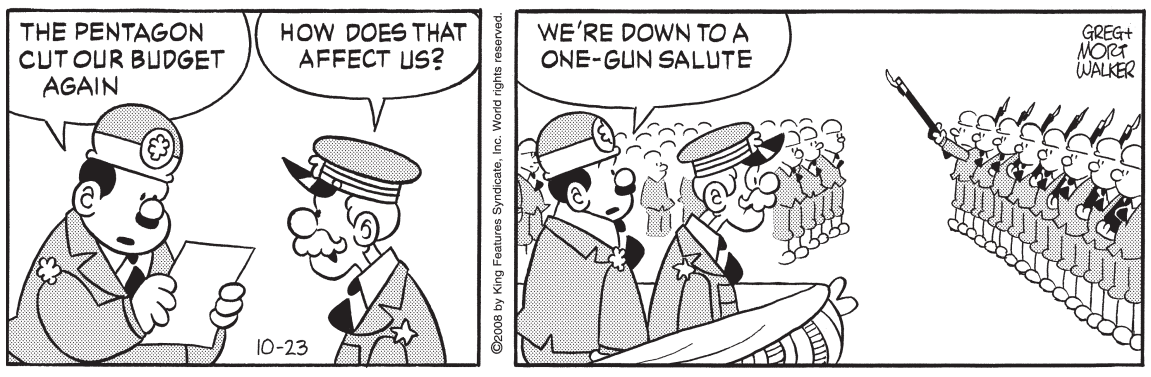
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young

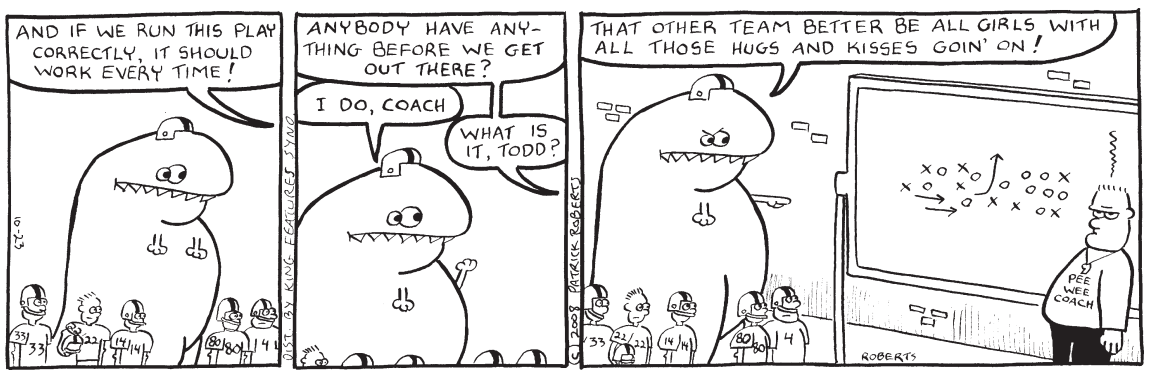
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

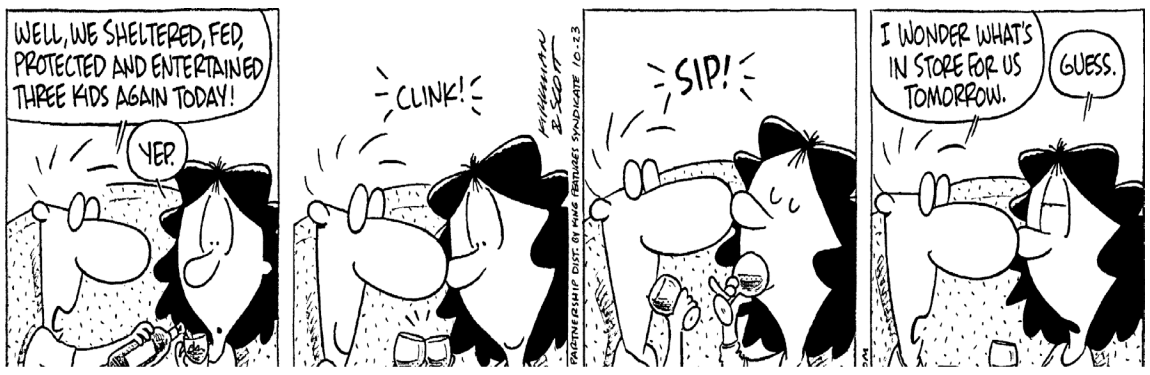


Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

CWLNR W PBG UPR QIZ KPWIR W KBC EL JA IBCU QIWYPU, AEZ JWYPU CBA UPBU W EQURL NEZYPRG BIEQU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A BOXING COACH BEGINS AND ENDS HIS WORKDAY, I EXPECT HE REALLY LIKES TO PUNCH IN AND OUT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/23

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/23

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Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 3
♥ 9 6 2
♦ Q 6 5
♣ A 8 7 6 4

WEST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ J 10 8 7 3
♦ 9 2
♣ Q 10 5

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 6
♥ A K
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♣ *	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
7 ♠			

* strong, artificial

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Backup Plan

Assume you, South, are declarer at seven spades, and West leads a heart. How would you play the hand?

Your only possible loser is your fourth diamond. Obviously, if the opposing diamonds are divided 3-3, you will be home free. But since a 3-3 division is just slightly better than a 1-in-3 chance (36 percent), you have cause for concern, and should therefore look for a way to improve your chances.

Your initial impulse should be to try to establish dummy's fifth club. When you project the play, however, you realize that this is not feasible. You can play the ace of clubs, ruff a club, cross to a spade, ruff another club, cross to the queen of diamonds and ruff another club to establish the last club, but there will then be no way to reach it.

When the deal occurred, declarer arrived at this conclusion, but saw that the club suit might be utilized in a different way. Accordingly, after taking the first trick, South cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, entered dummy with a trump and ruffed another club. The purpose of these plays was to place the burden of guarding the remaining clubs on just one defender. If that defender also had four or more diamonds, 13 tricks would be assured.

After ruffing the third club, declarer drew trumps and cashed his high heart. At this point South held the [D] AK73 and [S] J, while dummy had the [D] Q65 and [C] 87. East, in the meantime, had been reduced to the [C] K and [D] J1084.

When declarer next cashed the spade jack, discarding a club from dummy, East had no safe discard. No matter what he did, South would score the rest of the tricks. Observe that the same would be true if West rather than East had held the length in both clubs and diamonds.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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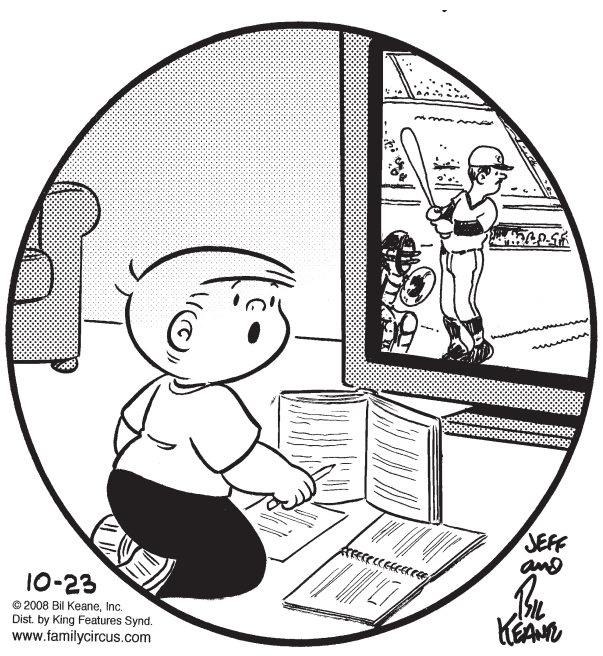
Family Circus • Bil Keane



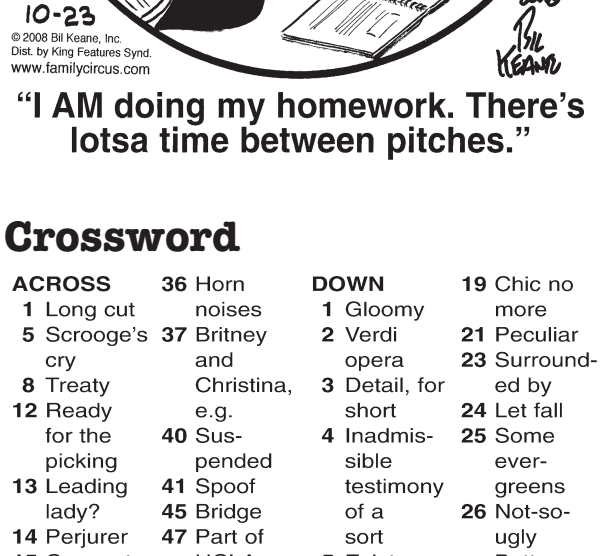
"I AM doing my homework. There's lotsa time between pitches."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Long cut
5 Scrooge's cry
8 Treaty
12 Ready for the picking
13 Leading lady?
14 Perjurer
15 Concept
16 Author Fleming
17 Set of "Risk" tokens
18 Mark over a long vowel
20 Catnap
22 Trophy wife's partner
26 Speak like 51-Across
29 Central
30 100 square meters
31 Unctuous
32 Carton
33 Circulate
34 Praiseful poem
35 Entertainment
36 Horn noises
37 Britney and Christina, e.g.
40 Suspended
41 Spoof
45 Bridge
47 Part of UCLA
49 Responsibility
50 Teller's partner
51 Farm female
52 Elevator man
53 Bohemian
54 Gender
55 Zilch

DOWN
1 Gloomy
2 Verdi opera
3 Detail, for short
4 Inadmissible testimony of a sort
5 Existence
6 Ms. Gardner
7 Woodstock headliner
8 Shopping center
9 Black-and-tan terrier
10 Rotating part
11 Attempt
19 Chic no more
21 Peculiar
23 Surrounded by
24 Let fall
25 Some evergreens
26 Not-so-ugly Betty
27 Beach resort
28 GOP symbol
32 Messes up
33 Decorate
35 Half a sawbuck
36 Support system?
38 Optimistic
39 New Jersey county
42 Digging
43 Destruction
44 Latin 5-Down
45 Masseur's workplace
46 Apiece
48 Have bills

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-23