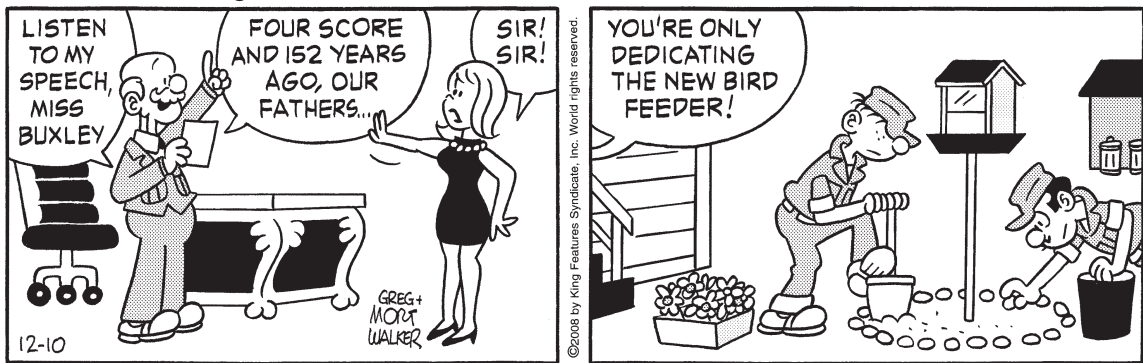


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



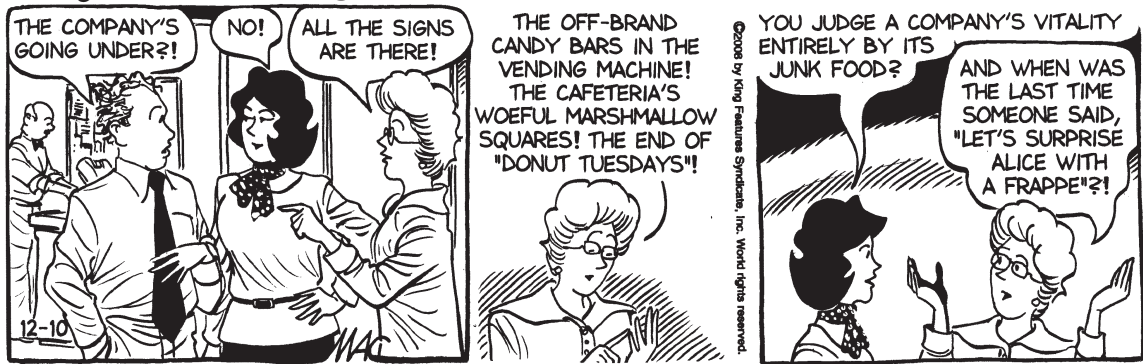
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



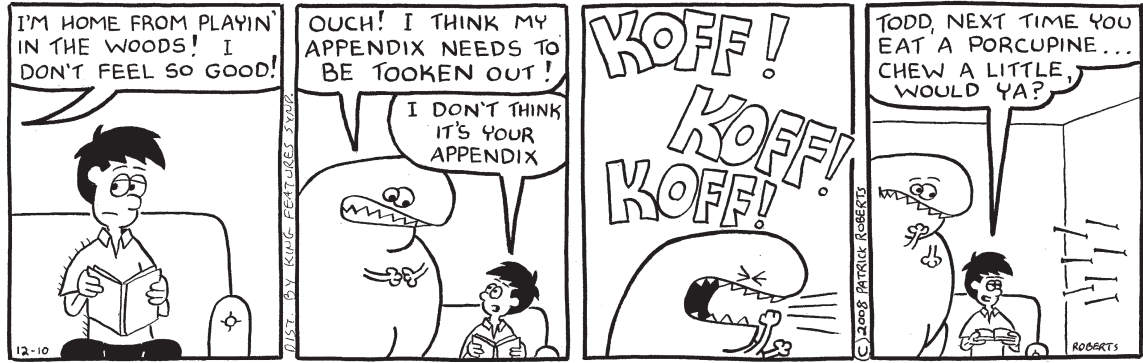
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/10

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 the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/09

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

Solving a Difficult Problem

Guessing the location of a queen is often a crucial challenge in the play of a hand. But while it's true that an out-and-out guess is occasionally unavoidable, a resourceful declarer can frequently compel the opponents to solve the problem for him.

For example, take this case where West led the king of hearts against three notrump. South, of course, ducked, hoping the suit would be continued. Had West obliged with another heart lead, declarer would have scored nine easy tricks after driving out the ace of diamonds.

But West shifted to the club queen instead. Nine tricks were now still available, provided South could guess which way to take the two-way spade finesse. There was no need to try to solve this problem at once, though, so declarer decided to gather all the information he could to help find the winning solution.

He began by also allowing the queen of clubs to hold the trick. When West then continued with the jack, declarer took his ace and led the king of diamonds. West won and returned the club ten to dummy's king, East discarding a spade.

The Q-J of diamonds were next cashed, West discarding a heart. At this point, after seven tricks had been played, South had all the information he needed to assure the contract. The location of the spade queen no longer mattered.

At trick eight, the seven of clubs was led, forcing West to win with the eight as South discarded his last diamond. West then found himself in a losing position; since he was out of diamonds and clubs, he had to return a heart or a spade.

A heart return into South's A-J would hand him his ninth trick, while a spade return would solve the problem in that suit. Either way, three notrump was now ice-cold.

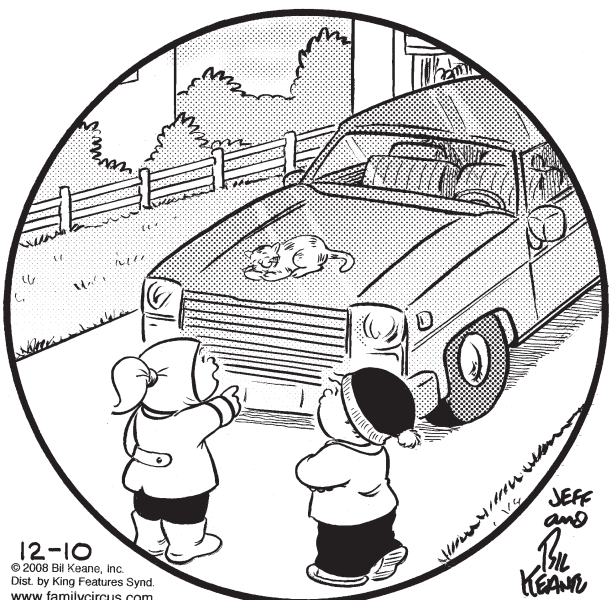
By constructing an end position that allowed the enemy no escape, South eliminated all guesswork and so assured a favorable outcome.

Tomorrow: Transmitting the right message.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS	35 Literary sleuth Wolfe	57 Otherwise Youngster	11 Sea flock
1 Malaria symptom	36 After-dinner speech?	58 Youngster	16 Office holder?
5 Bowl-shaped utensil	38 Runic letter (Var.)	59 Left-overs	20 Chop
8 Vaulted alcove	40 Liotta or Romano		23 Unruly bunch
12 Lion's share	41 Burden		24 Mimic
13 Previous to	43 Bud's partner		25 Sleeper cars
14 Litigant	45 Baffle		27 Morning moisture
15 Outdoor vendor's wagon	47 PC variety		29 Historic period
17 Scheme	51 Winged board		30 Sauce source
18 Walk leisurely	52 Bulletin board accessories		32 Cause of great pain
19 1-Across component	54 Crooned		34 Established firmly
21 Perch	55 Indivisible		37 Owns remedy
22 Medal earner	56 Ostriches' kin		39 Ham's dad
23 Chart			42 Station
26 Advanced deg.			44 Top
28 Wind-sor's merry ones			45 Contemptible
31 Piece of work			46 Hebrew month
33 Ever-green type			48 Opportunity
			49 Responsibility
			50 "Hey!"
			53 Popular card game

Yesterdays answer 12-9

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				58				59		

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip
12-10 CRYPTOQUIP

RD UDT YTIIDYV FXV MGZFDHU
FXGF JGPTMGZFTHVY YKVVIEPW
IEKKY JEWXF AV RVEWPGFVR
G YKTJAVH JEKK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WATCH AN ATHLETE WHO'S REALLY IN TERRIFIC SHAPE, I SUPPOSE YOU WITNESS FITNESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L