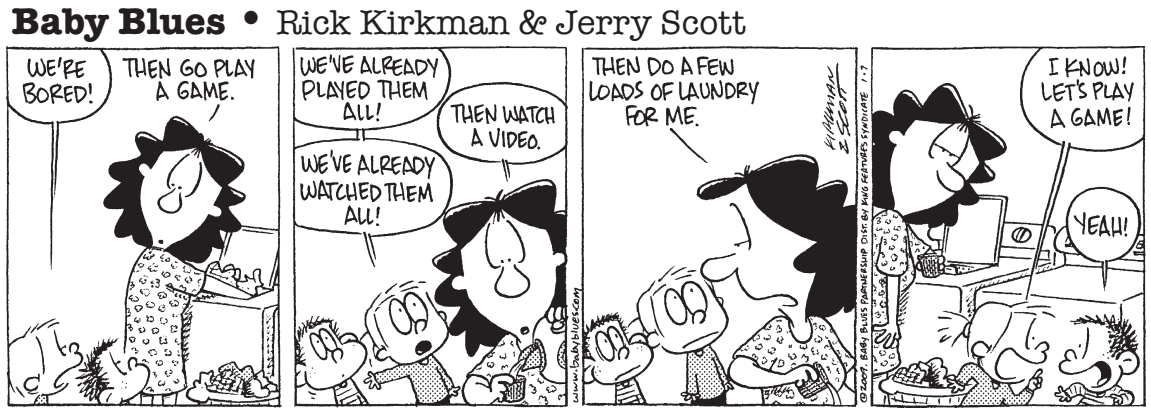
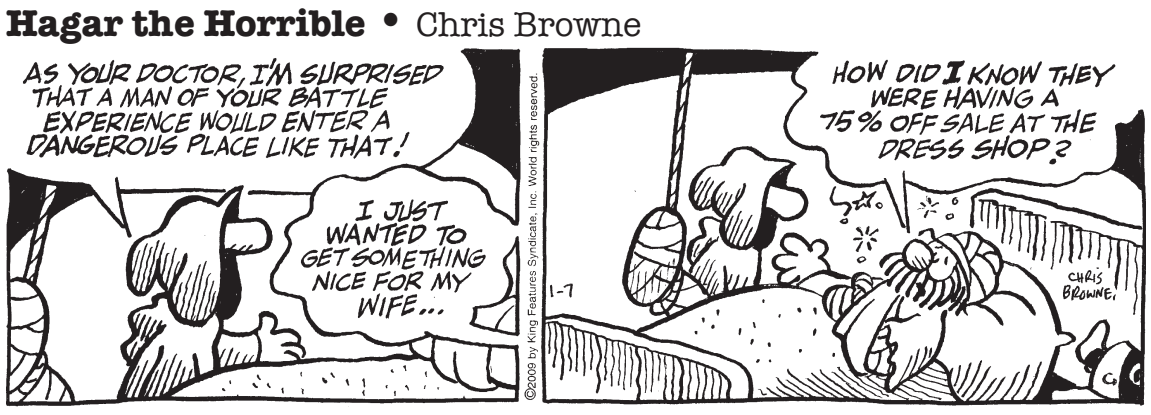
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



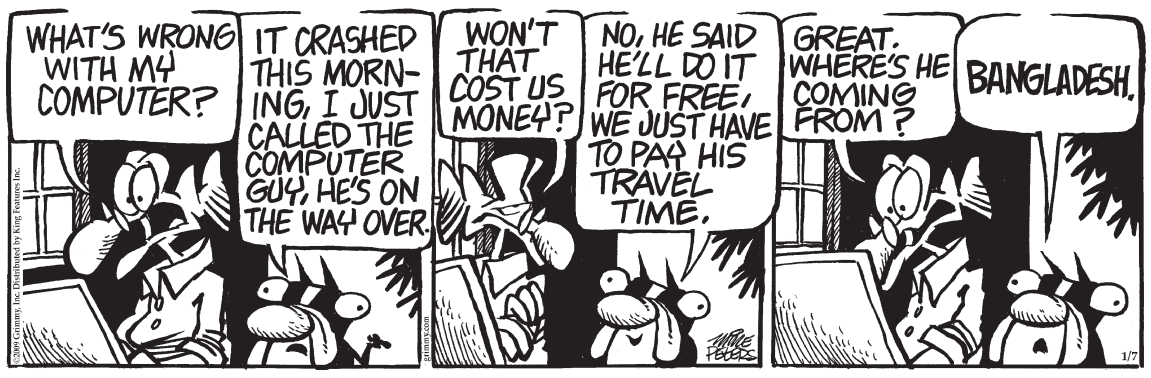
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

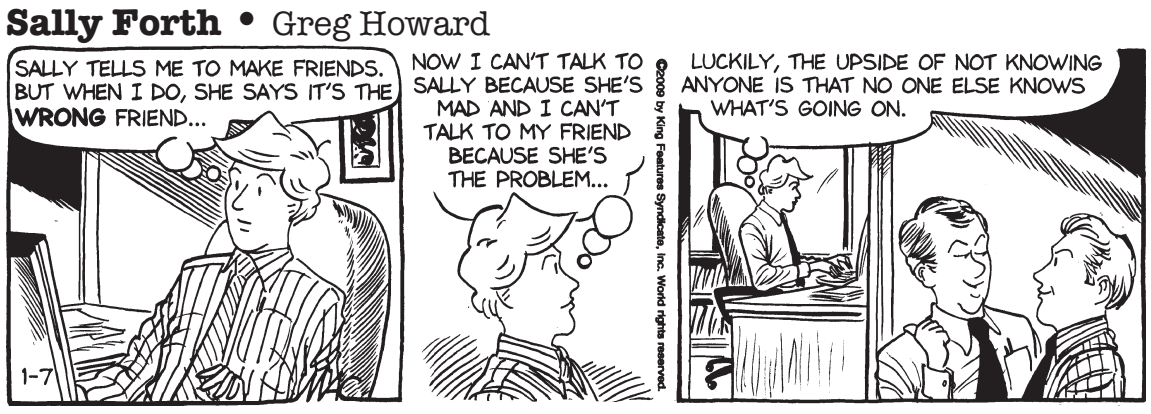
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

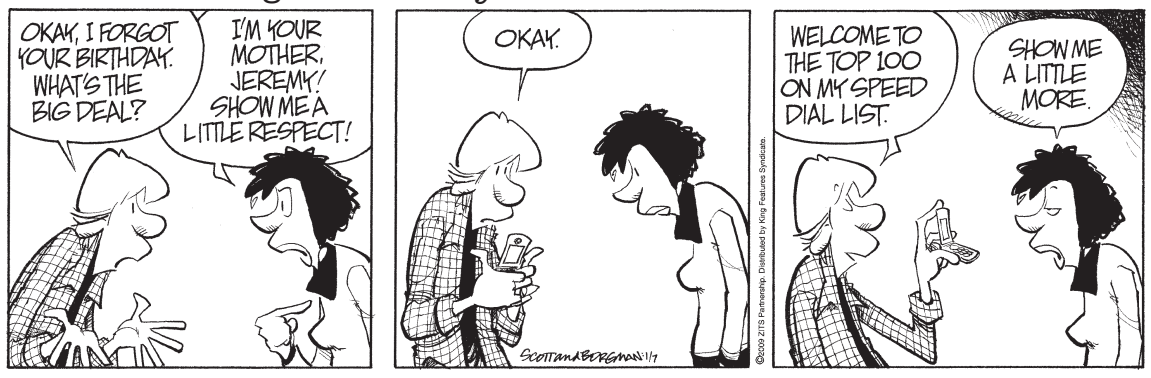


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

OQONKLF LPYHLIZR HQSYZ ICLI RZOYBIE ENOOQEZR ZSZPIE YP CQHZF'E "YKYLR" ZOYB: "IFQX EIQFX."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY DISC JOCKEY JUST KEEPS PLAYING THAT SAME TUNE REPEATEDLY. I GUESS HE HAS A ONE-TRACK MIND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals I

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/07

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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 the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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

Difficulty Level ★ 1/05

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Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 10 7 5
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ J 4
♣ K

WEST
♠ Q
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A 10 8 3
♣ Q 9 8 4

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

SOUTH
♠ K 8 4 3 2
♥ —
♦ K Q 9 7 6
♣ A J 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	Pass (!)	Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Sylvia Throws a Curve

Not many members realized at first how little Sylvia knew when she started to play with the experts at the club. But it didn't take the cognoscenti long to discover the vast areas of ignorance in Sylvia's game, nor did it take them very long to try to take advantage of her shortcomings.

While it may be that all's fair in love and war, I always had reservations about the propriety of some players at the club who bid psychics against Sylvia. She had such an extraordinary talent for doing the wrong thing that it seemed to me they should have let well enough alone instead of trying to make things more complicated for her.

But there were times when such tactics boomeranged against the perpetrators. One of her first great triumphs occurred on this deal when Sylvia (East) was playing against two of the more larcenous members of the club.

South bid a spade, and West doubled. North, who could smell a psychic a mile away, assumed his partner was throwing a curve, and he passed. Sylvia, who couldn't tell the difference between a takeout double and a Wiener schnitzel, thought her hand was too weak to bid, so she also passed.

South assumed the spades were all banked against him and so ran to two diamonds. West passed, and North, having first congratulated himself on diagnosing the spade bid as a psychic -- apparently confirmed by his partner's runout to two diamonds -- also passed. Sylvia then closed the auction with a pass.

You never did hear such a ruckus as took place after South saw dummy and realized he was playing two diamonds when six spades was practically laydown.

Sylvia never quite understood why he squawked so much, since South wound up making the contract with two overtricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

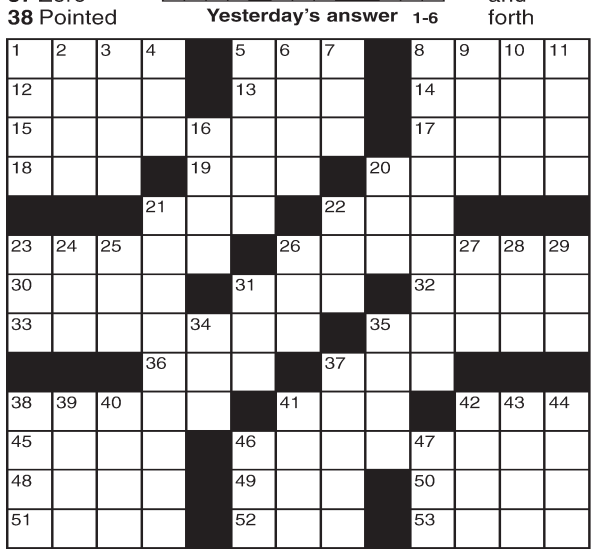
"Mittens are just gloves where they forgot to cut the fingers out."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Candle circler
5 Hot tub
8 Sunbeams
12 Land measure
13 It may be faux
14 Curved molding
15 St. Patrick's Day symbol
17 Just adorable
18 Plaything
19 Anger
20 Wool quantity
21 Barracks bed
22 Victory
23 Trivial
26 Takes for a time
30 State
31 Tibetan critter
32 Reed instrument
33 Inhabitant
35 Michigan city
36 2004 horror movie
37 Zero
38 Pointed
41 Tuna container
42 "Indubitably"
45 — contendere
46 "Saturday Evening Post" cover artist
48 Oil-cartel acronym
49 Ford or Lincoln
50 Additionally
51 It lasts for days
52 Hearty brew
53 Merriment

DOWN
1 Sail support
2 Siete + uno
3 Salver
4 Height of fashion?
5 Recreational activity
6 Wear a rut in the rug
7 Request
8 Elvis' genre
9 Malaria symptom
10 Bigfoot's cousin
11 No longer hidden
16 Urban disturbance
20 Knight's address
21 Voice of Marty the Zebra in "Madagascar"
22 Moo goo gai pan pan
23 Young fellow
24 "— Got a Secret"
25 Army rank (Abbr.)
26 Proscribe
27 Sapporo sash
28 Money of North Korea
29 Collection
31 Evergreen variety
34 Use a ray gun
35 Stoolie
37 Mother-of-pearl
38 Frosty's makeup
39 Crosby crony
40 Sheltered
41 Brat's stocking stuffer
42 Holler
43 Differently
44 — gin fizz
46 Nipper's co.
47 Move back and forth

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-6