

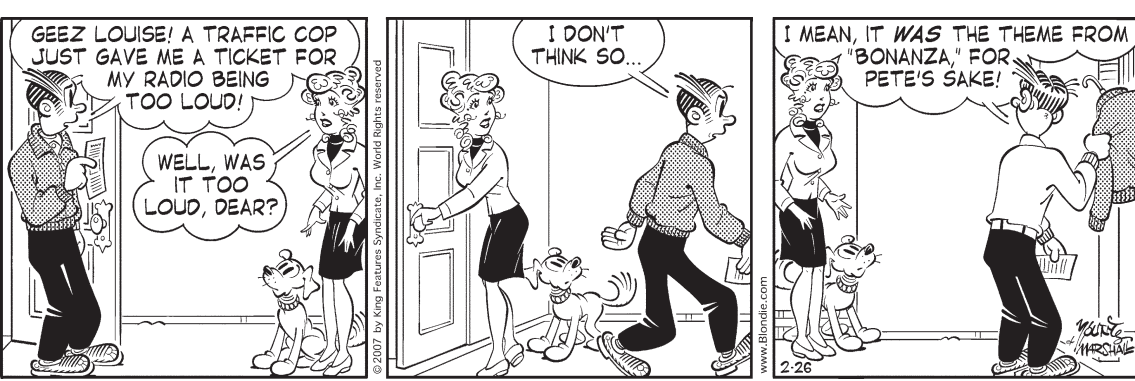
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



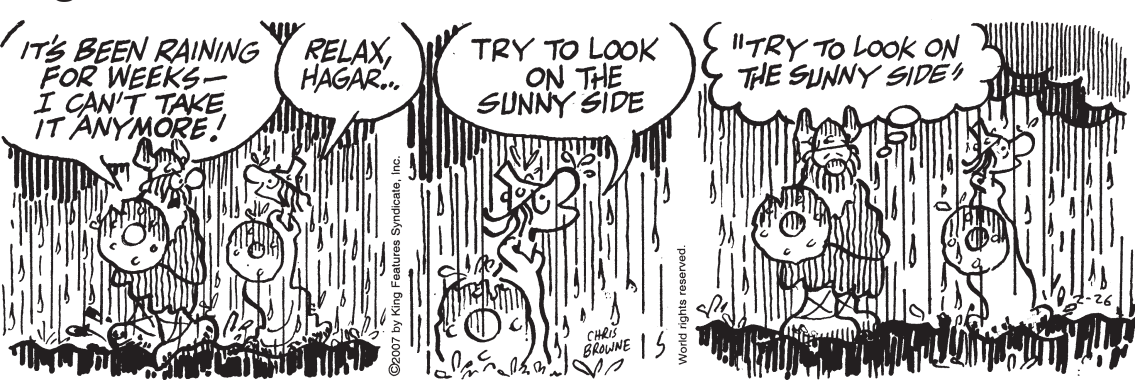
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



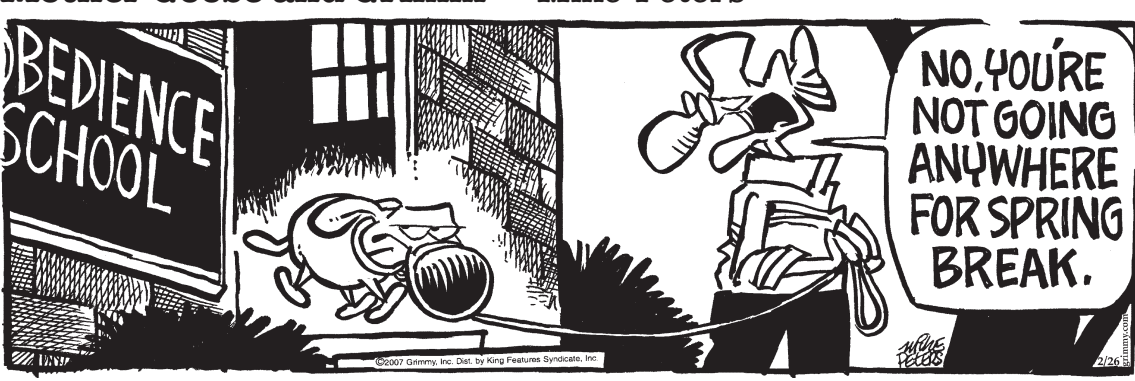
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



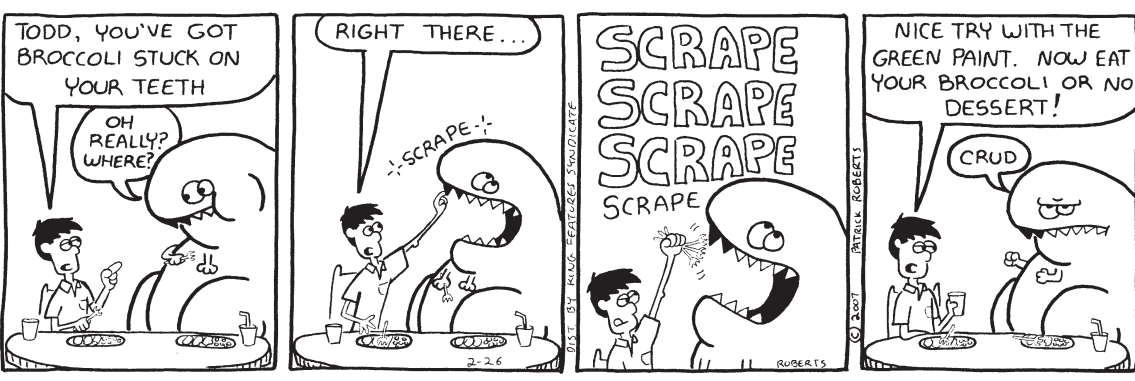
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



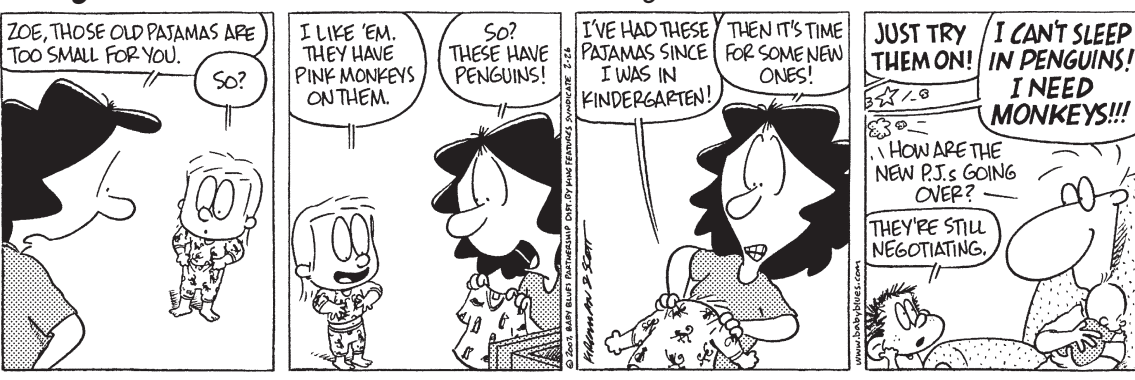
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 2/26

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

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/27

Bridge

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 4
♥ A 9 8 6 3
♦ A
♣ 10 8 6 4
WEST
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ J 9 3
♣ —
SOUTH
♠ —
♥ J 4
♦ K 8 7 5 4 2
♣ A Q J 9 2
The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♥ Pass Pass
2♠ Pass Pass Pass
Pass 4♥ Dble Dble
Pass Pass Pass Pass
Pass Redble
Opening lead — seven of hearts.

Famous Hand
Many years ago, a British Columbia team journeyed to nearby Seattle to play a team-of-eight match against a Pacific Northwest team. The U.S. team won the 64-board match by 4,240 points.

One deal produced a startling series of results and indicates how bridge players' minds run in different channels. At one of the four tables, the bidding went as shown. The U.S. South reached five clubs doubled, North redoubled, and declarer then took all the tricks for a score of 1,150 points. A heart was led to dummy's ace, and declarer cashed the ace of spades, discarding the jack of hearts. After playing the ace of diamonds, South led a low trump to his nine. He then ruffed a diamond, finessed the ten of clubs, repeated the finesse to his jack and cashed the ace, catching East's king. When the diamonds turned out to be divided 3-3, the Canadian defenders wound up with no tricks to show for their double. At the second table, something very strange occurred. All four players passed! Apparently, the U.S. North thought his hand was not good enough to open (only 12 high-card points), and South, lacking the majors and holding only 11 high-card points, also passed. Thus, North-South never bid on a hand on which they could make a grand slam!

At the third table, the U.S. West opened three spades, which every body passed! This was easily made, as the Canadian pair at this table also didn't utter a peep. At the fourth table, the U.S. West also opened three spades. After two passes, South decided to put up a fight. He bid four diamonds, which everyone passed, and somehow went down two for a loss of 100 points. Altogether, the U.S. team gained 1,390 points on the deal, but would have fared even better if at one table it had not passed out a hand on which it could make a grand slam!

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Grandma has some plants that grow SILK leaves."

Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Take up weapons
4 Barton or Bow
9 Fast-forward past the ads
12 The girl
13 Storms
14 Bullring bravo
15 Ragtime piano style
17 A Bobbsey twin
18 Atmosphere
19 "Revenge of the Sith" role
21 Hispanic
24 Capital of Togo
25 Lennon's lady
26 "Pygmalion" writer's monogram
28 Fusses
31 Dresses in
33 Listening device
35 Santa's laundry woe
- DOWN**
1 Fire residue
2 Plato's P
3 Fellows
4 Lachrymose
5 Pittsburgh suburb, birthplace of
7 Kidney-related
8 Start of a quote
9 In a stupor
10 Jai follower
11 Actor Sean Shek
16 Chiang
20 Andy's pal
21 California city
22 Unsigned (Abbr.)
23 Artificial vanilla source
27 Potential syrup
29 Leak slowly
30 Mix
32 — precedent
34 Old movies in new form
37 Doctrines
39 Lead ore
42 Simoleons
44 007, for one
45 Bulletin-board item
46 Hodge-podge
50 Zero
51 Weep loudly
52 Perfume-label word
53 Work unit
- Solution time: 24 mins.**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | R | O | A | S | P | S | P | A | C | K | | |
| L | E | X | B | L | A | H | A | S | I | A | | |
| O | N | E | B | A | R | E | S | T | A | R | | |
| C | O | N | C | E | N | T | R | A | T | I | O | N |
| E | S | T | B | R | A | | | | | | | |
| Y | A | W | N | S | D | E | M | W | A | S | | |
| E | D | I | T | J | E | T | M | A | G | I | | |
| S | O | N | W | E | B | D | I | N | E | R | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | O | N | S | T | E | R | N | A | T | I | O | N |
| A | R | E | A | B | O | O | N | R | I | O | | |
| R | E | E | L | E | L | B | A | L | I | N | S | |
| D | O | R | M | L | E | S | S | K | Y | | | |

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Cryptoquip

P N T M Z Q U Z W O N Q N P U
M A T P Z O D X Q N D Z I A O B Z J X P
X W X T B M E Z O B, I A K E J S A K
P X S U Z ' P X Q A O S Q Z E E Z O ?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PURPLE FLOWER KEEPS BRINGING SOMEBODY GOOD FORTUNE, MAYBE IT'S THE LUCK OF THE IRIS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S