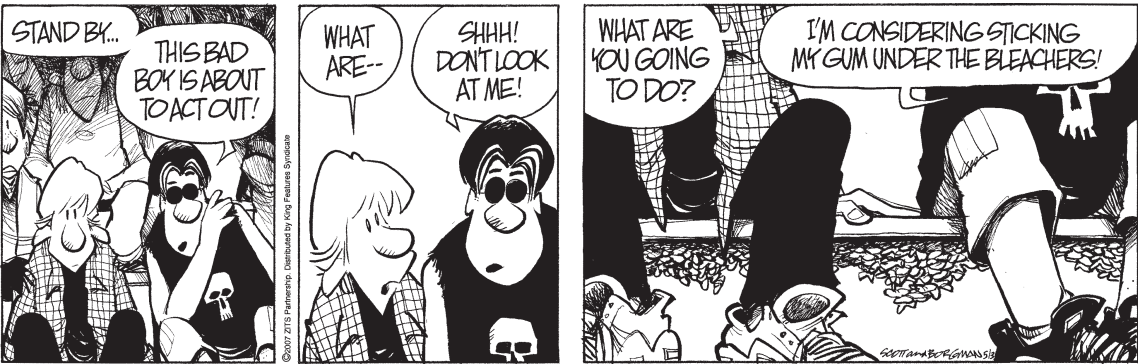


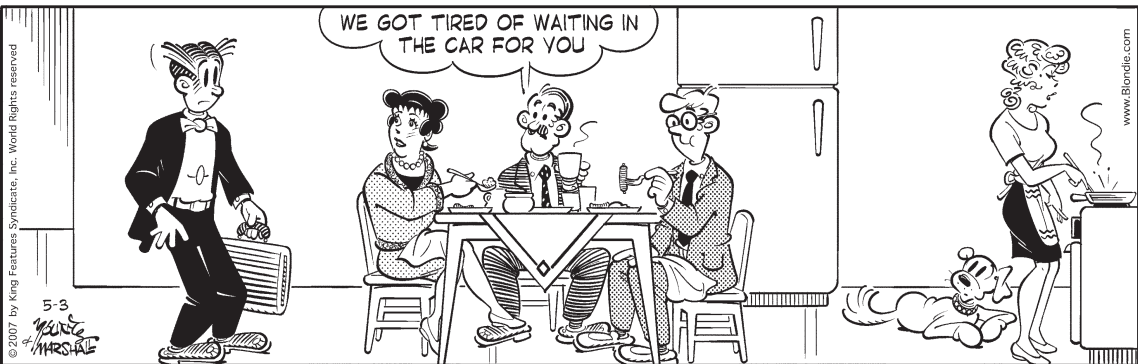
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



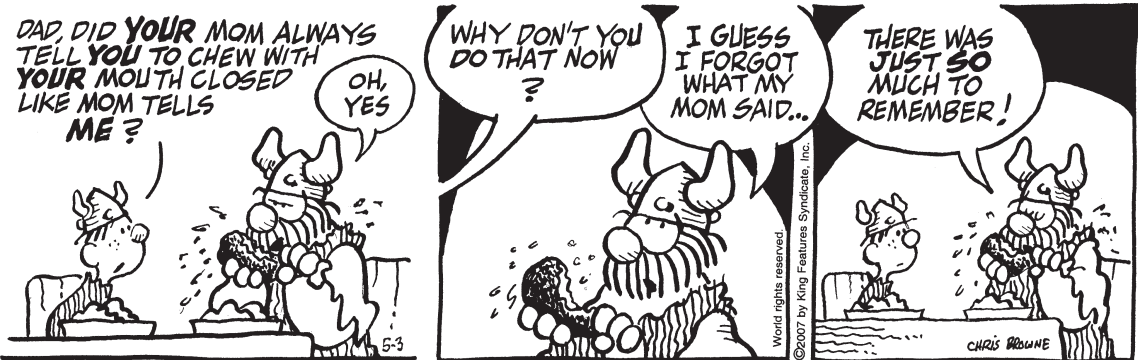
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



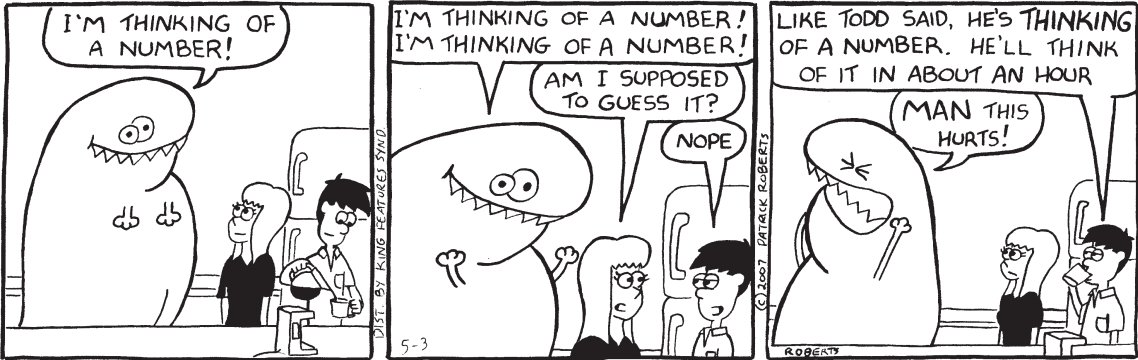
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

SB NPVXPIX KXCDUIXY VK.

QXGKSQ PI RGX YSUVPIY,

FPW JPWDY NUF RGUR GX

CDUFXY SI DSXW PB DPW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT SONG MIGHT SOMEBODY SING WHILE REMODELING APARTMENT WALLS? "GOODBYE, OLD PAINT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/03

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

5/03

Bridge

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 10 3
♥ 10 9 2
♦ K 8 7 4
♣ K Q 6

WEST

♠ 9 8 4
♥ K 7 4 3
♦ A 6
♣ J 10 9 8

EAST

♠ A J 7 6
♥ 8 5
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 5 2
♥ A Q J 6
♦ Q J 5
♣ A 7 4

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The Handwriting on the Wall

There are times when declarer arrives at a critical point in the play and fails to recognize a danger that poses a threat to his contract. For example, consider the present case where South is in three notrump and West leads the club jack.

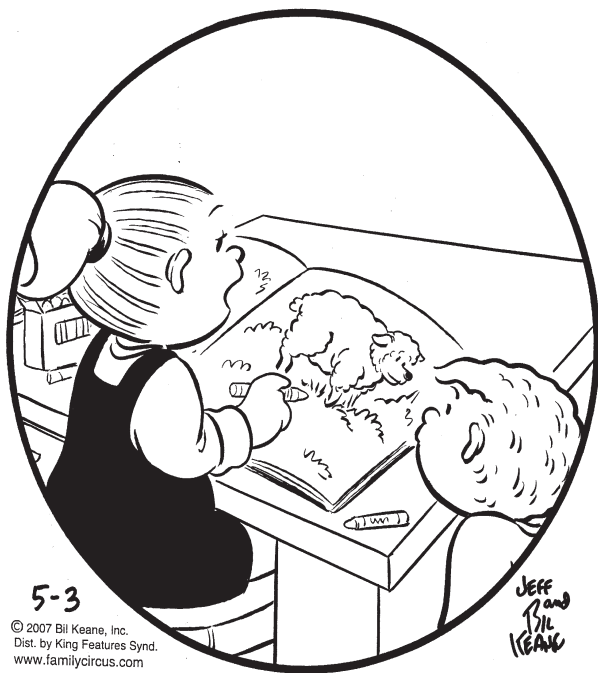
Declarer's best course of action at the start is fairly clear. He wins the club with dummy's queen, leads the ten of hearts and follows low. If East has the king, the finesse succeeds and the contract is assured.

But West wins the heart with the king and shifts to the nine of spades, presenting declarer with the option of playing the king, the ten or the three from Whether he knows it or not, South is now at the crossroads of the hand. If he plays the ten, East covers with the jack, and if he plays the three, East signals with the seven. Either way, as soon as West gains the lead with the ace of diamonds, he returns the eight of spades, and the contract goes down the drain, declarer losing three spades, a heart and a diamond.

But if South plays the spade king from dummy at trick three, he makes the contract. East wins with the ace but cannot afford a spade return, which would establish dummy's ten as a trick. If East returns any other suit, South wins and forces out the ace of diamonds to assure scoring at least nine tricks.

When West leads the spade nine at trick three, declarer is in good position to judge that the nine is a top-of-nothing lead and that East holds the A-J of spades. South should therefore play the king from dummy to short-circuit the danger that might develop later on if West has the ace of diamonds. If South takes this precaution, the defense disintegrates and the contract is made.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Old man
5 On
9 Omega
12 Grand-scale
13 Aching
14 A long time
15 Tyro
17 Arctic bird
18 Australian city
19 Mad
21 Gridiron score (Abbr.)
22 It's mostly discretion
24 Alger's "before"
27 Proscription
28 Cried
31 Melody
32 Choose
33 Geologic time
34 Escape
36 Conk out
37 Yuletide mood enhancer

DOWN

1 Cribbage props
2 Nashville entertainment
3 Multi-colored
4 Perfumery output
5 Wan
6 As well
7 Bobby of hockey
8 Punishment-related
9 The Owl and the Pussy-cat's boat color
10 Acerbic
11 Black
16 Simpsons' neighbor
17 Flanders
20 Promptly

Solution time: 25 mins.

PAPA	WIT	HEAT
EGOS	ACE	OUCH
EUPHORIA	BRIE	
RESEAT	MONODY	
NTH	SWAP	
ABE	SOL	LIEGE
LAUD	GEE	LANA
PALED	IMP	NUT
OPED	POW	
BEGONE	ENAMEL	
ISIS	EURYDICE	
NAZI	PRO	ERRS
DUET	SIR	DEUS

Yesterday's answer 5-3

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		