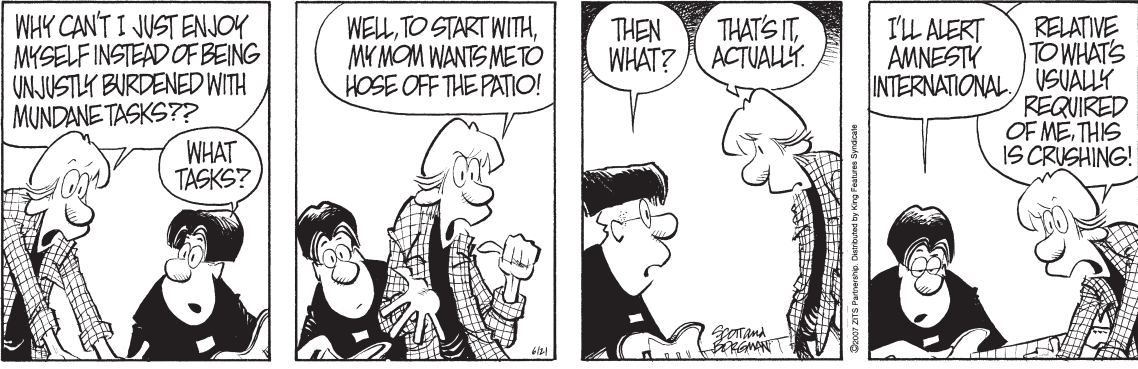


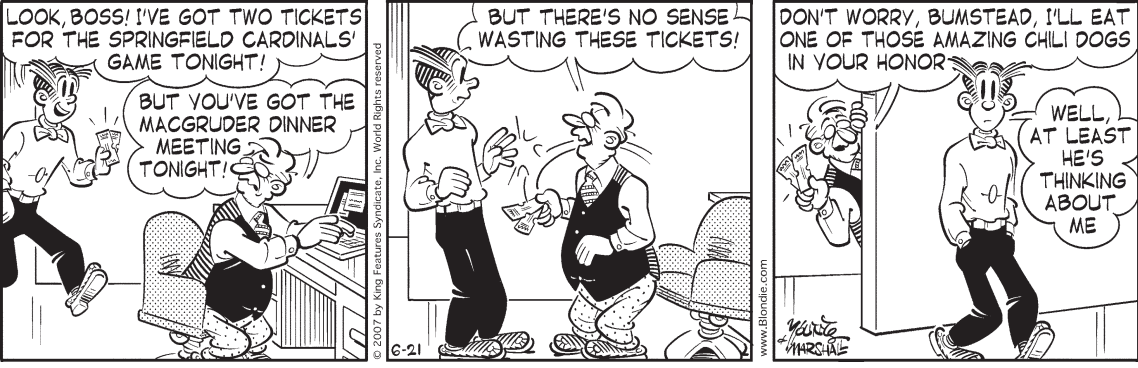
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



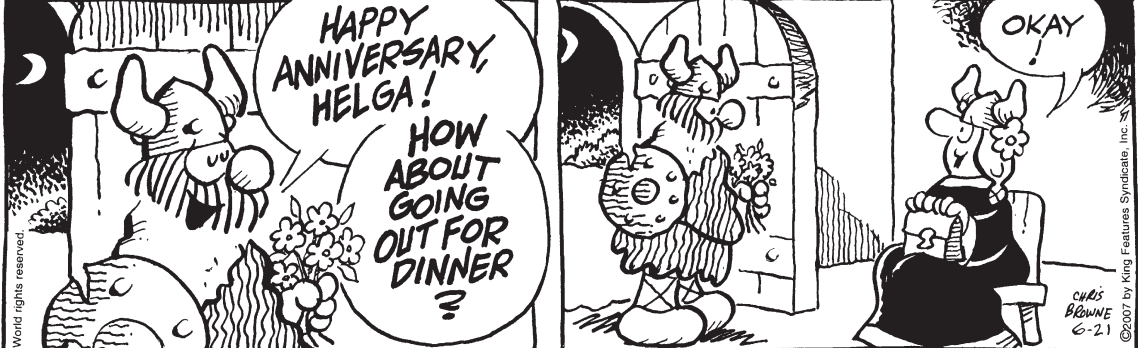
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



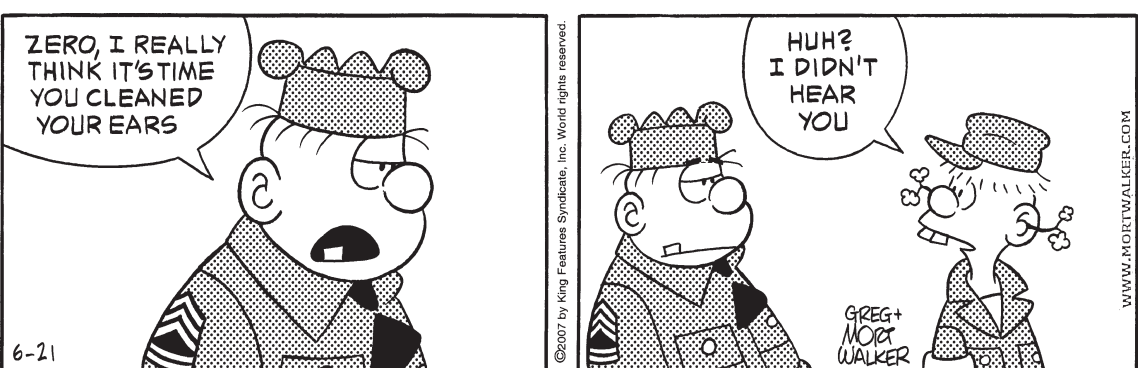
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



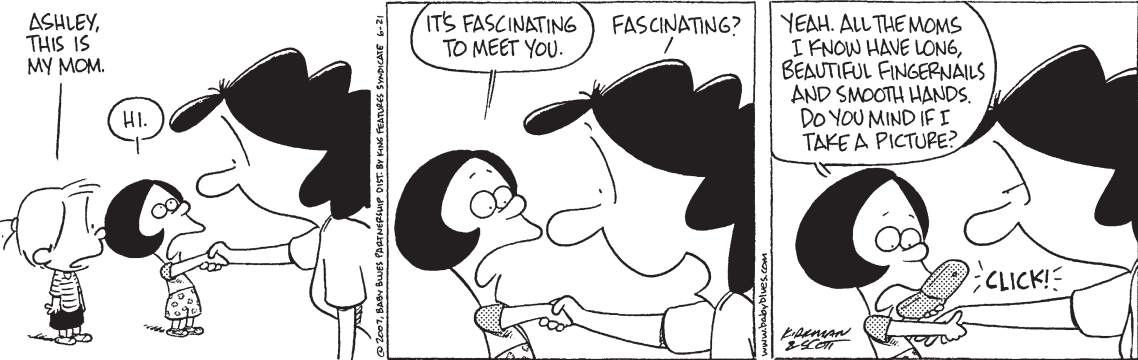
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

6/21

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

6/21

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ A Q 10 6

WEST

♠ A K J 10 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 5
♦ 9
♣ 8 3

EAST

♠ 6 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q 10 6
♣ J 9 7 5 2

SOUTH

♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 6 3
♦ A K 7 5 2
♣ K 4

The bidding:
South 1 ♦ West 4 ♠ North 5 ♦ East All Pass
Opening lead — king of spades.

A Case of Eavesdropping

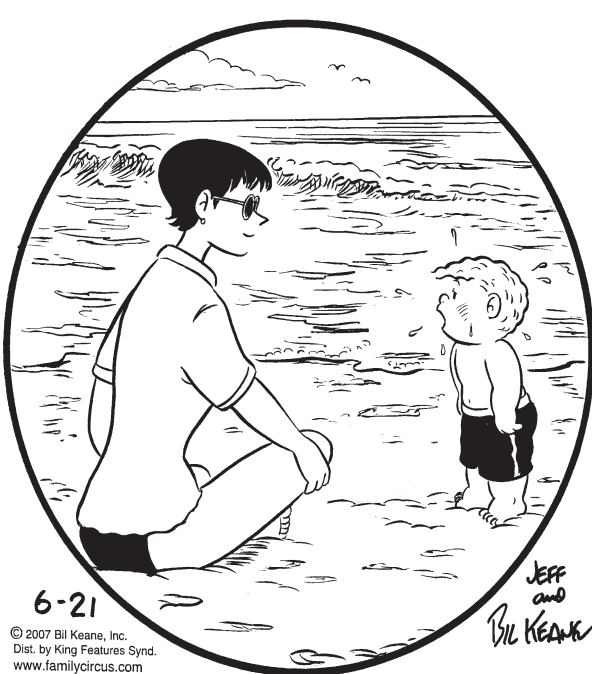
Generally speaking, when a player makes a bid, or a series of bids, his primary purpose is to portray to his partner as nearly as possible the type of hand he has. In doing so, however, he cannot avoid revealing the very same information to the opposition. After all, the opponents also have ears, and have every right to listen in on what is basically intended as a private conversation. As a result, both sides are frequently able to take advantage of the knowledge they pick up from the adverse bidding. In the present case, for example, South knows a great deal about West's hand from his four-spade bid, and he can put this knowledge to good use to help him make the contract. Let's say West leads the king of spades and shifts to a club. Since South must lose a heart in any case, his sole concern at this point is to avoid losing a trump trick. If he plays normally, that is, if he cashes the A-K of diamonds, he makes the contract if the diamonds are divided 2-2 or either player has the singleton queen.

However, with West known to have seven or eight spades, the odds are greatly against his having two diamonds. Indeed, West is far more likely to have one diamond than two. South should therefore base his play in the trump suit on this assumption and should reason that, if West has a singleton, there is twice as good a chance it is the ten or nine rather than the queen. Accordingly, he should win West's club return at trick two with dummy's queen and lead the jack of diamonds, planning to finesse if East follows low.

If East covers the jack with the queen and West produces the ten or nine, South should cross to the ace of clubs and finesse against East for the missing key card.

In the actual deal, this method of play succeeds, and South loses only a spade and a heart.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“That blur you saw go by before was me running.”

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Garden tools
5 DNA sharer, maybe
8 Recipe meas.
12 Desire
13 Salary
14 Canal zone?
15 Despot
16 Hostel
17 Littlest of the litter
18 Alaskan bear
20 Investigates
22 Storm center
23 Exploitation
24 Hannibal's hurdles
27 With intent to kill
32 Bishop's bailiwick
33 Ike's WWII command
34 Shoe width
35 Bright headlight
38 Menial laborer
39 Fella

DOWN

1 Tom's pal
2 Pasta that resembles rice
3 "Zounds!"
4 TV actor's hope
5 "Malcolm X" director
6 Writer Fleming
7 Harmonization
8 Saint of Avila
9 "Enter the Dragon" actor
10 Kitchen fixture
11 Letterman's "trick" performers
19 Ever, in verse
21 "What did you say?"
24 Blond shade
25 Floral accessory
26 "Fever" singer
28 Greek vowel
29 Motley Crue drummer
30 Zodiac sign
31 Longing
36 Politico Humphrey
37 "See ya"
38 Streisand classic
41 Yours truly
42 Applies lightly
43 Lend a sly hand
44 Old fogey
46 Academic
47 Part of T.A.E.
48 Yuletide refrain
51 Saturn auto model

Solution time: 25 mins.

ARCS	BED	HES	
HOOP	AGE	OSLO	
ESTRANGE	ATOP		
MESAS	RIGHTS		
	ISLE	DYE	
BEEN	ASHE	TED	
EMS	ESTES	IRA	
NUT	ATOM	SCAM	
	OAR	PILE	
ARNOLD	ERROR		
PAIR	ESTIMATE		
SPAT	LEE	OVID	
ETNA	LEA	NESS	

Yesterday's answer 6-21

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

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Cryptoquip

6-21

CRYPTOQUIP

AN R FYLBJ LN JVYPBOOALD-
A O G O T V D G R Y L B D W
O T A J A D F G M A D F O, O M L B E W
A G I V P R E E V W R O G V R E I R D W?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT ACTOR JACK JUST EMPLOYED A LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER TO BE HIS LEMMON AIDE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F