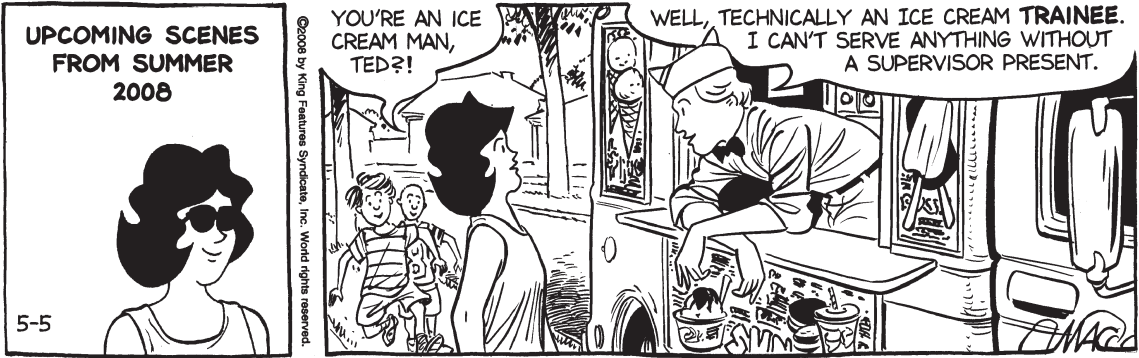
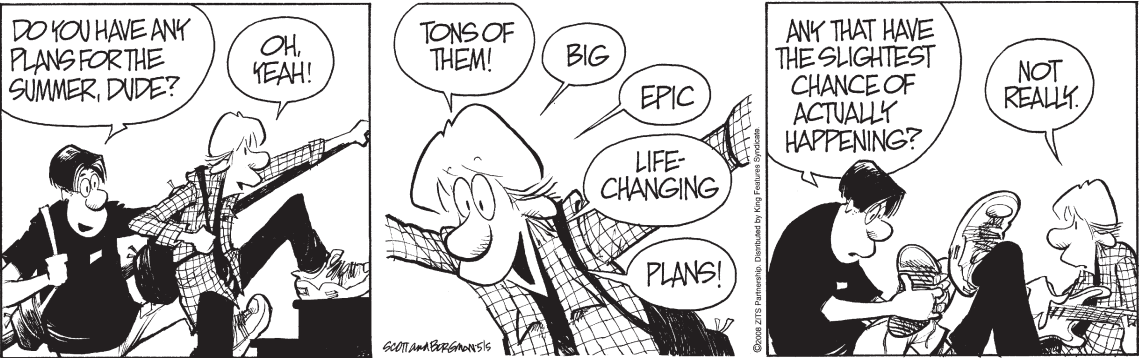


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



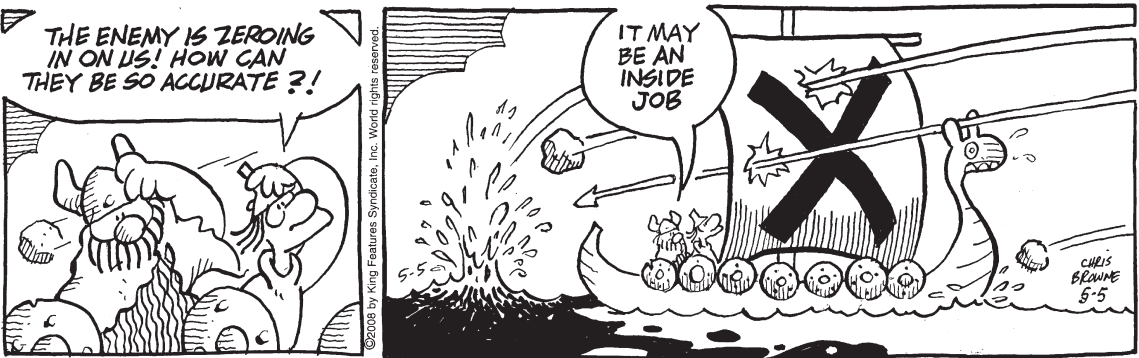
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



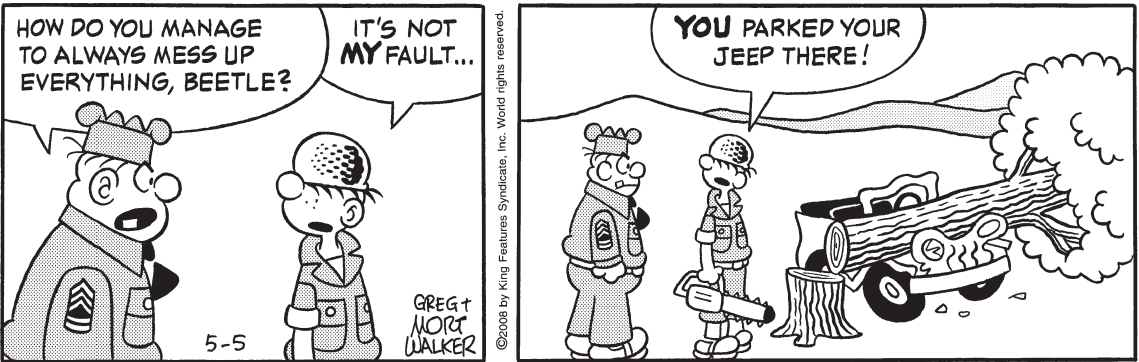
Blondie • Chic Young



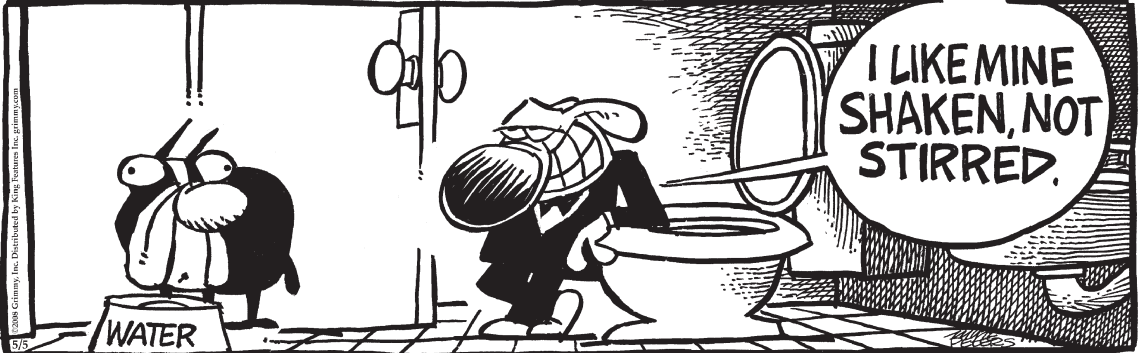
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



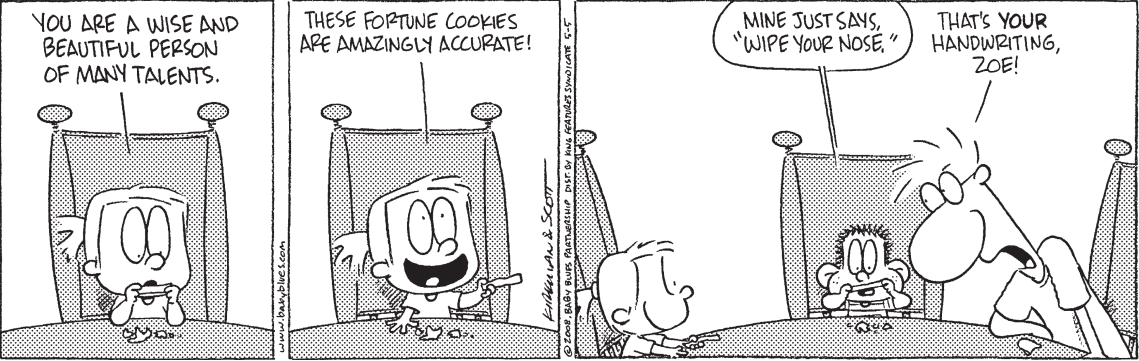
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

KLQXTFL YA HXTRZSLD LJIPAF

YXNCJR IXGXMLJPF KTDFS,

C DLQNPJ FZL'H KL QXGGLH

X MLMMLD MPMMLD.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE SHOW ME STATE HAS VERY RECENTLY ADOPTED A NEW TOURISM SLOGAN: "MISSOURI LOVES COMPANY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals P

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

5/05

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

5/05

Bridge

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 9 8 3

♥ J 3

♦ Q 7 6 4

♣ 5 3 2

WEST

♠ 7 6 4

♥ 5 4

♦ 10 9 8 5 3 2

♣ J 4

EAST

♠ K 10 2

♥ K 2

♦ A K J

♣ K Q 10 9 7

SOUTH

♠ Q J 5

♥ A Q 10 9 8 7 6

♦ —

♣ A 8 6

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♣ 4 ♥
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Famous Hand

Once upon a time, not many moons ago, a declarer named South arrived at a contract of four hearts on the bidding shown. West led the jack of clubs, overtaken by East with the queen and won by South with the ace.

It is certainly not difficult to see, especially if you look at all four hands, that declarer easily can make four hearts. All he has to do is take a trump finesse somewhere along the line, and it succeeds. But the sad fact is that South wound up down one, and there is furthermore a very good chance that, under the same circumstances, many other declarers would have suffered the same fate!

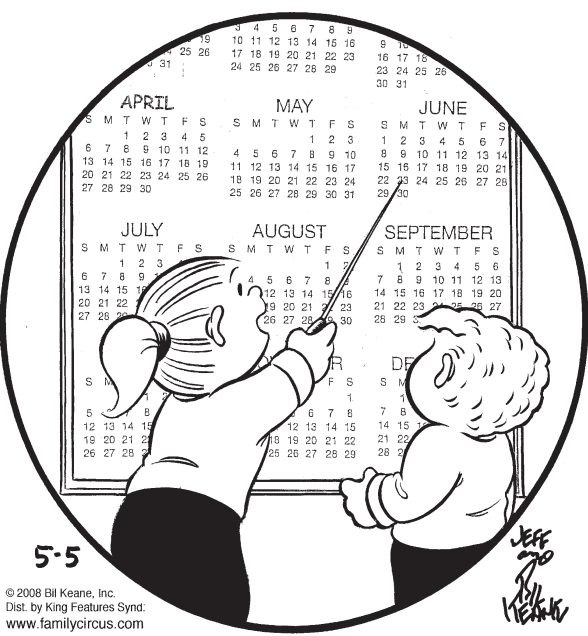
In the actual case, after winning the opening club lead, South played the queen of spades at trick two and followed low from dummy. East was Zia Mahmood, one of the world's great players, and he smoothly followed suit with the ten!

Declarer was naturally afraid the ten was a singleton, which would make it dangerous to attempt another spade finesse at this point. Since he could repeat the finesse later on, South next led the ace and another trump.

This did not prove to be an outstanding success. Zia won with the king and cashed two club tricks, then played the king of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and eventually tried another spade finesse, but this time it lost to the king, and the contract went down one.

You're not apt to encounter many defenders in a lifetime who possess the fertile imagination displayed by Zia Mahmood on this deal. Almost everyone would automatically have taken the king of spades at trick two, expecting to defeat the contract very easily, but they would all have wound up disappointed at the end.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"April, May and June are girls' names. That's why those months hang out together."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Vicinity

5 Hot tub

8 Stubborn one

12 Predicate component

13 Scoundrel

14 October birthstone

15 "American —"

16 World-wide police organization

18 Two tablets, maybe

20 Emphasis

21 Galvanizing material

23 Melody

24 Walkie-talkie's kin

28 Surface matter

31 Office VIP

32 Raise an objection

34 "My home, sweet home"

35 KFC additive

37 Track star, perhaps

39 Numerical prefix

41 Concert halls

42 10-Down's people, e.g.

45 Improve nutritionally

49 Break into fragments

51 Libertine

52 Potter's oven

53 Exist

54 Actor Wilson

55 Remain

56 Tavern

57 Bankrolls

DOWN

1 Eager, and then some

2 Start over

3 Love god

4 Burning

5 Biology, botany, etc.

6 Play on words

7 Macrame, decoupage, etc.

8 Spokes-cat for 9 Lives

9 Boxer's tactic

10 Vientiane's land

11 Right angles

17 Greek vowel

19 Surround

22 Mortar or plaster, for short

24 German pronoun

25 Born

26 Quesadilla holder

27 Certain criminal

29 Work with

30 Scratch

33 Nothing, in Nantes

36 Intelligent

38 Not wide

40 Hostel

42 Requests

43 Skewer

44 Impale

46 "The Music Man" setting

47 Prompted

48 Coop group

50 Historic time

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	O	D	E	S		C	A	R	M	E	N
S	E	C	R	E	T		A	R	C	A	N
I	N	H	E	R	E		R	E	A	L	I
S	T	O	A		E	V	E	N		D	O
				M	A	R	E		A	R	E
P	I	E		G	I	N	A		E	M	I
S	O	N	S	A	N	D		L	O	V	E
I	N	T	O		G	O	L	D		R	E
				I	L	K		R	E	A	M
T	A	R		N	A	S		L	O	S	L
O	P	E	N	E	D		U	P	R	O	A
R	E	L	I	E	D		I	O	N	I	Z
I	D	Y	L	L	S		A	I	S	L	E

Saturday's answer 5-5

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							50			
49									51	
52					53				54	
55					56				57	