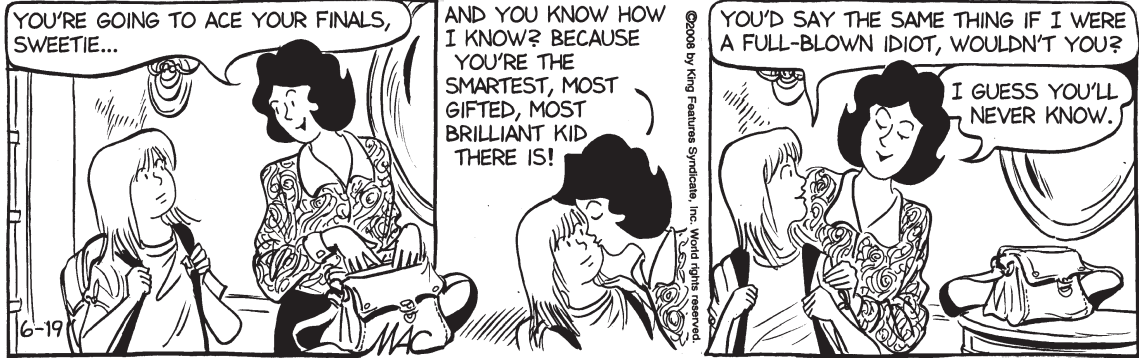
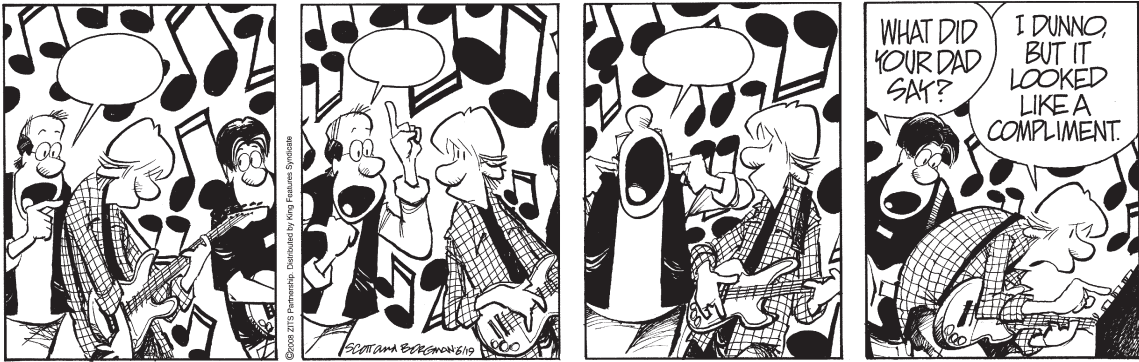


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



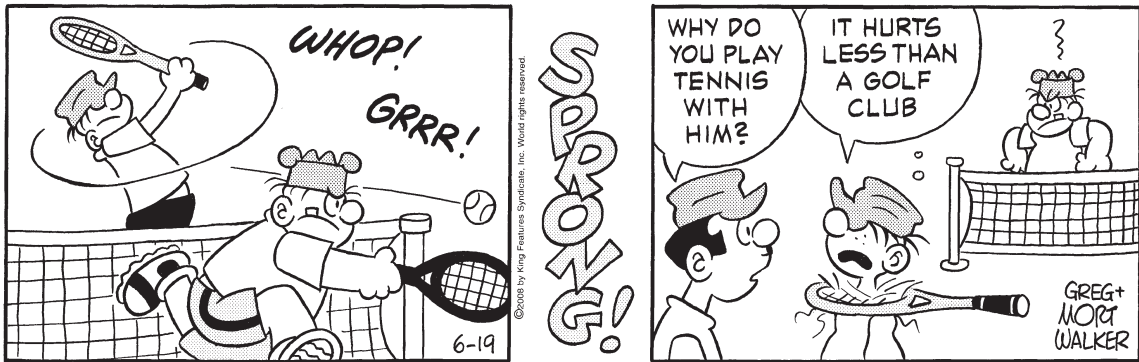
Blondie • Chic Young



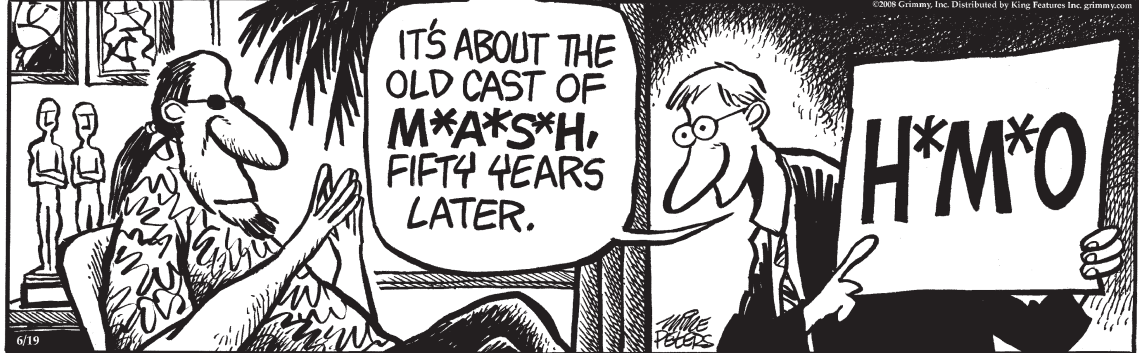
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



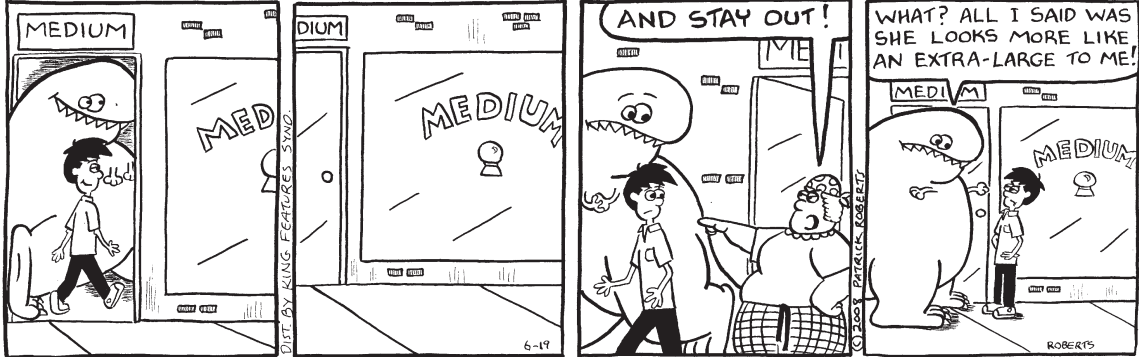
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

LPHD NIRBY XIR NHBB H
OTUP LPI'U HBLHXU LHAX
HMY SRHAYKY? PKAATMS
IM DPK UTYK IO NHRDTIM.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOPING THE EXTERMINATOR GUY WOULD TRIUMPH IN THE CONTEST, I EXCLAIMED "MAY THE PEST MAN WIN!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals W

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/19

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Bridge

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 3
♥ K 9 8
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ K 10 2

WEST
♠ J 10 7 4 2
♥ J 3
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ 6 4

EAST
♠ K 6
♥ Q 7 6 5 4 2
♦ A
♣ J 8 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8
♥ A 10
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ A Q 9 5

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — four of spades.

Assembling the Necessary Clues

The declarer should always begin the play of a hand by forming a tentative plan of what he intends to do. In making this plan, he usually begins by counting his winners if he is playing a notrump contract, and counting his losers if he is in a suit contract.

Thus, in this deal, after a spade has been led, South can count seven immediate winners -- two spades, two hearts and three clubs. Since his goal is to make nine tricks, declarer must formulate a plan to develop two additional tricks.

He notes that he can definitely gain a diamond trick simply by leading toward the K-Q, at the same time concluding that two diamond tricks are certain if West was dealt the ace.

South also notes that an additional club trick is possible if the suit is divided 3-3, or if the singleton or doubleton jack was dealt to either opponent, or if he chooses to finesse against the jack.

Since there is no hurry about testing the clubs, South takes East's king of spades with the ace and leads a diamond to the queen. East wins with the ace and returns a spade, on which declarer plays the eight. He does this for two reasons -- he wants to exhaust East of spades, and he is curious to learn how many spades West started with.

West wins and returns another spade to South's queen as East discards a heart. Declarer leads a diamond to the king, hoping the jack will fall, but East shows out, discarding another heart.

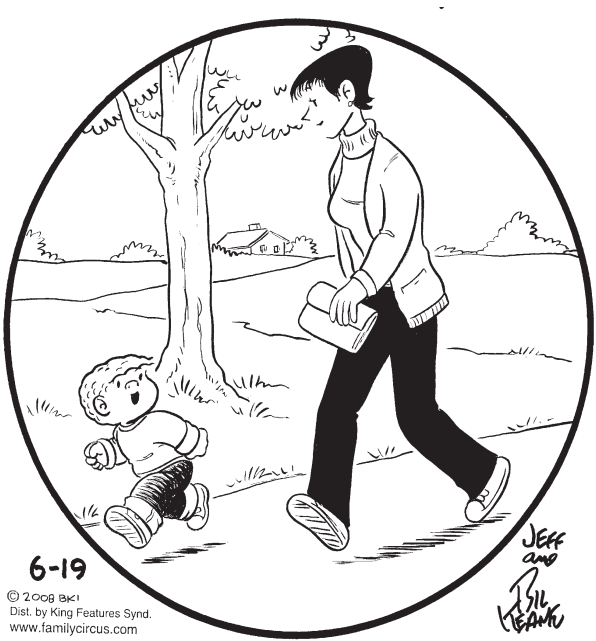
South now has only one hope left -- to score four club tricks. But before tackling the suit, he cashes the A-K of hearts. When both defenders follow suit, the contract becomes a certainty.

West has thus far shown up with five spades, four diamonds and two hearts, and therefore cannot have more than two clubs. Accordingly, South leads the ten of clubs to the ace, a low club to the king and returns a low club from dummy. When East plays the eight, South finesses the nine with absolute assurance that the finesse will win and provide him with his ninth trick.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

- ACROSS

1 Robert of "Air-plane!"

5 Frenzied

8 Existence (Latin)

12 Tournament format

13 "The Greatest"

14 Nerdy sort

15 Norway's capital

16 Thing, in law

17 Merri-ment

18 Crime

20 Ground-less rumor

22 Homer's interjec-tion

23 Present

24 Urban fleet

27 Yanks at Fenway, e.g.

32 Melody

33 Director Howard

34 Uncivil-ized

35 Some oceanic biota

38 Rim
- DOWN

1 Horse-shoe site

2 Church area

3 Scream

4 Hairnets

5 "Enter-tainment Tonight" co-host

6 Pub request

7 Frisbee, e.g.

8 Yuletide quaff

9 She plays Dr. House's ex

10 Crystal gazer

11 Supple-mented, with "out"
- 39 "How — love thee?"

40 List- ending abbr.

42 "In Cold Blood" author

45 Deodor-ant type

49 "Exodus" author

50 Old wire service

52 Verdi opera

53 Nibble

54 Sinbad's flier

55 Enrages

56 Diner sign

57 Have bills

58 Impetu-ous
- 19 "Out of the question"

21 Whatever number

24 Upper limit

25 Be below par

26 "Fight Club" actor

28 Court

29 Lestat's creator

30 Periodical

31 Lamb's mama

36 Some loops

37 Set of pieces

38 Elongated cream puff

41 Infinitive indicator

42 Rubik's baffler

43 Met melody

44 Italian money, today ...

46 ... and yesterday

47 Rhyming tributes

48 Doggerel-ist

Odgen

51 "Bam!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-19

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			