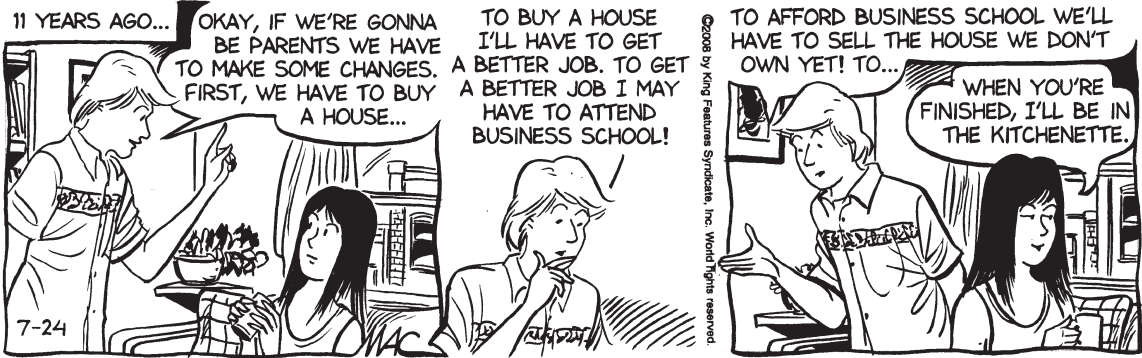
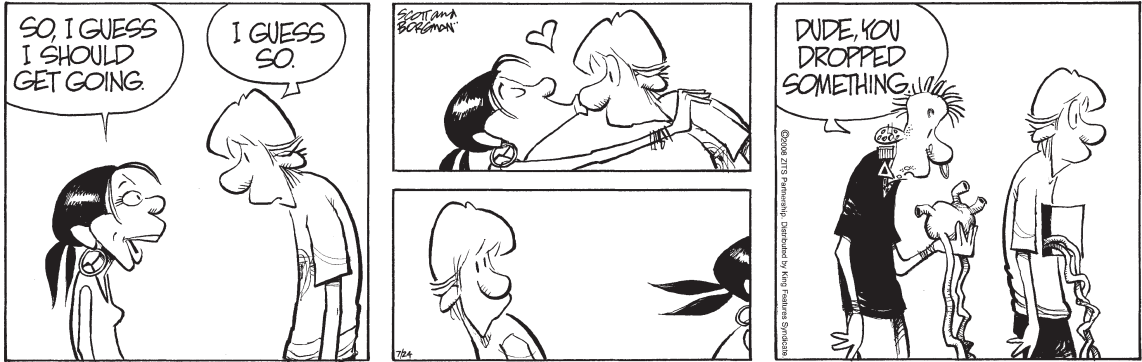


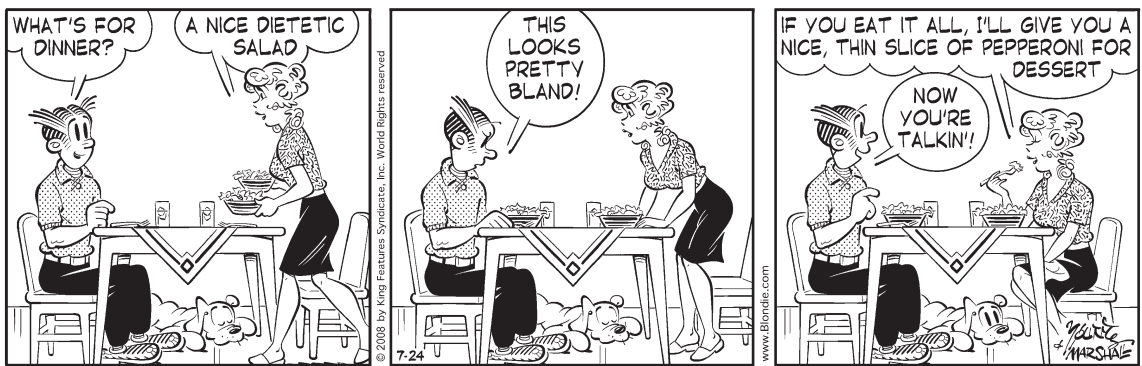
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



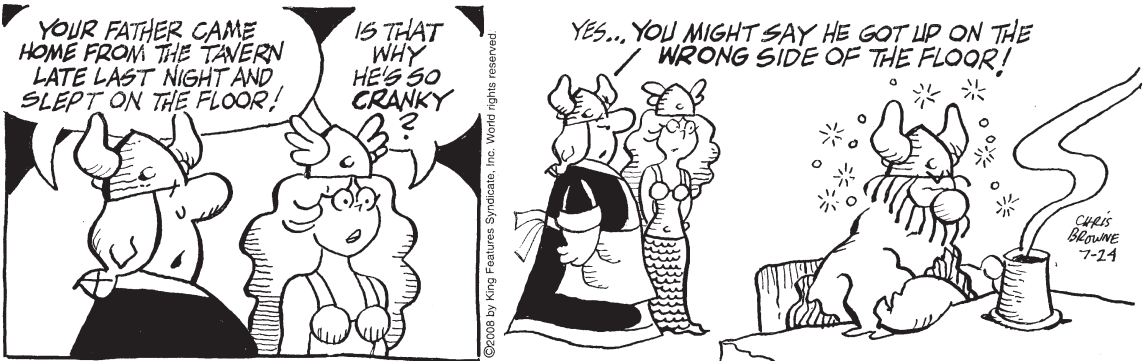
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



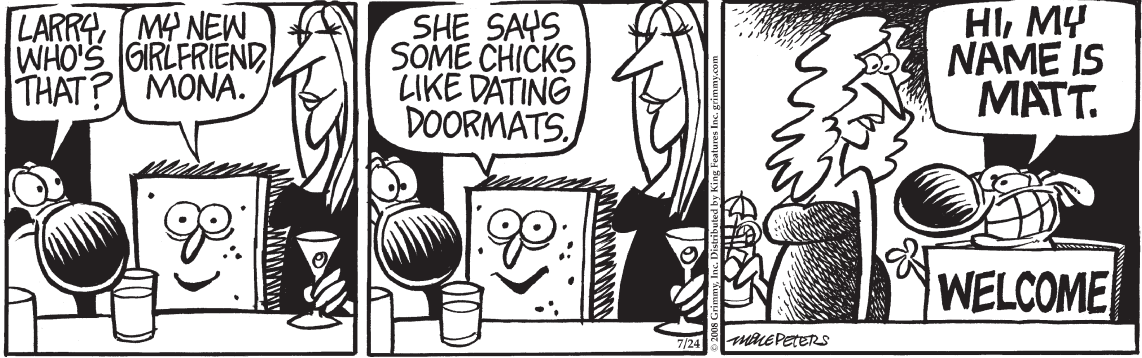
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



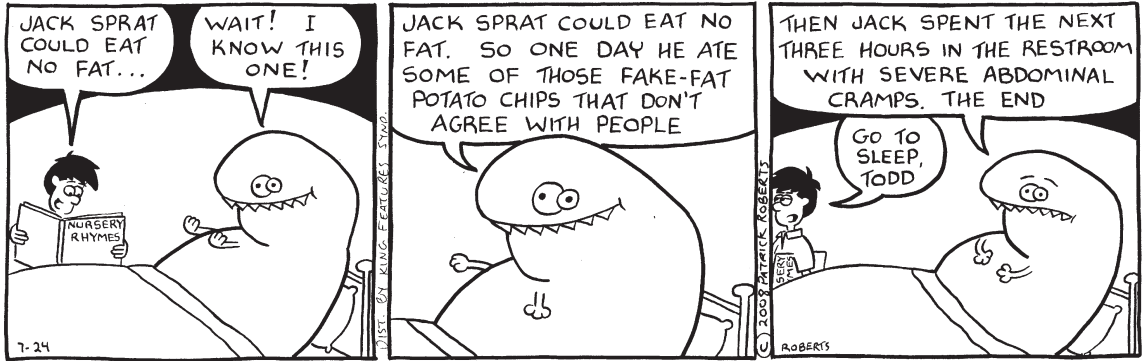
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

PVF'M MON MV OVS J QJAM-
QVVP OZAMJTOJFM. NVT
GLHUM LGGZPLJMZBN AZM
VQQ MUZ STOHZO JBJOG.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DRIED GRAPE
DECIDED ON A PURPOSE OR CALLING IN LIFE,
COULD YOU SAY IT'S A RAISIN D'ETRE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/24

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/24

Bridge

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	3 2	♠	7 5 4
♥	2	♥	Q 8 6 4
♦	A K Q J 5 4	♦	9 7
♣	A 8 6 4	♣	K 7 3 2
WEST		EAST	
♠	Q 8 6	♠	7 5 4
♥	A K J 10	♥	Q 8 6 4
♦	8 3 2	♦	9 7
♣	Q J 9	♣	K 7 3 2
SOUTH			
♠	A K J 10 9		
♥	9 7 5 3		
♦	10 6		
♣	10 5		

The bidding:
North South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Opening lead — king of hearts.

A Not-So-Brilliant Defense

Many years ago, the distinguished expert Oswald Jacoby, playing in a pair championship, got to four spades with the South hand. Ordinarily, Jacoby would have made the contract, but he ran into a seemingly inspired defense and went down as a result.

West led the king of hearts, then shifted to the queen of clubs. Jacoby saw a possibility of making six if East had the queen of spades, so he won the club with the ace, led a spade and finessed the jack -- which held!

He next crossed to dummy with a diamond in order to repeat the spade finesse, since East might have started with Q-x-x-x. But when Jacoby finessed the ten, West took the queen, cashed three more hearts and a club, and so defeated the contract three tricks!

Of course, had West taken the queen of spades at his first opportunity, Jacoby would have made the contract easily. He would have lost only a spade, a heart and a club to achieve a far better than average result.

The highly chagrined Jacoby realized that going down three would be a very poor score -- possibly a bottom -- but he nonetheless went out of his way to congratulate West for his brilliant play in refusing to win the first trump trick.

An embarrassed West then explained that he had pulled the wrong card when the first round of trumps was led. He had expected Jacoby to play the ace or king and had not noticed that the jack was actually played on the trick.

"Please," Jacoby implored him, "won't you try to be a little more careful in the future?"

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“... and they’re from when she was young and worked in an office.”

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Brit's elevator
5 Wonka creator
9 Spy novel org.
12 Epps or Sharif
13 Burn soother
14 Samovar
15 Small crustacean
17 Cauldron
18 Take a — (try)
19 Glistened
21 Dorothy's auntie
22 Theme
24 Cabbie
27 Tail movement
28 Headliner
31 Lennon's lady
32 Indivisible
33 Down's mate
34 Glitch in print
36 Application
37 A little lower?
38 Cognizant
40 Circle ratio
41 Candle type

DOWN

1 Times of depression
2 “— your disposal”
3 — morgana (mirage)
4 Man with all the answers?
5 Crazy
6 The whole enchilada
7 Weeding tool
8 Minimum
9 Something one likes
10 Press agent?
11 Initial stake
16 33-Across' mate
20 Towel-embroidery word
22 Imposing home
23 Curved molding
24 Stolen

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-24

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		