

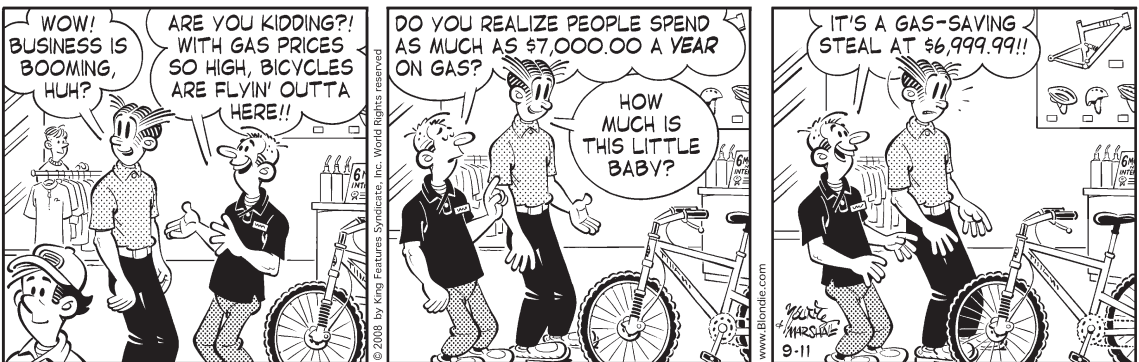
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



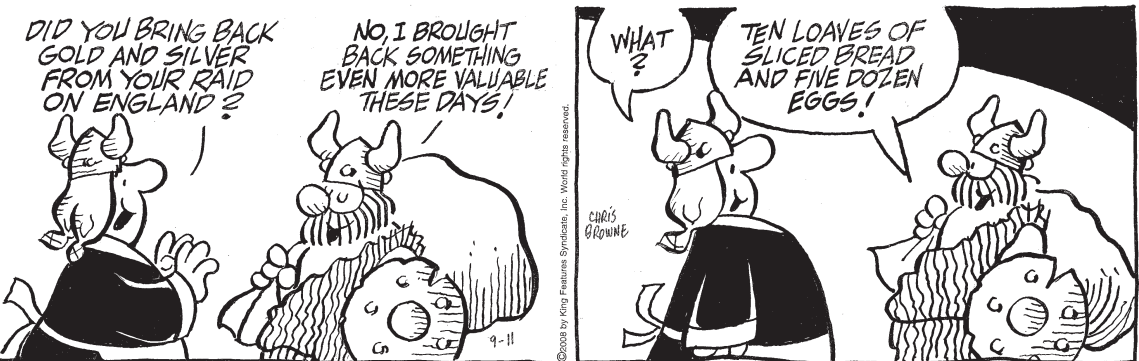
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



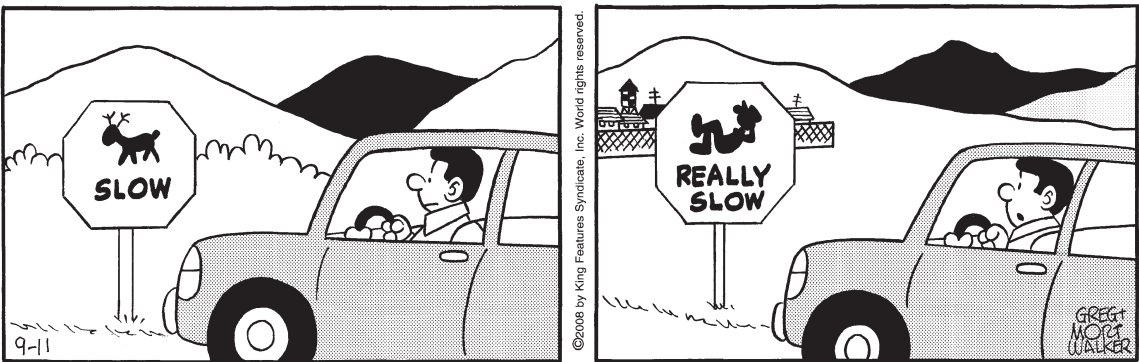
Blondie • Chic Young



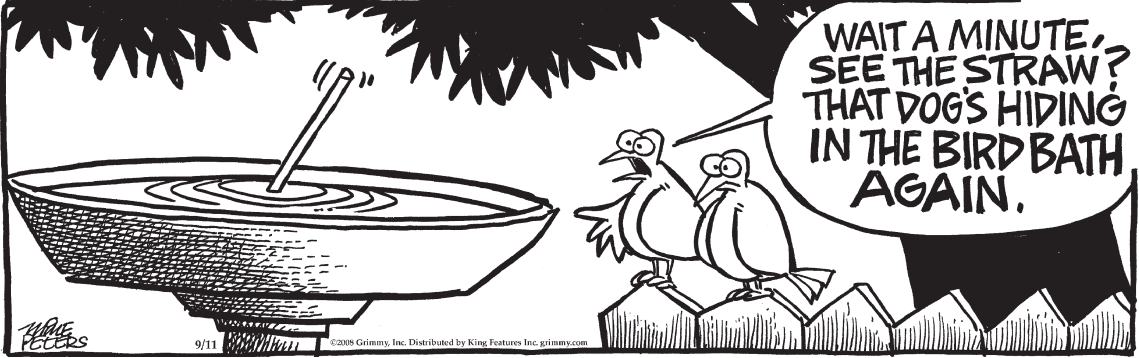
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



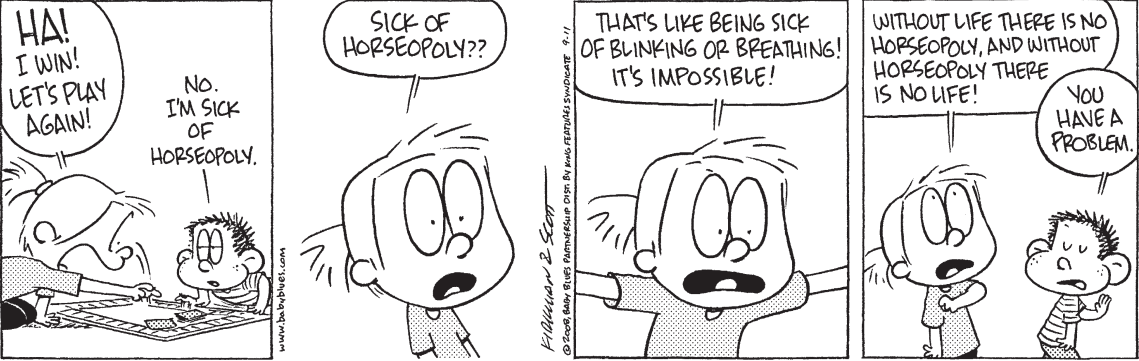
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

PN B SFWLKR FN FTR-NPKKRZ  
XJBNQX SFMURTORZ, ZF CFW  
XWLLFXR CFW'Z JBUR B  
YRRQPMO FN QJR YPMRX?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR BROADWAY MUSICAL ABOUT A FRIGHTFUL FROG WHO BECAME A DEMON BARBER: "SWEENEY TOAD."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals R

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/11

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/11

Bridge

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 10 3  
♥ Q 8 2  
♦ Q J 10 3  
♣ K 5 3

**WEST**  
♠ K Q 9 6 4 2  
♥ A J 10 9  
♦ 6  
♣ 10 6

**EAST**  
♠ J 8 7 5  
♥ 7 5 4 3  
♦ 4  
♣ Q J 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ —  
♥ K 6  
♦ A K 9 8 7 5 2  
♣ A 9 8 4

The bidding:  
South 1♦ West 1♠ North 2NT East Pass  
Opening lead — king of spades.

One Play Does It All

The bidding by the opponents frequently points the way to declarer's best line of play. For example, take this deal where South can take advantage of West's over-call to bring home the slam.

West leads the king of spades, and South must proceed very carefully to make the contract. His first test comes at trick one, when he must decide whether to play dummy's ace of spades or ruff in his hand instead.

This may not seem to be an important decision, but the fact is that the outcome depends entirely on this one play. If South takes the ace, he goes down one; if he ruffs, he makes the slam.

The trouble with the ace play is that it forces South to make a discard before he knows precisely what card to get rid of -- and whether he chooses a heart or a club, he is certain to lose two tricks later on.

But if South ruffs the spade lead, he is in full command of the situation. After cashing the trump ace at trick two, he leads the six of hearts toward dummy's queen.

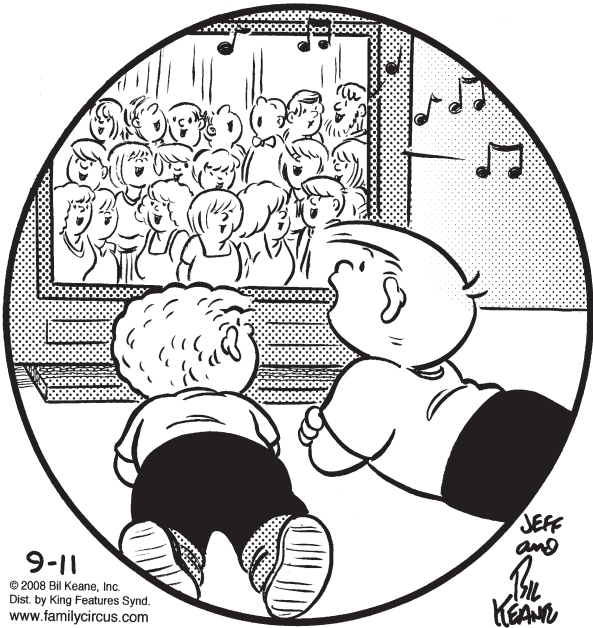
What can West do? If he plays low, dummy's queen wins. South then discards the king of hearts on the spade ace and later loses only a club trick.

And if West goes up with the ace of hearts, he is not in any better shape. In that case, dummy's ace of spades and queen of hearts provide convenient parking places for two of declarer's clubs, and the only trick South loses is a heart.

As happens so often, the key play occurs at trick one. All South need do is to credit West, who made a vulnerable overall, with the ace of hearts, and he then tailors his play to fit that assumption.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Singers are smart. They make music without having to carry instruments."

Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Uses an abacus  
5 Predica-ment  
8 Thick chunk  
12 Gilpin of "Frasier"  
13 Hearty brew  
14 Story-telling dance  
15 Member-ship  
16 Subway component  
17 Related  
18 Start a journey  
20 Parking lot attendants  
22 Eve, originally  
23 Acknowl-edge applause  
24 Galley supply  
27 Comfy footstools  
32 Justice Dept. div.  
33 "So that's it, eh?"  
34 "Flying Down to --"

**35** Jack-of-all-trades  
**38** Increases the volume  
**39** Half-ton measure  
**40** Pussy-cat's partner  
**42** Assaults  
**45** Snub  
**49** Kame-hameha  
**50** Pitch  
**52** 49-  
Across, e.g.  
**53** Memo acronym  
**54** Swelled head  
**55** Night light  
**56** Stitches  
**57** Church seat

**58** Mined-over matter  
**DOWN**  
1 Basilica section  
2 Consider  
3 Uninter-esting  
4 Long-necked lutes  
5 Soldier's foot-wear  
6 Carte lead-in  
7 Mogul Griffin  
8 Kin of "aloha"  
9 Tepid  
10 Settled down  
11 Prohibits  
19 Smallest st.

**21** Blood-group letters  
**24** Vacation-ing  
**25** Lawyers' org.  
**26** Man-powered transport  
**28** Calendar abbr.  
**29** Annie's song?  
**30** Pinch  
**31** ABBA song  
**36** Traffic problems  
**37** Make up your mind  
**38** The monk in "The Da Vinci Code" was one  
**41** Lindbergh book  
**42** Downy neckwear  
**43** Relaxa-tion  
**44** Dance lesson  
**46** — friendly  
**47** Berg portion  
**48** Marshy areas  
**51** Time of your life?

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

OVEN CAP IDES  
DELT ADO DTRE  
DISCARDS ESNE  
SLEEP TRACED  
LLEWELL  
LADY HUED OWL  
III DISCO SEA  
EMS ANKH BEEP  
CAN YORE  
SPONGE OATHS  
LEVI DISCREET  
USES GNU DAME  
MORE EKE SLOP

Yesterday's answer 9-11

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		