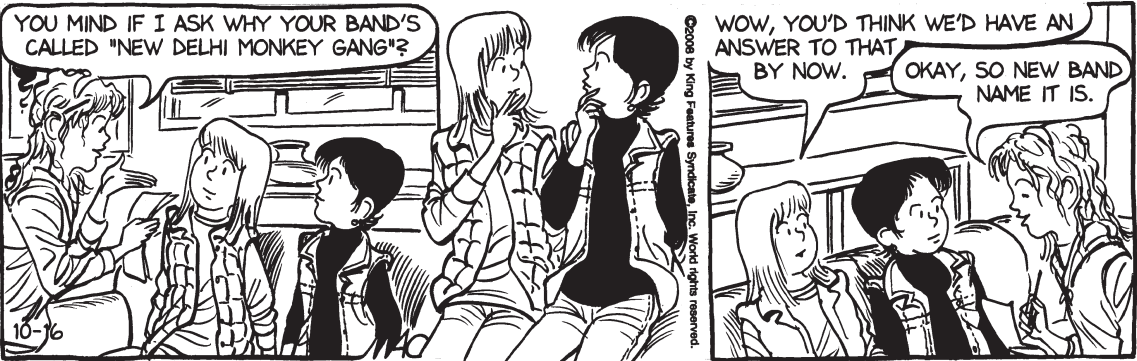
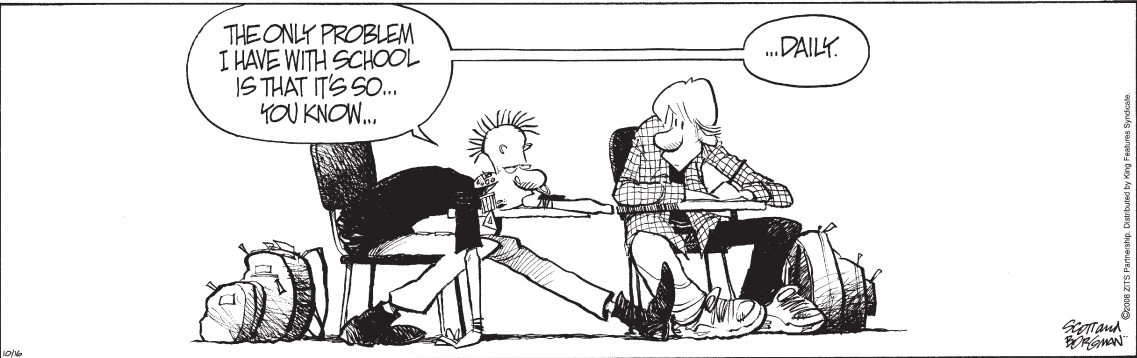


**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



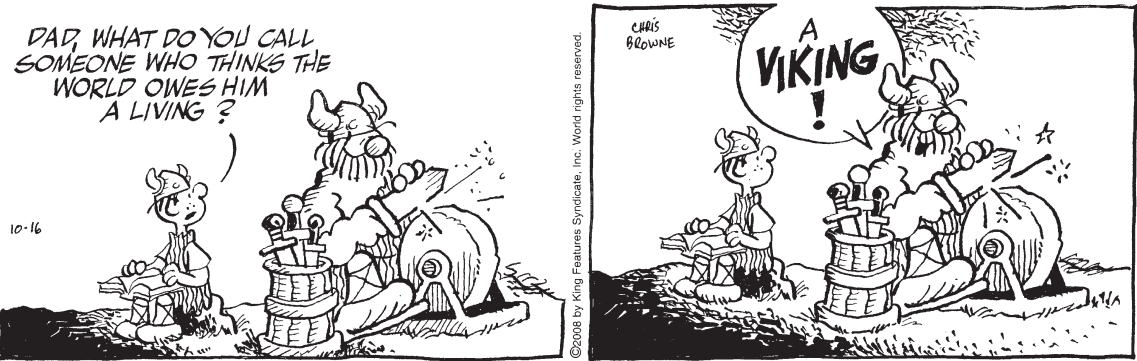
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



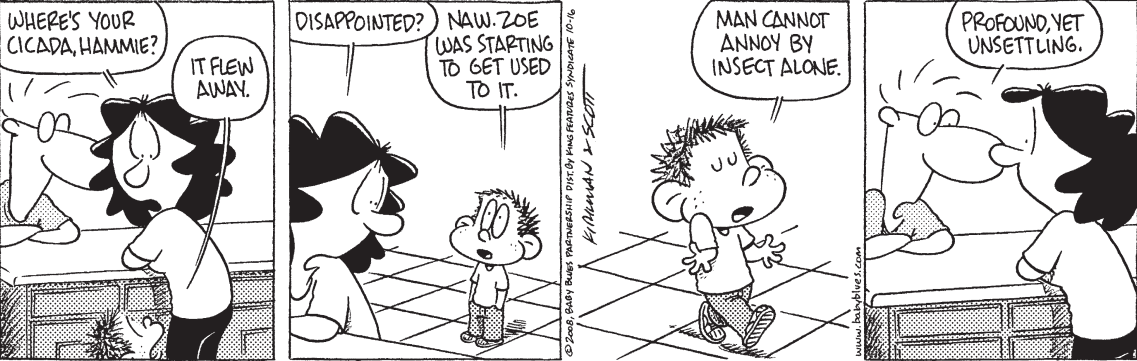
**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Cryptoquip**

HGX I YXFKXYYCU ATN AYC Y

O G U U K N X G Q Y T N L R Y I

G M K L K N X G V N U A Y C Y M N E X V

Q C I K X F Q N H G R Y G M G U Q O E L R.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A FORTUNATE CHICKEN WINS THE LOTTERY, I WOULD SAY IT IS DUE TO THE CLUCK OF THE DRAW.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/16

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/16

**Bridge**

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ A 8  
♥ 7 2  
♦ A Q 9 7 6 3  
♣ K 10 5

**WEST**

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

**EAST**

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

**SOUTH**

♠ J 10 7 4 3  
♥ A 10  
♦ K 4  
♣ A Q 6 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — five of hearts.

**Two Chances Are Better Than One**

One peculiar thing about bridge is not so much that it sometimes presents difficult problems, but that in many cases there is no awareness at all that a problem exists.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. It seems perfectly natural to win East's jack with the ace and start running the diamonds. But when declarer plays the K-A of diamonds, West shows out, and the contract is suddenly in danger.

Continuing to lead diamonds is obviously hopeless, so South shifts his attention to clubs, hoping to find the suit divided 3-3. When he cashes the A-K, West's jack falls, but when declarer next leads the ten from dummy, he finds there is no way of collecting his four club winners whether he allows the ten to hold or overtakes it. South can do no better at this point than cash his remaining winners and go down one.

However, declarer can make the contract easily if he tests the clubs before the diamonds. In that case, after cashing the A-K-10, he can return to his hand with the king of diamonds and cash the queen of clubs to score his ninth trick.

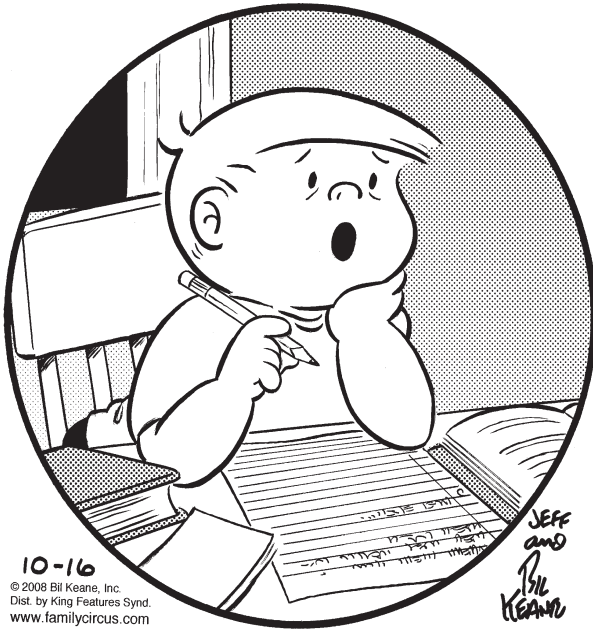
Declarer should reason that he has eight sure tricks at the outset and should then make allowance for the possibility -- nearly a 1-in-3 chance -- that the diamonds are unfavorably divided. In that event, the possibility that either opponent might have been dealt the J-x of clubs (a 16 percent chance) may be the only way to salvage the contract. He should therefore test that suit before playing the king of diamonds from his hand.

Since playing the clubs first can do no harm and gives declarer an extra chance for the contract, it is clearly the correct approach.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



“Will there be less homework if the Democrats win or the Republicans?”

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Audacious  
5 See 6-Down  
9 Waste no time  
12 Hebrew month  
13 Brewery creations  
14 Peculiar  
15 Breakfast spuds  
17 “Family Guy” daughter  
18 Tire patterns  
19 Adversary  
21 Mother  
22 Ask (for), as a loan  
24 Wan  
27 Occupation  
28 Shakespeare sobriquet  
31 Writer  
32 Parisian pal  
33 Stickum  
34 Dalai —  
36 “Of course”  
37 Mile fractions  
38 Go in  
40 Greeting

**DOWN**

1 Thai money  
2 Blood-hound's clue  
3 Weak, as an excuse  
4 So-o-o-o hand-some  
5 Monkey —  
6 With 5-Across, “open sesame” man  
7 Spell-down  
8 No liability  
9 Web site intro  
10 The same (Lat.)  
11 Provocative  
16 Food safety org.  
20 Gist  
22 Marge's hubby

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

BEER	ASP	OGLE
ETUI	BAR	RAID
GARGOYLE	BRED	
SLOOPS	SKIDDY	
REM	SITE	
MPG	CAL	DENIM
BRAS	LEU	DIME
AORTA	ONS	APT
FATE	SET	
SUITED	CROUCH	
EPEE	GARBANZO	
MOLL	GALE	STAR
TNDY	ROW	TORN

Yesterday's answer 10-16

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			