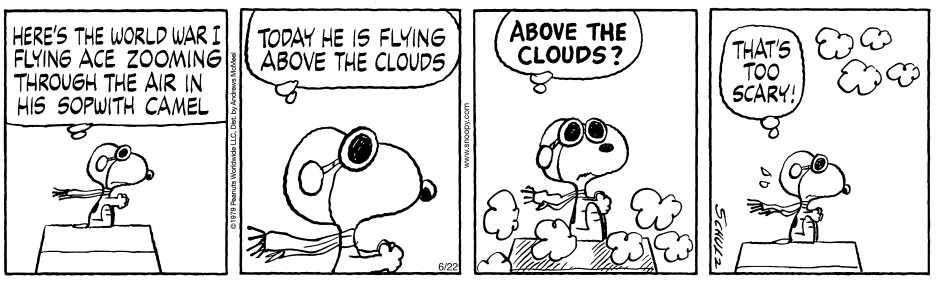
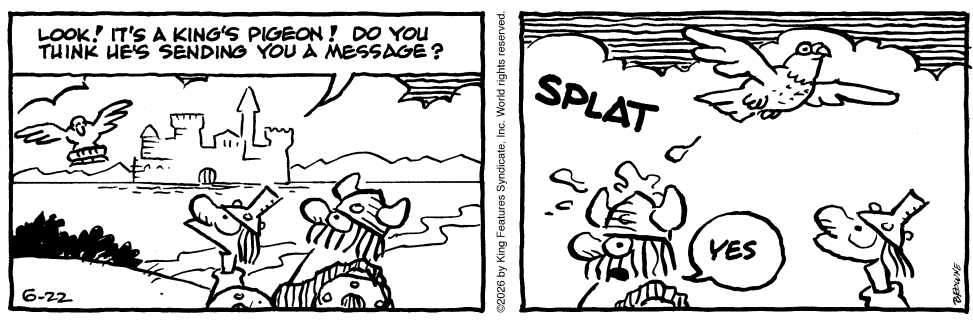
PEANUTS® BY CHARLES SCHULZ



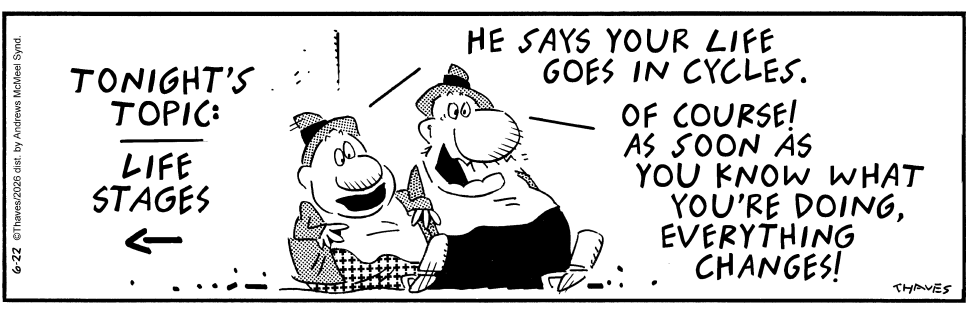
GARFIELD® BY JIM DAVIS

ZITS® BY JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN

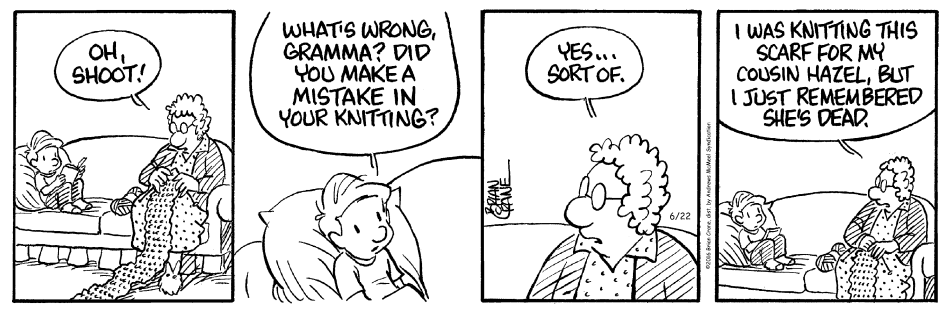
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® BY CHRIS BROWNE



FRANK AND ERNEST® BY BOB THAVES



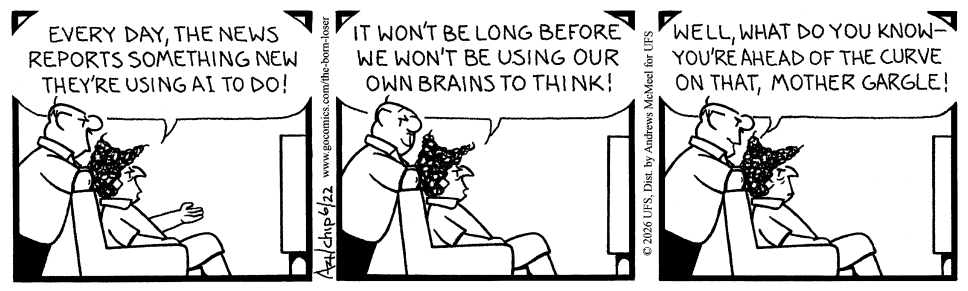
PICKLES® BY BRIAN CRANE



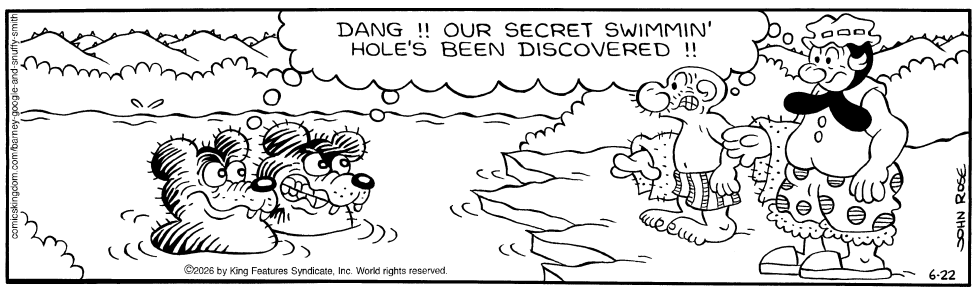
BEETLE BAILEY® BY Greg Walker, Brian Walker and Neal Walker

BABY BLUES® BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT

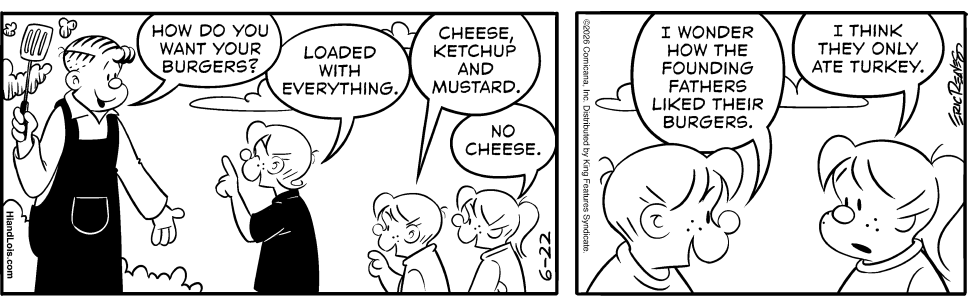
THE BORN LOSER® BY ART & CHIP SANSOM



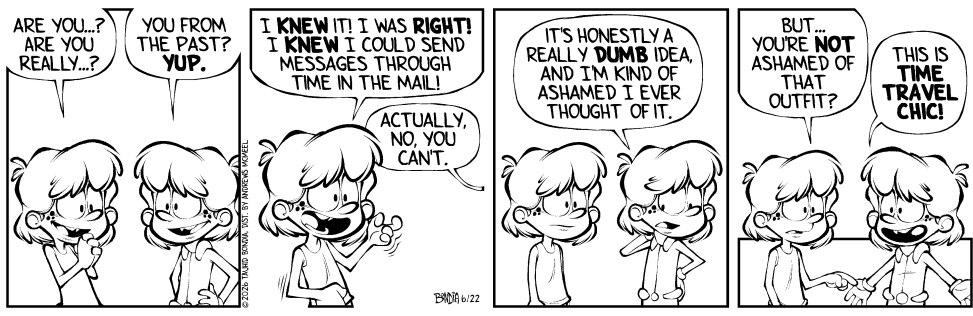
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH® BY F. LASSWELL & JOHN ROSE



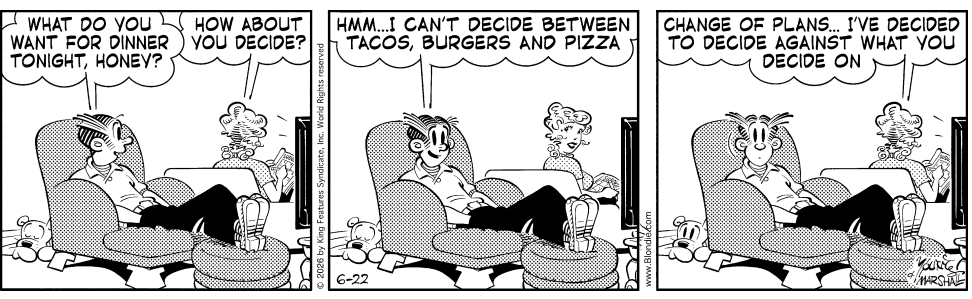
HI AND LOIS® BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER & CHANCE BROWNE



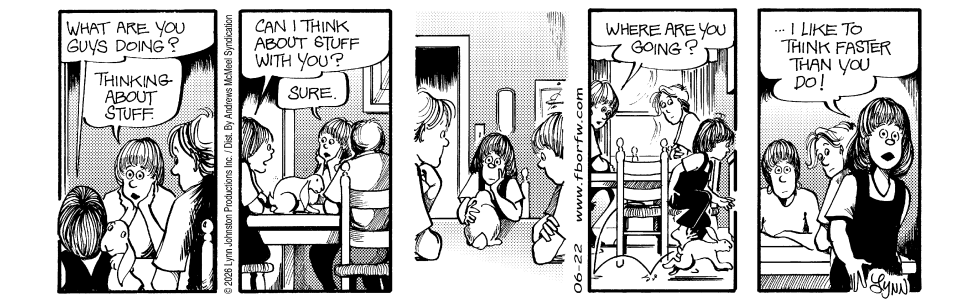
CRABGRASS® BY TAUHID BONDIA



BLONDIE® BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

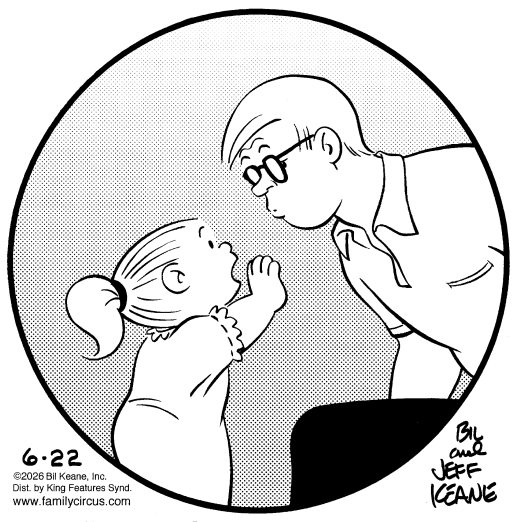


FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE® BY LYNN JOHNSTON



THE LOCKHORNS®

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®



REALITY CHECK® Dave Whamond

BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ A Q J 9 3
♣ A 7

WEST	EAST
♠ K J 10 9 5 4	♠ Q
♥ 6	♥ K Q J 9 4
♦ 10 7 6 5 4	♦ K 8
♣ 6	♣ Q 10 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A 6 3 2
♥ 7 5 2
♦ 2
♣ K J 9 3 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♠	Dble	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

The hero of today's deal is Zia Mahmood, one of the world's all-time great players. Aside from his many successes, the charismatic Pakistani is noted for his daring and imagination at the table, and his wit and charm away from it.

Today's deal is vintage Zia. After West's offbeat three-spade preempt and North's double, Zia, South, took a stab at three notrump.

West led a diamond, and Zia inserted the nine! This brought immediate results when the nine forced East's king, but the contract was still a long way from home.

East shifted to the spade queen, taken by the ace, and a heart was ducked to East's nine. When East returned the heart king, Zia ducked again, then won the queen continuation with the ace. The A-Q-J of diamonds were then cashed, East showing out on the third round of the suit.

With five cards remaining to be played, the opposing hands were virtually an open book. West was known to have started with six spades, five diamonds and one heart, so he had only one club. East, forced to discard a heart in order to guard clubs, was known to be holding four clubs and the heart jack.

To make the contract, Zia needed four club tricks, which might seem impossible given East's holding. But such things are child's play for Zia. He simply led a low club from dummy and finessed the nine(!), returned to dummy with the club ace and played the heart ten. East was forced to win and lead a club from the Q-10 to South's K-J, handing Zia his ninth trick.

In the post-mortem, the self-effacing Zia pointed out that he had in fact erred by ducking the second heart, which eventually forced him to risk losing a trick to the singleton ten of clubs in the West hand. Had Zia taken the second heart, he could later have played the ace and another club to the nine before exiting with his remaining heart to force East to make the same losing return in clubs.

Tomorrow: The end justifies the means.

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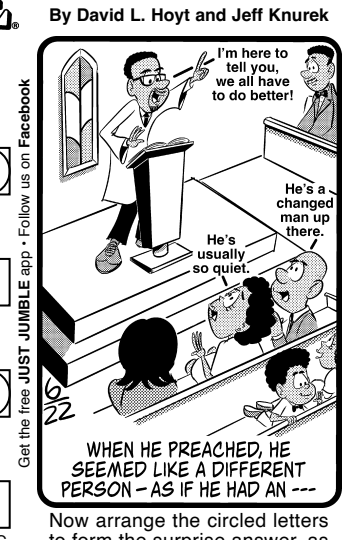

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " ○○○○○○ " ○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WHEAT TOKEN STICKY PILLAR
Answer: With her dogs getting along so well together, going for a stroll was a — WALK IN THE PARK

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