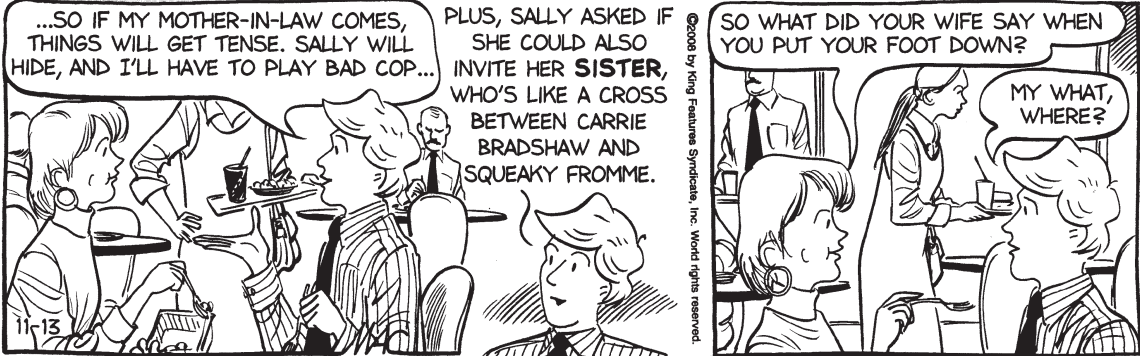
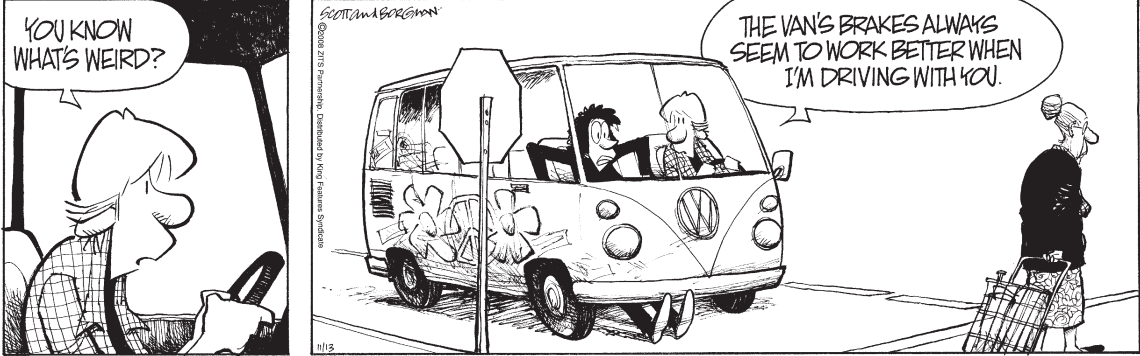


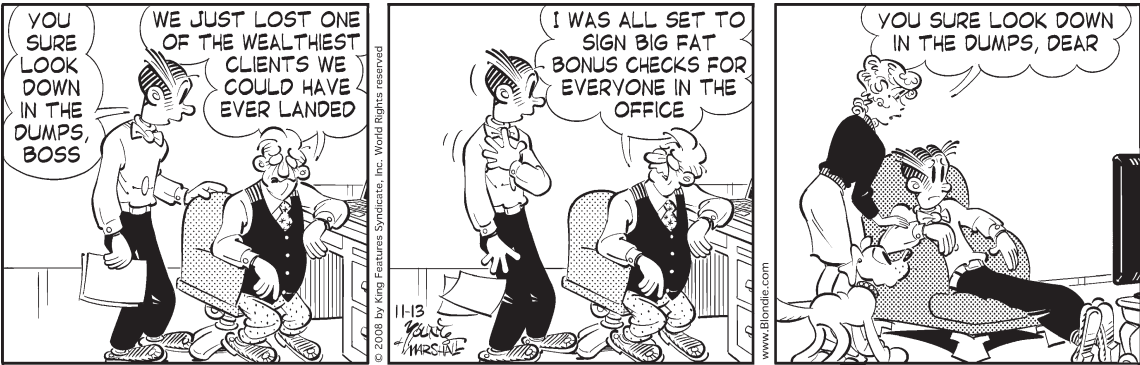
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



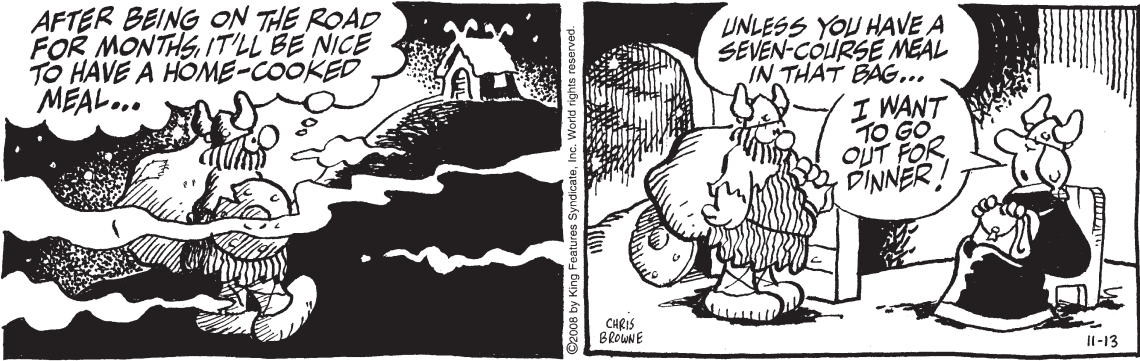
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



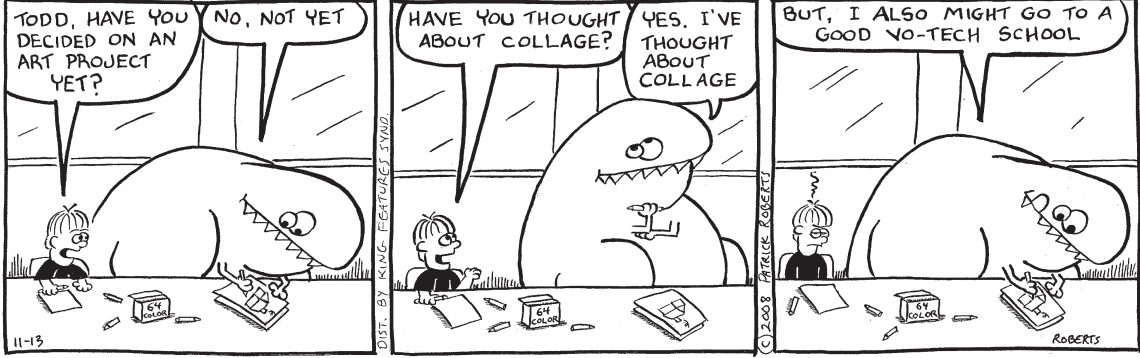
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



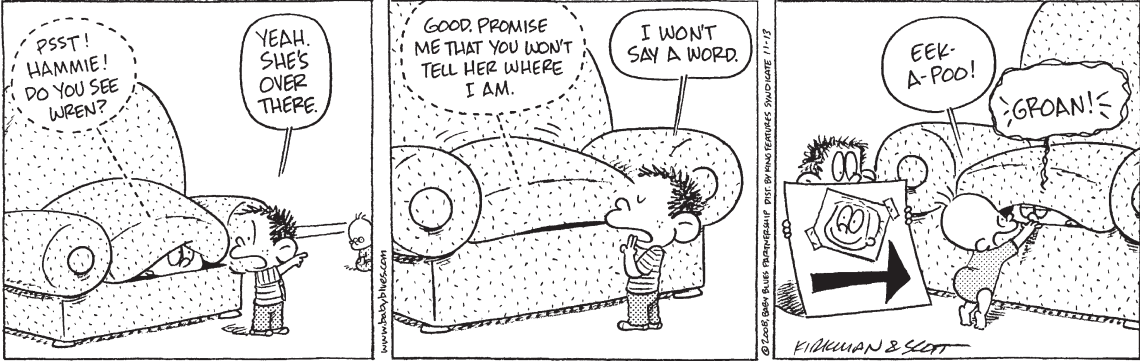
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

AJ HSC EPSL MJZJS HR
OJJZJ RDS OPSJMHQ. PTHJS
PNN, AJ ARDNLM'H APMH
HR SDTTNJ PMC TPHEJSQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER A FELLOW
LOANS YOU HIS PARTY NOISEMAKER, PLEASE
MAKE SURE YOU RETURN THE FAVOR.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals E

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/13

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.

Bridge

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 5
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 9 4
♣ J 9 7 6 5 2

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

EAST
♠ 8 2
♥ J 9 4
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A Q 10 4 3

SOUTH
♠ Q
♥ A K Q 10 7
♦ A Q J 10 8 5 2
♣ —

The bidding:
West North East South
4 ♠ Pass Pass 5 ♠
Pass Pass 5 ♠
Opening lead — ace of spades.

Thanks, But No Thanks

Every once in a while, an opponent hands you a beautifully wrapped gift, all covered with tinsel and bows. Unless it's Christmas, though, the present should be treated in about the same way a bomb squad would handle a loaf of bread that ticked.

Take this case where South was more or less driven into six diamonds after his opponents refused to let him have the hand for five. West led the ace of spades, fetching South's queen. Without batting an eyelash, West, a wily old-timer who had been around the block more than a few times, then continued with a second spade to dummy's king.

The fate of the hand now hinged on avoiding the loss of a trump trick, and with four trumps missing, a finesse was clearly the percentage play. But South, likewise a veteran of more than a few years' service at the table, did not accept West's gift ticket to the dummy with blind gratitude.

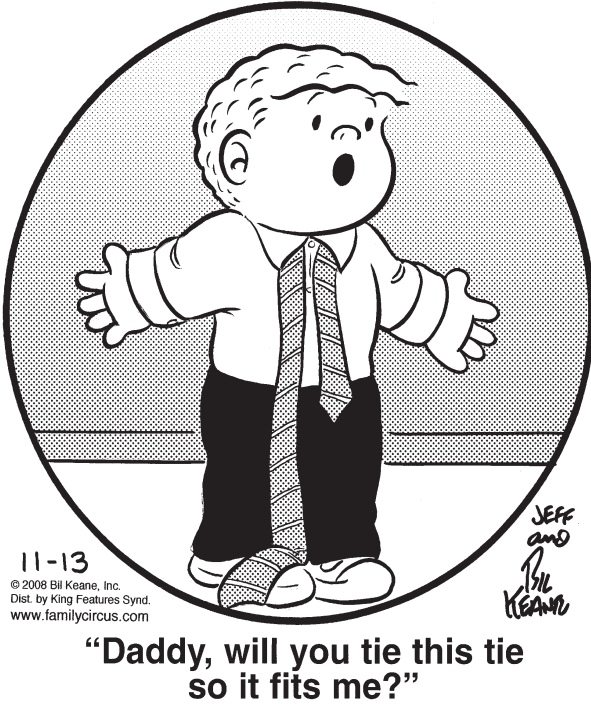
Instead, he asked himself why West, who knew South could not have more than one spade, would have given him access to an otherwise entryless dummy. The answer was not long in coming. If West wanted him in dummy, there had to be a good reason. And the only rational explanation had to be that he wanted South to take a trump finesse.

Declarer therefore led a trump to the ace at trick three, and West's king came tumbling down to give him the slam.

Of course, had West shifted to a heart or a club at trick two, South would have won in his hand and would have had no alternative but to play the ace of diamonds. West did the best he could to give him a chance to go wrong, but South, after carefully examining the wrapping, returned the gift unopened.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ring out
5 Spud's buds
9 Crony
12 Malaria symptom
13 Freebie
14 Latin 101 word
15 It opens in the fall
17 Tier
18 Slowly
19 Out of dream-land
21 "People" competitor
22 Bob Woodward book
24 Put one over on
27 Foundation
28 Swindle
31 Historic time
32 Lubricant
33 Witness
34 Pink-slip
36 Exist
37 Nasty

DOWN

38 Trophy, e.g.
40 Familiar greeting
41 Shaggy hairdos
43 Panda food
47 E.T.'s craft
48 Supreme
51 — Lanka
52 Object of devotion
53 Blue matter
54 Turf
55 Yield
56 Lhasa — (dog)

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-13

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				