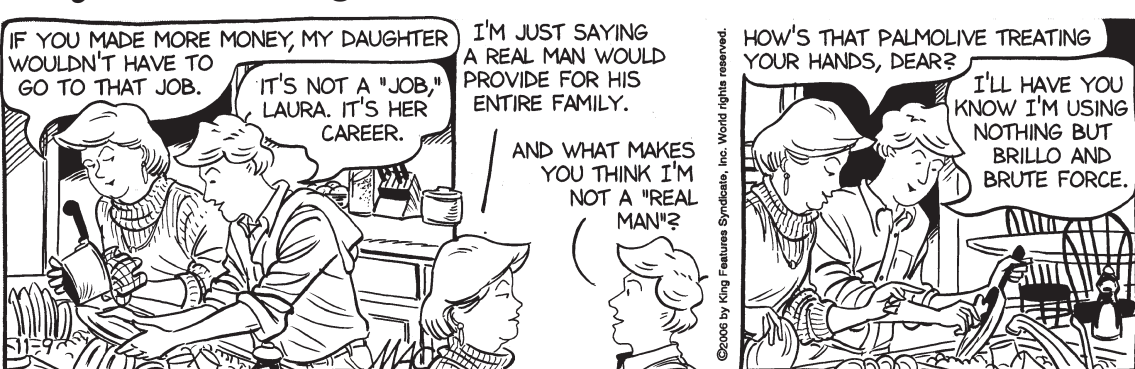
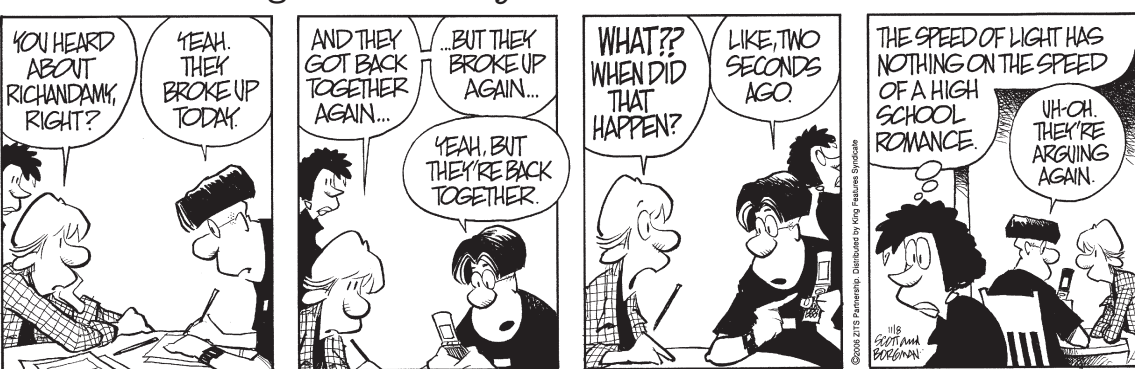


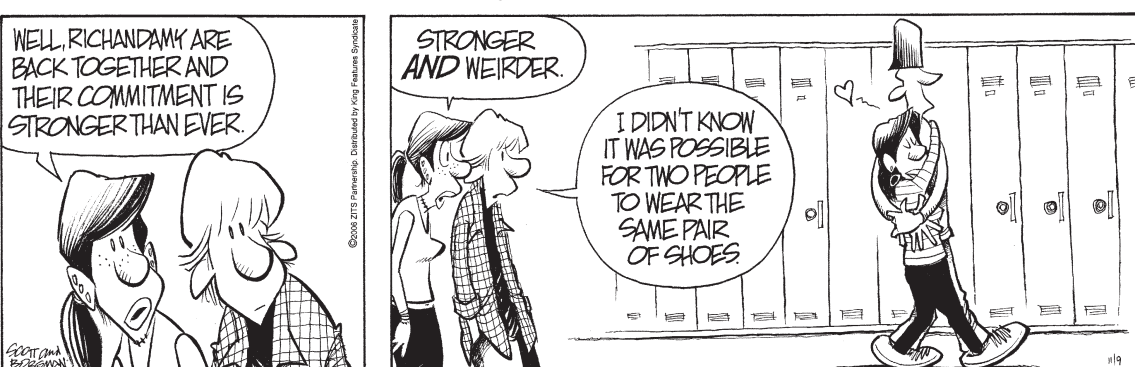
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



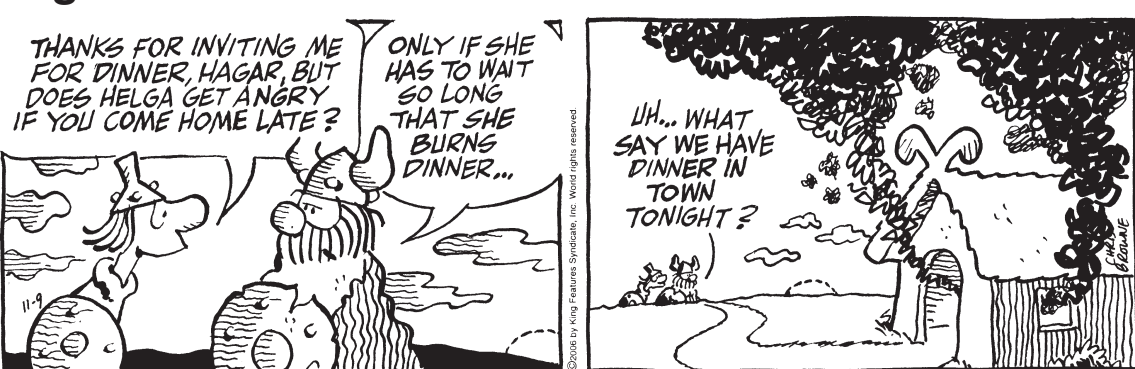
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



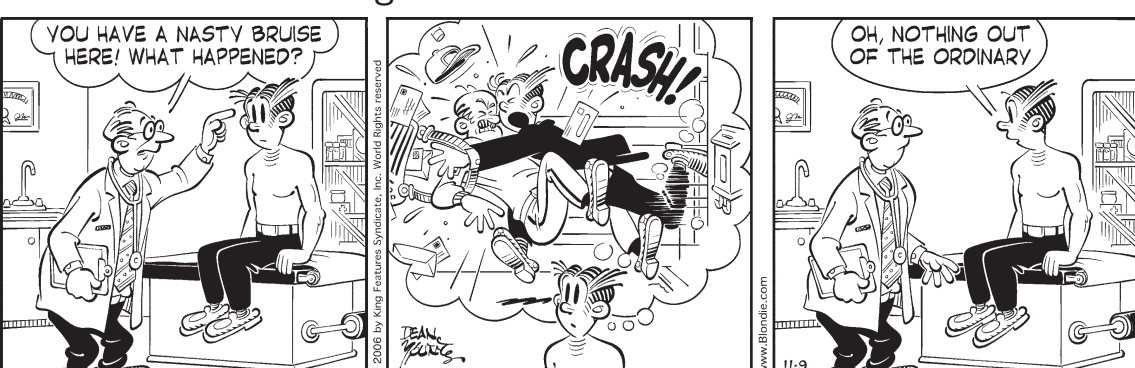
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



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



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green**

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/09

Editor's note: 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 puzzle is at the bottom of this page. ENJOY!!!

**Bridge**

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A  
♥ K 10 9 6 5 3  
♦ 8 7 5  
♣ 10 9 5

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

**EAST**  
♠ K 8 6 5 3  
♥ —  
♦ A K 6 2  
♣ 7 4 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ J 9 7  
♥ A Q J 8 2  
♦ 10 4  
♣ A J 8

The bidding:  
South 1♥ West Pass North 4♥ East All Pass  
Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

**A Wasted Opportunity**

There are usually two sides to any story, and this is certainly true in bridge, where things can be viewed from both an offensive and defensive perspective.

Consider the present case where South is in four hearts and West leads the queen of diamonds, which holds. West continues with the three of diamonds to East's king, and East leads the diamond ace, ruffed by declarer.

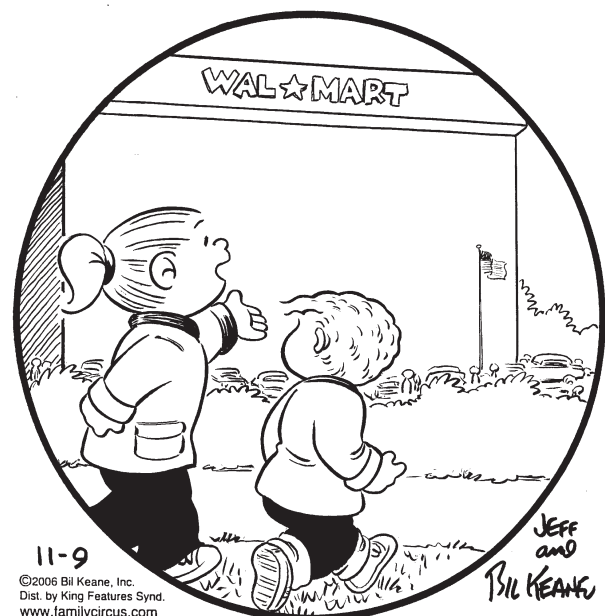
If South is familiar with elimination plays, he knows at this point that he'll make the contract regardless of where the K-Q of clubs are located. Accordingly, he leads a spade to the ace, a trump to the queen, ruffs a spade, leads a trump to the ace and ruffs his last spade. He then leads a low club to his eight, ensuring the contract. West wins with the queen but must yield the game-going trick whatever he returns.

But that's only one side of the story. Now let's go back to trick three when East played the ace of diamonds. At that point, he was in position to know, from West's fourth-best diamond lead at trick two, that declarer had no more diamonds. East should therefore have shifted to a club at trick three, hoping to find partner with either the A-Q, A-J-x, K-Q-x or K-J-x of the suit, in which case declarer would lose two club tricks sooner or later and go down one.

It is true that from force of habit many players holding the East hand would continue with the ace of diamonds at trick three, and live to regret it. But situations like this — where a defender mechanically follows the line of least resistance and does the wrong thing — arise all the time. That is why it is so often said that defense is by far the hardest part of the game.

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**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



"It's called Wal-Mart 'cause they started out selling nothing but walls."

**Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Monologue part
  - 5 Played usher
  - 8 Makes one's mind up
  - 12 You could hear — drop
  - 13 Spoon-bender Geller
  - 14 Mediocre
  - 15 Venus de —
  - 16 Butterworth or Paul's
  - 17 Franc replacement
  - 18 Render senseless
  - 20 Stack in a barn
  - 22 "Golly!"
  - 23 Presidents Day mo.
  - 24 Engrave
  - 27 Garment industry (Sl.)
  - 32 Lao-tzu's path
  - 33 Detergent brand
  - 34 Festive
  - 35 Anthropological, in a way
  - 38 Judicial garb
  - 39 Coffee dispenser
  - 40 "Land of the free"
  - 42 Enticement
  - 45 Artistic tilework
  - 49 Actress Jessica
  - 50 Cleo's killer
  - 52 End of a song
  - 53 Fill till full
  - 54 Homer's interjection
  - 55 Freshly
  - 56 Simple
  - 57 Commercials
  - 58 Not as much
- DOWN**
- 1 Door-frame part
  - 2 Mayberry moppet
  - 3 Potter's oven
  - 4 Sufficient
  - 5 One who 29-Down
  - 6 Mess up
  - 7 Menu entry
  - 8 Compliant one
  - 9 Graphite
  - 10 Poi base
  - 11 Display
  - 19 Yours truly
  - 24 List-ending abbr.
  - 25 Greek cross
  - 26 Famous explorer
  - 28 Altar constellation
  - 29 Treads clumsily
  - 30 Brylcreem amount
  - 31 CBS symbol
  - 36 Pact
  - 37 Family card game
  - 38 Imp
  - 41 "And I should care ... why?"
  - 42 Actor Nicolas
  - 43 Earthenware pot
  - 44 Zilch, in Xochimilco
  - 46 Top-notch
  - 47 Fateful day in Rome
  - 48 Cornfield chatter
  - 51 Turf

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-9

**Sudoku answer**

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/09

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

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**Cryptoquip**

FTB SLJZFTB CPFC RZYT XR  
F ALC LT CYAYEURULT  
SLJJYKSUFAR SAYFKAB  
PFR F QKYFC FX-EFTCFQY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF LIFE AT YOUR LODGING HOUSE IS ENTIRELY HUMDRUM, I'D SAY YOU'RE A BORED BOARDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T