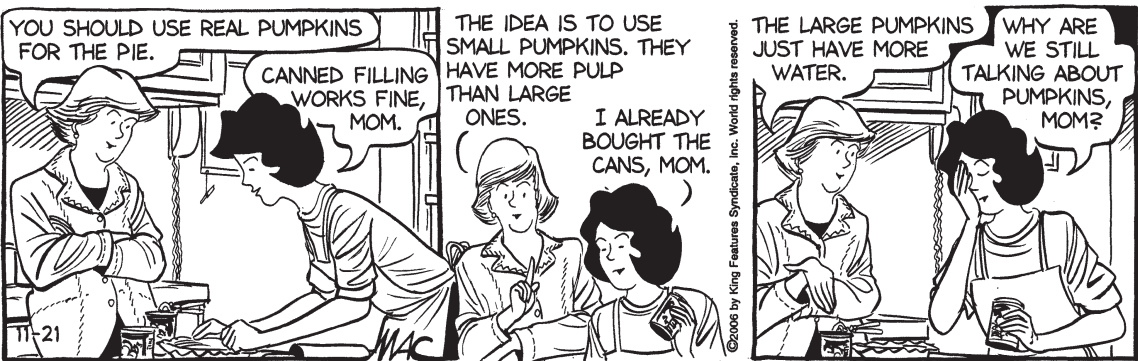


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



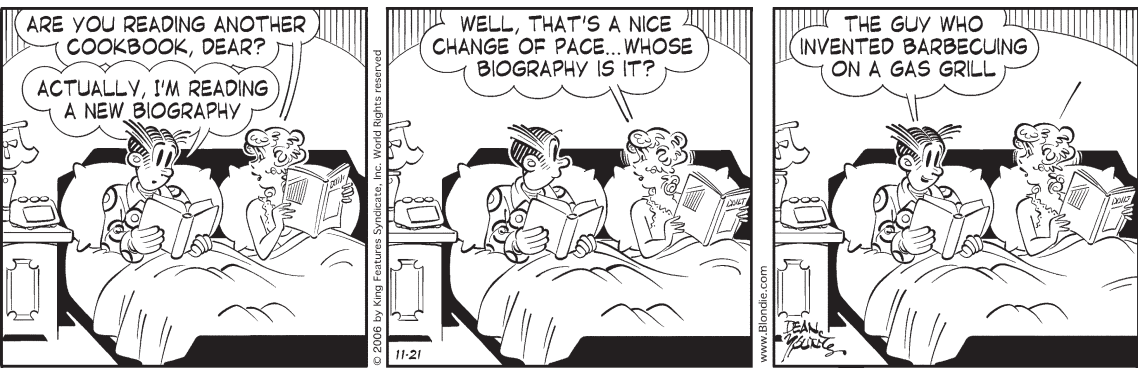
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



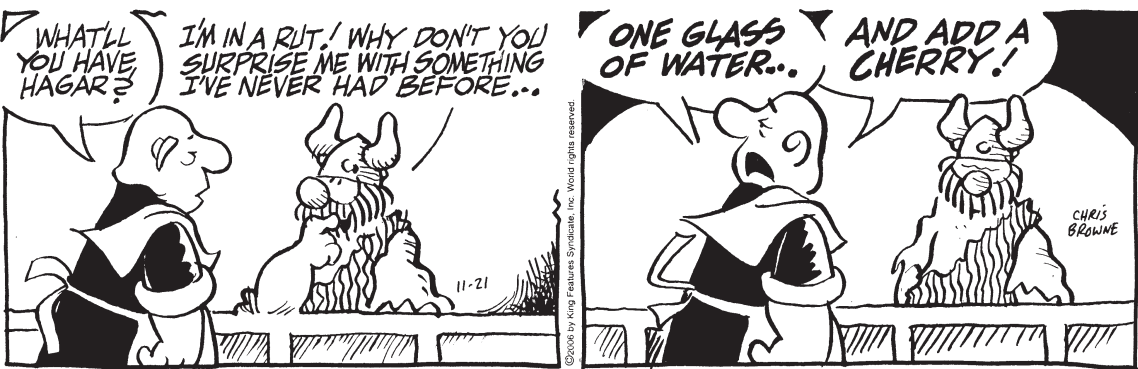
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



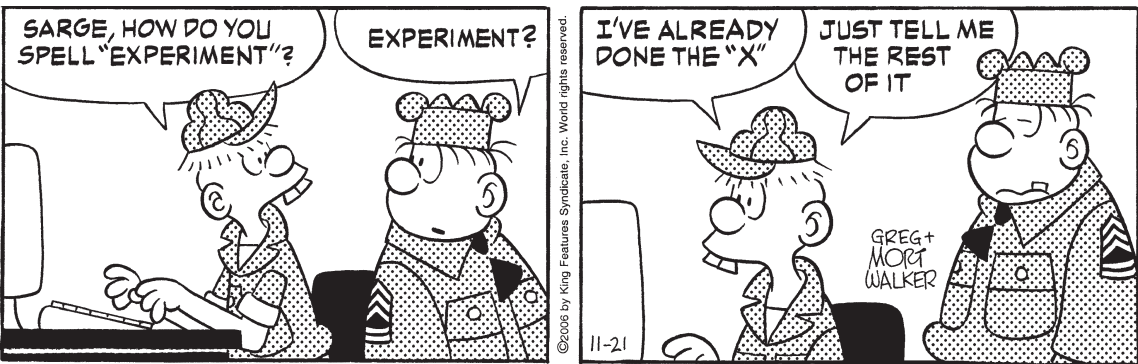
Blondie • Chic Young



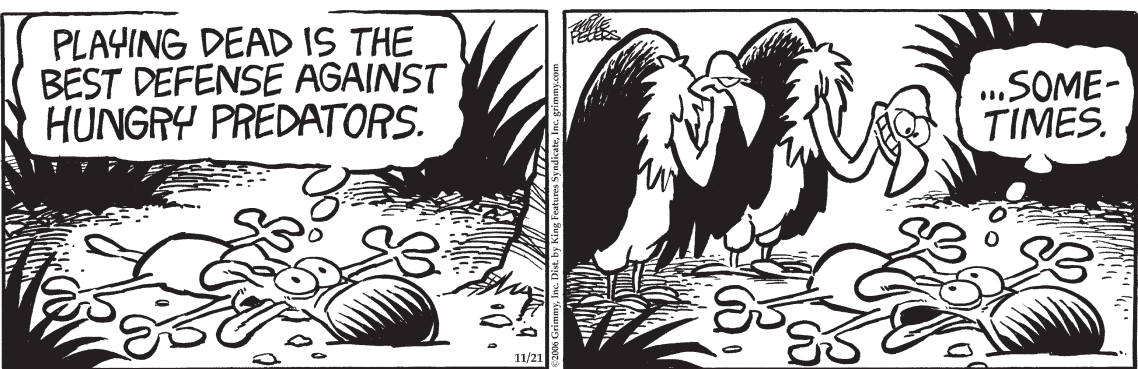
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



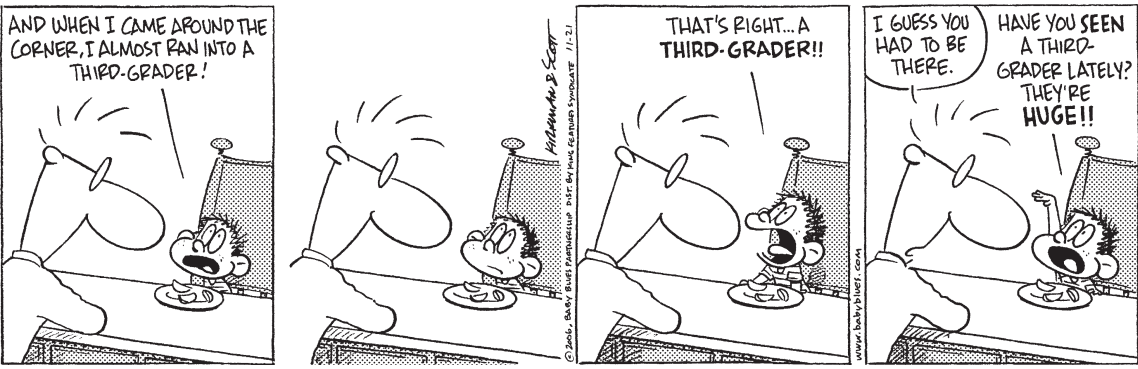
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

ZR JSW HUVHJT CIDHGM H

DUHBI ZP H BIGMHZP VHJ,

Z XWITT JSW'LI XSM H

T MHPCHGC SR UIHLZPX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D LIKE TO SEE THE ZOOLOGICAL BOOK ABOUT AFRICAN LIZARDS TITLED "GHANA IGUANA FAUNA."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals V

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

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Reward for Good Behavior

Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads the spade queen.

It's dollars to doughnuts East has the ace of spades, so you follow low from dummy, hoping he was dealt the singleton or doubleton ace.

Sure enough, East wins the queen with the ace — proving the ace was singleton — and shifts to a club at trick two.

You're still not out of the woods after you win the club with dummy's king. If you lead a trump now, there's the danger that West will win with the ace and return the jack of spades, and East will ruff the king. If that occurs — and you'd have to be somewhat unlucky for all this to happen — you'd eventually go down one, since you'd be left with a spade loser.

So you don your thinking cap at trick three and look for a means of saving the contract if West was actually dealt the singleton ace of trumps and East the other two trumps. That's the only combination of cards that can stop you from making four hearts.

And, as you think about it, the solution suddenly dawns on you. Even if the situation is as you fear, there's a sure way out of the dilemma. Accordingly, after winning the club return, you cash the A-K of diamonds, the ace of clubs, and then ruff a club in dummy. Now, having eliminated all your minor-suit cards from both hands, you lead a trump.

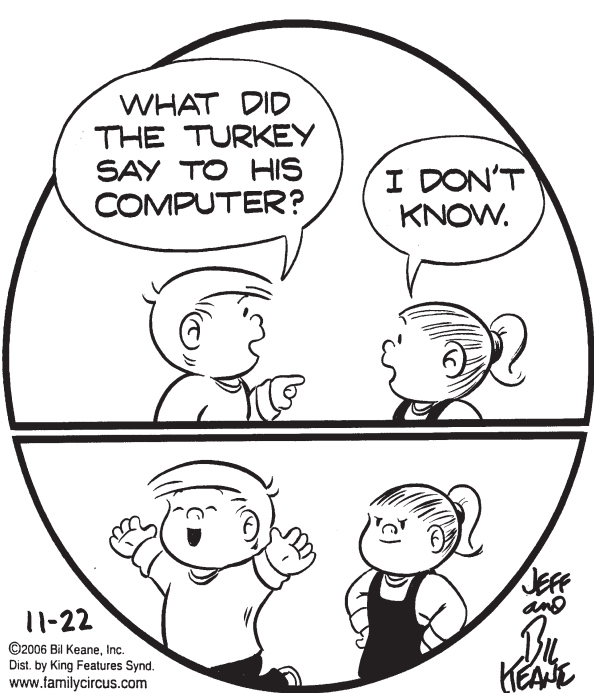
West wins with the ace and returns the jack of spades to dummy's king, and, sure enough, East ruffs.

But as a direct result of your early spade-work, poor East must now return a diamond or a club. This allows you to discard your spade loser as you trump in dummy, and the contract is saved.

Tomorrow: The road to winning defense.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Google Google Google!"

Crossword

ACROSS  
1 Big story  
5 Great, briefly  
8 Clock sound  
12 Prom transportation  
13 "The Greatest"  
14 Needle case  
15 Actor Bridges  
16 Trysting place  
18 Lounge chair part  
20 Externporizes musically  
21 Catch a glimpse of  
22 Pair of fives?  
23 Discussion group  
26 Competition  
30 Id counterpart  
31 Charged bit  
32 Court  
33 Extended conversation

DOWN  
1 Napoleon's exile site  
2 Harbor structure  
3 Mosque  
4 Links  
5 Untrue  
6 Oodles  
7 Rainbow mnemonic, Roy G. —  
8 Lease signatory  
9 Particular  
10 Point  
11 Tool sets  
17 Squared  
19 Wet wriggler  
22 Heavy load  
23 Cribbage scorer  
24 Khan title  
25 San Francisco's — Hill  
26 Private structure bed?  
27 Mate of 38-Across  
28 Turf  
29 Plaything  
31 Doctrine  
34 Melee  
35 Apiece  
36 Take to court  
37 "— Scissors—hands"  
39 Shipboard companion  
40 Old Italian coin  
41 PC picture  
42 For fear that  
43 Prelate's title (Abbr.)  
44 Canal zone?  
45 Global septet  
46 Engage in 33-Across  
48 Chow down

Solution time: 21 mins.

MINI	IDE	TIKE	POSH
IDEM	CID	ONTO	
FLAP	EAG	LEEY	
FERENC	EITHER		
	DOIR	BIO	
TIGER	EY	CRED	
ILL	MAN	S	SLY
SOYA	MAG	CEYE	
	CIS	HILL	
OBERON	NOUGAT		
BIRDSEYE	MAMA		
ODOR	SEE	STEP	
EELY	TAR	YENS	

Yesterday's answer 11-21

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		