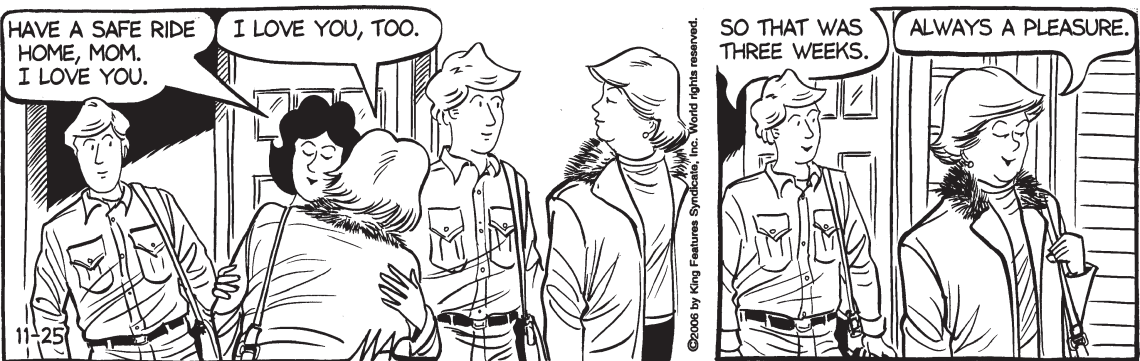


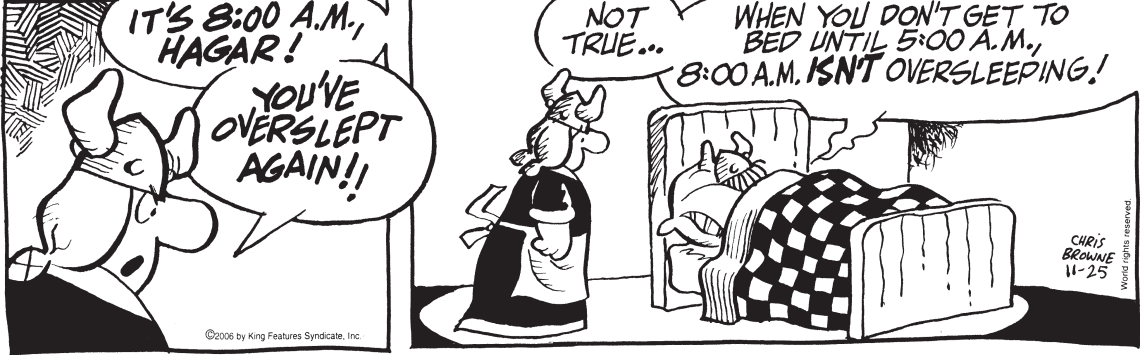
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



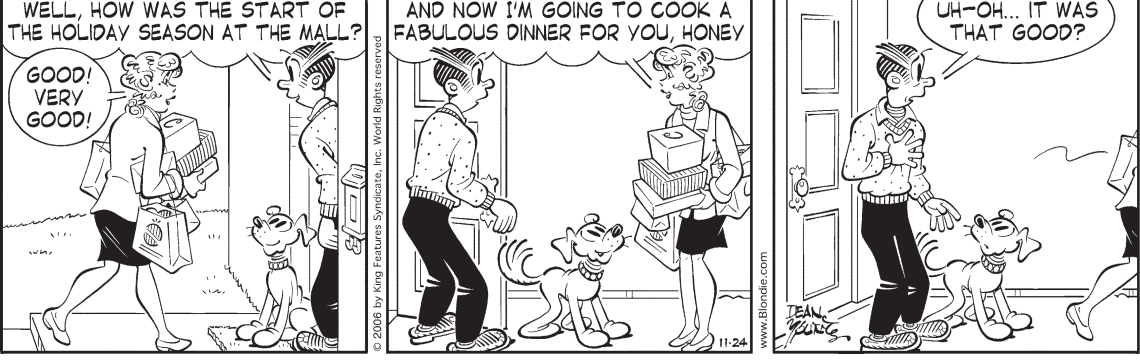
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



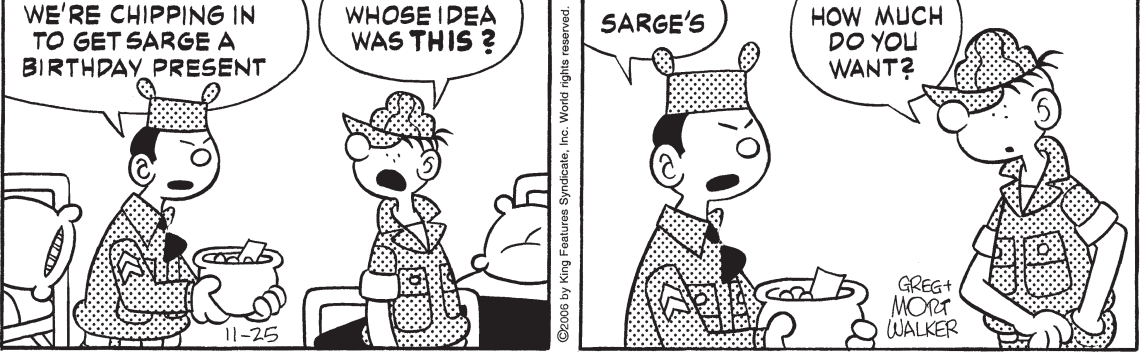
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



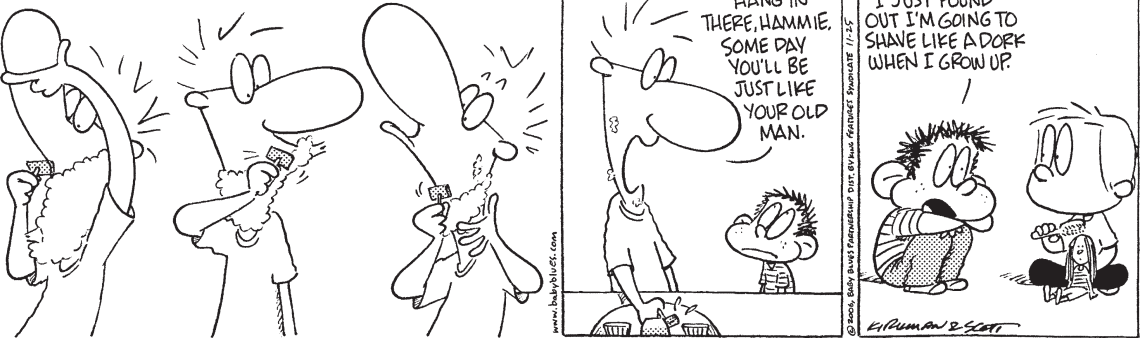
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

JOXC' XOMMU YFAYWHAOAP WQT WC QSV YTTD ZOSATV
 CFVW JAOPIMC SIF ZONW LP ISX SRSG IXPB KT,
 OA G SFFXWX NGZZWU: U APJOV PDOG CUTR UW
 "GHVFN OA MIW XWZZ." YG JLUDF S WTOOG LAPZT.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF BATMAN WERE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: KIDS' DITTY
 FILLED WITH A CERTAIN SEASONING, I SUPPOSE CONCERNING SOME KNIGHTS WHO LIVE IN
 HE MIGHT BE THE CAPERED CRUSADER. A WOODED VALLEY: "ARMOR IN THE DELL."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals W Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals V

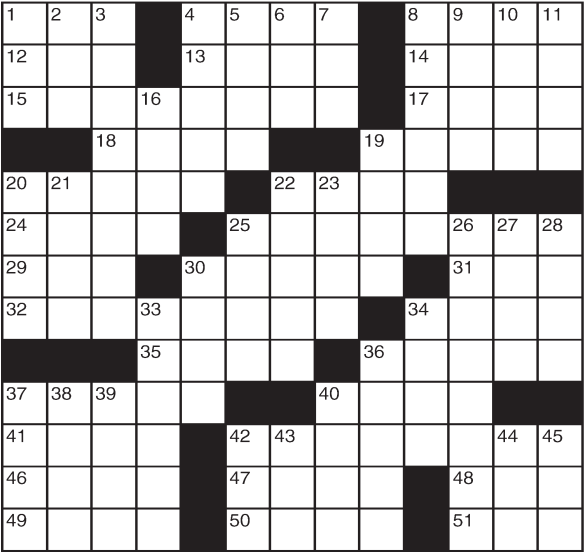
Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Wager
 4 Wan
 8 Thwack
 12 Past
 13 Entreaty
 14 Distasteful
 15 Hatchet-like
 17 Reedy
 18 Settled down
 19 Expiate
 20 Looked lecherously
 22 Possess
 24 Strike out
 25 Re Mom and Dad
 29 Compass pt.
 30 Also-ran
 31 Sapporash
 32 Hair-dressers
 34 Henchman of Captain Hook
 35 Needing a massage

DOWN
 1 Cudgel
 2 Freudian topic
 3 Lobster liver
 4 Garden pest
 5 Bed-frame part
 6 Chop
 7 Tibetan beast
 8 Attacked by mosquitoes
 9 Reverberate
 10 Related
 11 Actress Daly
 16 Sheltered
 19 State with certainty
 37 "Desire Under the —"
 38 Manx cat's lack
 39 Loosen
 40 Federal agts.
 42 Afternoon social
 43 Possess
 44 Lennon's lady
 45 Itty-bitty

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 11-24

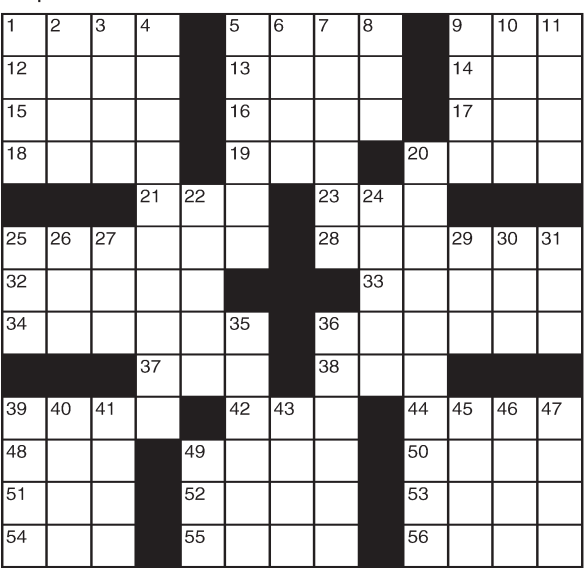


ACROSS
 1 Opera composer Carl
 5 Hindu prince
 9 Energy
 12 Sandwich shop
 13 Saharan
 14 Anger
 15 Cherished
 16 Pleads
 17 "Yeah, right"
 18 Terrier type
 19 —-relief
 20 Dermatologist's case
 21 More than you needed to tell (Abbr.)
 23 Branch
 25 Curtain fabric
 28 Like a duck's feet
 32 Roughly
 33 Playwright
 34 Terpsichorean
 36 Hit hard
 37 Japanese pond fish

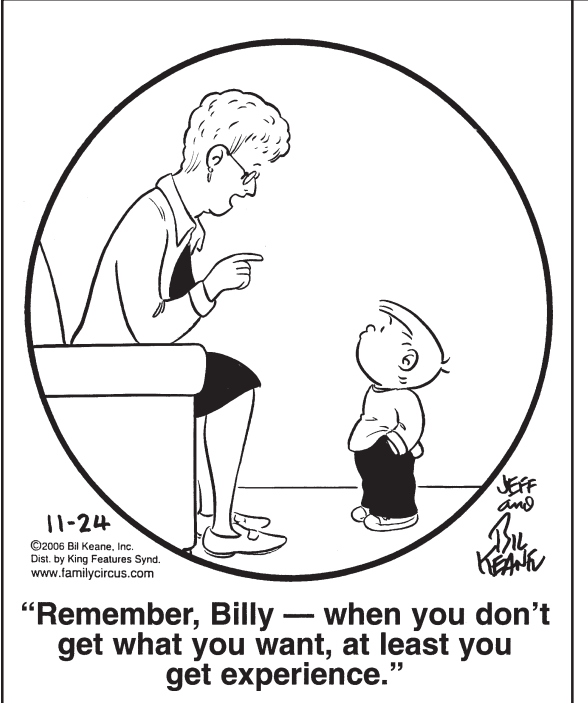
DOWN
 1 Probability
 2 Stench
 3 Excoriate
 4 Emergency vehicles
 5 Synagogue
 6 Neighborhood
 7 Woodshop
 8 Billboards
 9 Galvanizing
 10 Press agent?
 11 Sampras of tennis
 20 Emergency vehicles
 22 San —, California
 24 Pass along
 25 Crazy
 26 Lawyers' org.
 27 Get dressed in
 29 Cartoonist
 30 Swelled head
 31 Party bowlful
 35 Theater district
 36 Miserable one
 39 Frost
 40 Therefore
 41 Encounter
 43 Bide one's time
 45 Part of B. & O.
 46 Any of the Dionne quintuplets
 47 Newspaper pg.
 49 Turn on the waterworks

Solution time: 27 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 11-25



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

You are South in each of the following three hands. What would you bid at the point where the question mark appears?

1. ♠ 74 ♥ A32 ♦ A84 ♣ AJ953

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♠	Pass	?	?

2. ♠ AQ85 ♥ 92 ♦ AQ7 ♣ Q1094

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	?	?

3. ♠ 93 ♥ 764 ♦ AQ109532 ♣ 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	?

Bidding Quiz

1. Six spades. There is the distinct aura of a slam when partner opens one spade and next jumps to three spades without knowing you have three aces. The one thing certain is that you should not stop short of six.

Alternatively, you could bid five hearts — a cuebid of West's suit — and thus suggest the possibility of a grand slam as you wend your way to six spades. Partner could have either of these two hands for his three-spade bid:

[S] AKQ1083 [H] 6 [D] K92 [C] K74
 [S] KQJ1075 [H] 94 [D] KQ [C] KQ6,

and six spades is odds-on to make on both.

2. Four diamonds. Partner's four-club bid is a slam try; if he was interested only in game, he would have bid four spades. Since you have the ace of diamonds and about as good a hand as you could be expected to have, you must cooperate with partner by bidding four diamonds. Partner could have either of these hands:

[S] KJ9642 [H] A5 [D] J4 [C] AK3
 [S] KJ1073 [H] A8 [D] K9 [C] AJ85,

and you would certainly want to be in six spades in both cases.

3. Three notrump. It's true that you have only six high-card points, that you don't have notrump distribution, and that declarer ordinarily needs 26 or more points to have a good play for three notrump. Nevertheless, the winning bid is three notrump because the odds heavily favor making that contract.

In hands of this type, where there's an excellent chance you're starting partner off with seven diamond tricks, you can well afford to shortchange him in high-card points because you have lots of tricks to take their place. You shouldn't bet your life that partner will make three notrump, but over the long haul you'll gain much more than you'll lose by leaping directly to game. It would be wrong to bid two diamonds, asking partner to pass, or three diamonds, which is forcing but aims for the wrong contract.

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 6 4 3
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ J 10 6
 ♣ 9 8 4

WEST
 ♠ J 2
 ♥ 8 3 2
 ♦ K Q 9 8 5
 ♣ Q 6 3

EAST
 ♠ 7 5
 ♥ K J 6
 ♦ A 7 4 3 2
 ♣ A 7 5

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q 10 9
 ♥ 9 7 5 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ K J 10 2

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West 1 ♣
 North 2 ♠
 East Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The One That Got Away

A good way of improving your play is to ask yourself, after going down in a contract, whether you could have made it. This type of self-analysis helps to prevent a future error of the same kind.

Take this case where South made a mistake that cost him dearly. He ruffed the diamond lead, drew trumps, then played a heart to the ten, losing to the jack.

East returned a low club, and West won the jack with the queen. West played another heart, the queen losing to the king, and East then cashed the ace of clubs to put the contract down one.

South was without question very unlucky on the deal. He tried three finesses and lost them all. He would have gotten home safely had West held the king or jack of hearts, or had East held the queen of clubs. The odds against losing all three finesses were 7-1.

Yet he should have made the contract, despite the bad lie of the cards. South overlooked a 100 percent chance that did not depend on any luck at all.

After drawing trumps, he should have attacked clubs, not hearts, by leading a club from his hand at trick four. After forcing out the A-Q, his fourth club would provide a parking place for one of dummy's hearts.

This approach would have rendered the location of the A-Q of clubs and K-J of hearts totally irrelevant. If West took the first club and led a heart, declarer would finesse the queen and remain firmly in the saddle, regardless of what East did next.

