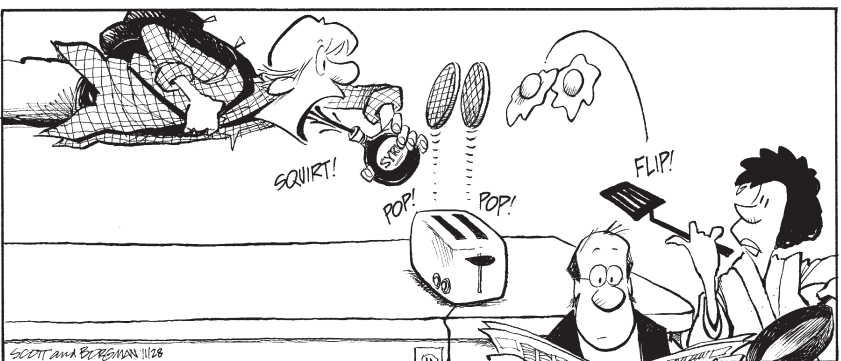


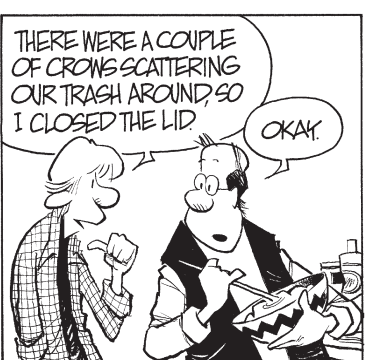
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



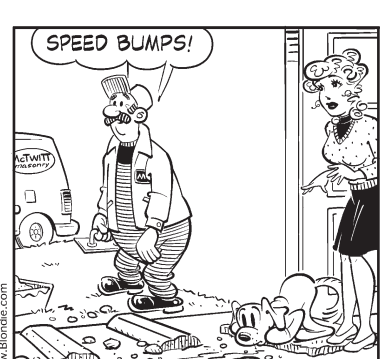
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



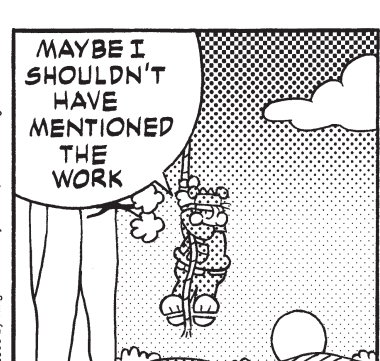
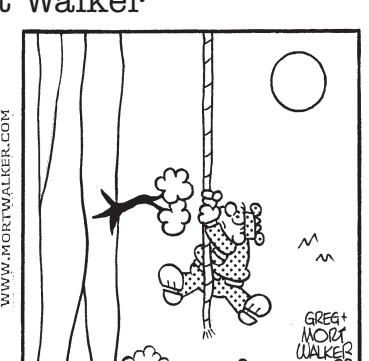
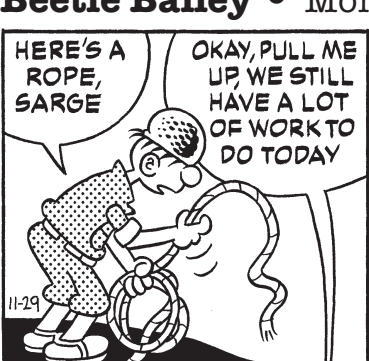
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



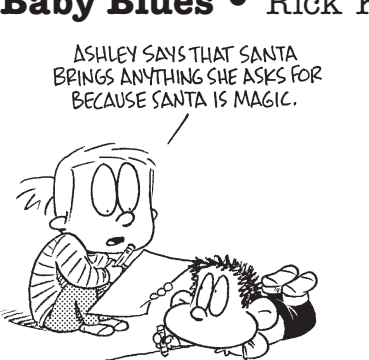
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

ADFY NY VIF CUTTFI
 QOGTZ ZVSF NQQOUNYBF
 UYRV NY VGROFR, AUOO
 DF GZF N SUYFI BVIC?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAD VARIOUSLY COLORED GUARDS COVERING YOUR CAR WHEELS, WOULD YOU BE A FENDER BLENDER?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals H

RU OT SUUV ER
 DUCQHZS DHRK RUURKT
 DKTTMI, HR KTMJI RU OT
 E IJCUYQTR IYHTZRHIR.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AN ORE DIGGER PLUGS SOME APPLIANCE INTO AN OUTLET, WILL HE USE A MINER CORD?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

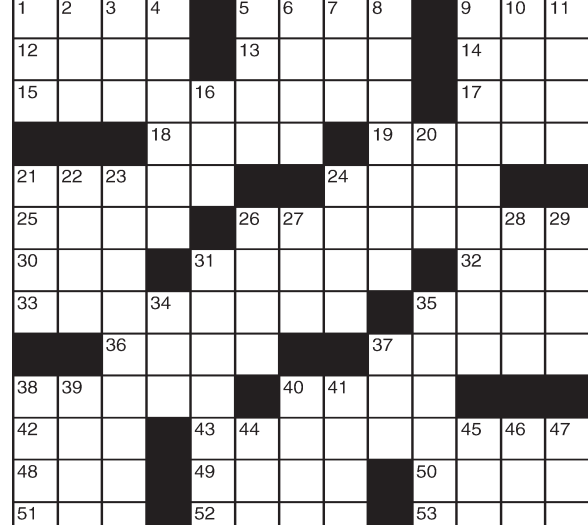
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Clinton's successor
 5 Hotel employee
 9 English channel?
 12 Vicinity
 13 Con
 14 Meadow
 15 Supreme leader?
 17 Coffee vessel
 18 Potter's oven
 19 Representative
 21 Sedate and self-restrained
 24 Gator's kin
 25 Competent
 26 Filled with love
 30 Dr. Jekyll's shop
 31 Brings up
 32 Peculiar
 33 Went places
 35 Europe's neighbor
 36 End-of-day tune
 37 Johnny Mathis hit
- DOWN**
 1 Awful
 2 Swiss canton
 3 Petrel's territory
 4 Tear wiper
 5 Silty deposit
 6 Any time now
 7 "— De-Lovely"
 8 Rids of weaponry
 9 Big name in health insurance
 10 Capital on the Aare
 11 Isn't 25-Across
 16 Lend a hand
 20 Sticky stuff
 21 Sodium chloride
- 38** Noted baseball malapropist
40 Active one
42 Id counterpart
43 Foreman's aide
48 More, to Manuel
49 Lacking slack
50 Emanation
51 Gridiron meas.
52 Unuttered "alas"
53 Clench
- 22** Ski-lift apparatus
23 Ancient Mariner's burden
24 Joker, e.g.
26 Morays
27 Dundee denial
28 Tend texts
29 Crucial time
31 Meals
34 Crossword-page abbr.
35 Collision safety device
37 Kitten's comment
38 "— Valentine"
39 "Holy cow!"
40 Pharmaceutical
41 Inauguration recitation
44 Skater Babilonia
45 "— Town"
46 Lanka predecessor
47 Potential syrup

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-28

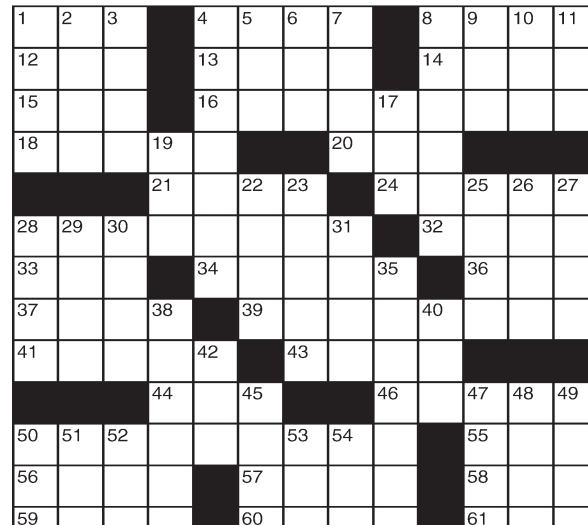


- ACROSS**
 1 In disrepair
 4 Columbo portrayer
 8 Antelope's playmate
 12 Teeny
 13 Nastase of tennis
 14 Left the sofa
 15 Common Mkt.
 16 Hannibal's troops
 18 Medication, at times
 20 AAA job
 21 "Play — It Lays"
 24 Cardiff tongue
 28 Style —tat-tat
 32 —tat-tat
 33 Handyman's abbr.
 34 Put on the line
 36 Drenched
 37 Expanded
 39 K's position
 41 Toadies' replies
- DOWN**
 1 Still unpaid
 2 Groucho-like look
 3 Erté's style
 4 Cancun celebrations
 5 The whole shooting match
 6 Big fib
 7 Retained
 8 Chest component
 9 Many millennia
 10 Superlative ending
 11 In medias —
 17 "Please explain"
 19 Glutton
 22 Initial chip
- 23** 1 to 10, often
25 Croquet field
26 Undo a dele
27 "Thirty days —"
28 Nervous
29 Trevi tosses, once
30 Spuds' buds
31 Supplemented, with "out"
35 Clear as crystal
38 Internet image transmitter
40 Greek H
42 Prepared
45 Formerly, formerly
47 Blue hue
48 Pre-swam
49 Sulk
50 Will Ferrell movie
51 —tse
52 Zsa Zsa's sis
53 Discoverer's call
54 Pair

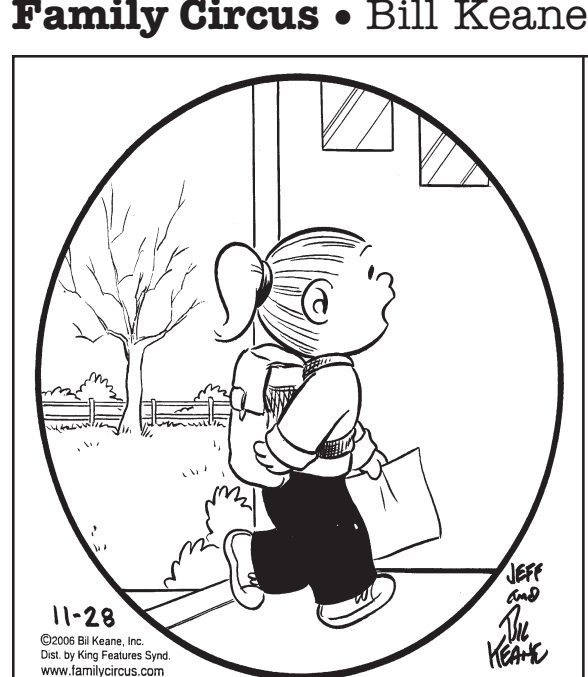
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-29



Family Circus • Bill Keane



"My friend Robin is Canadian, Mommy. Where is Canadia?"

Bridge

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

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

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

EAST
 ♠ 9 8 5
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ 10 8 7 2
 ♣ Q 10 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 10 4
 ♥ 7 4 2
 ♦ K 5 3
 ♣ A 8 5

The bidding:
 North 1♥ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass
 2♠ Pass 3 NT
 Opening lead — six of clubs.

A Switch in Time Saves Nine

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. At both tables, South was declarer at three notrump and West led a club.

At the first table, declarer ducked East's queen and ten of clubs, and won the third club with the ace. He then led a heart to dummy's eight, losing to the queen, and won East's diamond return with the king. Another heart lead to dummy's jack lost to East's king, but declarer had the rest of the tricks and so made exactly three notrump.

At the second table, though, South went down two, a result which came about in a perfectly reasonable manner. Here, also, East won the opening lead with the queen of clubs and returned the ten, ducked by declarer. But West, recognizing the futility of persisting with clubs, overtook the ten with the jack and shifted to the queen of diamonds.

Declarer was helpless against this attack from a new quarter. He took the queen with the king and finessed the eight of hearts, losing to the queen. Back came a low diamond, West's jack forcing the ace. When South now crossed to his hand with a spade and tried another heart finesse, East won with the king and cashed two diamond tricks to put the contract down two.

Certainly the defense at the second table was much more sensible than at the first. West saw no future in clubs and shifted to a diamond at trick three, hoping East held either the king or ten.

It is true that East might have held a different hand that would have made a diamond shift ineffective. But in that case, it was likely that every other method of defense would also fail.

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 8 7
 ♥ A 9 6
 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ Q J 9 4

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

EAST
 ♠ Q J 10 4
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ 10 7 6 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A 9 5
 ♥ Q J 10 7 3
 ♦ K Q J 10 5
 ♣ —

The bidding:
 North 1♠ East Pass South 1♥ West Pass
 1 NT Pass 3♦ Pass
 4♥ Pass 6♥
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

Sheer Artistry

Luck evens out in the long run, so if you want to be a winner at bridge, you have to play better than those you play with.

Let's say you're in six hearts and West leads the king of clubs, which you ruff. You play the queen of trumps and finesse, but East wins with the king and returns the queen of spades.

It looks as though you must lose a spade trick and go down one, but if you put your gray cells to work, a way to avoid the spade loser emerges.

Accordingly, you win East's spade return with dummy's king, ruff a club with the ten, re-enter dummy with a low trump to the nine and ruff another club with the jack.

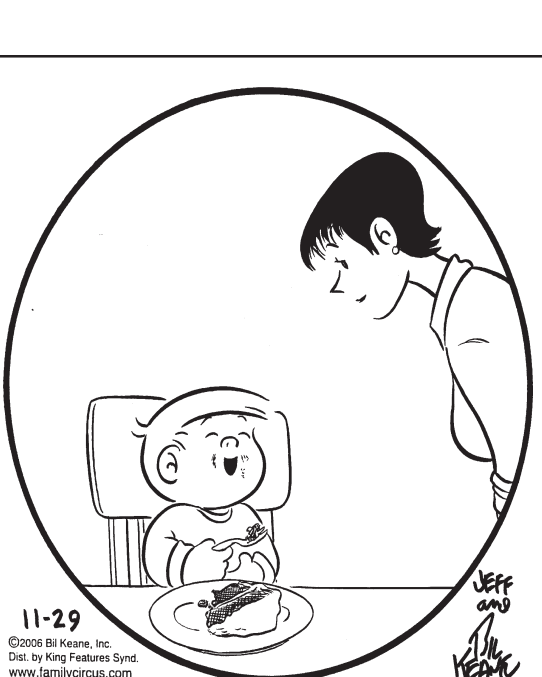
This runs you out of trumps in your hand, since you've ruffed clubs three times and led trumps twice, but that's precisely what you've been trying to do.

You now enter dummy with a diamond and draw West's last trump with the ace, discarding a spade from your hand. Your K-Q-J-10 of diamonds and ace of spades then win the last five tricks, and the slam is home as your spade loser vanishes into thin air.

To come to 12 tricks, you scored five trump tricks instead of only the four you seemed to have after the trump finesse failed. It might seem odd that to make the slam you must discard your spade loser on one of dummy's trumps, but that is the way things usually go in dummy reversal hands.

Tomorrow: A problem of logistics.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane



"Mmm! My favorite vegetable — carrot cake!"