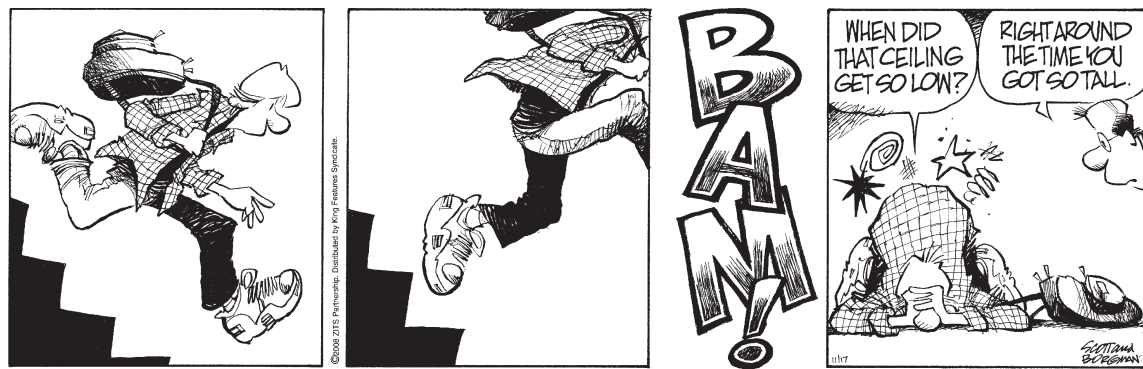


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



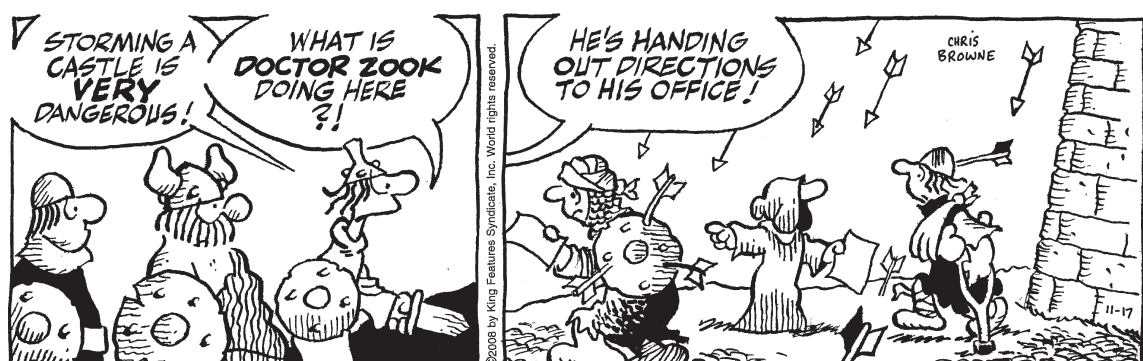
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



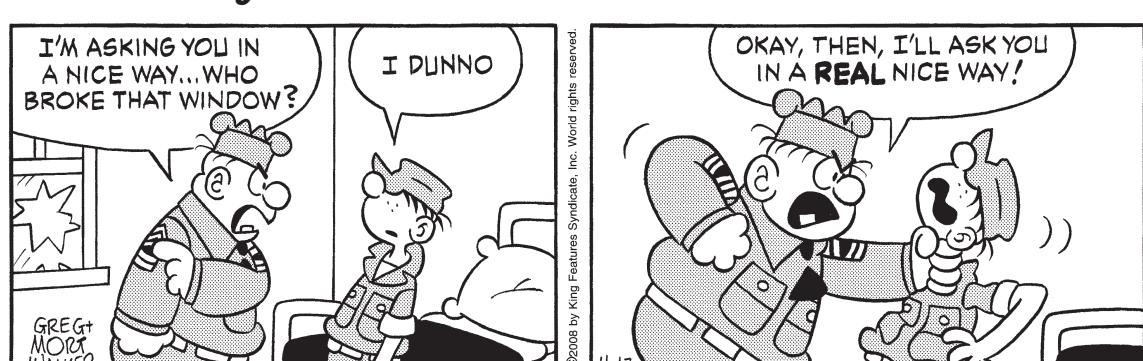
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



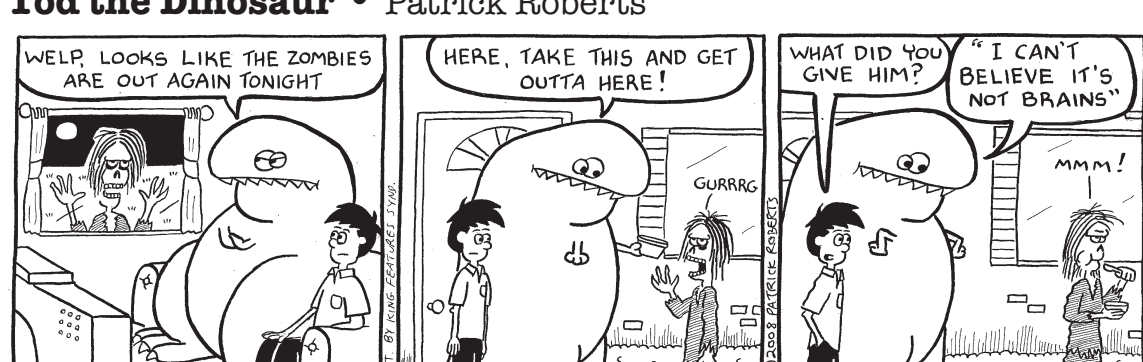
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



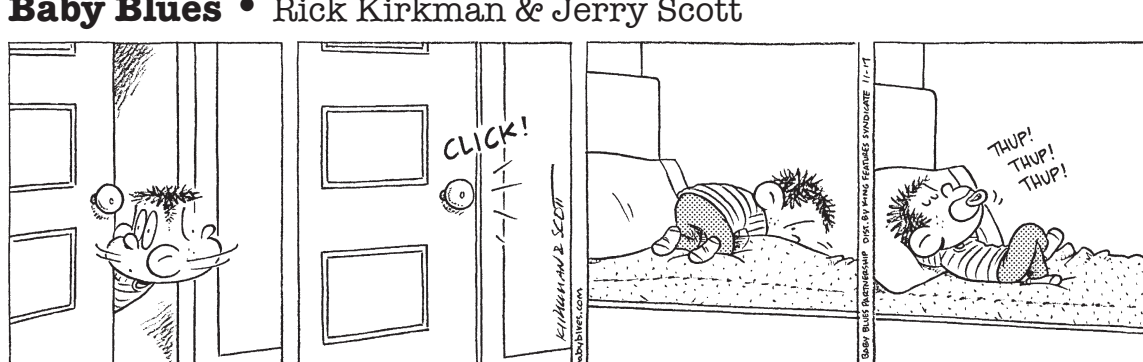
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



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Cryptoquip

QCD BARSHW RAJCS
BAVBSKVCVF UARS JSKW
HMFVSKANU UNXSK-XADSVD
YKSPU: "DQS YMH VSPU YSSKU."
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL A HIGH-CALORIE, SUGARY BEVERAGE OFTEN SERVED AT PARTIES? FRUIT PAUNCH.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/17

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.

Difficulty Level ★ 11/17

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

Bridge

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A
♥ AKQJ
♦ AKQ4
♣ AK42

WEST
♠ —
♥ 97652
♦ 1032
♣ J10976

EAST
♠ Q1073
♥ 10843
♦ J96
♣ Q8

SOUTH
♠ KJ986542
♥ —
♦ 875
♣ 53

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 4♠ Pass 7♠
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Famous Hand

There's approximately one chance in 500,000 of being dealt a hand containing 30 high-card points. And so, anytime you see one in a book or a bridge column, it's very likely that the hand was composed by somebody, and not actually dealt.

That would certainly be true of this deal, which was published as a double-dummy problem in The Bridge World Magazine in the 1930s to illustrate what was then called a quadruple trump grand coup.

Given East's holding of the Q-10-7-3 of trumps, making seven spades would seem to be an impossible task. But of course the deed can be done, or the hand would not be presented here. If you would like to test your problem-solving skills first, assume West leads a club and do not read past this point.

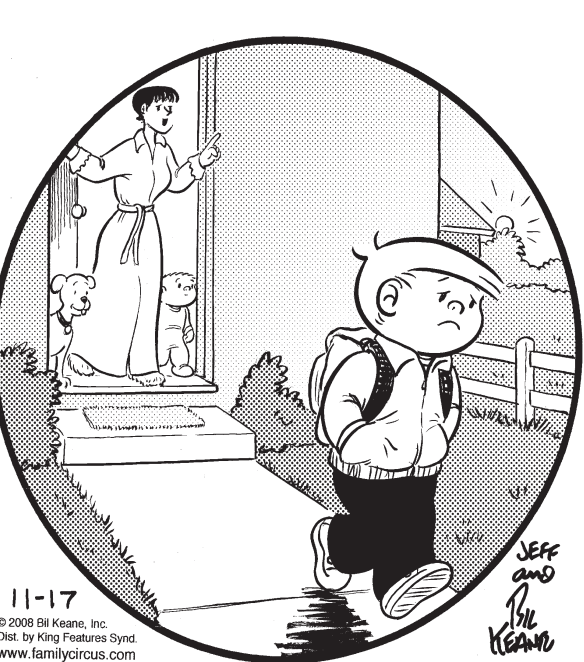
After taking the club king, declarer next leads a heart and trumps it instead of doing what comes much more naturally, which is to cash the trump ace at trick two. Cashing the ace of trumps would inevitably prove fatal. If you don't believe it, try playing the ace at once and see what eventually happens.

South next plays a diamond to the queen, ruffs a heart, then a diamond to the king, ruffs a heart, followed by a diamond to the ace and another heart ruff. This reduces declarer's hand to five cards -- a club and the K-J-9-8 of spades -- while dummy has the ace of trumps, a low diamond and the A-4-2 of clubs.

South then plays a club to the ace and returns a club, forcing East to ruff as declarer in turn overruffs. Next comes the nine of spades to the ace, followed by a diamond or a club. East's last two cards, the Q-10 of spades, then succumb to the K-J to put a final touch on the extremely rare -- and in this case, contrived -- quadruple trump grand coup.

Tomorrow: A nonobligatory finesse.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Donate
5 Floor cleaner
8 Sail support
12 Mideast gulf
13 First lady?
14 Reverb-erate
15 Approach
16 Quebe-cois, e.g.
18 Half a pair of winter boots
20 Teeny bit
21 October birth-stone
23 Deposit
24 South-western saloons
28 Vegan's no-no
31 Lingerie item
32 Shy
34 Hot tub
35 Collec-tions

DOWN

17 Rock concert need
19 Skewer
22 Actor Lorenzo buco
24 Couric's ingredi-ent
25 Exist
26 Country-wide
27 "The Jungle" author
29 Gorilla
30 Paving material
33 Rotary phone feature
36 Persnick-ety
38 Intelli-gence
40 Born
42 Cicatrix
43 Tor-oise's opponent
44 Conga, e.g.
46 Ark builder
47 Earthen-ware pot
48 Appear
50 Bat stat

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 11-17

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			57	