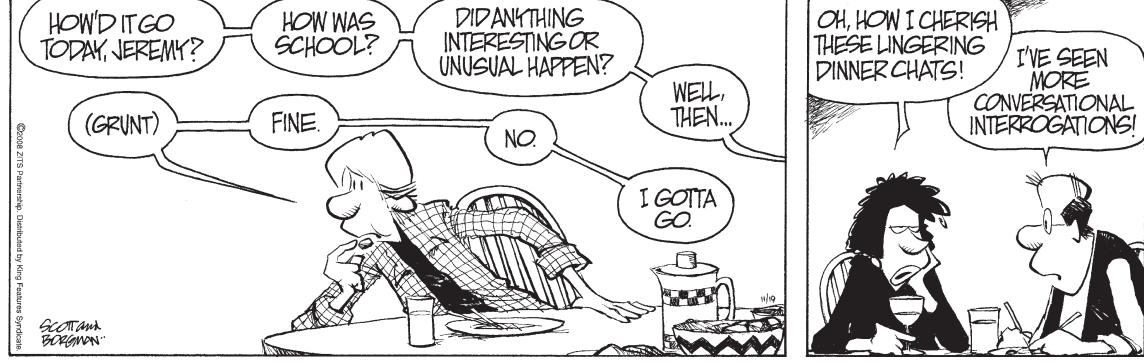


**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



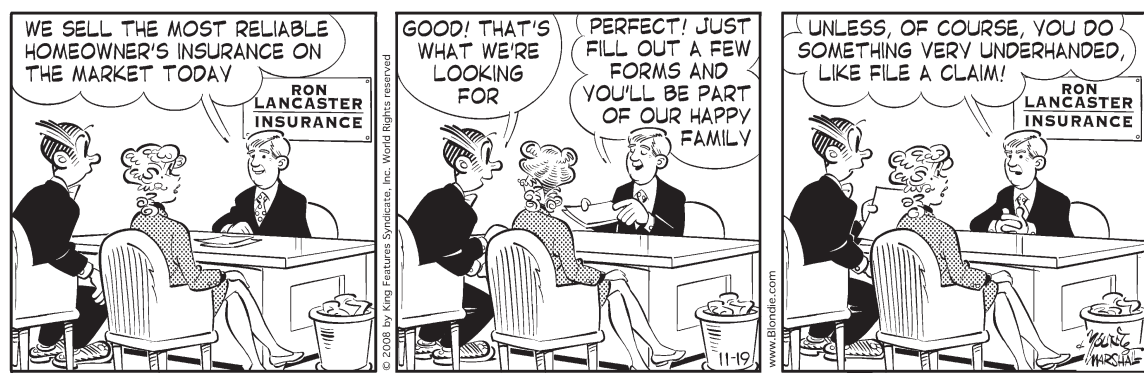
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



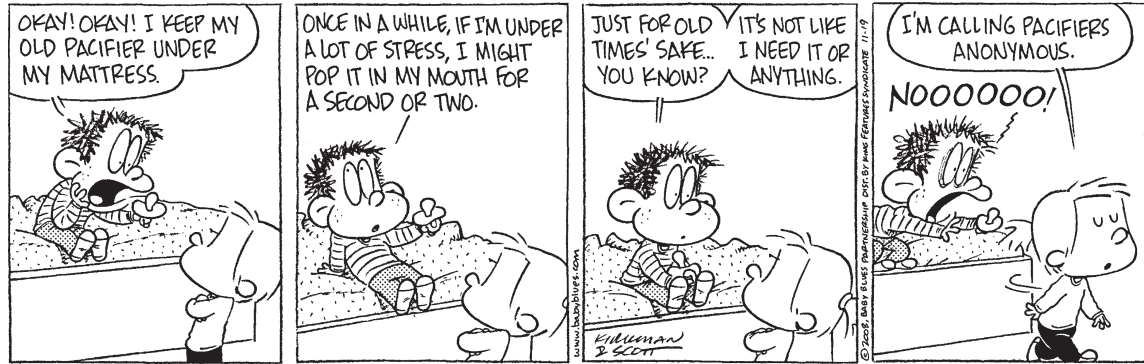
**Blondie • Chic Young**



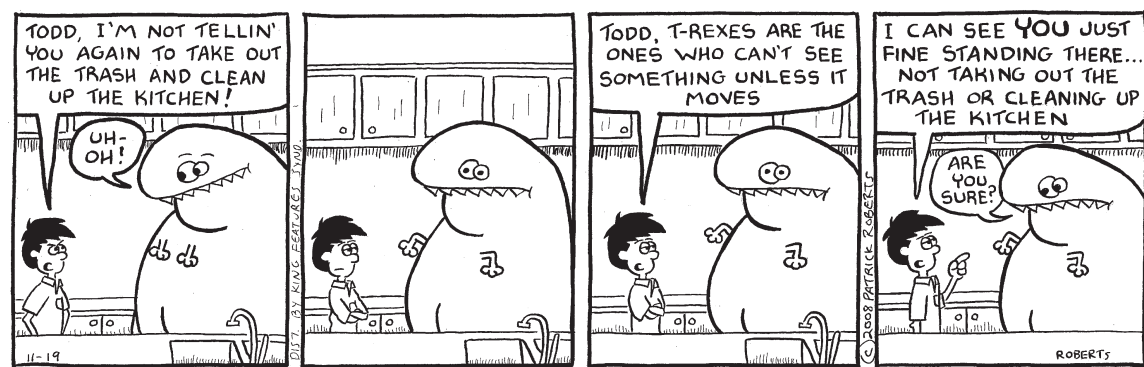
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



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



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Cryptoquip**

HY DLR CUPZ U FLJ GZZFUDHMK NRAL W MATPJJL NRJ'P TAMSHQLK  
 YLW U IRQHA QSUSLHM, HS QP BTDSH EASWLORJSH,  
 IHKCS JZ QUHG SCUS DLR HJD EQKRB OWSS RQE W  
 UWZ WUGHL-UASHPZ.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HIT COMEDY MOVIE CONCERNING SOME VERY DANGEROUS SUPER-POTENT BEERS: "THE BAD NEWS BEERS."  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals Y

NRAL W MATPJJL NRJ'P TAMSHQLK  
 QP BTDSH EASWLORJSH,  
 HJD EQKRB OWSS RQE W  
 CAPMJLALB TAPMJLALB.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAVE A JOB DEEJAYING FOR A MUSIC STATION, IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT YOU ARE RADIO-ACTIVE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals W

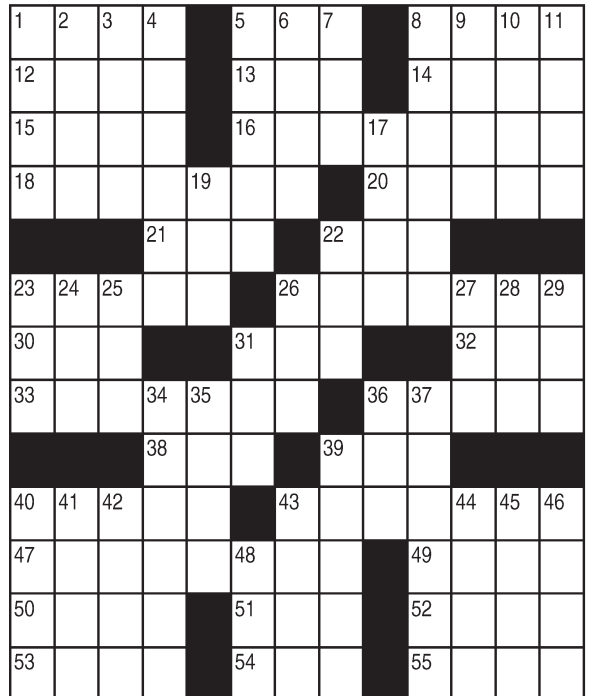
**Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Easter entree
  - 5 Old, in the dict.
  - 8 Hooters
  - 12 Curved molding
  - 13 Bikini half
  - 14 Bog matter
  - 15 Gator's cousin
  - 16 2008 Shia LaBeouf movie
  - 18 "M\*A\*S\*H" character
  - 20 German painter Max
  - 21 Golfer Ernie
  - 22 Merit badge org.
  - 23 Amulet
  - 26 Marble type
  - 30 Apply lightly
  - 31 Carpet
  - 32 Solemn promise
  - 33 Sleep
  - 36 Line
  - 38 Census statistic
  - 39 Chignon
- DOWN**
- 1 Ness or Lomond
  - 2 Taj Mahal city
  - 3 Cat call?
  - 4 Ted Danson sitcom
  - 5 Follows orders
  - 6 Scottish hillside
  - 7 Droop
  - 8 Met shows
  - 9 Alternative rock group
  - 10 Potato chip brand
  - 11 Undo a dele
  - 12 For fear that
  - 13 Shade provider
  - 14 Satchel
  - 15 LPs' successors
  - 16 Sleeping de
  - 17 Venus de
  - 18 Approximately
  - 19 Unit of force
  - 20 Beige
  - 21 Calendar quantity
  - 22 Being, to Brutus
  - 23 Corn spike

Solution time: 21 mins.

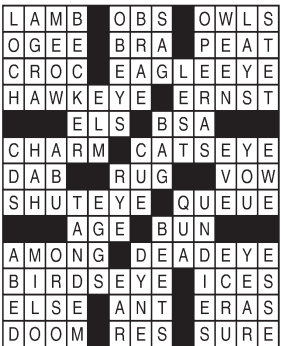


Yesterday's answer 11-18

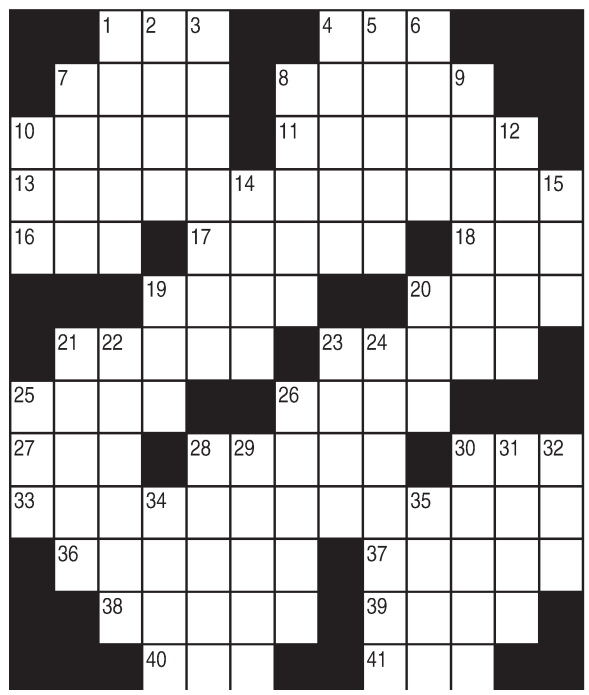


- ACROSS**
- 1 Sandwich letters
  - 4 Massage
  - 7 Eins, zwei, —
  - 8 Gives a hoot
  - 10 Existence
  - 11 Charlie's staff
  - 13 2008 Greg Kinnear film
  - 16 Shark part
  - 17 Rough woolen fabric
  - 18 Conk out
  - 19 Coop group
  - 20 Ballet leap
  - 21 Expositions
  - 23 Attention-getting light
  - 25 "My bad"
  - 26 Connect
  - 27 Dandy
  - 28 Cheech's partner
  - 30 Eventual
  - 33 Here today, gone tomorrow
  - 36 Arm holder
  - 37 Pollster's find
  - 38 Ham-strings
  - 39 Green land
  - 40 "May-day!"
  - 41 "CSI" evidence
- DOWN**
- 1 "Family Guy" dog
  - 2 Photog's choice
  - 3 More constricting
  - 4 Gamut
  - 5 Incited
  - 6 Existed
  - 7 Where heros are made?
  - 8 Small restaurants
  - 9 Pitcher's option
  - 10 Closest pal,
  - 11 CSI" to a texter
  - 12 Hotel accomodation
  - 14 Pos-sesses
  - 15 Witness
  - 19 That guy's
  - 20 One of the Brady bunch
  - 21 Puts one over on
  - 22 Shock
  - 23 Type selection
  - 24 Illuminated
  - 25 Vacationing
  - 26 Singer Norah
  - 28 Medical treatment,
  - 29 Urticaria for short
  - 30 Beethoven's "Fidelio," e.g.
  - 31 Barn roof adornment
  - 32 Moreover
  - 34 Vast expanses
  - 35 Ms. Brockovich

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-19



**Bridge**

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 9 5 4  
 ♥ A 10 9  
 ♦ A J  
 ♣ A 9 8 6 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 6 2  
 ♥ 6 4 3  
 ♦ 10 8 7 4 2  
 ♣ 7 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ Q J 10 8  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ K 9 6 3  
 ♣ K Q 10 5

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

The bidding:  
 North 1 ♣  
 East Pass  
 South 1 ♥  
 West 4 ♥

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

**A Nonobligatory Finesse**

It was Heraclitus who said: "You never swim the same river twice." That was his way of saying that the water keeps changing as you swim in it. The same thought applies to bridge. Every hand you play is different -- in at least some respects -- from any hand you've ever played before. Consequently, general rules that may usually apply are willfully broken from time to time -- but for good reason.

Consider the present case where West led a diamond against four hearts. Declarer played dummy's jack, losing to the king, and back came the queen of spades. It did not matter whether South won the spade with the ace immediately or on the next trick; either way, he would later go down one, losing a diamond, two spades and a club.

It is certainly true that in the great majority of deals where declarer is faced with the diamond combination shown here, he would automatically finesse. But it is the wrong thing to do in this case. At best, South has only a 50 percent chance of winning the finesse, and if it loses he becomes a heavy favorite to go down against normal defense.

However, if declarer goes up with the ace of diamonds at trick one, as he should, he becomes a huge favorite to make four hearts. He continues by playing the ace and another club, planning to establish dummy's long suit. If the adverse clubs are divided either 3-3 or 4-2 -- an 84 percent chance -- this line of play is almost certain to succeed.

Let's say East wins the club with the queen, cashes the diamond king and returns the spade queen. South wins, leads a trump to the nine, ruffs a low club, plays a trump to the ten and ruffs the eight of clubs. He then leads a trump to the ace and discards a spade loser on the nine of clubs to finish with 10 tricks.

Clearly, some finesses should be seen but not taken!

Tomorrow: Sylvia triumphs again.  
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East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q J 10 9 7  
 ♥ Q 6 3 2  
 ♦ K 8  
 ♣ K 10

**WEST**  
 ♠ 6 5 3 2  
 ♥ 10 9 7  
 ♦ 10 7 5 4 2  
 ♣ 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 8 4  
 ♥ K J 5  
 ♦ A Q 9 6 3  
 ♣ J 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ A 8 4  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A Q 9 8 7 6 5 2

The bidding:  
 East 1 ♦  
 South 3 ♣  
 West Pass  
 North 3 ♣

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

**Sylvia Triumphs Again**

Part of the secret of Sylvia's success at the club was her uncanny ability to convert dreadful blunders into resounding triumphs. Sylvia was by nature accident-prone, and it was because of this tendency that she often found herself in hot water.

One of her greatest victories occurred on this deal where she got to five clubs and West led a diamond. Hoping against hope that West had the queen, and Sylvia followed low from dummy.

But East won with the queen and continued with the ace. Sylvia intended to ruff the ace at trick two, but when she played to the trick she discovered to her horror that she had played the ace of spades instead.

East thus found himself still on lead, and, actually, it made no difference which card he elected to return. After thinking the matter over, he tried the jack of clubs, but Sylvia had no trouble scoring the rest of the tricks.

She won the club return with dummy's king and led the queen of spades, covered by the king, which she ruffed. Sylvia then led a trump to dummy's ten, discarded her heart losers on the J-10 of spades and so made five clubs.

As usual, the story of Sylvia's newest Alice in Wonderland adventure spread like wildfire among the members of the club. Only after extended analysis was it discovered that the contract could not have been made had Sylvia trumped the ace of diamonds. By discarding the ace of spades, she had found the only way to fulfill the contract.

Tomorrow: Future shock.  
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**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

