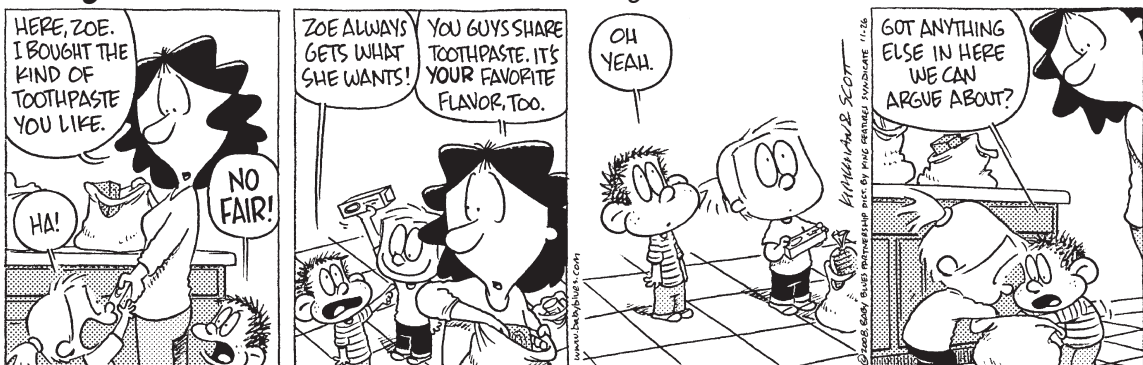
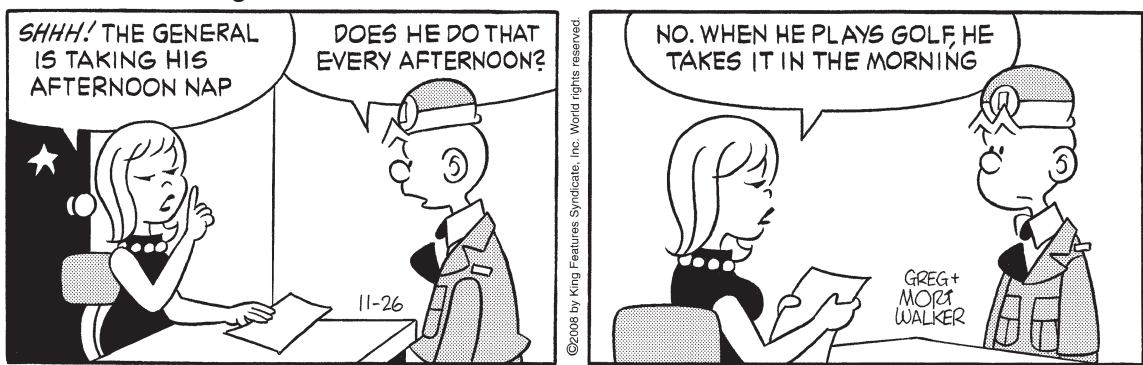


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



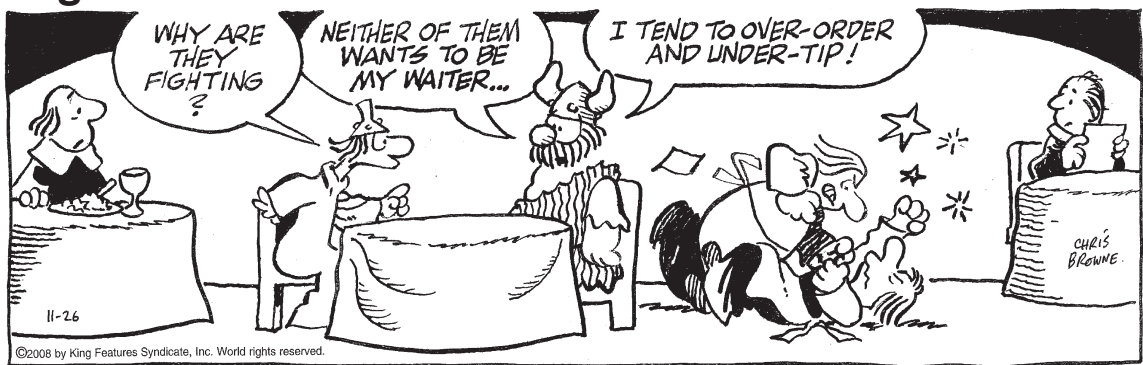
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



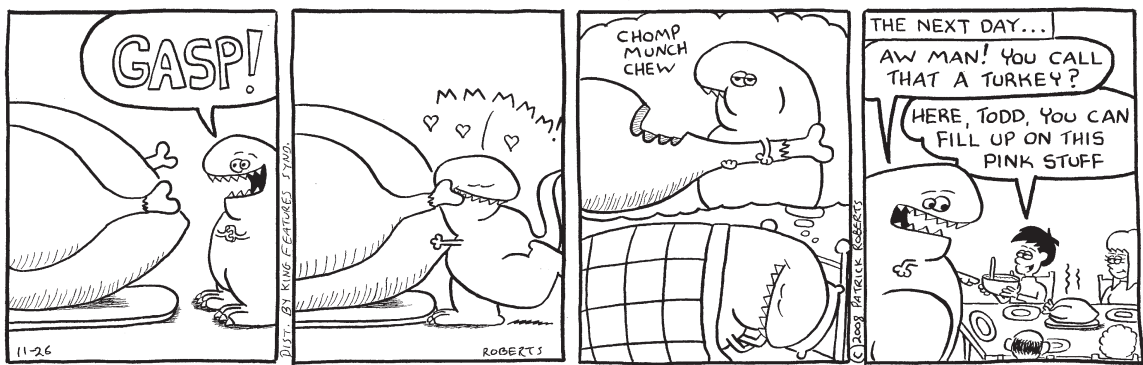
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



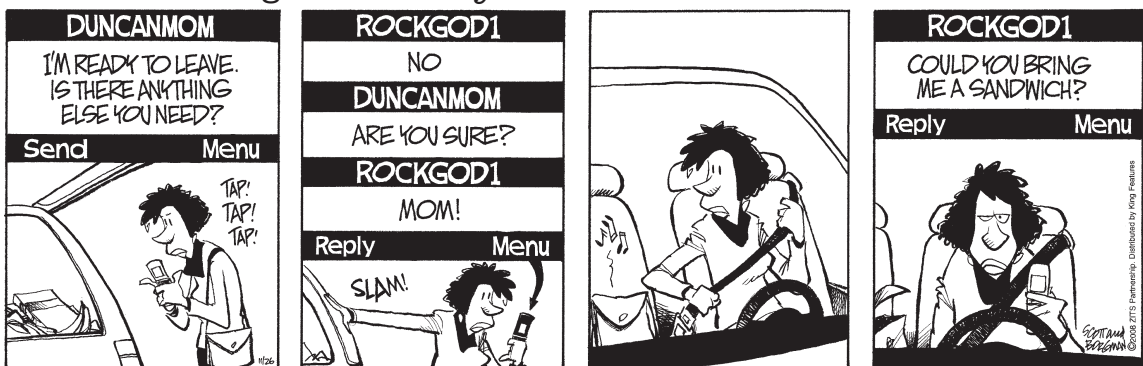
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/26

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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.

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

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Difficulty Level ★★★

11/26

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Bridge

East dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ J 2, ♥ Q 8 7, ♦ J 5 2, ♣ A 10 9 5 4. WEST: ♠ Q 9 8 5 4, ♥ 6 2, ♦ 10 7 6, ♣ 8 7 2. SOUTH: ♠ A 10 6, ♥ K J 4, ♦ A K 8 3, ♣ Q J 3. EAST: ♠ K 7 3, ♥ A 10 9 5 3, ♦ Q 9 4, ♣ K 6.

The bidding: East 1♥, South 1NT, West Pass, North 2NT. Opening lead — five of spades.

Fair Exchange Is No Robbery

Assume you get to three notrump as shown and West leads the spade five. You win East's king with the ace and return the queen of clubs, which loses to the king. Back comes the seven of spades, and West makes the correct play of letting dummy win with the jack.

You are now headed for defeat because, when you get around to leading a heart to try to score your ninth trick, East takes the ace and returns a spade, and West cashes three spade winners for down one.

What's wrong with this picture, you might ask? The answer is that you lost the contract at trick one, when you should have ducked East's king of spades! True, this means that you wind up with only one spade trick rather than two, but in exchange you make three notrump instead of going down. You lose the first two spade tricks and later lose a club and a heart, but the rest of the tricks are yours.

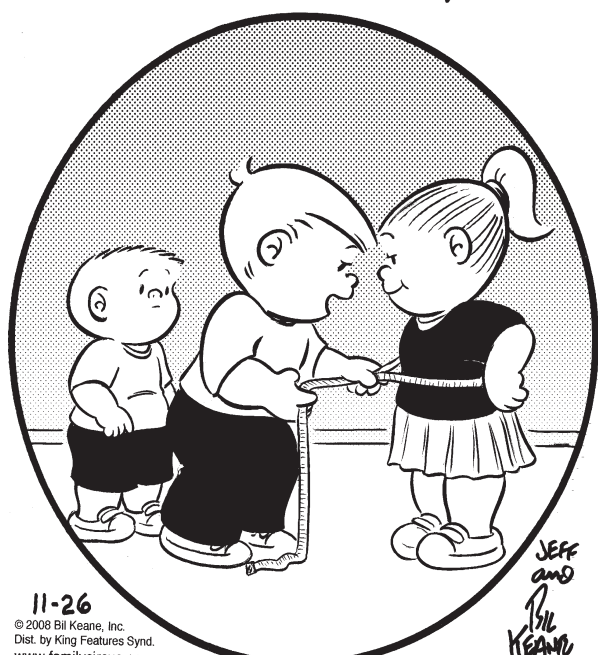
While it's granted that it's mighty difficult to play the spade six at trick one instead of the ace -- you're sacrificing a sure second spade trick by doing so -- that's what you have to do to make the contract.

The clue to the winning play lies in the bidding. East is marked by his opening bid with nearly all the missing high cards, including the ace of hearts and king of clubs. If declarer can dislodge both of these cards without going down while doing so, he can score four clubs, two hearts, two diamonds and a spade.

The lone threat is West's presumed long spade suit. That threat is eliminated by holding up the ace until the third round. South then takes a club finesse, wins any return and next forces out the ace of hearts to secure nine tricks.

Tomorrow: Diversionary tactics. ©2008 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Nessie's home, for one; 5 Banned insecticide; 8 Post-bout apparel; 12 Examination; 14 Watched; 15 Reverie; 16 Repair; 17 Speck; 18 Open square, in Italy; 20 With fervor; 23 Poolroom prop; 24 Reed instrument; 25 Ray of light; 28 Glutton; 29 Play the banjo; 30 Craze; 32 Wrestling format; 34 Dwindle; 35 Get better; 36 Shake-speare's Kate; 37 Jewish village; 40 Pair; 41 Harbor city; 42 Ben & Jerry's product; 47 Settled down; 48 Choker, e.g.; 49 Interoffice note; 50 Earth (Prefix); 51 Mulligan; 3 Weep; 4 Football conference?; 5 Regiment; 6 "CSI" find; 7 Middle ear membrane; 8 Updated movie; 9 Courtroom call; 10 Mercedes; 11 Icelandic epic; 13 Helen's home; 19 Cold War missile; 20 Short flight; 21 Newspaper notice; 22 Forum garb; 23 Not urban; 25 Thief's task; 26 Somewhere out there; 27 Lion's pride?; 29 Undo a dele; 31 Morning moisture; 33 Certain city area; 34 Fingerprint spirals; 36 Use a straw; 37 Junk e-mail; 38 Golf goal; 39 Slender; 40 Erte's style of art; 43 Bee follower; 44 Chow down; 45 Expert; 46 Kitten's call.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 11-24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15								16			
20	21	22			23		18	19			
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		

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

BQ HMP ALL JLCCBAD QPZLA
LZRKRUBKS QJMZ AMZLUDBKS,
WMPFC HMP WRFF UDLZ

JMAL - WMFMJLC S RALA?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHILE THE MOVIE MIGHT HAVE FURTHER SUBSEQUENT VERSIONS, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST AMONG SEQUELS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y