

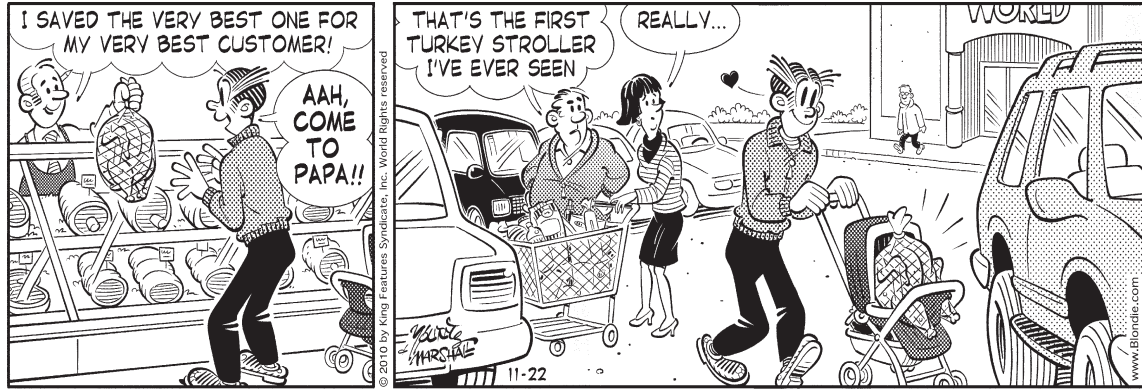
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



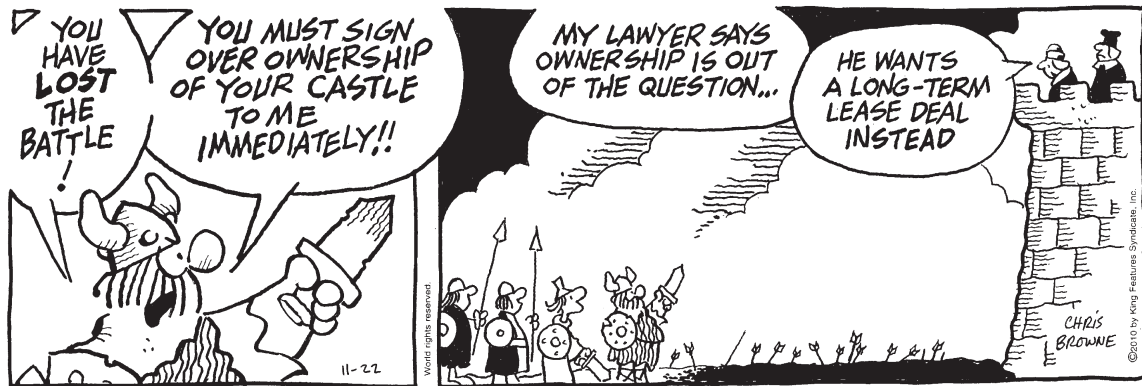
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



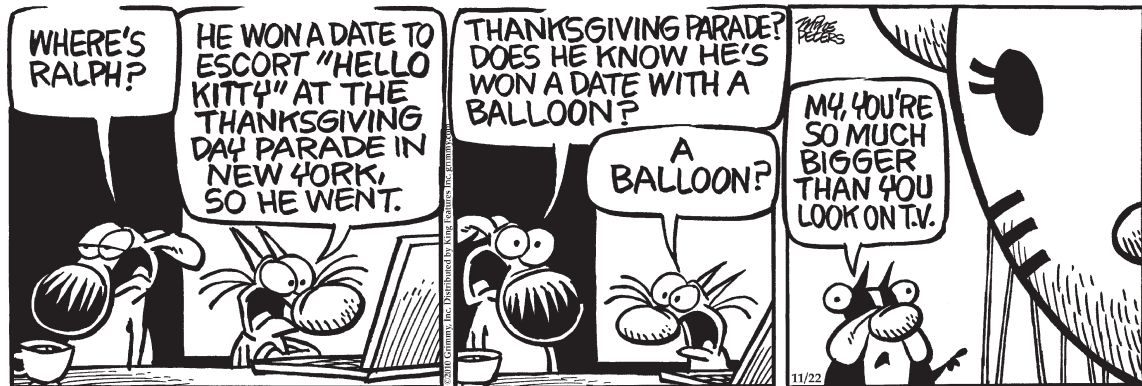
**Blondie** • Chic Young



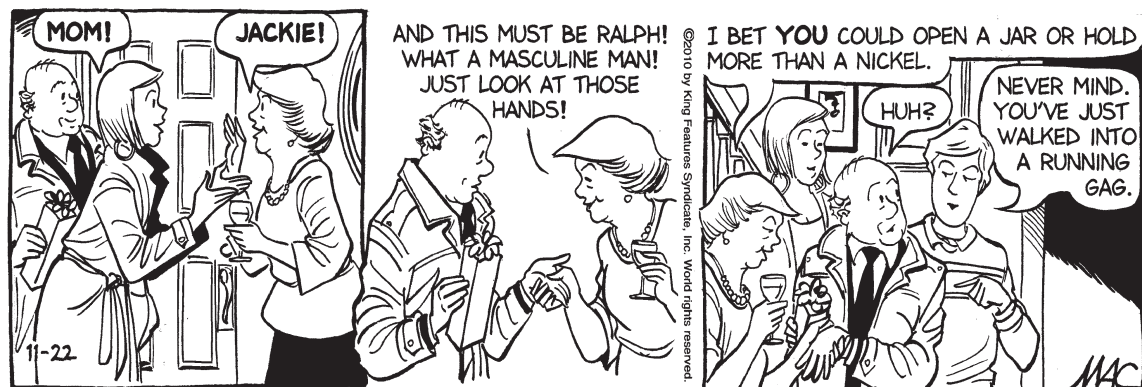
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



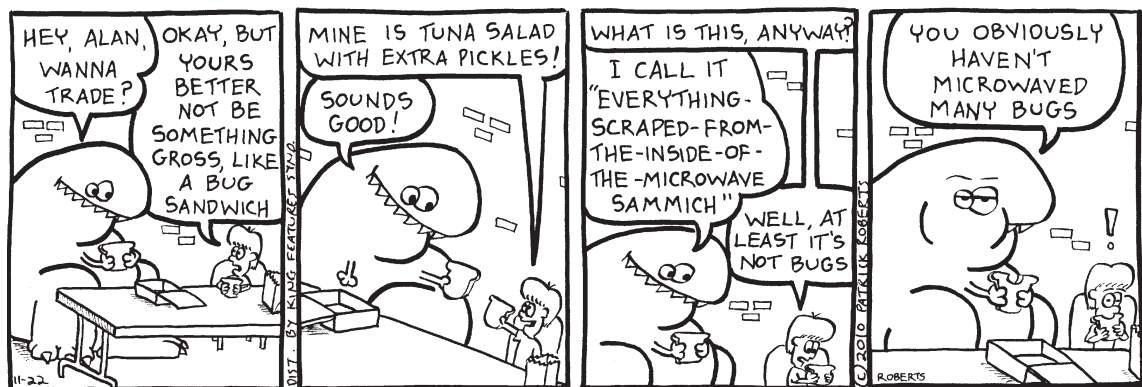
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



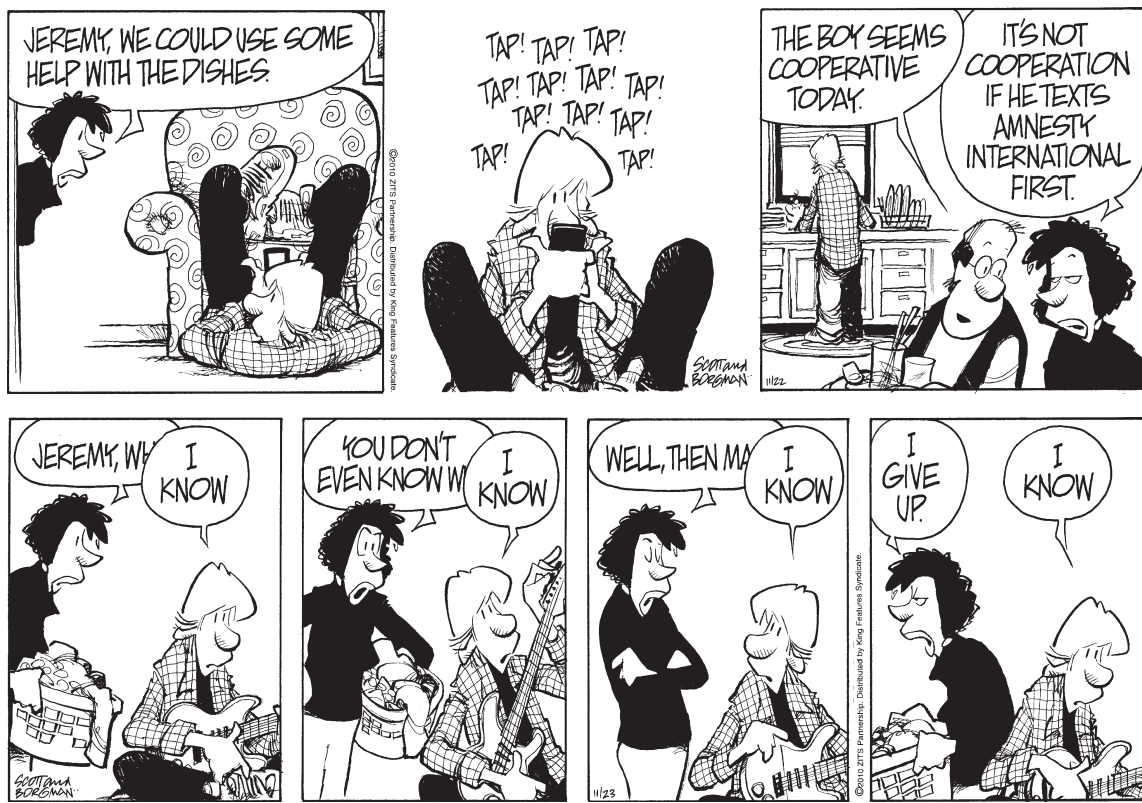
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Wife is sick, wants it private**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My wife has been battling cancer for about three years. It's been an uphill struggle, and just when she's in remission, the cancer comes back. She's strong-willed and wants to keep her illness private. The thing is, I keep lying to friends and family telling them everything is OK. I know they think something is up. I don't know how long I can walk this line. — J.B.

**Dear J.B.:** I'm sure this illness is stressful for both you and your wife. You need to respect her wishes about keeping it secret, although if there are people who should be told, you can talk to her about them. Don't complain about how difficult she is making things, just tell her you are sure these people would want to know because of their love and concern. I don't know if her secrecy is due to the fact she thinks she may put it behind her, or that she is afraid of having people turn away from her. It can and does happen.

Another possibility is that she is good-hearted and selfless enough to not want anyone to worry. There may be superstition involved — the fewer people who know, the less "real" it seems. You might talk about her reasons to keep it secret, so you know what is going through her head. Try to keep her trust through your words and deeds — she has made an exception for you, and you wouldn't want to let her down. Try to build in respite time when you can relax and blow off steam; you need to stay strong for your wife, and a steady diet of stress won't do it. Good luck to both of you.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** When my father died recently, my wife and I panicked. We didn't give a great deal of thought as to how we were going to explain Grandpa's death to our 5-year-old, so we told him Grandpa went on a long trip. I knew we completely blew it when our son asks us every day when his grandfather is coming home. We both feel like complete morons and that we made a sad situation 10 times worse. How can we tell him the truth now? — F.V.

**Dear F.V.:** It is too bad you and your wife didn't give more thought to preparing your son for his grandfather's death. Even if it was unexpected, it's a good idea to let children know about the aging process and that their grandparents won't be with them forever — especially when they feel it's a "drag" to go visit Grandma and Grandpa. You don't have to do this in a guilt-producing way, but it helps a child know he has made his grandparents' last years pleasant. I don't know how close your son was to your father, but I hope he will have lasting memories. Make sure you remind him of Grandpa as the years go by.

At his age, the idea of his grandfather going on a "trip" instead of dying isn't far-fetched. Your son is at the stage where he can begin to understand the finality of death. You need to let him know Grandpa is not coming back. If it is too far for a memorial service or he missed the funeral, explain what happened in simple terms, and allow him to visit the grave or see the urn or whatever is appropriate for him in order to say goodbye in his own way. If he objects, don't force him. Let him go when he is older. Don't tell him you lied, but let him know the truth from now on.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 7 6 5  
♥ 3  
♦ A J 10 5  
♣ K J 8 5

**WEST**  
♠ J 9  
♥ 9 7 4  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A 9 6 4 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ 10 8 4 2  
♥ A K J 6 5 2  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ —

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

The bidding:  
East Pass 1 NT Pass 2♦  
South Pass 3♦ Pass 4♦  
West Pass 5♦ Pass  
North Pass 5♦ Pass  
Opening lead — jack of spades.

**Famous Hand**

Bridge is not played perfectly by anyone, including experts, and the best proof of this can sometimes be found at the annual world championship. Consider the present deal from the match between Italy and the United States in 1975.

At the first table, the Italian pair, Benito Garozzo and Giorgio Belladonna, got to five diamonds on the sequence shown. Probably West should have reasoned from the bidding that East had either one or no clubs — and on that basis should have led the ace of clubs. But West led the jack of spades instead.

Belladonna won with the ace and guessed the trump finesse correctly when he played a low diamond to the ten at trick two. Had he now drawn the remaining trumps, he would have made the contract easily.

But Belladonna thought the trumps might be divided 4-1, and, in an effort to protect against this possibility, he led a low club from dummy at trick three! This was certainly not the best play on the actual layout, as he found out when East, Eddie Kantar, trumped the club, on which West played the four.

Kantar didn't know his partner had the ace of clubs and all he had to do was to cash his heart trick at this point. Instead, acting on the assumption that South had the ace of clubs, and hoping that West had the queen of hearts, Kantar led the deuce of hearts at trick four in a desperate attempt to reach West and obtain another club ruff.

Kantar's low-heart return would have been sensationally successful had the cards been located as he hoped they were. As it was, though, Belladonna put up the queen, drew the outstanding trump and easily made the contract, losing only the club ace and a club ruff.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



11-22

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"...it's being recycled."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

11/22

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 the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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

**Cryptoquip**

KD RWIWOZV OWZVVU XWZB  
XEGGR NZIW GY QW NYXW  
QU Z TWOGZKB GKXW, ZOW  
GNYRW Z DWA TEOR' TEODWAR'

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ALWAYS SLEEP VERY WELL ON SMALL, PORTABLE FOLDING BEDS. I GUESS I MUST BE COTS-EFFECTIVE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals R

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
1 Initial stake  
5 Mandible  
8 Jog  
12 Take extra precautions  
14 Inauguration  
15 Used by all  
16 "Do — others ..."  
17 Tokyo's old name  
18 Abductor  
20 Thread recommended by dentists  
23 Dullard  
24 Allergic reaction  
25 Remark  
28 Lubricant  
29 Fugard's "A Lesson From —"  
30 Aah's partner  
32 Order  
34 FDR is pictured on it  
35 Roof overhang  
36 Bowler hat
- DOWN**  
1 Joan of —  
2 Ultra-modern (Pref.)  
3 "Tiny" Dickens lad  
4 Become interwoven  
5 2007 Ellen Page movie  
6 Altar constellation  
7 Greeted  
8 Hairpiece  
9 Carry on  
10 "Beetle Bailey" dog  
11 Norse thunder god  
13 Lather  
19 Venus de Milo's lack  
20 To and — (Lat.)  
21 Secular  
22 Scandinavian city  
27 mins.
- 23** Frontiersman Daniel  
**25** Collarbone  
**26** Black (Fr.)  
**27** Mausoleum  
**29** — for All Seasons"  
**31** Attention getter  
**33** "Cats" showstopper  
**34** "Clair —"  
**36** Show-room sample  
**37** He loves (Lat.)  
**38** Jeans pioneer Strauss  
**39** Second-hand  
**40** Actress Thompson  
**43** — the ramparts ..."  
**44** April 15 payment  
**45** Netherlands city  
**46** Fun and games

Saturday's answer 11-22

DEC	S	O	F	A	A	R	T	S	
O	V	A	T	A	I	L	L	U	R
C	A	N	B	E	R	R	A	K	N
	O	R	E	S		M	A	S	T
U	V	E	A	L	S	A	I	L	
R	A	I	N	C	A	N	T	I	C
S	I	N	H	E	L	O	T	O	E
A	N	G	L	I	C	A	N	P	R
	L	E	A	D	G	E	S	S	O
N	O	M	A	D	S	A	R	I	
A	L	U	M	P	E	M	I	C	A
P	E	T	A	A	R	U	M	A	G
S	O	T	S		D	A	T	A	N

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	