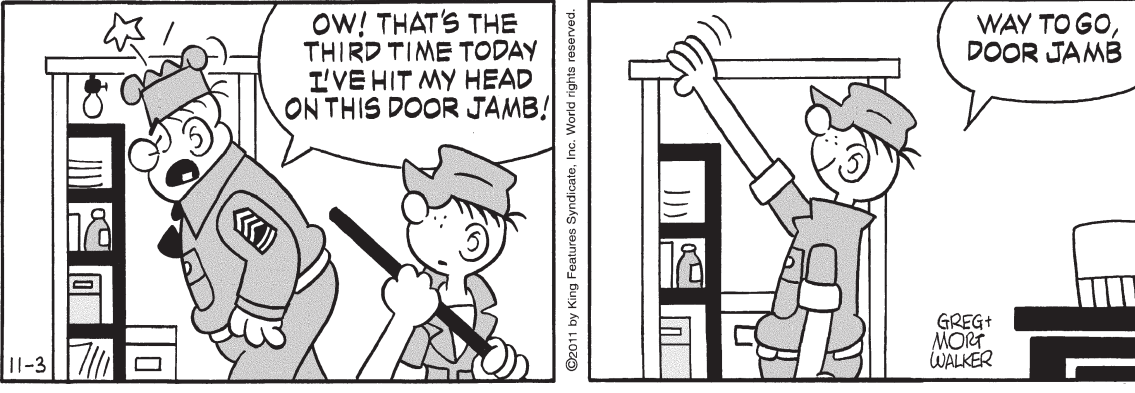


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



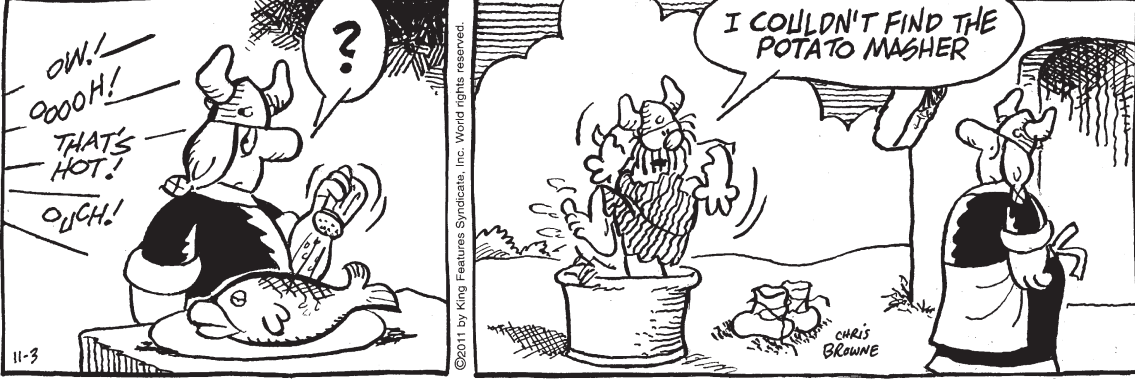
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



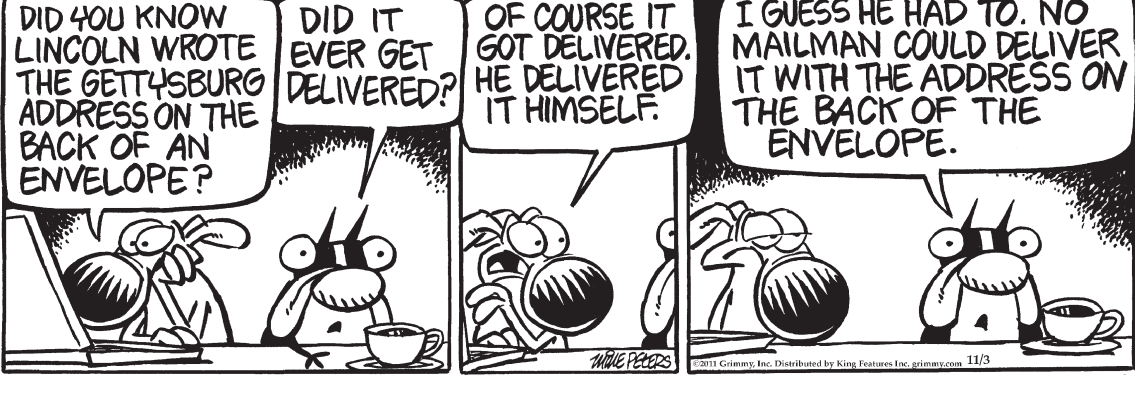
Blondie • Chic Young



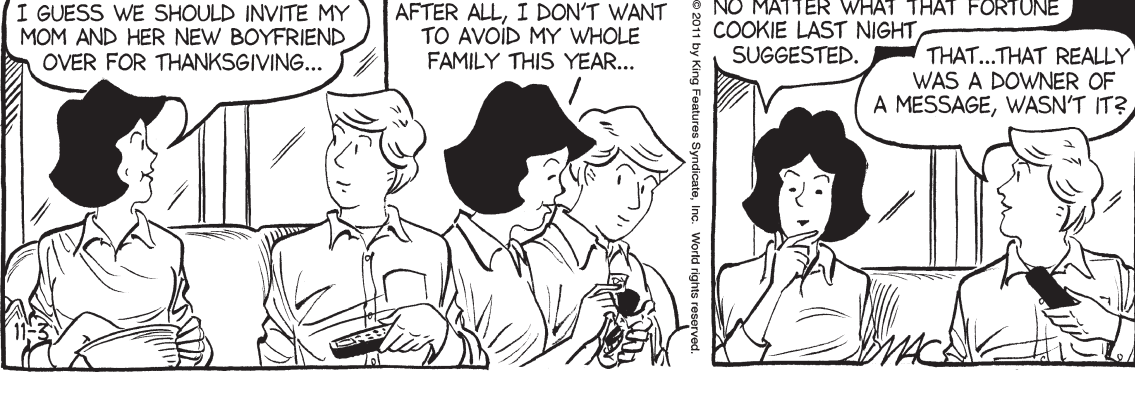
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



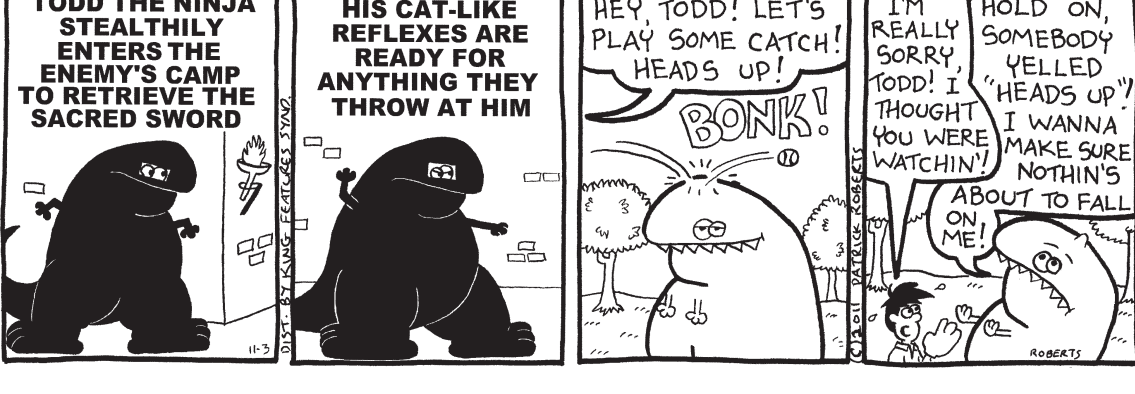
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



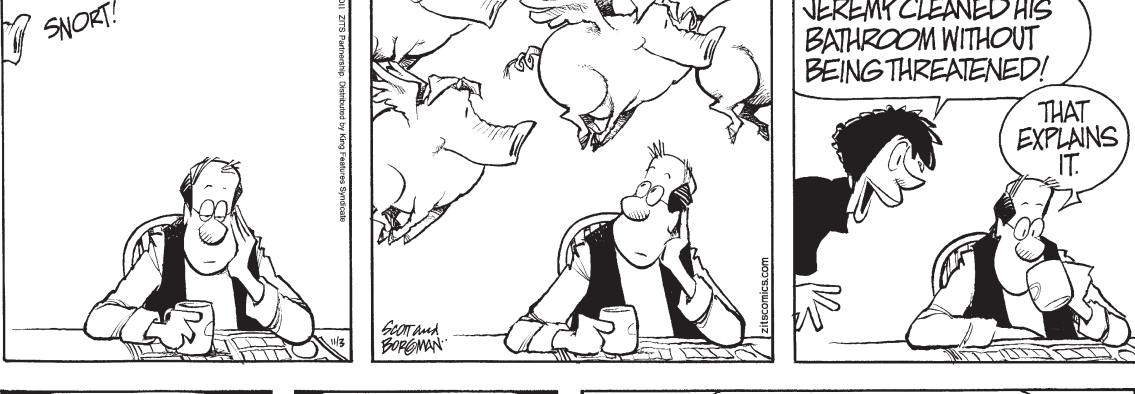
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

New dad won't help with baby

Dear Dr. Brothers: I thought it was the 21st century and my husband would willingly pitch in with all the baby duties now our daughter has arrived. Boy, was I wrong! The baby is 7 weeks old, and the routine is for my husband to hand me a diaper, or bring me the clothes I pick out, get the bath water ready and then leave, etc. He is like a maid following us around instead of a dad. He says he might drop her. I see other dads, and they don't act this way. — L.Y.

Dear L.Y.: Many don't act that way, but many others do. What concerns me is it seems your husband had every intention of being a hands-on dad but something is stopping him. Usually when a dad doesn't step up to the plate with a newborn, he is either frightened — thus the "drop her" remark — or intimidated. I wonder if your husband might be operating under both constraints. He has not gotten over that initial paralysis some men go through in which they think of the baby as a fragile doll that will break. The only way most guys grow out of this phase is to work through their fears and handle the baby a lot.

If your husband hasn't done this, and you tend to be falling back on him as a helper, he may feel comfortable only in a role as assistant. Your husband needs to start building a relationship with his daughter — it won't magically be easier when she is 2, 3 or 4 and he stops worrying about dropping her. What he needs from you is less direction and more encouragement. Spending quality time on the bed or sofa with the baby between you, just relaxing, would be a good start. He needs some confidence-building.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My 15-year-old daughter has turned into a monster. This formerly pleasant and nice girl has become a screaming, rude, nasty young lady. Our home life is chaotic when she takes over the room. She loves her little twin brothers, but she sometimes makes them cry with fright by yelling at me and my husband. She treats her friends and teachers well, as far as I can tell, but what did we do to deserve this? — S.P.

Dear S.P.: You and your husband probably didn't do anything, but in case you did, why don't you calmly sit down with your daughter and ask her what is wrong? Her changing personality may be perfectly normal, but it could be a signal that something is askew in her world. Since you two are the ones she seems to be venting her anger on, it would be good to clarify what her issues are and whether you can make changes in your family life to make her less angry.

The first place I might look to is your relationship with your twin boys. I know twins need a lot of looking after, and boys can be double trouble. You probably have the feeling your daughter can fend for herself now, whereas the boys need a lot of your time. It could be your daughter is crying out to you for quality time. She is at an age where she needs a lot of guidance, and can see her parents as imperfect creatures neglecting her emotional needs. Take her to the mall or on a hiking trip, where you can be alone without the twins for a while, and see if her behavior changes. I'm sure once you start talking to her as an adult and finding out what she needs, things will improve.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 10 7 2
♥ Q J 10
♠ 3
♣ A K Q J 9

EAST
♦ K J 4
♥ A 9 6 3
♠ 9 6 5 2
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♦ A 9 8
♥ K 8 7 5 4 2
♠ A
♣ 8 6 3

The bidding:
West North East South
3♦ 4♦ 4♠ 6♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Bridge Is a Marvelous Game

It is generally agreed that of the three facets of bridge — bidding, declarer play and defense — the most difficult is defense. Long experience teaches most players to bid and play their cards as declarer reasonably well. But when it comes to defense, many players don't function nearly as well as they should. This is somewhat surprising, since the same faculties that enable a player to become a competent declarer should also enable them to defend well.

Assume you're East in today's deal and that partner leads the king of diamonds against six hearts. South wins with the ace and returns a trump, on which West discards a diamond. You take the heart ten with the ace and must then decide what to return at trick three.

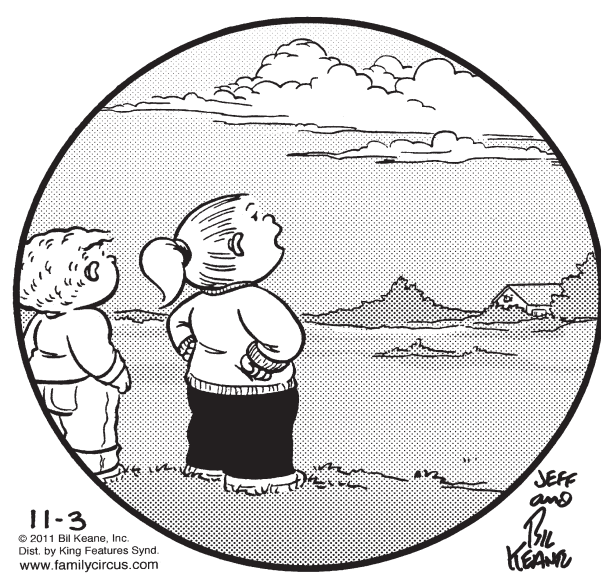
Given what you can see in dummy and your own hand, there's really only one correct play. You should lead the king of spades! If you do, declarer goes down; if you don't, declarer makes the slam.

How can you be expected to make such an extraordinary play? Actually, it's not really that difficult if you give it some thought. After all, you can count 12 sure tricks for declarer if you allow him to score them — one spade (he's sure to have the ace for his six-heart bid), five hearts, one diamond and five clubs.

Your only chance to stop the contract is to force South to take the ace of spades at trick three. Then, if he was dealt a 3-6-1-3 distribution — which is what you have to hope — he's sure to bite the dust. Regardless of how he proceeds, he won't be able to get out of dummy later without allowing you to score the setting trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



11-3
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/03

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.

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

Cryptoquip

C Q A W H U Q J W L A H N N J M X
N E Q U L W D D C W M O L Q L C Q I U
E W J I , R G H A G H D O U W R J ' L
N I J L L J M X N E Q N I J G .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT INEPT MAN
SIMPLY CANNOT BUILD ANY SMALL COTTAGES
SOLIDLY. HE ALWAYS BUNGLES BUNGALOWS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Spinning toys
- 5 — relief
- 8 Help with a crime
- 12 Beehive State
- 13 Every last bit
- 14 Crooner Jerry
- 15 Use a teaspoon
- 16 Spy-novel
- 17 "... and to — good-night!"
- 18 Alaskan brown bear
- 20 "GWTW" hero
- 22 To the — degree
- 23 Trail behind
- 24 Spoof
- 27 Locales for snuffing
- 32 Commotion
- 33 Gun lobby grp.
- 34 Wrestling surface
- 35 Confined
- 38 Mofin in the morn

DOWN

- 19 What @ means
- 21 Last (Abbr.)
- 24 Jongg preceder
- 25 Praise in verse
- 26 Retort
- 28 — Lanka
- 29 Court pastime
- 30 Deviate off course
- 31 Pippen
- 36 Fluffy dessert
- 37 Type units
- 38 Just said no
- 41 Rocky's greeting
- 42 Leading man?
- 43 Actress Sorvino
- 44 Apiary home
- 46 Gauch's weapon
- 47 Temple University team
- 48 Humorous poet
- 51 Fish eggs

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-3

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				58			