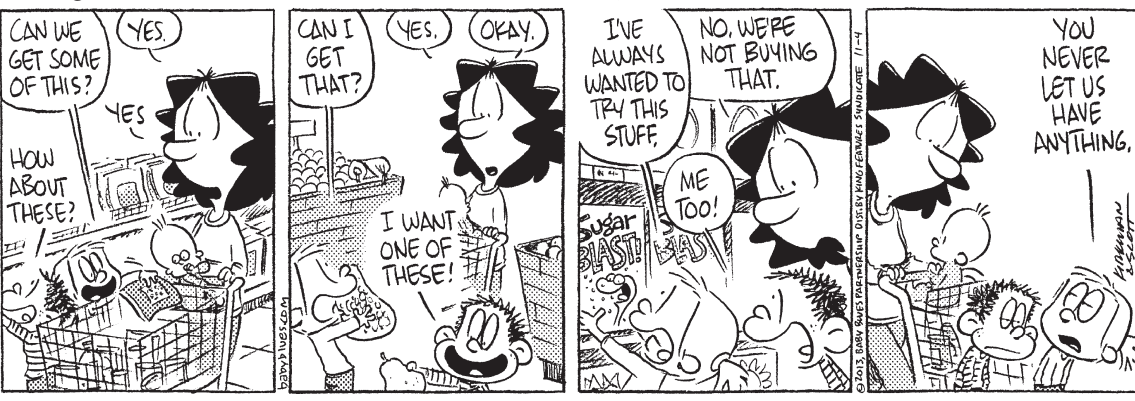
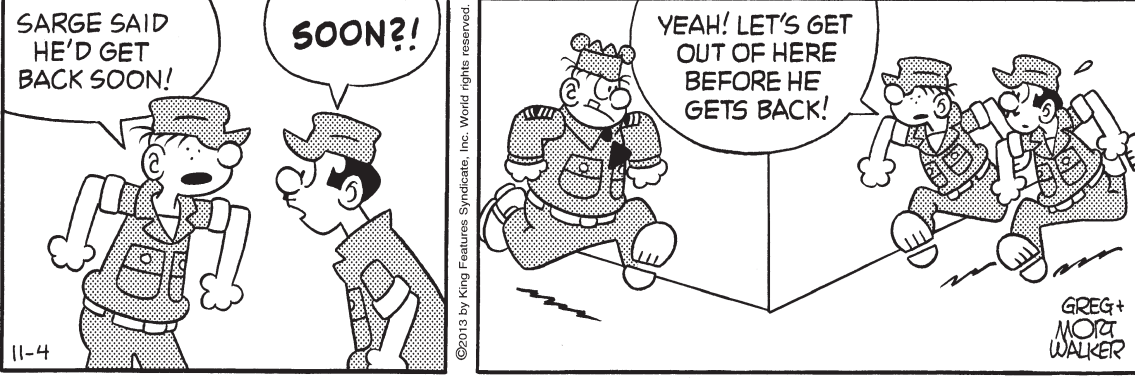


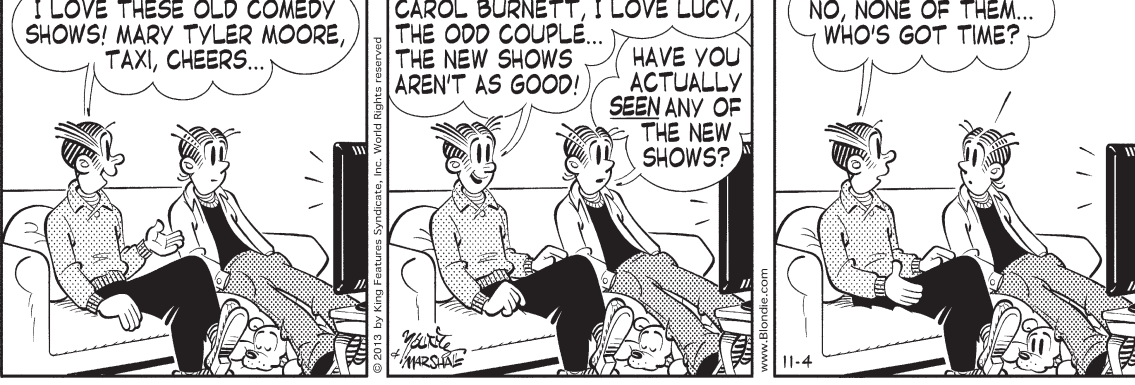
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



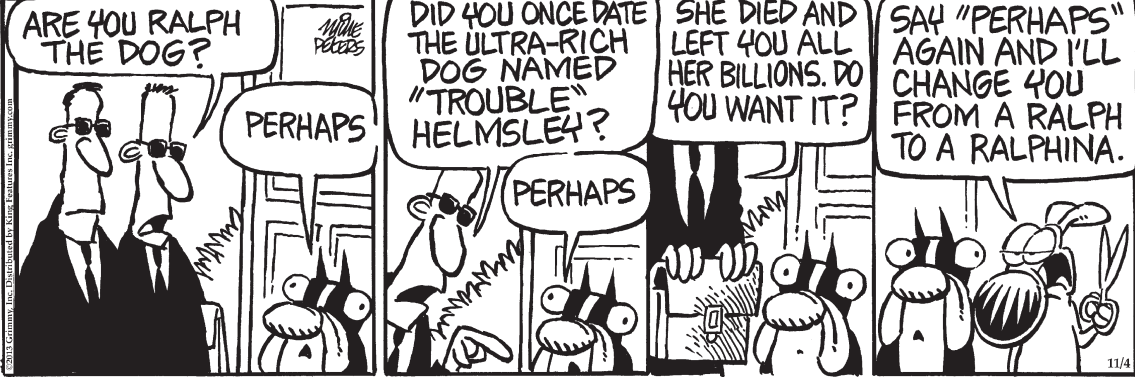
**Blondie** • Chic Young



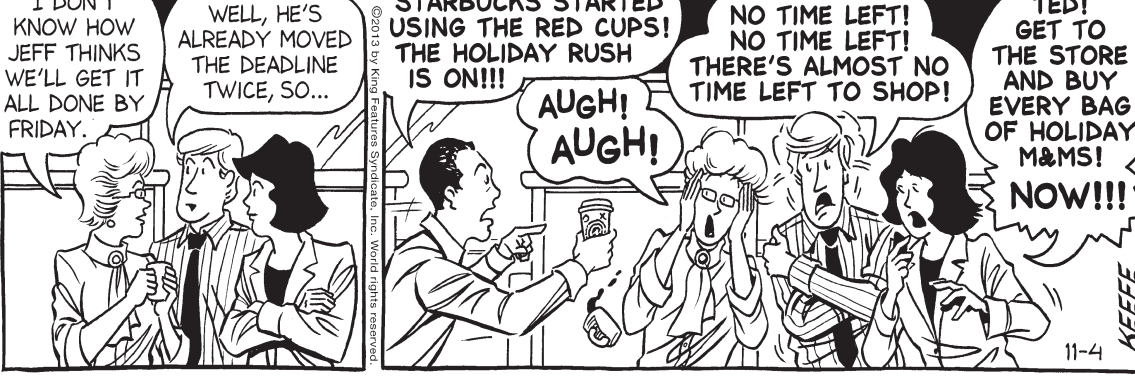
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



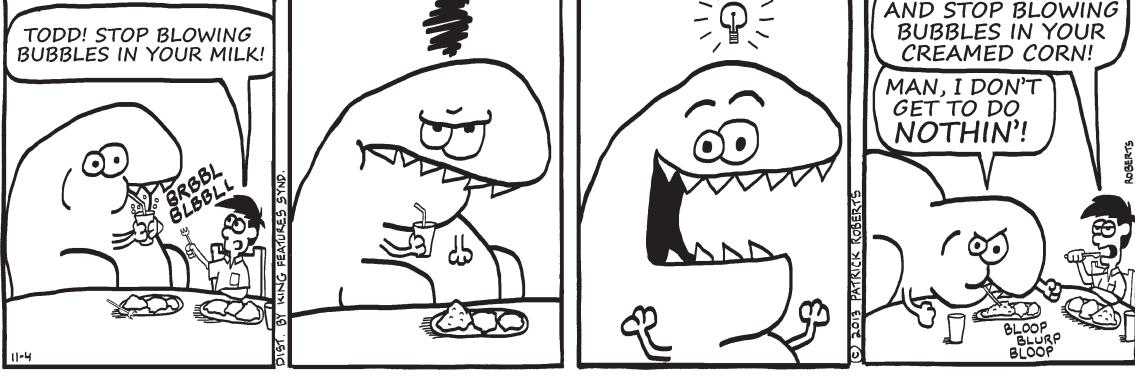
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



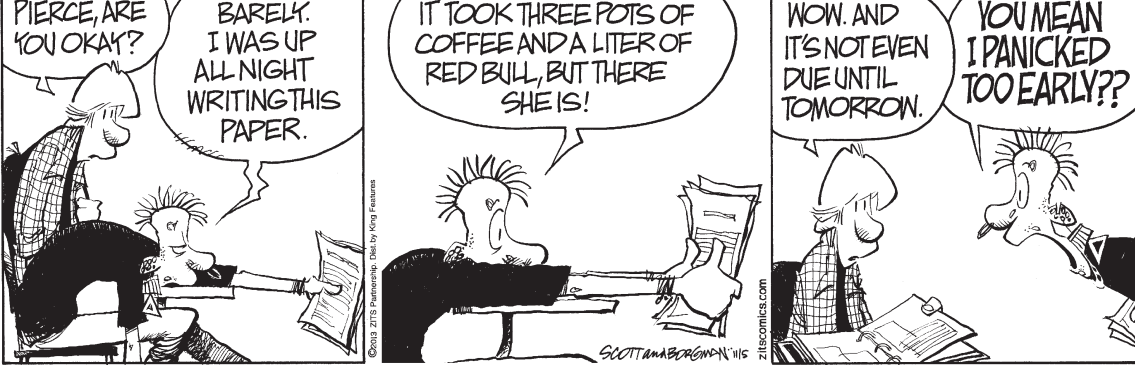
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

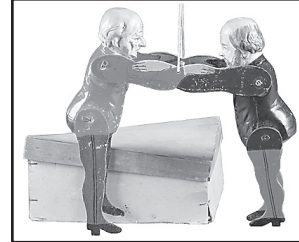


**Terry Kovel**

• Antiques and Collecting

**Political fights spawned toys**

Political fights among politicians are not new. Today, the rivalries are ridiculed in political cartoons and on TV sitcoms. In the past, political differences were shown in Staffordshire figures, slogans and drawings.



The rivalry in Britain in the last half of the 19th century between the prime ministers Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) and William Gladstone (1810-1898) was notable. Both men were skilled politicians, but they hated each other. The two men came from very different backgrounds. Gladstone was a rich and deeply religious upper-middle-class man educated at Eton and Oxford. Disraeli never attended a university and was a wild youth who lived extravagantly. He wrote novels, accumulated debts and then married a rich widow.

Gladstone, a liberal (Whig), and Disraeli, a conservative, disagreed on both social and international policies. They called each other names, opposed each other in numerous campaigns and were able to defeat each other at times. The repeal of the Corn Laws, which lowered tariffs, the purchase of stock in the Suez Canal, the favor of Queen Victoria, and other major problems were part of their battles.

Political cartoons of the time often showed the two men fighting. There were even toys that pictured the men wrestling. Several versions of the toy have been sold through the years. In 2013, Jackson's Auctions sold a pair of 8 1/2-inch-high Gladstone and Disraeli figures in their original box for \$180.

**Q:** My maple armchair is marked "A Genuine Cushman Colonial Creation made in Bennington, Vt." The words are printed in several typestyles inside an oval. How old is it?

**A:** H.T. Cushman (1844-1922) was an inventor who created things like the pencil eraser, ink eradicator and some early types of roller skates. He started a mail-order company and soon was making and selling things, including furniture. By 1899 he had incorporated his company and was making Mission furniture. Later he made smoking stands and maple breakfast-room sets. Your chair probably is from one of his breakfast-room sets. By the 1950s, the company was making birch furniture in the Colonial style. The company was later sold and finally closed in 1980.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 10 4  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AKQJ852  
 ♣ 8 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ 9 8 7 3  
 ♥ AK 9 3 2  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ 9 4 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 5  
 ♥ 10 7 4  
 ♦ 9 6 4 3  
 ♣ J 10 6 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ AQ 6 2  
 ♥ QJ 8 5  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ AK Q 7

The bidding:  
 West North East South  
 Pass 1♦ Pass 2♥  
 Pass 4♦ Pass 4NT  
 Pass 6NT  
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

**Famous Hand**  
 It certainly seems reasonable to assume that when two teams meet to determine the world championship, the caliber of bridge is going to be at the highest possible level.

While it is true that this expectation is generally met, it is also true that there are always a few hands that shock the faithful and make them realize that even the expert foot may be made of clay. These rare transgressions are not really surprising when one considers that each participant plays several hundred hands and makes several thousand decisions in the course of a long championship event. An occasional fall from grace must therefore be accepted as par for the course. For a good example of how bridge should not be played, consider this deal from the Great Britain-U.S. match in 1955. The bidding went as shown when a British pair held the North-South cards.

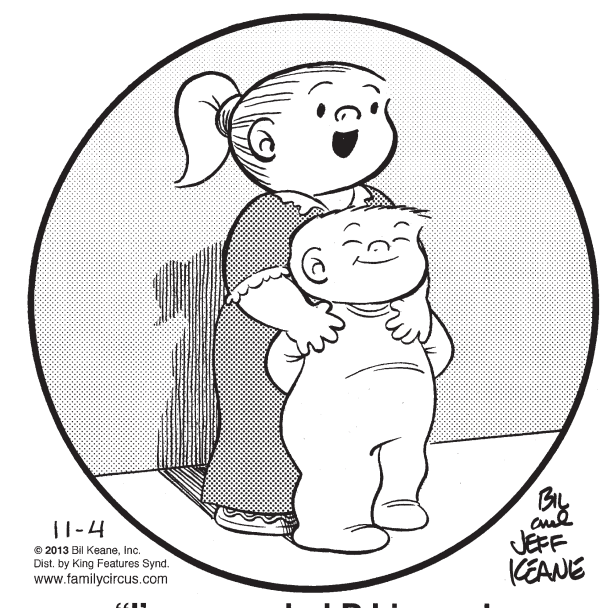
Why South jump-shifted in hearts rather than clubs or spades, or whether four notrump was Blackwood, is not known, but the fact is that North-South blundered into six notrump as shown. West cashed the K-A of hearts, and Uncle Sam rang up 50 points on the register.

The bidding was equally odd when the U.S. held the North-South cards. North opened the bidding with three notrump, and South raised to six notrump. The American pair were playing that an opening three-notrump bid showed a long, solid minor suit with not much on the side.

With nothing to go on, East selected the jack of spades as his opening shot, and North made all the tricks to score 1,020 points. So, in considerably less than brilliant fashion, the American team gained 1,070 points.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/04

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.

**Cryptoquip**

WI OKHOUK EPK HIKPWTR  
 HOWTWHMT EXHGJ MHLK  
 HPXWJWTR XHYWKM, WJ QHGU  
 XK QHLKJEPN QHLLKTJEPN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT CRITIC ALWAYS HAS SNIDE COMMENTS ABOUT CELEBRITIES, I WOULD SAY HE'S STAR-CASTIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Fre-  
quently,  
in verse

4 Auto fuel

7 Maintained

11 "Winnie-  
the —"

13 Web  
address

14 Sandwich  
cookie

15 Franc  
replacement

16 Chinese  
chairman

17 Incite

18 Scale

20 Employer

22 Listener

24 Diminu-  
tive

28 Maine  
entree

32 Herring-  
bone, e.g.

33 Jai  
follower

34 Mutt

36 Astrigent

37 Nip

39 Beer con-  
tainers

41 "— on a  
Plane"

43 Phys ed

44 Bottle  
part

**DOWN**

46 Octet  
number

50 Karaoke  
prop

53 Dustcloth

55 Approach

56 High  
cards

57 Storm  
center

58 Big  
party

59 Cribbage  
scorers

60 Court

61 Trigger's  
rider

4 Wrigley  
product

5 Bedouin

6 Single-  
masted  
vessel

7 Party  
for the  
new  
neighbors

8 Blunder

9 Lower  
limb

10 Female  
deer

12 Summer  
camper's  
nostalgia

19 Cudgel

21 Harden  
acronym

23 Scarlet

25 — E.  
Coyote

26 Hebrew  
month

27 "Desire  
Under  
the  
—"

28 Track  
circuits

29 Actress  
Lena  
Hulk"

30 "Hulk"  
actor  
Eric

31 Steal  
from

35 Joke

38 Haw  
lead-in

40 Reuben  
bread

42 Threaded  
fastener

45 Put down  
for the  
count

47 Para-  
phernalia

48 Head  
light?

49 Salver

50 GPS'  
paper  
counter-  
part

51 Hockey  
surface

52 St.  
Bernard's  
burden

54 Earth  
(Pref.)

Saturday's answer 11-04

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						59			60
						61			