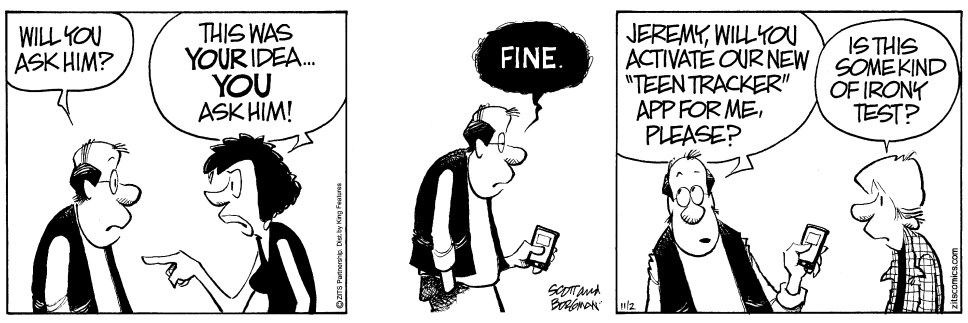
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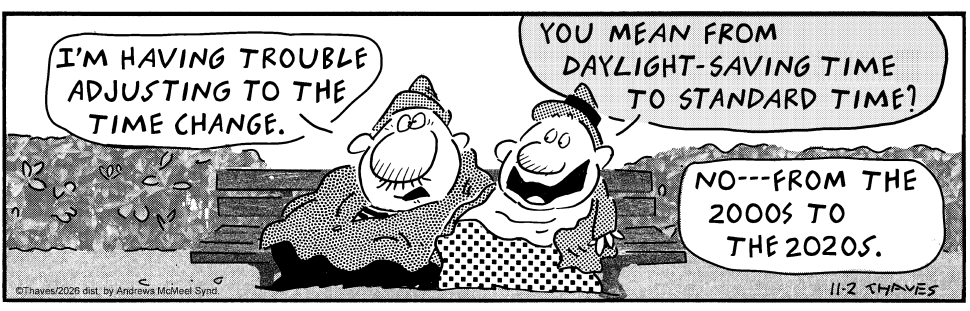
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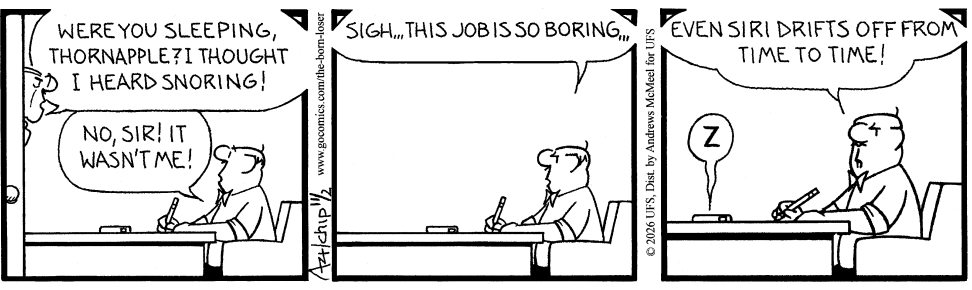
BEETLE BAILEY® BY Greg Walker, Brian Walker and Neal Walker



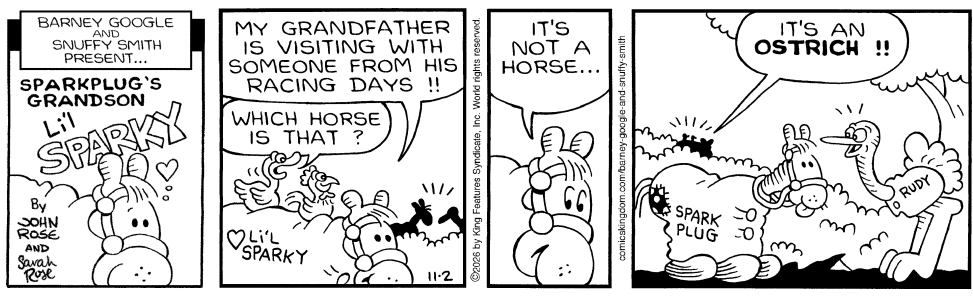
BABY BLUES® BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



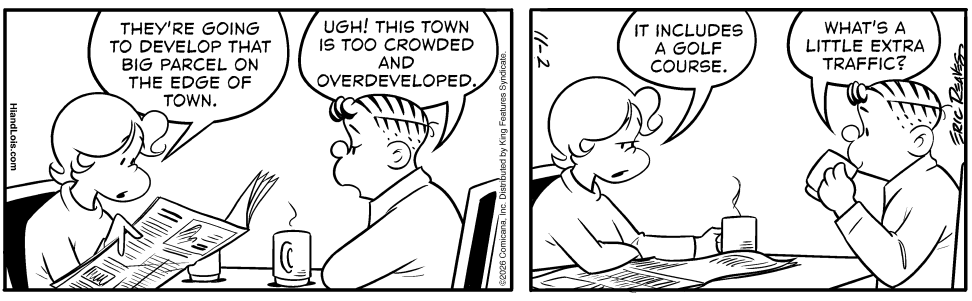
THE BORN LOSER® BY ART & CHIP SANSOM



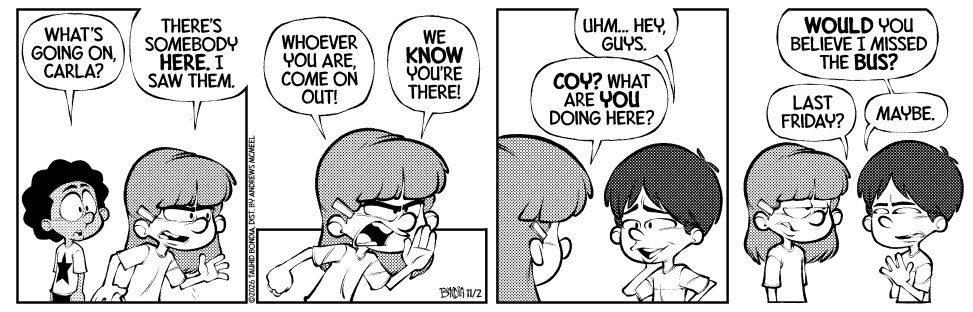
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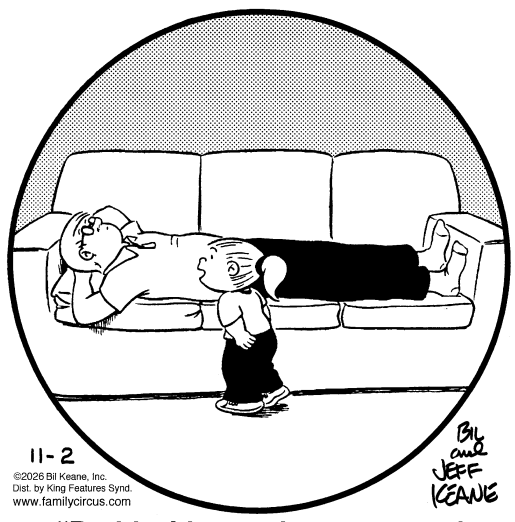


THE LOCKHORNS®



"YEAH, I THOUGHT LEROY CIRCLED IT TO REMEMBER MY BIRTHDAY, TOO, BUT IT'S WHEN THEY RERELEASE THE McRIB."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®



"Daddy, it's good you stopped growing when you did."

REALITY CHECK® Dave Whamond



BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

Famous Hand

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 7
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ Q 8 6
♣ K Q 2

WEST
♠ —
♥ K Q 10 4
♦ A 5 4 3
♣ A 7 6 5 4

EAST
♠ 9 8 4 2
♥ A J 7
♦ 9
♣ J 10 9 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 6 5 3
♥ 9 3
♦ K J 10 7 2
♣ —

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
1 NT	2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal occurred in a match between Italy and France in 1969. The French lost 1,370 points on the deal, and this is how it came about.

At the first table, with Italy North-South, Giorgio Belladonna opened one diamond in accordance with the Canape principle of bidding the shorter suit first. Henri Svarc could not double for takeout because of his void in spades, so he overcalled with one heart. After Walter Avarelli bid one notrump, East, Jean-Michel Boulenger, raised to two hearts. Belladonna then bid three spades, raised by Avarelli to four.

West led the king of hearts, overtaken by East with the ace. The spectators thought Boulenger had made this play in order to shift to his singleton diamond — a move that would have defeated the contract two tricks — but instead he continued with the jack and another heart. As a result, Belladonna made four spades and scored 620 points.

At the second table, with a French pair now North-South, the bidding went:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl
Redble	2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♣
Dble			

Here South opened the bidding with a spade, one effect of which was that the Italian West was now able to double comfortably for takeout, since he had excellent support for the other three suits.

West eventually bid five clubs, doubled by North, and the Italian declarer lost only two tricks — the K-Q of trump. So the unfortunate French team lost another 750 points at this table. C'est la guerre!

Tomorrow: The worst-case scenario.

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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HFTIG

RSDNAT

ARYFIL

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( )( )( )( )( )( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GLOAT WHOLE AFFIRM FUTURE
Answer: After eating so much candy, the scary-looking trick-or-treaters were — "FRIGHT-FULL"

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