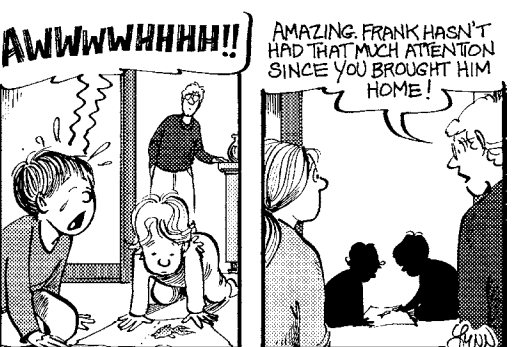


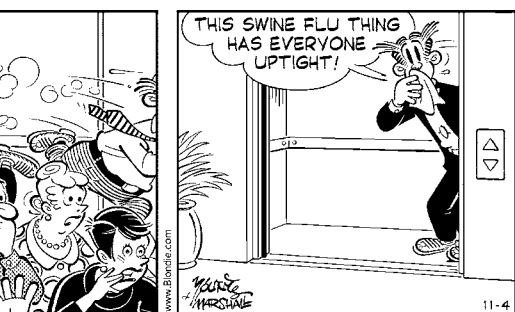
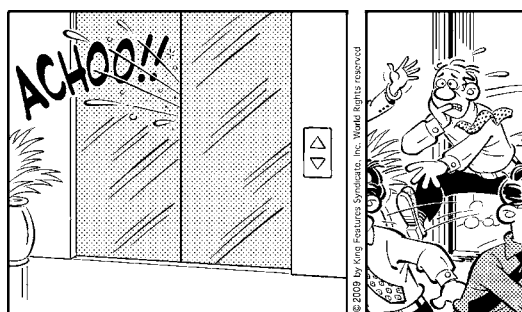
**Beetle Bailey**



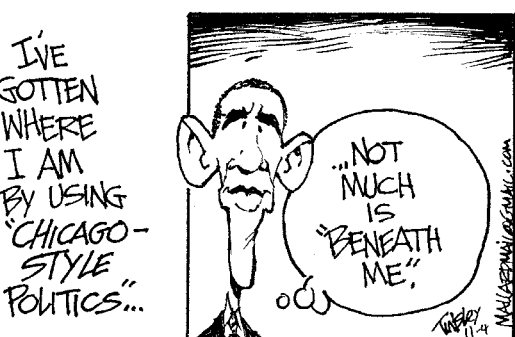
**For Better or Worse**



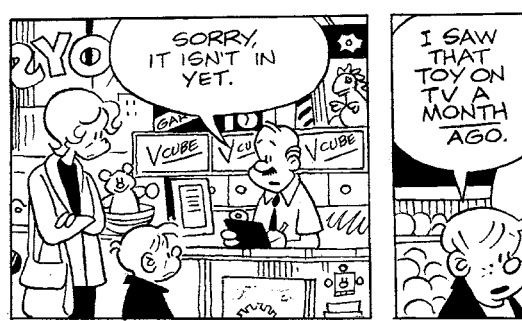
**Blondie**



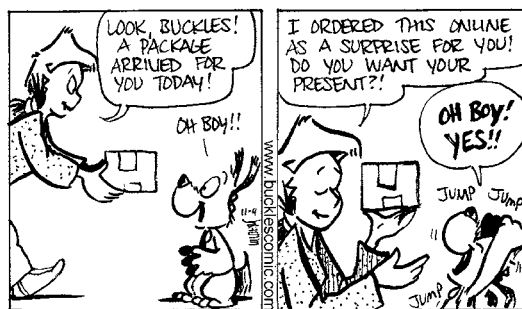
**Mallard Fillmore**



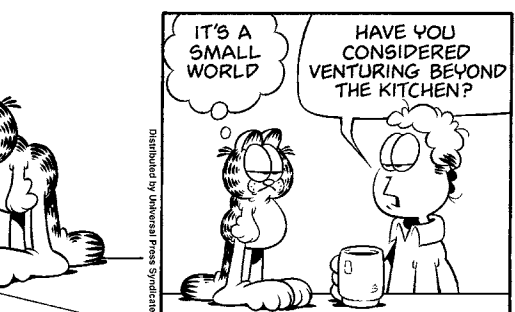
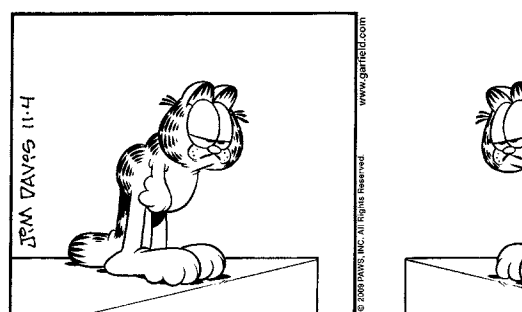
**Hi and Lois**



**Buckles**



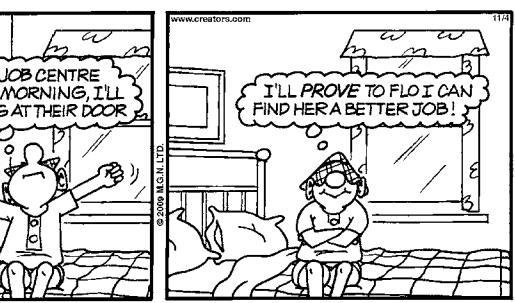
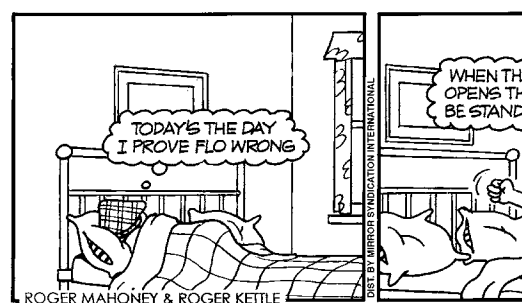
**Garfield**



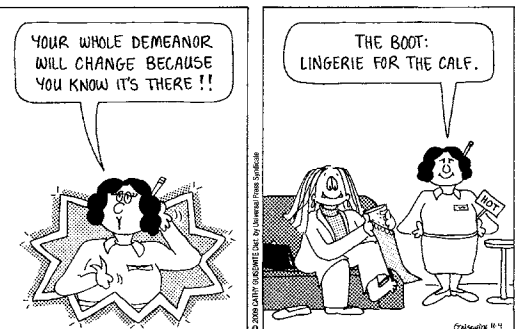
**Shoe**



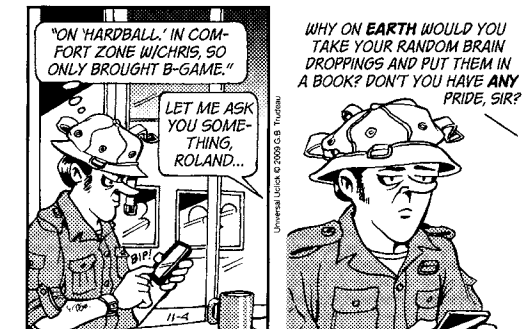
**Andy Capp**



**Cathy**



**Doonesbury**



**CONTRACT BRIDGE**

**SYLVIA STAGES A NEAT RECOVERY**

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ AJ9  
♥ AQ7642  
♦ 2  
♣ AK5

**WEST**  
♠ Q1087  
♥ K108  
♦ 9843  
♣ 97

**EAST**  
♠ 5432  
♥ J9  
♦ J765  
♣ QJ10

**SOUTH**  
♠ K6  
♥ 53  
♦ AKQ10  
♣ 86432

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 2♠ Pass 7♠  
Opening lead -- nine of clubs.

Despite anything you may have heard to the contrary, this was the hand that launched Sylvia upon her amazing series of misadventures at the club. The deal occurred shortly after she became a member.

There is no question that the Admissions Committee would have rejected Sylvia's application for membership had it been aware of how poorly she played, or how little experience she had had.

I was not present when the hand arose, but the bidding was reported to me to have taken place as shown.

Sylvia was South and bid two spades (a strong opening in those days) after East had passed. Obviously, she had suffered a mental aberration of some sort. Perhaps she was counting aloud how many spades she had, or was thinking about the previous hand. Whatever the reason, West passed, and North promptly bid seven spades.

Sylvia was aghast at this turn of events, but, as usual, she showed no outward sign that anything was wrong. She won the club lead in

dummy, led a diamond and, having learned several days earlier how to finesse, played the ten.

After the ten held, she cashed the A-K-Q, discarding a club and two hearts from dummy. Sylvia then finessed the queen of hearts, cashed the ace of clubs and ace of hearts and ruffed a heart with the six of spades.

Nine tricks had been played, and West was down to the Q-10-8-7 of trumps. When Sylvia now led a club, West ruffed with the seven but was overruffed by dummy's nine. And when Sylvia trumped dummy's last heart with her king, West had to underruff with the eight. A club lead then trapped West's Q-10, allowing dummy's A-J to score the last two tricks, and the grand slam came rolling home!

**YOUR HOROSCOPE**

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009:**

This year, you open up to new opportunities and possibilities through a partner. What has been personally confusing starts to clear up. You understand a lot more than you realize, even if you choose to play dumb. Let others reveal themselves. Bosses push hard and have strong expectations. You know much more than you realize. If you are single, you could meet someone through a former partner or associate. Don't dive into this relationship too fast. If you are attached, the two of you learn to rely more on each other. Go on some old-fashioned dates together. Add to the steaminess of your relationship. GEMINI looks at key issues with you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-

Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Keep communication flowing, even if you aren't exactly sure others are getting it. You might want to change your communication style if that helps others wake up. Your fiery side comes through with creativity. Tonight: Hang out.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★ Your possessive side emerges frequently. You might not be getting all the facts. Rethink a situation more clearly. Your sense of humor helps someone relax. Conversations will clear the air. Tonight: Your treat.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Let others come forward. You seem more willing to share and open up than in the past. Your sense of humor emerges with someone at a distance. This person seems more open to receive you than before. Tonight: Act like top dog.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Sometimes the less said the better, especially as someone seems to open up more and share. You hear so much, you feel that you need to rethink a situation more carefully. Apparently, you didn't have the complete story. Tonight: Just for you.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Keep working on stabilizing a situation. Your effort will pay off, as you might be the only one who gains clarity. Others might need you to point out the path, explaining what direction to go in. A key person responds to an overture. Tonight: Where the fun is.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ You might need to re-establish your opinions and abilities. Your ability to get past a problem might be instrumental. Be careful with suppressing your anger right now. The end results could be less than perfect. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise. A walk works.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Take the high road, and you'll understand a lot more quite suddenly. Detach, get out of your head and identify with another person. It becomes clear how much you are deceiving yourself. Tonight: Relax to a movie.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Work with individuals and get past a restriction. You also might need to take a hard look at your home to see if it might need some winterizing. Check out the plumbing with care. Consider a home office. Tonight: Dinner with a pal.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Deal with others directly. You could discover that you don't have the hand you might like to play. Let go and do something very different. Understand what is motivating others, and then you will understand everything you need to. Tonight: Only say yes to an offer you want.

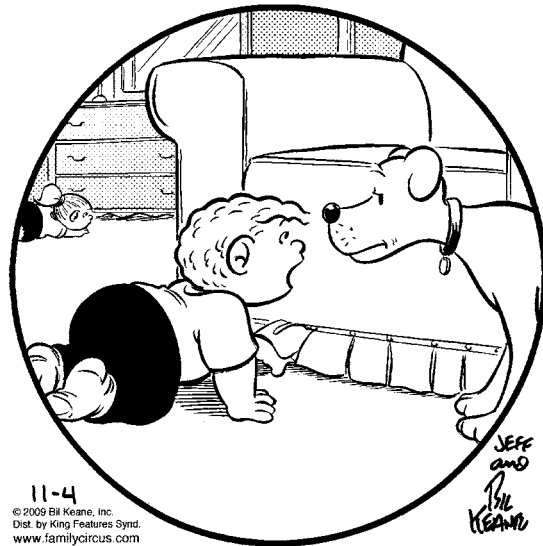
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Dive into work without thought. Get as much done as possible. Listen to news that streams in your direction. Understand what someone wants. Exchange ideas, and you just might find a solution. Tonight: Put your feet up.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Your playful side emerges. Some people, even in a work-type scenario, might not believe you or take you seriously. Straighten out your attitude, and you'll get more appropriate results. Tonight: Midweek break.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★ You could take the day off and be somewhat of a vegetable. Recycle and understand what is asked of you. Know that a decision doesn't have to be made today, and in fact it might be better if it isn't. Tonight: Order in.

**BORN TODAY**  
Anchorman Walter Cronkite (1916), music producer Sean Combs (1969), comedian Kathy Griffin (1960)

**The Family Circus**



**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**  
1 Deep sleep  
5 Office seekers, for short  
9 Corn-husker city  
11 Utter  
12 Hold up  
13 Singularly  
14 Big head  
15 Go ballistic  
17 South-western capital  
19 Cut off  
20 "Bye!"  
21 Cub's cave  
22 Happen again  
24 Chess pieces  
26 Leaflet  
29 Farm father  
30 Non-pluses  
32 Investigate  
34 Rhone water  
35 Track athlete  
36 Past plump  
38 Surround-ed by  
39 Was a snooper

**DOWN**  
1 Ciphers  
2 Last letters  
3 Cager  
4 Cry of insight  
5 Trend-determiner  
6 "Becket" actor  
7 Loser to Roosevelt  
8 Go under cover?



Yesterday's answer

27 "Fawly Towers" answer  
11 Race goal star  
16 Hard-to-define influence  
18 Ocean bird  
21 Pull along  
23 Incite  
24 High points  
25 Take on  
28 China buy  
29 Chart anew  
30 Tennis legend  
31 Shoe material  
33 Eye part  
37 Jazz style

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

