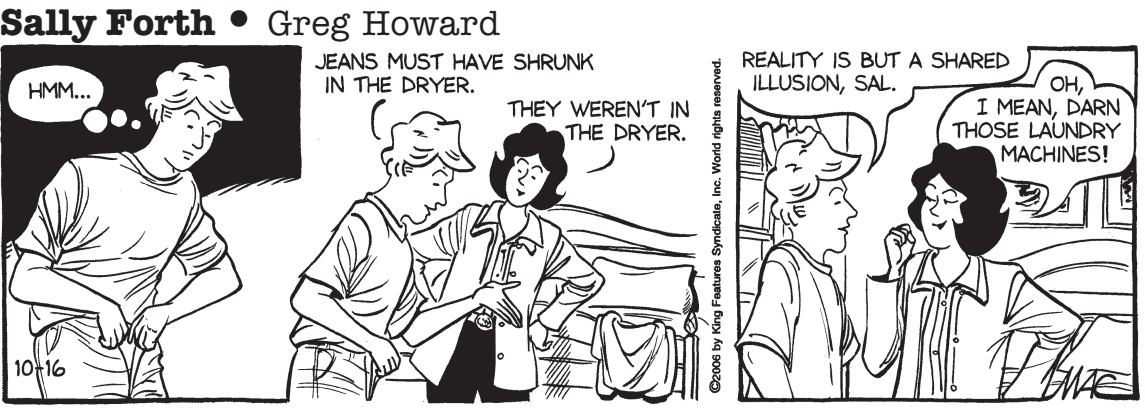
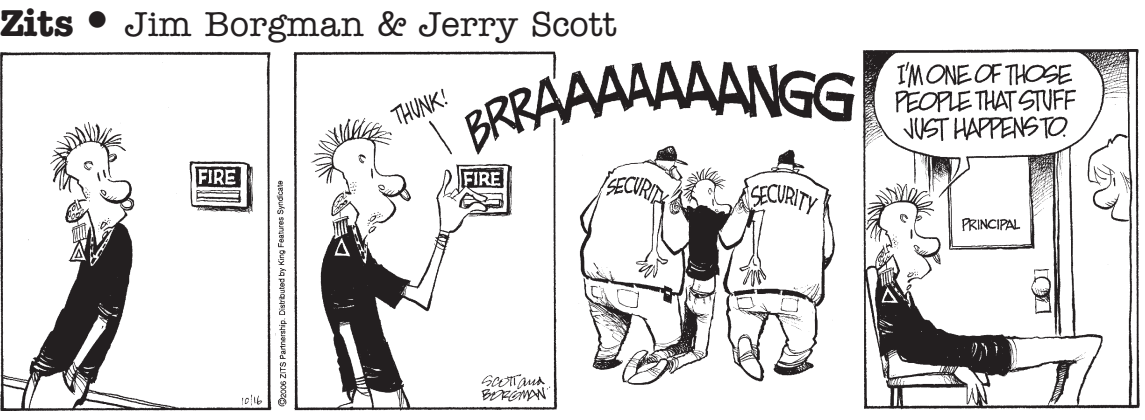
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

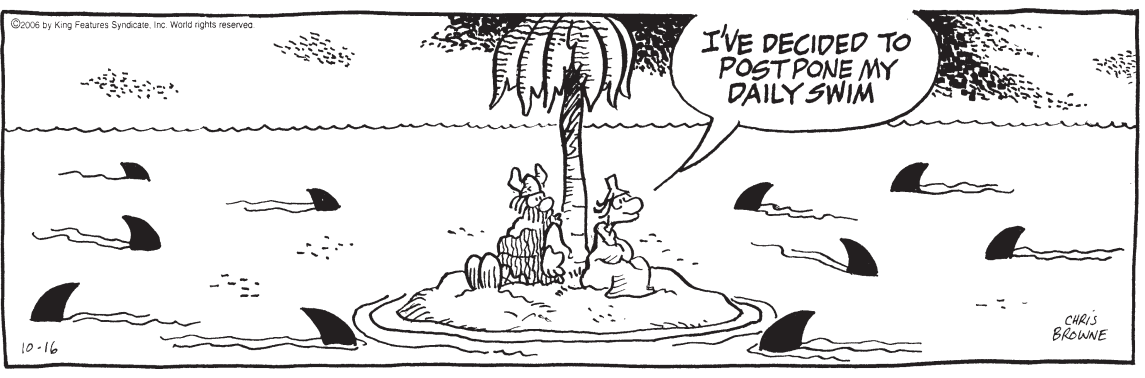


Sally Forth • Greg Howard

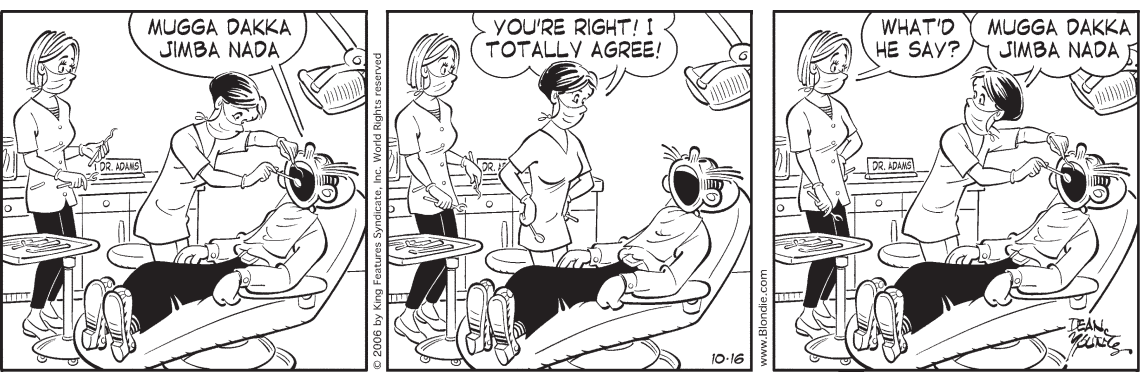
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



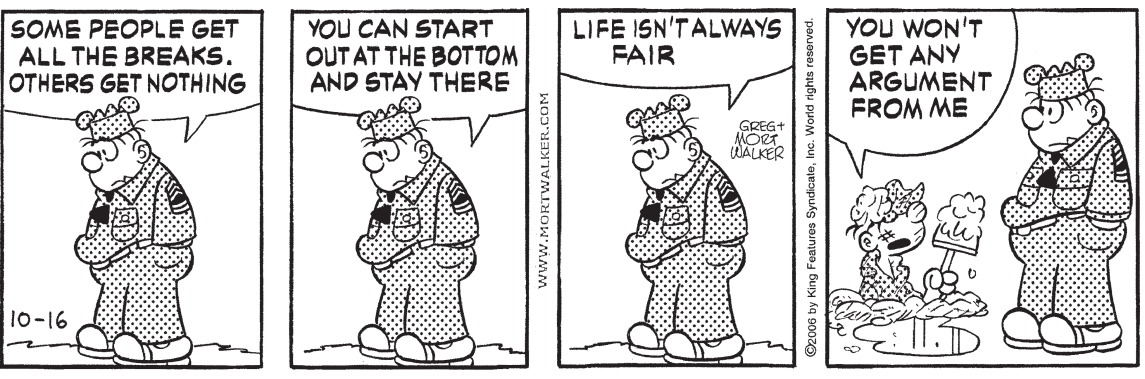
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young

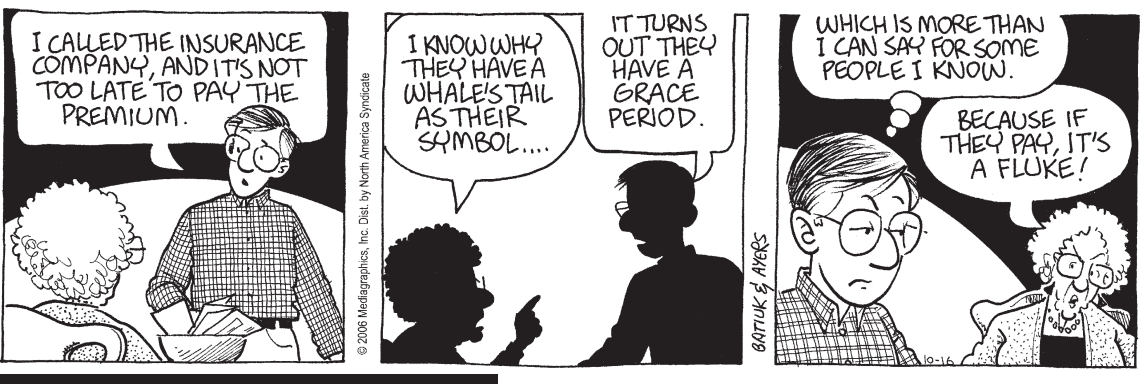


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Crankshaft • Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers



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Cryptoquip

EY RGB'TU QBREJW KUTIMEJ UMIEJW BIUJDEPD, E WBUDD RGB'PP XMNU IG YGTS GNUT IXU QBKSD.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: AN AGENCY THAT EVALUATES VARNISH QUALITY OUGHT TO BE CALLED THE LACQUER CONTROL BOARD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals U

Child's cancer tears parents to bits

Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a 7-year-old son who was recently diagnosed with cancer. The doctors have said it is the kind that can be treated successfully, and they anticipate that he will have an excellent prognosis for recovery. But I am feeling bad for him in advance of his chemotherapy treatments and whatever surgery is recommended. Can you give me any tips on how to get through this, and what kind of mental-health help my son will need as he recovers?

— D.W.

Dear D.W.: I'm glad you found out about the cancer in time to expect a successful outcome, and the fact that your doctors are optimistic should give both you and your son additional comfort. Nearly 80 percent of kids with childhood cancers survive for at least five years. And of course, those whose cancers are found early have survival rates better than that. But it is natural to be concerned about your child's reaction to all that lays ahead. You are wondering if the whole experience will adversely affect his personality or leave him with deep-seated anxieties that will last a lifetime.

A survey published last year in the journal Pediatrics should help calm your fears, for it indicated that kids who successfully undergo cancer treatment are mostly able to put the experience behind them. In the survey, the happiness rating of the cancer survivors compared favorably with that of those who had not had cancer, with the kids currently being treated feeling the worst, naturally. Does your child have friends at school? These serious illnesses tend to make school buddies pop up all over the place, for it imparts a kind of brave, "celebrity" status to the patient. If he is more of a loner, he may like talking to other kids in his same situation, for their understanding of what he is going through will also help him cope. Your son will look first to you to see how strong his parents are, so you need to act as calm as you can.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I don't know if this is a psychological condition or not, but I have found that I have a huge problem with negotiating prices. Let me explain. I am a buyer and seller at various flea markets, and am trying to build up a consignment shop. But I really have a hard time with bargaining. If someone asks me to reduce a price, I always comply for fear of losing the sale.

On the other hand, I have a very hard time asking someone else to reduce the price of an item for fear of seeming stingy. I think these two things are standing in my way. Why can't I be like everyone else and relish the give and take of the buying and selling process?

— A.E.

Dear A.E.: First of all, let's get over the notion that "everyone else" relishes anything that you don't! With bargaining — as well as most everything else — people have a variety of attitudes toward doing what they have to do in order to win, succeed or improve. Many people are uncomfortable with bargaining — they just don't frequent flea markets and rummage sales like you do!

Those "wheeler-dealers" you admire have probably worked for years to be able to know just what things are worth and what they are able to afford in order to make a profit.

It would help you to become a very well-educated consumer and seller, so that your bargaining ability is backed up by some solid facts that will keep you from feeling like a cheapskate or an ignoramus. Then try to get used to the idea that everyone at these affairs expects to bargain back and forth without judging one another. It's all part of the game! No one is going to think less of you if you are sincere and fair and deal with a smile.

Have some fun with it. Develop some stock phrases, such as "What would your best price be for this?" Or, "Could you do (insert amount of dollars)?" Notice that these are probably the same things people are using on you and succeeding! The more you join in the game, the less self-conscious you will feel.

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Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 5
♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ 9 7 4
♣ A K J 9

WEST
♠ K 3
♥ J
♦ A K Q 8 3
♣ Q 10 8 4 3

EAST
♠ J 10 9 7 4
♥ A 5
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8 2
♥ K 10 8 7 4 2
♦ J 5
♣ 7

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Famous Hand

Good defense is generally regarded as the most difficult part of the game, but in case you don't think so, here's a hand to test your ingenuity.

Assume you're East and partner leads the K-A-Q of diamonds, South ruffing the third round. Declarer plays a low trump to dummy's queen, and you win with the ace. What would you return?

You'd probably lead the jack of spades, but when the deal was played, East (Charles Coon) returned the six of clubs! As a result, declarer went down one when he later lost a spade finesse.

Now let's suppose Coon had returned a spade instead of a club. In that case, declarer would make the contract with proper play.

After placing West, the opening bidder, with the king of spades, South would rise with the ace and play three more trumps, ending in his hand, to produce this position:

North
[S] 6
[C] A K J 9
West
[S] K
[C] Q 10 8 4
East
Immaterial
South
[S] Q 8 2
[H] 7
[C] 7

The seven-of-hearts lead would now destroy West. Whether he discarded a spade or a club, South would win the rest of the tricks with the aid of a club finesse.

Most declarers find it difficult to recognize and execute a squeeze, but it's usually even more difficult for a defender to spot an impending squeeze and take whatever steps are necessary to break it up. Certainly Coon's club return at trick five merits an accolade of some sort.

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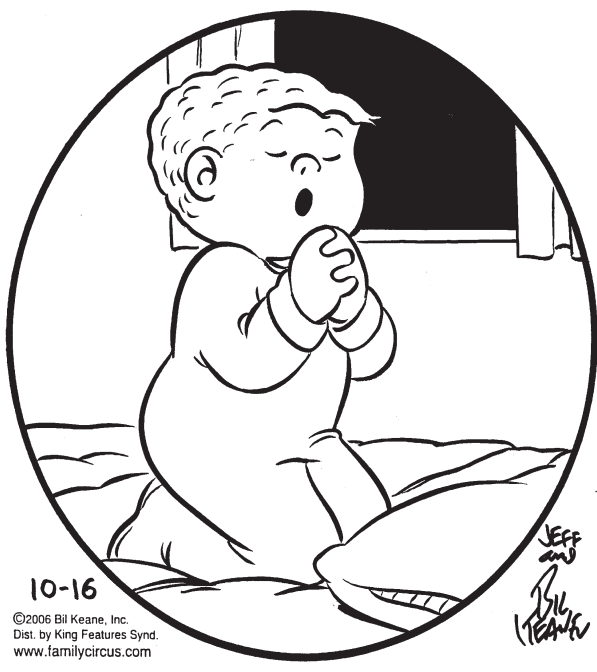
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"...and thank you for not letting Popeye get sick."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 One-sixth of a fl. oz.
4 Askew
7 Frenzied
11 Oil-cartel acronym
13 Anonymous John
14 Panache
15 Colloquial assent
16 Speck
17 Actress Jessica
18 Discard
20 Plumbing woe
22 Descartes' conclusion
24 Strait-jacket part
28 Lincoln's successor
32 Colorado ski mecca
33 Pedestal occupant
34 Cauldron
36 Fork-tailed bird
37 Brain parts
39 Perchlike fish
41 Pledged promises
43 Luau bowlful
44 Bivouac structure
46 Grit your teeth
50 Otherwise
53 Otologist's subject
55 Elbow counterpart
56 Piglet's papa
57 "Simpsons" storekeeper
58 Goblet feature
59 Elmer's nemesis
60 Small barrel
61 Picks out of a lineup

DOWN
1 Santa's sackful
2 Detail, for short
3 Brandy flavor
4 Strange
5 April 1 victim
6 Honors with a party
7 Teamwork thwarters
8 Ailing
9 Science workshop
10 "CSI" findings
12 Mail from the superstitious
19 Faux —
21 Miss. neighbor
23 Swab the decks
25 Fencing item
26 Quite
27 Feminine suffix
28 Leave at the altar
29 Stench
30 Vagrant
31 Promptly
35 Dancing-shoe attachment
38 The woman
40 Journal
42 Furtive one
45 Recording
47 Con
48 Start a garden
49 Clothes lines?
50 Undergo recession
51 Mary — Retton
52 Droop
54 Carpet

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	W	A	S	H	■	G	R	O	S	S	■
S	H	E	I	L	A	■	L	I	N	N	E	T
T	O	A	M	A	N	■	A	T	E	A	S	E
O	P	S	■	B	O	O	Z	E	■	P	A	L
O	P	E	C	■	I	R	E	■	S	A	M	E
D	E	L	H	I	■	C	R	Y	P	T	E	X
■	■	■	E	S	Q	■	S	O	U	■	■	■
P	A	S	S	O	U	T	■	U	N	C	U	T
A	R	C	S	■	A	I	D	■	K	O	T	O
D	O	E	■	C	R	O	W	D	■	Q	U	A
R	U	N	O	U	T	■	A	U	G	U	R	S
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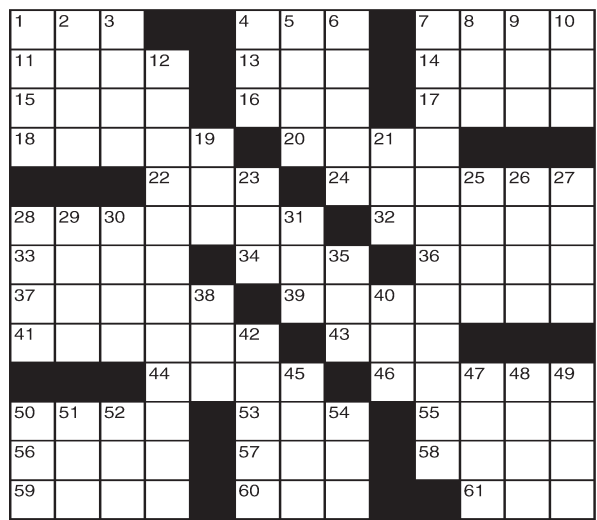
Saturday's answer 10-16