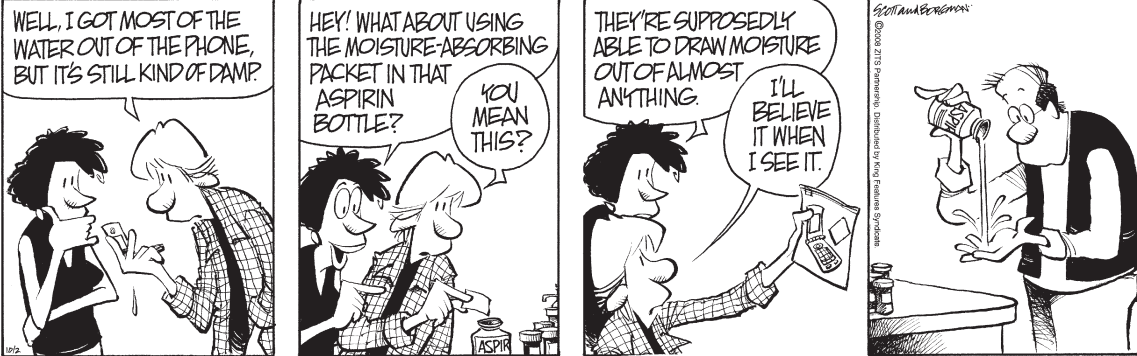


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



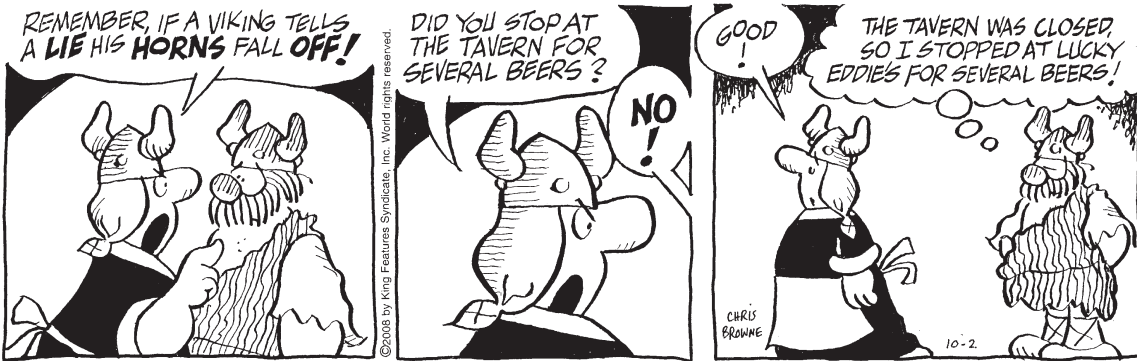
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



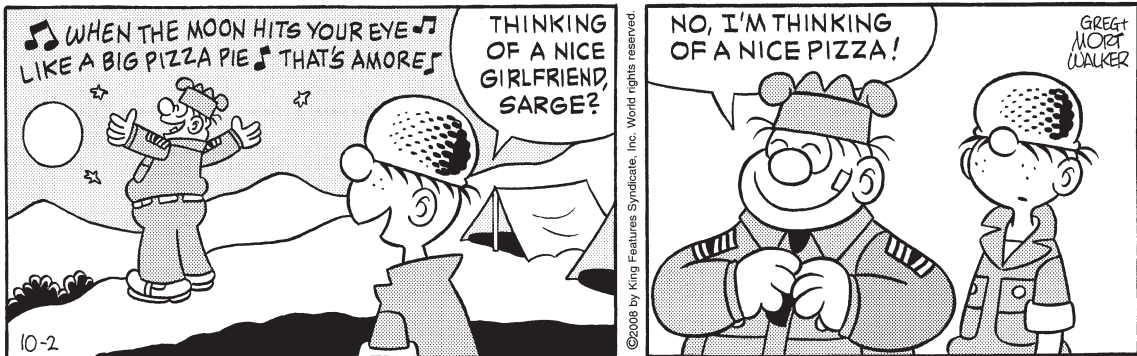
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



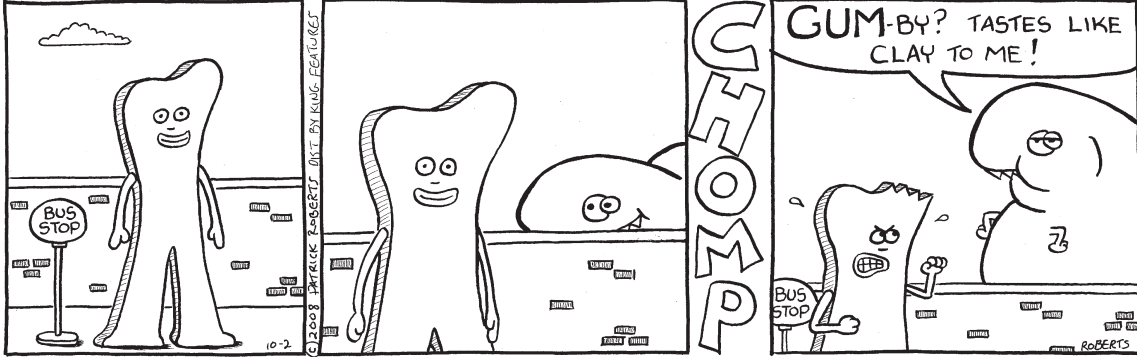
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



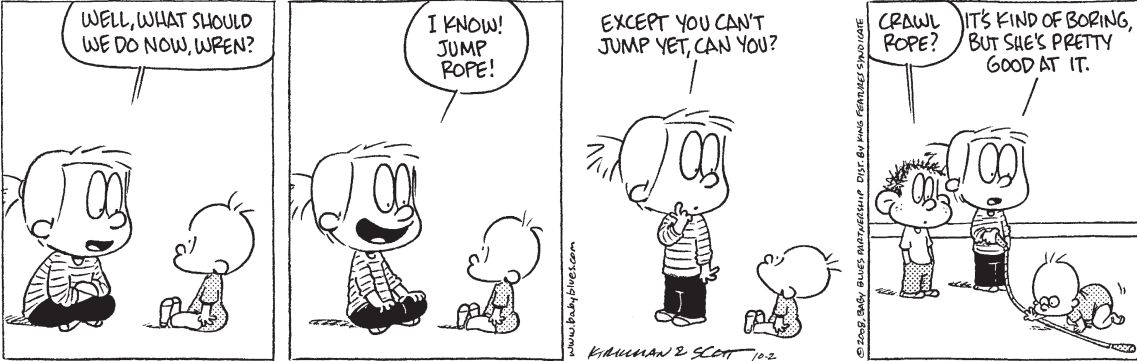
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

MH O FUDOWQMP PUBYVN HFUD
JOFAOJ NWR BY LNQQMWL
ANYOFOQNR, XUB DMLKQ
AOX QKNX OFN YUVNA OYOFQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER A LONG DELAY DUE TO SOME INITIAL SNAGS, THE TAILOR IS READY TO GO FULL SEAM AHEAD.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/02

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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

Bridge

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 6 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ A J 10 9

WEST
♠ K 3
♥ Q J 9 4
♦ K Q J 10 7 3
♣ 5

EAST
♠ J 10 8
♥ 6 2
♦ A 5
♣ 8 7 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 7 5 4
♥ A 10 8 5
♦ 9 6
♣ K Q

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♦ Pass Pass Dble
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

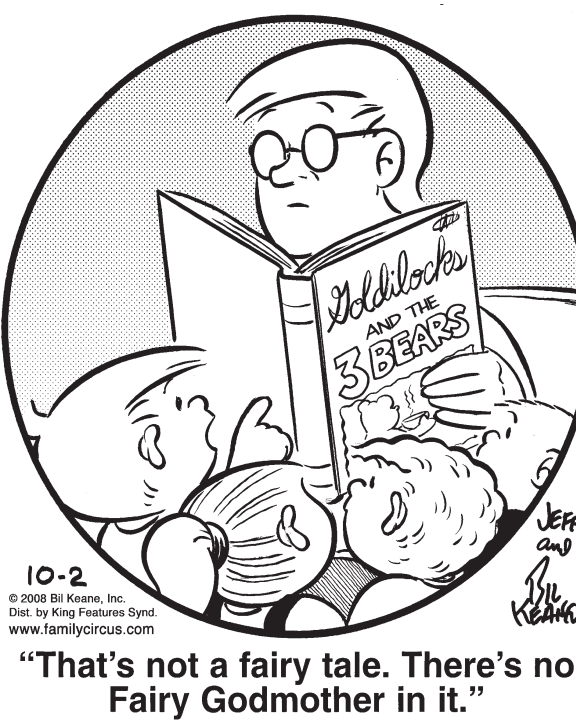
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Power of Positive Thinking
Bridge is not for lazy thinkers -- not if you want to get the best results possible. You can't just sit there, make only mechanical bids and plays, and expect to do well. You have to do all you can to try to figure out what everybody has, and follow these thoughts to a logical conclusion.

Consider this deal where you reach four spades on the bidding shown and West leads the king of diamonds. East takes the king with the ace and returns the five, taken by West with the ten. West continues with the queen, East discarding a club as you ruff low.
Let's say you enter dummy with a club, lead a spade to the queen and lose the finesse to the king. East later scores another trump trick, and down you go.
The sad truth is that this would be the outcome in many bridge games, and nobody would pay any attention to it. The players would think South was unlucky to lose the trump finesse. However, this would not be an accurate assessment of South's performance.

It is not really difficult to figure out that East cannot have the king of spades and that the spade finesse is therefore a losing proposition. Once East shows up with the ace of diamonds at trick one, it must be assumed he cannot also have the king of spades, since he would surely not have passed West's opening bid with an ace and a king in his hand.
Declarer should therefore play the ace and a low spade, instead of finessing, in the hope that West started with the doubleton king. It is the only realistic chance he has to make the contract, and some chance is better than no chance at all.
Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS
1 "Angela's Ashes" sequel
4 Spencer of "The Insider"
8 Junk e-mail
12 Com-mo-tion
13 Rainbow
14 Radius neighbor
15 Video-game controller
17 Night light?
18 Perch
19 Scopol-amine source
21 Put one over on
24 Coloring agent
25 Casso-wary look-alike
26 Wardrobe malfunction
28 Plotters' group
32 Rocking Jagger
34 Awkward guy
36 Oliver Twist's request
37 Trusty horse
39 "— the Dog"
41 Favorable vote
42 Take to court
44 Powerful starlike object
46 Subter-fuge
50 Biz letterhead abbr.
51 Perjurer
52 Buzz Light-year's movie
56 Land measure
57 Curved molding
58 Guitar's kin
59 Holler
60 Defeat
61 Heavy weight
16 Pack quantity
20 Big Apple letters
21 Fixes a skirt
22 Leave out
23 God, in Italian
27 Man-handle
29 Merit-badge earner
30 Vicinity
31 Mad Shake-spearean king
33 Variety of falcon
35 Web site info format
38 Payable
40 Masks
43 Praise to the skies
45 Pismire
46 Stage show
47 Houston university
48 Count counter-part
49 African republic
53 "Certainly"
54 Old movie-house letters
55 Longing

DOWN
1 — Mahal
2 Altar affirmative
3 Chinese food condiment
4 Type of bug?
5 Jackie's second hubby
6 Affluent
7 Requested
8 Ray from Ra?
9 "Not guilty," e.g.
10 Uncredited in "Bartlett's"
11 Lion's pride

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-2