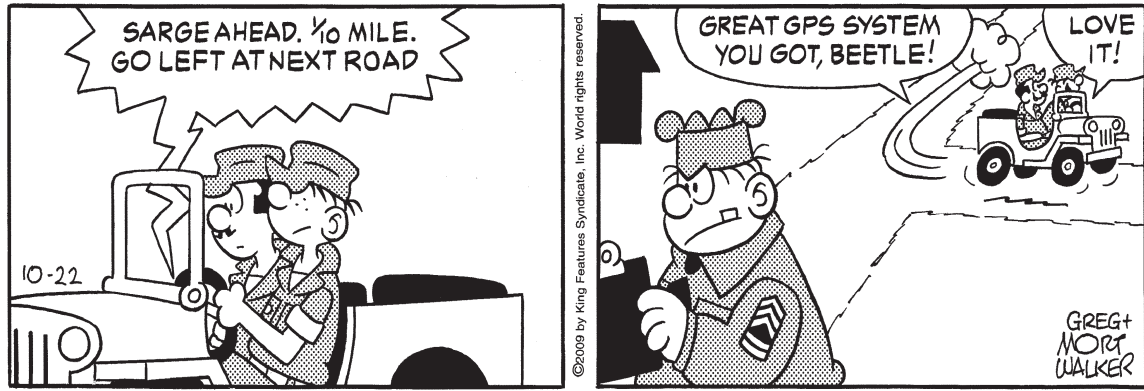


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



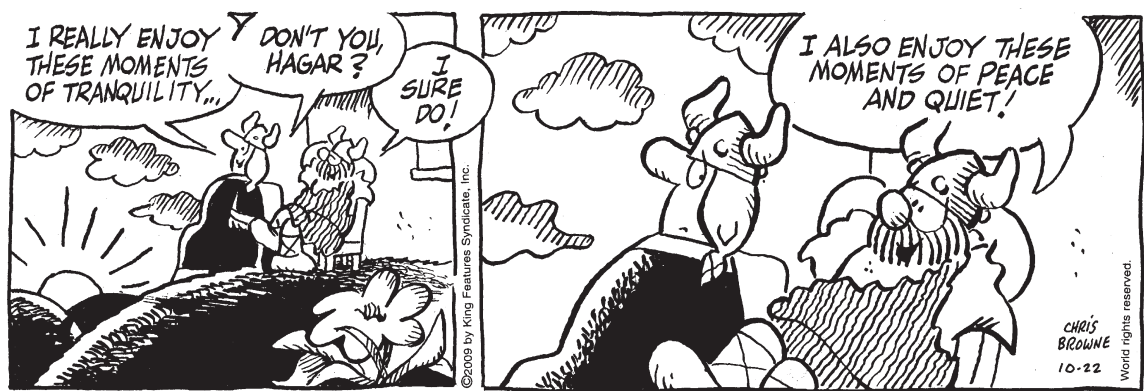
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



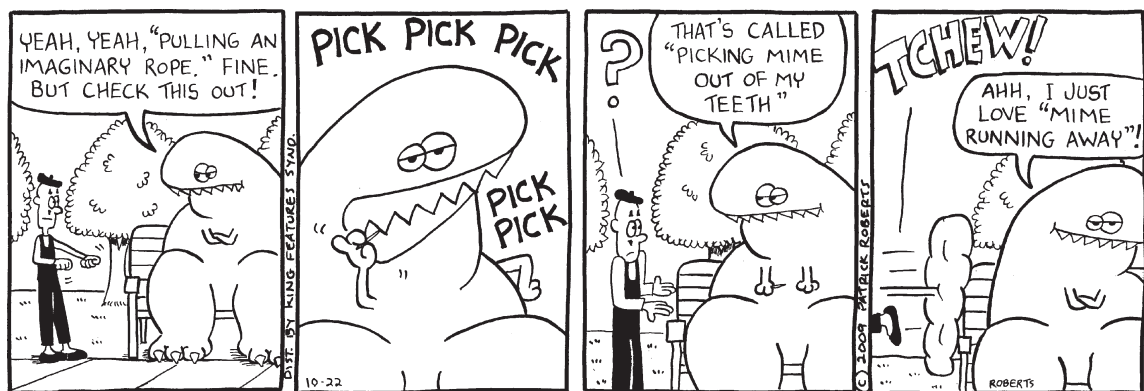
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



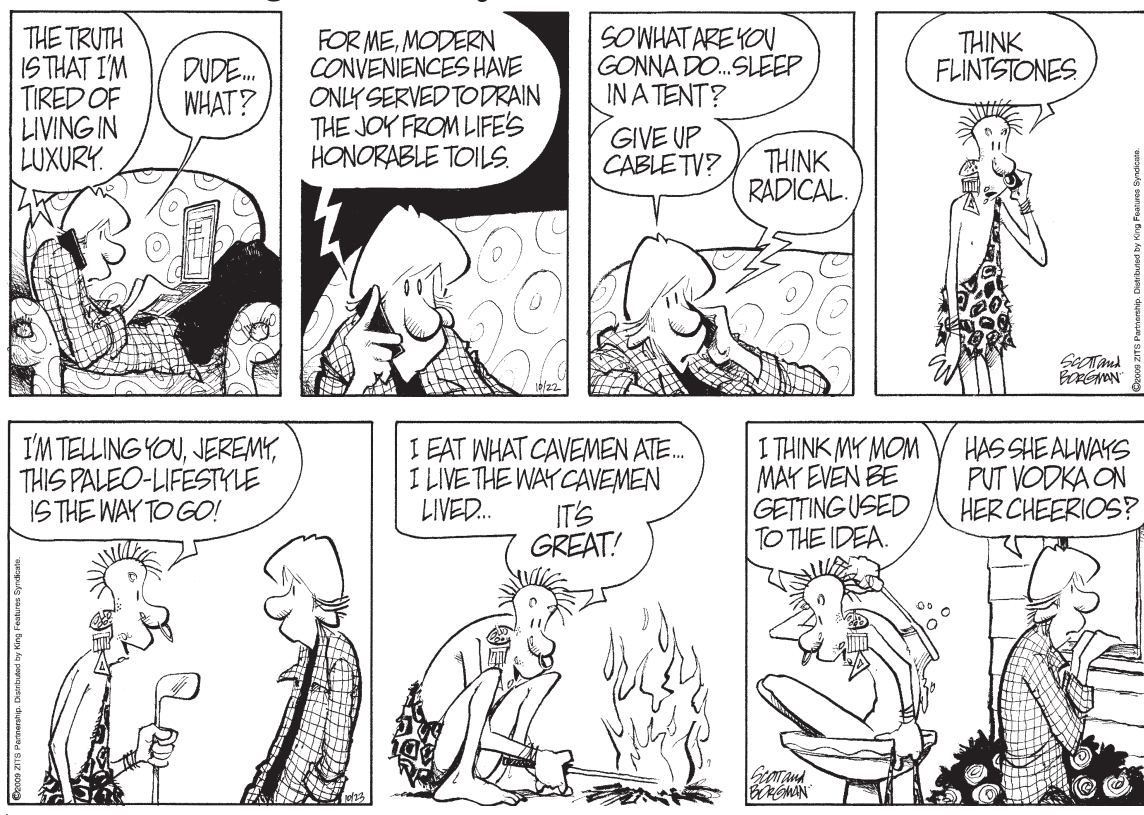
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
 • Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Parent bemoans teen's career goal**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I find myself in a miserable position. My 13-year-old is bent on becoming a television newscaster or weather girl. She's never wanted anything but to be on TV. The problem is, she has what people call a "radio face." I know that's a horrible thing to say, but I just can't see anyone hiring her for her looks. She doesn't seem to notice that she doesn't look like those on the news. How can I help her plan? — G.H.

**Dear G.H.:** You need to be very careful. You not only are harshly judging your daughter's looks — which can lead to her having low self-esteem — but you also are coming down quite hard on her dreams. One of the most abusive acts parents can commit is to limit their children's imagination and hopes for the future. It's one thing to be realistic, but it's quite another to be destructive.

A child who is raised by nurturing parents often can accomplish great things. You have to realize how powerful your opinions are to your 13-year-old — if her own mother doesn't believe she's good enough or pretty enough to be a TV newscaster, your daughter soon will share your opinion of herself. Children look to parents for support, not criticism. Decide if you want your daughter to believe in herself and have a healthy self-image, or grow up to be an insecure mess. The world is harsh enough without having your parents not be on your side — you're not making her life any easier by not supporting her. Instead of changing her plans, you need to change your attitude, and do so quickly. She may surprise you with her abilities as others believe in her.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have fond memories of running around the neighborhood with a gang of boys when I was young. We built a treehouse, No Girls Allowed, and all that stuff. Well, now my 8-year-old grandson, who I am raising, wants to do the same sort of thing. But he's getting all kinds of flak at school from girls, and from parents in the neighborhood. Everyone seems to be against old-fashioned fun. How do I help my grandson and his pals get their plan going? — D.N.

**Dear D.N.:** There's nothing wrong with 8-year-old boys starting a "No Girls Allowed" club. The idea of having a secret place to get away from all those "icky" girls goes back to when boys learned to climb trees. Too often, we project mature mind-sets onto children — telling them what's acceptable and what's not. But the world of adults and that of children are different. An adult all-men's club might be discriminatory, but these boys are a long way from worrying about such things.

It's psychologically beneficial for young boys to build a hideaway — it provides a bonding environment to share the rituals of boyhood. This is a safe place, where secrets are shared, stories are told, and boys' imaginations are free to run wild, safe from the prying eyes and judgment of the opposite sex. Your best bet for addressing concerns is to suggest a similar club for girls. Perhaps one of those giving you flak can pitch in to set up a place. In the end, it's the feeling of belonging that's important. Girls are just as entitled to a place to call their own. At the same time, have talks with your grandson about treating girls respectfully as he outgrows his current philosophy. (c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ 10 9 5 2  
 ♥ 9 3  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ A K J 9 8 4  
**WEST**  
 ♠ J 7 6  
 ♥ 10 7  
 ♦ A 9 8 5 4 2  
 ♣ 5 2  
**EAST**  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ A K J 8 5 4 2  
 ♦ K 10 3  
 ♣ 7 6  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K Q 8 4  
 ♥ Q 6  
 ♦ Q J 7  
 ♣ Q 10 3  
 The bidding:  
 East 1♥ South 1♠ West Pass North 4♠  
 Opening lead — ten of hearts.

**Thoughtful Defense**

In this deal from a duplicate game, nearly every North-South pair bid and made four spades even though the contract should have been defeated every time.

At each table, the opening lead was the ten of hearts, and East won the first two tricks with the king and ace. At some tables, East won shifted to a low diamond, West winning South's queen with the ace. Regardless of West's return, declarer then had no trouble scoring the rest of the tricks to make his contract.

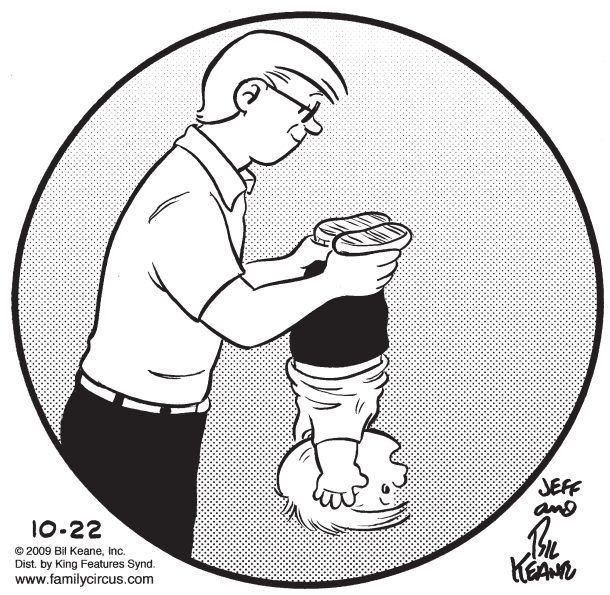
At a few other tables, East found a somewhat more imaginative return at trick three — a heart. This was done in the hope of promoting a trump trick for West, and though the operation was a success, the patient still died. At these tables, declarer simply ruffed the heart with the queen of spades and discarded dummy's diamond. West later scored a trick with the jack of spades, but that was all.

At one table, though, East gave much greater thought to his play at trick three. He reasoned that West might have a natural trump trick, or a trump trick that could be promoted, but that this would not be sufficient to defeat the contract. If the hand could be set, the defense also would need to collect a diamond trick. This in turn meant that West would have to have the ace of diamonds — certainly not an impossibility on the bidding.

But to assure getting a diamond trick, it was necessary that it be taken before a heart was led for the reason we have already seen. East therefore laid down the diamond king at trick three and, after it held, then led a heart. Now the jig was up — declarer had to lose a trump trick, and the contract went down one.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Now I know what it feels like to live in Australia!"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/22

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

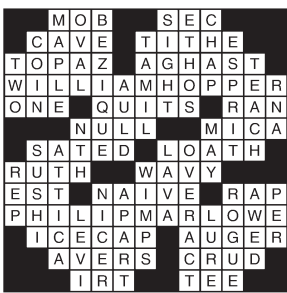
OABT IBSIXB ZJTE ZBDBQUX  
 TSMBZ JT AUQLSTK, KSY  
 LJEAM ZUK MABK OJXX

IQSCYWB U DSWUX WASQC.  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** I HAVE A PECULIAR HABIT OF POURING OUT BOTTLES OF HONEY. YOU MIGHT SAY I'M IN A VISCOUS CYCLE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals Y

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |               |                 |            |                    |                   |                   |                      |                    |               |                        |                          |                   |                 |             |                        |               |                       |                        |                  |                         |                  |                                     |                   |               |                        |   |                    |                         |                         |                             |                     |                 |                      |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b> | 1 Boutique      | 5 Suitcase | 8 Unuttered "alas" | 12 Lawrence Berra | 13 Id counterpart | 14 Dangling site     | 15 Dealer's foe    | 16 Scarlet    | 17 Misfortunes         | 18 Nativity setup        | 20 Get steamed up | 22 E.T.'s venue | 26 Grown-up | 29 Churchill's gesture | 30 Needlefish | 31 "And — bed": Peyps | 32 Laying-th           | 33 Mine, in part | 34 Dead heat            | 35 Stir-fry pan  | 36 Clumsy                           | 37 Nirvana, maybe | 40 "Simon —"  | 41 Method              | 45 Use a wooden spoon                   | 49 Matador's foe   | 50 War, of Gen.         | 51 Altar                | 52 Once more, in the Ozarks | 53 Simple           | 54 Neither mate | 55 Poolroom triangle |
| <b>DOWN</b>   | 1 Harmonization | 2 Frost    | 3 Shrek is one     | 4 Small flute     | 5 Jaunty chapeau  | 6 Time of your life? | 7 Arthur of old TV | 8 Cut corners | 9 Collaborating (with) | 10 Hairspray alternative | 11 Guys           | 19 Shack        | 21 Exploit  | 23 Bring out           | 24 Kvetch     | 25 Formerly, formerly | 26 Italian wine region | 27 Slay          | 28 Knife and fork, e.g. | 32 Tennis tactic | 33 Low-rated, as a hotel or a movie | 35 Distort        | 36 Unfriendly | 38 Way before deadline | 39 Nancy, the first woman in Parliament | 42 Frat-party garb | 43 Idle of Monty Python | 44 Tony Shalhoub series | 45 The woman                | 46 Afternoon affair | 48 Commotion    |                      |

Solution time: 25 mins.



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				