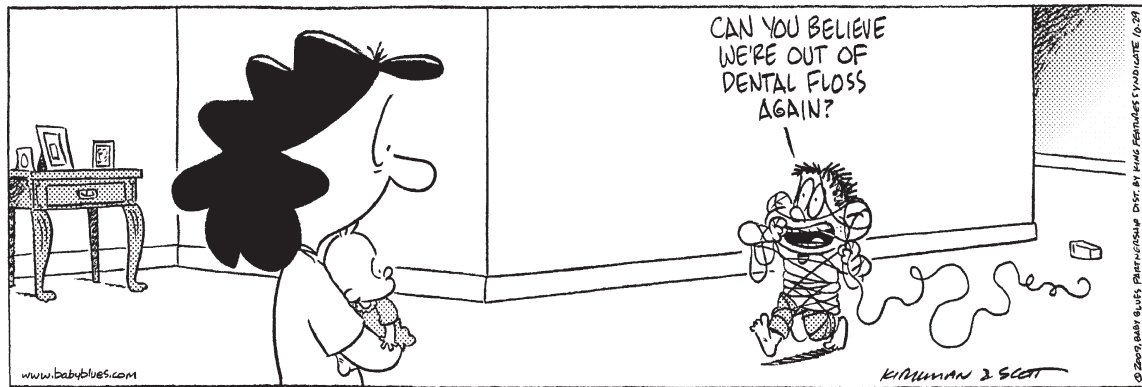
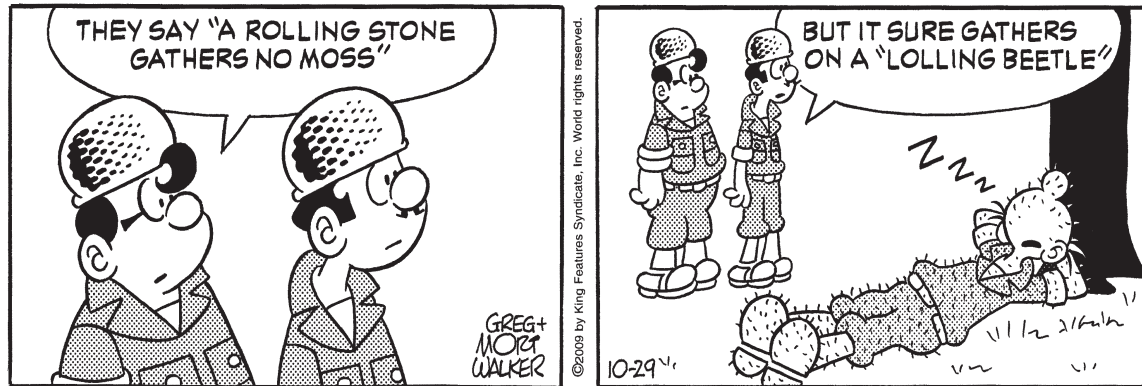


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



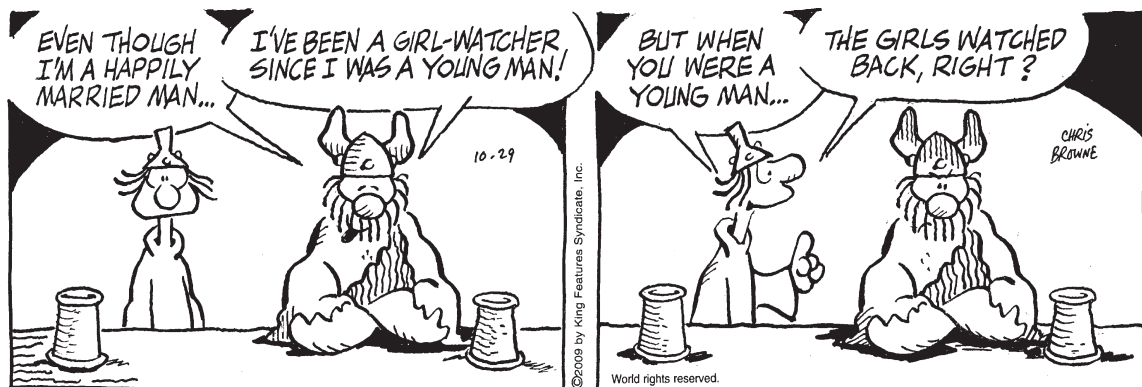
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



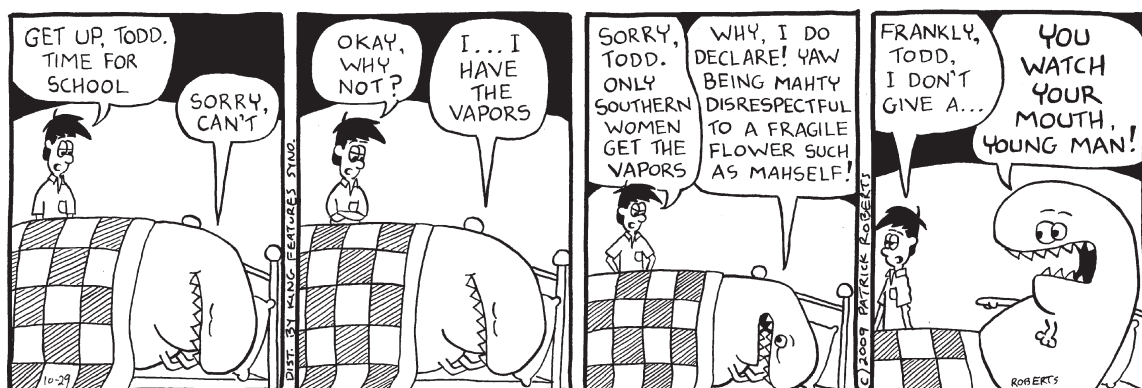
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



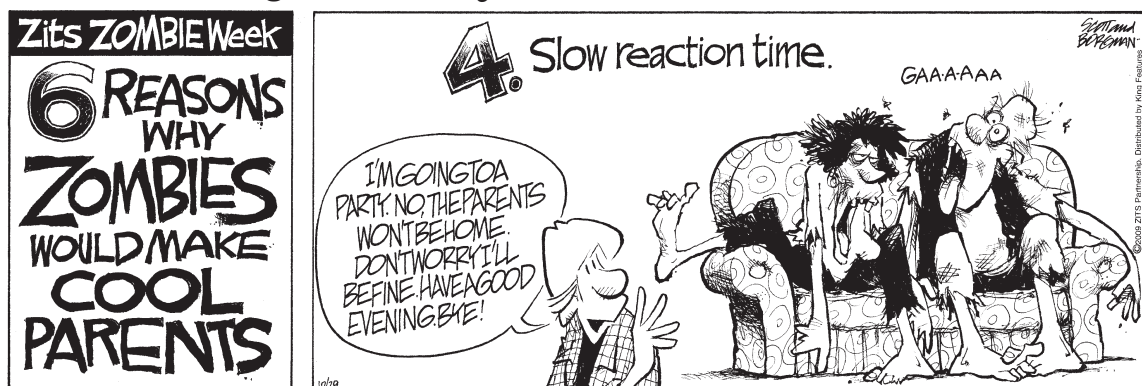
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

She believes ghosts are real

Dear Dr. Brothers: Everyone thinks I'm a bit off. I make no bones about what I believe, and am not afraid to let others know exactly what that is. I believe in ghosts. I have since I was a girl. So everyone just rolls their eyes when I talk about the subject. I don't want to pretend I don't believe, but sometimes think it would be easier to just not say anything at all. What should I do? - J.J.

Dear J.J.: You're not alone - according to an AP-Ipsos survey, 34 percent of people say they believe in ghosts. And of that number in the survey, about 11 percent are believers like you - they don't claim to ever have seen a ghost, but they just believe. If you want to get very intellectual and argumentative about it, you could stand up for yourself armed with statistics ... or begin a philosophical discussion of all the realms of human existence in which people have had to come up with answers on the meaning of life. Most will at least admit there is much we cannot know.

Are you and your family and friends religious believers? Try engaging them in conversation based on your religion. Contrast these with belief in ghosts, or other systems of thought about the afterlife. This should make some interesting talks and your family will see you have taken the time to educate yourself on the subject. And it is a legitimate subject - there is anomalistic psychology, focusing university researchers on the human mind and its reactions to ghosts, ESP, UFO sightings and other facets of the paranormal.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I hope you can settle something between my husband and me. We're going to take our 4-year-old daughter on her first trick-or-treat this year and are arguing about her costume. I want her to be a princess, but my goofball husband has his heart set on her being a pirate! He says that's what she most wants to be, as she's always going on about pirates during storytime. I just don't think it's appropriate for a little girl to be a pirate - am I wrong? - N.V.

Dear N.V.: We all have our dreams of childhood past. Even if things weren't perfect, we take old dreams and see if we can have a do-over when we have children of our own. And what little girl doesn't want to be a princess? This is what you are thinking, right? Well, today there are more choices, and fewer of them are tied to traditional sexual roles. I doubt whether being a pirate would seem strange to anyone on Halloween. You see your child as very feminine, and your husband has picked up on something else in her personality that has her enthralled with pirates at storytime.

So, how to settle this? There will be years for all sorts of costumes. Why not ask your child what she wants to be? She probably has plenty of ideas, and they may not include either pirate or princess! So be prepared to make her into a ham sandwich or a scary monster, and let her help with the costume. It's all about fun and starting to give your little one choices. Just make sure, however you dress her, that she can see, move and feel comfortable enough to start building great memories of her own. And back off a little on what you both think she "should" be.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

EAST
 ♠ 9 8 4
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ A 9 6 2
 ♣ K 10 8 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A 10 6 3
 ♥ 10 7 4
 ♦ K Q 8 3
 ♣ 5 4

The bidding:
 North: 1♦ Pass 2♥ Pass 4NT Pass 6♣
 East: Pass 2♦ Pass 5♠
 South: 1♦ Pass 2♦ Pass 5♠
 West: Pass Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead - jack of diamonds.

A Matter of Entries

In many deals, the proper use of entries is the key to bringing about a successful resolution. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to recognize at the outset that an entry problem exists, much less to figure out what to do about it.

Consider this case where South is in six spades. East takes the opening diamond lead with the ace and returns a trump. How should South proceed?

When the deal occurred, declarer won the spade return with dummy's jack, drew the remaining trumps with the queen and ten, then led the ten of hearts and finessed. When the ten held, a second heart was led to the jack, but declarer now found himself badly placed.

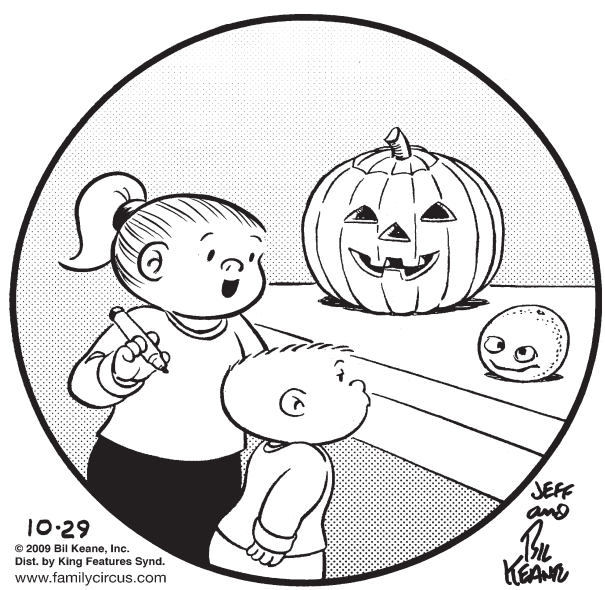
If he cashed the ace of hearts and the king did not fall, he would have to rely on a club finesse to get home safely. Alternatively, if he led a spade to the ace in order to repeat the heart finesse, he could not make 12 tricks no matter what he did thereafter. In practice, South cashed the ace of hearts, but when the suit failed to break and the club finesse later lost, he went down one.

Declarer could have made the slam by timing the play better. The approach he adopted depended on West holding three or fewer hearts to the king but did not cater to K-x-x in West's hand. This holding - about a one-in-four possibility - is far too significant to ignore.

South should therefore win the first spade in his hand with the ten, finesse the ten of hearts and repeat the finesse. The K-A of spades are then cashed, drawing the missing trumps, and a third heart finesse is taken. After discarding a club on the ace of hearts, declarer can claim the remainder, ruffing his losing diamond with dummy's last trump.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

JHKMOZ ZVUXMK HIMOU H

YHVT-XMAMTVFW ZHAMF TOF

IG H KMUYNT HFC YNT

CHOWYUNTZ: "JHKVAG CGNZ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING THE COCOONED INSECTS SUDDENLY GREW WIDER, I GUESS YOU'D SAY THEY WERE DILATED PUPAS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Picks out of a lineup
 - 4 Piece for two
 - 8 Speaker's place
 - 12 "As if!"
 - 13 Poet Pound
 - 14 Expel
 - 15 Green onion
 - 17 Earthen pot
 - 18 Shelter
 - 19 One without snow tires?
 - 21 "Ecce homo" sayer
 - 24 Costa del —
 - 25 Swiss canton
 - 26 Blunder
 - 28 Kathmandu's land
 - 32 Source
 - 34 Deity
 - 36 Munro's pen name
 - 37 Boredom
- DOWN**
- 1 Half the ramifications
 - 2 Medic
 - 3 Colt's pop
 - 4 Take out of context?
 - 5 Submachine gun
 - 6 Cupid's alias
 - 7 Aquariums
 - 8 Random drawings?
 - 9 "— Lang Syne"
 - 10 Capri, e.g.
 - 11 Luminary
 - 16 Meadow
 - 20 Saturn model, 2003-07
 - 21 100 percent
 - 22 Press
 - 23 Work unit
 - 27 Filch
 - 29 Big tent at an expo
 - 30 Similar (to)
 - 31 Rickey ingredient
 - 33 Calendar box
 - 35 Payable
 - 38 Part of FWIW
 - 40 Weak and unsteady
 - 43 Stogie
 - 45 Wire measure
 - 46 Scolded
 - 47 Raise
 - 48 From the top
 - 49 Palm starch
 - 53 Ph. bk. data
 - 54 "Sail — Ship of State!"
 - 55 Actor Beatty

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-29