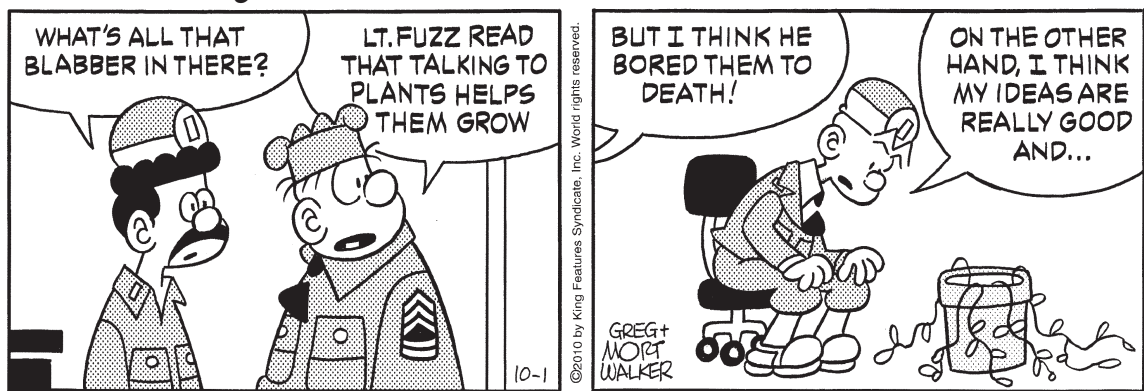


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



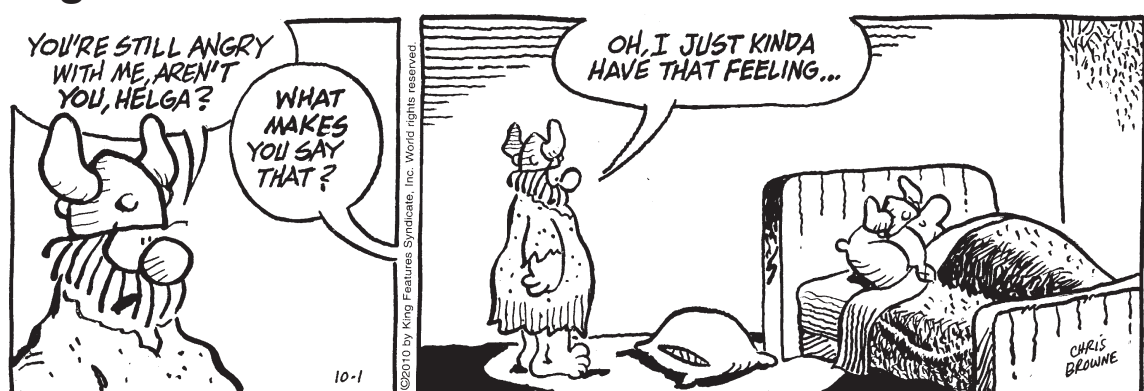
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



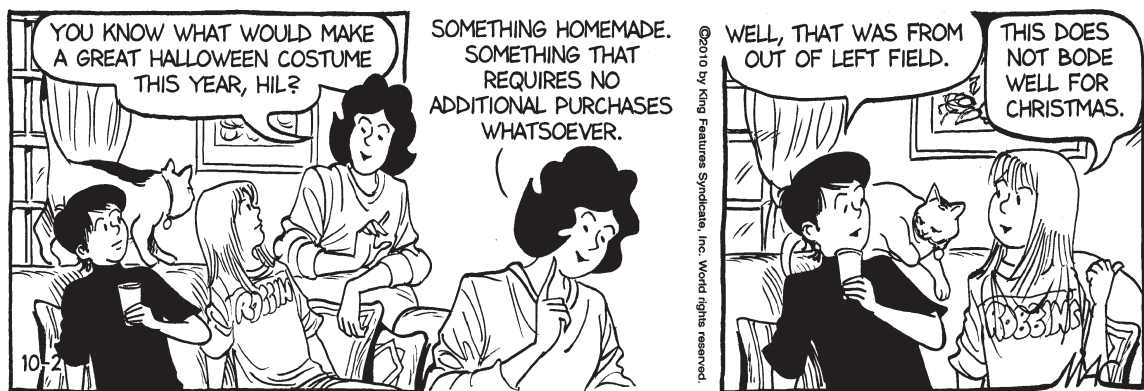
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



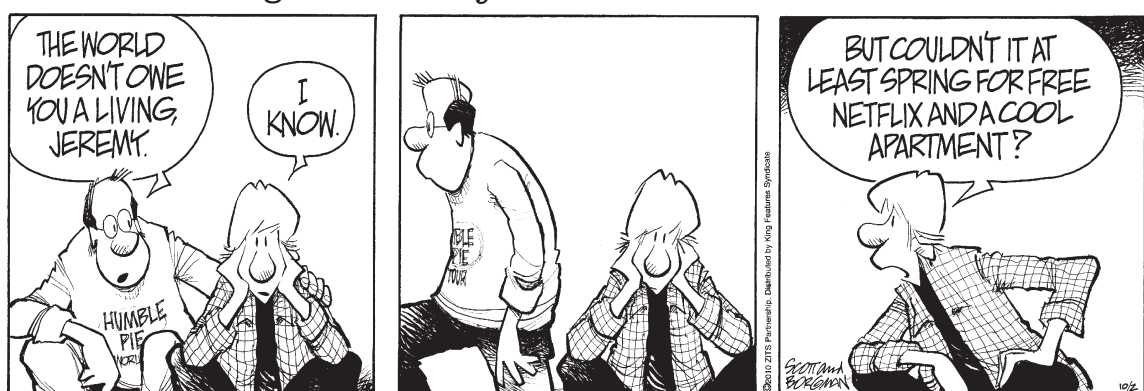
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Hints help container plants**

Dear Readers: Looking for some helpful ABCs to help your CONTAINER PLANTS thrive? Watering is by far the most important part of keeping container plants healthy and happy. So:

- A. Make sure pots have drainage holes in the bottom. If water can't drain, the roots will rot.
- B. Don't place pots directly on a patio or porch surface. Instead, raise them up so the water can drain out. You can use flat pieces of bricks or wood.
- C. If you use a saucer under pots, don't let water stand in it. Check back after about an hour, and if there is still water in the saucer, remove it.
- D. Remember, some potted plants can dry out fast, especially ones in clay; smaller pots will need to be watered every day.
- E. How can you tell if your plant needs water? Stick your finger into the soil up to the second knuckle. If the soil feels dry, it's time to water. Be sure to give the plant a good, thorough soaking to encourage healthy root growth. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**  
 Heloise  
 P.O. Box 795000  
 San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
 E-mail: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**ARM PROTECTOR TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: I got a good hint from my mother for covering my youngster's broken arm to bathe. We had been using a plastic trash bag to keep the cast dry, but for a small child, it was too much plastic. My mom suggested a plastic bag that covers the newspaper. Our paper comes in it every day, so it is always available. The newspaper bag is the perfect size for her little arm. Add tape, and off to the tub she goes! — Ann in California

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: When traveling for long weekends or four- or five-day trips, instead of packing jars of day and night face creams, I transfer each into contact-lens holders — day cream in right side, night in left. Doing this, you can put them in your carry-on for plane travel, and you don't have the heavy, full containers to lug around. — Lynnette in Washington

**STAY SAFE**

Dear Heloise: For anyone who lives alone and maybe would be doing something like climbing a ladder, etc., always keep your cell phone in your pocket, just in case. — A Reader, via e-mail

**PILLOW POWER**

Dear Heloise: I replace my pillows every year. I find a comfortable, firm pillow at my local big-box store for under \$15, and I usually get a few. My old pillows make comfy beds for my dogs. I donate others to the animal shelter. Not a bad investment for one year's return of good sleep! — A Reader, via fax

**SAVINGS SHARER**

Dear Heloise: I cut out coupons from the newspaper. I take them to the store and put them by the products I don't use. I am hoping someone else can use them. — Gladys in New Jersey

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:  
 South West North East  
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
 2 ♣ ? Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?  
 1. ♠ AQJ82 ♥ Q5 ♦ AK73 ♣ 109  
 2. ♠ AQ764 ♥ 10 ♦ AJ92 ♣ Q84  
 3. ♠ KQJ985 ♥ K95 ♦ AQJ6 ♣ —  
 4. ♠ AK973 ♥ J4 ♦ AQJ85 ♣ 6

**Bidding Quiz**  
 1. Three notrump. A good bidder knows how to transmit and receive information accurately. That is the key to an effective partnership.

Thus, it would be wrong in this case to bid only two notrump. That is what you would do if you had the same distribution but only 13 or 14 points. Since you have 16 points, and your extra values have not as yet been portrayed, you can best describe your hand by jumping to three notrump. It would be equally wrong to bid two spades at this point, which would clearly understate your high-card values and at the same time suggest a six-card spade suit.

2. Three clubs. Here you have a different type of hand, so you send a different type of message. Rather than bid two notrump, you should take this opportunity to show your thus-far-undisclosed support for partner's first-bid suit.

The three-club bid, following on the heels of your spade and diamond bids, pinpoints your heart shortness and completes the picture of your hand. The rest is up to partner.

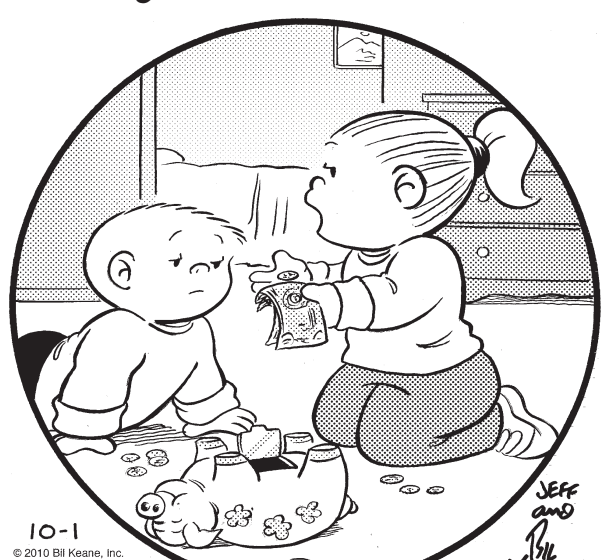
3. Three spades. This time you have still another type of hand. You can't bid notrump with your 6-4-3-0 distribution, and you can't support hearts with only three of them, since partner is virtually certain to have only four hearts. However, your spades are almost self-sufficient as trumps, since they are playable opposite a singleton and, if need be, even opposite a void.

The jump to three spades is justified by your 16 high-card points. If you were to bid only two spades, partner might think you had only 13 or 14 points.

4. Three diamonds. By bidding diamonds a second time, you identify the suit as at least five cards in length and thus describe a hand with no less than 5-5 distribution. After your three-diamond rebid, partner should be in an ideal position to select the best final contract.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"This is money. You'll start makin' it when you start losin' teeth."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/01

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 the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

**Cryptoquip**

AQ B TGKKHC AW WAE LHU

AELGWATHC KG GLCI AI B

FCOKBAI QHGOAPB FAKU,

A'P WBU AK'W KBELB-LOGGQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FEARING THAT ANYBODY COULD GET TO KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT HIM, THE SNAIL KEPT A SLOW PROFILE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 St. Bernard's burden
  - 4 100 lbs.
  - 7 Ring boundaries
  - 12 "That's a laugh!"
  - 13 Rowing need
  - 14 Perfect
  - 15 Khan title
  - 16 Popular pie
  - 18 Barbie's companion
  - 19 Large amounts
  - 20 Baghdad's land
  - 22 Before
  - 23 Seethe
  - 27 Performance
  - 29 Monarchs
  - 31 Trattoria fare
  - 34 Off the payroll
  - 35 Gofer's task
  - 37 Witticism
  - 38 "Dead Poets Society" director Peter
  - 39 Hearty brew
  - 41 Region
  - 45 Coral ring
  - 47 Neither mate
  - 48 Linda Ronstadt hit
  - 52 With 28-Down, jalopy
  - 53 "Mr. Television" jalo
  - 54 Pundit Coulter
  - 55 Fool
  - 56 — Major (Dog Star's constellation)
  - 57 Top
  - 58 Favorite
  - 21 Persian Gulf nation
  - 23 Bombard
  - 24 "— the fields we go"
  - 1 Uniform material
  - 25 Rage
  - 26 One way to change your mind?
  - 28 See 52-Across
  - 30 Venusian vehicle?
  - 31 Church-goer's seat
  - 32 Exist
  - 33 —
  - 34 Lanka
  - 36 Information
  - 37 Christopher of "Law & Order: SVU"
  - 40 Faithful
  - 42 Available
  - 43 Din
  - 44 Physicist Mach
  - 45 Vigoda and Burrows
  - 46 Ilsa's maiden name, in "Casa-blanca"
  - 48 English channel?
  - 49 Meadow
  - 50 Grecian vessel
  - 51 Yale student

Solution time: 25 mins.

ARF	JAGS	SLOB			
LEO	ALEE	KENO			
FOOTBALL	INCH				
TUB	SMOLDER				
YAWNED	ANI				
EMO	ROW	OFFER			
TERN	GAB	TORE			
INKED	SUV	ONE			
	LEI	SORTED			
LIPS	SYNC	RAH			
OREO	FOOTNOTE				
BORN	RODE	LIT			
ONUS	APEX	DNA			

Yesterday's answer 10-1

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			56			57			58	59