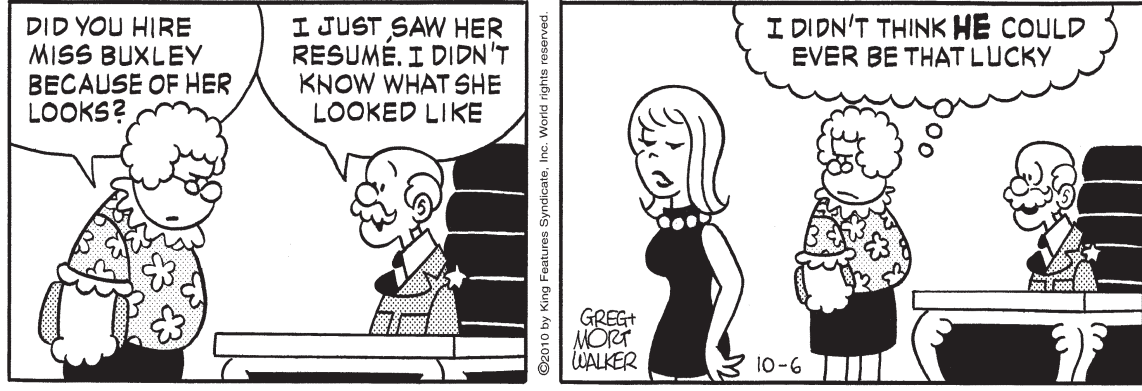


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



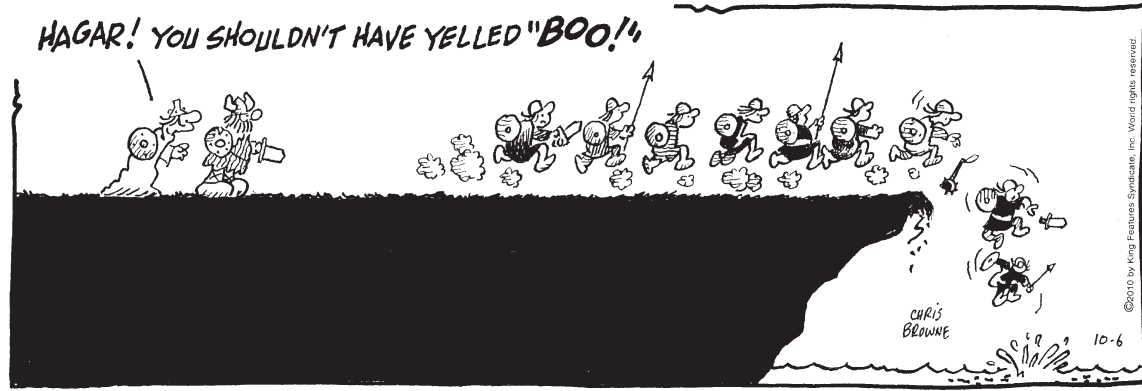
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



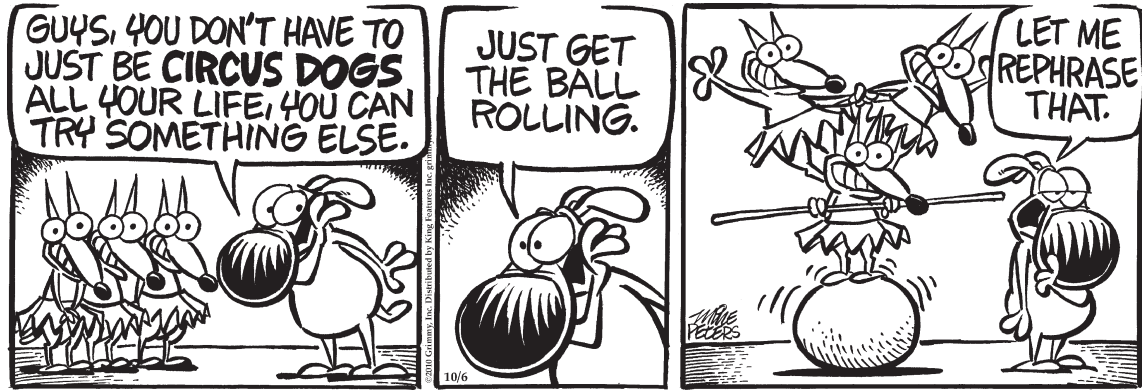
**Blondie** • Chic Young



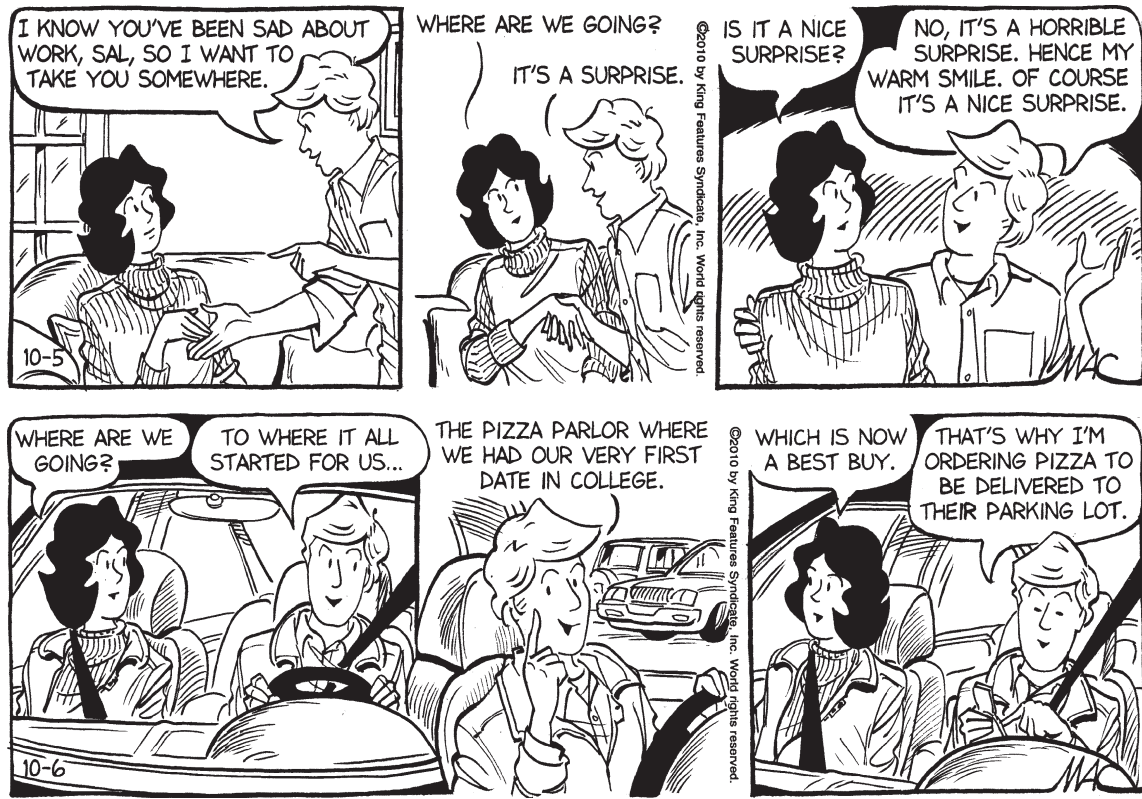
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



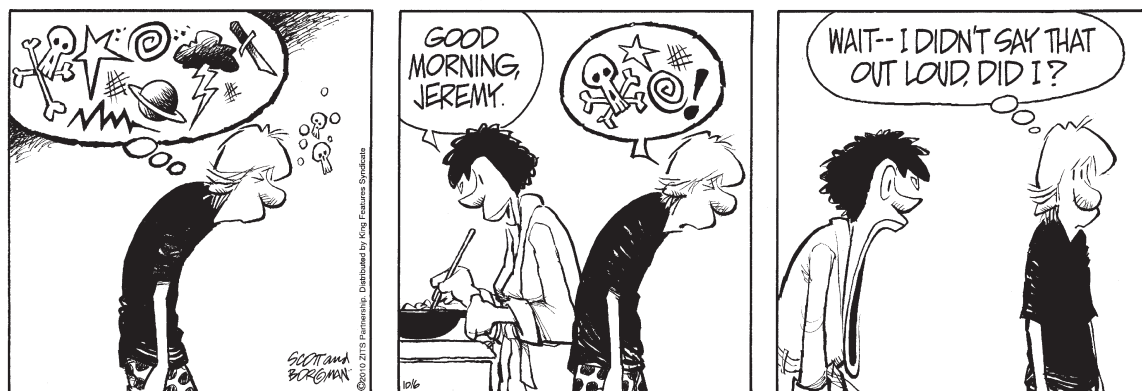
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Chocolate cakes not all the same**

Dear Heloise: What is the difference between devil's-food cake and a regular CHOCOLATE CAKE MIX? Then there is a German chocolate cake mix. — Karen P., via e-mail

Karen, it can get confusing. So, here's a quick breakdown of the differences:

- A regular chocolate cake mix is flavored with milk chocolate.
- A devil's-food cake is richer and darker, and has a strong cocoa flavor.
- German chocolate (a favorite here in south Texas) usually is a lighter-colored cake with a flavor of mild chocolate.

True German chocolate cake has delicious pecan-coconut frosting, while the devil's food usually has a dark fudge frosting. No matter the chocolate cake you choose, you have a delicious dessert, because who doesn't like chocolate? Want to try a couple of favorite Heloise cake recipes? Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (61 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Cakes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. When you fill a cake pan, fill it no more than half to three-quarters full to prevent making a mess. — Heloise

**ICE-CREAM HINT**

Dear Heloise: When we buy ice cream for a party, we sometimes buy the kind in a big plastic container with a handle. Whenever we get one, we wash it out, and the next time we get the half-gallon in the cardboard paper container, we drop the new ice cream into the plastic container. We also use the containers for potluck meals, or whenever we bring a dish to a function, as the container has a handle that makes it easy to carry. — A Reader, via e-mail

**HEAVY KITCHEN APPLIANCE**

Dear Heloise: I got a new mixer and found that it was so heavy that I could barely move it from one place to the next on my countertop. I solved the problem by folding a small cotton tea towel in half and placing the mixer on it. Voila! It slid like a charm without any effort at all. A real plus for people with arthritis, etc. — Bette in Franklin, Wis.

**PICTURE PERFECT**

Dear Heloise: This hint is especially helpful when you plan to go to several stores on the same trip. When I see an advertisement for an item in the Sunday paper from any of the major retailers that I want to check out, I cut the picture of the item out and attach it to my list, along with any coupons that I may have. That way, I know which store had it and for what price. It saves a lot of time for me, because my memory isn't what it used to be! — Pat in Arizona

**EASY MIX**

Dear Heloise: I use a large glass measuring cup and a fork to prepare my pancake mix. I pour pancake mix into the measuring cup, then slowly add the water while stirring to the desired consistency. Then I pour it directly onto the heated and buttered griddle. — Brenda in Katy, Texas

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 8 4 3  
♥ A 8 6  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ K Q 7 6  
**WEST**  
♠ 6  
♥ J 10 7 4  
♦ A Q 10 8 3  
♣ 10 4 2  
**EAST**  
♠ Q J 10 7 5 2  
♥ 9 3  
♦ 6  
♣ A 9 8 3  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 9  
♥ K Q 5 2  
♦ K J 9 4  
♣ J 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT  
Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

**Every Card Played Tells a Story**

As the play progresses, declarer learns more and more about the distribution of the missing cards. This accumulated knowledge often allows him to make tricks he would not otherwise have gotten.

For example, suppose you're in three notrump on this deal and West leads the diamond eight, which you win with the nine. West obviously has your diamonds all bottled up, but you have nine easy tricks if the hearts are divided 3-3.

You start by leading the jack of clubs, which wins, and continue with a club to the queen, taken by East with the ace. East returns the queen of spades, which you duck in order to learn more about how the East-West cards are divided. When East continues spades, you win with the king, on which West discards a low diamond.

By this time, you know much more about the opponents' hands than you did at trick one. West obviously started with one spade and five diamonds and has already followed to two rounds of clubs.

When you next cash the ace of spades, K-A of hearts and king of clubs, everyone following suit in hearts and clubs, the contract suddenly becomes a certainty.

You can't tell for sure whether West started with three hearts or four, but you're in good shape either way, since he is known to have started with either 1-4-5-3 or 1-3-5-4 distribution. If he had four clubs originally, the hearts will break 3-3; if he had three clubs originally, he will have four hearts. One way or the other, the contract is ice-cold.

So you lead a heart to the queen, and when East shows out, you play another heart, putting West on lead with the jack. His last two cards are the A-Q of diamonds, while yours are the K-J. Finis.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/06

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

H A J A F C O J S P C J H P U J C A P G  
O F E T S A H F G F Z P H J Z K , N  
I T J O O K F T E N I A H O P K A J  
M P O O P G G Z J G M N H A M F C U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I'VE GOT A DESIRE TO EAT ANOTHER BOWLFUL OF CURVED MACARONI, I GUESS I HAVE ELBOW ROOM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                |                           |                                     |                                      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                  | <b>38</b> Entangle-ment   | <b>3</b> Village                    | <b>23</b> Words to live by           |
| <b>5</b> Boar's mate           | <b>39</b> Promptly        | <b>4</b> Heming-way or Borgnine     | <b>25</b> Recede                     |
| <b>8</b> Flat-bottomed boat    | <b>41</b> Actress Moore   | <b>5</b> Mas-seur's workplace       | <b>26</b> Scratch Burr role          |
| <b>12</b> Com-poser Novello    | <b>43</b> Rook            | <b>6</b> Sounds of surprise         | <b>29</b> Between jobs               |
| <b>13</b> — Beta Kappa         | <b>46</b> A Musket-eer    | <b>7</b> Accom-panying              | <b>31</b> Expert                     |
| <b>14</b> Corduroy ridge       | <b>50</b> Settled down    | <b>8</b> Honey bunch?               | <b>32</b> Encoun-tered               |
| <b>15</b> Sad                  | <b>51</b> Negative aspect | <b>9</b> Able to withstand anything | <b>34</b> Chicks and ducks and geese |
| <b>17</b> Largest of the seven | <b>54</b> Fashion ridge   | <b>10</b> Hodge-podge               | <b>38</b> Lowbrow stuff              |
| <b>18</b> Title-holder         | <b>55</b> Festive         | <b>11</b> Withdraw from a habit     | <b>40</b> Playful water critter      |
| <b>19</b> Dr. Seuss' elephant  | <b>56</b> Singer Sheryl   | <b>16</b> Weep                      | <b>42</b> Chap                       |
| <b>21</b> Harmon-ization       | <b>57</b> Noble           | <b>20</b> Erstwhile acorns          | <b>43</b> A summer place             |
| <b>24</b> Chartres chum        | <b>58</b> Prior to        | <b>22</b> — -do-well                | <b>44</b> Lotion additive            |
| <b>25</b> Send forth           | <b>59</b> His and —       |                                     | <b>45</b> Advan-tage                 |
| <b>28</b> Actor Estrada        |                           | <b>DOWN</b>                         | <b>47</b> Employ                     |
| <b>30</b> Spinning meas.       | <b>1</b> Loyal pooch      | <b>2</b> Acknowl-edge               | <b>48</b> Stench                     |
| <b>33</b> Tavern               |                           |                                     | <b>49</b> Wilds a needle             |
| <b>34</b> Nourishes            |                           |                                     | <b>52</b> Rowing need                |
| <b>35</b> Raw rock             |                           |                                     | <b>53</b> It's between ex and zee    |
| <b>36</b> Kinsman, briefly     |                           |                                     |                                      |
| <b>37</b> Hurler Hershiser     |                           |                                     |                                      |

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-6

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			