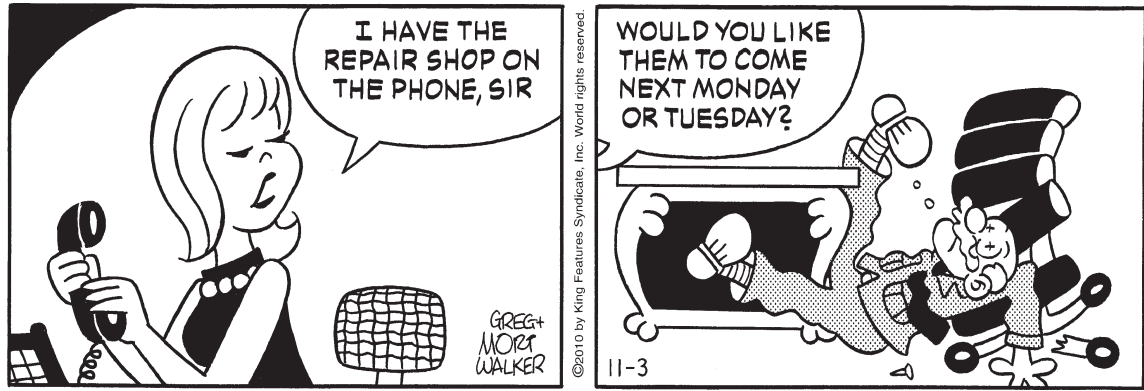


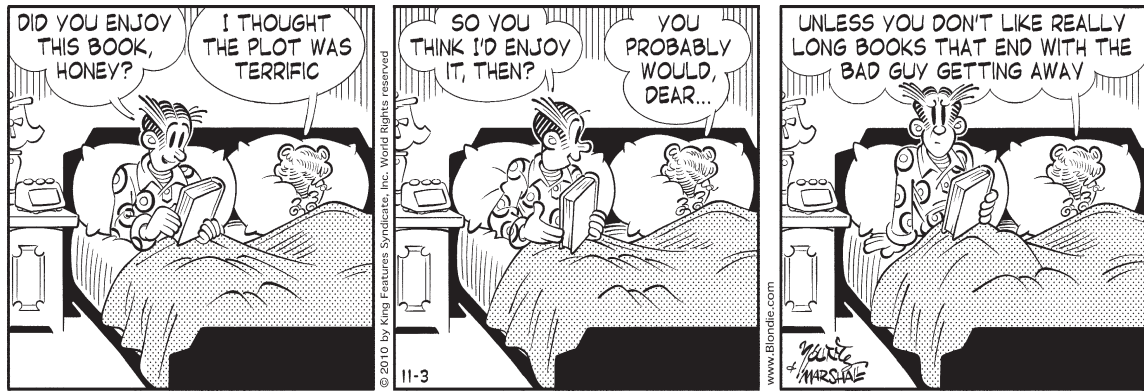
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



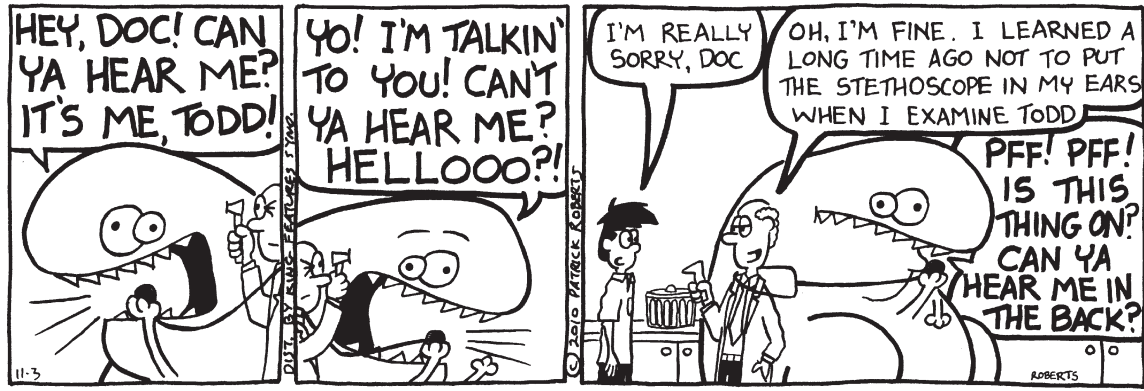
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



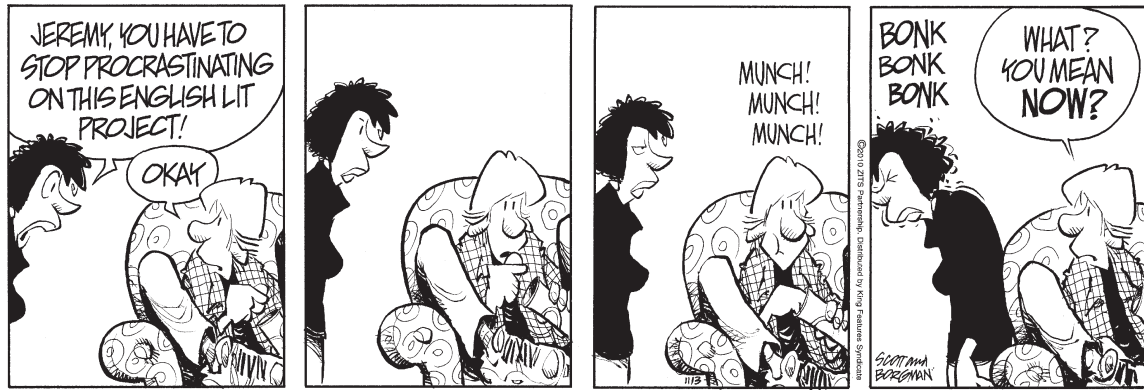
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Do avocado pits keep them green?

Dear Heloise: I have found a great tip - leave the pit in whatever dish you make with AVOCADOS, and the dish will not brown. Thank you for your great hints. - Jeannie M., via e-mail

SEND A GREAT HINT TO: Heloise P.O. Box 795000 San Antonio, TX 78279-5000 NO MUSTARD, NO PROBLEM

Dear Heloise: Our family has a favorite recipe that uses Dijon mustard. I was out of that ingredient one day, so I substituted spicy brown mustard. It worked great, and no one could tell the difference!

EASY CLEAN Dear Heloise: When I have roast pans or skillets that require scouring to clean them, I put water and a small amount of dishwashing liquid in them, put them on the stove, and let the residue cook off.

LEFTOVER STORAGE Dear Heloise: I read the suggestion to put a plastic bag into food-storage containers. I have a better idea: Get a dry marker to mark the container.

TWO BOXES OF OATMEAL Dear Heloise: Your advice to blend oatmeal to get quick oatmeal reminded me: I buy two boxes of oatmeal at a time.

SPICE DATING Dear Heloise: Wonder how long you have had a spice? I take a marker and put the date on the top of the lid the day I open it.

Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Hot Potato Perhaps you won't agree with South's off-shape notrump bid or North's raise to three, but that's the way the bidding went.

West led the king of diamonds, which won, and continued with the queen, which also won.

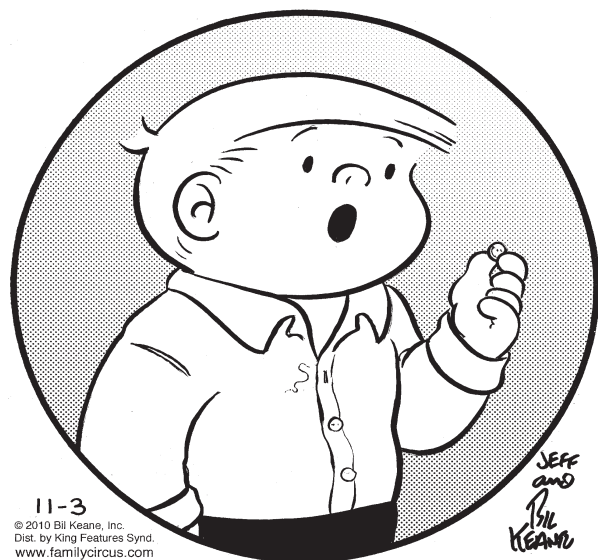
Now if you were East and saw only dummy's hand and your own, what would you discard? It might seem odd, but the proper discard is the queen of clubs!

A very good case can be made for discarding the queen of clubs. If South has the A-K-J, the queen is worthless.

When the hand was actually played, East did not discard the queen of clubs, electing to part with a spade instead.

South then continued with the ace, hoping the jack would fall, but it didn't.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How much money will I get from the button fairy if I put this under my pillow?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Conceptis Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

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.

Cryptoquip

SWQI ALXWI YHAVHJV TQRR QJO QDYIZQRLQJ EVZYHJ'Y EQJ TZVQY HZ IWOZHLF? IWV XRQJF FHSJ DJFVZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE OLD SWAMI IS EVER HOPEFUL FOR THE VERY BEST OUTCOME, I WOULD SAY HE'S OPTI-MYSTIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Herring's cousin, 5 Moon-shine vessel, 8 Despot, 12 Swampy area, 13 G8 member, 14 Blue hue, 15 Poisonous shrub with white flowers, 17 Breather?, 18 Air freshener brand, 19 Swells up, 21 Minus, 24 Hostel, 25 Classic TV star, 28 Garage job, for short, 30 N.J. neighbor, 33 Comedian Philips, 34 Sounds contented, 35 Gabor or Peron, 36 Cowboy's sweetie, 37 Therefore, 38 Make coffee, 39 "Eureka!", 41 Basin accessory, 43 Gov. Schwarzenegger, 46 Mrs. Gorbachev, 50 Arp's style, 51 Gilligan, e.g., 54 Always, 55 Has permission change, 56 Minimal change, 57 Dweeb, 58 Ram's ma'am, 59 Dr. Seuss' "The 500 of Bartholomew Cubbins", 61 Urban blight, 62 Jack and Jill's hurdle, 63 Vicinity, 4 Lethal, 5 "Okla-homa!" baddie, 6 Work with, 7 Raiments, 8 Claw, 9 Waste, 10 Family member, 11 - to riches, 16 Born falsehoods, 20 Unclearly, 23 Power glitch, 25 Journey portion, 26 Actress Thurman, 27 Sieve, 29 Forehead, 31 Prior night, 32 Legislation, 34 Ring out, 38 Offshoot, 40 Save greedily, 42 Mound stat, 43 Seaport of Yemen, 44 Carry on, 45 Exemplar of thinness, 47 Concept, 48 Faxed, 49 - and crafts, 52 Witnessed, 53 Caustic solution.

Crossword grid with black squares indicating non-letter positions.