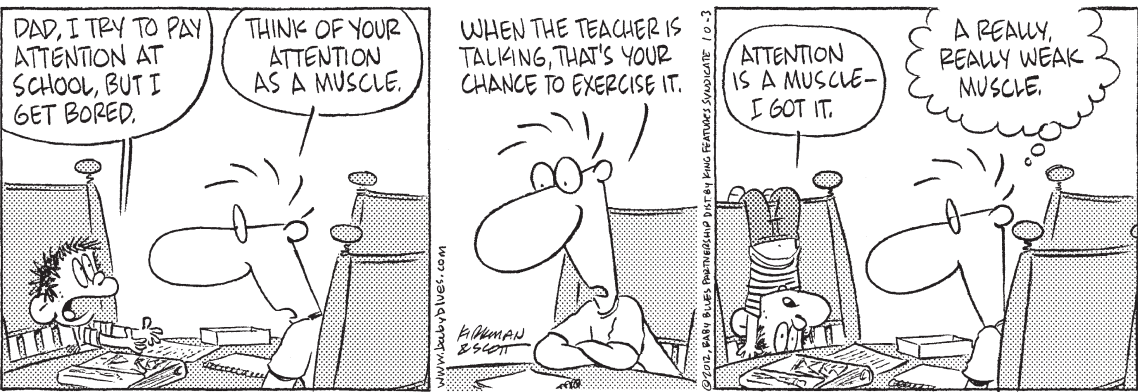
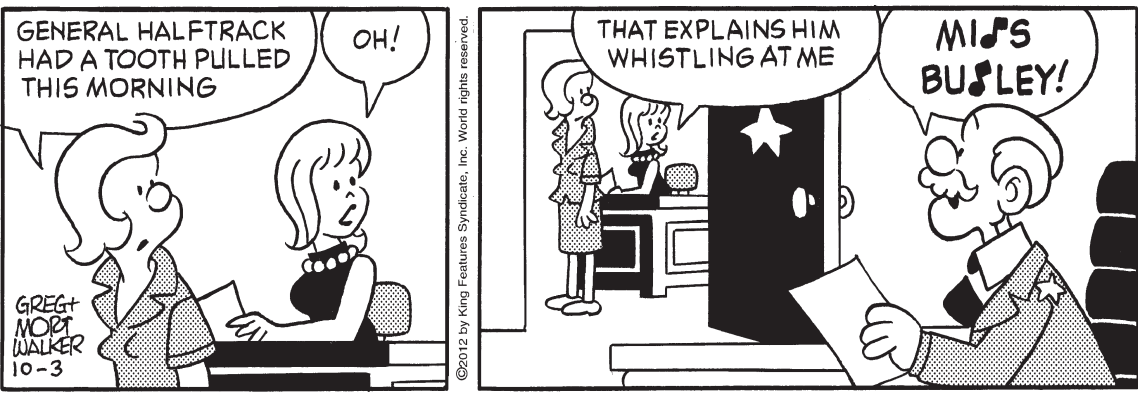


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



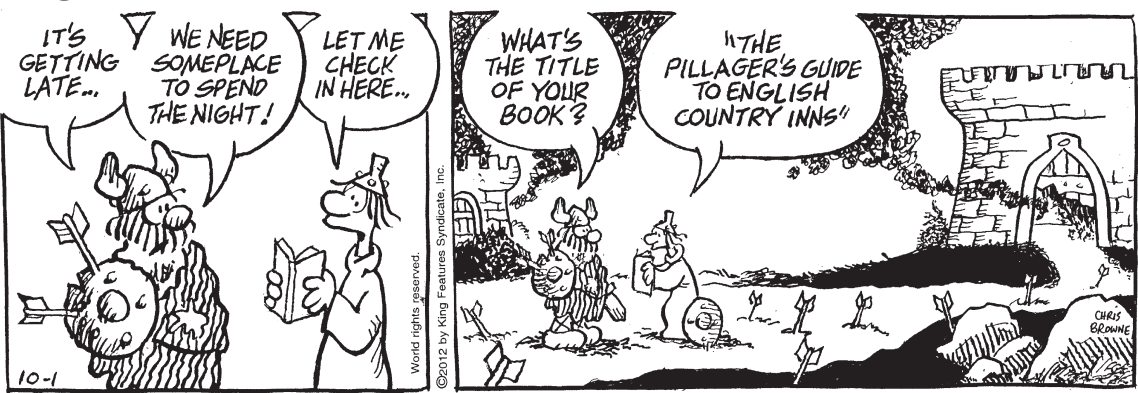
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



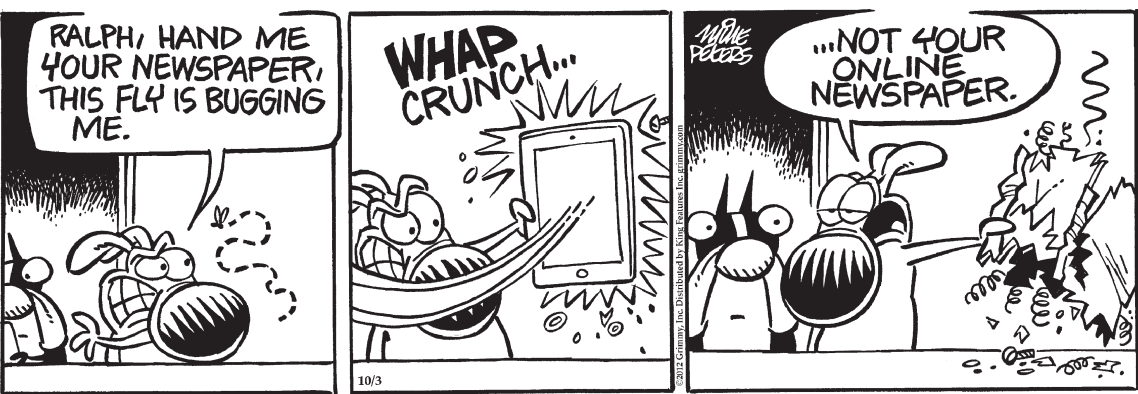
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



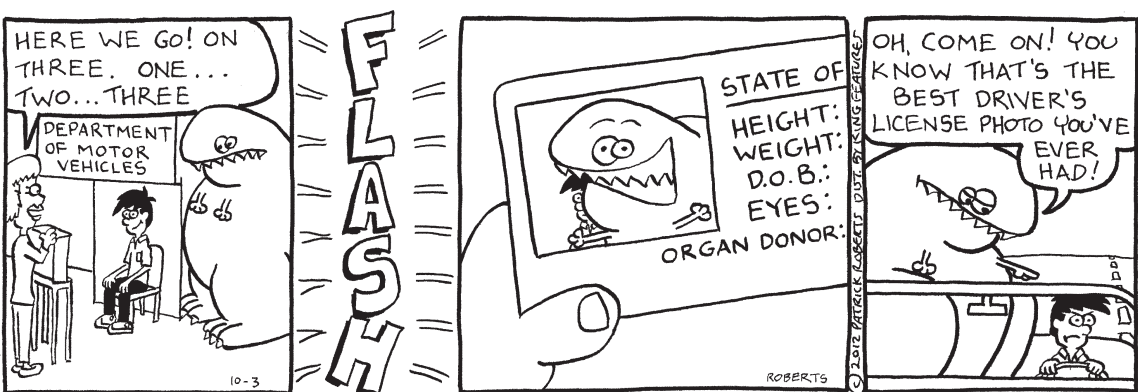
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



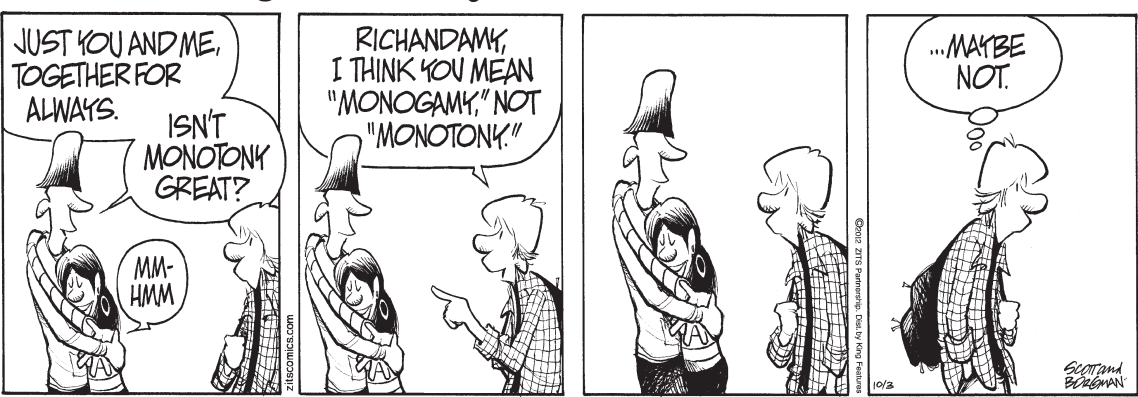
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Oven option crisps cookies

Dear Heloise: Desperate for a crispy cookie, but tired of the soft, chemical-tasting ones from the grocery store, I stuck a store-bought chocolate-chip cookie in the toaster oven at 350 degrees for about five minutes. The edges and parts of the bottom were actually dark brown. After cooling a bit, it tasted delicious and crisp.

I'm glad I didn't discover this trick earlier in my life, or I'd probably be 10 pounds heavier. — Elizabeth D., via e-mail

Love your hint, and it can be a trick to make warm, almost-home-style cookies from store-bought. Please do "test" the time and temperature so they don't burn. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

DIPPING BREAD

Dear Heloise: Many restaurants serve bread with olive oil to dip it in, but I don't always want to have to go out to a restaurant to get it. So, I've started making it myself at home. Any small dish of oil mixed with freshly ground pepper, pepper flakes, minced garlic or other spices will do. I like to add Parmesan cheese on top for a delicious appetizer. — Gwen R. in Tennessee

Great money-saving hint, and here's another bread hint from Betty in Huntsville, Ala. She says: "I've baked bread for years, and I've found that by laying each baked loaf on its side, it is much easier to slice. You will be slicing from side to side instead of from top to bottom, which also gives more uniform slices. I also use a serrated knife, which is a must." — Heloise

DRY WHITE WINE

Dear Heloise: When recipes call for a "dry" white wine, could you tell me which white wines are considered "dry"? — M.F., via e-mail

Well, a dry wine is one that is not sweet! When cooking or drinking, a good general guideline for a dry white wine would be a Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Grigio.

Many recipes call for "dry" white wine as an ingredient when you want the enhancement of wine but no sweetness added. — Heloise

TACO OMELET

Dear Heloise: My favorite use for leftover taco meat is in an omelet. When the eggs are almost set, add the taco meat, shredded cheese, chopped tomato and thinly sliced green onion. Finish cooking until the cheese is melted.

You can serve it with warm, buttered tortillas or with a little salsa and sour cream on top. Yum! — Penny H., Jamestown, N.D.

COOKING FISH

Dear Heloise: With a busy schedule, the ready-to-cook breaded fish filets are available in stores make a great meal for the family. When cooking in the oven, though, I always place it on a rack so the bottom stays crispy. — Ellie S. in Indiana

BOTTLE BASIC

Dear Heloise: As I emptied my plastic specialty mustard bottle, I washed it out to use as a honey bottle. It has a tight-locking lid, so ants can't get into the good stuff. — Dorothy T., Omaha, Neb.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♦K 5 3  
♥4 2  
♦Q 8 6 5 2  
♣Q 10 7  
**EAST**  
♠9 7 6  
♥5  
♦AKJ 9 7 4  
♠A 8 3  
**WEST**  
♠J 10 8 2  
♥A 9 3  
♦3  
♠9 6 5 4 2  
**SOUTH**  
♦AQ 4  
♥K Q J 10 8 7 6  
♦10  
♣K J  
The bidding:  
South 1♥  
West Pass  
North 1NT  
East 2♦  
Opening lead — three of diamonds.

The Camel's Back

It might be difficult to accept the fact that South must lose two trump tricks in today's deal and go down one. Nevertheless, that is certain to be the outcome if the defense functions as it should.

During the play, West scores not only his ace of trumps but the nine as well -- and there's nothing whatsoever South can do to prevent it.

East wins West's diamond lead with the jack and continues with the king. Declarer realizes that West's lead is a singleton, so he does the best he can by ruffing with the king instead of a low trump. If West incorrectly overruffs the king with the ace, South makes the contract, so let's assume West discards a club instead.

Declarer now plays the queen of hearts, and West should let him win this trick also. The reason West ducks is that he can't be sure of which suit to play next if he takes the queen with the ace.

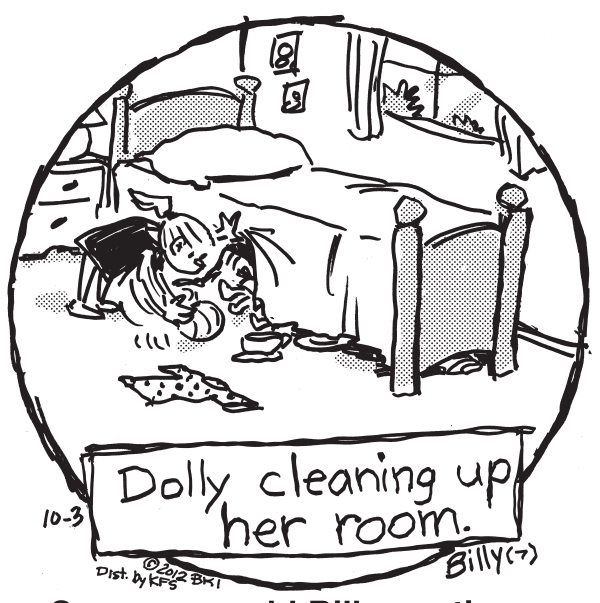
When South continues with the ten of hearts, West wins with the ace as East signals with the eight of clubs, whereupon West leads a club to East's ace.

East returns still another diamond, and it is this straw that breaks the camel's back. South has the J-8-7-6 of trumps at this point, West has the singleton nine, and South cannot prevent the nine from scoring the setting trick.

By bidding his time, West raises the power of the A-9-3 to the equivalent of the A-J-3. His patience is ultimately rewarded when East's persistent diamond leads finally weaken South's trumps to the breaking point.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Seven-year-old Billy continues with his look at the family.

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

10/03

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★

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Cryptoquip

VMWTHLM NCH QMAMS VMTQ

OETO MQMDN UHSPQJ OEM

OEPSU DCQOE, P JHMLL NCH

ETAM T DTSWE-QMDMLPL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FORMER AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHO WAS OFTEN CAUGHT DANCING TO POPULAR MUSIC: GROOVER CLEVELAND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Baccarat alternative
  - 5 Every iota
  - 8 Mope
  - 12 Soon, to bards
  - 13 Lawyer's due
  - 14 Leg joint
  - 15 Ocean swimmer's worry
  - 17 "An apple ..."
  - 18 Poor
  - 19 Loving grandparents, often
  - 21 Receives
  - 24 "the ramparts ..."
  - 25 Verifiable
  - 28 Aid
  - 30 Watch
  - 33 Attila, e.g.
  - 34 Memoranda
  - 35 "A mouse!"
  - 36 See 25-Down
  - 37 Ford or Lincoln
- DOWN**
- 38 Having Y chromosomes
  - 39 Shade provider
  - 41 Formerly
  - 43 British conservatives
  - 46 Say
  - 50 Tosses in
  - 51 Too young
  - 54 Mob scene
  - 55 Regret
  - 56 Press
  - 57 Cribbage scorers
  - 58 Suffer a recession?
  - 59 Expense
  - 1 Heche or Hathaway
  - 3 Was a passenger
  - 4 Nervous
  - 5 Sternward
  - 6 Zodiac sign
  - 7 Lascivious
  - 8 Glide
  - 9 In Cous-teau's realm
  - 10 Mad king of literature
  - 11 Piano lineup
  - 16 Deli bread
  - 20 "My bad"
  - 22 Biblical pronoun
  - 23 Squabble
  - 25 With 36-Across, finis
  - 26 Skedad-dle
  - 27 Likely loser
  - 29 Rock group, of —
  - 31 Moray, e.g.
  - 32 — out a living
  - 34 Appellation
  - 38 Measured in grams, e.g.
  - 40 Rosters
  - 42 Prompt
  - 43 Rainout need
  - 44 Garfield's pal
  - 45 Certain
  - 47 Poi base
  - 48 Hollywood clashers
  - 49 Landlord's due
  - 52 Essence
  - 53 Society newbie

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

Yesterday's answer 10-3

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			