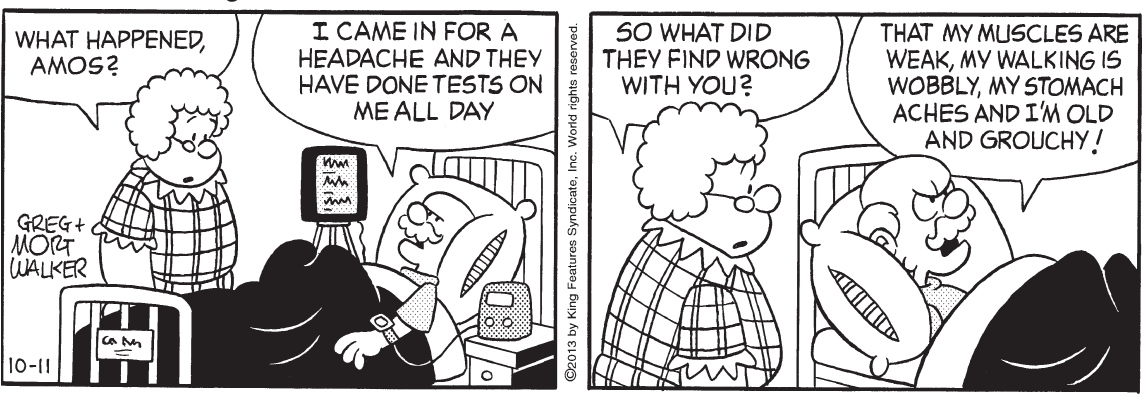
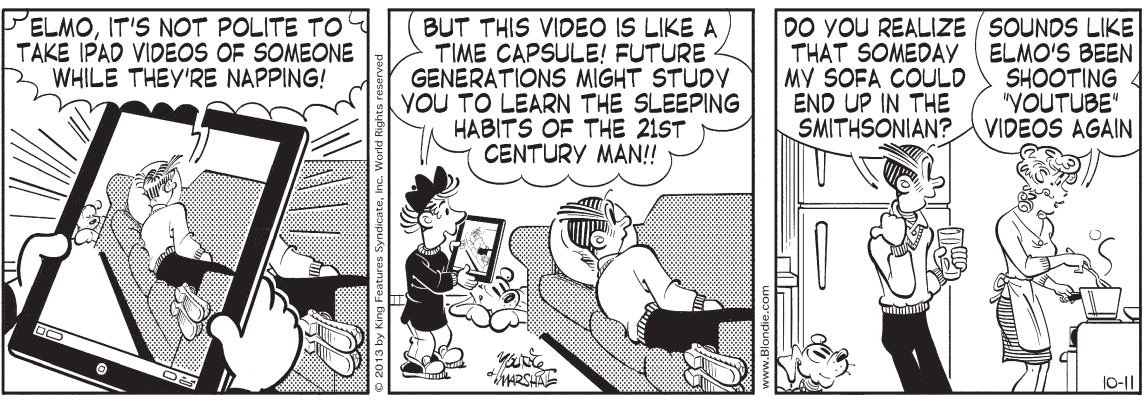
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

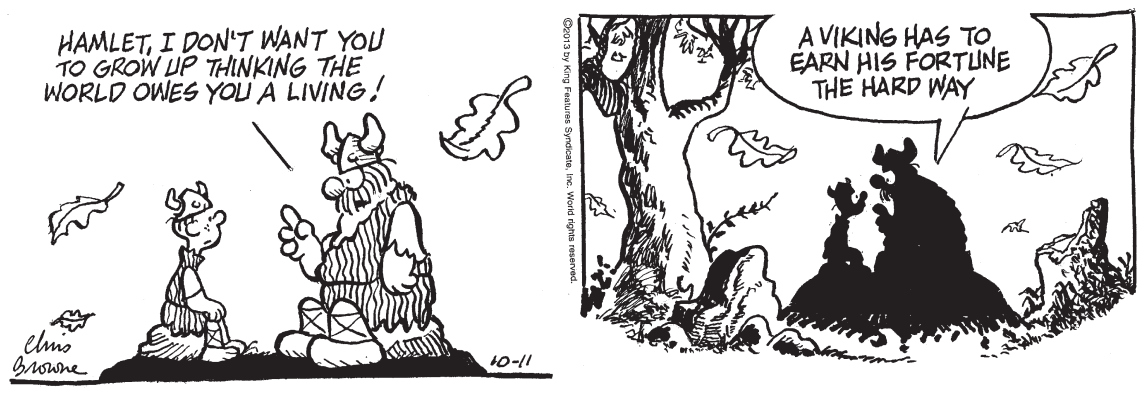
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



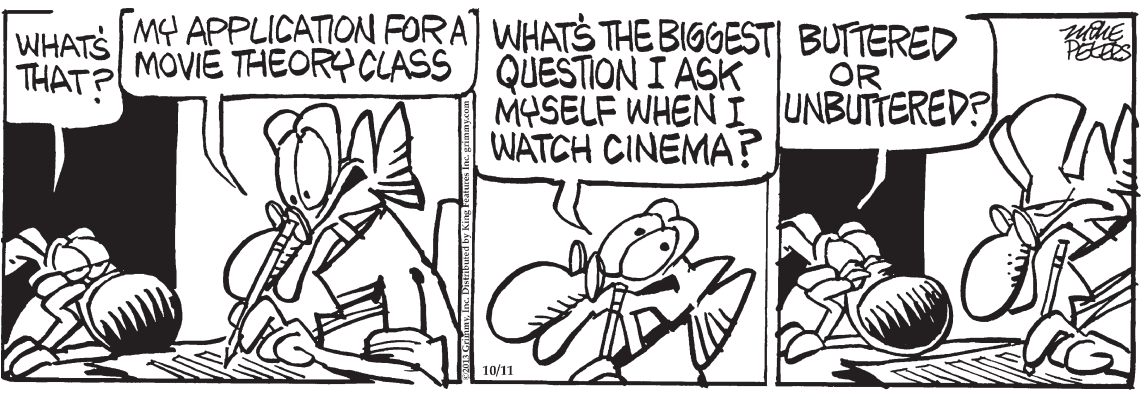
Blondie • Chic Young



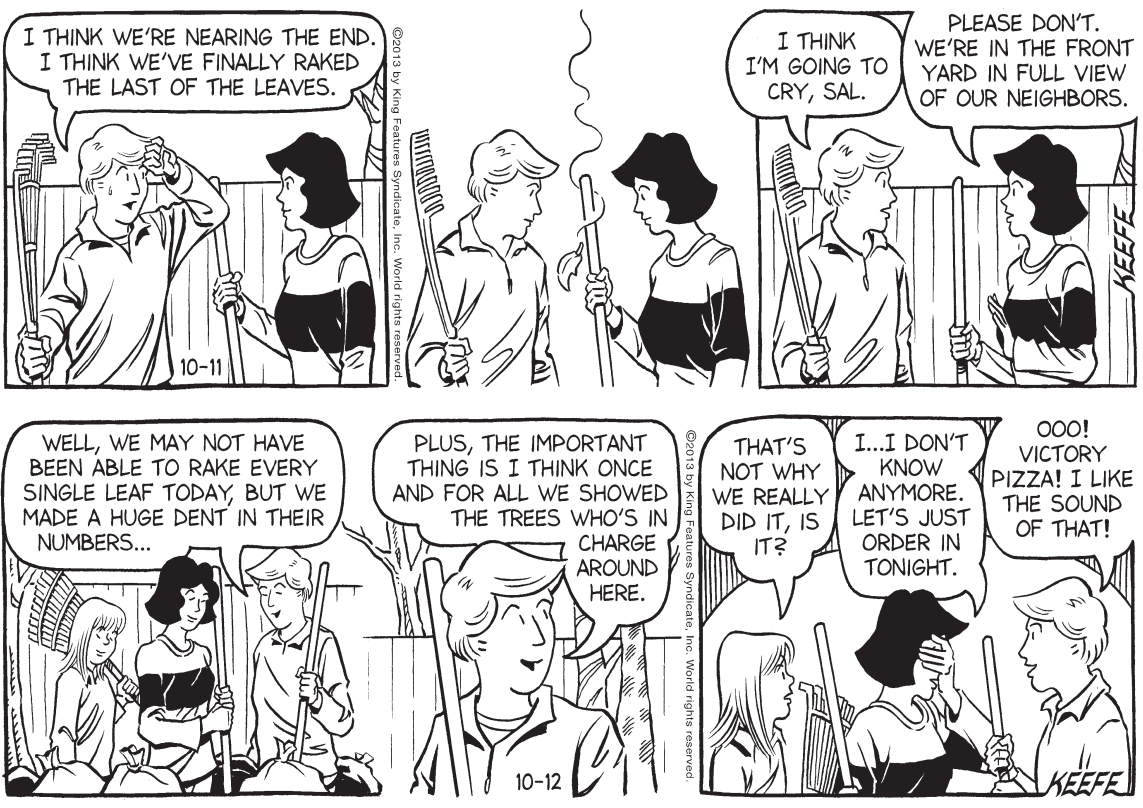
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



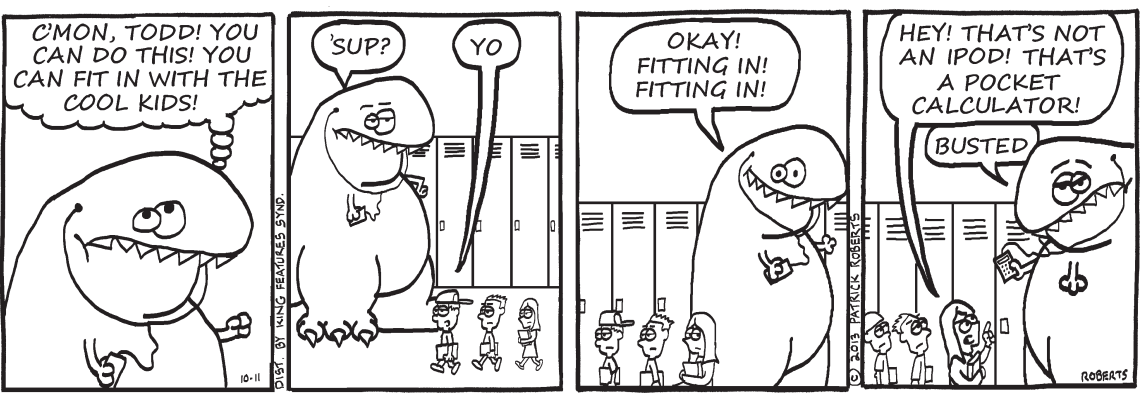
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



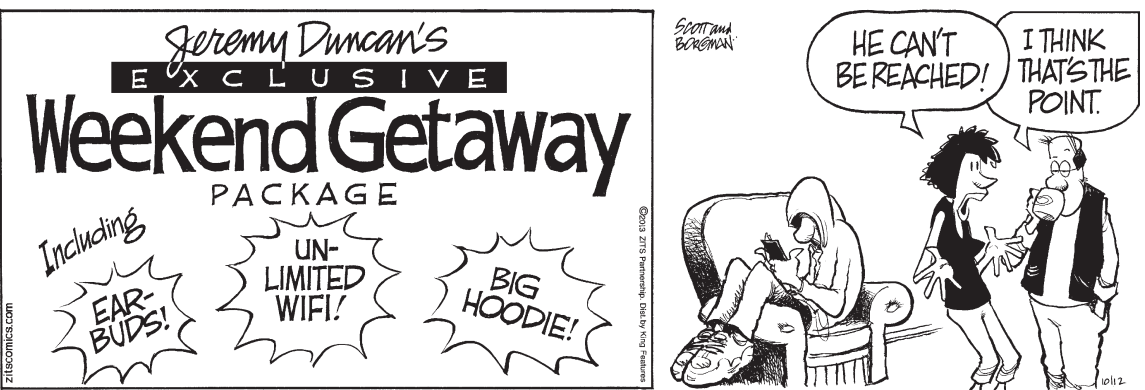
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Readers solve puzzle problem

Dear Readers: Wow! Are my readers super! A reader had a problem: How to frame a puzzle? Here are just a few of the hints you shared:

Elaine in Alabama wrote: "You can find tons of good frames, all kinds and all sizes, at thrift stores. Some will be empty, and some will have pictures in them. Just take out the pictures. They will be very inexpensive." (I agree! – Heloise)

Frank in Arkansas wrote: "Find a carpenter, as they always have a lot of scraps left over. They have saws and could cut pieces at the end of the day. Buy glue at the hardware store to finish. Use books as weights to hold pieces in place while glue sets."

Marillyn in Texas wrote: "After assembling, coat the front of the puzzle with glue (Heloise here: They make special glue for puzzles, or use any that dries clear) and slide a squeegee or plastic ruler over the puzzle to work the glue into puzzle pieces. It will dry clear. After it has dried, turn the puzzle over and repeat the process on the back. Cut a piece of poster board to fit, and glue in place."

Marie, via e-mail, wrote: "Picture frames do not come in the sizes that puzzles are made in. Buy a frame that is larger and use pretty paper or pieces of fabric to cover the edges where the backing shows."

All of these are great hints! Thanks for writing in! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

PLEASE PRINT

Dear Heloise: When my husband passed, there were so many friends and family who signed the guest book. However, I couldn't read 90 percent of the names. Sign your name, but also print it. – Sue, via fax

Sue, I am sorry for your loss, and you are so kind to write with this hint. This time in anyone's life is difficult enough. One should not have to worry about trying to read an unreadable name. Also, with sympathy cards, please include your last name – there are a lot of Johns and Janes out there. – Heloise

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: Whenever we travel on a getaway trip via car, we appreciate the motels that accommodate us with a coffee machine and coffee. But for some reason, the water from the tap doesn't taste right. Now when we travel, we take our own bottled water, and our coffee brews deliciously. – Sally F. in Texas

Love the coffee machines in a hotel room, but you are right! Sometimes the water is just fine; other times, in some cities or older hotels, well, it's not. — Heloise

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	Pass	?

What (if anything) would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ 874 ♥ K93 ♦ AJ9 ♣ KJ82
2. ♠ A65 ♥ QJ6 ♦ AQ8 ♣ KQ73
3. ♠ KJ932 ♥ 1085 ♦ 10 ♣ KJ64
4. ♠ J43 ♥ AK7 ♦ KQ9874 ♣ 3
5. ♠ AKQJ3 ♥ AJ4 ♦ 63 ♣ KQ6

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. One notrump. When you are in the balancing seat – that is, when the bidding is at a low level and would be over if you passed – you are allowed to make bids that do not meet the usual requirements for the same bid made in a different situation. Here, the one-notrump overcall does not promise the normal complement of 15 to 18 points, but instead indicates 11 to 14. If a player in the balancing position actually has a stronger notrump hand, he must double first and bid notrump later.

2. Double. If you were North – immediately behind the opening bidder – you would overcall West's one-diamond bid with one notrump. But since you are in the balancing seat, you cannot afford to bid one notrump because partner would expect you to have 11 to 14 points, as in the previous problem. Instead, you should double, planning to bid notrump at your next turn.

3. One spade. Even though your hand would not qualify for a vulnerable overcall if you were in the North position, here it is better to bid one spade than to pass. Partner probably has at least 10 points, which gives you a good shot at making a partscore. You'd lose this opportunity if you elected to pass one diamond.

4. Pass. Your best chance for a significant plus score lies in letting West play the hand in one diamond. The fact that you have the values for an opening bid does not mean that you must take action at this point. West will probably go down two or three tricks in one diamond — 200 or 300 points — which could well be the best result available. Note that you cannot double, since this would be for takeout.

5. Double. Here you have values that are completely independent of your being in the balancing seat. If you were North, you would double, and as South you should take exactly the same action. True, your double is suspect when you are in the balancing position, but you plan to take strong action at your next turn to identify your actual strength. It is much better to double than to bid two spades, which is strength-showing in the balancing position, but not forcing.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Just so you know, if you're too sick to go to school, Mommy's gonna say you're too sick to watch TV."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/11

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/10

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Cryptoquip

JIZW R CBZVXLXV RLQXVRW QZBNTUXV IRC BQZMMK IGM JZRMIZQ, XM VGNUA TZ R WXWZMK-AZFQZZ RWFGUR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BEST FANCY VASE TO HAVE BEEN PRODUCED OVER THE PAST HUNDRED YEARS: THE URN OF THE CENTURY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Others (Lat.)
8 Angelic music-maker
12 Hosp. section
13 Mentor
14 Great Lake
15 Excited
17 Object of worship
18 Reddish-brown horse
19 Peak periods
21 Where — at
22 Beer drinker's option
26 Actress Sharon
29 Duke it out
30 Tin Man's need
31 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
32 Pistol
33 Island visited by Magellan
34 Alias abbr.
35 Pantheon member
36 Repentant
37 Sent an invoice to
39 Performance
40 Ostrich's cousin
41 Chalkboard need
45 Thought
48 Choke
50 Mooing sounds
51 Form a spiral
52 Work with
53 Dandling site
54 Sock part
55 Sleeping spot

DOWN
1 Peach centers
2 Reverberate
3 Sound of contentment
4 Shoelace tips
5 Temporary calms
6 Anger
7 Naturalist John
8 Robbery
9 Joan of —
10 Carnival city
11 Calligrapher's need
16 March 17 celebrants
20 Plague
23 Go sightseeing
24 Taleteller
25 Abounding in hackberry trees
26 Snatch
27 Trickster deity
28 Listending abbr.
29 Unopened flower
32 Pay your share
33 Reached
35 Jewel
36 Piece of parchment
38 Rental contract
39 Eagle's nest
42 Half a ticket
43 Otherwise
44 Oboe insert
45 Sort
46 Mafia VIP
47 Farmyard female
49 Weeding tool

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	I	N	G	■	B	A	L	D	■	I	D	S
E	S	A	U	■	O	L	E	O	■	N	E	O
I	N	P	A	S	S	I	N	G	■	S	A	L
S	T	A	V	E	S	■	■	M	A	P	L	E
■	■	■	A	X	■	I	V	A	N	A	■	■
D	A	I	S	■	A	N	A	■	I	D	O	L
U	R	N	■	■	G	A	S	■	■	E	W	E
O	T	T	O	■	U	L	T	■	O	S	L	O
■	■	A	R	I	E	L	■	A	L	■	■	■
M	I	N	O	R	■	■	A	M	I	G	O	S
E	N	D	■	I	N	P	R	I	V	A	T	E
A	T	E	■	S	E	E	M	■	E	P	I	C
D	O	M	■	H	E	N	S	■	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 10-11

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		