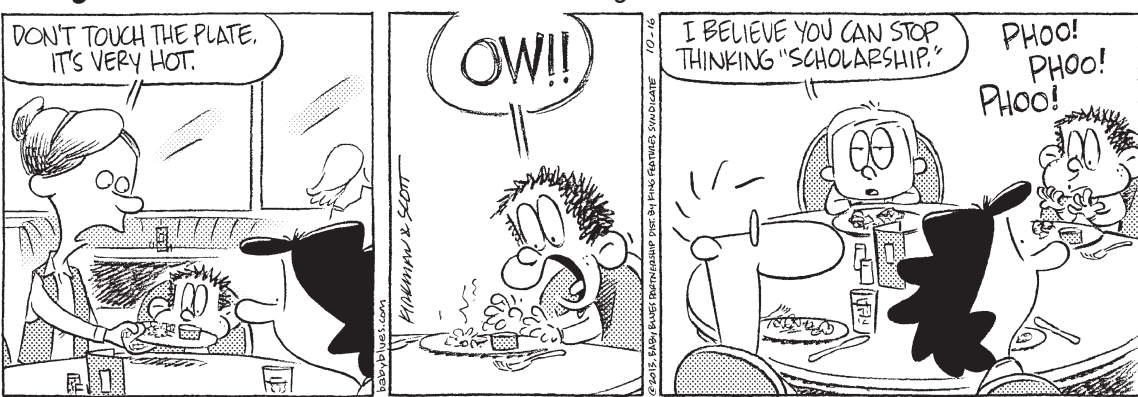
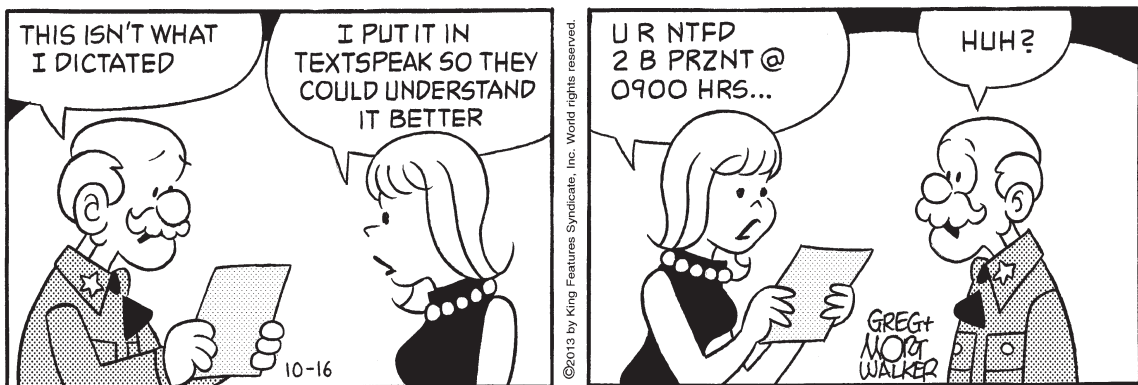


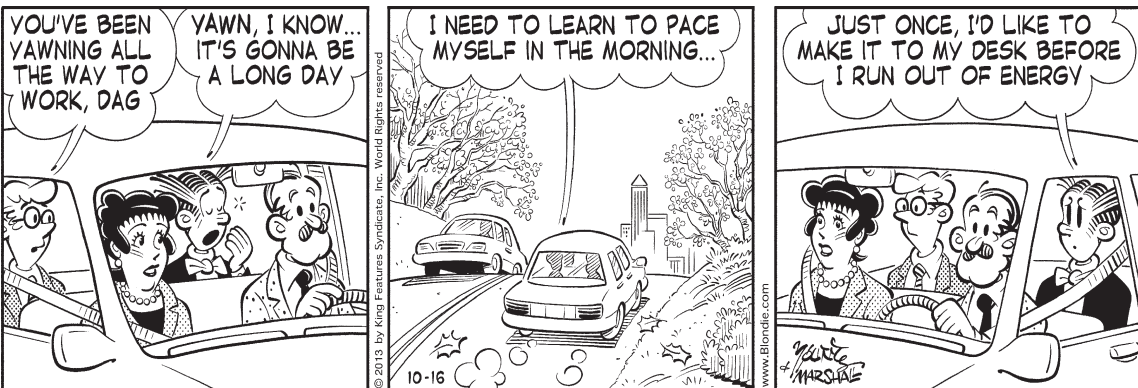
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



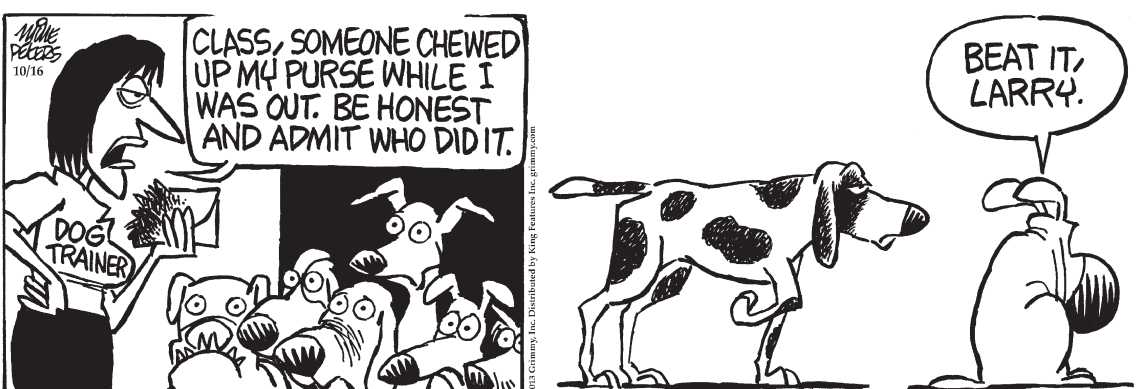
**Blondie** • Chic Young



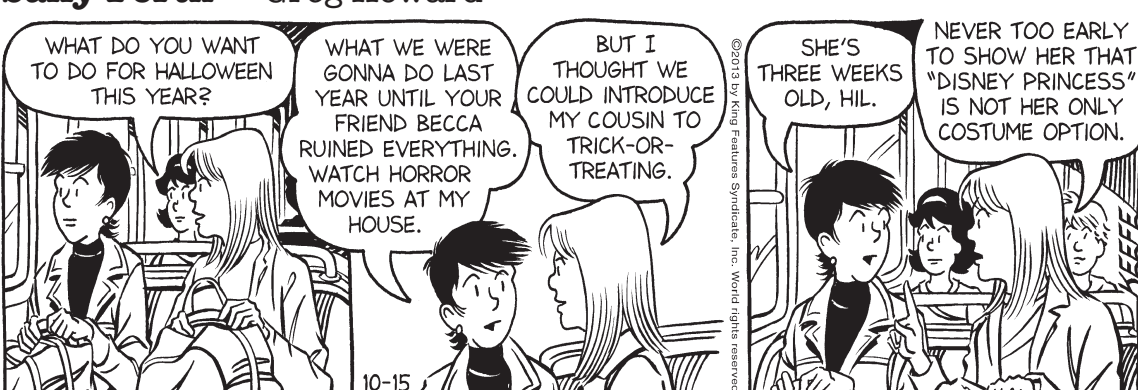
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



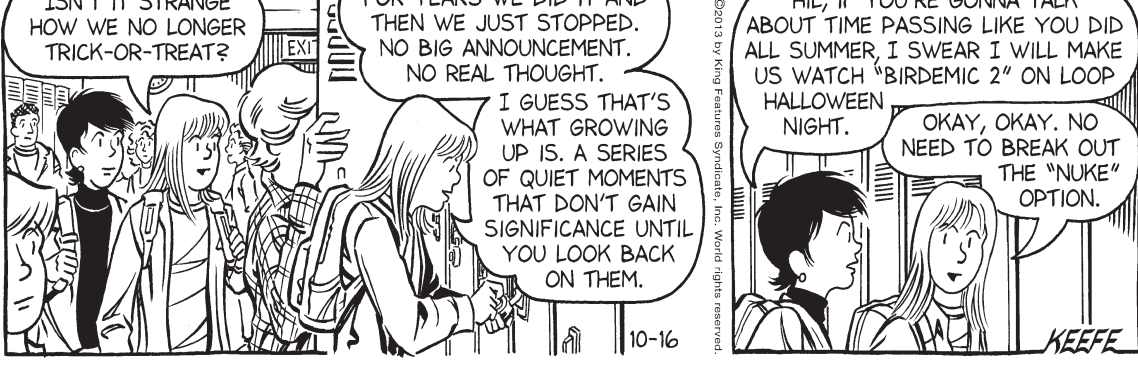
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



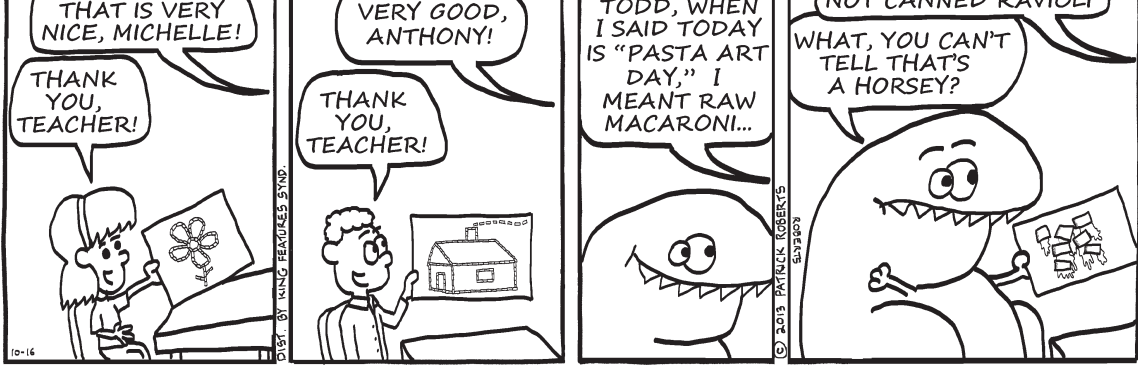
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Watch warnings for microwaving**

Dear Heloise: Recently, I wanted to dry some dill in my microwave oven. I placed a paper towel, with pretty flower designs, on a glass tray and placed the dill on top. I set the microwave for 30 seconds and pushed the start button.

Much to my surprise, after a few seconds, the paper towel was on fire! I was shocked, because I have done this in the past with success. Later, I was replacing the paper towels and noticed a warning label on the wrapper. The warning stated not to dry herbs on paper towels in the microwave oven. I wanted to alert your readers to this. — Elaine S. in Virginia

An important warning and reminder also to only use WHITE paper towels in the microwave, especially if cooking food. When drying herbs, separate the leaves from the stems, watch them closely and don't walk away! Herbs dry quickly in the microwave and can burn easily. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

**PICKLE LID**

Dear Heloise: I was just reading my September issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine and noticed the question on deodorizing pickle-jar lids. Here's what I've found that works well.

After thoroughly washing the lid with soapy dishwater, I place the lid outside in full sun, with the inside of the lid facing up. A day or two in the hot Texas sun seems to completely remove all pickle odors. I love using glass jars for all kinds of storage. — Linda G. in Texas

Yep! Good old Mother Nature can deliver a wallop or a pat. The sun can "bleach" out many things and, as you note, kill odors! — Heloise

**TEST YOUR HINT IQ**

Dear Readers: Poundcakes are delicious, sweet cakes that taste great by themselves or dressed up with fruits and sauces. But do you know how the cake got its name? It was named for a pound of which ingredient used in the recipe?

- A) Flour
- B) Sugar
- C) Eggs
- D) Butter
- E) All of the above

The answer is E! This easy recipe just said to add a pound of each of the ingredients to make the cake. Any way you slice it, it's a good dessert. — Heloise

**SOFT BROWN SUGAR**

Dear Heloise: I don't use brown sugar quickly, so I've tried every hint to keep it fresh. The best method is to store it in the freezer. It takes only a few minutes to thaw, and you'll find it as soft and fresh as the day you bought it. — Joan in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Be sure to place the sugar in a sealable plastic freezer bag. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q 9 8  
♥ 7 3  
♦ A Q 6 4  
♣ Q 10 5

**WEST**  
♠ 7 4 3 2  
♥ J 8 5 4  
♦ J 10 8 5  
♣ 4

**EAST**  
♠ 5  
♥ 10 9 6 2  
♦ K 9 7 2  
♣ K J 9 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A J 10 6  
♥ A K Q  
♦ 3  
♣ A 8 6 3 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
1 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

**When to Draw Trumps**

Most deals are played in a suit contract, and the outcome frequently depends on how wisely declarer utilizes his trumps. There is always the question of whether to draw trumps at once, or, if not, exactly when to do so. Unfortunately, there is no hard-and-fast rule that governs every situation, and declarer is best advised to follow whatever the circumstances dictate.

For example, take this deal where West leads a diamond against six spades. One way of proceeding is to win with the ace and start to draw trumps, playing for a normal 3-2 division, and then hope to lose only one club trick.

In the actual deal, this method of play founders quickly. There would be no way to make the slam once South played two rounds of trumps.

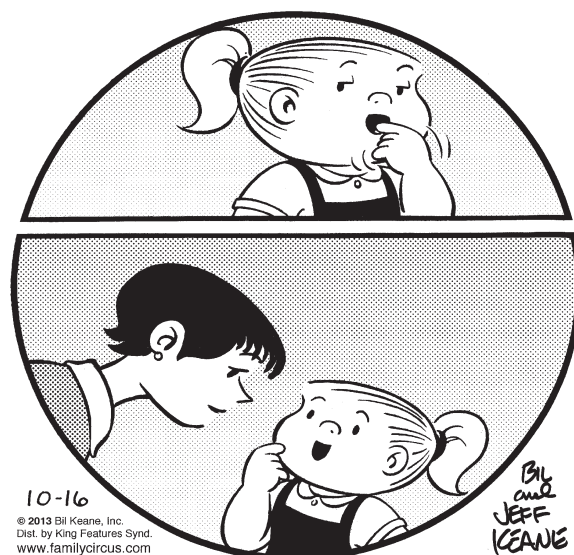
But declarer can make the contract by adopting a superior line of play. He wins the diamond lead with the ace and cashes the A-K-Q of hearts, discarding a club from dummy. Then he plays the ace and another club.

East wins but can do nothing to stop the slam. Even if East returns a trump, South cannot be prevented from ruffing his three remaining clubs in dummy, and dummy's three remaining diamonds in his hand. All told, South scores seven trump tricks, three hearts, a diamond and a club to finish with 12 tricks.

It may be argued that it is risky to play the A-K-Q of hearts before drawing trumps, as either defender might ruff one of the hearts. But this is only about a 1-in-5 possibility, and there is no other approach that comes close to offering as good a chance. The best you can do in bridge is to follow the most promising line of play, and leading three rounds of hearts at the outset conforms to that principle.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



10-16  
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www.familycircus.com

"I hope the Tooth Fairy is in town, because she's gonna have some business with me soon."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/16

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

GKHC FEIZ EDQE QCCBI LR

HQWLMX EDQE PLBB SIBLXDE

NQMR KN Q GIZEQLM ZKGV

XZKFC: NBIIEPKKS LHQG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT MY SCHOOL, PUPILS DIDN'T ANALYZE SENTENCE STRUCTURE. I GUESS THEY MADE IT A NO-PARSING ZONE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Toast topping
  - 4 Pocket-watch attachment
  - 7 FDR's dog
  - 8 Exposures
  - 10 Station
  - 11 Always, in verse
  - 13 SUV ancestors
  - 16 Bronze nymph
  - 18 Indivisible
  - 19 Marine flier
  - 20 Dazzle
  - 21 Agents
  - 23 Somewhat
  - 25 Experts
  - 26 Mrs. Jupiter
  - 27 Yule fuel
  - 28 Yarn quantity
  - 30 "CSI" evidence
- DOWN**
- 33 "NYPD Blue" locale
  - 36 Intellectual show-off
  - 37 Heterogeneous
  - 38 Renders sterile
  - 39 Grandson of Eve
  - 40 Commotion
  - 41 Author Brown
  - 4 Islamic decree
  - 5 17-
  - 6 Across' mountain
  - 6 Titanic destroyer
  - 7 Crumbly cheese
  - 8 Country of once called
  - 9 Snobbish ones
  - 10 Summer NYC hrs.
  - 12 Boredom nation
  - 13 Shell array
  - 15 D.C. address
  - 19 "— the season ..."
  - 20 — Paulo, Brazil
  - 21 Dole out the ice cream
  - 22 Part of a pirate costume
  - 23 Resignation
  - 24 Anonymous
  - 25 Jungfrau, e.g.
  - 26 "He — at scars ..."
  - 28 Burn with steam
  - 29 Japanese form of fencing
  - 30 Mason's surveying partner
  - 31 Unfavorable votes
  - 32 Moreover
  - 34 Thought
  - 35 Turner or Fey

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

Yesterday's answer 10-16

	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		