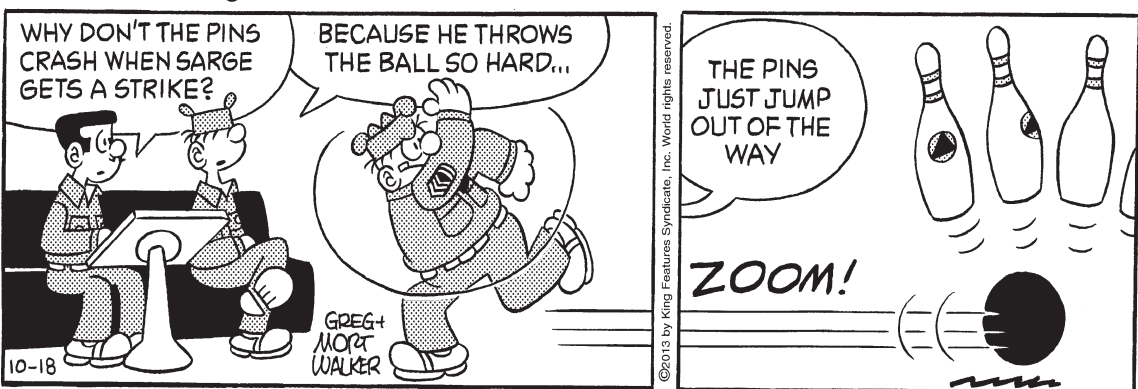


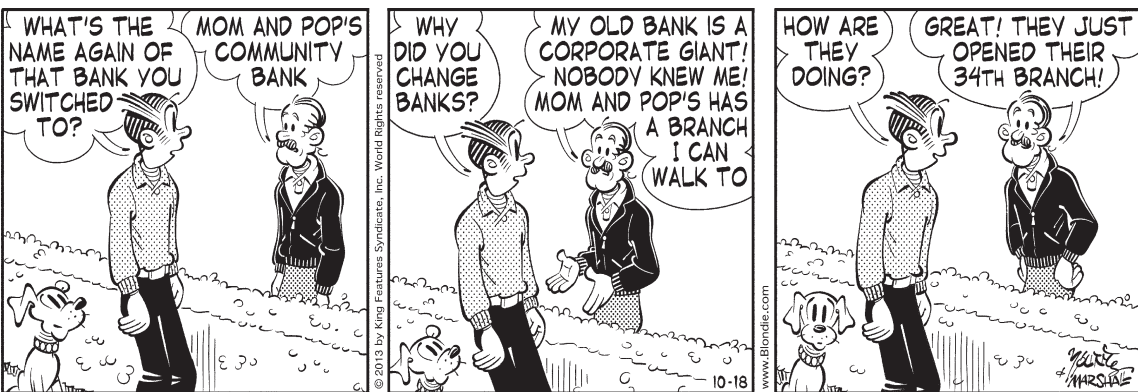
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



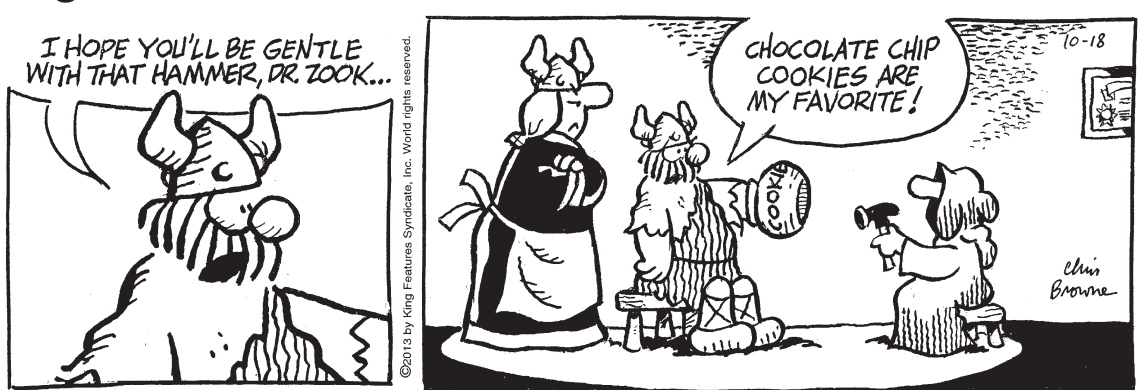
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



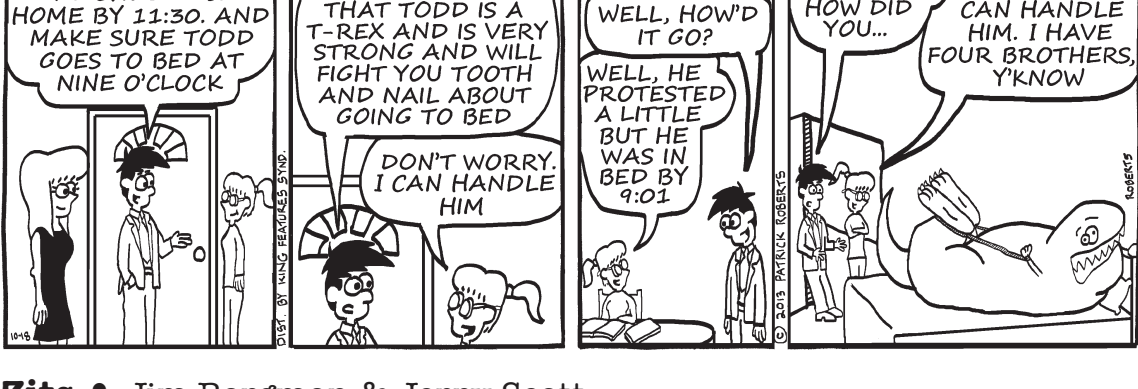
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Worn-out flags do final service**

Dear Heloise: As an addition to your hint on retiring a flag that is tattered or faded, many funeral establishments that have crematories will accept flags. We, with the permission of the family of a veteran requesting cremation, will drape the remains with a retired flag. At the time of cremation, not only does the flag receive proper disposal, but the veteran has the honor of being covered with the greatest honor, his nation's flag. — Sandy M., Bakersfield, Calif.

You are right, Sandy. Some funeral homes across the country do have a flag-retirement program. They accept flags that are no longer able to fly and cremate them during a certain time period around several national holidays. Also, some do accept flags to be used, with the family's permission, during the cremation process of a service member. It certainly is a very personal decision; however, most people are grateful for the effort. Thanks to all active members and veterans for your service. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE  
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: I like to pull my hair back while washing my face or applying makeup. When traveling, I take only what is necessary. I use my sleep mask when sleeping, and as a headband to hold my hair back. — K.J. in Texas

**FINDING LOWER FEES**

Dear Heloise: Most people may already know this, but I found it interesting. Different ATMs charge different fees. One charges a \$4 fee, while another charges only \$2.50. Even ATMs located in the same store may charge different fees.

Of course, the best thing is to use one of your bank's ATMs, but if you can't, find one with a lower fee. Those dollars can add up. — Josie in Sacramento, Calif.

**STUCK STATUES HELP**

Dear Heloise: A recent column addressed a problem of stuck curios in a wood cabinet. An easier solution would be to heat the curios and shelves with a hair dryer, achieving a clean release. Any marring of the shelf can be treated with a stain-inclusive wax. — Roger E., Dyer, Ind.

Thanks for the advice, Roger! Another reader wrote in about this same problem. Below is what he had to say. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**1. The bidding has gone:**

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1 ♥	2 ♣
2 ♠	4 ♥
?	

What would you bid now with:  
♠ K7 ♥ KQ1093 ♦ KQJ64 ♣ 5

**2. The bidding has gone:**

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1 ♠	1 ♣
?	2 ♠

What would you bid now with:  
♠ AK10952 ♥ AJ73 ♦ 4 ♣ 86

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Four notrump. Partner's four-heart bid, in conjunction with his initial two-club response, is slam invitational. It indicates values greater than a jump to three hearts (forcing) would show. So, even though you have only 14 high-card points and no aces, you should accept partner's invitation and bid again. The key to the slam, if there is one, is how many aces he has — and that is why your best bet at this point is Blackwood. If partner turns up with three aces, you're virtually certain to make a slam.

2. Three hearts. It is often said that a partnership requires 33 points for a small slam, but while this is generally true for balanced hands, it is an inaccurate way of assessing the potential for slam on unbalanced hands. In actuality, most slams are made with hands that contain much less than 33 high-card points. The chief reason these hands produce 12 tricks is that they contain distributional features that neutralize most of the high-card points held by the defenders.

Consider this case where you have only 12 high-card points and partner, after opening one club, raises you to two spades. It would be wrong to jump directly to four spades on the basis that partner has a minimum opening bid and so have you — which usually means there's no slam. However, suppose partner held:

♠ Q874 ♥ K6 ♦ A82 ♣ KQ52  
OR  
♠ Q863 ♥ 5 ♦ A82 ♣ AQ743

In both cases your side belongs in a slam, and the best way to start the ball rolling in that direction is by bidding three hearts over two spades. With either hand shown, partner should cooperate by bidding four diamonds. This shows the ace of diamonds, a good holding opposite your secondary heart suit, and a hand that is better than an average two-spade raise. With partner showing these plus features, you could either immediately or subsequently contract for six spades.

If your partner instead held something like [S] QJ64 [H] 852 [D] A8 [C] KQ102, he would make the discouraging response of three spades, and you would then close out the auction by bidding four spades.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



10-18  
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www.familycircus.com

"Are you sure salad counts as real food?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

10/18

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

INU NWCY X HYYG MPKXQXBXWG

O X Q Q Y C Y E U I N Y E Y W Q

W K K Q X O Y H ? A Y B W V H Y N Y

O V H Q A Y E P O G Y U - M E Y H Y G Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WARY OF ALL HOUSEHOLD INSECTS, THAT LADY IS PARTICULARLY CAREFUL WHEN SHE APPROACHES ROACHES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals A

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Equi-	1 UN
4 Schlep	workers'
8 Genie's	agcy.
home	2 Hardly a
12 Valentine	Prius
shorthand	3 Tie-
13 Top-notch	breaking
14 Bread	period
spread	4 Risk
15 Annul	taker?
17 Labor	5 Make
now"	turbid
18 Money of	6 In
Cambodia	addition
19 Irk	7 "Gosh"
20 "The	8 Astrono-
Maltese	mer
Falcon"	47 Anger
actress	48 Have bills
Mary	49 Cicatrix
22 MPs'	50 Sent
quarry	back
24 Move like	10 Griffin
a butterfly	of TV
25 Absolute	51 Barbie's
ruler	friend
29 Aries	11 Jab
30 Say	
something	
31 Cross-	
word clue	
abbr.	
32 Flip	
34 Michael	
of	
"Arrested	
Development"	

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 10-18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15		16						17		
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		