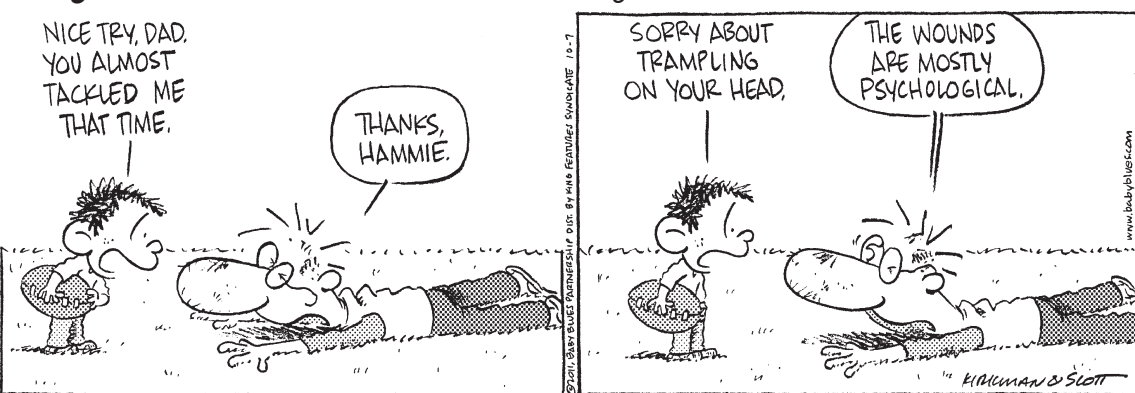
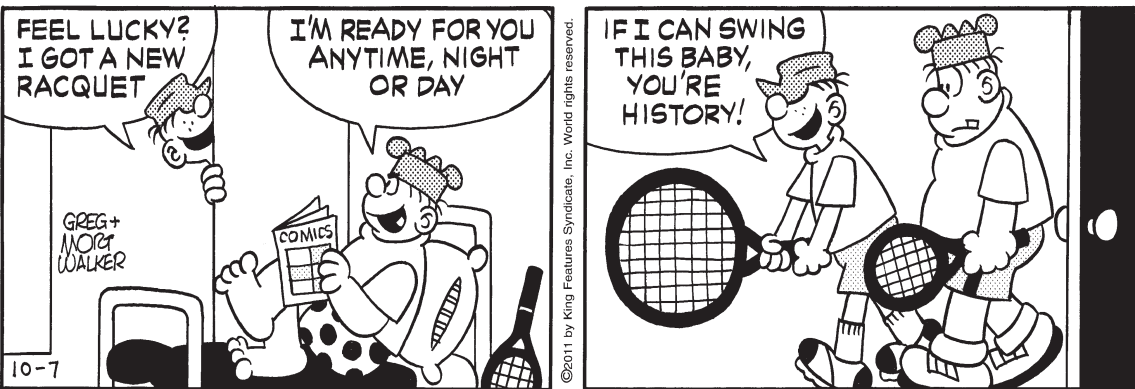


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



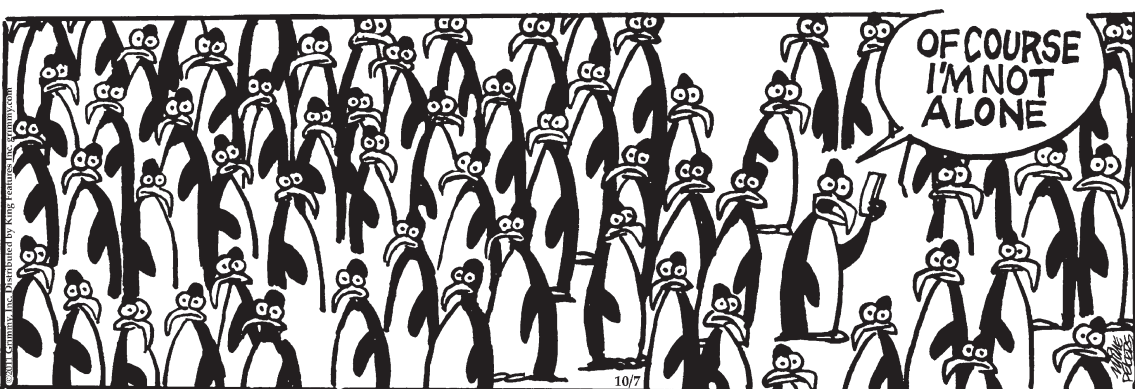
**Blondie** • Chic Young



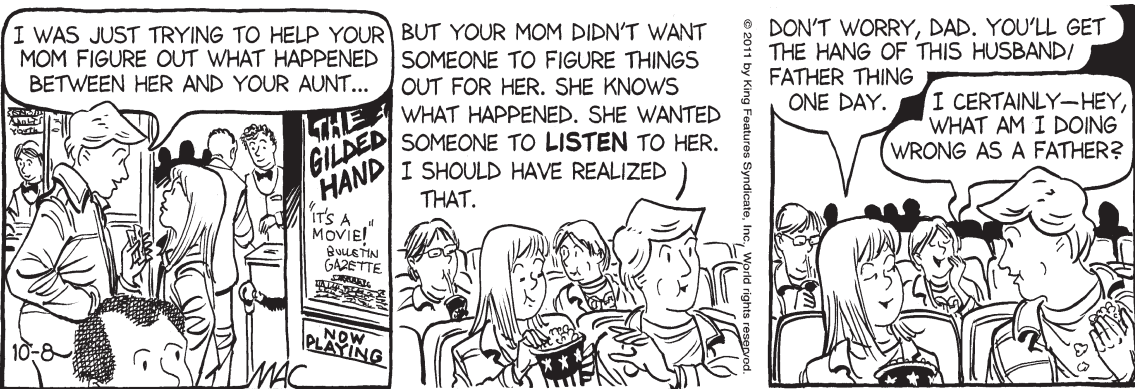
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



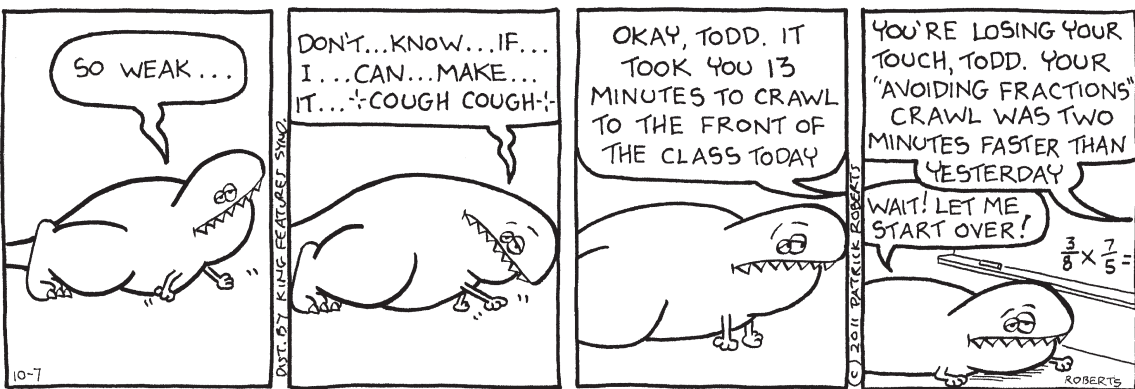
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Heloise**



• Hints from Heloise

**Doorknob holds candle reminder**

Dear Heloise: When I LIGHT CANDLES in my home, I immediately go to the front door and hang a dish towel on the doorknob. It is a reminder to extinguish candles before leaving the house. I also use candles only in glass containers. — Flo C., Baton Rouge, La.

Flo, an interesting way to signal yourself, as long as you are "clued" when you leave. There have been many house fires and deaths caused by candles left burning. NEVER, go to sleep with candles burning.

Battery-operated candles also are a good safety option — there's no flame, and they aren't very expensive. — Heloise

**WHO'S GOT THE BUTTON?**

Dear Heloise: For many years, I have saved buttons of all sizes, colors and shapes, and made of many different materials.

Do you or any of your readers know what to do with them? — Marie in Alabama

Marie, old buttons are wonderful! Antique or specialty buttons may be worth something — look at them carefully. Check with a seamstress, an antiques dealer or arts group to get information for a new home for the buttons. If you think yours may have value, check with an antiques dealer.

Here are some ideas for buttons from Heloise Central: jewelry and craft projects, teaching young people to sew, and attaching to hidden areas of a garment for emergency use. Readers, how do you use old buttons? Drop an email to Heloise(at)Heloise.com; fax to (210) 435-6473 (HELOISE); or send a note to Heloise, Box 795000, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5000. Please put "Button" in the email subject line or on the envelope. — Heloise

**HEARTWORM HINTS**

Dear Readers: Did you know heartworm disease has been reported in all 50 states? Pets need treatment even in winter. Heartworms can rapidly multiply, and the parasites can be deadly. They are transmitted by mosquitoes.

How can you tell if your pet has heartworm disease? It may be hard in the early stages, but as the disease progresses, you will notice your pet being extraordinarily tired, having trouble breathing and losing weight. Talk to your veterinarian immediately. A blood test will tell you if the animal has heartworm disease.

Heartworm is preventable. There are chewable pills available that will save your pets from this horrible death in the first place. The pills are given once a month, year-round, and are available from your veterinarian. — Heloise

**SIMPLE SERENITY**

Dear Heloise: After using clothespins for closing curtains and hanging up pants, my next favorite traveling hint is to take earplugs. When neighboring guests are noisy, earplugs may ensure a good night's sleep. — Diane from Canton, Ohio

Earplugs are my first defense when traveling. I even wear them on the airplane. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts. North leads the king of diamonds and shifts to a trump. South following suit. How would you play the hand?

- WEST**  
 ♠ Q 8 4 2  
 ♥ A K Q 5  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ A 8 6 4
- EAST**  
 ♠ 7 3  
 ♥ J 10 9 8 7  
 ♦ J 10 6 2  
 ♣ K 10

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the jack of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

- WEST**  
 ♠ 4 2  
 ♥ J 9 5 4  
 ♦ A 8 2  
 ♣ A Q J 6
- EAST**  
 ♠ K J 10 9 5  
 ♥ A K 2  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ K 10 7 3

**Test Your Play**

1. Win the trump in dummy, ruff a diamond, cash the K-A of clubs and ruff a club. Then ruff a diamond, a club and another diamond, at which point you are out of diamonds and clubs in both hands. In this way you lose only three tricks — a diamond and two spades.

You play the hand as though you were declarer with the East cards and West were the dummy. It would be natural, if you were East, to ruff your diamond losers in dummy — and almost any East who became declarer at four hearts would automatically do so. The line of play should not change merely because West happens to be the declarer.

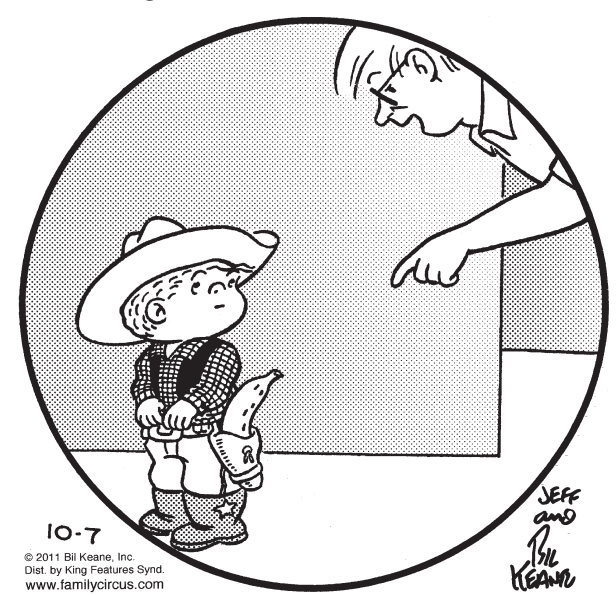
2. You start with eight tricks and must consider the best way to acquire a ninth. There are two realistic possibilities. One is to cross to your hand with a club and lead a spade toward dummy. If North follows low, you must then guess whether to play the jack or the king. Mathematically, you have a 50 percent chance of succeeding on this line of play.

The alternative approach is to attack hearts instead of spades by cashing dummy's A-K. If the ten or queen appears, you can assure the contract by leading another heart. If neither of them appears, you can then lead dummy's third heart and make three notrump unless North started with four hearts headed by the Q-10.

The second line of play is far better than the first. You have about an 85 percent chance of developing a third heart trick by playing in the prescribed manner. Even if both opponents follow low on the A-K, you are still about a 4-to-1 favorite to make a third heart trick by leading another heart from dummy, since the suit might divide 3-3, or South might have started with the Q-10-x-x.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/07

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

VFD BDJJNO OXNVD T VFUPC

ANNC TANHV ITE, NUJ TRQ

PNTJ. NRD LUIFV PTJJ FUL

T LTR NB BHDJ ONXQE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ADORE HEROIC MOVIES, NOVELS AND POETRY. I FINALLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE EPICS COMMITTEE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
 1 Door-frame parts  
 6 Carpentry tool  
 9 Explosive letters  
 12 End, NASA-style  
 13 "— Had a Hammer"  
 14 Travail  
 15 Craze  
 16 Tropical perennial herb  
 18 What a hothead may lose  
 20 "Casa-blanca" lead role  
 21 — Khan  
 23 Skillet  
 24 Unruly hairdos  
 25 Greedy one's cry  
 27 Ritzy fiddle  
 29 Mars, e.g.  
 31 Zoroastrian sacred text  
 35 Puts on cargo
- DOWN**  
 1 Predicament  
 2 "The — Daba Honey-moon"  
 3 Cyrus alter ego  
 4 Soft cheese  
 5 Postage  
 6 Mum  
 7 At a distance  
 8 Triumph  
 9 Clemens pseudonym  
 10 (For the) time  
 11 Ship-building materials  
 17 Swaps
- 19** Rigatoni, e.g.  
**21** Rock band's need  
**22** Hodges of baseball  
**24** Dallas basketballer, for short  
**26** Sign up  
**28** Hoarse  
**30** Lo-o-on time  
**32** "The Bartered Bride" composer  
**33** Plaything  
**34** Census statistic  
**36** Time of senility  
**38** Barrels  
**39** Use  
**40** Comic Jack  
**42** Play-ground fixture  
**45** Break suddenly  
**46** Mideast ruler  
**48** Chicken-link  
**50** Petrol  
**51** Prior to

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 10-7

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				