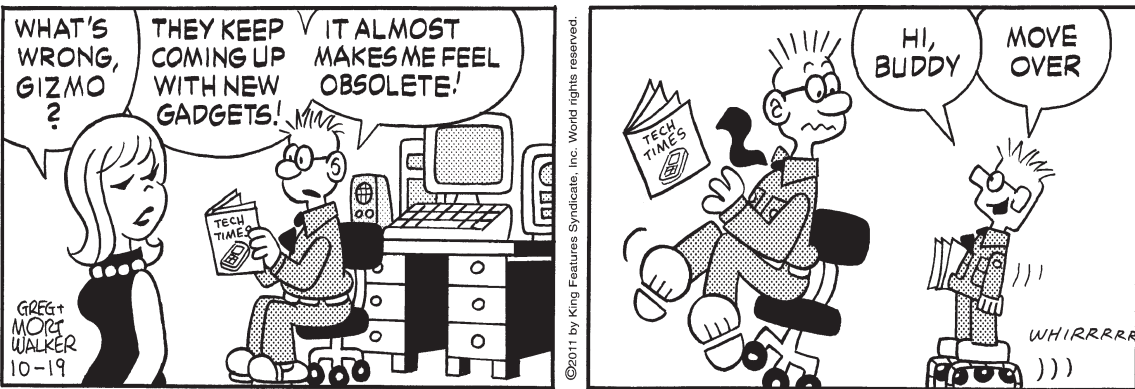


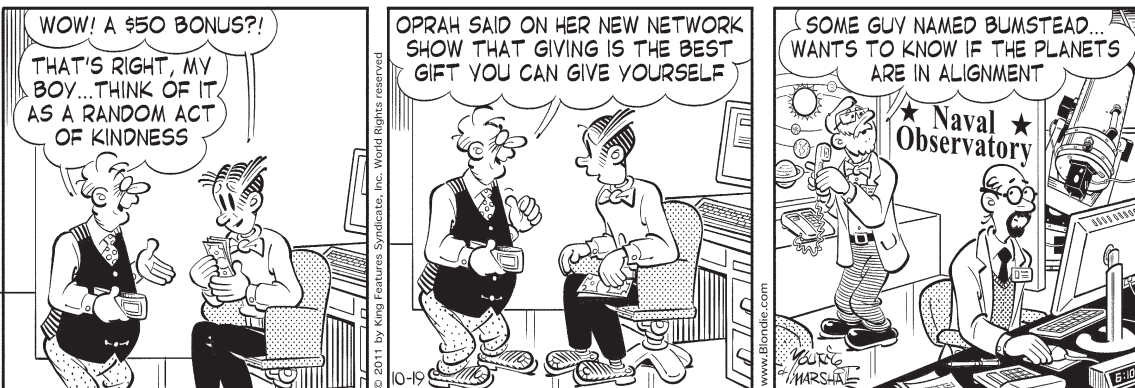
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



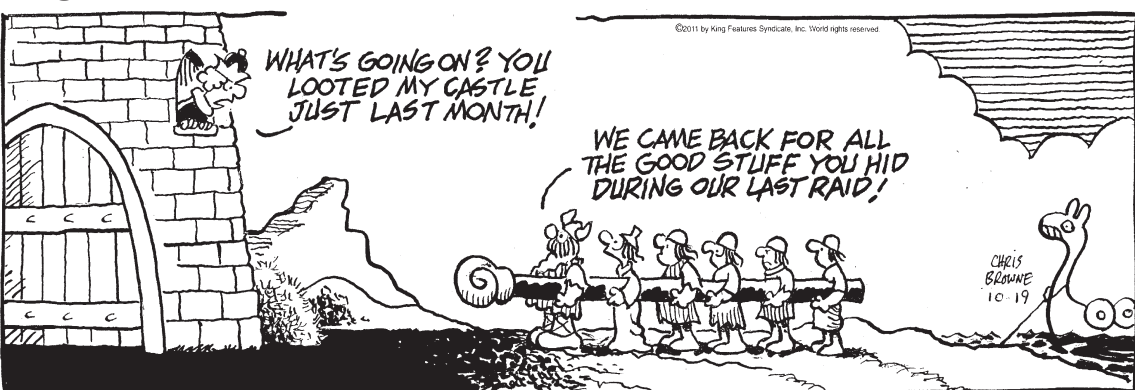
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



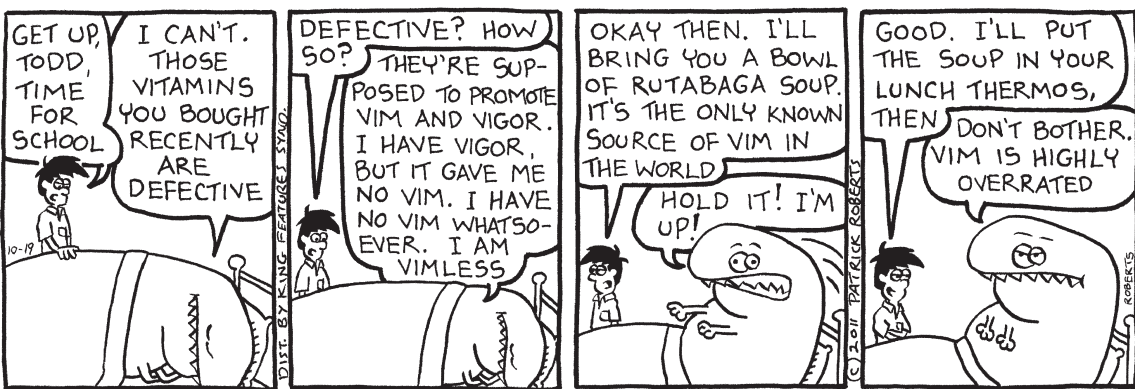
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



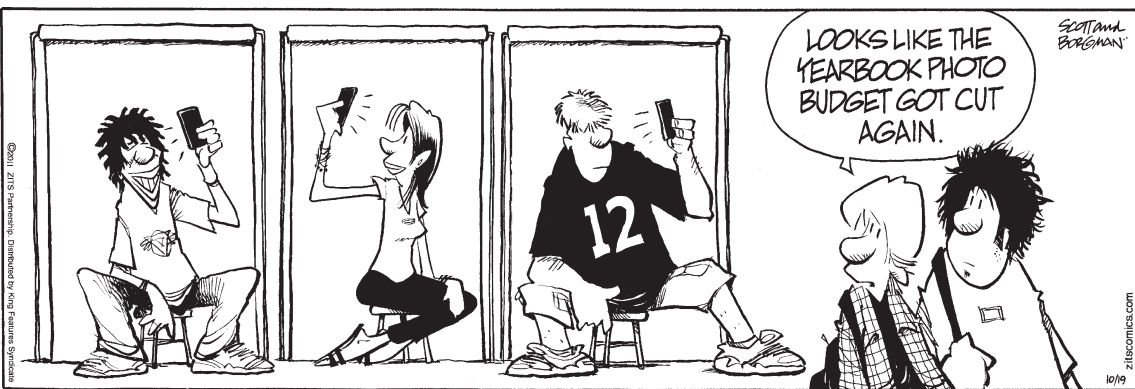
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**



**Recipe's great to season tacos**

Dear Heloise: I remember seeing a recipe for Heloise's TACO SEASONING MIX where I could make a large amount to keep on hand. I hope I wasn't seeing things. – Billye Riegel, via email

You are right! This Heloise recipe is just about equal to an envelope of seasoning from the grocery store. You need:

- 2 teaspoons chili powder
  - Salt, pepper and onion powder, to taste (start with a sprinkle)
  - A dash of crushed, dried oregano
- Mix the ingredients together. You'll be able to use this seasoning on all different foods, but it's super with the Heloise Taco Casserole recipe. This recipe has no set amounts and is perfect for those leftovers just sitting in the refrigerator! You can start with the following:
- Taco shells or some type of taco/corn chip
  - Salsa
  - Ground beef/ground turkey or shredded chicken (already cooked), with the taco seasoning to flavor the meat
  - Beans
  - Cheese
  - Sour cream
  - Black olives/green olives
  - Lettuce/onions

Grease (or nonstick-spray) a casserole dish (use the size dish you think you need, depending on the amount of ingredients). Put some salsa on the bottom; place a layer of torn-up tacos or chips, then layer with cooked taco meat and beans, cheese and whatever else (pepper, onions, etc.). Top with cheese.

Bake until heated, then cover with sour cream, olives, lettuce and tomatoes before serving. For more recipes, order my pamphlet Heloise's All-Time Favorite Recipes. To get one, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (64 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Recipes, Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If chili powder or another red spice looks brown rather than red, it means it's time to replace it. – Heloise

**NO MORE BAD TASTE**

Dear Heloise: I took a medication that caused a very bad taste in my mouth. Nothing I ate or drank would make the taste go away! Then I thought of baking soda. I figured if it could remove odors, why not a bad taste? I mixed a teaspoon in a glass of water and used it as a mouth rinse. It worked! The taste wasn't completely gone, but it was MUCH better. – Kim Martin, via email

**ALMOST-EMPTY ICE CREAM**

Dear Heloise: When you have an ice-cream container that is partly full and taking up space in the freezer, let the ice cream soften. Then spoon it into a new plastic zip freezer bag, smooth the contents out flat and put it back into the freezer. Easy to recognize, and takes up a lot less space! – Joy, via email

Talking over your hint in the office, it was agreed there were several reasons to love this hint: space-saving, prevents freezer burn and, once refrozen, there are numerous dessert possibilities using the "new, flat" ice cream. – Heloise (c)2011 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 5 3  
 ♥ K J 8  
 ♦ A J 2  
 ♣ J 10 9 4

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 9 7 4 2  
 ♥ 9 5  
 ♦ 9 7 6  
 ♣ K 5 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 8  
 ♥ 10 6 4 3 2  
 ♦ 10 8 5 3  
 ♣ A 6

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Q 10 6  
 ♥ A Q 7  
 ♦ K Q 4  
 ♣ Q 8 7 2

The bidding:  
 West North East South  
 Pass 1 ♣ Pass 2 NT  
 Pass 3 NT  
 Opening lead — four of spades.

**A One-Act Play**  
 Notrump contracts frequently feature a race between declarer and the defenders for the establishment of tricks. The time factor is often crucial, as illustrated by this deal where South was in three notrump.

West led a spade, and South took East's jack with the queen. Declarer crossed to dummy with a heart and returned the jack of clubs, hoping to lose the trick to West, who could not harm him with a spade return.

But East smartly went up with the ace of clubs and returned the eight of spades. West's spades thus became established before South could set up his clubs, and the contract went down one. In effect, East-West won the race against time.

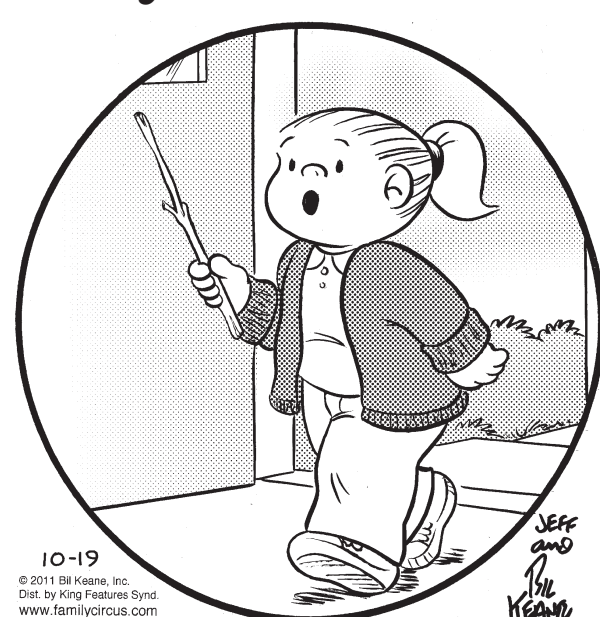
However, South could and should have won the race. He should have realized at the start that the only real threat was the possibility that West had five spades and a club entry. This might well have led him to the winning solution: to allow East's jack of spades to hold the opening trick! South would still have scored two spade tricks sooner or later, as he would have had the Q-10 to deal with West's king, but, more importantly, he would have finished with 10 tricks instead of only eight.

After East's jack holds the first trick, the best he can do is return a spade. Declarer wins and attacks clubs. If East wins the first club lead, he does not have a spade to return — thanks to the holdup at trick one — and South makes four notrump.

If West wins the first club, the outcome is exactly the same. He can establish his spades, but then has no subsequent entry to cash them. Either way, South wins the race against time.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/19

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.

**Cryptoquip**

AM WJXOJY PVGW KZ AVM  
 VDVIWJI OKZ AZWGXT NGZTW  
 DZXVHPZ KZ'P YHI JHO JN  
 QVOGZIXZ NJY QVOGZIOP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BUNCH OF BYGONE RUSSIAN RULERS WERE CROWDED TIGHTLY TOGETHER, WOULD THEY BE TSAR-DINES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals H

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 28 Khar-toum's country? 30 "Wham!" 7 Wash channel? 8 Shroud of concealment 10 Resided 11 "Yay!" 13 2004 Green Day album 16 Lair 17 Expenses 18 Old French coin 19 Lion's crowning glory 20 Encounter 21 Gets better 23 Tote 25 Frog's cousin 26 "Under the —" 27 Ph. bk. data

**DOWN** 1 "Never-more" 2 Assert 3 Doctor-related 4 Pulling no punches 5 Foe of Bull-winkle 6 Hall-mark offering 7 Citrus fruit 8 Pursuit 9 Bygone German leader 12 Non-sense 14 Swindles 15 Boy king of Egypt 19 Frenzied 20 "— Doubtfire" 21 Uproar 22 Atelier supports 23 Dressed Memory loss 25 Stick with a kick 26 Tends texts 28 Nose 29 There's much interest in it 30 Sea anemone, e.g. 31 October birthstone 32 Marry 34 Troubles 35 June honorees

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 10-19

