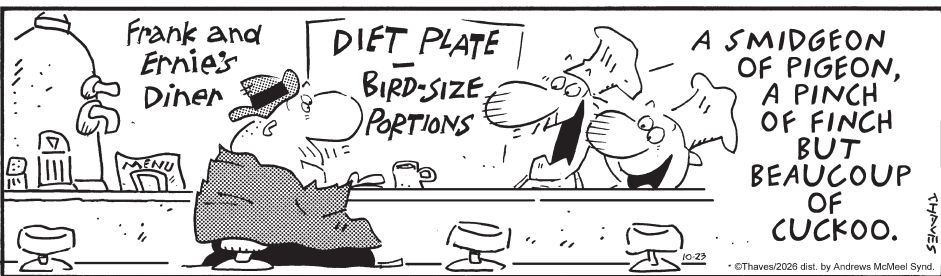
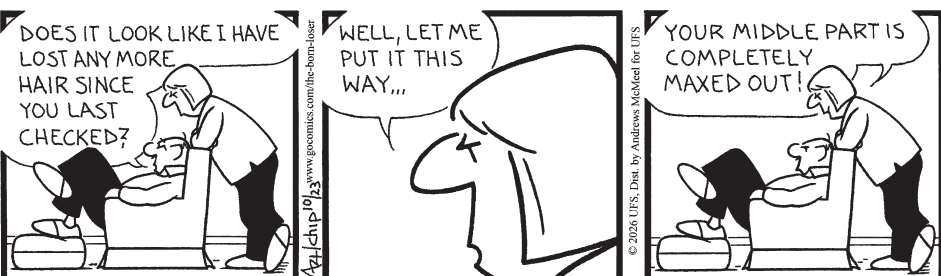




Frank & Ernest



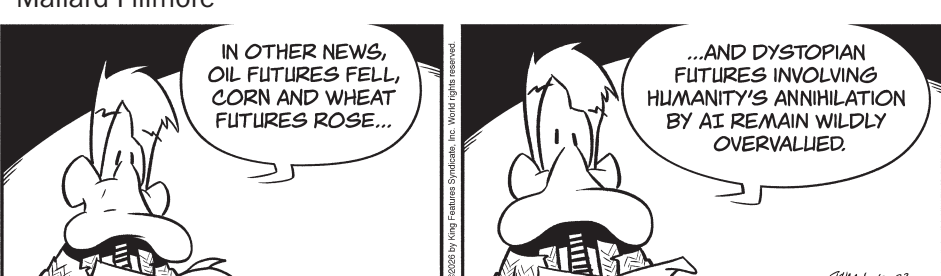
Born Loser



Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



Tundra



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Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

1 Shaving mishap

5 Aspirin target

9 Different

11 Joust wear

13 Portland setting

14 Copy for pasteup

15 Completely

16 Tailors' inserts

18 Served a sentence

20 Surgeon eggs

21 Victor

22 Start of a German count

23 Bonanza stuff

24 Important age

25 Yard part

27 Mans the buckets

29 Wrap up

30 Revolutionary arms

32 Fate

34 Artist Jean

35 Manual readers

36 Place in order

38 Wine grape

DOWN

1 Wanderer

2 Tilted type

3 Arthur C. Clarke novel

4 Filmmaker Burns

5 Analyze grammar

6 Son of Zeus

7 Arthur C. Clarke novel

8 Kramden's pal

9 Brawl

10 Water whirl

11 Action star Jackie

12 Ruling group

13 Valen-tine's gift

14 Game caller

15 Pucker-inducing

16 Composer Satie

17 Cake courses

18 Disgusted

19 Infant outfit

20 Frank holder

21 Layers

22 Fog-shrouded

23 Watch secretly

24 Walked over

25 DVR button letters

Yesterday's answer

ASAP				CAPER
FAZES				OVINE
OUTRE				SECTS
ODE				CRICKET
TICKET				ARE
				IDEA
				XED
				MANE
				DEED
CAR				DAMS
ANT				PICKET
THICKET				ELI
BOSON				IRATE
ELATE				TENOR
DENSE				PUNS

Bridge — By Steven Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, vulnerable against nonvulnerable opponents. East is the dealer and opens the bidding with Three Hearts. What would you bid with each of the following hands?

1. ♠ KJ962 ♥ Q83 ♦ A6 ♣ K74
2. ♠ AJ92 ♥ 64 ♦ K1075 ♣ AK10
3. ♠ 984 ♥ QJ962 ♦ AK ♣ A75
4. ♠ AJ3 ♥ K7 ♦ AKQ987 ♣ Q8

1. Pass. First of all, let's define the meaning of the various bids that can be made over a pre-emptive three-bid, which typically shows a seven-card suit headed by two or three honors and not much else. The purpose of such a bid is to make things tough for you and your partner.

If you overcall in a suit, you are telling partner that your suit is strong enough to risk bidding it at a high level. If you bid three notrump, you want to play in that contract. If you double, it is primarily for takeout, and you expect your partner to bid, although he is permitted to pass if he thinks it is best to play for penalties.

This hand does not justify taking any action. You should not overcall with three spades because your suit and high-card values are simply not good enough, and such a bid could lead to a substantial penalty. The best course of action is to pass and see what (if anything) develops.

2. Double. You must compete with this hand, and by far the most flexible action is to double for takeout, implying support for the unbid suits. This is about an average hand with which to double at this vulnerability. Furthermore, care must be exercised in following up on partner's response, as he may have a very weak hand.

3. Pass. There is a natural temptation to double, but since partner will read the double as asking him to bid — which is exactly what you don't want him to do — it is much more prudent to pass. The best strategy is to sit back and hope the next player passes and your partner doubles for takeout. In that case, of course, you would be delighted to pass.

It might be argued that treating the double of a three-bid as takeout fails on this hand. This is true enough, but you have to play the double one way or the other, and because the opportunity for a take-out double of a preempt occurs far more frequently than the opportunity for a penalty double, it is better to play the double for takeout. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

4. Three notrump. With eight probable tricks at notrump against the expected heart lead, it is not too much to hope that partner will provide you with one. There is not much point in doubling to get partner to name a suit, and it also would be unwise to bypass three notrump by bidding four diamonds.

Tomorrow: A highly sophisticated play.
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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z N I G Y Y B X R T K B X
Y Q Y J Z L O Y J Y . B O Y Z W R K P Y
R K Z L O Y J Y . B O Y Z R J Y A Y N A U Y
P Y O R Q T K F M Y W Y K B U Z T K R K
T K M Y W Y K B X N W T Y B Z .

— H I J B Q N K K Y F I B
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT THE ABSURD AND THE EPHEMERAL?
— FRIDA KAHLO

Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • THE "ERS" WORKFORCE

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

Thursday's unlisted clue: AUGUSTA

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Friday's unlisted clue hint: LEGAL EAGLES

Bankers	Engineers	Painters	Teachers
Barbers	Farmers	Pickers	Waiters
Builders	Managers	Plumbers	Writers
Drivers	Miners	Singers	

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Horoscope — By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Oct. 23, 2026:

You're rational and objective. You're full of intellectual and physical energy and you need stimulation. This is a year of reflection. Take time to explore religious or spiritual beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you better self-awareness and get you closer to the true meaning of your life. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ This is a passionate, powerful day. Romance is blessed. It's a great day to socialize with romantic interests. In fact, today is the best date day of the week! It's also an excellent day for financial discussions about shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. Tonight: You win!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ The Sun is now opposite your sign for four weeks, which means you'll need more rest. Today in particular, relations with partners, spouses and close friends will be warm and mutually rewarding. Meanwhile, partners from the past are cropping up in person, online or in your dreams. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A work-related romance might begin. For others it's just a fleeting flirtation that makes your heart skip a beat. ("Did I imagine that?") Certainly, co-workers are supportive now, especially because you're willing to dig in and work hands-on with projects. You're busy for the next four weeks. Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ It's a romantic day! Make plans to socialize with your sweetheart. If you're single, then enjoy good times with someone. Sports events and fun times with kids will appeal. Old flames are back in person, online or in your thoughts and dreams. Tonight: You're admired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your focus now shifts to home and family for the next four weeks. You might be more involved with family discussions and home repairs. You're keen to spruce up the place. Today you want to do something different and exciting. Tonight: Learn something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Fasten your seatbelts, because the pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks. You've got places to go, things to do and people to see! You might read, write and study more as well. Expect to delight in the beauty of your daily surroundings. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ "Show me the money!" Your focus on money, cash flow, earnings and your own possessions will be stronger in the next four weeks. Admittedly, checks in the mail might be late because there will be hiccups and delays. It was ever thus. Ka-ching! Tonight: Be cooperative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Today the Moon moves into your sign to stay for four weeks. This happens once a year and gives you a chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year! Get out there and fly your colors! Shop for wardrobe goodies. Look good, because people from your past are popping up. Tonight: Get better organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your personal year is coming to an end. That's why your birthday is looming so close. Meanwhile,

today is an affectionate, romantic day. Make a special date with someone. "Anyone? Bueller? Anyone?" Tonight: Socialize!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your popularity will increase in the next four weeks. You might hang out with younger people more than usual. A friendship might turn romantic. People from your past will be popping up as well. It's an interesting time for you, and a good time to think about future goals. Tonight: Relax at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ The Sun will be at the top of your chart for the next four weeks. This happens once a year, and it symbolizes that you are being thrust in a flattering spotlight! Oh yes, you look fabulous to everyone. Use this window of time to demand the advantage and make your pitch. Why not? Tonight: Interesting discussions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your desire to travel, learn, study and expand your world will be stronger than usual in the next four weeks. Get out and do something different. Visit new shops, new parks, new places and possibly get outta Dodge. Broaden your horizons. Tonight: Check your belongings.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NHWSO
TYRPC
ETCPAC
ISRCSI

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Ans. " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROWN PURGE FICKLE PASTOR
Answer: To learn as much as possible about the Andes, students need to study a — RANGE OF TOPICS

Jumble

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

10/23

AFTER ALL THE PASSENGERS LEFT, THE OCEAN LINER WAS THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.