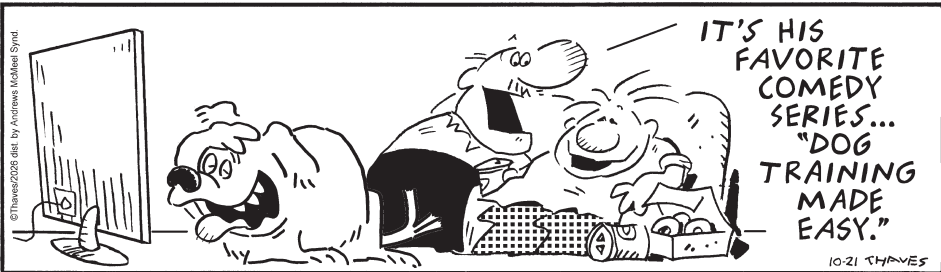




Frank & Ernest



Born Loser



Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



Tundra



Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

1 Interstellar cloud

7 Fundamentals

11 Starting bid

12 This is one

13 Writer Defoe

14 Gift-wrapping need

15 Line about 23° from the equator

17 Physics amount

20 Egyptian crosses

23 — Dhabi

24 Relinquish

26 Fist bump

27 Brynner of "The King and I"

28 Refiner's supply

29 Eroded

31 De-pressed

32 French thanks

33 Lairs

34 Sweet drink

37 Physics topic

39 Plaza resident of children's books

43 Act the nomad

44 Fan

DOWN

1 Silent

2 Clean

3 Stiller of films

4 Pecks and pounds

5 Lewd look

6 Singer Guthrie

7 Stage work

8 High-gravity phenomenon

9 Trophy

10 Look upon

16 Sao —

17 Sir's counterpart

18 Ease up

19 Exploding star

21 Canadian native

22 Gushes forth

24 Jaded type

25 Ump's call

30 Old suppliers

33 Salivate

35 Maryland player, for short

36 Noted baseball family name

37 Radius's place

38 Low digit

40 — not for me to say

41 Yacht spot

42 Mess up

Yesterday's answer

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

Bridge — By Steven Becker

How to capture a damsel

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 4

♥ A 8 6 3

♦ A Q 10

♣ K 9 6 2

WEST

♠ —

♥ Q J 9 2

♦ 8 7 6 2

♣ J 8 5 4 3

EAST

♠ Q 8 5 2

♥ K 10 7 4

♦ 9 5 3

♣ 10 7

SOUTH

♠ A K J 9 7 6 3

♥ 5

♦ K J 4

♣ A Q

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	7 ♠	

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Webster defines a coup as a sudden, successful move or action; a brilliant stroke; a clever stratagem. It is therefore not at all surprising that a bridge play that satisfies this definition is also called a coup. Indeed, there are several different types of coups in bridge. Today's hand features the one known as a trump coup.

Let's say South gets to seven spades as shown, and West leads the heart queen. Declarer sees

Tomorrow: Defense is a logical process.

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immediately that his only concern is whether or not he'll lose a trump trick.

He starts by winning the heart with dummy's ace and leads a spade to the ace. If both defenders follow low, South plans to continue with the king, the normal percentage play missing the Q-x-x-x of a suit. But when West shows out on the first round of spades, it appears declarer must ultimately lose a trump trick and go down one.

However, our hero, South, is familiar with trump coups and realizes he might still be able to bring in the slam. To achieve this goal, though, he must first reduce his trump length to that of East.

Accordingly, at trick three he leads a low diamond to the ten, finesse the ten of trump, then ruffs a low heart. Next comes the jack of diamonds to the queen and another heart ruff, followed by the king of diamonds to the ace.

At trick nine, declarer ruffs dummy's last heart, reducing his trump holding to the K-J while East has the Q-8. South then cashes the club ace and overtakes the club queen with the king.

Declarer's mission is now accomplished. When he leads the six of clubs from dummy at trick 12, East's Q-8 of trump succumbs to the K-J, and the grand slam is home.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

10-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

M J H T H E Z M T X O B X A M K

A M E P E Z X Y H E A Z K V W E A P K D

Z X Y H. — E V V Z E V C H T A

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FIND THE GOOD. IT'S ALL AROUND YOU. FIND IT, SHOWCASE IT AND YOU'LL START BELIEVING IN IT. — JESSE OWENS

members will be pleasant. You'll also enjoy making your home more attractive. Tonight: Relax at home. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Plans might suddenly change, so give yourself extra time for wiggle room to deal with the unexpected today. Pay attention to everything you say and do, because this is also a mildly accident-prone day. Fortunately, it's an excellent day to deal with friends and groups. Schmooze on! Tonight: Conversations. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Protect your money and possessions from loss, theft or damage today. Unexpected expenses for social occasions, sports and your kids also might occur. In the bigger picture, your ability to impress someone in authority could bring increased wealth to you. Ka-ching! Tonight: Check your money. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with fair Venus, creating warm feelings between you and everyone else, which is why you'll enjoy getting out and having a good time. You'll feel protective about your loved ones. You also might want to beautify your home. However, prepare for a surprise at home, something irregular. Tonight: You win!

Horoscope

— By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026:

You're idealistic, charming and thoughtful. You're also perceptive and concerned with others' well-being. This year, changes will bring you increased personal freedom. Let go of whatever impedes your growth and progress. Seek out new opportunities and be ready to act fast. Trust your intuition. Travel and expand your horizons.

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)

★★★★ If you do your homework today, or explore research and behind-the-scenes negotiations, you might get ahead financially speaking. You will certainly be in a good position to negotiate with others. Meanwhile, secret rendezvous and passionate relationships will be hot. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Because this is a lovely day to schmooze with friends and members of groups, make an effort to put yourself out there and talk to others. Relations with partners,

spouses and close friends will be warm and rewarding. A surprise related to money and possessions might occur. Tonight: Be friendly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You're high-viz today! People notice you more than usual, and some will know personal details about your private life. (Need to do some damage control?) Fortunately, you look good to co-workers. In fact, a flirtation or romance might develop. Stay flexible, because an authority figure might surprise you. Tonight: You're admired!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Surprising news about foreign countries or people from other cultures might occur today. You also might have an unexpected chance to travel or travel plans might change. Meanwhile, this is a great day to schmooze, flirt and enjoy social activities, including sports and fun times with kids! Tonight: Reach out and learn.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Double-check banking details, because something unexpected could impact your finances or something to do with shared property. On the upside, you'll enjoy entertaining today. You also might buy something beautiful for your home or receive a gift. Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ It's a mixed bag today. In one way, relations with authority figures, spouses and partners might have a few surprises. Tread carefully. However, most of your communications today will be friendly and warm. Enjoy the beauty of your everyday surroundings! Tonight: Listen and cooperate with someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your work routine might be interrupted today. Equipment breakdowns might occur. On the upside, whatever you do could boost your income or generate future increased earnings. You also might buy something attractive for your workspace. (You're affected by your surroundings.) Tonight: Get better organized.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Parents should be extra vigilant today because this could be an accident-prone day for your kids. In addition, social plans might suddenly change. Double-check details. However, for the most part, this is a wonderful day to schmooze! Romance is blessed. Enjoy the arts. Tonight: Socialize!

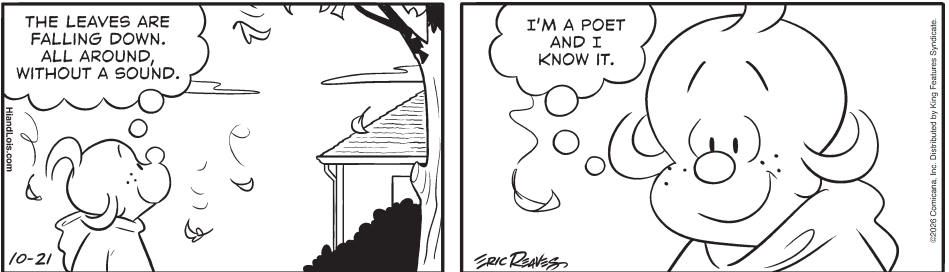
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Stock the fridge, because today is an unpredictable day at home or if dealing with family members. Anything might happen. However, for the most part, relations with family

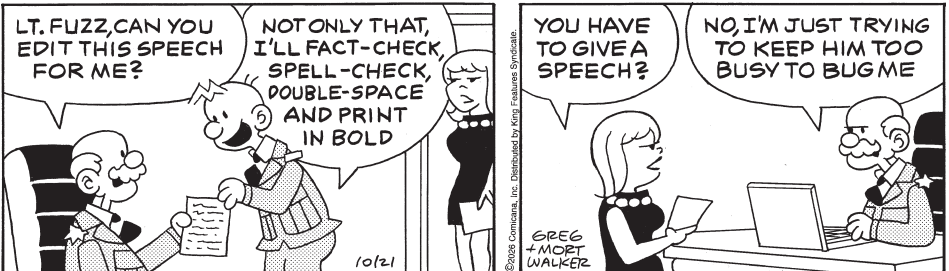
Hi & Lois



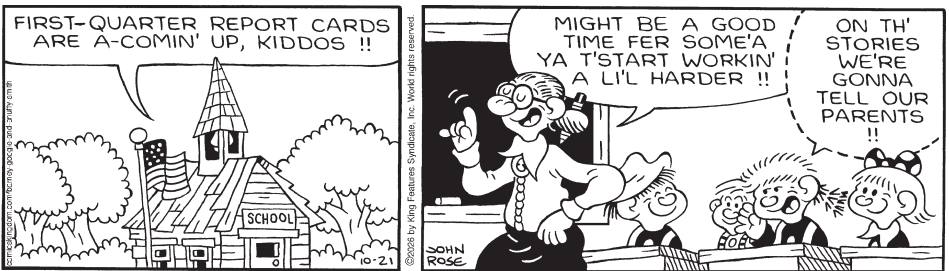
Beetle Bailey



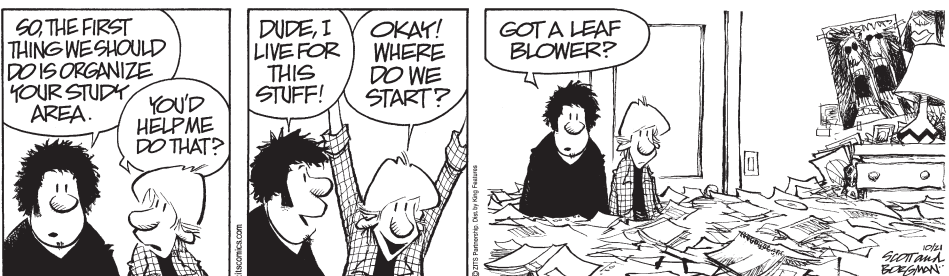
Snuffy Smith



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Word Sleuth

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P O L I F C Z M W T Q N K I F

C Z M C D O N A L D S W U R P

M J H A E E C C S Z G X U S Q

N L J R N S G Y E C G S Z X V

S Y A L N L E S T R O R P S N

S Y L S Y H J M H N L E I E C

A Y B J S O Y & I W L V V T R

P N D R L K K M I G E L E C B

Z X E N A W O U S L K U R P O

M H S E E D R A H L J C I G E

D B A S E W O L Y X W U T S Q

Tuesday's unlisted clue: CHILD

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: BETCHA CAN'T EAT JUST ONE

Arby's
Carl's Jr.
Culver's
Denny's

Domino's
Hardee's
Hershey's
Kellogg's

Kohl's
Levi's
Lowe's
M&M's

Macy's
McDonald's
Wendy's

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

PRETTY GOOD COOKS

Jumble

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

EIRGP

IBSCA

AYRWLE

OSYLGS

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Ans. here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: COUGH YOUTH AFFORD HOTTER

Answer: When asked what she wanted to eat later, she said it was — FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I simply pretended to be a chef and placed the plans in this carrot.

007, you are a sneaky chap! Lunch is on me!

FOR JAMES BOND, STEALING THE PLANS FOR THE SECRET WEAPON WAS ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumble