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Comics & Advice

The Ottawa Herald

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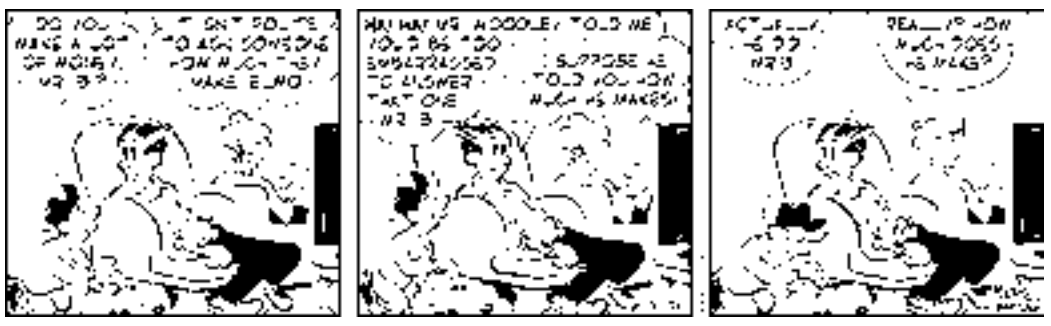
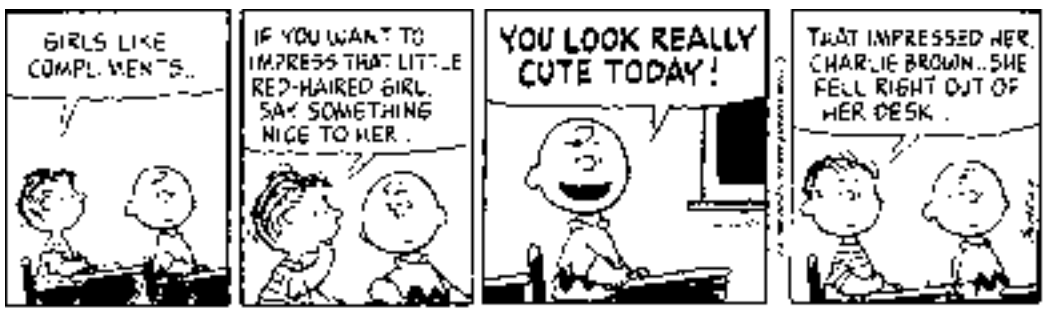
Blondie



Pickles

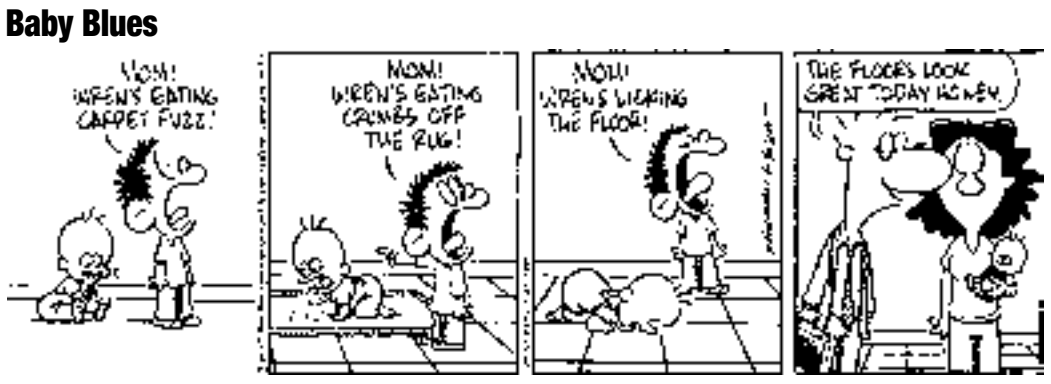
Garfield

Classic Peanuts



Beetle Bailey

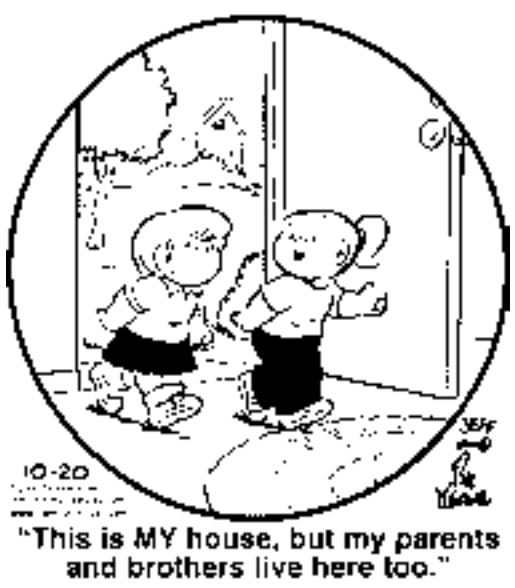
Baby Blues



For Better or for Worse

Zits

Family Circus



"This is MY house, but my parents and brothers live here too."

Rubes

Should worker reveal past?

Dear Annie: I am a recovering alcoholic with six months' sobriety. Recently, I was hired at a new company. The job is everything I dreamed of, and my bosses and co-workers are great. The problem is, every Friday after work, they go to a bar to socialize.

I am always invited to join them, but since bars were where I did most of my drinking, it is essential to my recovery that I stay out of them.

So far, I have politely excused myself from attending these gatherings, saying I have a previous commitment or an errand to run, but it is beginning to get awkward. I am aware that socializing outside of work can be an important part of an employee's success. I don't want to come across as standoffish or not a team player. But I also don't want to jeopardize my sobriety.

Some people have suggested I sit in the bar and sip a soft drink. I tried it once and was so uncomfortable (and tempted to drink) that I had to leave. My AA sponsor thinks I should tell my co-workers the truth, but I'm afraid if I do, they might think poorly of me. Or worse, I might get fired. Any suggestions? — Between a Rock and a Hard Place

ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Your Problems

Dear Between: It is no one's business that you are a recovering alcoholic. If you think your lack of socialization is a problem, consider telling your co-workers that you are a non-drinker and would love it if they could mix it up and go to a cafe or restaurant instead of the bar once in a while. You might also bring up this topic at your next AA meeting. Many of your fellow non-drinkers have lived through similar situations and may have some good suggestions.

Dear Annie: I have an easy solution to "Senior Delinquent's" dilemma about carrying her prescription pills in a plastic bag.

I, too, must carry several medications with me when I go out. I save the description insert that comes with each prescription and put it in my purse. The insert lists all the information on the bottle label. — Portable Pharmacist in San Pedro, Calif.

Dear San Pedro: We suspect that works much better for women with large purses than men with small wallets, but thanks for a useful idea.

Reader needs a 'shred' of help

Dear Heloise: I've been going through financial files that have accumulated through the years, and I have many documents to shred.

I was able to shred only a very small percentage of documents on my home-office shredder before the shredder gave out.

I suppose I could "rent" a heavy-duty shredder, but I hate to for this one project. Your thoughts? — Nancy K., Alexandria, Va.

You might want to rethink the situation.

There are companies that will come to you and shred documents for well under $100 ($80 here in San Antonio) for one day.

If you have a lot to do, this might be worth it.

Some heavy-duty shredders can shred CDs, credit cards and binders. Look in the phone book, or check online through a search engine.

Shredders can "freeze up" and stop working unless you remember to oil them (or from overstuffing.).

Be sure to use the correct oil that the manual suggests, since aerosol lubricants and flammable synthetic oils are not recommended.

Your financial security and peace of mind probably are more important than the $40 or $50 it will cost you to buy a new shredder.

Trust me, you can justify the expense of a new shredder (versus renting one), since there always will be bills and invoices that need shredding in the future. — Heloise

P.S.: Buy the best quality you can afford.

HELOISE

Hints

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

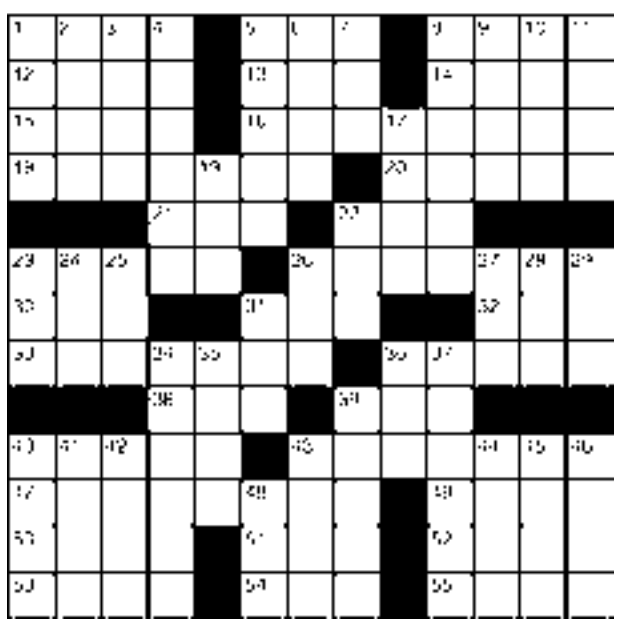
1 Help in wrongdoing
5 Reason
8 Put together
12 Exceptional
13 Greek cross
14 Acerbity
15 Dogged determination
16 Make clutter-free
18 Grove
20 Mississippi, e.g.
21 Antlered animal
22 Have a bug
23 Younger
26 Disney World site
30 Symbol of intrigue
31 Shade tree
32 "Alley —"
33 Circled the Earth
35 Criticizes cleverly
38 Solidify
39 Cod piece?
40 Nary a soul
43 Husband of Eurydice
47 Plan
49 Wheelbase terminus
50 Norwegian, for one
51 Work with
52 Queue
53 Maneuverable, to an old salt
54 In favor of
55 Airport schedule data (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Jason's ship
2 Roseanne of comedy
3 Lois Lerner
4 Leash
5 Baby bird?
6 Crow, out West
7 Summertime abbr.
8 Envelope material
9 Tel —
10 Take a nap
11 Basin accessory
17 Skull covering
19 Pub order
22 Branch
23 Purr
24 That girl
25 Precede
26 Antiquation
27 "Smoking or —?"
28 Pooch
29 Chances for shot
31 Slithery swimmer
34 Solitaire
35 Adolescent
36 Energy
37 Admit oxygen
39 Deep-fat device
40 Inquisitive
41 Killer whale
42 Small
43 Approximately
44 Way out
45 Padua's neighbor
46 Witnesses
48 "Wanderjahren" author

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 10-20



Coming Up This Week

Linda Brown
Wednesday
Hold Me up a Little Longer, Lord

Rebecca McFarland
Wednesday
Reaching Out

Jason Alderman
Wednesday
Practical Money Skills

Vickie Moss
Thursday
Are We Done Yet?

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