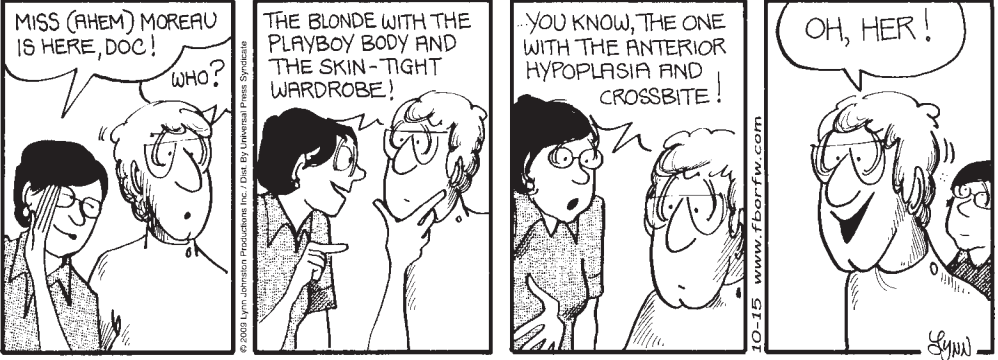


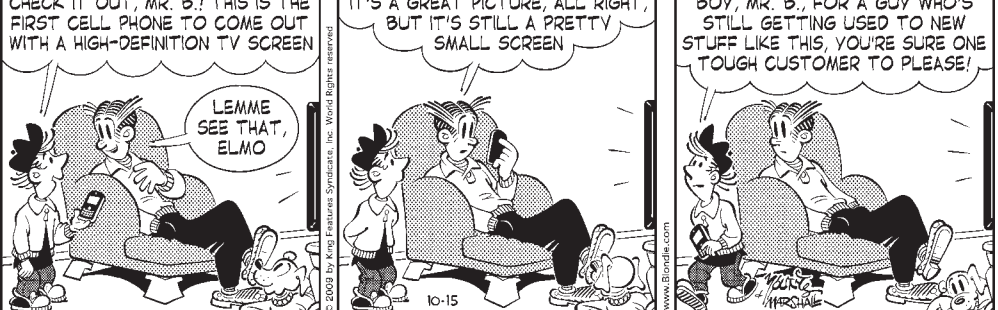
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE BY LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



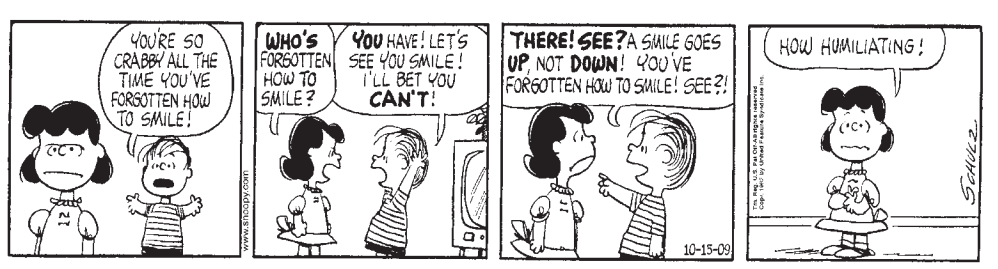
BLONDIE BY YOUNG AND MARSHALL



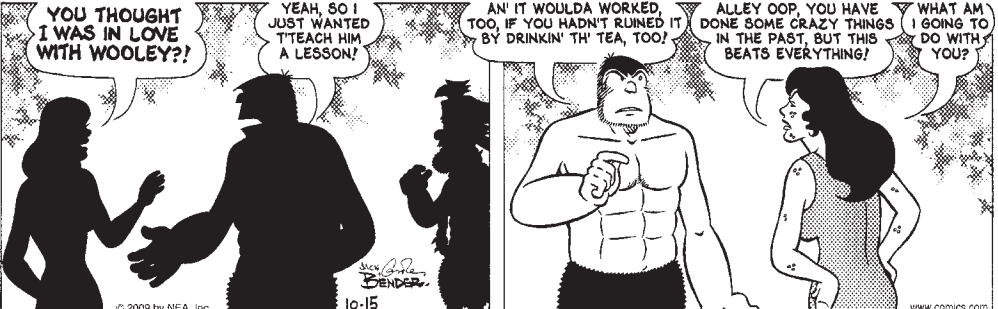
BEEBLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER



PEANUTS BY CHARLES SCHULZ



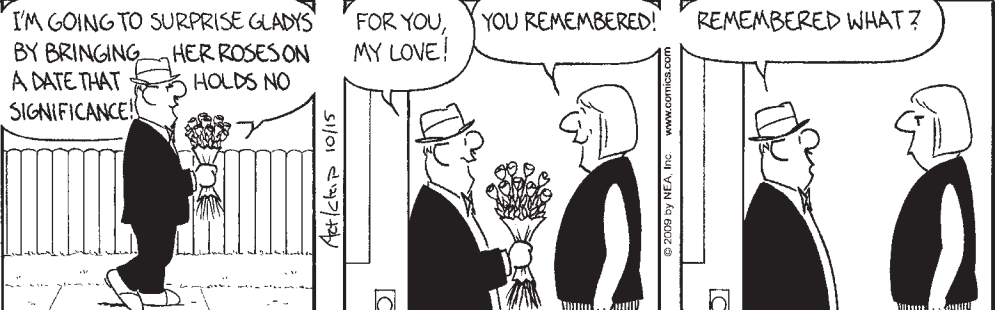
ALLEY OOP BY JACK AND CAROLE BENDER



FRANK & ERNEST BY BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER BY ART & CHIP SANSON



Gifts can be both fun and practical

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Where's the Fun in Upstate New York" (July 26), whose husband, "Hugh," insisted they buy their grandson a \$100 savings bond for his first birthday when she wanted to splurge on toys and clothes. I understand her frustration.

lifted a bit of the burden of the cost they'll face. I know it's not a "fun" gift, especially for the little ones, so we always include a token present for "now." I hope that couple can reach a similar agreement and not let this drive a wedge.



DEAR ABBY: It's not like you to miss the warning sign of those who wrote to comment on the letter from "Where's the Fun" were like you — as concerned about the state of the woman's marriage as the gift issue.

of a controlling spouse. If Hugh is truly wonderful in every way, then they should agree to disagree on this issue.

She should spend what she wants, within reason, on gifts of her choice for their grandson's birthday. If he feels strongly about the savings bond, which is also a wonderful gift, then they should get that, too. Because they are financially comfortable, and this is the only area of disagreement, surely Hugh can compromise.

I am alarmed that he has already decided what they'll be giving the child for every birthday. Grandparents traditionally engage in a mixture of indulgent and practical gift-giving. She was not looking to buy a wildly over-the-top gift. Hugh needs to relax and be a partner, not a dictator. And by the way, "fun" is not a dirty word. It's Baby's first birthday — lighten up! — MELISSA IN NEW YORK

Table with TV listings for Thursday Evening, October 15, 2009. Columns include time slots (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30) and various channels with their respective programs.

Almanac

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2009. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 15, 1969, peace demonstrators staged activities across the country, including a candlelight march around the White House, as part of a "moratorium" against the Vietnam War.

On this date: In 1860, 11-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, N.Y., wrote a letter to presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he could improve his appearance by letting his whiskers grow.

In 1917, Dutch dancer Mata Hari, convicted of spying for the Germans, was executed by a French firing squad outside Paris.

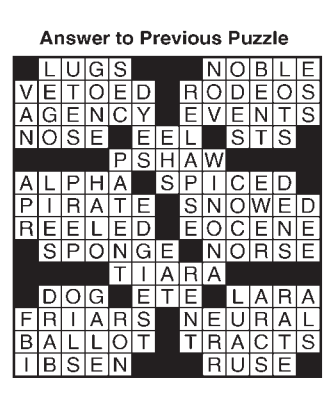
In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 2003, 11 people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to 11 counts of manslaughter and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.)

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS 51 Car, slangily 54 Illusion 55 Flip-chart stands 56 Not digital 57 Boa 58 Gawks at

DOWN 1 Rope fiber 2 Shortly 3 Treadmill unit 4 Wallops 5 Almost grads 6 Just for guys 7 Tribal emblem 8 Be very frugal 9 Poetic contraction 10 Hwy's 11 Greet furry friends 12 Hindu sage 16 John Wayne's "Lobo" 18 Col. Sanders' place 20 Very very 21 Like melons



Answer to Previous Puzzle LUGS NOBLE VETOED RODEOS AGENCY EVENTS NOSE EEL STS PSHAW ALPHA SPICED PIRATE SNOWED RELATED EOCENE SPONGE NORSE TIARA DOG ETE LARA FRIARS NEURAL BALLOT TRACTS IBSEN RUSE

Cod-liver oil may help eczema

DEAR DR. GOTT: A gentleman working with me had eczema so bad it hurt just to look at it. He's a veteran and was being treated at the local VA hospital. I suggested he try taking a tablespoon of cod-liver oil every day, since it's a great source of vitamins A and D. He tried it, and his eczema cleared up. He told me that he had never thought of treating it internally.

I was so happy I was able to help him and hope that you print my letter so that it may help others. DEAR READER: Cod-liver oil has a starring role in the nightmares of most adults over the age of 50. In earlier years, it was common for parents to force their children to take it daily for good health. Back then, it was thought to be healthful; today, it is known to be healthful. Cod-liver oil is a good

source of omega-3 and vitamins A and D. It has been used to treat various forms of rheumatism and rickets for many years, but recent studies suggest it may be beneficial for other ailments, as well. These may include cardiac conditions, inflammatory disorders and, as you pointed out, certain skin problems, such as eczema. Because research is still ongoing, no definitive results are available. However, there is little harm in considering the product. Anyone interested should first



ASK THE DOCTOR Dr. Peter Gott

discuss the issue with his or her physician, because there is always a possibility of adverse reaction or allergy. Furthermore, there is a risk of interaction when taken in conjunction with other over-the-counter and/or prescription medications.

I have printed your letter for the benefit of my readers and ask that anyone with experience with this potential treatment option, write me with the results. I will then print a follow-up article.

To provide related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Dermatitis, Eczema and Psoriasis." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed stamped No. 10 envelope and a check or money order for \$2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

