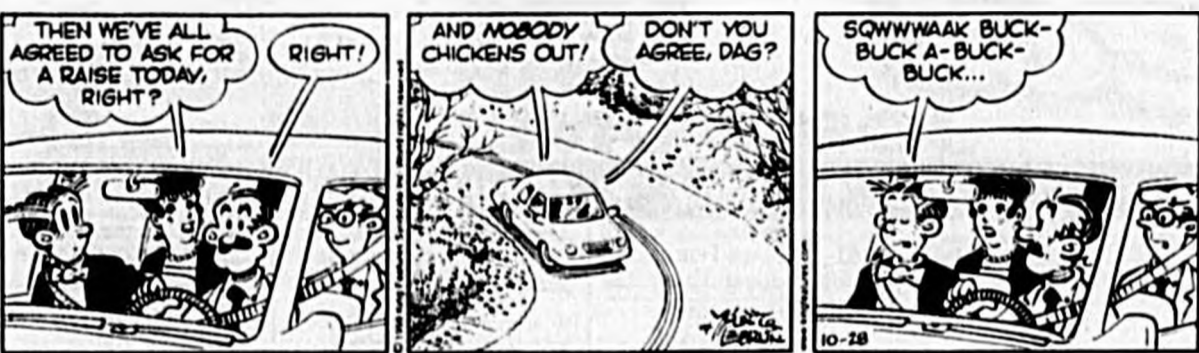


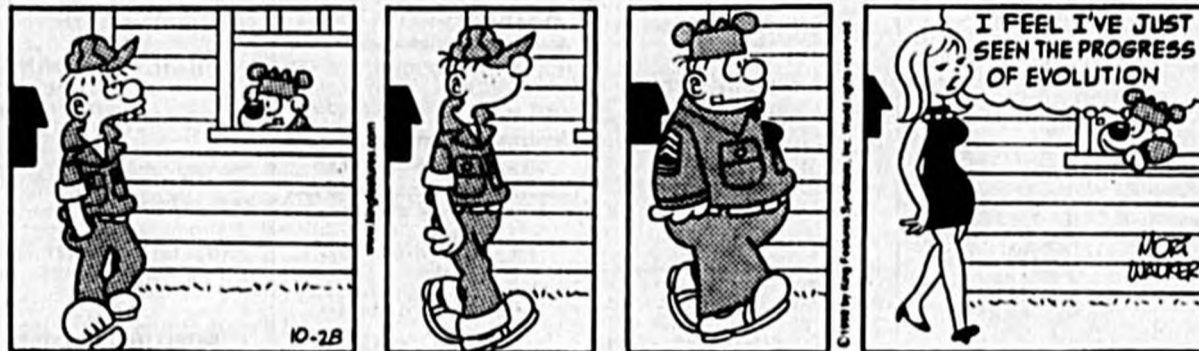
BLONDIE

by Chic Young



BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



THE BORN LOSER

by Art Sansom



PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



EEK & MEEK

by Howie Schneider



TUMBLEWEEDS

by T.K. Ryan



ARLO AND JANIS

by Jimmy Johnson



FRANK AND ERNEST

by Bob Thaves



GARFIELD

by Jim Davis



ROBOTMAN

by Jim Meddick



Too many red cells cause problems

DR. GOTT

PETER GOTT, M.D.



DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm a man in my 70s under treatment for hypertension. Four times a year, I have to have a unit of blood removed because the hematocrit is too high. What level of hematocrit is high and why does this happen?

DEAR READER: The quantity of red blood cells is expressed as the hematocrit — the percentage of cells per total fluid volume. For adults, the normal hematocrit is 40 to 50 percent. Figures above 55 percent indicate polycythemia. Values below 35 percent reflect anemia, the opposite of polycythemia.

Polycythemia will make the blood too thick and viscous, leading to a variety of serious consequences. Removing blood (phlebotomy) produces a temporary thinning of the blood. It's a useful remedy that works quickly. However, there are more effective ways to treat polycythemia, depending on the cause.

For instance, polycythemia can result from lung diseases that lower the amount of oxygen in the blood. Treatment of the pulmonary disorder will allow the blood to return to its proper consistency.

But polycythemia also can be caused purely by an over production of red blood cells. Under these circumstances, physicians usually choose to give drugs that curtail blood-cell production.

I do not believe that your blood problem is related to your hypertension or the drugs prescribed for it, but you should ask your doctor if it could be related to a lung disorder that should be addressed.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Blood — Donations & Disorders." Other readers who would like a copy should send \$2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, N.Y. 10158. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Can a person have shingles without a rash?

DEAR READER: In my experience, no.

Shingles, known medically as herpes zoster, is a virus infection of the nerves in the skin, characteristically in one area on one side of the body. It ordinarily begins as a sensation of burning or tingling. Soon thereafter, the typical blisters break out, followed by what can be an extended period of viral activity. The blisters form, break and reform. Intense discomfort always occurs, and neuralgia, a type of chronic nerve pain, may appear.

ACROSS

- 1 Injuries
- 7 Cotton wipes
- 12 Model of the solar system
- 13 Animal of the cat family
- 14 Give up (one's rights)
- 15 Flightless bird
- 16 Superlative suffix
- 17 Text agency
- 18 Costa del
- 21 Gentleman (Sp.)
- 23 Pl. of TGIF
- 26 Mohammedan prayer leader
- 28 Beauty spot
- 29 Actor Chaney
- 30 Strauss of Jews' fame
- 31 Tiresome
- 33 Montgomery's place
- 36 Zoo home

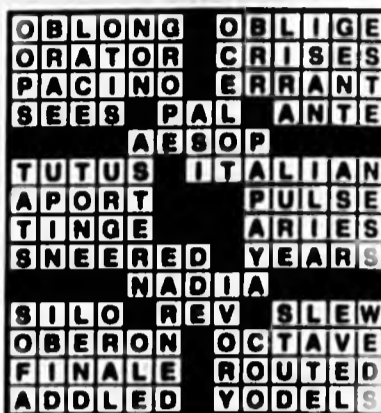
37 Egyptian earth deity

- 38 Writer Ephron
- 40 Roman highway
- 41 WWII area
- 42 Romantic meeting
- 44 JFK sight
- 45 Red or White
- 46 Coin of France
- 48 Units of light
- 51 Type of cracker
- 58 Indians, Koreans, etc.
- 56 Optimistically
- 57 Feminist Abzug
- 58 Verte, for one

DOWN

- 1 Goal
- 2 Is that a yes — no?
- 3 Spoonbender
- 4 Actress Campbell

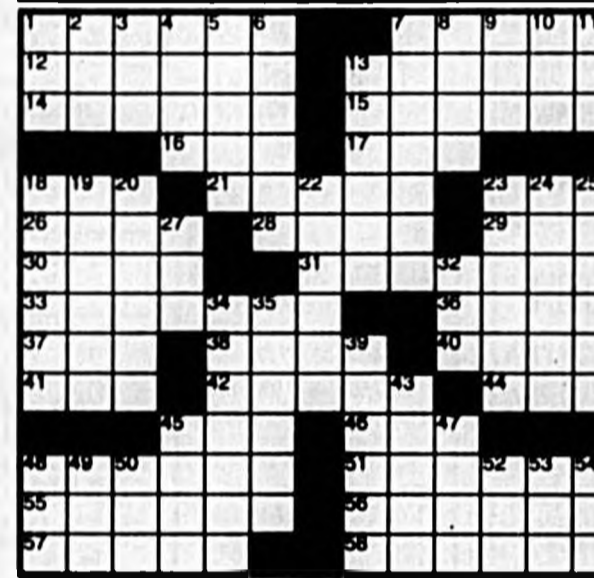
Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 5 Type of code
- 6 Method
- 7 Left leaning marks on
- 8 Moistens
- 9 Actress MacGraw
- 10 Sci. course
- 11 Fr. holy woman
- 13 Brightly colored bird
- 18 Fodder
- 19 Egg dish
- 20 Wash basin
- 22 — public
- 23 Rafta
- 24 Cheek cosmetics
- 25 Sunday-paper section
- 27 Playing marble
- 32 Hero (Fr.)
- 34 Aerial
- 35 Swamp
- 39 Classify
- 43 Happy birthday —
- 45 Close tightly
- 47 Old map init.
- 48 Type of retriever, for short
- 49 Function
- 50 Wire measure
- 52 Small bird
- 53 Building wing
- 54 Dull bread

STUMPED?

Call for Answers @ South-tone or Pottery Phones 95¢ per month @ 1-800-880-4500 ext. code 100



- 18 Fodder
- 19 Egg dish
- 20 Wash basin
- 22 — public
- 23 Rafta
- 24 Cheek cosmetics
- 25 Sunday-paper section
- 27 Playing marble
- 32 Hero (Fr.)
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WIN AT BRIDGE

The enigmatic question

By Phillip Alder

You are on lead with the singleton trump ace. Should you lead it? Or should you keep it as a later guaranteed entry?

The latter will usually be better. However, if you think that when you are put in with the trump ace you will be employed, forced to give declarer a free trick, then you should get that thorn out of your hand as quickly as possible.

Well, which applies to this deal? Look only at the West hand and the auction. What do you lead?

The four-heart overall is frisky. Yet opposite a passed partner, you are unlikely to miss a slam. And consuming all that bidding space may stop the opponents from finding their best spot.

At the table, West backed up his debatable bid with a worse lead: the spade ace. He switched to the diamond king, but it was too late. South won with the ace, drew the missing trump, and conceded three tricks: one spade, one heart and one diamond.

Starting with the diamond king is much more sensible. And East should signal enthusiasm with the nine. Let's assume South wins with the ace and plays a trump, which is reasonable. Now what should West do?

If East started with two diamonds, declarer would have six — forget that. Instead, East must be encouraging diamonds because he has the jack. This points the way: Continue with the diamond 10. With luck, partner will overtake with his jack and switch to a heart, hopefully from either a singleton or the doubleton queen-jack. If East doesn't overtake, continue with the ace and another heart, expecting partner to ruff.

As you can see, this line of defense works very nicely, thank you.

North 10-28 00			
♠	Q J 5 4 3		
♥	10 9		
♦	4 2		
♣	A K 8 7		
West		East	
♠	A	♥	7 2
♥	A 7 6 5 3 2	♦	Q J
♦	K Q 10	♣	9 8 7 5
♣	J 5	♦	9 6 4 3 2
South			
♠	K 10 8 6 6		
♥	K Q 4		
♦	A 6 3		
♣	Q 10		
Vulnerable: Neither			
Dealer: East			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass
Opening lead: ??			

HOROSCOPE



Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1998

In the coming year, friends in the right places will help you down the path of success. They will enable you to set objectives for yourself that you might have never dared to do before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) By using your ingenuity today you should be able to find new, clever ways of refurbishing items or rooms in your household. Put your talents and skills to work for you. Scorpio, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and self-addressed stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) That mental antenna you possess for ferreting out valuable facts from conversations with others might be in full force today. It might grant you an advantage you shouldn't treat with indifference.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Explore all avenues that could lead to discovering new ways to add to your resources. There are hidden opportunities today for uncovering unique ways to approach things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Don't let any grass grow under your feet if you get an idea that could further your personal ambitions today. The opportunity to put it into action could be fleeting.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Something you learn by accident today could prove to be very valuable. The trick might be in figuring out ways to take advantage of the knowledge.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't allow past defeats make you hesitant today. Go tackle a project you haven't attempted previously. Your proficiency with this new venture might even startle you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you're not on your toes today, promising developments which could help your career might escape your attention. Don't be caught

napping

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) An exciting idea could start to swirl around in your head today. Chances are it'll be something you'll be able to accomplish quickly in the very near future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Although conditions might not have been stable in an involvement you had with another, something could suddenly put an end to that tenuousness today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The very persons who are supportive of your plans and ideas today might not be equally as enthusiastic about them tomorrow. Hence, don't waste any time getting their allegiance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Just because old, tried habits are easy and require little effort, it's no reason to stop looking for better ways of doing things. Be adventurous in your working procedures.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Unique currents might prevail within your social circle today, bringing about a plethora of pleasant experiences you'll long remember.

ANNIE

by Leonard Starr

