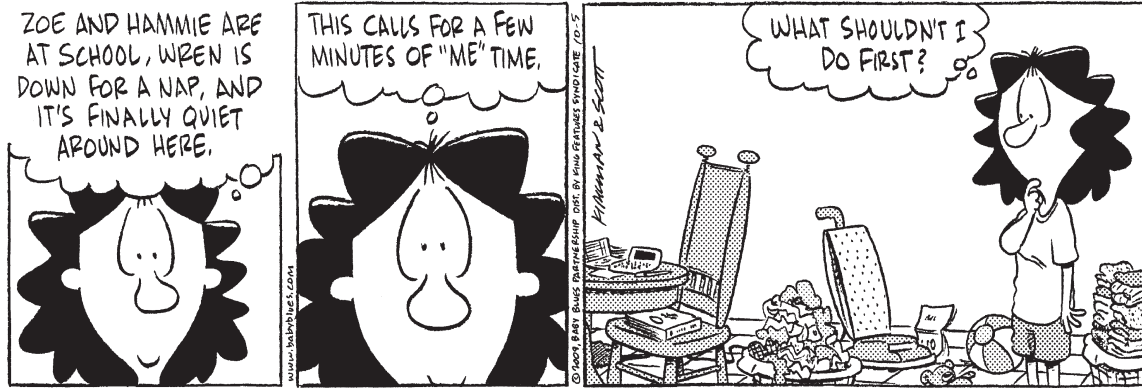
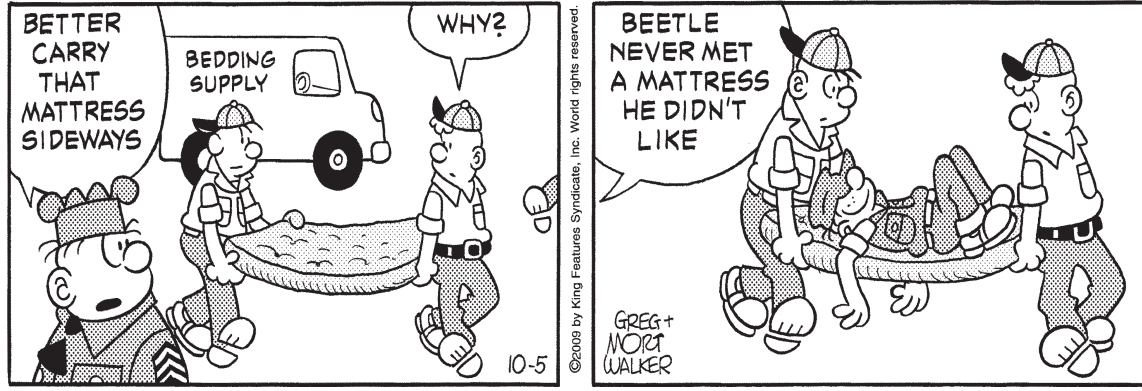


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



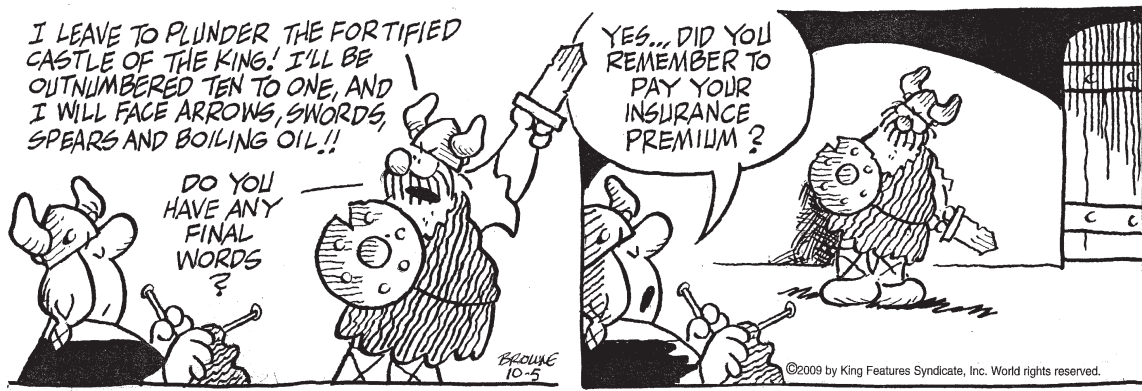
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



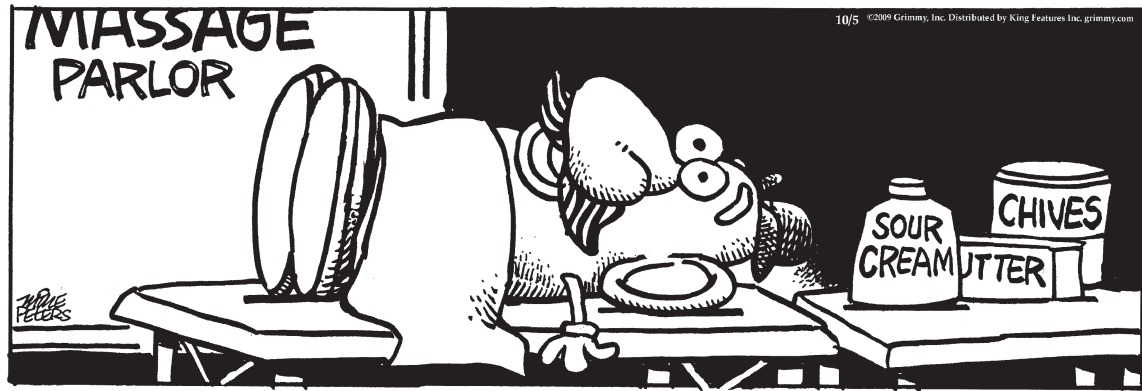
**Blondie** • Chic Young



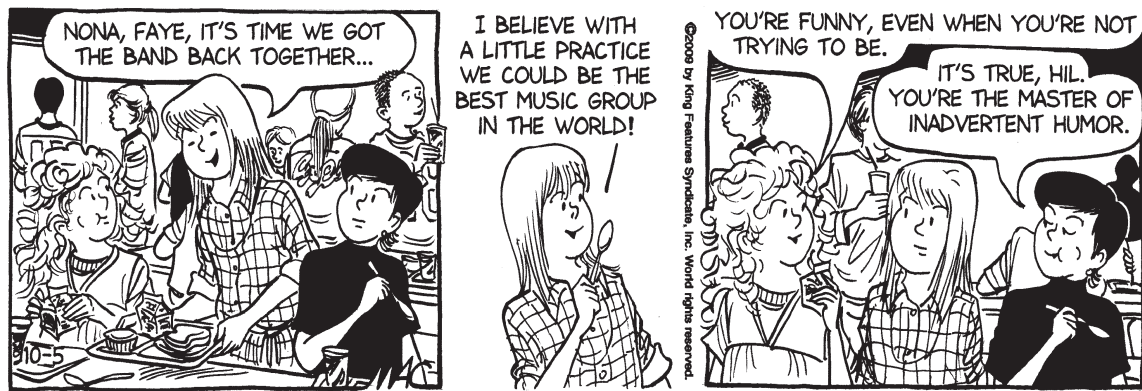
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



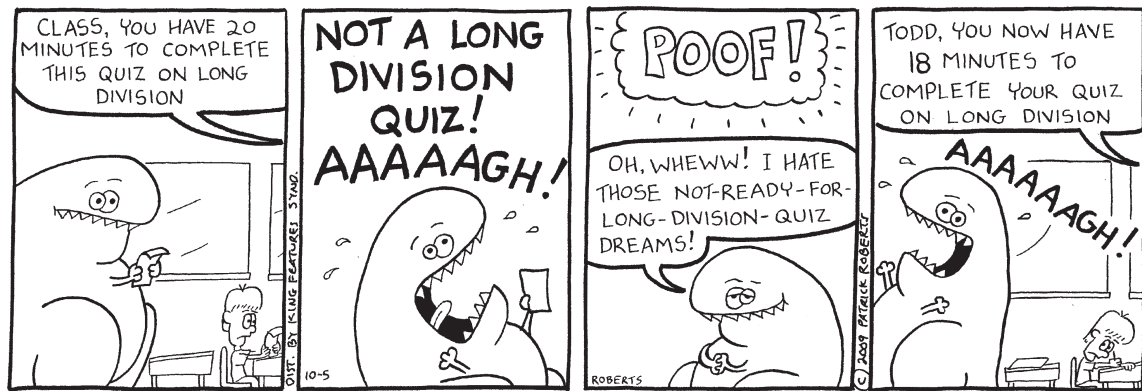
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



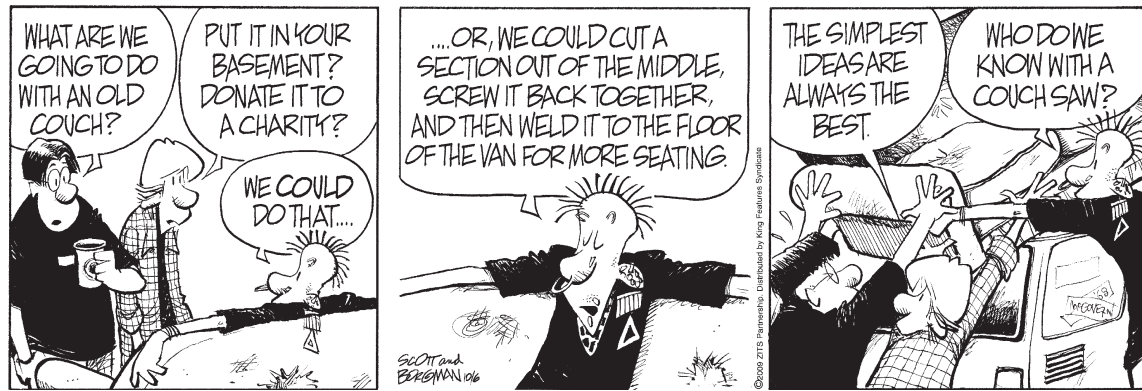
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Everyone begs favors from her**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am a nice person. The more I do for others, though, the more they take advantage of my generosity. For example, one person asked me to make a video for his Web site. Another asked me to care for her children for a day. Because I don't have a job (I am retired), they think I am looking for things to do and they don't have to pay me. How can I get across to these friends that I am a person, too? — L.N.

**Dear L.N.:** There is always a "go-to" guy or gal in every crowd, who volunteers to get the job started, makes sure it comes together or ties up loose ends. And if she doesn't volunteer she's usually willing to pitch in anyway. You seem to be that person in your group. I'm sure most people are grateful to you for your skills and hard work, but there always are others who will take advantage of a person who doesn't have to punch a time clock or pinch pennies. It's too bad they haven't shown their appreciation more often.

I don't think anyone will stop taking you for granted as long as you keep saying yes. Try saying no to the next several requests. You don't have to give a reason; just tell the requestor you can't handle that right now. Then spend a little time on a list of people you think might pitch in. (Ask them first!) Have it handy the next time someone asks you for a favor, and soon there will be other go-to people who come to mind when people need a hand. Believe it or not, some folks want to volunteer but aren't in the loop. Your initiative will give them a chance to shine.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My son and his wife are expecting their first baby. This will make me a grandmother — something I am looking forward to. I wish my husband had seen this, but he died last year. My son has been married only a short time, and I don't really know his wife well. They live a few hours away, near her parents. I want to be a full-fledged grandma to this little baby but don't want to be pushy. Your help, please. — D.F.

**Dear D.F.:** I think you should take some time to get to know your daughter-in-law during her pregnancy. If you could arrange one or two visits (from a motel room) in which you can take her shopping or help out with the baby's room, it will help you get acquainted. You can do other things with her and your son, and maybe with the other grandmother-to-be and her daughter. Talk about your family's background — let her know history that might be important to the baby's life. It is likely that by the time the baby arrives, you will be a real part of this new family.

Once your grandchild comes into the world, let your son and his wife know you want to be a part of her life and will be there for them. Just saying those words will make things perfectly clear. It's not a bad idea to discuss a how often you can get together so that your grandchild will get to know you. You may never be on the same footing as the grandma who lives there, but you can have a loving presence in the child's life. If the new mom asks for advice, give it your best shot. If she doesn't, try not to offer it! (As any mother knows, that can be extremely difficult!) Just be sensitive, have fun and enjoy your grandchild.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer, East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
A 6 3  
10 5 3  
A J  
A K Q J 5

**WEST**  
K Q J 10 8 2  
K 6 2  
5  
10 4 2

**EAST**  
9 4  
J 9 7 4  
10 9 8 4  
9 8 6

**SOUTH**  
7 5  
A Q 8  
K Q 7 6 3 2  
7 3

The bidding:  
South: 1♦, 3♦, 4♦, 5♦, 5NT, 7♦  
West: 1♠, 3♠, Pass, 4NT, Pass, 5♣, Pass, 7♣  
North: 3♣, 4NT, Pass, 5♥, 6♦, Pass  
East: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass

Opening lead — King of spades.

**Famous Hand**

One real test of a partnership is its ability to reach slams that should be bid, and to avoid slams that should not be bid. There are many tools available for slam bidding, but how and when to use them depends mostly on the knowledge and good judgment of the players.

Consider this deal played in Bangkok in a match between a Thai team and an American team in 1971. North for the U.S. was Dorothy Hayden, and South was Alan Truscott, both well-known international players.

Mrs. Hayden jump-shifted to three clubs over one diamond to alert her partner to a potential slam. She next cuebid spades and then used Blackwood to ask for aces. Truscott responded five diamonds to show one ace, and Mrs. Hayden now made the key bid of five hearts.

Ordinarily, this bid — the cheapest call possible over an unsatisfactory Blackwood response — is used to warn partner that two aces are missing and commands partner to bid five notrump. So Truscott bid five notrump, expecting the bidding to die there.

But when Mrs. Hayden next bid six diamonds, Truscott correctly inferred that his partner was not concerned about aces, but was instead implementing an unusual application of the grand slam force convention, asking him to bid seven diamonds if he had two of the three top trump honors. So Truscott, displaying full faith and confidence in his partner, bid seven diamonds, which proved to be a virtual laydown.

This delicate exchange by the then relatively new partnership turned out to be so strikingly successful that Mrs. Hayden later that year changed her name to Mrs. Dorothy Hayden Truscott!

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**"You know you're old when you only get the one for good luck!"**

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

				6	5	8		
6	8		1		3			
1	7		8				4	
3				5		9		
	5						6	
		1	6					8
8				7			2	4
	7		4		8			9
3	2	9						

Difficulty Level ★ 10/05

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

**Cryptoquip**

ZMYDN Z MZLPFT MCBL  
IZQADN YPPW FE QDDIBDEPCQY,  
EDPEBD QCAWQZLDI XCL  
YXNDZI ZTYZCND.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WAS GOING TO PUT THE RATHER WILTED SALAD ON THE DINNER TABLE, BUT I ENDED UP TOSSING IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Sluggers' tool  
4 Avocation  
9 Despondent  
12 Work with  
13 "Swan Lake" role  
14 Weeding device  
15 Wisconsin city  
17 Away from WSW  
18 Approvals  
19 Hidden marksman  
21 Societal levels  
24 Engineering sch.  
25 "Wha'dja say?"  
26 Morning moisture  
28 Considers  
31 War god  
33 Thanks-giving veggie  
35 Let fall  
36 Old hat

**DOWN**  
1 Clear the tables  
2 Blond shade  
3 Golf prop  
4 Addicted  
5 Homeric work  
6 Ginormous  
7 Explosion  
8 Had a longing (for)  
9 Creche figures  
10 Top-rated  
11 Antelope's playmate  
16 Automaton, for short  
20 On the rocks

**21** Punctilious bit  
**22** Emanation  
**23** Small, stocky ponies  
**27** Witty one  
**29** Stereo alternative  
**30** Bridge  
**32** Crystal gazer  
**34** Waltzing girl of song  
**37** Maiden in a trite whodunit  
**42** India's first prime minister  
**44** Gear tooth  
**45** Students' quarters  
**46** Basin accessory  
**50** A billion years  
**51** Toward the stern  
**52** Tend the lawn  
**53** Id counterpart

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Saturday's answer 10-5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15		16							17	
		18				19		20		
21	22	23				24				
25			26		27		28		29	30
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
		41		42		43		44		
45	46					47				
48			49		50			51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		