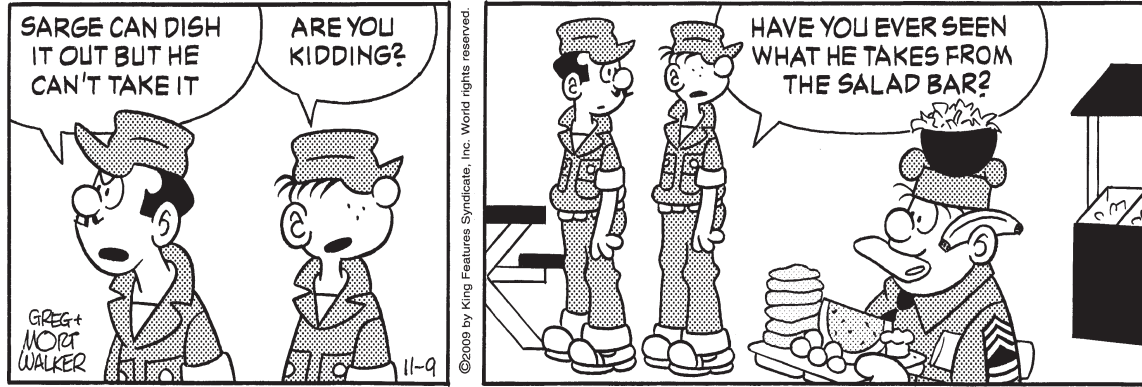


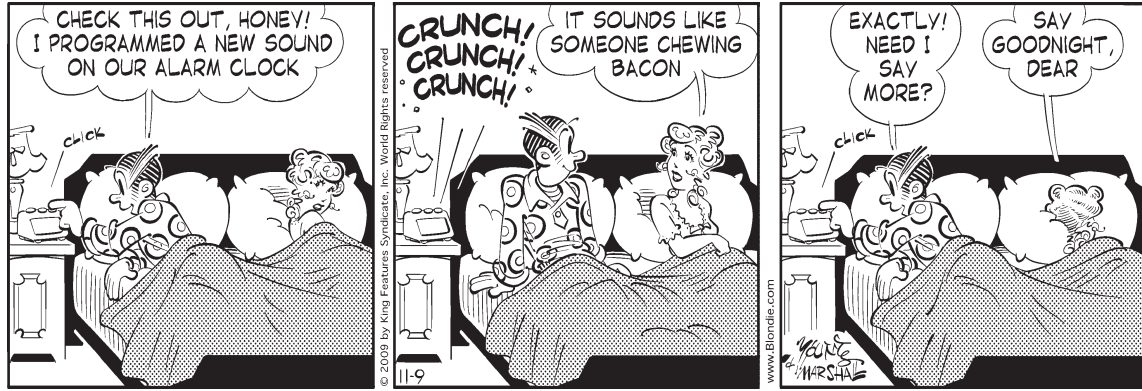
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



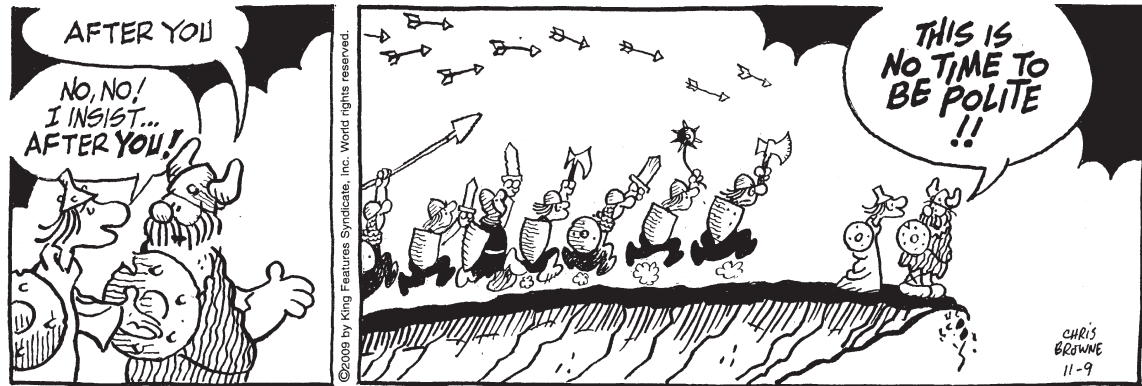
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



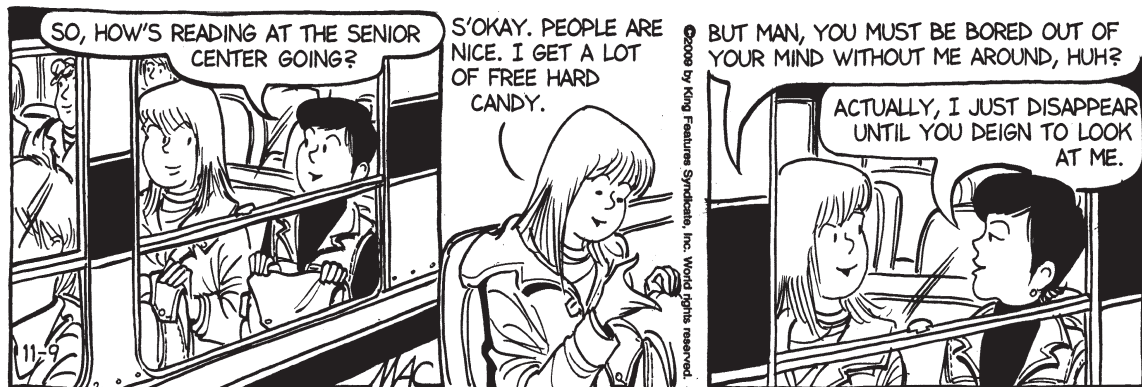
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



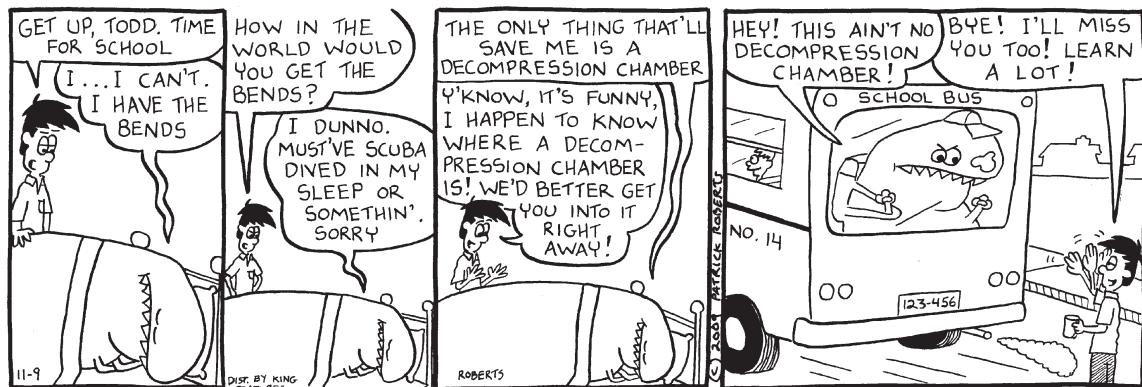
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



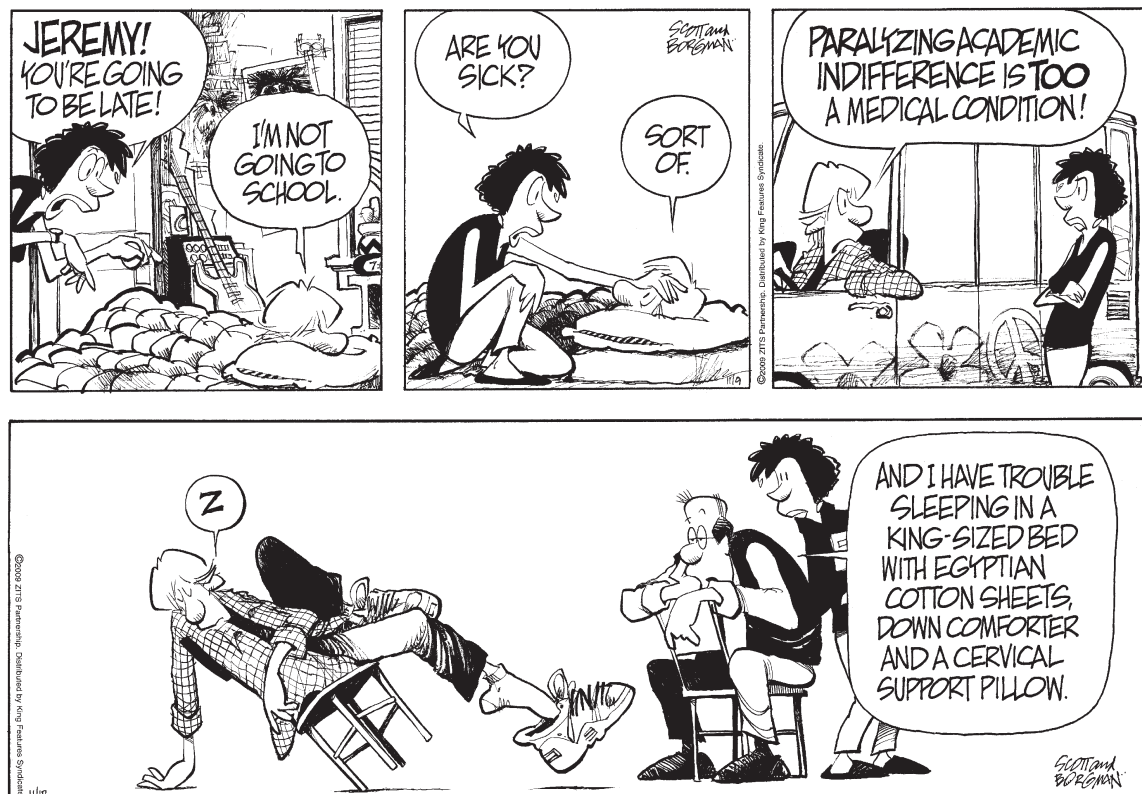
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**New employee says job too hard**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I work at a great department store, and I am lucky to have been chosen for this job. I have always wanted to get into a retail environment, and I find it exciting. But I am finding I can't really cope with the cash register, the paperwork and that stuff. I am a people person, and I love fashion. I am scared of losing my job, but also scared of keeping it because I know I will mess up. What should I do now? — D.B.

**Dear D.B.:** Whoa, calm down. You have identified the problem clearly, and that's a good thing. So now you need to figure out if the job is worth fighting for — meaning, you are going to have to improve your skills so they are a better fit. Otherwise, you may make a mistake that will cost you your position. The fact that you were chosen for the job means that have those people skills — you impressed the right person! It shouldn't be hard to find a course online or at a local adult-education center that deals with the skills you need. Your employer may even offer training you could take advantage of — they'd rather educate employees than lose them.

If you really don't want any part of those things you are having trouble with, you could still try while looking for a more fashion-focused job. Start networking, and learn as much as you can so you can make a move soon. You need to calm down, though, to get through your workday without errors and without dampening your enthusiasm. Make friends with some competent people at the store in your same position — maybe they can give you perspective.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have been upset ever since I heard of the so-called swine flu. I know I am not in a high-risk group, since I might have been exposed to something that would give me some immunity, but I'm scared of what it could do to family. We are all relatively healthy, but you never know. I read the other day that a student died where my granddaughter goes to college. How do I stop worrying so much? — M.J.

**Dear M.J.:** As with most things, education and preventive measures should make your mind rest more easily. Remember the fuss about avian flu? It has not developed into a pandemic as expected, although it still could. Sometimes the worst doesn't happen, which may be hard to comprehend if you are already worrying. I suggest seasonal flu shots now and the H1N1 vaccine when it is available. That should take care of most worry — knowing you have taken preventive measures.

Next, I would follow the recommendation of medical professionals who remind us we should wash hands and stay away from others who have the flu. Staying home while sick is important if you find yourself ill. But the best thing you can do is get a grip on your emotions. Be aware of the difference between facts and rumors. This includes not panicking at the mention of the flu! Spend some time getting a flu kit together and letting your family members know you are a resource for information — empowering you to fight this threat while becoming the family "expert." Now, get a good night's sleep!

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 9 2  
♥ K Q 10 4  
♦ K Q J 7 2  
♣ 10 7

**WEST**  
♠ 8 7 5  
♥ J 9 5 3 2  
♦ 8  
♣ K J 8 4

**EAST**  
♠ J 6 4 3  
♥ K 6  
♦ 9 6 5 4 3  
♣ 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 10  
♥ A 8 7  
♦ A 10  
♣ A Q 9 6 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass  
3 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
4 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♣ Dbl Pass  
6 ♦ Redble Pass  
6 ♦ Opening lead — three of hearts.

**Famous Hand**  
There are times when a player can make a frivolous bid and get away with it because whatever happens afterward does not cost very much. But if the hand comes up in the semifinal of the U.S. Bridge Championship, and your indiscretion allows the opponents to make a slam that otherwise might have failed, it can prove very costly indeed.

That's exactly what happened on this deal in the U.S. trials to select a team for the 2008 World Mind Sports Games in Beijing last fall. The bidding shown took place when Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz held the North-South cards. After Berkowitz's two-notrump opening, North's three-spade bid followed by four clubs indicated interest in a diamond slam. When Berkowitz later cuebid five clubs, West doubled to indicate good clubs, and South eventually became declarer in six diamonds.

West led a heart, and Berkowitz guessed correctly to play the ten, capturing East's king with the ace. Next came the diamond ace and ten — West showing out — followed by a spade to the queen. The K-Q-J of diamonds left no one with any trumps, and the A-K of spades were then cashed.

South had won all the tricks to this point, and four remained to be played. Thanks to the opening lead and the double by West, it was not difficult to figure out what to do next. So Berkowitz cashed the queen of hearts and exited with a heart, forcing West to win and lead from the K-J of clubs into South's A-Q at the end.

Berkowitz might, of course, have found the winning play without West's helpful double, but it sure didn't hurt to have that information to work with when the critical decision had to be made.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/09

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

EBGTCBUSJFN AVRC SDJS  
AHJSTFHX SDH YFJUE GJUNBU  
XSJSH'X GJSSRH LBLTRJSVBU:  
"Y F J M V U Y J F V M B U J ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN IS A BIASED SUPPORTER OF THE DEMOCRATS, IS HE A PARTISAN ARTISAN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Mine output  
4 Mel of baseball lore  
7 Bull's offspring  
11 Sandwich shop  
13 Lawyer's payment  
14 Sandwich cookie  
15 Platter  
16 E-mail alternative  
17 Eastern potatoe  
18 Villain's look  
20 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"  
22 Taxi  
24 Nuanced  
32 React to a pun  
33 Lotion additive  
34 Symbol of intrigue  
36 Greek liqueur  
37 Violin virtuoso  
Stern

**DOWN**  
2 Harness part  
3 Otherwise  
4 Vacationing  
5 Ship-building wood  
6 Largest of the comp  
7 Film directors  
8 Branch  
9 Hawaiian memento  
10 In support of  
12 Scoop holder  
19 Beam of light  
21 Embrace  
23 Acknowledge  
25 Go sight-seeing  
26 Lounge around  
27 Carbon compound  
28 First murderer  
29 Addition-ally  
30 Bellow  
31 Fresh memento  
35 Lousy  
38 Automobile  
40 Trinity member  
42 Punch-bowl accessory  
45 "Cheers" request  
47 Mystical character  
48 Bridal cover  
49 Catch sight of  
50 Binge  
51 Guitar's cousin  
52 Cacophony  
54 Neither partner

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Saturday's answer 11-9

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
28	29	30				31			32
33						34			35
37						38			39
41						42			43
						44			45
						46			47
50	51	52				53			54
56						57			58
59						60			61