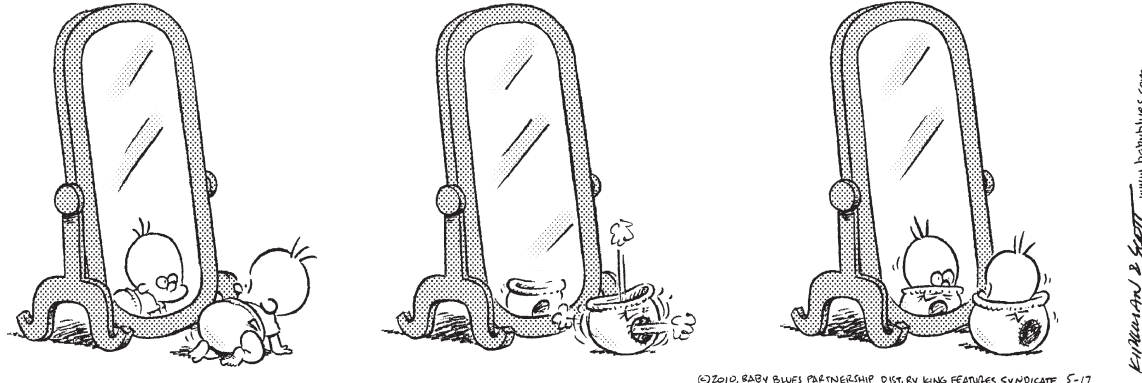
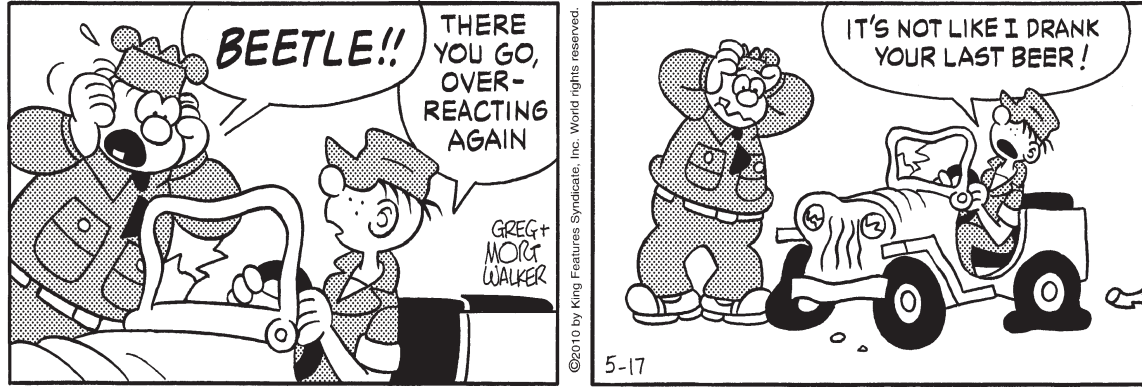


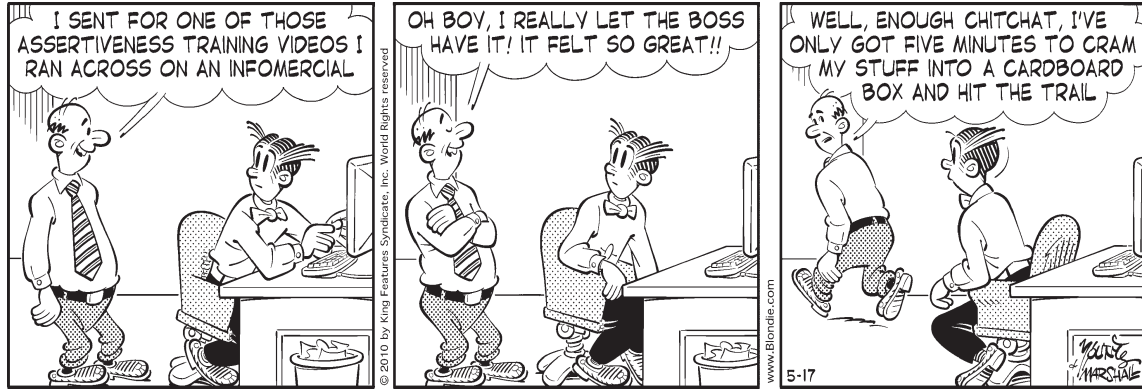
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



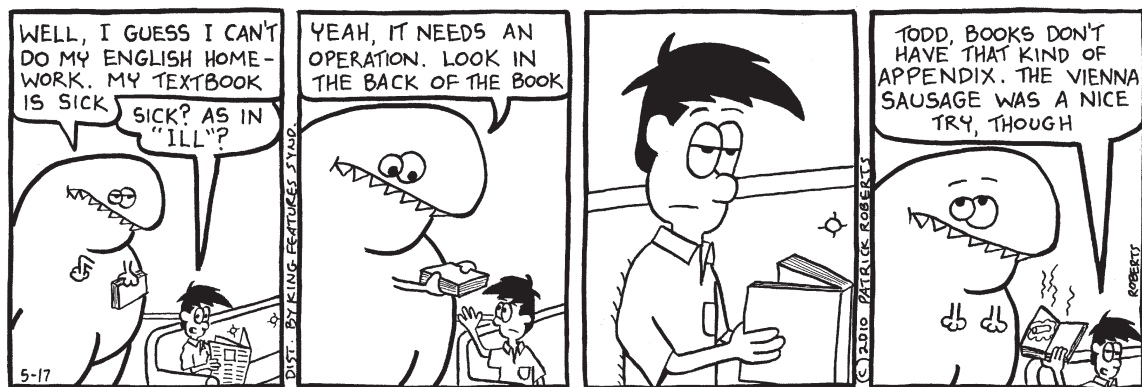
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



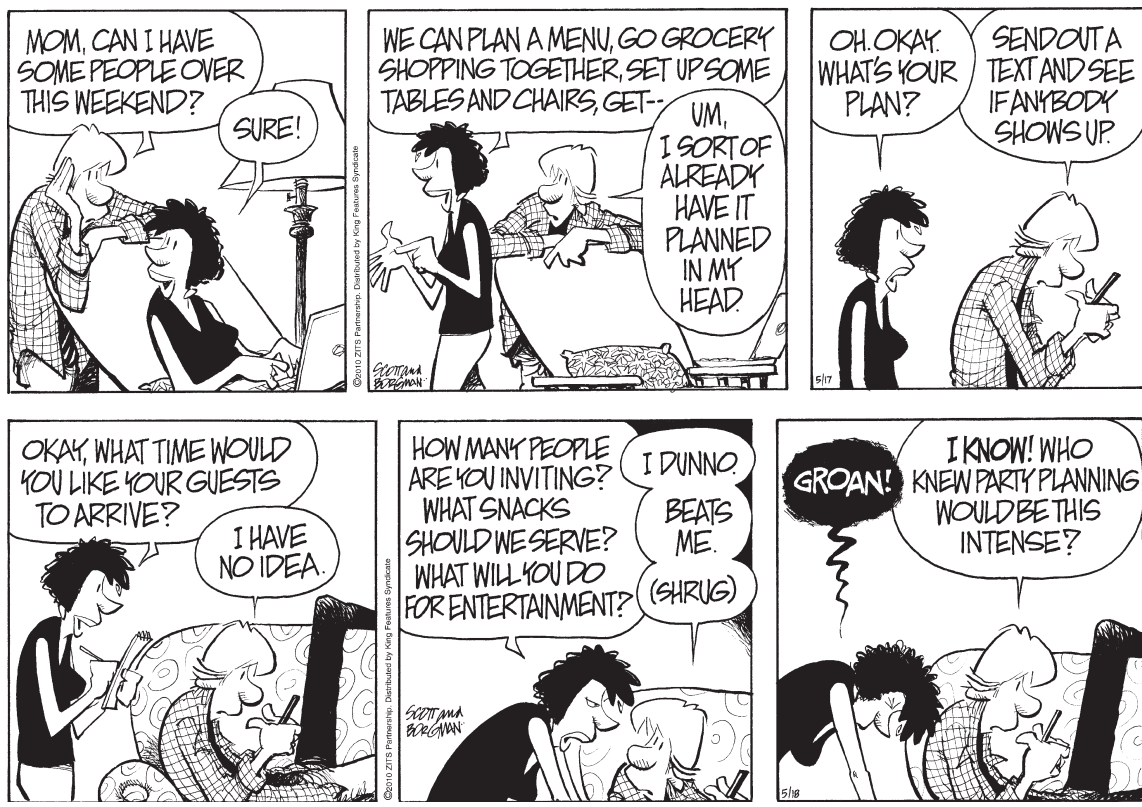
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Veteran has run out of patience**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** Something is very wrong. Ever since I came home from Iraq, I've been on edge. I've been a police officer for eight years, and I've never felt like this. I have zero patience for dealing with simple things that I never would have thought twice about before I left. The guys at the station have noticed this, too. Sometimes I feel like I'm going to explode, and I don't want to. What's wrong with me? — L.B.

**Dear L.B.:** The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which we are fighting under very difficult circumstances that increase feelings of vulnerability, are notorious for creating emotionally damaged soldiers. There is no point in berating yourself about this, and it doesn't remove the need for understanding and perhaps some therapy. The fact that as a police officer you are trained to use your survival instincts may be compounding your readjustment problem, since the war may be contributing to a hair-trigger supersensitivity on the job.

A survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance found that officers who had served in Iraq were experiencing a blurring of the lines for appropriate behavior on the job. Some were tempted to use warlike responses to criminal encounters, while others found it difficult to take minor complaints of citizens to heart when it was easy to compare simple problems to the way of life in war-torn countries. The fact that you may have been involved in urban warfare makes it even more difficult to differentiate, as your two worlds may be blurring together. You also may need some retraining or ride-alongs to help get yourself on solid footing at your job again.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I'm 24 years old and have been married for five months. I've put my dreams of becoming an actor behind me to settle down. Then the phone rang. My former agent said I've been offered a role on a sitcom! Of course, I — we — would have to move to California to take the job. I don't know how to talk to my wife about this — I told her I gave up this stuff, but this is too good an opportunity to throw away. — T.K.

**Dear T.K.:** Congratulations on your job offer! It isn't easy to land one of those in this time of unemployment, and it sounds like something you really want to do. It's good not to burn too many bridges, as your old dreams easily can still be lurking just below the surface, ready to reactivate! And this may be what has happened to you. But it seems that you forgot to tell me if your wife has a job. Was that a deliberate omission, or did you really not even consider whether your wife has a job she likes or even loves? Or anything else keeping her in this area.

Usually, in the 21st century, a couple will want to consider both original dreams when it comes to job and benefits, as well as your financial and career plan for the years ahead. A sitcom may fit the bill right now, but you surely would want to look at your long-term prospects. As I'm sure you well know, it's a volatile area, and you would need to be willing to consider all those factors that made you give up on the industry in the first place. But the key is to make this decision together.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 8 4 3 2  
 ♥ A 7 2  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ A 9 6

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q 9 6 5  
 ♥ 8 5 4  
 ♦ J 7 5 3 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10 5  
 ♥ K J 8 4 3  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ K 10 8

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A 7 6  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ A K Q 10 9 7 6  
 ♣ Q 4

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass 1♦ Pass 1♦  
 Pass 3♦ Pass 3♦  
 Pass 4♦ Pass 4 NT  
 Pass 5♦ Dbl 5 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

**Famous Hand**

This deal occurred in a match between Argentina and the United States. At the first table, with an Argentine pair sitting North-South, the bidding went as shown. North's five-notrump bid was a continuation of Blackwood and asked for kings. At the same time, it guaranteed that the partnership had all four aces.

Strongly influenced by his powerful suit, South ignored his partner's inquiry for kings and leaped to seven diamonds. This would have worked out well had the spades been divided 2-2, but with the actual 3-1 division, South had to go down one.

North could have averted this outcome had he used the Grand Slam Force convention. After South responded five hearts, showing two aces, North should have bid six clubs. This would have bypassed the Blackwood five-notrump bid asking about kings, and would instead have inquired about South's trump holding (spades had been agreed upon as the trump suit), asking South to bid a grand slam if he held two of the top three spade honors.

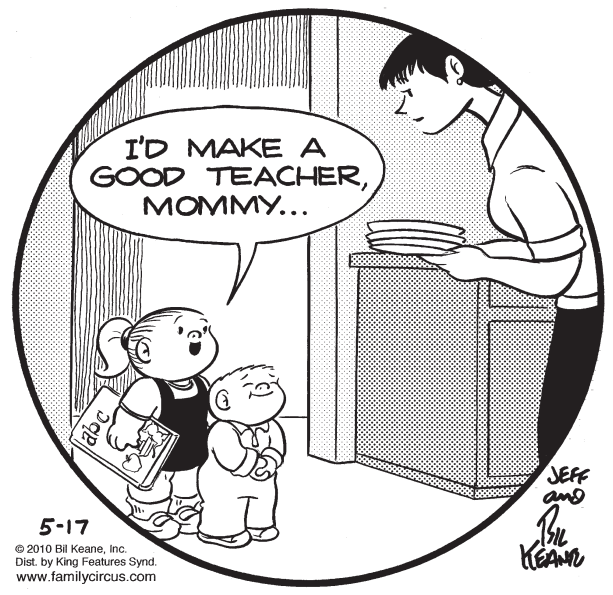
South would have responded with six spades — denying possession of the A-Q — and the bidding would have ended right there.

At the second table, with the U.S. now holding the North-South cards, the bidding started exactly the same way. But over South's four-spade bid, North, completely disregarding Blackwood and the Grand Slam Force as though he had never heard of either of them, went directly to six spades, which closed the auction.

Very unscientific, you might well say, but the winning action on this particular occasion. North lost only a trump trick, chalked up the slam and went on to the next hand.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



“... I just taught PJ his alphabet up to C, 'cept he sometimes forgets B.”

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 5/17

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

**Cryptoquip**

OR ZAS DOVRF' RJIJD  
 FSXIOHS, OF VRS VG ZASOX  
 HVKKOFFOVRSY VGGHXSXF  
 HJDDSY ZAS XVJX JYKXJDJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC WORDS THAT AN OVERDRAMATIC ACTOR MIGHT HAVE HANGING ON HIS WALL: "HAM SWEET HAM."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Civil War general
  - 4 Nev. neighbor
  - 9 Cry loudly
  - 12 Eggs
  - 13 Very overweight
  - 14 Atmosphere
  - 15 Re tailored clothing
  - 17 Genetic matter (Abbr.)
  - 18 — carte
  - 19 Smart people?
  - 21 Put in the mail
  - 24 Dagwood's boss' wife
  - 25 Lawyers' org.
  - 26 Gun the engine
  - 28 Nasty stingers
  - 31 Parliamentarian's title
  - 33 Despondent
  - 35 Eyelid woe
  - 36 TV, radio, etc.
  - 38 Fresh
  - 40 A Gershwin
  - 41 Poetic foot
  - 43 Annul
  - 45 Roman magistrate
  - 47 Id counterpart
  - 48 Clay, now
  - 49 See-through food protector
  - 54 By way of
  - 55 Obliterate comment
  - 56 Past
  - 57 A billion years
  - 58 Postpone
  - 59 Whammy
  - 20 Historic times
  - 21 Tropical tree
  - 22 Reed instrument
  - 23 Resident of
  - 27 Moving truck
  - 29 Burning heap
  - 5 Scrapes
  - 6 Hawaiian neckwear
  - 7 Stern or Newton
  - 8 Chap
  - 9 Snide
  - 10 Pig's comment
  - 11 Support group?
  - 16 Tit for —
  - 32 "Buenos —"
  - 34 Die
  - 37 Entered
  - 39 "Parsifal" composer
  - 42 Trumpet noise
  - 44 Present
  - 45 Bear
  - 46 Hodge-podge
  - 50 U.K. mil. org.
  - 51 "Go, team!"
  - 52 Census statistic
  - 53 Chicken

Solution time: 27 mins.

TWA	RPM	INFER			
RID	ALI	NOBLY			
ANI	PANTOMIME				
ICE	SCION				
THUS	ISM	BOAS			
	LAD	BLEACH			
IVIES	EARTH				
DIVEST	ADD				
SEEK	HUT	SPAR			
	YALTA	LIE			
AIR	GUITAR	ADM			
BANAL	RIM	TEA			
ENATE	ANY	ESP			

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
54			55						56	
57			58						59	