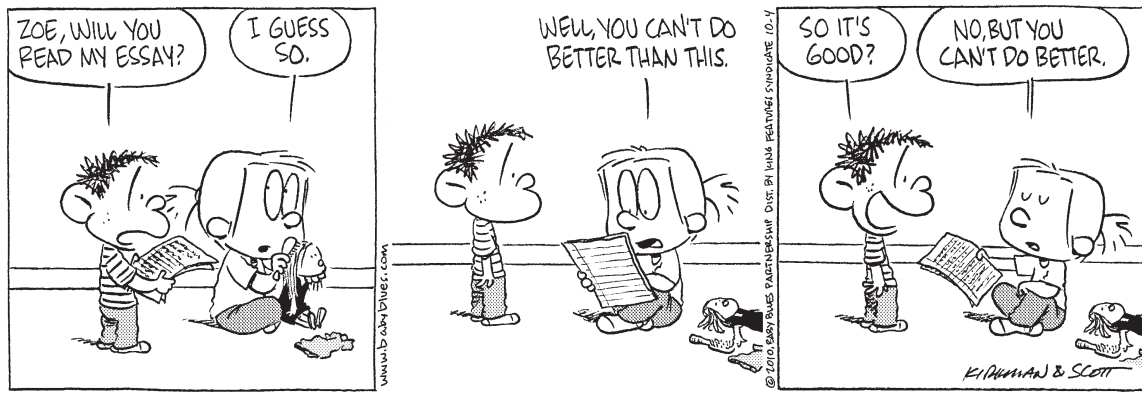


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



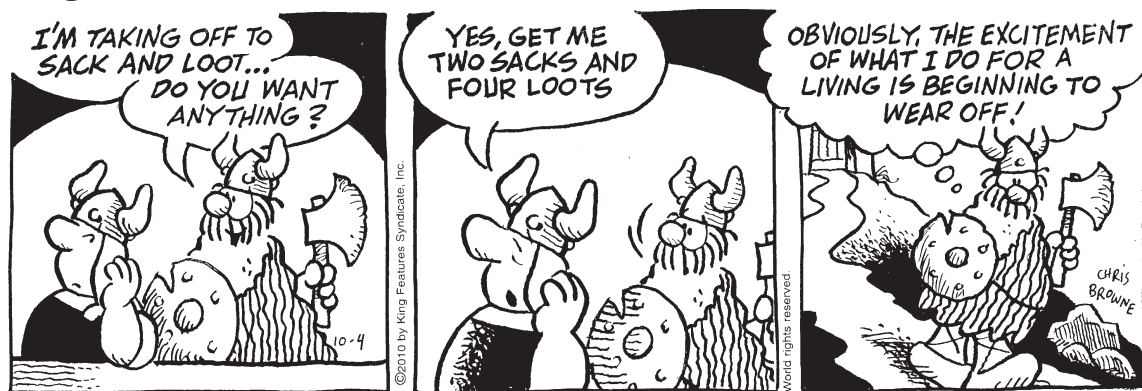
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



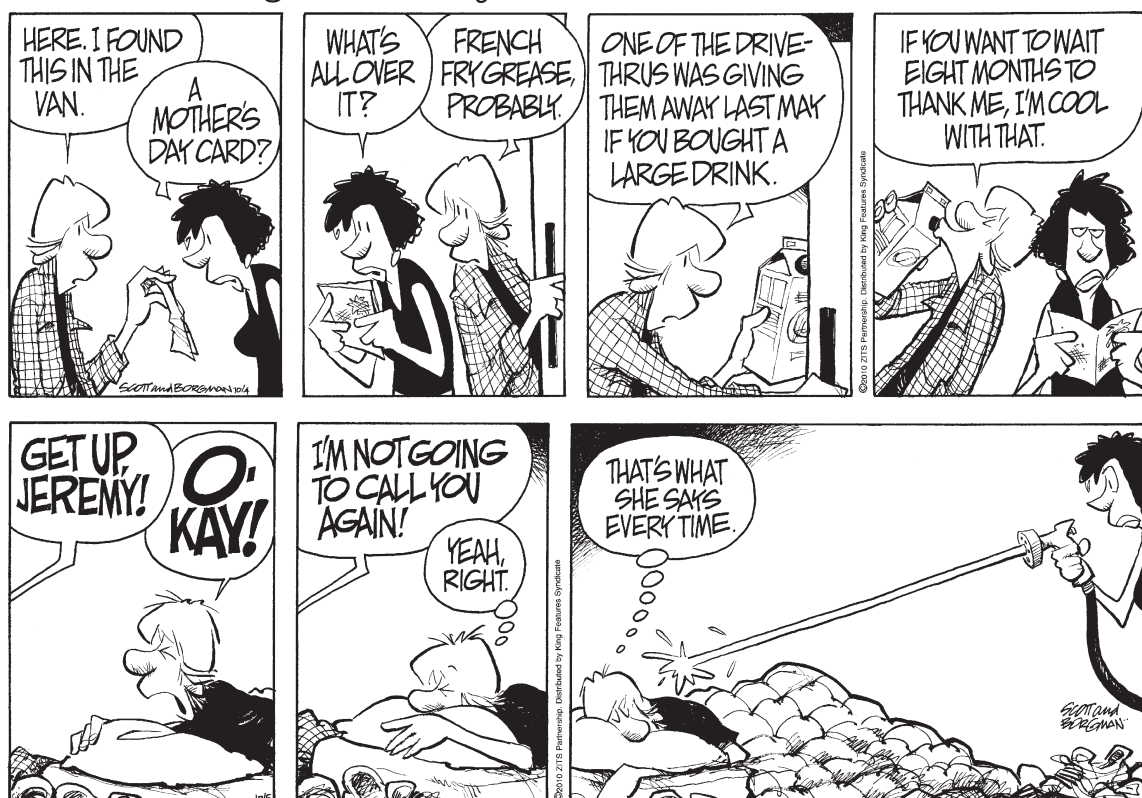
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Nasty co-worker sours workplace**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I work in a coffee shop. After the morning rush, it's pretty laid back, and there's not much to do. This is when my co-worker starts in with his diatribe – ripping into every regular customer. I try to be agreeable and laugh at his insults – but it's tiring. How can I get him to stop? He's usually not that bad – it's just when he starts the insults that he becomes nasty. – D.B.

**Dear D.B.:** It is hard to wake up, go to work with a smile and keep one when the guy under the counter is projecting hate and frustration. Any customers around while he's doing this may find they would rather go elsewhere, unless they are the type who get off on a rough atmosphere – and I don't imagine there are many of those. When it is time for your break, you might ask the fellow if there is something bothering him. It could be he has a disabled child or sick grandfather to take care of, or that his home is in foreclosure or his wife is cheating. Just talking about his troubles might take the wind out of his sails when it comes to dumping on others.

This is just to say that he may be projecting some difficulty at home onto the customer: the work equivalent of "kicking the dog." If he doesn't confide and just snarls a snarky reply, your best bet is insulating yourself from his remarks by being out of earshot. If this is practical, treat your own customers with extra courtesy. The manager of the shop is sure to find out his employee is undermining the operation with his attitude, and he probably won't last. If you like the place, try to stick it out. Usually the competent, friendly server wins out in the end.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My 18-year-old son has always been interested in computers. My wife and I have been supportive, thinking this would parlay itself into a career. Now it seems we have created a monster. We caught him wiring our house with surveillance cameras to hook up to the Internet! He said this was an art project that would document a typical suburban family. We think he's gone off the deep end. What can we do? – K.I.

**Dear K.I.:** Wow, your son is ambitious – that is great a project for someone his age. I am surprised he thought he would be entitled to put up essentially spy cameras without permission – and then put it on the Internet and call it art! Regardless of artistic merit – and I'm sure that if it were a gallery exhibit, people would accept it – it may not be something you want to star in. And again, he really, really should have asked! At least you found out before the cameras started rolling.

But since you found out, your challenge is to decide what to do. You can cooperate and jumpstart his artistic career, or you can ask him to come up with a less invasive project. In any case, it is your job to encourage him, as well as maintain dignity while he makes a dramatic impact. I know you don't want to squelch his career, so walk a line between his goals and yours. This can be a win-win situation. Maybe other family members want to star in Internet videos – stranger things have happened.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ J 8 7 3  
 ♥ A 8 5  
 ♦ A 6  
 ♣ K J 4 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q 10 6 4 2  
 ♥ J 4  
 ♦ 9 7 4  
 ♣ 9 6 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 9 5  
 ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ 10 8 5 2  
 ♣ 8 7 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K 10 9 7 2  
 ♥ K Q J 3  
 ♦ A Q 10

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass  
 2 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass  
 5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥ Pass  
 Opening lead — four of spades.

**Famous Hand**

Here is a hand of ancient vintage in which declarer has an opportunity to perform what seems an impossible feat.

After losing a spade to the ace at trick one, South must find a way to make the opponents' natural trump trick disappear if the slam is to be made. That this can be done against the actual lie of the cards, without benefit of a defensive error, is somewhat extraordinary.

South ruffs the spade continuation at trick two and cashes the A-Q-K of clubs, hoping neither opponent can ruff. After this hurdle has been cleared, a spade is trumped with the nine of hearts. Three top diamonds are then cashed, producing this position:

**North**  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ A 8 5

**West**  
 ♠ Q 10  
 ♥ J 4

**East**  
 ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ 10

**South**  
 ♥ K 10 7  
 ♦ J

Declarer next leads the diamond jack. If West trumps low, dummy overruffs, plays the ace of hearts, felling the jack, and then traps East's trumps by finessing the ten. If West ruffs with the jack instead, dummy overruffs with the ace, finesses the eight of hearts, and South again picks up the suit. Let's therefore assume that West discards a spade on the jack of diamonds.

Dummy ruffs with the five and leads the jack of spades. East, down to three trumps, must play one. If he ruffs low, declarer overruffs and wins the last two tricks with the A-K of trumps. If East ruffs with the queen instead, South overruffs with the king and takes a finesse against West's jack. Miraculously, the defenders' natural trump trick simply vanishes.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



10-4  
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 www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/04

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

WVMDU V'HU EGX O NUWZU  
 XG UOX OMGXRUZ SGKFPF  
 GA DPZHUN CODOZGMV, V  
 EPUWW V ROHU UFSGK ZGGC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BOTTLE IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN IN A CERTAIN FLORIDA CITY, I'D SAY IT'S TAMPA-PROOF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals V

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Spree	1 Occupation
4 Tent peg	2 Actress
9 Hot tub	3 Gardner
12 Eggs	4 In need of repair
13 "American Idol" subject	5 Ostrich's cousin
14 Audiography	6 They're "worn" when handling something carefully
15 Piano style	7 Japanese form of fencing
17 Performance	8 Alias (Abbr.)
18 Birthday statistic	9 Japanese something
19 Mickey Mouse's creator	10 Gait
21 Stuck	11 Bohemian
24 Sans siblings	12 Impressionist
25 Blackbird	13 Homer's interjection
26 Homer's interjection	14 Present aperture
28 Play your last card	15 Parisian pal
31 Hostels	16 Justice Kagan
33 Watch chain	17 Past
35 Ballerina's frill	18 Unsavory rodent
36 Crazy folks	19 Impressionist painter
38 Deity	20 Coin
40 Apprehend	21 "No Way Out" actress
	22 Gait
	23 Bohemian
	24 Sweet potato
	25 Coin
	26 Japanese vegetable
	27 Actress Thompson
	28 B.A., for ex.
	29 Moving vehicle
	30 Id counterpart
	31 Scatter seeds

Saturday's answer 10-4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15		16						17		
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		