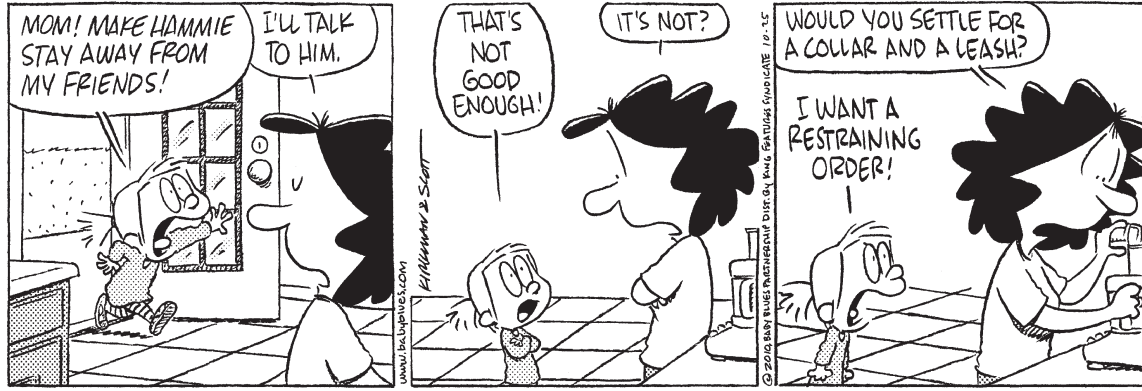


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



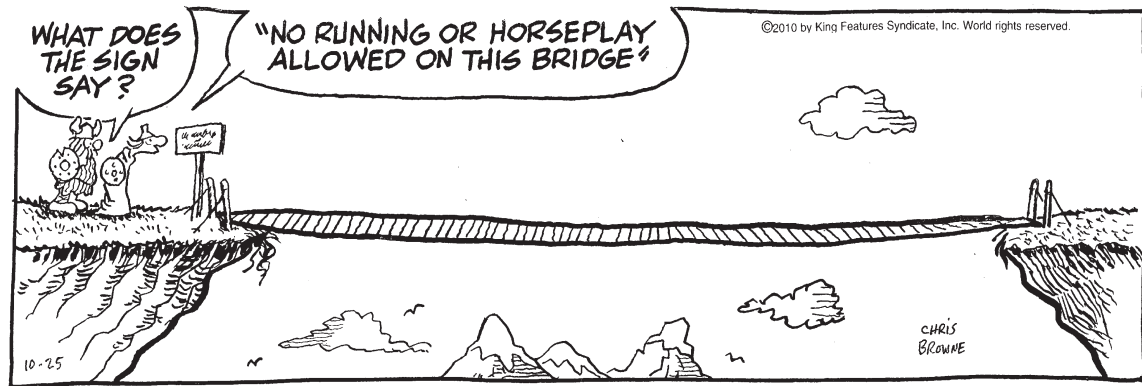
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



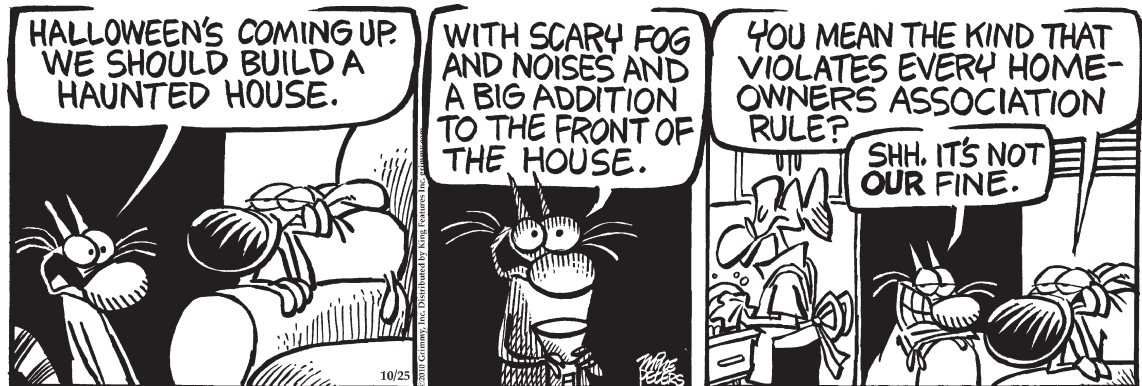
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



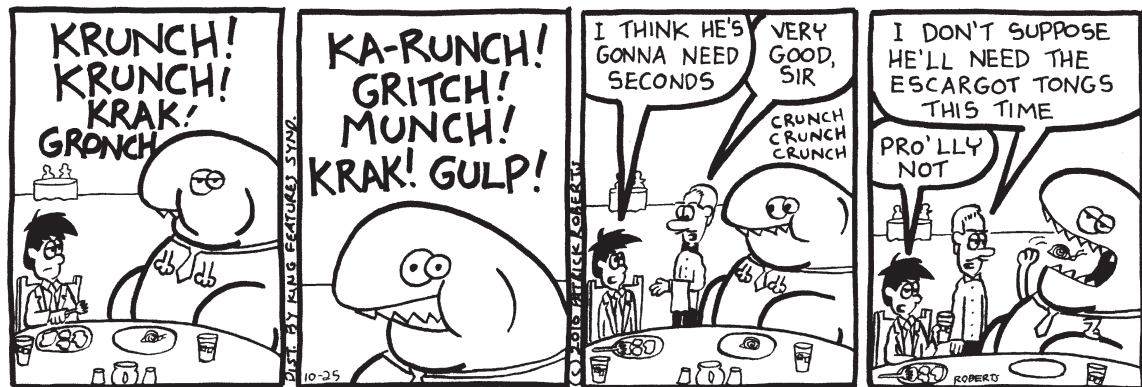
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



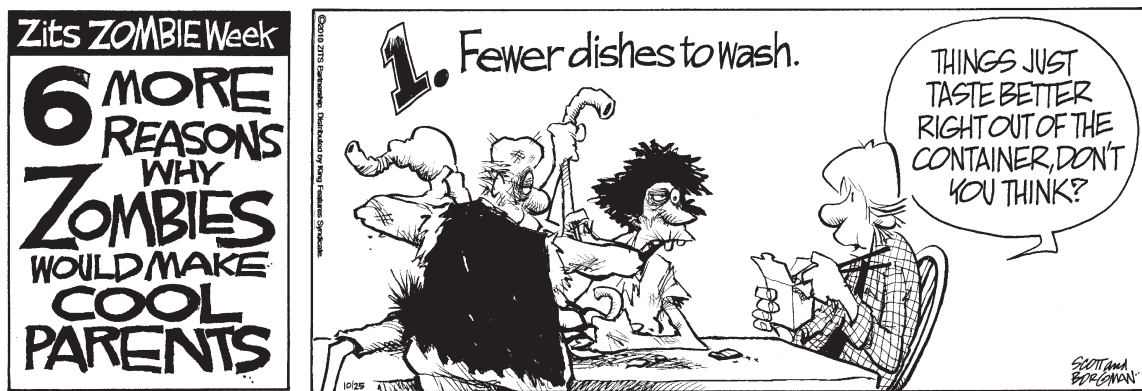
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**She's learned trainee is lacking**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** The person at the desk next to mine has become my responsibility - I have to train her and make her fit in. She's pretty, and I have a suspicion after a week of working with her that she's lacking in ability, and made up for it by flirting with the personnel director to get the job. I am getting more disgusted every day. What should I do or say to make this better? - D.K.

**Dear D.K.:** It sounds as though you have a very personal stake in this new employee's success or failure - and it's too bad someone else wasn't chosen to be her mentor. Whether or not she used feminine wiles to land the job, you need to try to keep your personal opinion of her tactics (or her looks) out of it. I'm sure it is annoying to find that she probably isn't as qualified or well-suited to the job as you would hope. But in order for this not to have an ill effect on your own work and career path, you must somehow let it go.

What should you do? I wouldn't give in to gossip about the new woman to your old office pals. If her work is below standard or she can't cut it, this will be obvious soon. It is hard to fake competence, once the flirting is exhausted. Try to train her well, because you may find blame coming your way if she fails - especially if you have been talking about how stupid she is! All the more reason to try to keep your frustrations to yourself and try to help the new employee learn her job. These things have a way of working out.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My folks have reached their 70s, and although they both have been retired for almost five years, I can't persuade them to slow down and enjoy their golden years together. They both work in the yard from morning till night, eat supper and go to bed! I'd hoped they'd be traveling and taking it easy by now. I fear the time they have left to do things may be slipping away. How can I get them to change? - L.L.

**Dear L.L.:** It's not easy to get one's parents to change when they are in their 70s, nor is it necessarily the best approach for you to take in order to see they spend their remaining years enjoying life. Your wishes for your folks are admirable; I just don't think you have the power to make your parents spend their retirement the way you want them to. Although you think you know what is best, is it possible they are actually living the way they want to? Perhaps they are not interested in vacations or seeing new places. They might not feel up to leaving the comfort of home.

Maybe that is OK. Look at what your parents actually spend their time doing. Are they enjoying gardening and the fruits of their labor? People who love nature and gardening find it tremendously rewarding, though it may not be your idea of exciting. Perhaps you can ask them to join you for dinner at a nice restaurant, and have a more in-depth discussion about and what they want to do going forward. You obviously mean well, but you need to think about respecting your parents' choices. Don't confuse them with something you'd pick in their position. Then do what you can to help out.

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 9 4 2  
♥ K Q 6  
♦ A  
♣ K Q 10 8 6 2  
**WEST**  
♠ Q 5  
♥ 10 8 7 5 2  
♦ 10 8 6 3  
♣ A 3  
**EAST**  
♠ A J 8 7  
♥ 9 4  
♦ K Q J 7 5 4  
♣ J  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10 6 3  
♥ A J 3  
♦ 9 2  
♣ 9 7 5 4  
The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass 3♣ Pass  
2♣ Pass 2♣ Pass 3♣ Pass  
3♣ Pass 3♣ Pass 3♣ Pass  
4♣ Dble  
Opening lead — three of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

One of the most dramatic deals of the 1986 world team championship occurred in a match between the United States and Indonesia.

The deal was the last of a 32-board match, and a large audience watching on Vu-Graph knew that the Indonesians led by 1 IMP. They also knew that when the hand was played at the other table, Indonesia had gone down one, -100, in five clubs with the North-South cards.

With Chip Martel and Lew Stansby of the U.S. now sitting North-South, the bidding unfolded as shown. Stansby's decision to bid three spades was wildly applauded by a partisan American audience, since East-West would have made three spades - giving Indonesia the victory -- and it also seemed likely Stansby would make three spades to win the match.

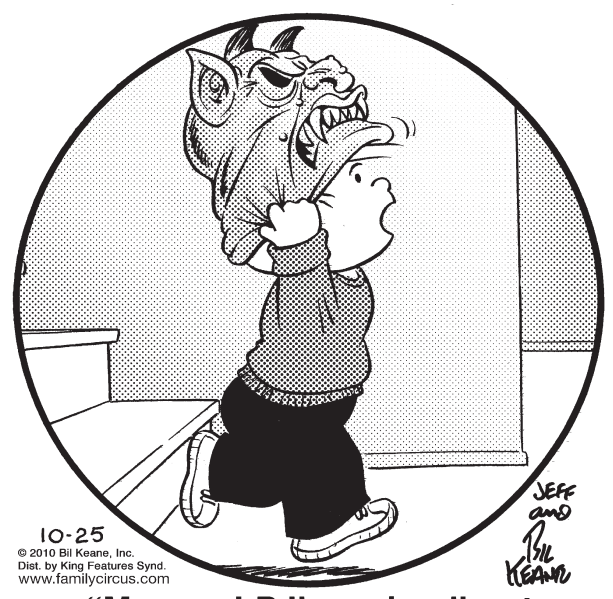
However, Martel then confounded everyone by raising to four spades, doubled by East. Since declarer had to lose three spades and a club, this contract appeared headed for down one, -200. In that case, the Indonesians would win by 4 IMPs.

But a funny thing happened on the road to defeat. After his partner doubled, the Indonesian West elected to make the highly unusual lead of the club three! Stansby put up dummy's king, watched as it unexpectedly won the trick, and then impassively returned the queen. East ruffed, expending one of his side's trump tricks, and was horrified when his partner's ace fell on the trick.

After that, the rest was easy. Stansby won the diamond return, ducked a spade to the queen, won West's heart return and ruffed a diamond in dummy. A spade was then led to the ace and a spade conceded to East, after which declarer had the rest of the tricks and his doubled contract. All he lost were three spades (no clubs!), and the U.S. team scored a highly improbable victory.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Mommy! PJ's crying 'bout something!"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★  
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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

VGMKT O RTSX DTOPBGEPU  
UOCX STVKPTC BYT ETUUN,  
G NJPUC VOX YT'V DTTM  
VORTC DX BYT DTUUT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE SLICES A PIECE OF FRUIT AND THEN SAMPLES IT, I WOULD CALL IT CUT-AND-TRIED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals E

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                    |                             |  |                                      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                      | <b>40</b> Spring mo.        | <b>5</b> Didn't waste time               | <b>20</b> Stitch                     |
| <b>1</b> Burden nowhere            | <b>41</b> Portent           | <b>6</b> Previous night                  | <b>21</b> Home, slangily             |
| <b>5</b> "— a real man, ..."       | <b>42</b> New York City     | <b>7</b> Having a graph                  | <b>22</b> Opposed                    |
| <b>8</b> Call partner              | <b>47</b> Auto-graph        | <b>8</b> Past edge                       | <b>23</b> Inflamed                   |
| <b>12</b> Irritating               | <b>48</b> Church recitation | <b>9</b> Continental money               | <b>25</b> Insult                     |
| <b>13</b> Christmas                | <b>49</b> Remain kin        | <b>10</b> No Kennedy brother             | <b>26</b> Help hoods                 |
| <b>15</b> Tricycle's kin           | <b>50</b> A Kennedy         | <b>11</b> No blabber-mouth               | <b>27</b> "— and the Tramp"          |
| <b>16</b> Black and white          | <b>51</b> Missing           | <b>12</b> Jailer's janglers              | <b>29</b> Ski-lift                   |
| <b>17</b> Father                   | <b>52</b> Science workshop  | <b>13</b> Roe provider                   | <b>31</b> Eur. country               |
| <b>18</b> Motorcycle sounds        | <b>2</b> Sapporo sash       | <b>14</b> "The 40 Year Old Virgin" actor | <b>33</b> "Beverly Hillbillies" role |
| <b>20</b> Burn with steam          | <b>3</b> S.A. nation        | <b>15</b> Waste time                     | <b>34</b> Wrist-related              |
| <b>23</b> Mythical man-goat        | <b>4</b> Waste time         |  | <b>36</b> Unwanted e-mail            |
| <b>24</b> Sea eagle                |                             |  | <b>37</b> Colonial flagmaker         |
| <b>25</b> "Who cares?"             |                             |  | <b>38</b> Send forth                 |
| <b>28</b> Humor                    |                             |  | <b>39</b> Humongous                  |
| <b>29</b> Unable to escape         |                             |  | <b>40</b> Old "— Got a Secret"       |
| <b>30</b> Suitcase                 |                             |  | <b>44</b> Expert                     |
| <b>32</b> "Sesame Street" resident |                             |  | <b>45</b> Fleur-de—                  |
| <b>34</b> Relinquish               |                             |  | <b>46</b> Dine                       |
| <b>35</b> Risque                   |                             |  |                                      |
| <b>36</b> Lecherous fellow         |                             |  |                                      |
| <b>37</b> Comment                  |                             |  |                                      |

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

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		