

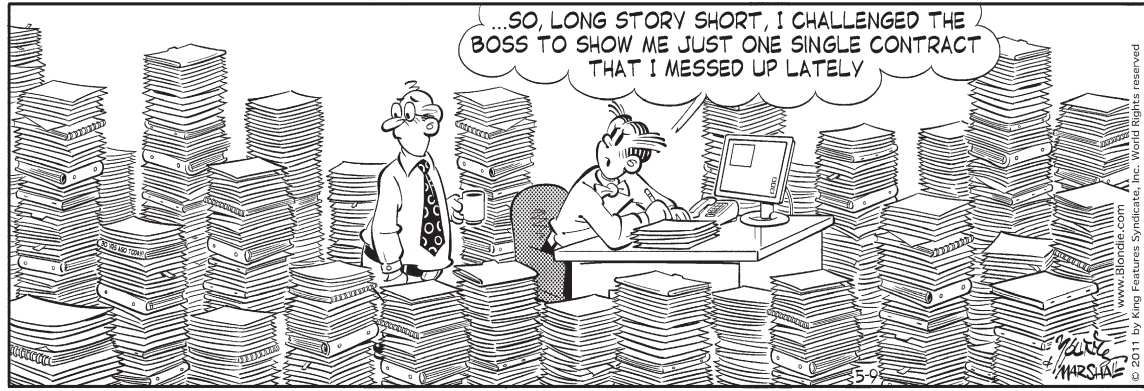
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



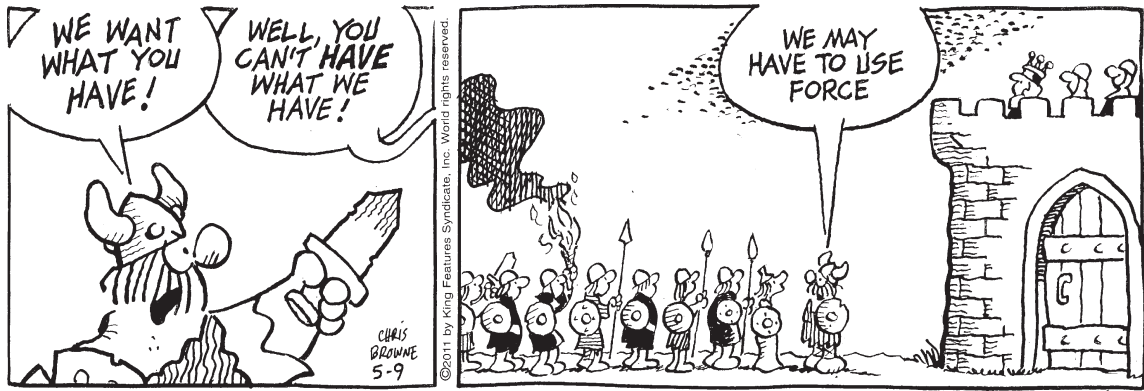
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



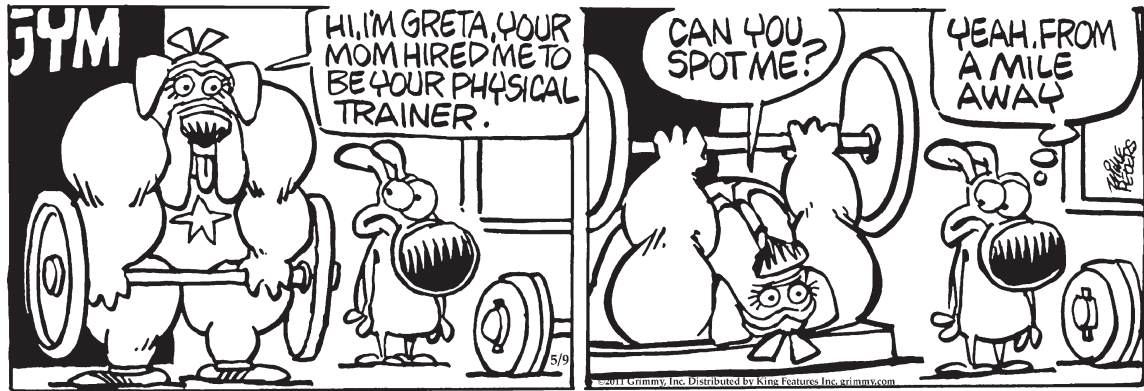
**Blondie** • Chic Young



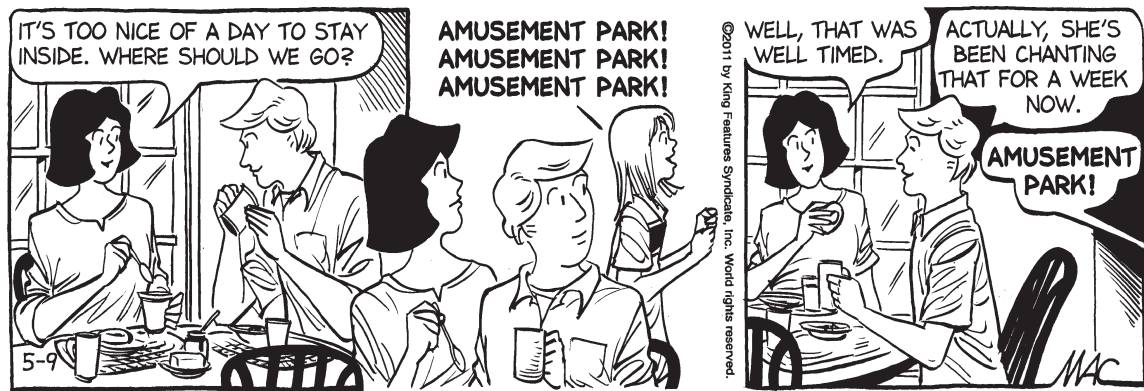
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



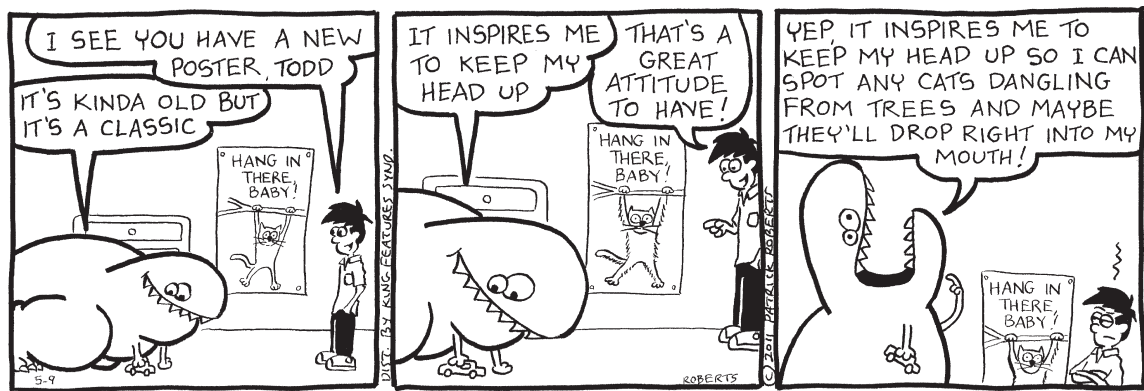
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Know when to get between**

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm three months into a cool relationship. We are both 23 and started off as friends in school before things got hot and heavy. I was wondering – am I too protective worrying about the way she and her brother fight? I've been on the phone with her when they've been having it out, and at least once he hit her. It made me extremely angry, and I wanted to punch him. I don't know whether to get involved. – L.D.

Dear L.D.: You have the right instincts as a boyfriend who loves his girlfriend and wants to protect her. That should make you feel good. But you need to talk about this. It's difficult to be thrown into a situation where you don't know the background of the relationship, only that it's wrong to hit a woman. But your girlfriend and her brother might not see it that way, and that could be a dangerous attitude for her. It seems likely the behavior you are witnessing grew naturally out of a rough-and-tumble childhood in which hitting and other physical stuff were accepted.

You should ask her about this so you have a clear picture of where these two are coming from. While they are acting like 12-year-olds, let them know you can't tolerate that kind of behavior. Tell them you believe that if they continue, it could have bad consequences. For one, it could lead to your sister looking for an abusive man in her life, and you're not applying for the job. If her brother gets angry, you may find you have bitten off more than you can chew with this family.

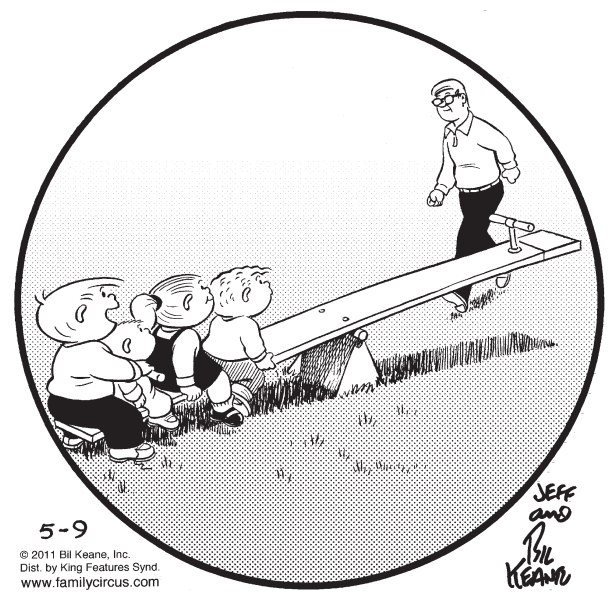
Dear Dr. Brothers: My mother is both religious and logical. Her mantra has always been "If your faith doesn't show provable results in your life, find one that will." She's convinced the only way to let go of anger toward those who have wronged her is to pray for them. There's no debating this, yet she says she would like to prove this to me. Obviously, you can't prove things that deal with faith. Right? – M.W.

Dear M.W.: Generally speaking, I agree. But there are ways to measure effects, and one area that actually has been studied is prayer. And while there has been interest in whether prayer affects the subject of the prayers, not much thought has been given to the prayer-givers themselves. When you hear about prayer circles, you often are made aware of the so-called power of prayer.

But can it help her feel less angry in general? A new study published by *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* would vote yes. Through experiments in which students were provoked and then asked to pray or just think about either the provoker or someone else, those who prayed showed reductions in anger toward those who had wronged them, as opposed to those who just thought about the enemy or another person. Prayers were seen by the researchers as an effective way of diffusing anger – as long as the prayers were benevolent, and not hostile! Would your mother consider this "proof"? Prayer helped calm people regardless of their church practices. So maybe it could help you as well.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



5-9  
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"Excuse me, sir, would you happen to be looking for a place to sit?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 5/09

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

TZ C A DTVJEJADHQ VJPHE  
A J U G H Q T U K H U G V H E E  
M D T U K E , G J H E D H D C P H C U  
C Z Z T U T M N Z J Q T U Z T U T M N ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR COMEDY FILM FEATURING MANY FAMOUS LOCATIONS OF SNEAK ATTACKS: "RAIDING PLACES."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 "You've got —" 1920  
5 Japanese sash  
8 Remain undecided  
12 Car starter  
14 Lotion additive  
15 Round Table VIP  
16 "Bye"  
17 Dinner for Dobbins  
18 Had coming  
20 Tashkent native  
23 Three-some  
24 Carriage  
25 Kids' baseball site  
28 Sch. org.  
29 —ski  
30 Cistern  
32 Rorschach picture  
34 One of the Gospels  
35 Settled down

**DOWN**  
1 Wire measure  
3 Hostel  
4 Reindeer moss, e.g.  
5 Unctuous  
6 Halloween shout  
7 Wi-Fi hookup  
8 Walk a beat, maybe  
9 Verve  
10 Memo-gram  
11 Out of play  
13 Ship-building wood  
19 Helps  
20 Diamond arbiter

**21** Tubular pasta  
**22** Pinto or lima  
**23** Fortune-telling deck  
**25** Green soup variety  
**26** Egg  
**27** Obtain  
**29** Competent  
**31** Mid-morning hour  
**33** Chopping spree?  
**34** Actor Robert from "Big Methods"  
**36** Oxidation  
**37** Always  
**39** Kelly or Hackman  
**40** —gin fizz  
**43** Sphere  
**44** Chatroom chuckle  
**45** Inseparable  
**46** Mao —tung

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

**Saturday's answer 5-9**

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ K J 7 6 3 2  
♥ K 5 3  
♦ J 8  
♣ Q J

**WEST**  
♠ Q 5  
♥ 10 6  
♦ K Q 10 7 3 2  
♣ A 5 3

**EAST**  
♠ A 10 9 8  
♥ 9 4 2  
♦ 4  
♣ 10 9 7 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ 4  
♥ A Q J 8 7  
♦ A 9 6 5  
♣ K 8 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ 2♣ 2NT\* Pass  
4♥  
\* heart raise  
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**  
The United States scored the most lopsided victory in the 60-year history of the Bermuda Bowl, routing Brazil 506-288 in the final of the 2000 world team championship. The margin (in International Match Points) and the winning team's IMP total were both records for the event.

The 16-day competition, which started with 20 teams, came down to a showdown between the U.S. squad, composed of Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman, and Brazil's Gabriel Chagas, Marcelo Branco, Ricardo Janz, Miguel Villas-Boas, Joao-Paulo Campos and Roberto de Mello.

The final was a virtual runaway for the Americans from the outset. Today's deal resulted in a 12-IMP pickup for the winners.

At the first table, Meckstroth, playing in four hearts, won the king-of-diamonds lead with the ace and led the spade four to dummy's king. East won and returned a club to West's ace, whereupon West cashed the queen of diamonds and continued with the deuce.

Meckstroth trumped the diamond with dummy's king and ruffed a spade, felling West's queen. Declarer then drew trumps, crossed to the club queen and discarded his remaining diamond on the spade jack to make his game.

At the other table, Chagas, one of the world's great players, became declarer at the same contract. He had played nearly every deal for two weeks and showed signs of his fatigue by making the fatal mistake of drawing three rounds of trumps after taking the diamond ace at trick one. He then guessed the spade position correctly, playing the jack after West followed low. But East took the ace and returned a club to his partner's ace, and West's Q-10 of diamonds set the contract one trick.

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