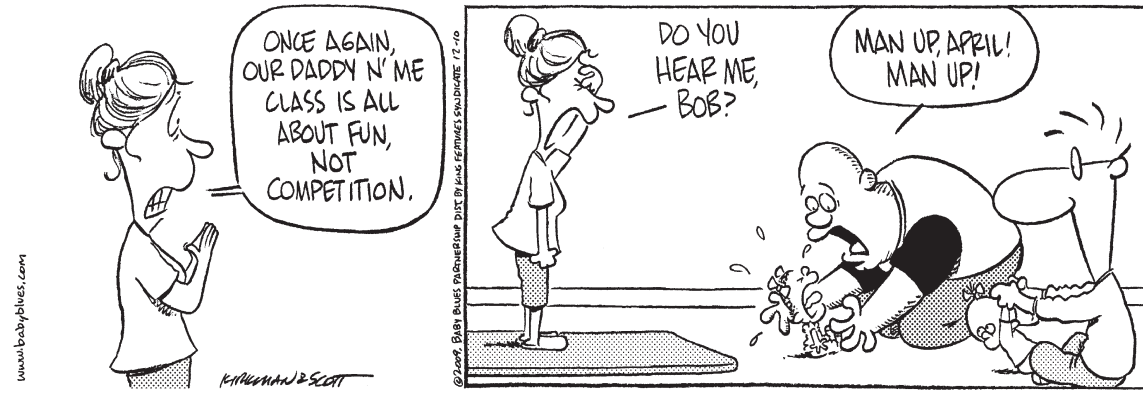
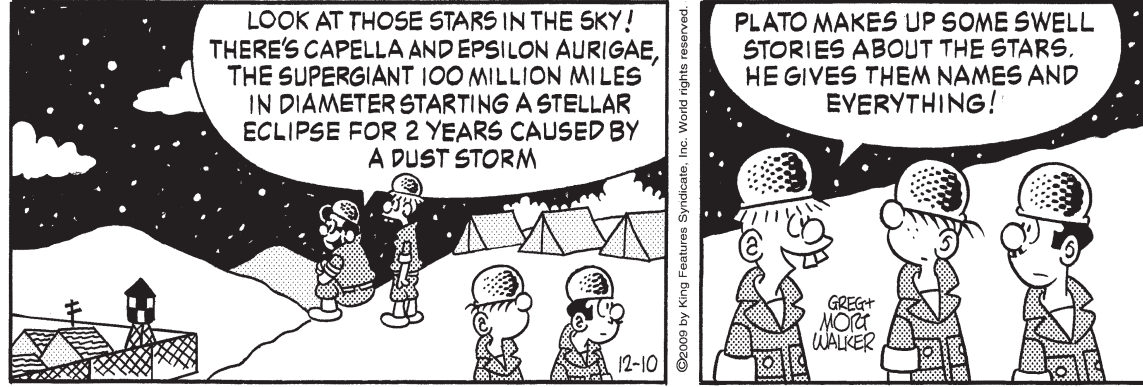


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



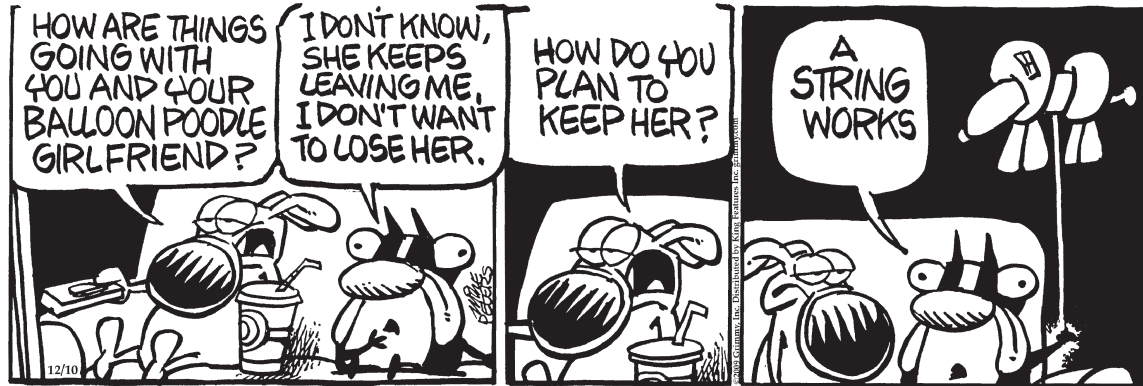
Blondie • Chic Young



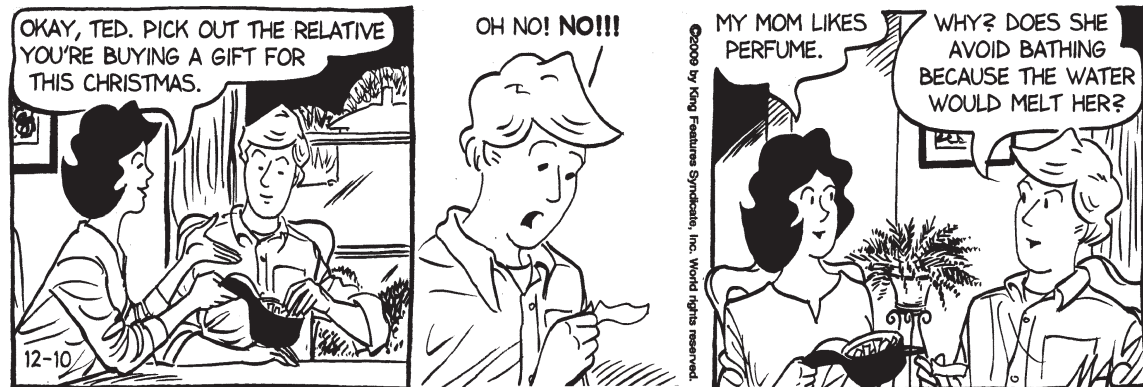
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



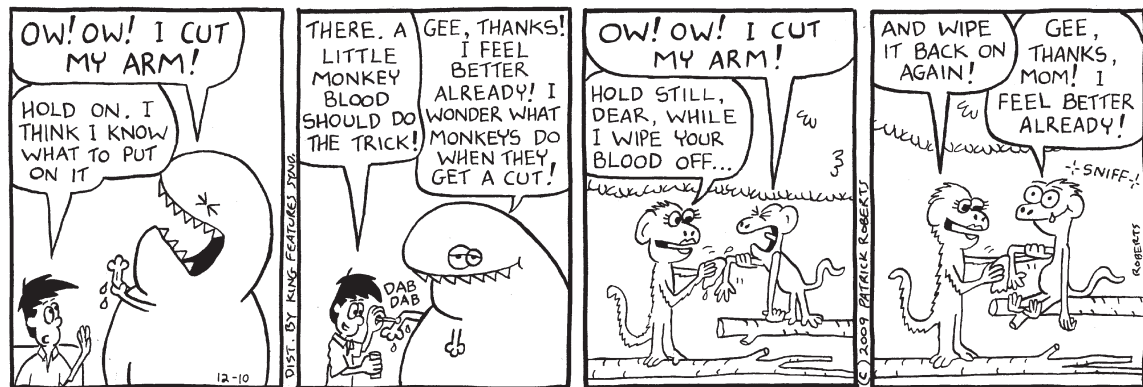
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



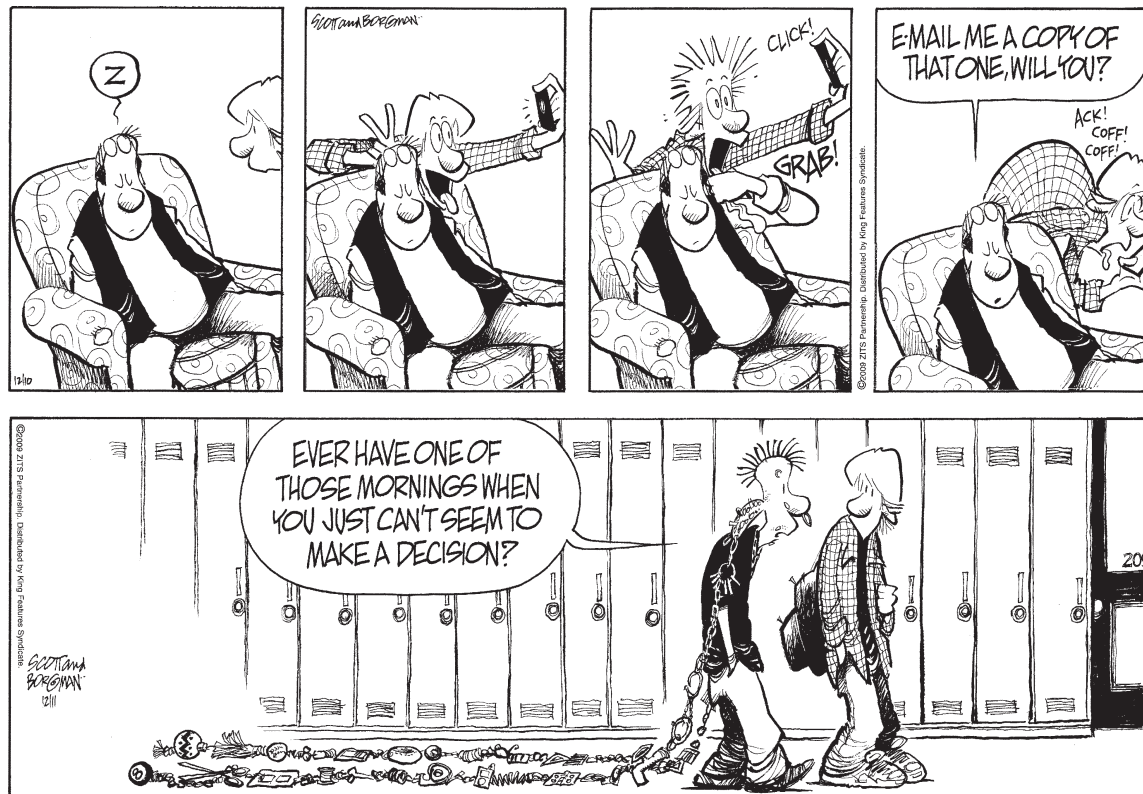
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Grandson cries over the fishies

Dear Dr. Brothers: My first fishing trip with my 7-year-old grandson was a disaster. I was looking forward to taking him out on the boat, until he started complaining about bugs and heat. But what really got my goat is that when we did catch something, he broke out in tears! He said he feels bad that we're killing the little fishies! I've never seen a boy act like this - is he OK? - J.J.

Dear J.J.: You may have been raised in a more rough-and-tumble way, in which fishing or hunting was a way of life and a rite of passage for youngsters who wanted to be big, brave men like their dads or grandfathers. Your grandson may never have been exposed to much nature or the real-life dramas that take place in the world of fish and wildlife. He's young - he may think of "fishies" as the goldfish in a bowl at school. Many fathers and grandfathers have short memories when it comes to the innocence of childhood. It's hard to remember when they cried at "Bambi" or didn't want to step on an ant. Killing things often goes against the grain of young children.

So, very likely, there is nothing wrong with your grandson. It might be a good idea to talk to him about fishing now that it's over, and explore what feelings about the trip remain. Did you eat the fish you caught? It would help him see there is a purpose to fishing, rather than just killing for sport. Or perhaps he could unhook the fish and return them to the water next time. If he doesn't warm up to fishing, in the future let him bring a camera to "catch" nature instead of using a fishing pole. Not every kid is cut out for fishing and hunting; that doesn't mean they aren't OK.

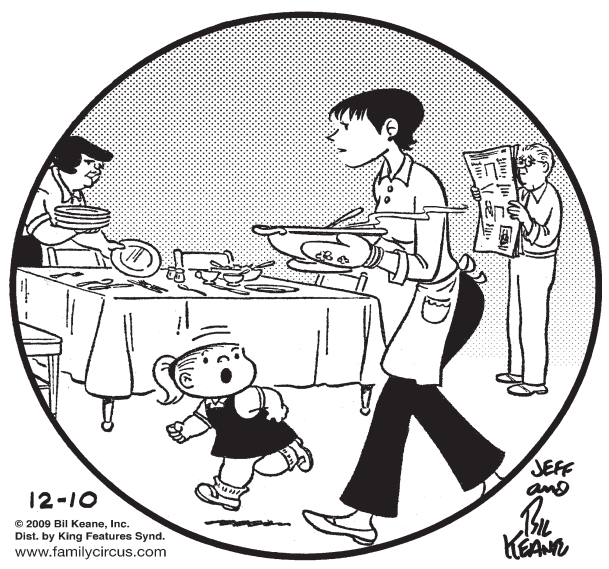
Dear Dr. Brothers: I don't want to interfere with the way my sister raises her kids, but I feel like I have to do something. She's a single mother of three, and the oldest has persuaded her to buy alcohol for a party in the basement of her house! My sister says she's going to chaperone and that she's just being realistic, because the kids are going to drink anyway. This seems so wrong! Or do I just have my head in the sand? - E.B.

Dear E.B.: It sounds like it would be a good idea for you to join as a chaperone if this party ends up taking place - you have good values that don't seem dependent on pressure from a teenager! Your sister, on the other hand, is trying to be hip - or, as she puts it, realistic. The mantra for parents like her is to assume the worst about kids, and try to find the logical way to blunt the negative effects of the teens' risk-taking behavior. Somehow by keeping it in the home, they feel they will have more control. They don't stop to think about the example they are setting, what the unspoken message is - "You are basically bad, we all know it" - and the risk of legal responsibility should something tragic happen.

The results of a study of middle-schoolers' risk-taking by the University of North Carolina in the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, showed that parents' expectations for kids' behavior set the stage for how teens acted. Those whose parents thought kids would get into sex, drugs or drinking were likely to. By hosting a party where drinking is expected, your sister would send the worst message to her kids and guests. Help her set high standards - for herself as well as her kids.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

YXNZ GLMI LRO GS HBRVM

SZ GLM OSSC RG GLM YSBO-

STG VRCHMZGCI YIJHSYXTJ:

"YRZOXZN CSSJ SZBI."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF MY DOG'S FEET CAUSE A PERSON A LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY, I WOULD SAY THEY GIVE HIM PAWS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Float on air
 5 Genie's home
 9 Journal
 12 Franc successor
 13 Basoon's cousin
 14 Tokyo's old name
 15 Grizzly, e.g.
 17 More than mist
 18 Red-light building
 19 Preamble
 21 Tagged player
 22 Extemporize
 24 North Sea feeder
 27 Aviate
 28 Deposited
 31 Apiary dweller
 32 Golfer's concern
 33 Opposite of "oui"
 34 Prejudice
 36 Rowing need
 37 Arctic gull

DOWN
 2 Emanation
 3 Kermit is one
 4 Off-campus local
 5 Timber wolf
 6 Honest politician
 7 Extinct New Zealander
 8 Danger
 9 Bohemian district of Paris
 10 Bloodhound's clue
 11 Energetic formerly
 16 Detail to pick?
 20 Zero
 22 Pseudonym
 23 Self-help author
 24 Suffer a recession?
 25 Mainlander's memento
 26 Highway sign
 27 Dismal failure
 29 Chit
 30 "CSI" evidence
 35 Frivolous gal of song
 37 Power house?
 39 "Oops"
 40 Roy G. —
 41 Lean-to
 42 "— Lang Syne"
 43 Card game for three
 44 — gum (thickening agent)
 45 Right angles
 46 Undo a dele
 49 "All the Things You —"
 50 Kan. neighbor

Yesterday's answer 12-10

PROF	BBC	DEMO								
IOWA	RAH	OVIND								
EVERMORE	REND	MEND								
REDSEA	CLINGS									
	TIND	KANT								
ORE	ULM	COULD								
WOVE	YOU	SAID								
LETIGH	OPT	LETT								
	LOUD	SEW								
TIDIER	TARPON									
ADOS	EVALUATE									
MEET	AIR	NITS								
PARS	MET	GROT								

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 4
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ AKQJ9 3
 ♣ KJ6 2

EAST
 ♠ Q9 3 2
 ♥ A Q J 10 7
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ 10 7

SOUTH
 ♠ A 10 5
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 10 7 4
 ♣ A Q 9 5 3

The bidding:
 South Pass
 West 2♦
 North 1♥
 East Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Points, Shmoints
 When a side has 33 or more high-card points, it should nearly always reach a slam. But the fact is that the great majority of slams are made with fewer than 33 points in high cards, mainly due to distributional factors, and it is this rather large family of hands that challenges the bidding skill of a partnership.

Consider this deal where North opened the bidding third-hand with one diamond, East overcalled with one heart, South bid two clubs, and West bid two hearts. Since North was looking at only 14 high-card points and his partner had passed initially, a slam might seem out of the question.

But North placed a high value on his singleton heart, and this, in conjunction with his solid diamonds and excellent support for clubs, induced him to try for a slam despite his shortage of high cards. Accordingly, he jumped to four hearts - a "splinter" bid indicating good club support and a singleton (or void) in hearts.

South realized that although his 10 points were about as little as the law allowed for his two-club bid, his A-Q-A were golden cards that might produce a slam opposite North's singleton-showing bid. So he cuebied his ace of spades to show first-round control of that suit.

North needed no further encouragement. He checked for aces via Blackwood and carried on to six clubs after South showed two.

Twelve tricks proved to be laydown after East won the opening heart lead - even though North-South had only 24 high-card points between them.

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