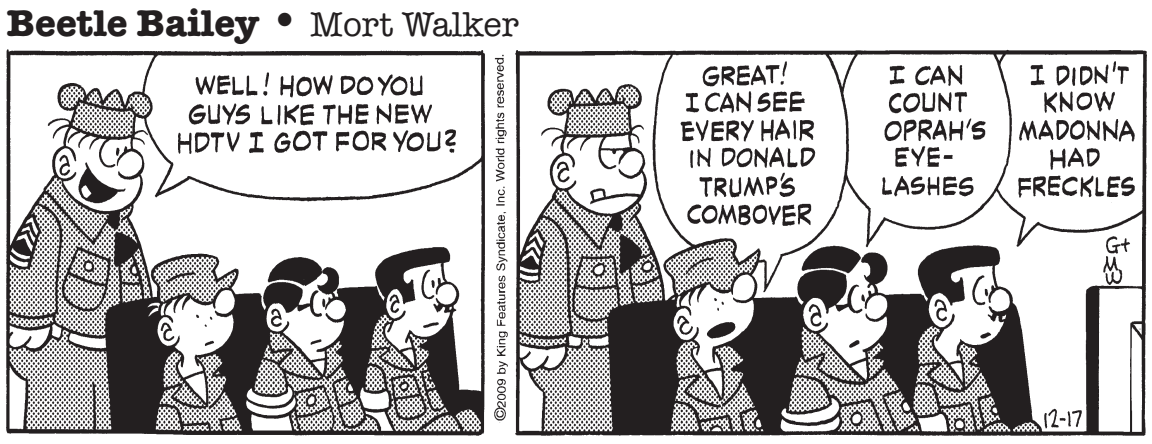
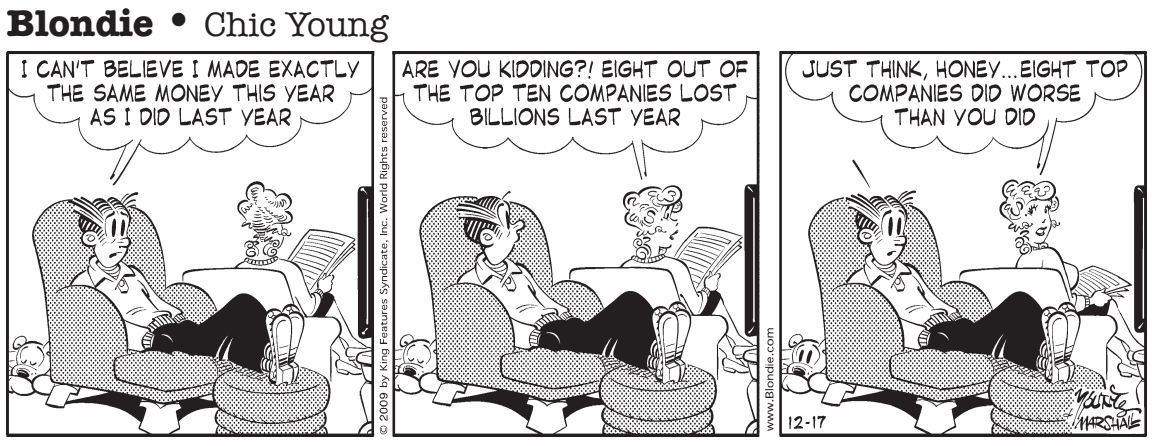
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

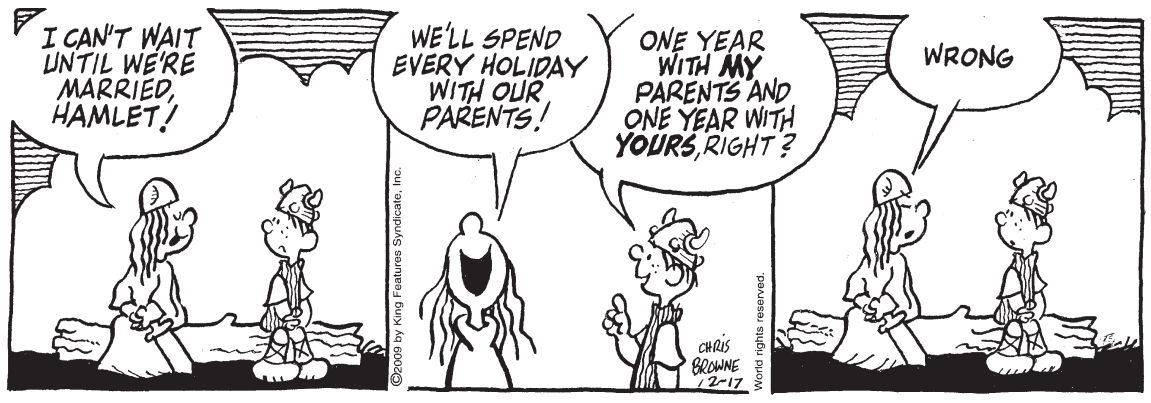
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



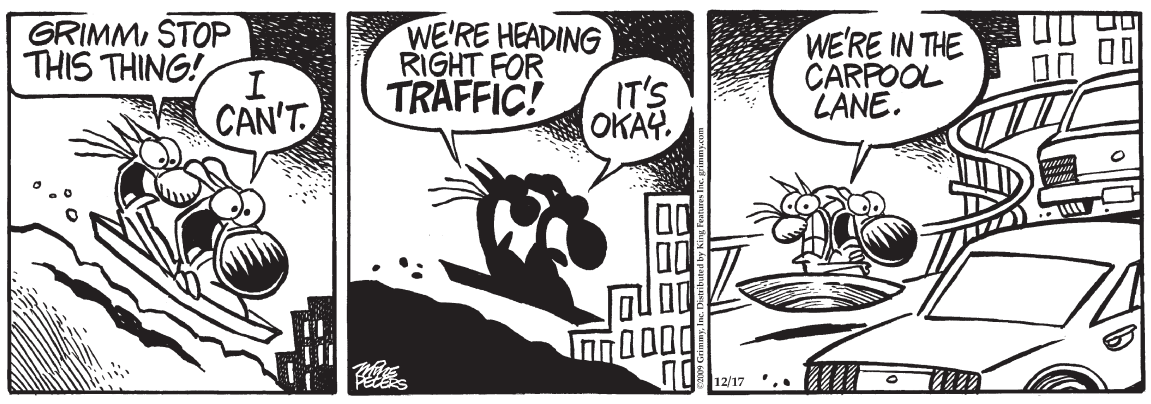
Blondie • Chic Young



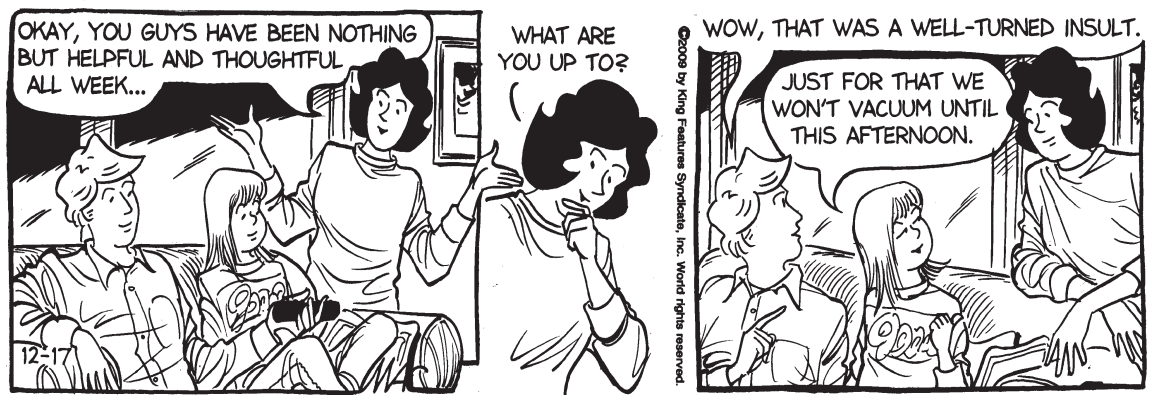
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



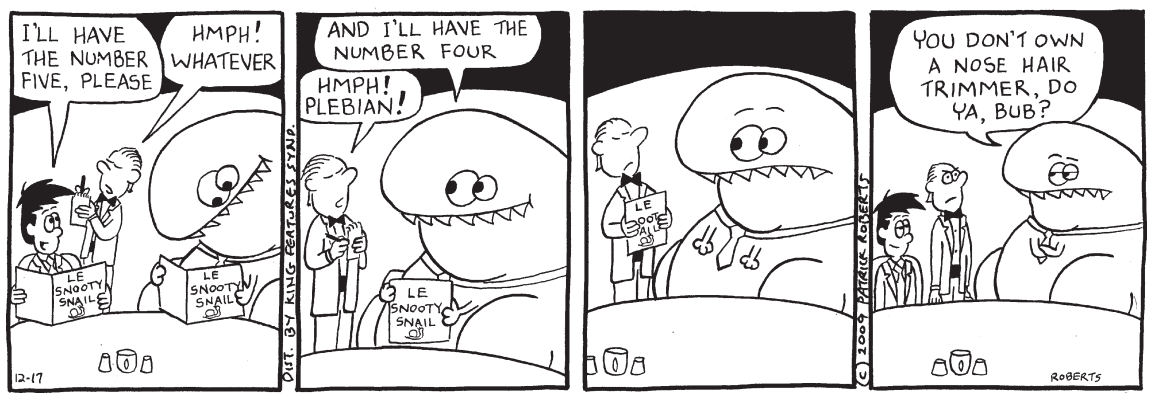
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Students need wider experience

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I are the parents of two children, 6 and 4. In our day, you tried to give your kids the safest neighborhood and send them to the most lily-white schools and exclusive country clubs – only the "best." But we don't really want our kids to be raised that way. Our parents don't understand, but we want a more authentic, diverse education for them. Are we being naive or irresponsible? – E.G.

Dear E.G.: I'm sure you are not being naive or irresponsible – probably quite the opposite. You are not standing around with your head in the sand – you realize the world is changing, and children who are not sheltered and restricted to one social class, race or creed will be the best-equipped to cope with life in the 21st century. But don't dismiss your parents' concerns as narrow-minded; they probably had to work very hard to provide the setting and benefits you received – and they aspired to when younger. It is possible to change course while acknowledging that your folks had great intentions. Keeping them engaged in your children's lives is a worthy goal, for they do have a perspective to offer.

Your ideas are spot-on – with the global economy and communication by the Internet, your kids are entering a different world. The more experience they get with other cultures and races, the better prepared they will be in the world as they grow up. It is not turning your back on your parents' values to help your kids experience more – it is a result of your security, which they provided, making you confident enough to reach out.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I are sick at heart for our little boy. He is only 9 years old, but there is a trend of him being left out. He has always been a little different – not quite as popular and outgoing as other kids. But now boys are starting sports and girls are picking boyfriends, and in every case he tells us he is the last one picked. He seems a little sad about it, but we are heartbroken. Help! – D.K.

Dear D.K.: It is sad when plans we dream up for children don't materialize. We assume our kids will be the brightest and most popular, and most of us end up disappointed. Usually we regroup, looking at our children with more-realistic eyes and helping them discover and develop the gifts they do have. No one is left disappointed.

Your empathy for your son is understandable, and admirable. You are not blaming him for the fact that he is unable to make friends as easily as others. But don't let your broken hearts make his reaction even worse; your attitudes could change his demeanor from "a little sad" to downright depressed or desperate. Start helping him with coping mechanisms, resilience and, most important, accompany him on that exciting journey of discovering what he really enjoys and excels at. Then you'll all be much happier, and his own stock very likely will rise when it comes to friendships. A positive attitude on your part will make a big difference in how he feels about himself.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 6
♥ A Q
♦ A K 9 2
♣ Q J 10 9 7

WEST
♠ K 4 3
♥ J 9
♦ 8 7 6
♣ A K 6 5 4

EAST
♠ —
♥ 10 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ Q J 10
♣ 8 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 5 2
♥ K 2
♦ 5 4 3
♣ —

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♣	Dble	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Sylvia Confounds the Experts

It took Sylvia a long time to learn to use point count. When she first took up the game, she clung stubbornly to the notion that you measured a hand by the number of tricks you could take, and the number of points you had struck her as a mathematical exercise of dubious value.

Take this case where she held the South hand. Most members of the club would have passed or opened with a pre-emptive spade bid of some sort. But Sylvia appraised her hand differently. She saw she could win lots of tricks if spades were trumps, so she opened one spade.

West overcalled with two clubs, and it would have curdled your blood to have heard the vehemence of North's double. Sylvia blithely jumped to four spades, and North couldn't really be blamed for bidding six, even with Sylvia as a partner. When West doubled, North, of course, redoubled.

Now anyone can plainly see that Sylvia was sure to go down, since she had to lose a spade and a diamond. But the wonderful thing about Sylvia was that she never realized when she was licked. She zoomed merrily along, taking one trick after another until she had 12 of them!

She trumped the club lead, played a spade to the six and ruffed another club. A heart to the queen and a club ruff were followed by a heart to the ace and another club ruff.

Then, after crossing to the king of diamonds, Sylvia trumped dummy's last club before cashing the ace of diamonds and exiting with a diamond to East's queen.

This left everyone with two cards. Sylvia had the Q-J of spades, West the K-4 of spades, dummy the ace of spades and nine of diamonds, and East two hearts. On East's heart return, Sylvia ruffed with the jack, and West's apparently invincible trump trick disappeared!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Something's wrong! This candle just smells like a candle."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/17

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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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/16

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Cryptoquip

XTPP-DHNXH CTHHTWWTT AJCI XKTZT GPP FNNZUTPPW KGQT UTTH NEEJAJGPPI UGHHTF: DHNADWQJPPT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THESE CANYONS ARE SO UTTERLY MAGNIFICENT-LOOKING THAT I THINK OF THEM AS GORGEOUS GORGES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Cold War weapon, for short
5 Rotating part
8 Undermines
12 Garment of India
13 — Khan
14 Hodge-podge
15 Lendl or Pavlov
16 Rocky peak
17 Island guitars
18 Recipient
20 McGwire rival
22 "Going Rogue" memoirist
26 "Spirit of '76" musician
29 Snitch
30 "— not choose to run"
31 Lummox
32 "You've got mail" co.
33 Dandling site
34 Pac. counterpart
35 Mrs. McKinley
36 "He's — nowhere man"
37 Any of three of this puzzle's answers
40 Jab
41 Top
45 Sketch
47 Singer Cole
49 Waikiki wingding
50 Meditative exercises
51 Accomplished
52 "— It Romantic?"
53 Paradise
54 Commotion
55 "Untouchables" role

DOWN
1 Wife of Osiris
2 Grotto
3 Cereal choice
4 Mental attitude
5 Bring the food
6 In bygone times
7 Sheriff
8 March King
9 High-pH
10 Dessert choice
11 "Help!"
19 Listener
21 Make up your mind
23 Bellowing
24 Concept
25 Yule refrain
26 Envelope part
27 Greek vowel
28 Maximal, as a magazine ad
32 Book supplement
33 Russian citadel
35 Tattooist's supply
36 Rock concert need
38 Hawkeye
39 Surpass
42 English river
43 Without
44 Sounds of disapproval
45 Turn blue?
46 Scepter
48 Answer 11-Down

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-17

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			
53				■	54			■	55			