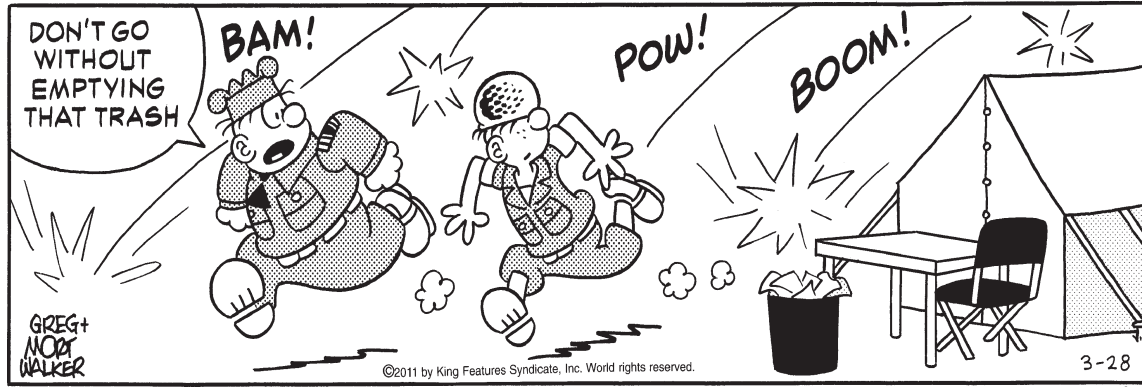


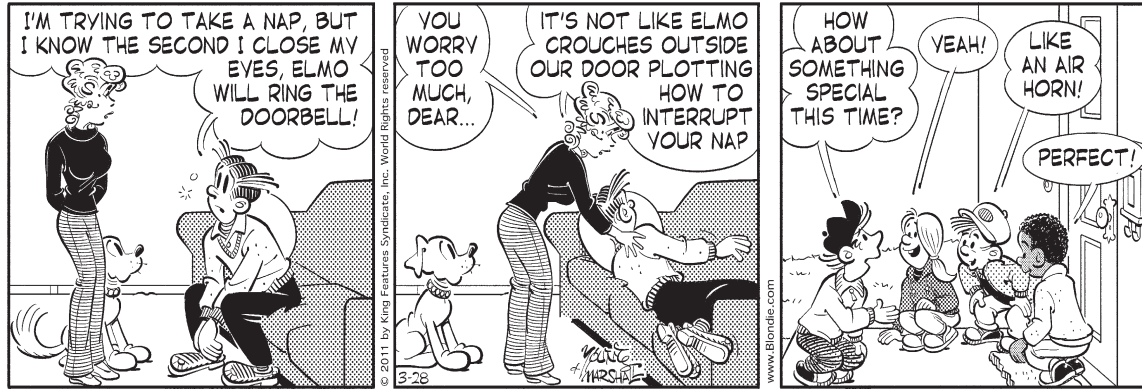
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



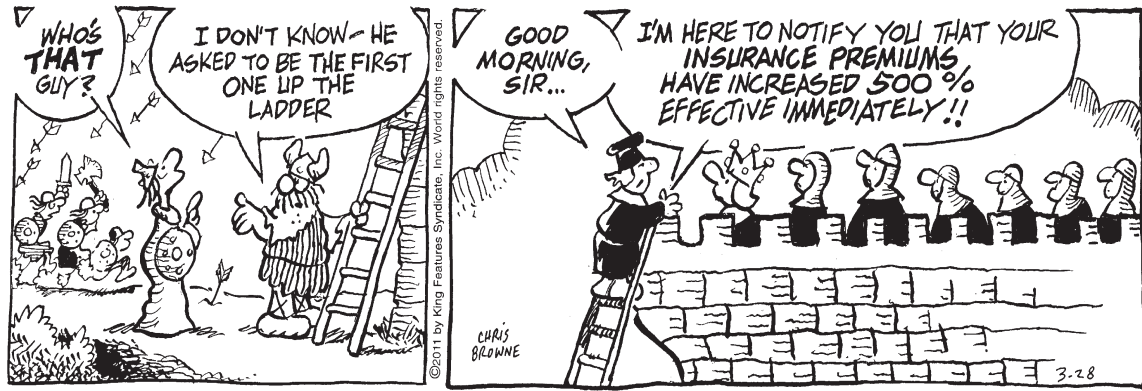
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



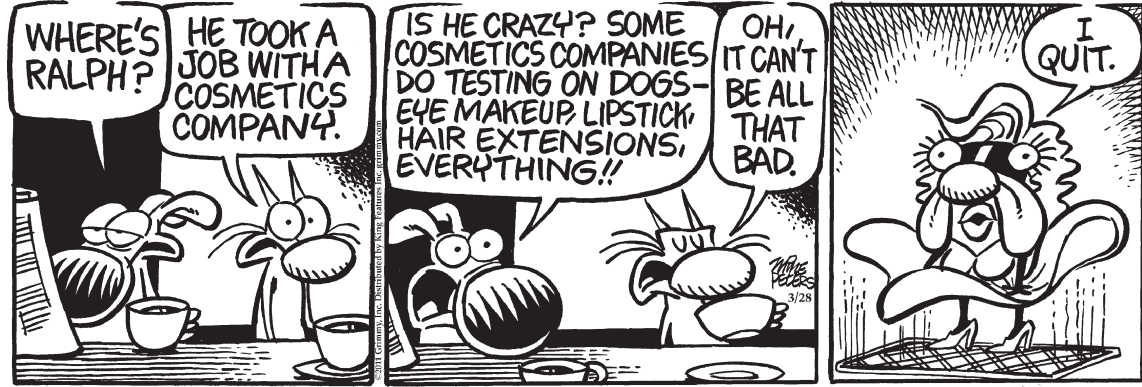
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



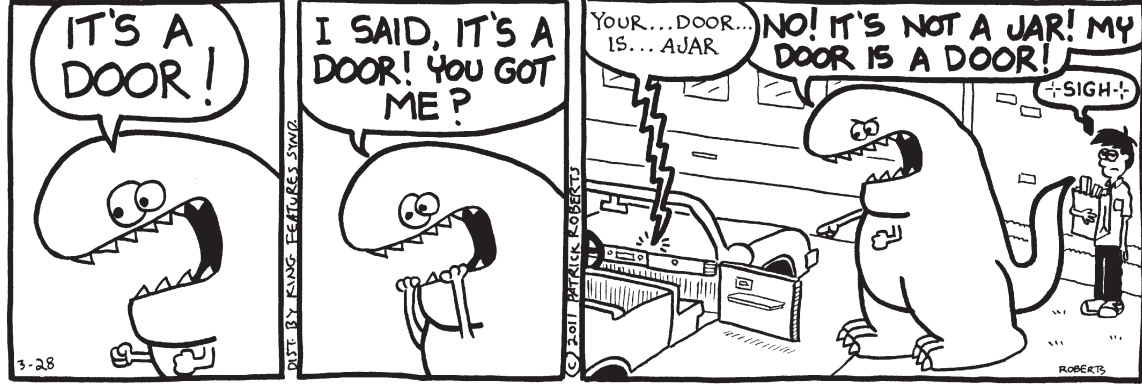
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



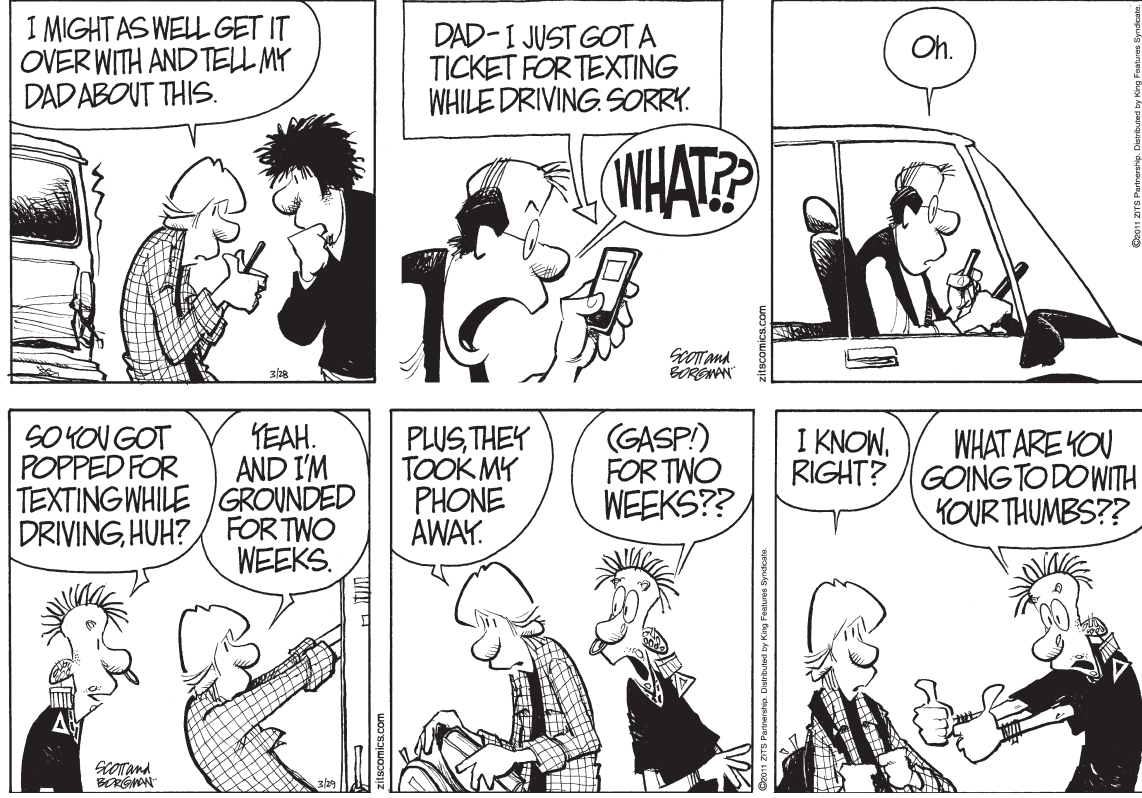
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Couple dates; she feels bored

Dear Dr. Brothers: My boyfriend and I have been dating about six months. We are college students and spend our time studying, eating or going to films or concerts. We have done this as a couple, not hanging out with anyone else. I am beginning to feel bored with the relationship. I feel we need more. Do you have any ideas that would deepen our connection? - N.C.

Dear N.C.: I do have an idea, sparked by a study published in the journal *Personal Relationships*, on 60 dating couples at Wayne State University. The study may hold clues as to which things can provide that needed spark in college dating. The couples had either intense personal discussions with another couple they were paired with, or else just made small talk with partnered couples and their own mate. The group with intense interactions actually became closer to those couples they were paired with, and in some cases sought them as friends, while the couples who engaged in small talk were not affected enough to make further contact. Most importantly, the first group felt a new spark with their own partners.

So, based on this and common sense, why not ask couples you know to double-date? It might be fun to try new things and get to know other couples who are committed and looking for things to do. You can have alone time, too, but including others in your dating life just might provide that lift. No one can meet 100 percent of another person's needs, no matter how much in love.

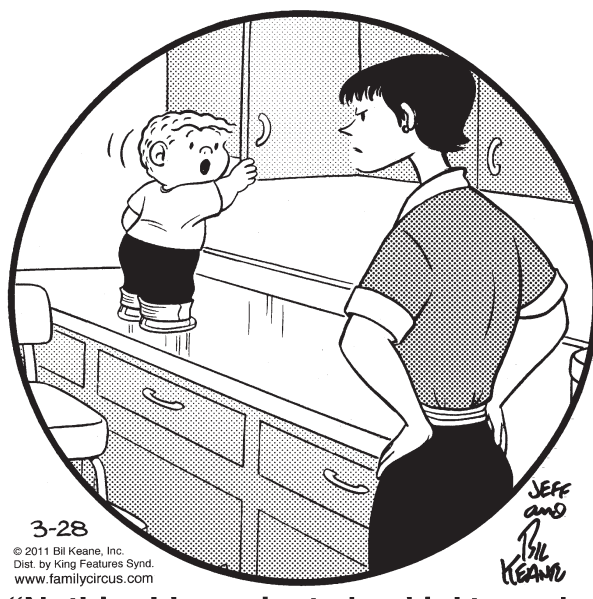
Dear Dr. Brothers: Last year, a teen at my son's school killed himself. It was very sad, and though he wasn't friends with my son, everyone was affected. The school did all it could to comfort kids - counseling, a memorial service, etc. But in the past year, two more kids took their own lives. Again the school did everything I mentioned. Is there anything else it could be doing? - C.A.

Dear C.A.: It sounds as though the school did all the right things. Conventional wisdom holds that instead of sweeping a suicide under the rug and pretending it didn't happen, acknowledging the student's death and life will provide appropriate closure. Yet when the original suicide is followed by others, it is difficult to pin a label of "copycat" on any one act, but often these tragedies do seem to come in clusters.

At any rate, there is some new thinking on what might be the school's best response. Counselors at Ohio State University have studied this and believe tributes may inspire other troubled students to see death by suicide as a glorification of the act. They recommend counseling only in small groups and focused on depression and telling an adult if kids are aware of someone's desire to harm him- or herself. Although it would be nice to think every suicide is preventable, some victims are good at hiding their intentions and symptoms. Keeping communication open is essential.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

Cryptoquip

DP BTFBWT XNMITG IF ZRL
PNOQDFMNZWT ZNCCL
KWFIQDMC, GF LFR IQDMJ
IQTL XFRWG OQFB NI ONKJO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING SOME PREHISTORIC HUMANS HAD GREAT STATURE, COULD ONE CALL THEM NEANDER-TALL MEN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Puncturing fever
4 Hooter
7 Vatican VIP
11 Bloke
13 - Beta Kappa
14 Acknowledged
15 Head's opposite
16 Up to, briefly
17 - of Good Hope
18 Backpack part
20 Stare stupidly
22 Sweet potato
24 Pizza need
28 Olympic spear
32 "Strange as it seems, ..."
33 On the rocks
34 Slight touch

36 Chills and fever
37 Mercenary
39 First AFL president, Samuel
41 Purim heroine
43 Thee Mormon state
44 Vestibule
50 - the Terrible target
55 - En-lai
56 Platter
57 Anger
58 Island dance
59 Egyptian cross

60 Morning moisture
61 See 3-Down
DOWN
1 Performances
2 "Eh?"
3 Bear's hideaway
4 Choose with "for"
5 Fillmore, for one
6 Light-purple shade
7 Was potent
8 Eggs
9 Soda
10 Ram's am'am
19 Chum
21 - cares?"
23 Central
25 Rim
26 Insult
27 Sight-seers?
28 Nonsense talk
29 Experts
30 Let it all out
31 Kvetch
35 Lad
38 Allow
40 Curly's brother
42 Fast
45 Employ
47 Dull sound of impact
48 Portrayal
49 Money of China
50 Gilbert and Sullivan princess
51 Actor Diesel
52 Request
54 Fresh

Yesterday's answer 3-26

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
28	29	30		31		32			
33			34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		
41				42		43			
		44		45		46		47	48
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60				61	