

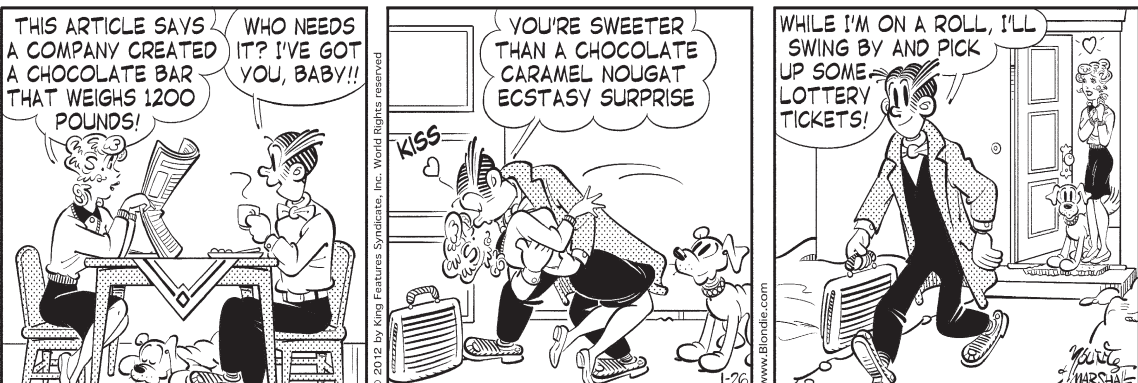
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



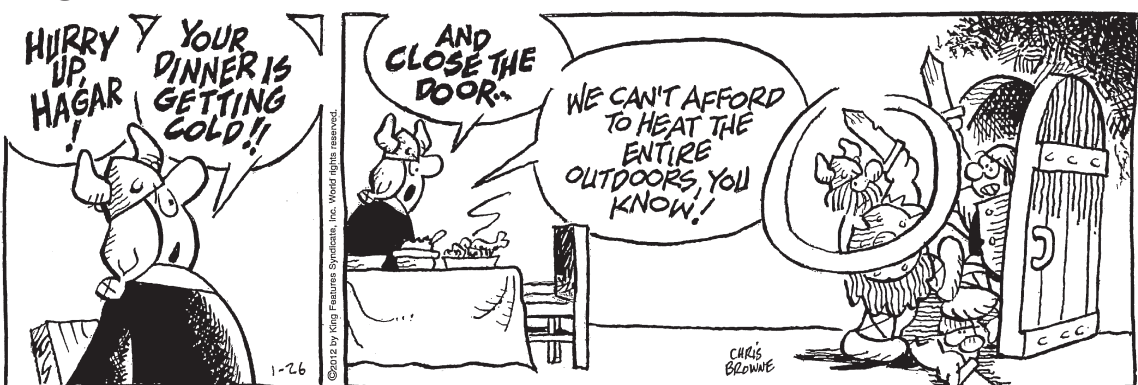
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



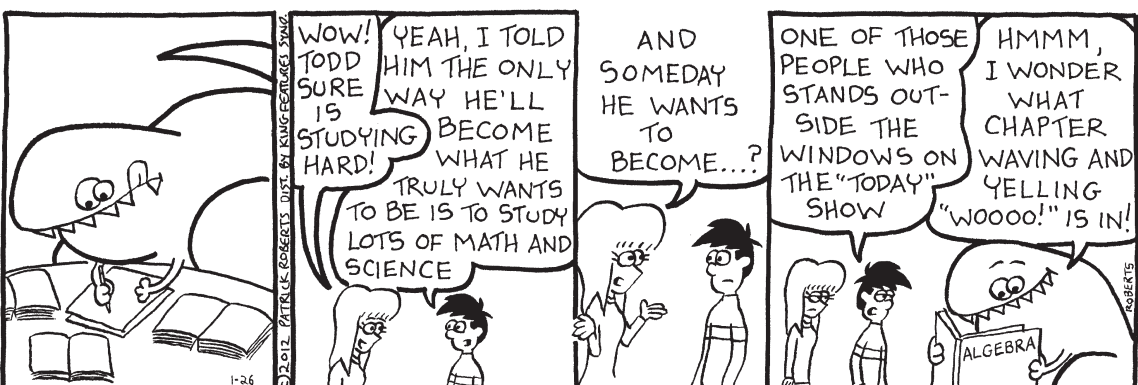
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



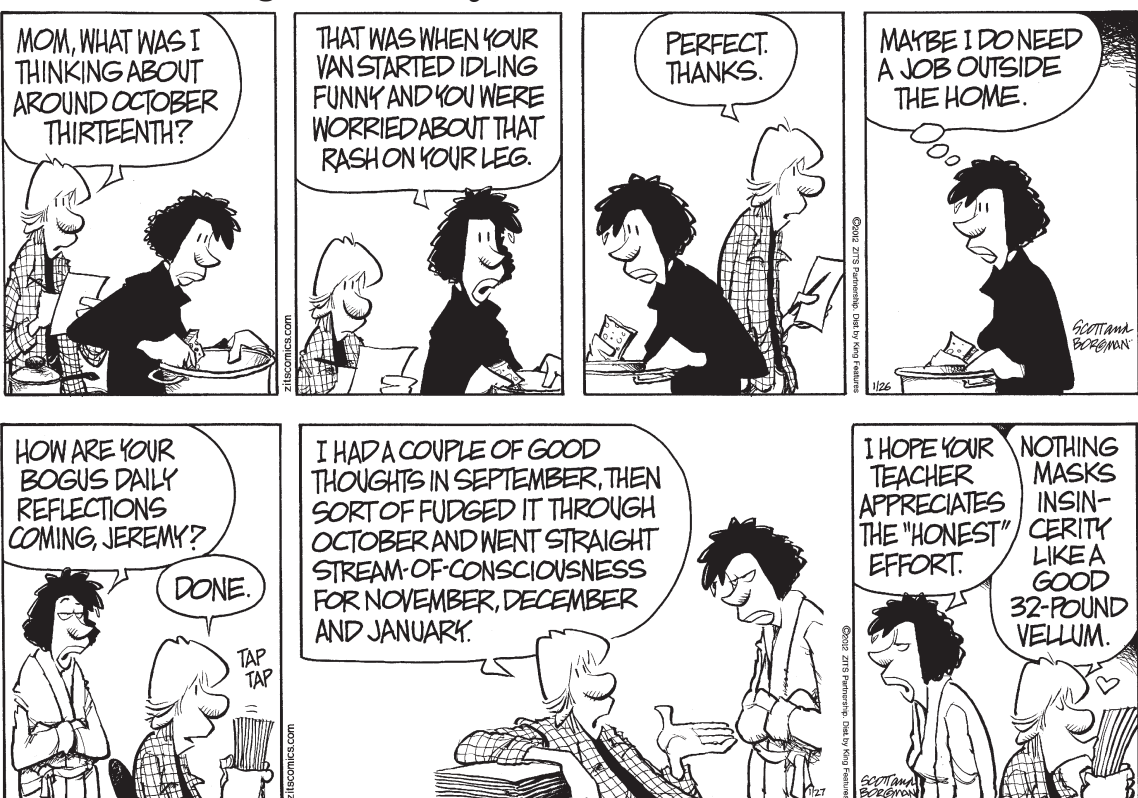
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Dad isn't into kids' sports

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am an engineer and the father of two boys, 6 and 7. They are into sports – but I'm not. I never played as a kid, am not athletic and am quiet and reserved, like my wife. How we ended up with two little jocks, I don't know. We are letting them play sports, but neither of us wants to yell from the sidelines, coach or practice throwing or kicking in the back yard. How are we going to handle the next decade? – L.E.

Dear L.E.: You sound overwhelmed, so let's just concentrate on getting through the next soccer, basketball or football season. There's no law that you have to become loud, sweaty or an expert on any sport. Why not just be there for your kids? There's always a need for parents who are willing to drive, provide snacks or man the phones or mailing lists. Communities are looking for sponsors for teams as well. The important thing is your kids know you're interested.

As for the immediate future, why not spend time trying out different sports with your kids? Maybe you don't enjoy throwing a football, but you wouldn't mind hitting a tennis ball with your children or watching gymnastics. There's no reason to issue a blanket statement that you can't stand sports – think of this as an opportunity for growth for yourself as well as your kids. Maybe as an adult, you could find the thrill in rock-climbing, waterskiing or fencing. Once you open your mind, the next decade will be easier, and it's a sure bet that as your kids get more involved in sports, your own interest will grow too. Just start being there, and the rest will follow naturally.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a freshman in college, and I'm really having a good time. That's the problem. I wasn't given a lot of freedom as a teenager, and was responsible because I wasn't allowed to slack off. That seems to be all I am doing at college. I miss classes and party on the weekend. I'm afraid my parents are going to figure it out when I tell them about my bad grades. How do I escape their wrath? – S.B.

Dear S.B.: Before you worry about the wrath of your parents, try to assess what you are doing and how you are going to fix this situation. That way, if you have to admit to bad grades and slacking off, you can point to a plan – and soon some results – designed to take advantage of your opportunity to further your education. Although it would not be wise to blame your parents for being overly strict or protective, they may realize on their own they were leaning on you too hard while trying to keep you on the straight and narrow in high school. Although they had the best of intentions, it was their job to help you develop the internal motivation and self-control to make the most of your academic future once they sent you off to college.

Now it is your job to do that on your own. Instead of worrying about wrath, like a middle-schooler, maybe you should worry about your future and turning things around. You will like yourself more if you know you're trying to do your best and find a good balance between work and play. Don't be afraid to ask for help from the people at your college who are used to dealing with this issue. That's what they're there for.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 10 4
♥ A 10 8 5
♠ A K
♣ A K Q 10 3

WEST
♦ A 7 5
♥ K 3 2
♠ 10 8 7 5 4 2
♣ J

EAST
♦ K Q J 9 8 3
♥ 6
♠ Q 9 6
♣ 8 7 4

SOUTH
♦ 6 2
♥ Q J 9 7 4
♠ J 3
♣ 9 6 5 2

The bidding:
North 1 ♣ East 2 ♣ South 4 ♣ West 3 ♣
Dble Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — ace of spades.

The Pause That Refreshes
Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads the ace of spades, East signaling for a spade continuation with the nine. Despite the signal, West shifts to the jack of clubs at trick two. You win with dummy's queen and there you are, faced with the danger of a club ruff because West's club is surely a singleton.

It would be easy to panic at this stage by playing the ace and another trump in an effort to avoid the ruff. If you did, though, West would win the second trump lead and put his partner on lead with a spade, and East would return a club to sink the contract.

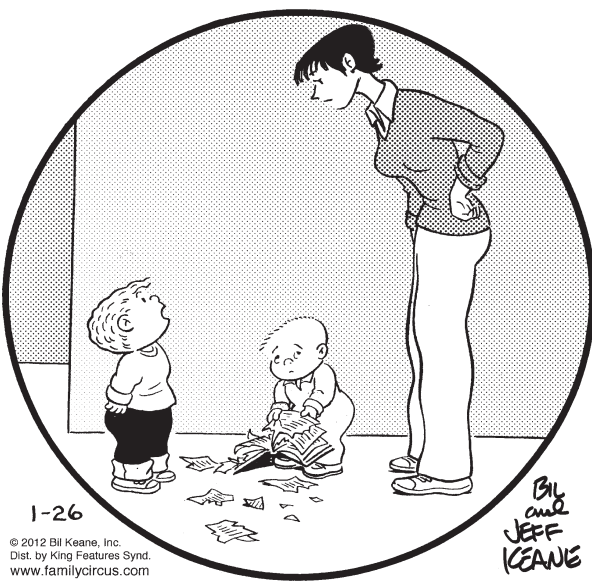
You could, of course, blithely shrug this off as just bad luck. However, the fact remains that West is likely to have the king of hearts for his raise to three spades opposite East's pre-emptive jump-overcall. Furthermore, West is also a favorite to have at least three trumps to the king rather than just the doubleton king.

So, with defeat staring you in the face after the ominous club shift, you should start looking for another approach that might give you a chance to survive.

As it happens, there is an excellent counter to West's club shift. After winning the club at trick two, you cash the A-K of diamonds and then lead a spade from dummy.

East wins the spade and returns a club, which West ruffs. But you don't mind this at all because West can then do you no harm, whatever he returns. If he leads a trump, you finesse; if he leads a spade or a diamond, you ruff in your hand and return the trump queen, planning to finesse. Keeping a cool head can work wonders.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 1/26

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

UIJW ZW JZRIK NLPPJW
BPZQNB Z XSXXC PLKJQJBBQC,
L BSXXFBJ CFS EFSQA BZC
PIJ EZP EFUB PIJ AFR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF A CERTAIN CARAMEL-TOPPED DESSERT, ONE MIGHT SAY YOU'RE A FLAN-ATIC.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Put on layaway, perhaps
5 Fool
8 Capri or Wight
12 Appellation
13 Hockey legend Bobby
14 Blunder
15 Stone-street of "Modern Family"
16 Keanu's "Matrix" role
17 One
18 Bounded
20 Jimmy Carter's Georgia home
22 Angry group
23 Hostel
24 React in horror
27 Loads, as software
32 Id counterpart
33 Old Olds
34 Fine, to NASA
35 Herring's cousin

DOWN
38 Go back and forth
39 Fireworks response
40 Go blue?
42 French brandy
45 Fireplace area
49 Shrek is one
50 Mimic
52 Will be (Sp.)
53 Dispatch
54 Mainlander's memento
55 Not procrastinating
56 Fixes a skirt
57 Felon's flight

19 "Forget it!"
21 Torched
24 Jewel
25 Census statistic
26 Ultra-sound image
28 Born
29 Author of "Finishing the Hat"
30 Mauna
31 The air up there
36 Sweethearts
37 "Caught ya!"
38 Spring, for one
41 "As — sow ..."
42 Brit's blackjack
43 Lecher's look
44 Be an umpire
46 Gambling mecca
47 Decorate
48 Loathe
51 Shell game item

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-26

