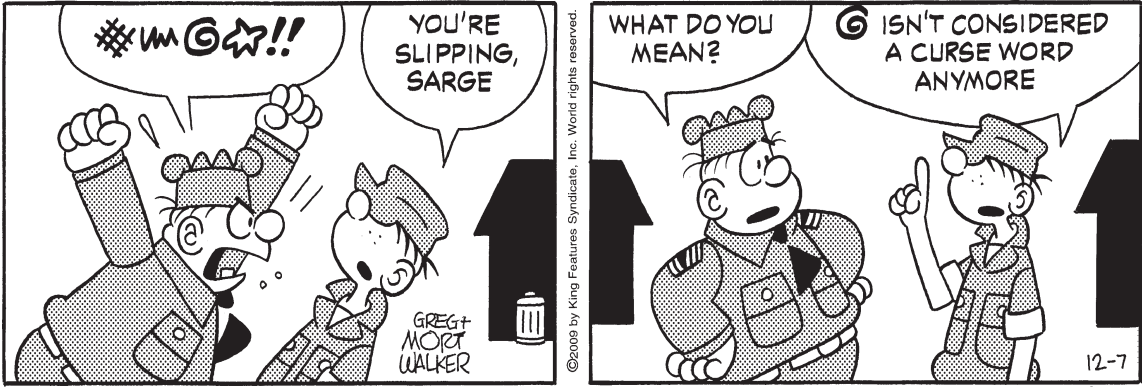


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



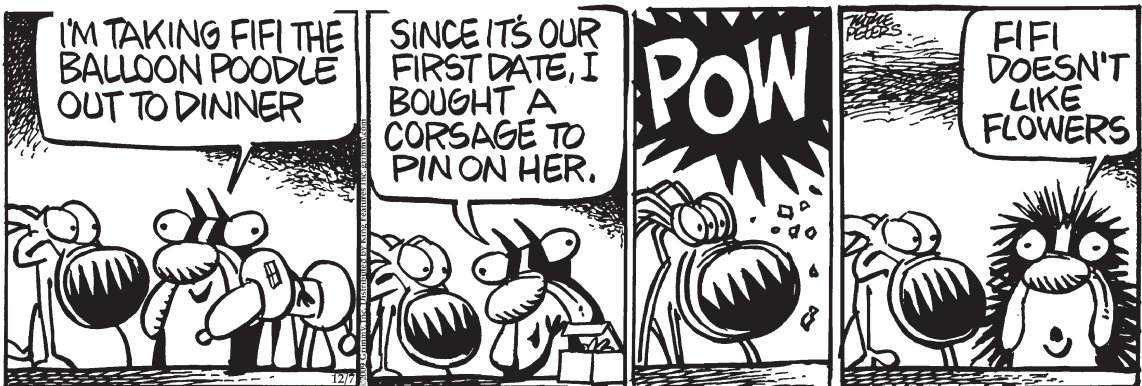
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



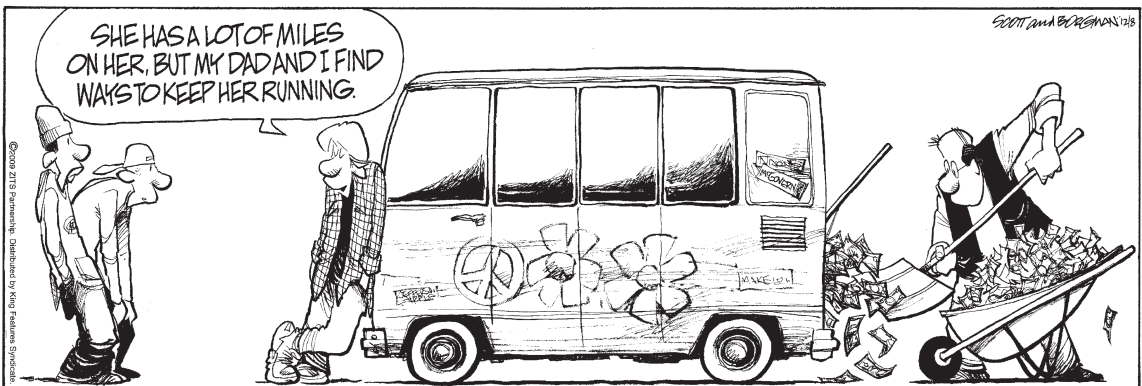
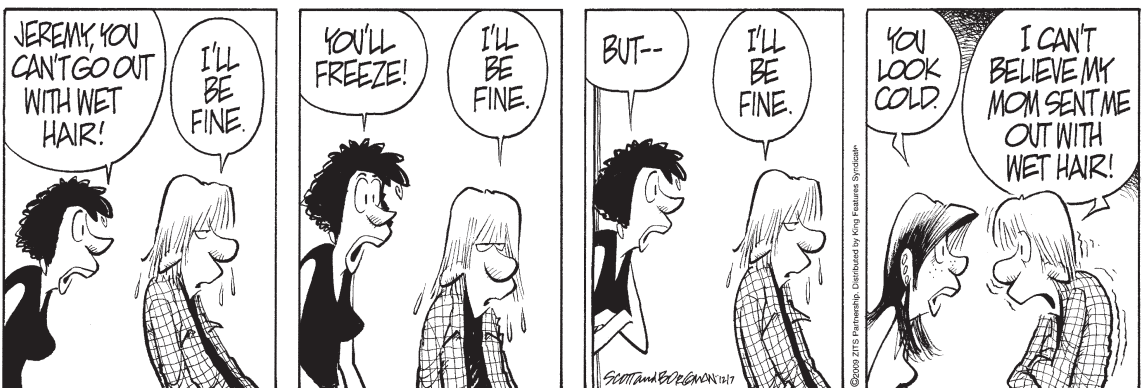
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Is he distracted while driving?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've never been in an accident, yet my girlfriend harangues me when we take a trip. I feel like I'm driving with my mother. It's always "Don't change the station so much," or "Don't talk on the phone." I just got a global positioning system, and she tells me not to touch it while I drive. I'm a safe driver, yet she's driving me crazy. How can I get her to stop? – C.G.

Dear C.G.: It seems you are used to fiddling with things while you drive, and don't want to give that up. It probably is a lifelong habit. I'll bet you also eat in the car, check out your smile in the rearview mirror and mentally plan for your next big meeting. And all the while, there is your girlfriend, buzzing like an annoying gnat, despite your stellar driving record. In fact, she's probably the only thing you consider a distraction. So I guess you should ban her to the back seat, or tell her to get her own transportation next time.

Or, you could stop tempting fate and start paying attention. Although a GPS helps drivers, there is still the "toy" factor; it has taken over as the thing to mess with while driving. And cell phones are a hazard. It is estimated that 25 percent of accidents are due to driver distraction. But it is your feeling of invulnerability that probably will get you into a smash-up. In the meantime, you both need to dump your attitudes.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've noticed something strange about my wife. It seems she cares more about the dog than about me. When I get sick, she rushes me into getting well by perpetually asking, "Are you better yet?" But when the dog got sick, it was a different story. She was constantly fussing over every motion or wheeze. It sounds silly, but does she love the dog more than me? – F.H.

Dear F.H.: It is a well-known fact that men are babies when it comes to illness. I'm only partially kidding! Ask most wives and girlfriends, and they will say that when they get a cold, they just stock up on throat lozenges and tissues, and keep going so the family won't fall apart. But when men get a sniffle, they are down for the count, feeling sorry for themselves. They revert to children and want their wives to revert to their moms. I may be exaggerating, but make sure you're not playing the victim.

Since you don't have kids, you have only the dog to be jealous of – and your wife is playing into your hands when it comes to showing the canine more sympathy than you. The fact should be obvious: The dog is a helpless creature who can't take care of himself. You are not. Add to this the psychological element at play when a wife sees her husband in a position of impotence – it makes her uncomfortable. But give her credit for caring about how you are doing. If she didn't care she wouldn't be inquiring after your health. She'd just go about her business, doing her jobs and yours.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

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

**EAST**

♠ 10 8 3  
♥ Q 9 5 4  
♦ 6 2  
♣ Q 10 6 2

**SOUTH**

♠ K Q J 9 4  
♥ K 3  
♦ K Q 7  
♣ K 9 5

The bidding:

South: 1♣, 2NT, 4NT  
West: Pass, Pass, Pass  
North: 2♣, 4♦, 6NT  
East: Pass, Pass, Pass

Opening lead – seven of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

Some contracts are extremely difficult to make even if all 52 cards are exposed. Here's one where declarer found the winning – and correct – line of play without even the slightest peek at the East-West cards.

The deal occurred in a pair championship many years ago, and was played by Dr. Kalman Apfel of New York. The doctor correctly diagnosed West's lead in dummy's first-bid suit as a singleton or a doubleton. Apfel followed low from dummy and took East's ten with the king.

With 11 sure tricks in sight and no chance of winning a club finesse, the slam appeared to depend entirely on East's holding the ace of hearts. But the doctor formulated a magnificent scheme that succeeded even though West held the ace.

He began by cashing four diamonds, discarding a club from his hand. Next he cashed all five of his spades, discarding two clubs and a heart from dummy. With three tricks remaining, this was the position:

West: ♠ A 10 8

East: ♥ Q 6, ♣ Q 6

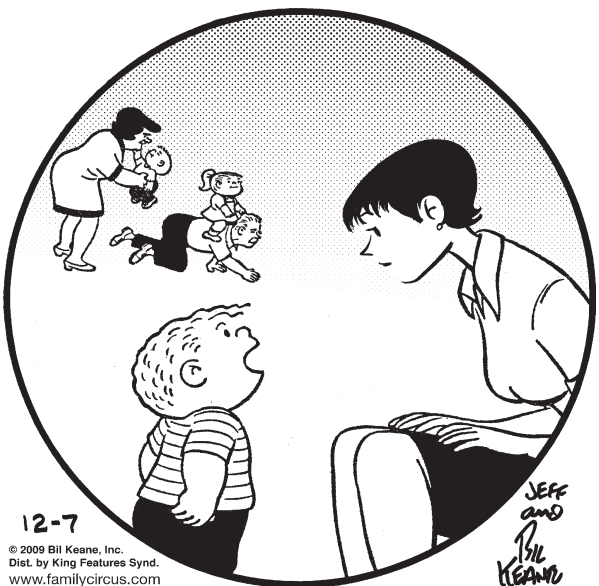
South: ♥ K 3, ♣ 9

East had been forced to part with three hearts in order to keep a guard against dummy's jack of clubs. West, having no choice at all, was left with three hearts. Apfel now led the heart three toward dummy's jack. If West played low, East would win with the queen and be forced to return a club from the Q-6 into dummy's A-J. And if West rose with the ace instead, he'd have to return a heart, yielding declarer's 12th trick.

Note that the outcome would have been the same had East held the heart ace and West the queen. Only if West had been dealt the A-Q would the slam have failed, but in that case not even a doctor could help!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



12-7

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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/07

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

XFLSAUF IAO TSOR CSU

IBHQ S UZBKHF UDIOSKF

XAZHMZBK TIO TIMMFO, QIA

RZKCD LSHH ZD S UIHI UZHI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSICAL IN WHICH PEOPLE AUDITION FOR A ROLE IN ACTRESS LEACHMAN'S NEW FILM: "A CLORIS LINE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Airborne Dracula  
4 Group of scenes  
7 Antitoxins  
11 Styptic agent  
13 Comment from Bossy  
14 Eastern bigwig  
15 Actress Spelling  
16 Pea holder  
17 Rubik's puzzle  
18 Carrot-top's secret?  
20 Unaccompanied  
22 Work with  
24 Added by age  
28 Black leopard  
32 Calculating snake?  
33 Reed instrument  
34 Japanese pond carp  
36 Family  
37 Richly luxurious  
39 Annoys  
41 Guard

**DOWN**

1 Shower alternative  
2 Lotion additive  
3 Veer  
4 Rock band's need  
5 Talks like a dove  
6 Commotions  
7 Opportunity to make amends, maybe  
8 Ostrich's cousin  
9 Cage part  
10 Exist  
12 Quick-fry beef products  
19 Blond shade  
21 Meadow  
23 "A mouse!"  
25 Not working  
26 Mad king of literature  
27 Sea eagles  
28 Boston orchestra  
29 Skilled  
30 Verb's partner  
31 Steal from  
35 Charged bit  
38 Day fractions (Abbr.)  
40 Numerical prefix  
42 America's Cup vessel  
45 "Once — a time"  
47 Cupid's field  
48 Seed covering  
49 Stroll  
50 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"  
51 Devil's disciple  
52 Deteriorate  
54 Suitable

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

**Saturday's answer 12-7**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13			14
15					16			17	
18				19		20		21	
			22		23		24		
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46		47
50	51	52			53		54		55
56					57			58	
59					60				61