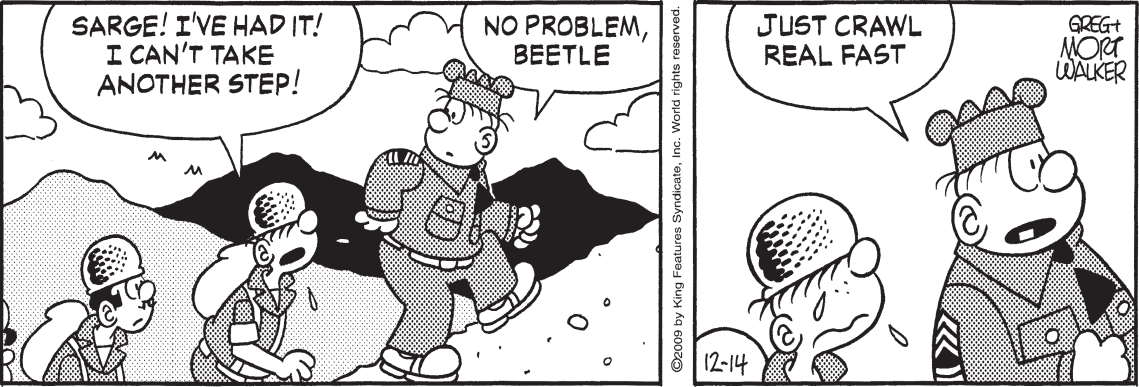


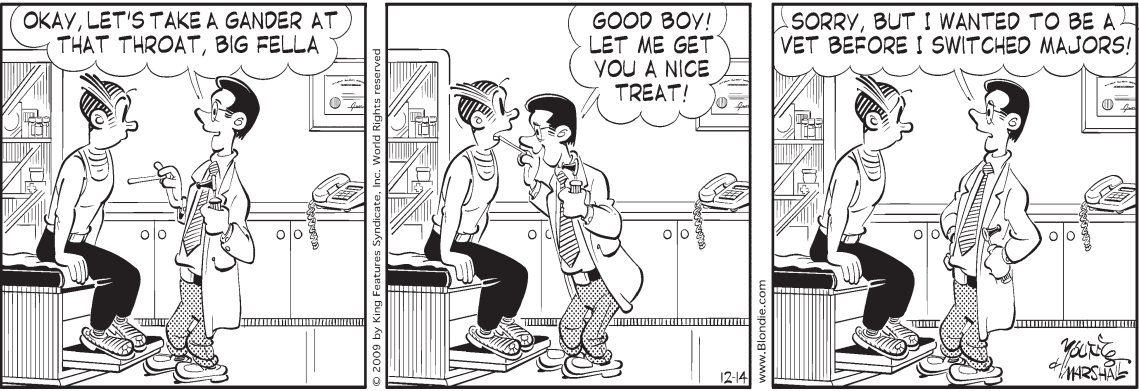
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



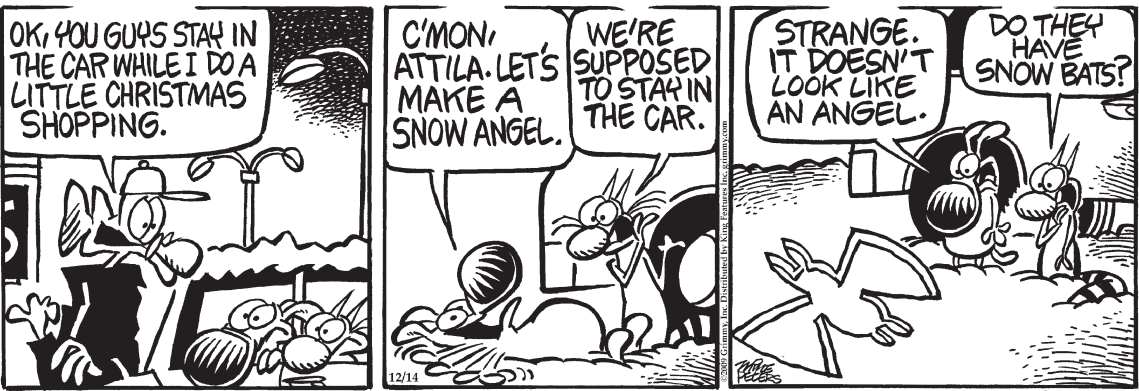
Blondie • Chic Young



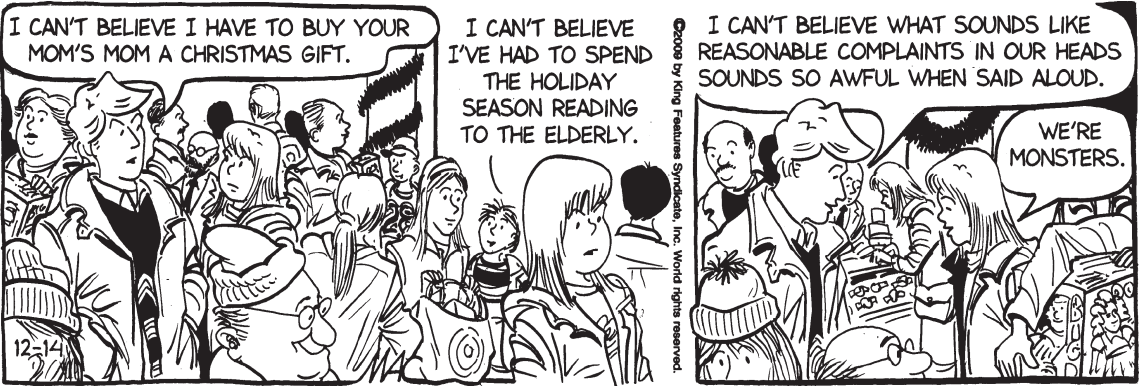
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



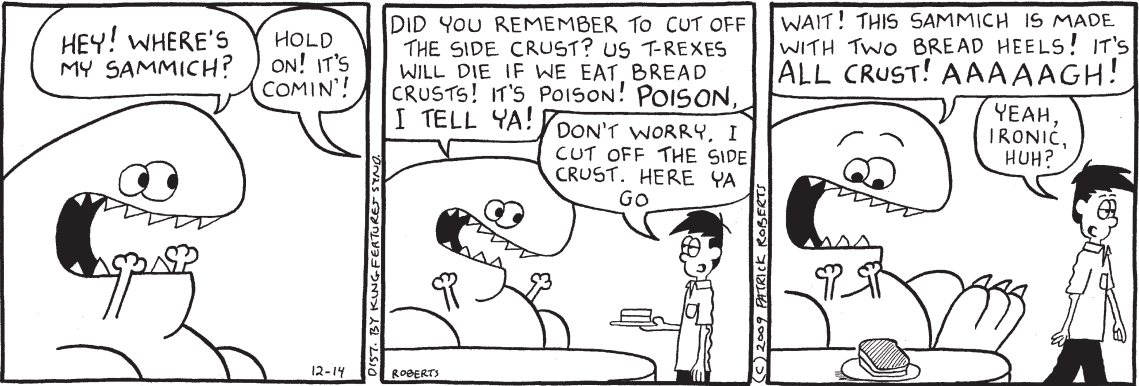
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

She's upset with friend's anger

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a woman of nearly 50, and have a successful small town business. I have many friends, a very social group – there is rarely a weekend when nothing is going on. I recently had a party, and one of the invitations went awry. My friend actually stopped speaking to me till I figured out what had happened. We have made up, but I am unhappy about how upset I was. Shouldn't I have been able to cope? – M.B.

Dear M.B.: It sounds as though you are very invested in the social life you have built up, and in your friends, who you know you always can count on to be there with you to have a good time. There is nothing wrong with that – our social networks sometimes make life worth living, especially if our satisfaction in other areas of life is low. This may not be a factor in your case, but you don't mention your family. So I am going to guess your friends are pretty high on your list when it comes to things that make you happy.

Of course, what makes us happy also can make us miserable. So, it might be that you are a overly sensitive where these relationships are concerned. That said, there is nothing to be ashamed of if you find a friend turning on you because of a simple slight. She is one person who didn't act very maturely – it would have been easy for her to have had another friend ask if her invitation went awry, instead of assuming you were excluding her. Getting the cold shoulder from her must have been upsetting. Perhaps in the future you can talk things through when anyone has an issue. That will save you both from reverting to junior-high-school behavior that embarrasses you later.

Dear Dr. Brothers: We are a big family, and we all enjoy getting together for holiday celebrations. That is, we all like each other – except for me and my brother-in-law. He is my sister's husband, and has always irritated me for some reason, and I him. We don't hate each other or anything like that, but he seems to like to argue with me. It's gotten so others leave the room! He goes on about any topic. What should I do? – L.G.

Dear L.G.: It is sometimes a real shame that we can't pick our relatives, isn't it? If we weren't related to these irritating, annoying and argumentative people (who are of course rarely, if ever, right), we would just avoid them somehow and refuse to deal with them. But when it's family, there is little hope of avoiding them forever. So it's good that you recognize something has to give. It seems as though you are the one who is going to have to be reasonable in this case.

It's funny about in-laws. All the jokes center around the mother-in-law, but it actually is the siblings who seem to ruffle the most feathers. There often is a bit of jealousy when a brother or sister marries. The dude or dudette is never quite good enough for one's brother or sister, and often the person marrying into the family finds out about his or her inferior status as soon as things start getting serious, or at least not long after the wedding. If you think back, you'll see that maybe something like that has happened in your relationship with your brother-in-law.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South declarer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 9 4
♥ K 10 7 6 5 3
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q 10

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

EAST
♦ 10 8 7 2
♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ 3
♣ J 9 5 2

SOUTH
♦ A Q J 6 3
♥ A 2
♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ A 7

The bidding:
South 1♦
3 NT
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Famous Hand
Declarer can sometimes draw astonishingly accurate conclusions about the composition of the unseen hands from the defense he encounters. An outstanding example is provided by today's deal, which was played by Dorothy Hayden Truscott in a national pairs championship many years ago.

Mrs. Truscott was South and got to three notrump as shown. West led the king of diamonds and continued with the ace, East discarding a club after considerable thought. West then shifted to the jack of hearts. Mrs. Truscott took the ace and led a heart toward the king, hoping for a 3-2 division, but West showed out, discarding a diamond.

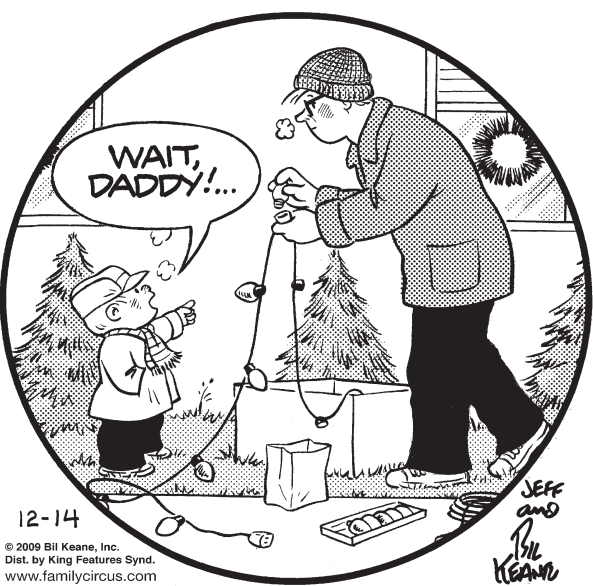
Forced to abandon hearts, Mrs. Truscott turned her attention to spades, the only other suit that offered a chance for the contract. But instead of taking the normal-looking finesse, Mrs. Truscott led a spade to the ace and a low spade! West had to win with the king, and declarer wound up with 10 tricks for an excellent score. Had she finessed in spades, she would eventually have gone down one.

The key to Mrs. Truscott's remarkable play was East's reluctant discard of a club at trick two. First, she made the assumption that West had the king of spades for his vulnerable three-diamond bid. Next, the play thus far had disclosed that East started with one diamond and four hearts. If his remaining cards had consisted of three spades and five clubs, he would have had no problem discarding a club at trick two.

East's lengthy huddle must therefore have been based on a holding of four spades and four clubs, which in turn meant that West had the doubleton king of spades.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“...That needs to be a BLUE one. It's red, green, blue, THEN yellow!”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/14

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.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

YKRUZHK AIK SKUOKW AKGJH
AB TWBJZRK OKWN YDM
RCBAIDGM HUFTCKH, SBZCJ
NBZ HUN IK CBBFH CUWMK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THEY'RE BEING FORCED TO FIRE AN UNLUCKY FELLOW AT THE LEGUME FARM. THE GUY DOESN'T KNOW BEANS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 One of the Three B's
5 Express
8 Pond gunk
12 Franc replacement
13 Rhyming tribute
14 Poi base
15 Cupid's alias
16 Kale cousin
18 "The O'Reilly —"
20 Penetrable
21 Historic times
23 Hair-styling aid
24 Assembled in order, as pages
28 Puerto —
31 Literary collection
32 E G B D F, on a staff
34 Promptly
35 Pocket-protector contents

37 Reason for a fat lip?
39 Roman 201
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Big scissors
45 Killed a bill
49 Tumble like a house of cards
51 Therefore
52 Reed instrument
53 Always, in
54 Read quickly
55 Youngsters
56 Method

57 Gets some rays
DOWN
1 —
2 Emanation
3 Gator's kin
4 Inn
5 Of a Greek philosopher
6 Big bother
7 Kennel cry
8 Ogling one
9 Yuletide pastime
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Rolling stone's lack
17 Journal
19 Exam format
22 Man of La Mancha
24 Ball-player's hat
25 Single
26 Galahad's dad
27 UPS parcel, e.g.
29 Miler Sebastian
30 Possess (to)
33 — gin fizz
36 Weighing devices
38 Swear (to)
40 A Gershwin
42 Edinburgh resident
43 Vagrant
44 Jet forth
46 Killer whale
47 New York cardinal
48 Dresses in
50 Mediteranean, e.g.

Solution time: 27 mins.

Saturday's answer 12-14

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
49						50			51	
52					53				54	
55					56				57	