

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



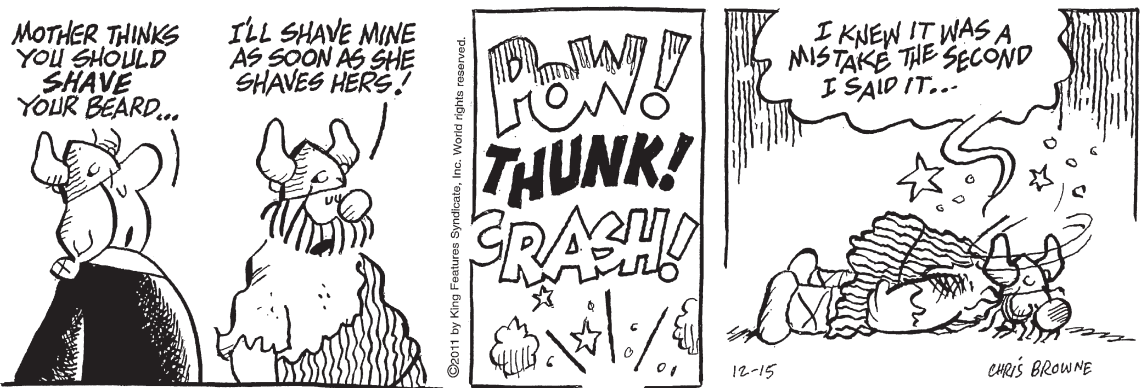
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



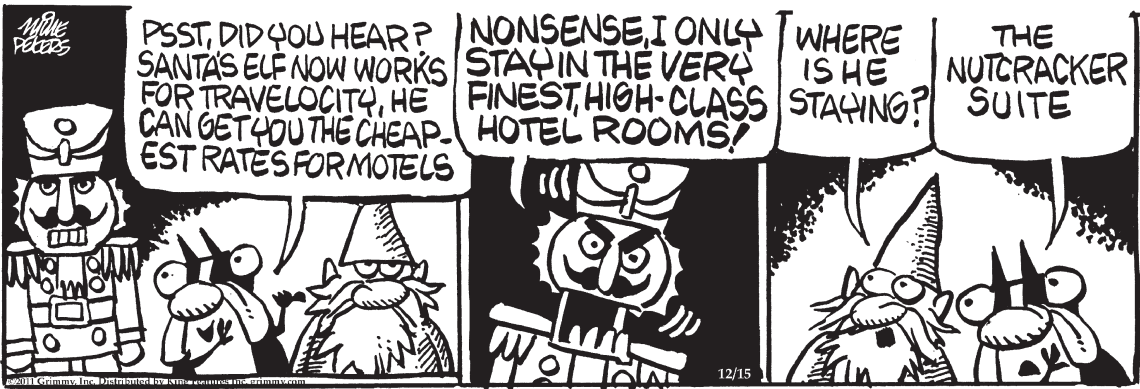
Blondie • Chic Young



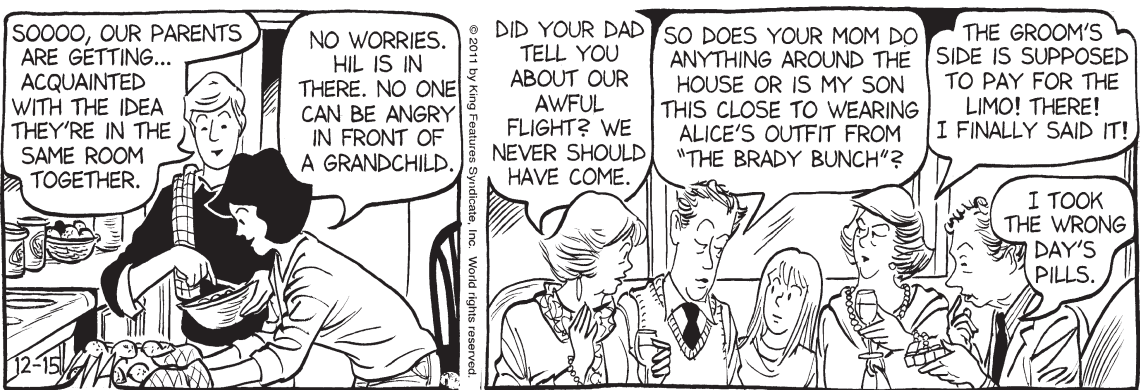
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



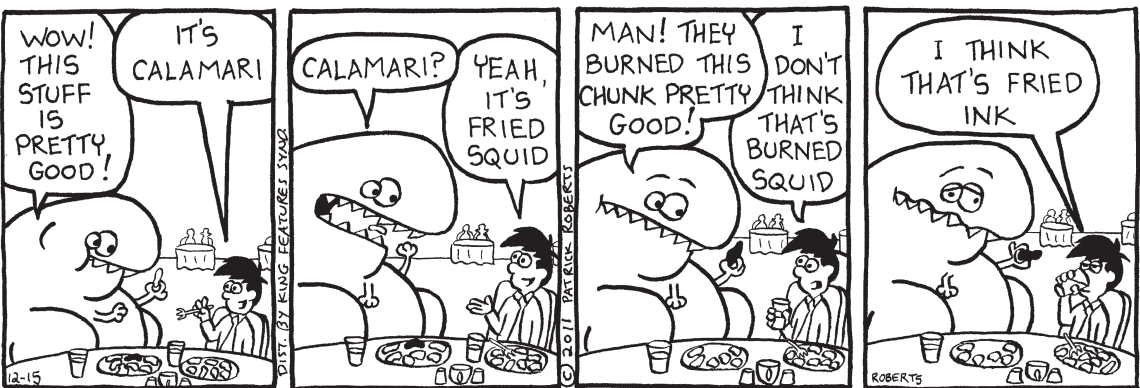
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



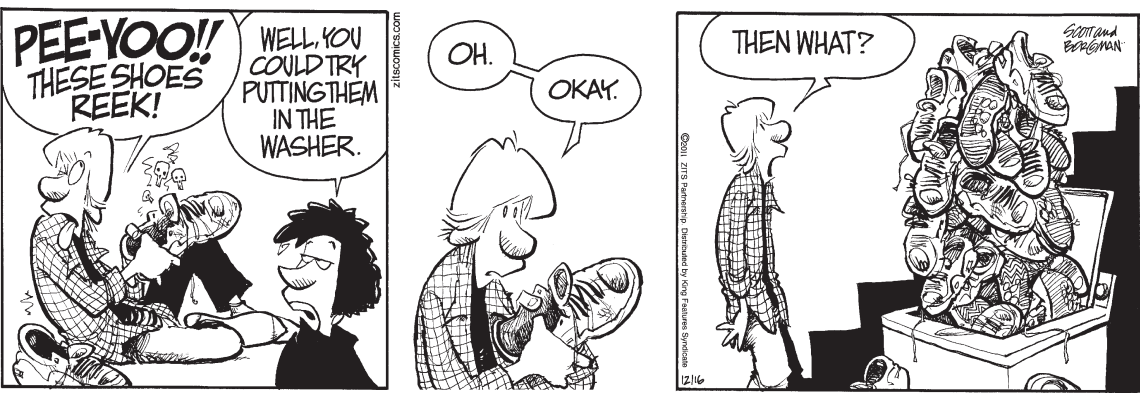
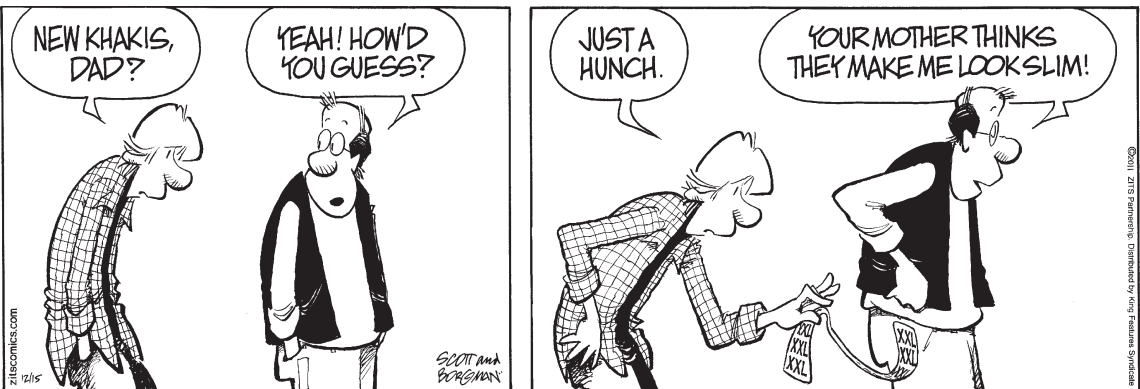
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Shoes don't help learning to walk

Dear Dr. Brothers: This seems like a silly question, but I'm not sure when to start having my baby wear shoes. He's standing up well but hasn't started walking yet. I keep him in socks now, but I feel sometimes he needs the protection of shoes when he's standing or outside. I am worried people will think I am neglectful if they see a baby with no shoes. I know that shouldn't be a factor, but I don't like criticism! – B.A.

Dear B.A.: Please don't worry about what people think – you can't live your life that way. It seems like common sense, but with all the nonessential items for babies nowadays, it can be hard to make sense of what your baby needs and what he doesn't. Shoes will begin to serve their purpose after he learns to walk. During the process of learning, though, you should allow your baby to be in bare feet. Because shoes have inflexible surfaces, it can be more difficult for a child to learn to walk if he's wearing shoes. The natural movement of bare feet will allow him to get the feel of walking more easily. If it gets cold, socks or booties with nonskid surfaces are good ideas.

Once he does learn to walk, there still are a few things to keep in mind in terms of shoes. Make sure his shoes are lightweight and flexible – stiff and hard shoes make walking more difficult and restrict foot movement. You also should make sure his shoes are the correct size – don't buy three sizes too big in anticipation of his next growth spurt or keep him in the same shoes months after his last growth spurt. With these tips, your baby should be ready to toddle to his next challenge.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My elementary-schooler has recently made a habit of using bad words. I'm careful with my language around her, but her father is less so, and I'm sure she's exposed to these words elsewhere. I've tried to explain that some words are not appropriate, but it almost seems to have increased her curiosity to seek out such words. How can I break this habit? – F.R.

Dear F.R.: It's true that kids are exposed to an almost unrelenting stream of vulgarity, no matter how much we try to protect them. Hearing – and repeating – bad words may seem harmless, but these words become integrated into a child's vocabulary and therefore into his or her understanding of the world. If your daughter constantly hears curses from her father, she'll associate these words with him, and that can affect their relationship. So, the first step to break her habit is to crack down on her father, and break his bad-word habit. You can let your daughter know there is only one standard for language in the family, and her dad is going to have to abide by it as well.

It sounds like you've already talked to your daughter about bad language and why it is not allowed, but you can reiterate this every time she hears or says a bad word. When she does say a bad word, stop what you're doing and reprimand her – interruption and immediate response will impress upon her the gravity of the situation, and she'll learn it's a big deal when she curses. Even after a punishment, you should ask your daughter to apologize for such language so she makes the connection that she is offending others.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ 6 5  
♥ 9 8 2  
♦ Q 8 7 6 5  
♣ A K 6

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

EAST  
♠ J 10  
♥ K J 10 7 6  
♦ J 9  
♣ Q J 7 5

SOUTH  
♥ 9 4 3 2  
♦ Q 4  
♣ K 3 2  
♠ 10 9 3 2

The bidding:  
North Pass  
East 1 ♠  
South Pass  
West 1 ♠  
North Pass  
East 2 ♥  
South Pass  
West 2 ♥  
North Pass  
East 3 ♥  
South Pass  
West 3 ♥  
North Pass  
East 4 ♥  
South Pass  
West 4 ♥  
North Pass  
East 5 ♥  
South Pass  
West 5 ♥  
North Pass  
East 6 ♥  
South Pass  
West 6 ♥  
Opening lead — king of spades.

Never Say Pass

Generally speaking, there are two schools of bidders. The first is composed of those whose chief goal in bidding is to reach the best possible contract for their side. This group represents the overwhelming majority of bridge players.

Members of the second school are those whose chief purpose is to try to prevent the opponents from reaching their best contract. The tactics employed by these players can take many forms, but the aim is always the same – to do as much damage to the opponents' bidding structure as possible.

It is evident from this deal, played in the 1978 Women's World Pair Championship, that North-South, who shall remain nameless, were both full-fledged members of the second school.

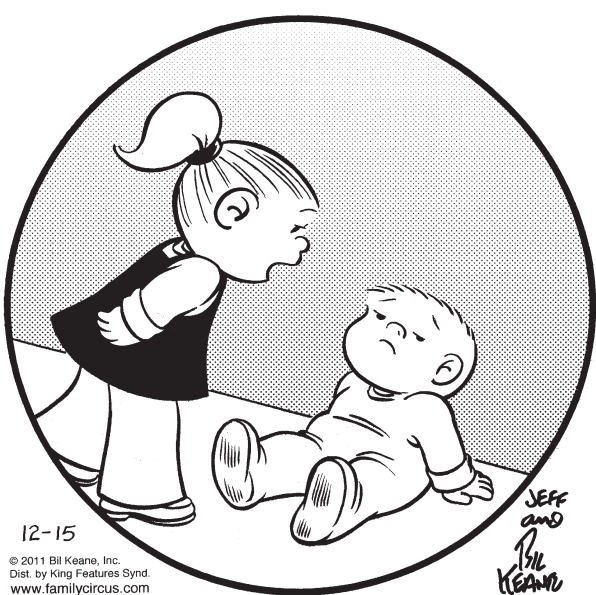
South opened the bidding in third seat with one diamond, presumably because it was her turn to bid. West doubled, and North, attempting to muddy the waters, bid one spade! East entered the fray with two hearts, employing her partnership's peculiar system of bidding what you have rather than what you don't have.

West raised two hearts to four, and this rolled around to South, who apparently thought she had not yet expressed the full value of her hand. Accordingly, she bid four spades! West, who no doubt could not believe her ears, found a double, and North retreated to five diamonds, also doubled.

Then came five spades and six diamonds, both doubled, at which point the bidding mercifully came to a grinding halt. Declarer finished down six – 1,700 points – and North-South were left with a gnawing feeling that perhaps something had gone wrong with their system.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/15

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

12/14

Cryptoquip

UE R CPGD GEEJWC RA

UTDWJCCUIJ IRWUJSL GE

EWGSPL VWUAYC, U'V CRL

SPRS'C R EGRTJW'C TRWYJS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE BIRD WATCHER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GALA, HE HAD TO SEND HIS EGRETS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Call a halt to
  - 5 Moreover
  - 8 Spare tire
  - 12 Lima's land
  - 13 Island souvenir
  - 14 Anger
  - 15 Right on the map?
  - 16 Energy
  - 17 It takes the cake
  - 18 Squat down
  - 20 Lounge around
  - 22 Steinway accessory
  - 26 Winter warmer
  - 29 Ostrich's cousin
  - 30 Payable
  - 31 Crazy one
  - 32 Gabor or Mendes
  - 33 Frau's mate
  - 34 Sub-machine gun
  - 35 Chopping tool
- DOWN
- 36 Heart line?
  - 37 Weightlifting
  - 40 Brat's stocking
  - 41 Meager
  - 45 Met
  - 47 Chances, for short
  - 49 Middy
  - 50 Covers
  - 51 A Gershwin
  - 52 Fragrant oil source
  - 53 Versifier
  - 54 Plaything
  - 55 — and crafts
- 2 Rip
- 3 Approximately
- 4 Taken advantage of
- 5 Greek leader?
- 6 Born
- 7 Sheepskin
- 8 Reached
- 9 Light purple shade
- 10 Time of your life?
- 11 Quarterback
- 12 Detail, for short
- 13 Dhab
- 14 When pigs fly
- 15 Rudely
- 16 Zeus' consort
- 17 Organization
- 18 Leak
- 19 Reached
- 20 Degrees, maybe
- 21 Light
- 22 Purple shade
- 23 Time of your life?
- 24 Quarterback
- 25 English
- 26 Spy novel
- 27 Lion's call
- 28 Type
- 29 Tackles' teammates
- 30 Height for Heidi
- 31 Carnival city
- 32 Expert

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-15

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
45	46			47	48			49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		