

----- the \$1.25 per day cat -----

I got my cat on May 5th, 2007. She was a preexisting cat. She'd been around 4 years. She cost \$50, which is a real bargain. For 2 years, all her food, litter, toy and vet expenses total \$1.25 day. That's cheaper than a Starbucks Latte. She's worth it. I'd say she is worth at least \$2.75 per day, so I'm getting good value for my cat. She's the Etoonin' mascot!

I made my Mom dinner for Mother's Day. I decided to cook something new, so I made up my own recipe. It was supposed to be a casserole something like baked Ziti, but with elbows. But I decided to just cook it at the last minute. I guess it was really just American Chop Suey from what I am told, but the thrill was inventing my own concoction from ingredients I thought would taste good. And they did! My Mom loved it. She said so twice. In fact, the recipe I concocted reminded her of her own mother's cooking. So, in a way, we celebrated Mother's Day twice. Recipe below:

Mèmere's Suey – by Jim Bures

1 lb. hamburger meat
1 large can (28 oz) diced tomatoes
1 box (4 cups) pasta elbows
2 cups shredded mozzarella
¾ cup shredded parmesan

Cook hamburger meat throughout. Drain. Strain and cook diced tomatoes to reduce liquid. Cook pasta. Combine together with cheeses in large pot or bowl. Serve immediately. Serves 4.

Mother's Day dinner was one of 5 meals I cooked for others in one calendar week: Tuesday – Chicken Piccata (Randy), Thursday – Chicken Parmesan (Joe), Friday – Chicken w/Tomatoes & Artichokes (Melissa), Sunday May 10th - Mèmere's Suey (Mother's Day) and Monday – Pasticcio and Chocolate Cake (Leah & her Mom). That's a record!

===== Enter Etoonin' =====

Since last Etoonin', I decided upon a new approach to life. Bored of jobs I don't really want to do, I decided to try and cut my expenses to match my disability income. This will provide me with the springing board from which to launch a career in the cartoon arts. Without any responsibility tying me into a job, I can concentrate all my time into improving my cartoons and exploring ways to market them. To do this, I've almost completely decided to sell my condo in search of cheaper housing. It is a very difficult decision to make because it can so easily meet with failure. It has also met resistance from my family. However, my financial advisor and other close friends seem to think it is only a wise idea. With only 3 months to foreclosure, I don't want to sit around and do nothing.

One of the tricks I've learned in life is that, when faced with an angry and insulting stranger, a graceful and kind word will usually abruptly halt their attack. Just one disarming word is a way to win over a new friend. This trick works wonders in supermarkets, with cashiers and tellers and anyone you might conduct one time transactions with. It helps to remind yourself that this person is stuck doing a job while you will go on your merry way. And just as important to remember is that your transaction is probably something trivial; nothing to get impatient about.

A similar trick works with company phone operators. I remember when I used to get so mad at automated answering systems. I used to talk back to them as if it would do any good. Then by the time I'd reach a live operator, I'd really be pissed. But if you remember kindness towards an operator who continues to experience impatience over and over, you are more likely to find favor in the end. They will often make exceptions just for you.

With longer term relationships, like acquaintances from work or what have you, I've noticed that countering an argument with deference instead of retaliation quite often leads to getting the same end result I would have argued for. People at work have something to prove, and if you let them prove it, they become happy. A happy person is easier to get along with. I remember once I made friends with a janitor who scowled at me all the time merely by stopping to say hello to him on several occasions.

I'm mentioning all this because Etoonin's mission is to share sage wisdom that comes from knowing the Lord. Often I talk only about myself and my plans, but really we are all for the Lord here. This advice I'm giving might sound simplistic and obvious, but they are not things people often put into practice. These are things I had to learn myself as I slowed down from the fast pace of society. Overcome evil with good is how the Bible puts these concepts.

Thank you for donations

Jim Bures

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Etoonin' @ the Movies!!!

Movie Review: Star Trek

By Brian "Boo" Hutchings

Star Trek. Star Wars. Star Market. What's the difference between all of them? Star Trek is a TV show, Star Wars is a movie, and Star Market is a grocery store. You're welcome.

I, myself, have never been a Star Trek fan. The only time I ever watched Star Trek was the last remaining 2 minutes or so and the end credits, waiting for the next TV show to come one, which I believe was The Simpson's. If you asked me to tell you something about Star Trek, I'd probably say something like "Captain Kirk: isn't he played by William Shatner?" or something like that. Truth is I know nothing about Star Trek. So why would I go see a Star Trek movie? To be honest....I don't know....

But, there is a Star Trek movie coming out, and from what I heard, the whole movie takes place before the TV series ever began. Don't need to be a fan of Star Trek to see it, and it's just a great action flick. And they were right. I knew nothing about Star Trek before I went to see it and walked out happy.

One thing this movie did great on was the special effects. The movie opened up in the middle of an action scene and the birth of a character, a very important character, so the movie DOES indeed take place before the TV series. If you care for special effects, then you'll be happy as a clam because they're happening left and right. So, we're introduced to the main character, his father, his mother, and the main villain, who's name is Spock. Not only are these important characters, they are played by great actors. James Kirk is played by Chris Pine, Spock by Zachary Quinto, Capt. Christopher Pike by Bruce Greenwood, and Eric Bana as Nero. Funny man Simon Pegg from the Hot Fuzz movie even makes an appearance as Scotty. While this film does have action, it does have some funny moments in it as well. The characters are also introduced very well, as each one is described so you can understand who they are and what they're intentions are.

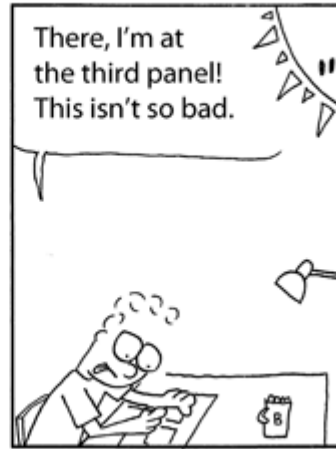
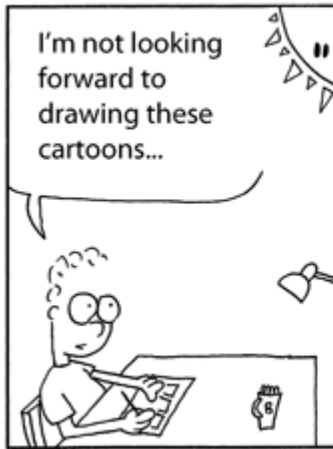
The plot is really easy to follow. Enemy guy wants to blow up the Earth, captures good guy, main hero wants to rescue good guy and stop the bad guy. That's the main plot. There are some other little plots inside of that, like who gets main control of the ship and where they will end up in the end. There is plenty of action and one liners.

Anything negative? Not that I can think of. Maybe I missed hearing a word here and there, but other than that, I have no complaints about it. Star Trek fan or not, you will not be disappointed.

"Are you out of your Vulcan mind?"

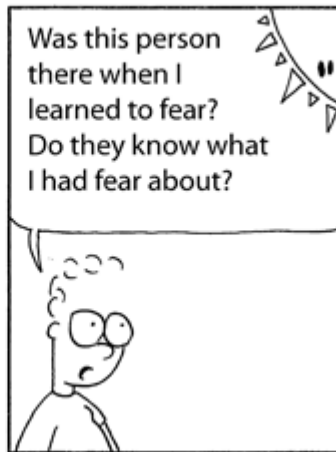
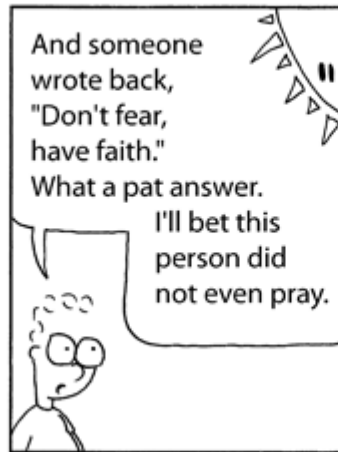
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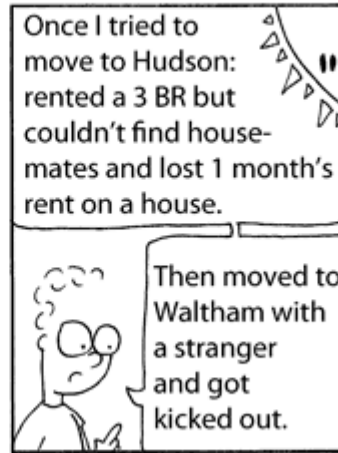
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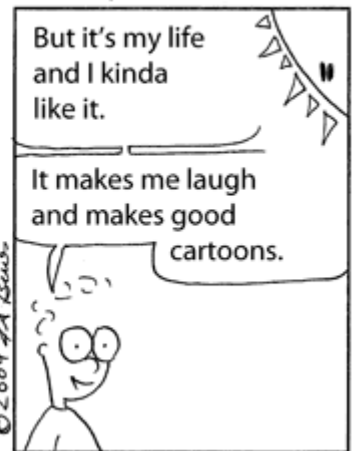
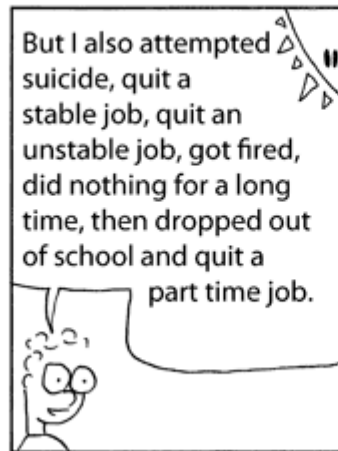
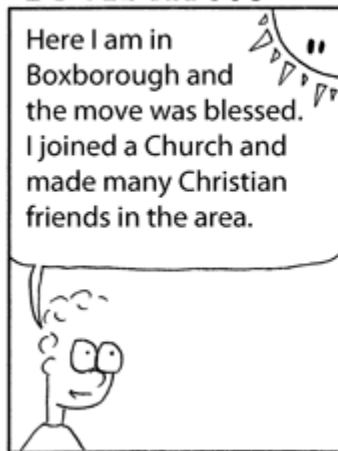
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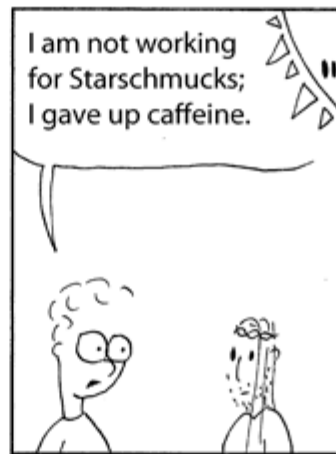
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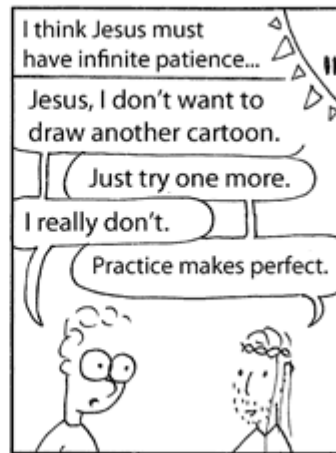
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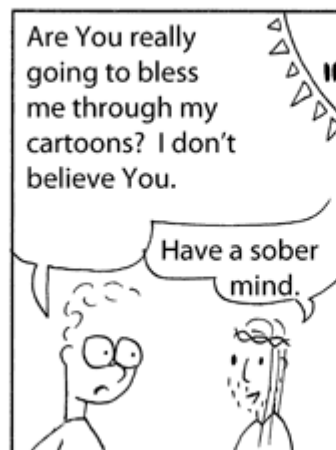
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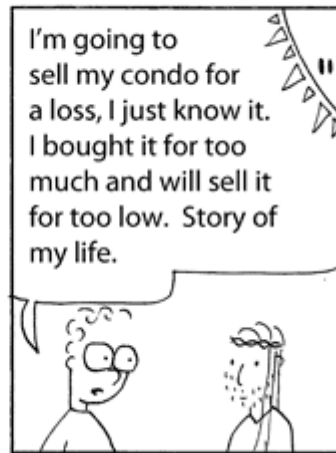
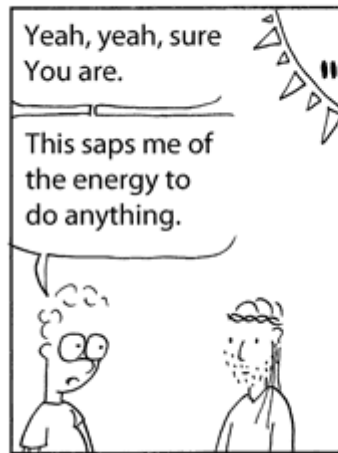
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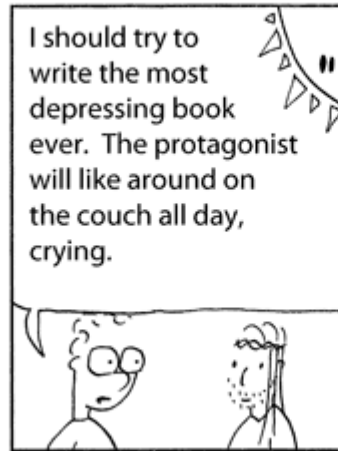
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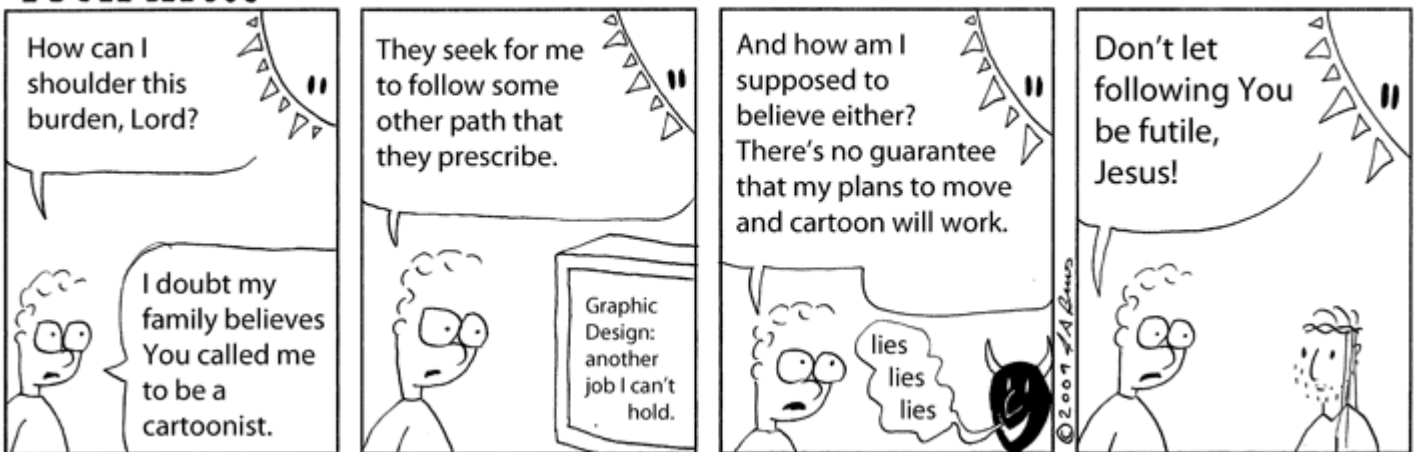
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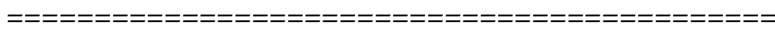
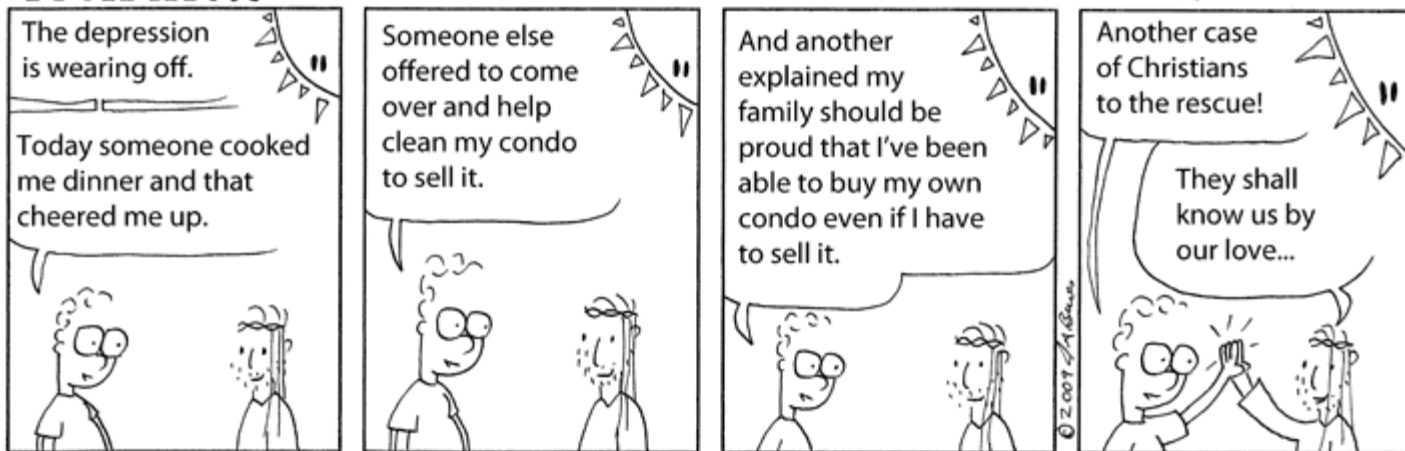
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