

Take It on the Lamb

(flee in a hurry)



Poor Rich has always had his problems with the police. When he found out that they were after him again, he had to take **it on the lamb.** In order to avoid being caught and thrown in jail, he was forced to **flee in a great hurry.**

Horse of a Different Color

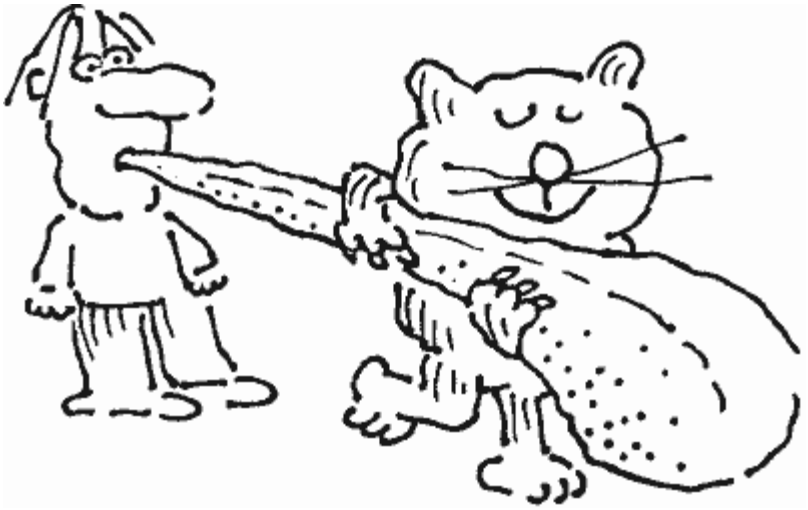
(quite a dirrent matter)



Eric likes to play jokes on his friends, but he makes sure that nobody is hurt by any of his pranks. A prank that hurts someone is a **horse of a different color!** Being playful is one thing, but hurting someone by one's prank is **quite a different matter.**

Cat Got Your Tongue

(Can't talk?)



Come on, Connie! Tell us what you think about our little ride down the rapids yesterday.

Well.uh...
Wasn't it exciting?
I,uh.. .
What's the matter? **Cat got your tongue**?
If you must know, I'm **keeping quiet** because I was scared out of my wits!

Get in Someone's Hair

(bother someone)



- Children.! Would you please stop making so much. noise! And for heaven's sake, pick up your clothes and toys! It's hard enough trying to keep this house clean without your throwing your things all over the place!
- Clara, I know that the children **get in your hair**, but you should try not to let it upset you so much.
- Listen, Jim. I can't help it. The children **bother me and make me very angry** when they're so noisy and messy.

Shoot Off one's Mouth

(express one's opinions loudly)



Jim doesn't play tennis very much, but he's always **shooting off his mouth** about how good he is. Yet he's fooling nobody. Jim is somewhat of a braggart and everyone knows that he gives opinions without knowing all the facts and **talks as if he knew everything** about the game.

Jump Down Someone's Throat

(become angry with someone)

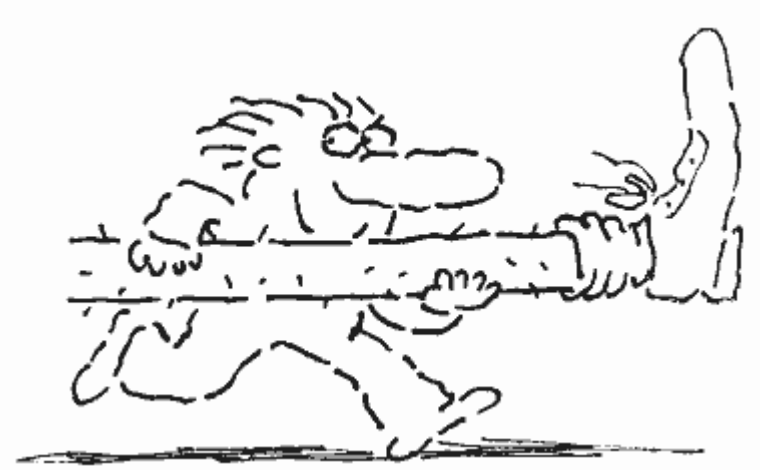


That's it, Greg! You'd better not come in after midnight again tonight.
I know, dad. You don't have to **jump down my throat**! I told you that I'd make it home around 11:50.I don't intend to be late!

Well, you've said that before and in you come at 2:50 in the morning. You can't blame me for **getting angry and scolding you**. I've got good reason.

Pull Someone's Leg

(fool someone)



Hey, Al, I was invited to be a judge for the Miss America Beauty Pageant!
Oh, really? Come on, **you're pulling my leg**!
No, honestly. Do you really think that I'm **trying to fool you with a ridiculous story**?
Well, you've told me foolish stories before.
I can assure you that this one is for real.

Play It By Ear

(improvise as one goes along)



Let's go to the movies, agreed?
Sure. And what'll we do after that?
Oh, I don't know. **Let's play it by ear**.
Well, I would like to have a more definite plan of action.
Don't be like that. It's always more fun **not knowing what to expect and deciding what to do as we go along**.

Get Off Someone's Back

(stop bothering someone)



Hey, John. I'm bored. Come on, let's go out and do something.
Sorry, I'm right in the middle of studying for a physics exam. I won't be able to make it tonight.
You've been studying for a long time. Why don't you take a break? Come

on, Let's go. Forget studying for a while.
Look! **Get off my back**! I can't go anywhere!
OK, I'll **stop bothering you** only if you promise to let me know the minute you're finished.

People Who Live In Glass Houses Shouldn't Throw Stones

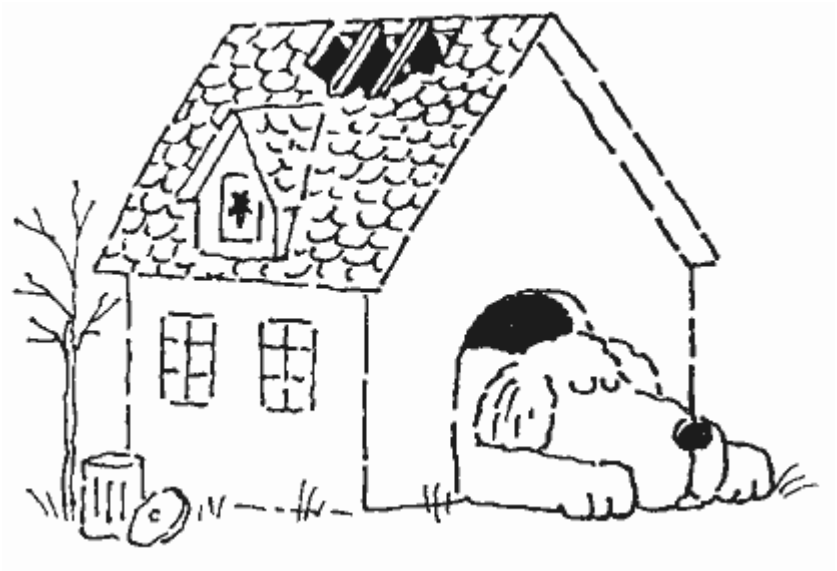
(one should not criticize when one is equally at fault)



Janet has often criticized her friend. Lois for driving too fast, yet she herself has had her license suspended for exceeding the speed limit. Lois once tried to tell her that **people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones**, but it didn't do much good. Janet simply **didn't accept the fact that she should not pass judgment on other people when she is just as bad as they are**.

Go To The Dogs

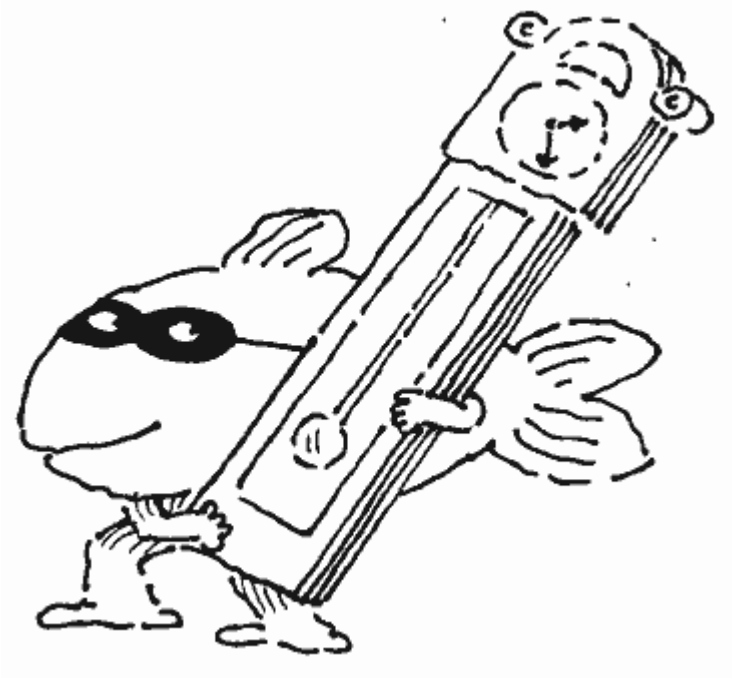
(become run-down)



Have you seen their house lately? It's **really gone to the dogs**. It's true that it **has become run-down and in serious need of repair**, but I'm sure that it can be fixed up to look like new.

Fishy

(strange and suspicious)

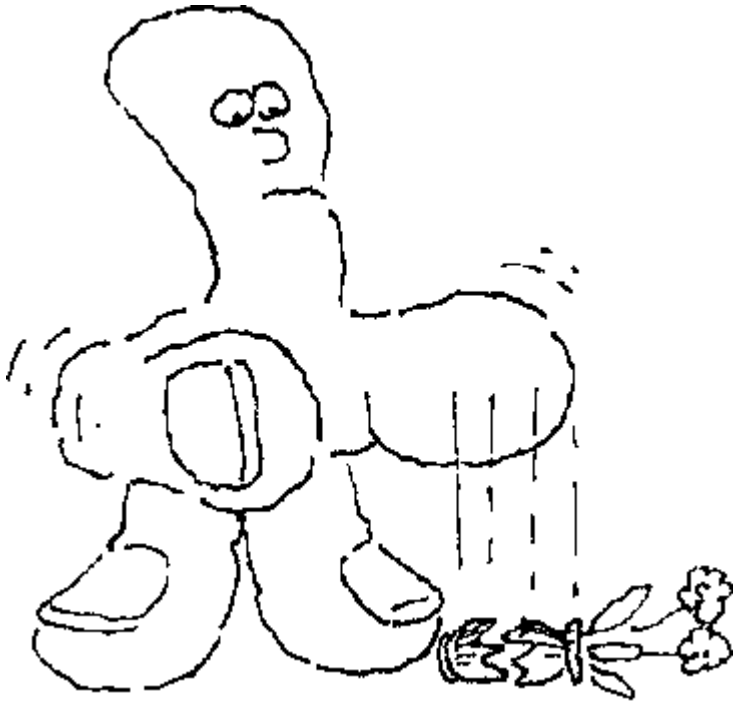


When the security guard saw a light in the store after closing hours, it seemed to him that there was **something fishy going on**. He called

the central office and
explained to his superior that he thought **something strange and suspicious was occurring**.

All Thumbs

(clumsy)

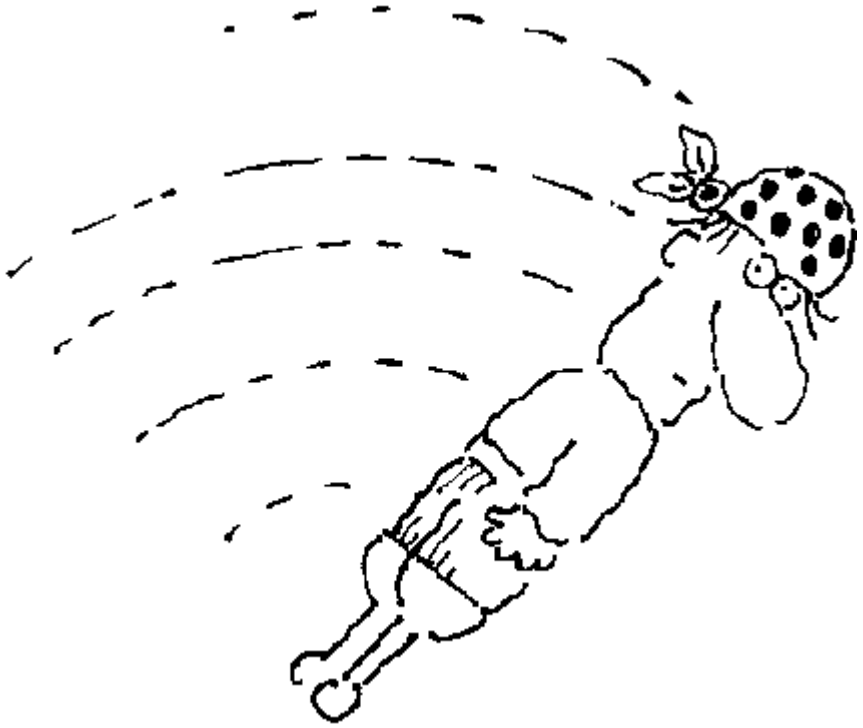


Hey, Bea. Can you help me out? I don't seem to be able to button up the back of my dress.
Sure. Let's see if I can do it for you.
I guess I'm **all thumbs because** I'm so nervous. I'm already late for my date.
Well, I suppose that being so nervous would make you **clumsy and awkward.** But don't worry I'm sure your date will wait.

Not To Have A Leg To Stand On

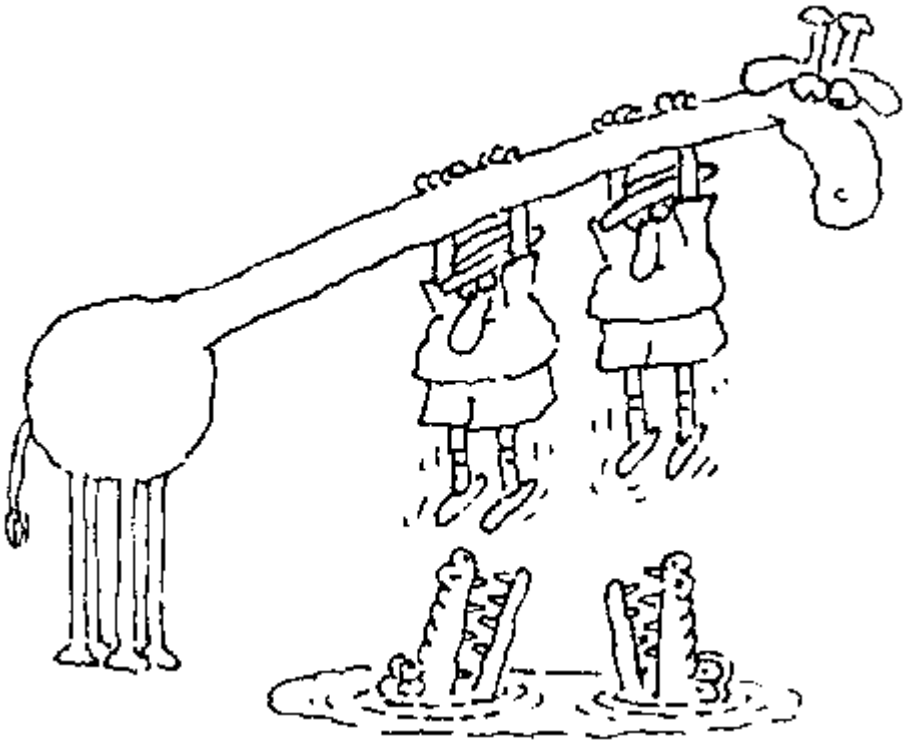
(to have no good defense for one's

opinions or actions)



Tom maintains that the firm owes him some back wages for having worked overtime. However, he **won't have a leg to stand on** unless he can prove that he put in all those extra hours. He doesn't stand a chance of getting his money **without a strong foundation of facts to support his position.**

Stick Out One's Neck



(take a risk)

How come they're asking me to act as their guide through the jungle? Evidently they think you're the only one who can lead them to the lost temple. That jungle has danger lurking around every corner
Why should I **stick my neck out** for them? They didn't pay me for my services. They know that you would be **taking a great rirsk and could possibly get hurt**, but you're the only one with enough knowledge to take them to their destination. I'm sure you'll be amply rewarded

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Shake a Leg



(hurry)

Mary, you always take such a long time to put on your makeup. Come on, **shake a leg**!
I'll be finished in a minute. Be patient. You've got to **hurry** or else we won't arrive on time to see the last show.
