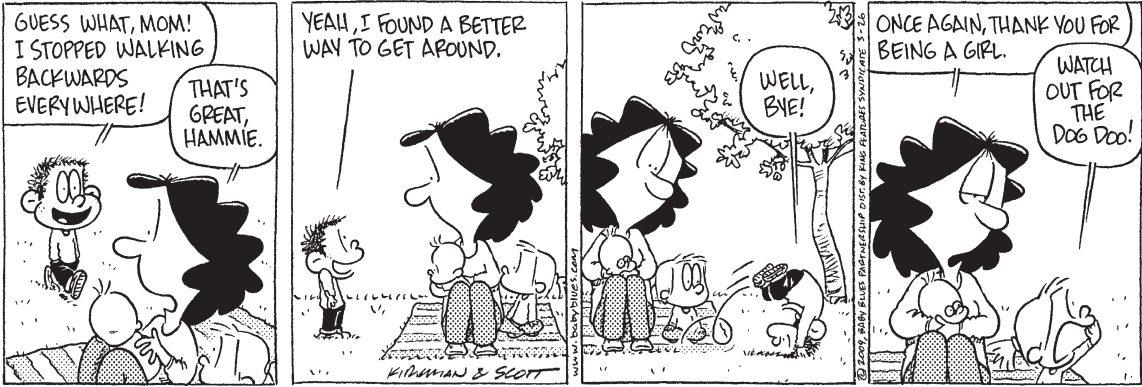


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



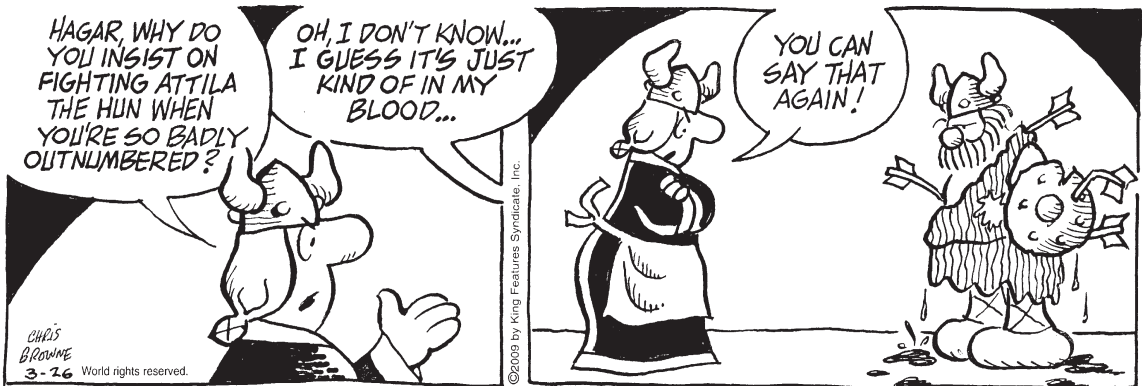
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



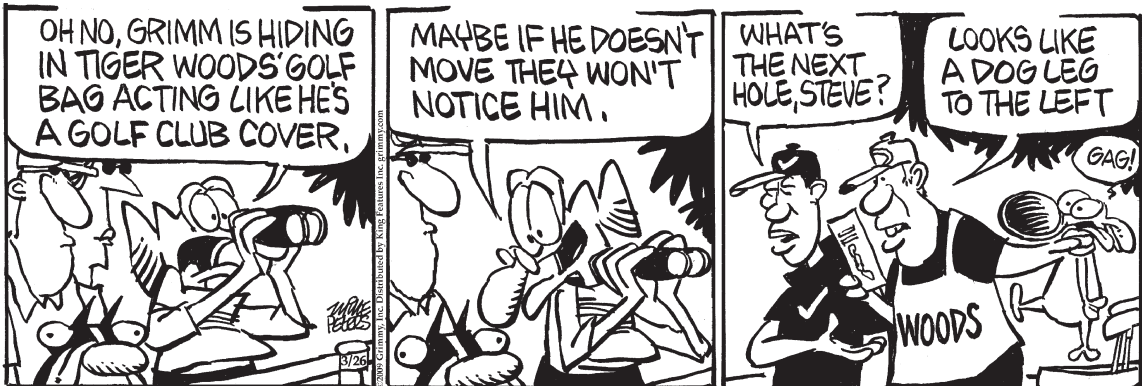
Blondie • Chic Young



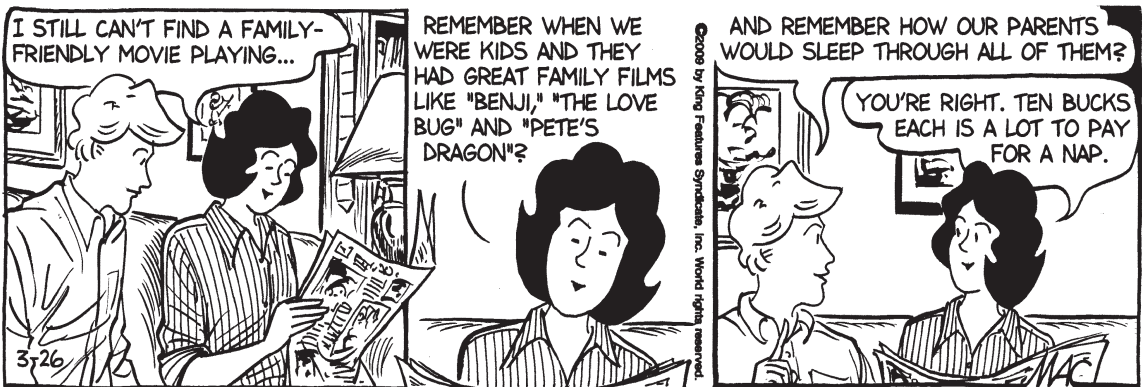
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



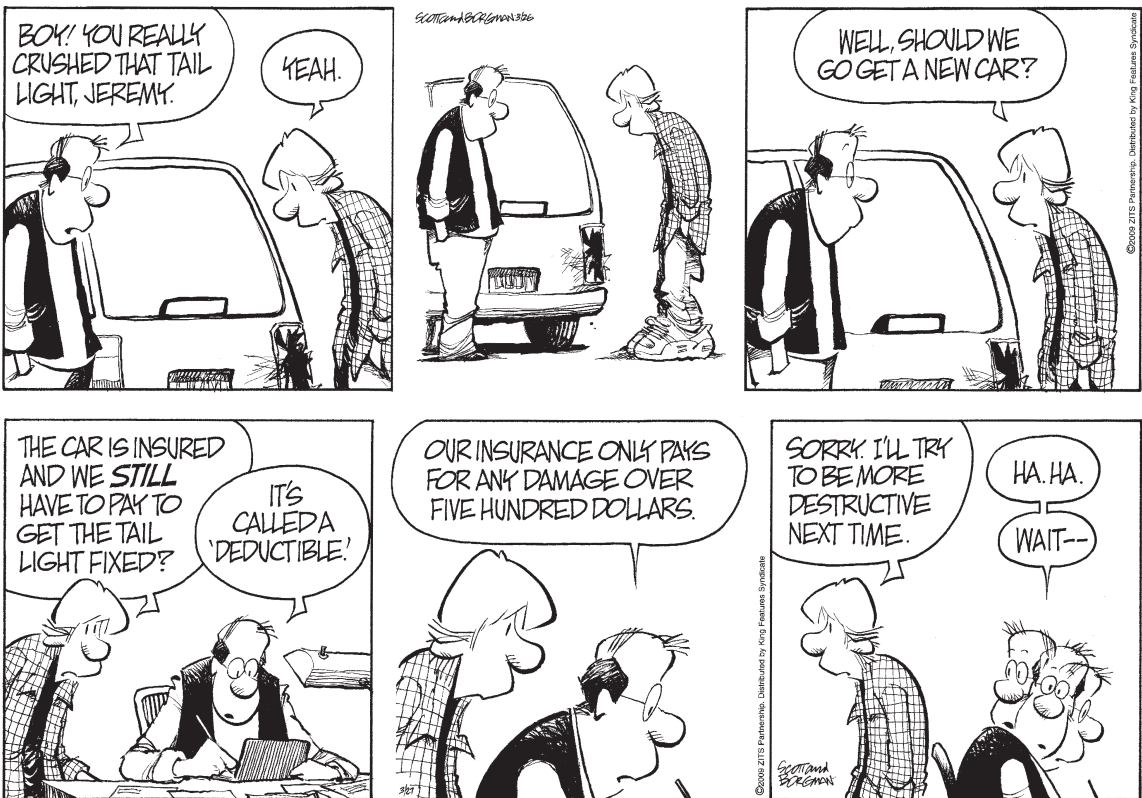
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Son's injuries worry parent

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son plays football for his high school, and has now gotten two concussions from playing. I'm really worried about his health, not only in the short term but for his future as well. He claims his trainers have said concussions aren't bad for you, but I just don't believe this, and I'm terrified that he's ruining his chance to make something of his life. Am I being irrational, or am I right to worry? – F.R.

Dear F.R.: You are right to worry about the long-term effects of concussions. A recent article in the journal Brain showed that athletes who had had one or two concussions more than 30 years previously – in early childhood, like your son – showed declines in their attention and memory, and a slowing of some muscle movements.

You should talk to him about the physical effects, and maybe even speak to the trainer, who seems to be uneducated about the problems associated with concussions, but you should let your son make his own decision about whether he thinks the risk of injury is worth the benefits of playing the game.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm worried that my husband is spoiling our kids too much. I certainly want them to have an easy childhood and a better life than both me and my husband had growing up, but I don't want them to be spoiled brats. Our 8-year-old already has persuaded her dad to buy her a cell phone and an iPod, and I know our 5-year-old isn't far behind. Is spoiling them a bad thing, and if so, how do we find a happy medium? – C.M.

Dear C.M.: Compromise is the key, and you are right to try to find a happy medium. Of course you want the best for your children, but sometimes spoiling them can actually hurt them. Over-indulging kids can cause behavioral problems, depression and anxiety. Parents who don't set limits often think that they are doing the best for their kids, when in reality they are setting unreasonable expectations for their kids at an age when they need boundaries. Sheltering your kids from hard situations, like a death in the family, is another type of spoiling that often gets overlooked, but it also can make children unable to cope with the realities of life.

It sounds like you are ready to start making some changes, and the sooner the better. Keep in mind that changing one thing at once is easier than instituting a whole slate of new rules. For instance, limit television or Internet time one week, and once the kids have gotten used to that, then start asking them to clear their own plates from the dinner table. Kids whose parents indulge their every whim are at risk for a number of behavior problems, including personality issues like self-centeredness and inability to control anger, as well as serious health issues like eating disorders or obsessive behavior. Even when you only want the best for your kids, you and your husband need to be cognizant of these kinds of unforeseen problems.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7 5 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ A Q 7
♣ K 6 4

WEST

♠ Q 10 9 3
♥ 6
♦ J 9 8 5 2
♣ 10 9 3

EAST

♠ K 6
♥ 10 2
♦ K 10 4
♣ A Q J 8 7 2

SOUTH

♠ J 8 4
♥ A Q J 7 5 4
♦ 6 3
♣ 5

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 NT 2 ♣ 4 ♥

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Forewarned Is Forearmed

Winning players seem to have much more luck than those who are less successful. This, of course, is not true. Over a period of time, luck is distributed evenly for everyone. The big difference, though, is that those who win are better at taking advantage of good fortune when it arises.

Consider this deal from a team-of-four contest where both North-South pairs reached four hearts. At the first table, the club ten was covered by the king and ace, and South ruffed East's club continuation. He then played the A-K of trumps, ruffed dummy's remaining club and led a spade to the ace.

East had followed these proceedings with a watchful eye and realized that if he played low on the ace of spades, he would next be thrown into the lead with the king. He would then be forced to return a diamond into dummy's A-Q or else to yield a ruff-and-discard by returning a club. Either way, South would gain his 10th trick. And so, when the ace of spades was played, East dropped his king on it!

Declarer did the best he could by continuing with a spade, but West won, cashed another spade and shifted to a diamond to put the contract down one.

At the other table, the play to the first two tricks was exactly the same, but this time declarer led a spade to the ace at trick three. This made it very difficult for East – who had far less information at his disposal than his counterpart at the first table – to get rid of the king, and in practice he simply followed low. South then drew trumps and ruffed a club before exiting with a spade to the king to make his contract.

There is no question that some luck was needed to make four hearts on this deal, but an equal measure of skill also was required to take full advantage of it.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/26

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

V F Q S R N I K Q J J W H S R V R Z

W K Q J J Q W H B R J J I. S L N D

T R J I Z Q R K, L J H B B C J Q G C T D J

N R T T Q W F Q K J R S I R G R Z Q.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PRODUCE SHOP'S SPECIALTY IS OFFERING FRESH-PICKED CORN, MIGHT YOU CALL IT A STALK MARKET?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Requests

5 Spring-time abbr.

8 Stan-dards

12 Injure severely

13 Kiwi's extinct kin

14 Saudi Arabia neighbor

15 Curved molding

16 Wood-shaping tool

17 Peace-keeping grp.

18 Whiz

20 Capital of Croatia

22 Deli loaf

23 Floral accessory

24 The "Say Hey Kid"

27 Still having a rind

32 Resume, for short

33 Estuary

34 Deposit

DOWN

35 Bill Clinton, by birth

38 Extra

39 Raw rock

40 Discover-er's call

42 Rever-berates

45 Look for typos

49 Bridge coup

50 NAFTA signatory

52 Urban carrier

53 Cougar

54 "Platoon" locale

55 Cruising

56 Nays' undoers

10 Assess-ment

11 Uppity one

19 Big Apple abbr.

21 Milwau-kee product

24 Biz deg.

25 Broad-cast

26 Japanese city

28 Actress Peeples

29 Complete view

30 Listener

31 Go red?

36 Scents

37 Born

38 Human

41 That guy

42 Get a glimpse of

43 Finger-print, often

44 Trilled

46 Relaxa-tion

47 Graph lines

48 "Buenos"

51 Enervate

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	O	E	S		M	O	I		T	R	E	K	
A	S	T	I		A	R	C			H	O	R	N
S	H	A	M		R	O	C		A	C	N	E	
P	A	L	I		N		Y	A	N	K	E	E	
				L	A	N	D			M	E	W	
R	O	B	E		O	R	E	O		E	L	M	
E	V	A		F	R	O	C	K		L	E	A	
D	A	N		L	I	L	T			P	L	O	
				K	E	A		L	O	C	I		
A	B	R	U	P	T			A	S	H	E	S	
P	O	O	R		R	O	L	L	C	A	L	L	
S	I	L	O		I	R	E			E	L	S	
E	L	L	S		O	B	I			S	L	A	W

Yesterday's answer 3-26

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	48
49				50	51		52			
53				54			55			
56				57			58			