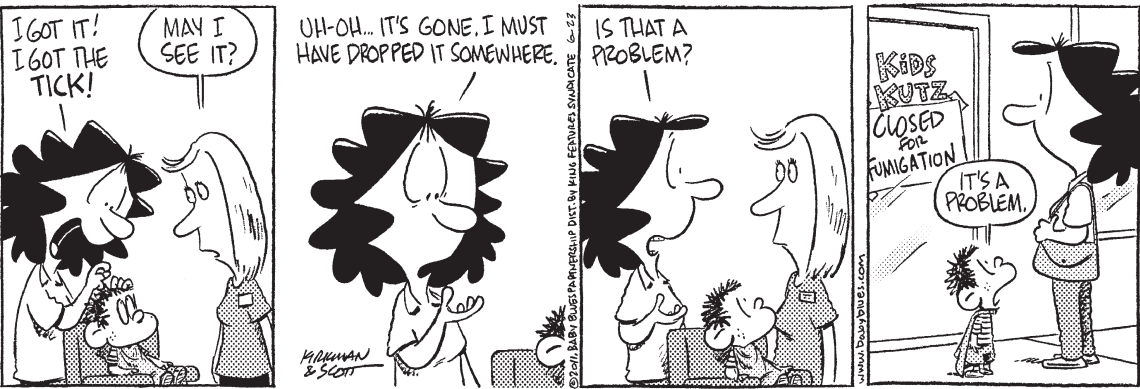
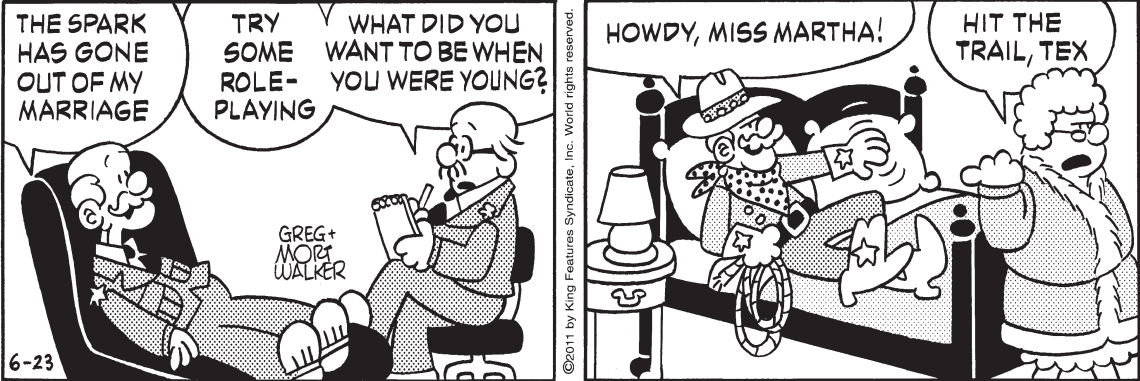


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



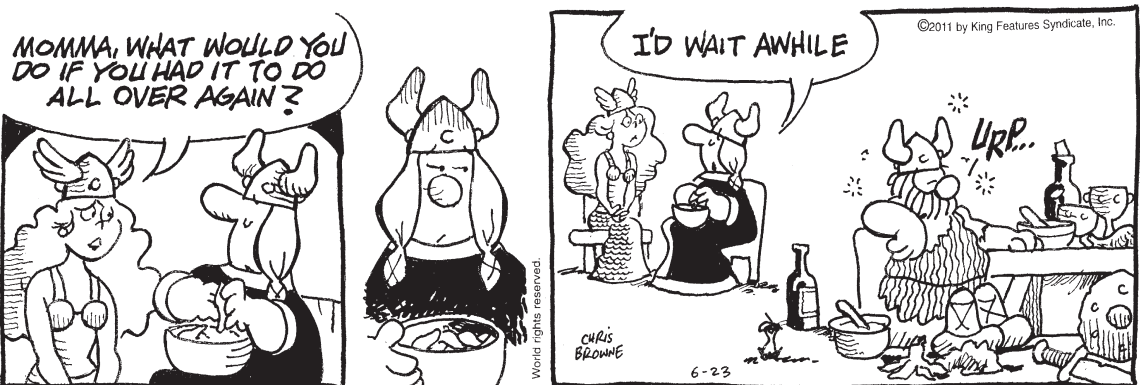
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



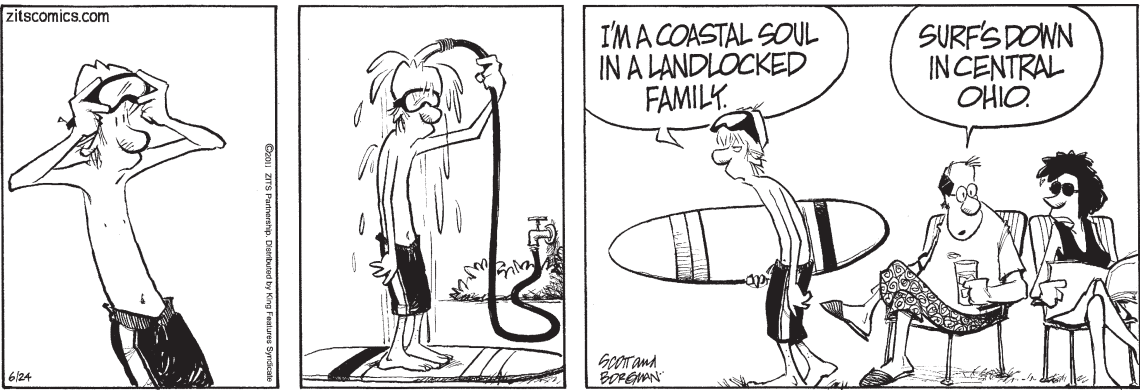
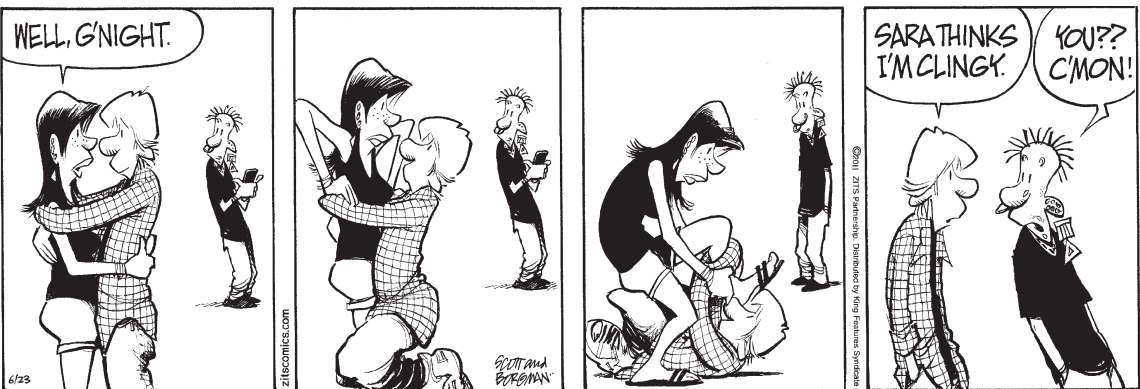
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Fine with boy, not with girl?

Dear Dr. Brothers: When my husband and I had our son three years ago, I thought my husband was the greatest dad ever. You couldn't tear him away for anything. Last month, we had a daughter, and his response is almost the complete opposite. He seems uninterested and shows her almost no affection. I really don't know what happened or what to think. Please help. — S.S.

Dear S.S.: It must be troubling to have your husband react in such a cool way to your new baby. It is worth discussing when you have time and you can question him in a nonaccusatory way about why his response to his second child seems to be so different. Notice I said "first" and "second" child rather than focusing on the boy-or-girl issue. Why? Because it seems more likely his mood has been affected by adding a second child to the household — double the stress, responsibility, cost and energy to cope. Any of these could bother him to the point of not having anything left for his daughter.

If that's not what's on his mind, it may be he doesn't know how to relate to a little girl as well, and is uncomfortable. You can talk to him about having a daughter and a son, and see what expectations and feelings are brought out. Your second child may have a different personality, which he could have a hard time relating to, or he may feel guilty about giving her attention he used to lavish on his son. The only way you're going to find out what's off is to ask. Then be prepared to help your husband adjust to having two kids.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I first noticed my 8-year-old's horrible posture when I picked him up from school last week. He looked like some kind of wilting weed. I'm trying to get him to correct this, but my husband says it's no big deal and it's something he'll grow out of. I'm worried how people will see him if he continues to slump over. Don't you think bad posture can make a bad impression? — C.T.

Dear C.T.: Yes, I agree bad posture is a key component of body language that makes a bad impression. Unflattering characteristics are imparted to those with bad posture — people tend to think a slumped-over person is ill, depressed, weak, unhealthy, unfit or unattractive. So while your son may grow out of it, there is no reason he shouldn't be made aware of how much his posture says about him. Even at a young age, having good posture can show confidence and fitness. You can help your son with his posture by making sure he has plenty of chances to use his body in physical ways — encourage games and sports that will keep him moving and build up his strength, and pay attention to his inner life as well. Is he slumping for a reason? It's your job to find out.

A good posture even can contribute to feeling more powerful, according to research by the Kellogg School of Management. In experiments, they found power's role was less important than posture's in activating power-related behavior. While your son doesn't need to worry about stepping up the corporate ladder for a while, he could be gaining positive feelings by standing up straight and giving the impression he's a strong, healthy and enthusiastic boy. Don't nag him, but help him feel the part of a boy with good posture.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A Q 10
♥ A 8
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ J 10 9

WEST
♥ 7 4 3
♦ 9 5 2
♣ K Q J 4
♠ K 6 2

EAST
♥ 8 6
♦ 7 4 3
♠ A 7 6 3
♣ 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♦ K J 9 5 2
♥ K Q J 10 6
♦ 8
♠ A 4

The bidding:
North 1♦ Pass South 1♦ Pass West 1♦ Pass
North 2♦ Pass South 4NT Pass West 4NT Pass
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Reducing the Risk

There is nothing complicated about the mechanics of a dummy reversal. Nevertheless, it is one of the hardest plays to recognize because it runs counter to the way declarer usually proceeds in a suit contract.

Assume West leads the king of diamonds against six spades and continues with the queen, which South ruffs. Declarer starts with 11 sure tricks — five spades, five hearts and a club — and it seems that he must rely on a club finesse for his 12th trick.

However, there is a line of play that offers a much better chance to make the slam — one that might allow South to score six trump tricks instead of the obvious five. Accordingly, at trick three declarer leads a spade to dummy's ten and ruffs another diamond. He then crosses to the queen of spades and ruffs dummy's last diamond.

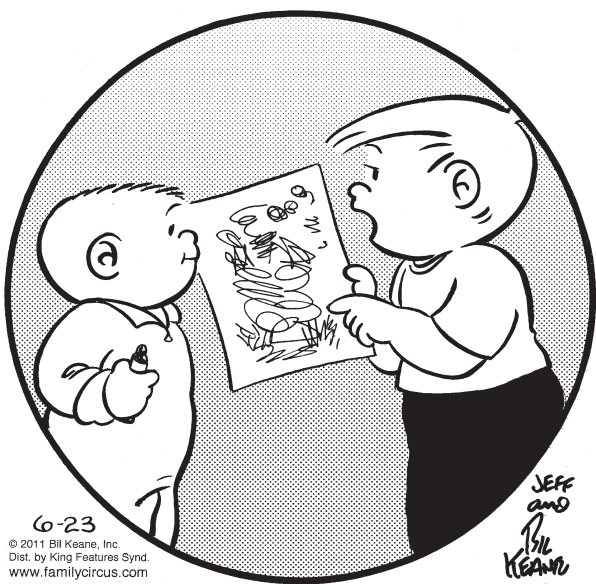
This runs South out of trumps — he has led trumps twice and ruffed three diamonds — but that is precisely what he has been aiming for. He next leads a heart to dummy's ace and cashes the ace of spades, discarding the four of clubs. South then scores the remaining tricks with the ace of clubs and K-Q-J-10 of hearts.

It is certainly not easy to visualize at the outset that declarer can discard his potential club loser on one of dummy's trumps. That is why dummy reversals are so often overlooked.

Note that ruffing dummy's diamonds will be successful more often in the long run than relying on a club finesse. The latter approach wins half the time, while the spades will divide 3-2 two-thirds of the time.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Your drawings aren't very accurate but you do draw fast.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/23

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

BQLXV ZSVNB VXN GQUHGZW

SQWQIXNR XQI IAUNWRQR

IVZLN ANBSJBGZWDN, XN

VJJH Z DZBVJW DZUU

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CAFE SERVES A CURIOUS EGG-BASED DISH IN THE SHAPE OF A SLEEVE BAND NAMED A SPANISH ARMLET.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Persian sprite
 - 5 False god
 - 9 Quilters' get-together
 - 12 Tied
 - 13 Pond organism
 - 14 Young fellow
 - 15 Ceremonial greeting
 - 17 Spoon-bender
 - 18 Soldiers
 - 19 Occurrence
 - 21 Yours truly
 - 22 "Get lost!"
 - 24 Ellen of "Juno"
 - 27 Cattle call
 - 28 First-rate
 - 31 Mess up
 - 32 Recede
 - 33 Raw rock
 - 34 Coral structure
 - 36 In medias
 - 37 Winter forecast
- DOWN**
- 1 Saucy
 - 2 Always
 - 3 Start over
 - 4 1040 information
 - 5 Prohibits
 - 6 Matter-horn, for one
 - 7 Time of your life?
 - 8 Procrastinator's reply
 - 9 The Marcellus' biggest hit
 - 10 Deserve
 - 11 Rewrite
 - 16 Mimic
 - 20 Cistern
 - 22 Uninfluenced?
 - 23 Corn castoffs
 - 24 Apiece
 - 25 Is pluralized
 - 26 Wisconsin city
 - 27 Unembellished
 - 29 Expert
 - 30 Stitch
 - 35 Sitcom waitress
 - 37 Churchly councils
 - 39 Impressionist
 - 40 "Hum-bug!"
 - 41 Pull an all-nighter
 - 42 Verdi opera
 - 43 Folklore
 - 44 Emanation
 - 45 Summer-time pest
 - 46 Advantage
 - 49 Regret
 - 50 Tolkien tree creature

Solution time: 25 mins.

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
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		