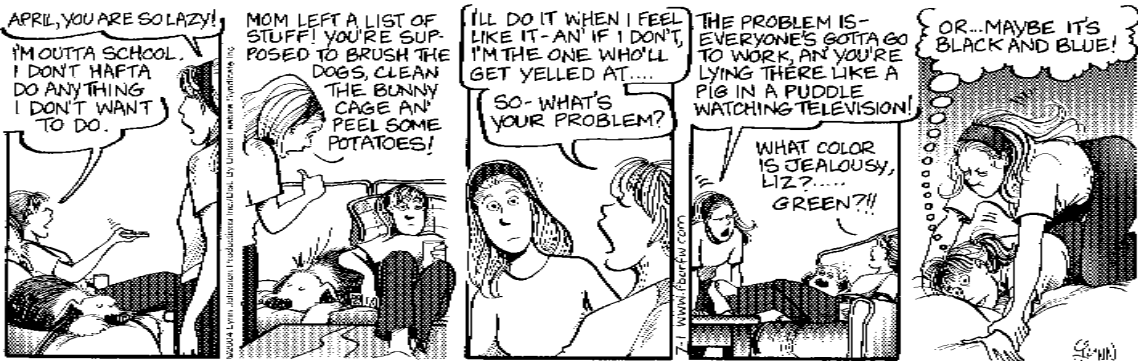


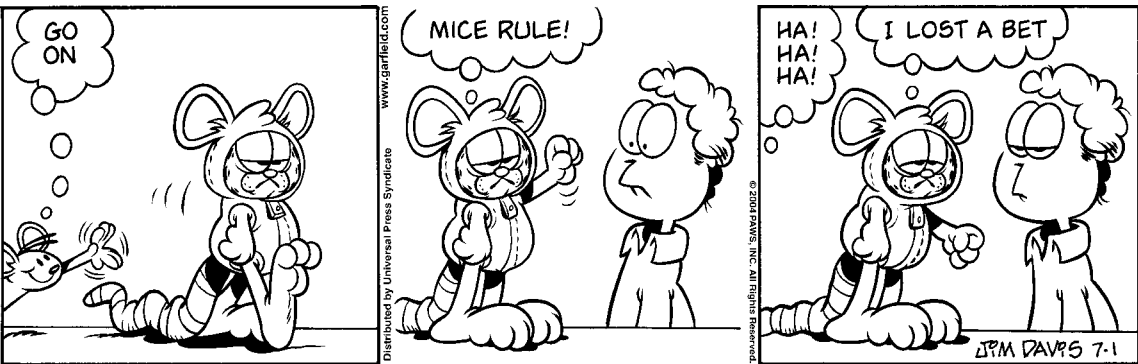
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



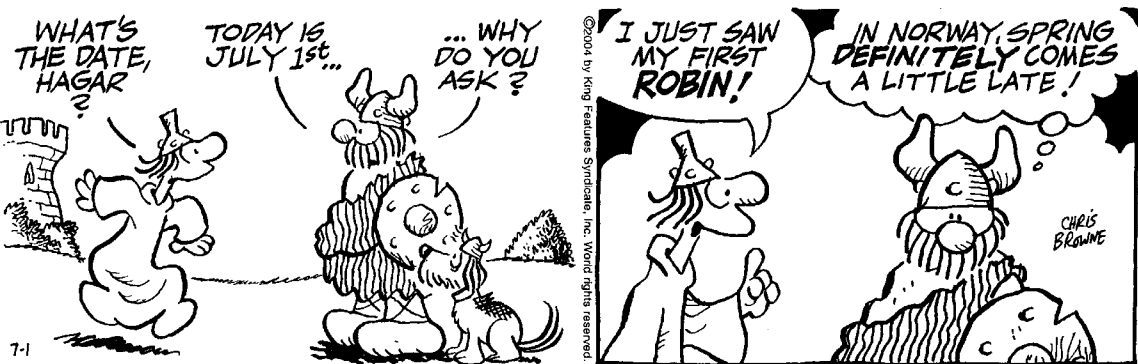
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



Garfield • Jim Davis



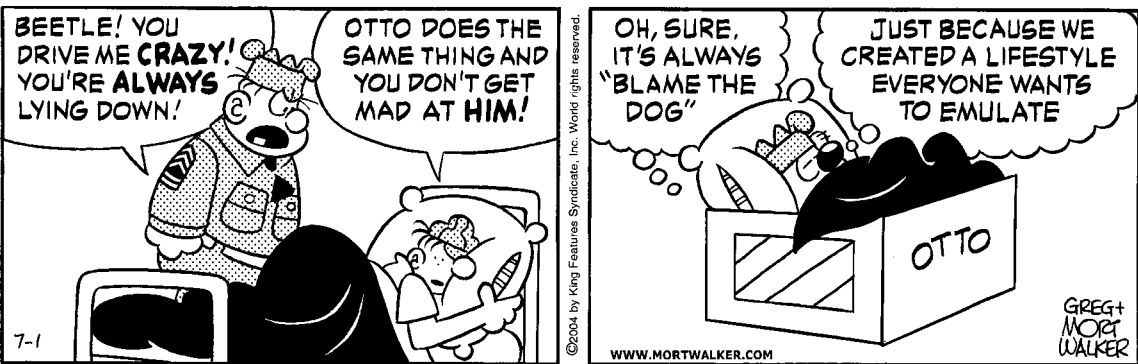
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

Y WZO'E TOZQ UZQ EZ

CPTB PMXPLPIFM. CPRJB

MZC BJZR MUZFAW IYKB

C B M B K B L P A E Y X M .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A PERSON COULD SAY THAT THE MENU IN A RESTAURANT PROVIDES MANY VITTE STATISTICS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals S

Octogenarian takes issue with Abby

DEARABBY: After reading your comment to "Young and in Love in Toronto"—the 26-year-old woman who's in love with a 50-year-old man—I was so hot under the collar that I had to take my dog for a two-mile walk, then cut and split a cord of wood in order to cool off. You see, I'll be 84 this year, so according to you, I am "doddering"!

I walk 18 holes of golf, square dance every Friday and alternate Saturday nights, am active in the community and am part-time editor of our local seniors newsletter. And this doddering octogenarian is being married this month to my square dance partner of the last four years, who is 18 years younger.

I hope you get a ton of mail from other doddering octogenarians.

—BOB F., CLAREMONT, CALIF.

DEAR BOB: Did I ever. I had no idea there were so many active seniors until I used the "d-word." I deserved 80 lashes with a wet noodle, and I got it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My father is running, not "doddering," through his later years. I wouldn't be surprised if he lives to be 100. At 80, dear old Dad went to Mongolia, slept in tents and rode camels. He still works a full-time job, travels around the country and writes articles. He fishes, and walks an 18-hole golf course once a week — and doesn't use a golf cart. His cholesterol is only 135, and his cardiologist says his heart is as healthy as it can be for an 82-year-old. Please rethink your advice to "Young and in Love."

—CATHY U., CHOCKTAW, OKLA.

DEAR CATHY U.: You're right. No one has a contract with God.

DEAR ABBY: I resent the term "doddering." Every morning I walk briskly for 30 minutes and do 30



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

minutes of weight training three times a week. Last year I wrote lesson materials for beginner and intermediate courses in computer training for seniors, and taught the material in eight three-hour sessions at the local branch of the University of South Florida. I sit on the board of a nonprofit corporation, serve on the executive committee of the retirement community where we live and edit our monthly newsletter. I am 82 years old.

One of my neighbors, who is several years older than I, has decided to give up flying and sell his airplane. However, he continues to ride his motorcycle.

My wife volunteers at the regional hospital here. Of course, she's only 79.

—NOT DODDERING

DEAR NOT: I'm sure many people far younger wish they could be as active and productive as you are. Including me.

Readers, a question I am frequently asked by women "of a certain age" is "where are all the good men?"

Well, after reading the onslaught of mail I have received from outraged octogenarians, I have the answer: They're all over the place.

According to Dr. Gary Small, director of the UCLA Center on Aging and respected expert on healthy aging, people who stay active physically and mentally, who eat sensibly and watch their blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, live fuller, longer and more vital lives. His new book, "The Memory Pre-

scription" (Hyperion), details a program of diet, mental and physical exercise, and stress reduction that literally jump-starts brain and body fitness — and his UCLA study backs it up.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 33-year-old single mother of two, in the process of moving to a new state to be near my family.

My older sister and her husband have asked me to be the surrogate mother of a child for them. They have been trying to conceive a child for a long time without success. I agreed without reservation.

My problem is my boyfriend, "Pete."

He doesn't understand how I can do it, and why I didn't ask his permission before deciding. We have been together only since September, and I didn't feel it was a decision that I needed to run past him.

Although I am excited about being a surrogate for my sister, Pete is making me feel guilty about it. He insists he is just worried about me. I love Pete, but I don't want to feel guilty about the wonderful choice I have made. What should I do?

—SURROGATE SISTER

DEAR SISTER: Arrange an evening with your sister, brother-in-law and Pete. Perhaps if he hears firsthand from them about the pain of not being able to conceive a child, he will better understand what you have decided to do. However, if it fails to give him the necessary insight, you may have to choose between your wish to be a surrogate and your current boyfriend.

Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 10 8
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ 8
♣ A K J 5 4

WEST
♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ A
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 10 9 8 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 4 2
♣ 7

SOUTH

♠ A
♥ K J 10 9 7
♦ A K Q J 5
♣ 6 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♥			

Opening lead — eight of clubs.

Deft Manipulation

To be a good declarer, you must be a worrier.

You can't afford to relax merely because the contract looks easy to make.

Take a case like this one, where you're in six hearts and West leads a club.

If you win with dummy's king and return a trump, as most declarers would do, you go down one.

West takes the ace, plays another club, East ruffs, and you wind up minus 100 instead of plus 1,630.

But if you're the worrying kind, you make the contract.

As soon as dummy comes down, you start fretting about what can happen to stop you from making the slam.

It wouldn't take you long to conclude that the only real danger is the possibility of a club ruff.

West's club lead, in the face of North's club bid, looks mighty suspicious.

It seems likely that he is either trying to get a club ruff for himself or trying to give one to his partner.

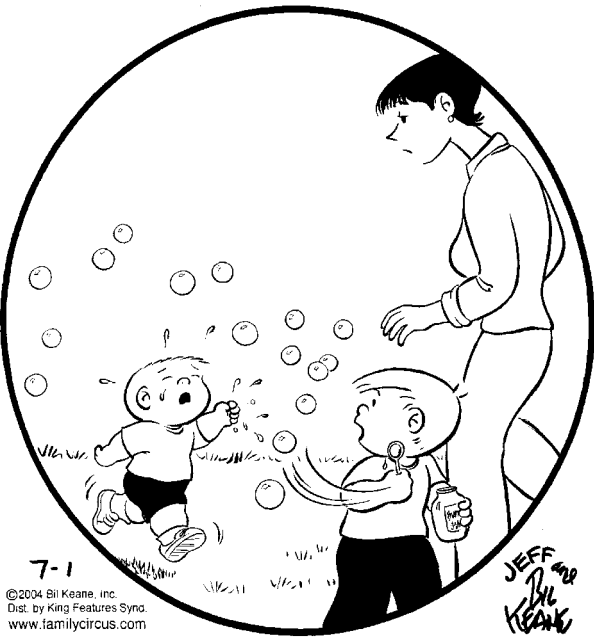
Given these circumstances, you should look for a way to nip West's plan in the bud. Fortunately, if you study the situation, you find that something can be done.

Accordingly, at trick two you lead a spade to the ace, then cash the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond in dummy.

Next you discard a club on the king of spades and lead a trump to force out the ace. Only at this point can you finally relax.

The deal demonstrates that a little worrying at the right time can do a lot of good. Tomorrow: Test your play.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Moist
5 Branch
9 Figure head? (Abbr.)
12 Curved molding
13 Painter's calculation
14 Filch
15 Party-line problem
17 Inseparable
18 Chopping spree?
19 Supporter of the arts
21 Young on the mound
22 Mile units
24 St. Louis landmark
27 Mal de —
28 With competence
31 Postal Creed word
32 Violinist Kafavian
33 Swabbie's agreement
34 Use the overhead compartment

DOWN

1 Otis
3 Redding's perch
2 Taj Mahal city
3 "Love — Leave Me"
4 Seder time
5 Making everybody wait
6 George's brother
7 HUD
8 Secretary Martinez
9 Hurdle part
10 Corn recipe
11 Slain shepherd
Solution time: 25 mins.

16 Dirty place
20 Computer language
22 Busybody
23 Saharan country (Abbr.)
25 Deterioration
26 Medieval weapon
27 Timbuktu's country
29 Caustic solution
30 Still
35 Drenched
37 Random acts of kindness
39 Bushel quarters
40 —
Winter-bourne"
41 Implore
42 Staffer
43 "When The Frost — the Punkin"
44 Terrible guy
45 Pianist Peter
46 Expanded
49 Cong. person
50 — budget

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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