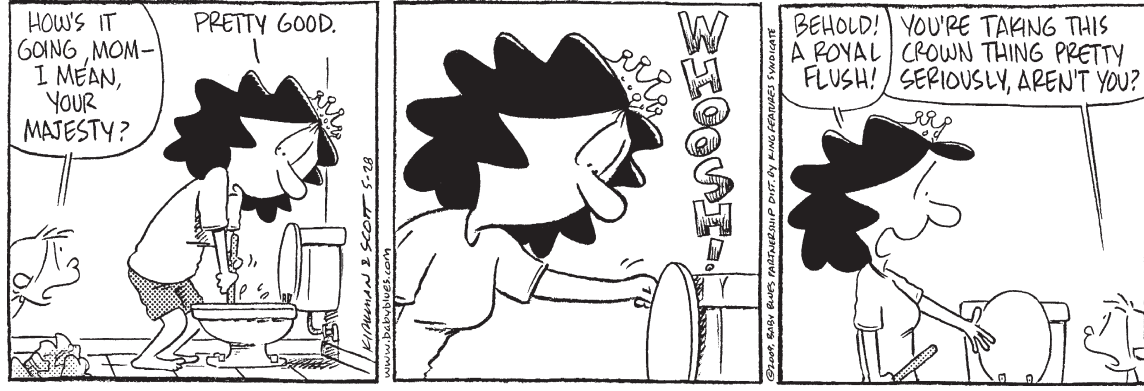
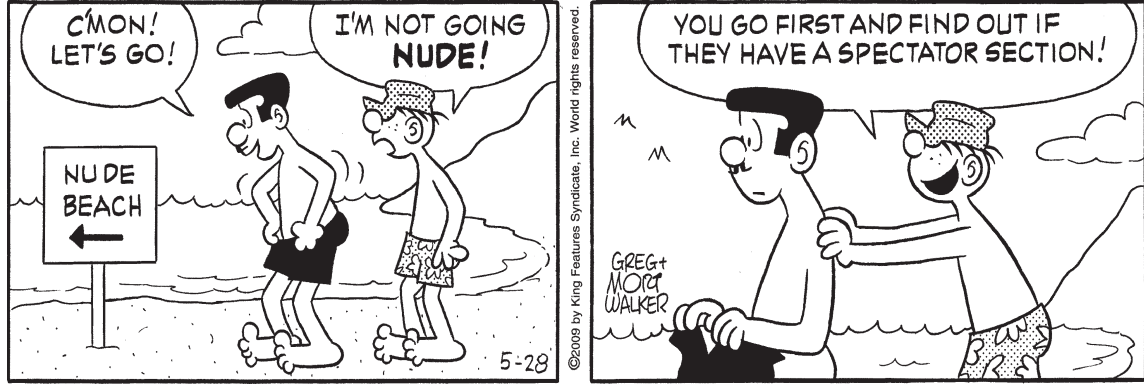


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



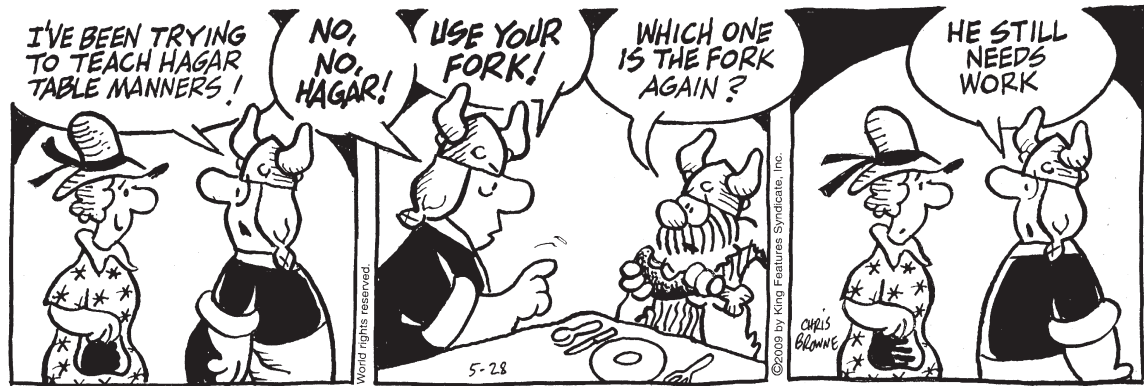
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



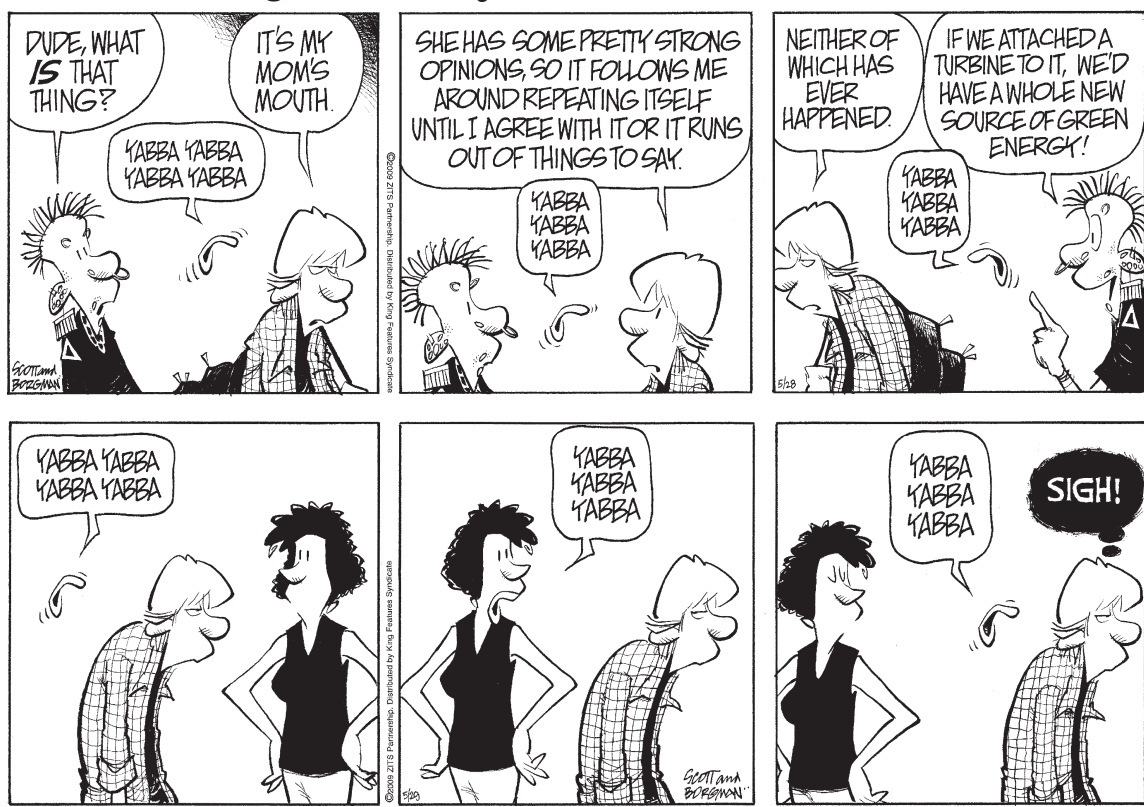
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Mother teaches daughter control

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a little worried about my daughter. She's 7 years old, and she has yet to grasp the concepts of delayed gratification and self-control. I don't try to spoil her but I'm afraid that if she doesn't learn how to control herself now, she never will, and that could really hurt her later in life. How can I try to teach her self-control and moderation? - D.L.

Dear D.L.: You are right to want your daughter to learn self-control early in life. Not only will this benefit her as she grows up, but also she will feel better about the decisions she gets to make now. And if she can learn this skill, you can give her more ability to make her own choices and control her own actions, which is something that all kids want. Self-control starts with being able to identify feelings and emotions and work through the behaviors that those feelings bring out. You can start by acting out made-up scenes that bring out basic emotions like happiness, sadness or anger.

You also can try setting age-appropriate goals, like not interrupting or not fighting with friends at school. Using consistent and appropriate rewards and feedback will help a lot. What your daughter wants most is to spend quality time with you, so reward her good behavior with special mom time, and not a new toy or a sweet snack. Giving your daughter the attention she needs will help her resist attention-seeking behaviors. Teaching your daughter alternatives to "I must have that right now" is valuable. Practice asking again later, sharing, earning the thing she wants and waiting for her turn with her so she can model her behavior upon yours.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My wife and I recently lost our son, just days after he was born. My wife had a complicated pregnancy, and our son was premature. We have another child, a daughter who is 5, and we're worried that she's taking the death of her brother very hard. We've tried to talk to her about it, but my wife and I are both mourning ourselves, and are finding it almost impossible to help our daughter. What can we do to make our daughter feel better? - M.M.

Dear M.M.: I'm very sorry for your loss. It is a terrible tragedy. You certainly want to help your daughter cope with the death of her brother and get through this tough time. Unfortunately, there is little known about the effect of the death of a child very early in life on the surviving sibling. Although, according to a study published recently in the Journal of Pediatrics, these siblings may encounter unforeseen emotional troubles or developmental problems. Adults who were affected by the death of a sibling as children in this study also reported that they believed their parents never mourned the loss of their child. So it is OK to include her in your grieving. Not only will this bring you closer, but also she will feel more of a connection to the entire family.

It's likely that your daughter is confused about what happened, especially at such a young age. You should do what you can to explain to her why the baby died, and assure her that nothing will happen to her.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 5 3
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ 7
♣ A Q J 9

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 4
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ K 8 6 2

EAST
♠ 9 7 2
♥ Q 6 3
♦ A 8 4
♣ 10 7 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A J 9 7 4
♦ K Q J 6 2
♣ 5

The bidding:
South: 1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
West: 4NT Pass 5♦ Pass
North: 3♥ Pass
East: Pass

The Alcatraz Coup

The Ethics Committee at Alcatraz was in solemn session. South was pressing charges against a fellow inmate whom he accused of violating the proprieties of the game.

The facts were undisputed. South was in six hearts and had to lose a diamond trick, so the only question was whether he would also lose a trump trick. Had he been left to his own devices, South might well have failed to finesse against East's queen of trumps.

But the question never came up. As soon as the bidding was over, East, a player of considerable skill -- but with a reputation for sharp practice -- took a card out of his hand and was about to make a lead out of turn.

Before he could do so, however, he was told it was West's lead. So East put the card back in his hand, but not before South was able to see that it was the three of hearts!

A murmur of admiration rose from the committee upon hearing this, but the members were quickly silenced by the chairman. Obviously, South was now sure to misguess the trump situation later on, since he could not possibly imagine that East would lead a trump from Q-x-x.

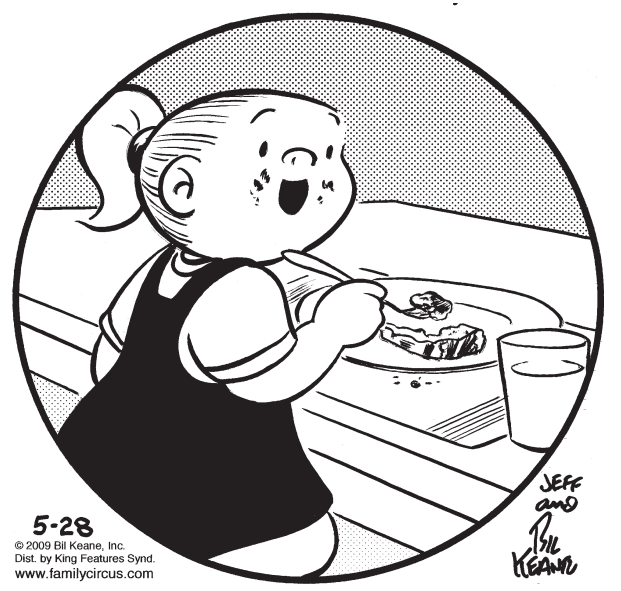
But West ruined the sparkling maneuver when he decided to lead -- of all things -- a trump! So South made the slam, and no harm was done.

When the committee questioned East, he vehemently denied any malicious intent. East knew, he said, that it was not his lead. But he also knew -- and this was confirmed by several members of the committee -- that West practically always led a trump against a slam. He had therefore taken the heart out of his hand in anticipation of a trump lead.

Case dismissed.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"The best thing about how this tastes is its flavor."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

YR Q SMZMINTYJA UQUV UYHS
PQF WNJJYZMS GN MFWQTM
RHNL QJ MAA, NJM LYAPG

FQV YG PGGWMS Q TIQJ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I WOULDN'T ALLOW MY GIRL TO WALK SHAKILY, YOU MIGHT SAY I DIDN'T LET MY DAUGHTER DODDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals G

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 "Dragnet" star
5 Steffi of tennis fame
9 Society newcomer
12 Car bar
13 "Mona —"
14 Buck-eyes' sch.
15 Focus on
17 Miss at a barn dance
18 Spa
19 Terrible
21 Former partner
22 City of India
24 "Lion King" baddie
27 Geological period
28 Shrek, for one
31 Tin Man's need
32 — de deux
33 Towel designation
- DOWN**
1 Cleanse
2 Fair, for short
3 Rorschach figure
4 Improved
5 Smooth-talking
6 Tractor-trailer
7 Blond shade
8 Deadly
9 It may include a pair of aces
10 Isaac's eldest
11 Wall Street optimist
16 Illumination measure
20 Terse question
22 Speak slowly?
23 Facility
24 Weep loudly
25 Spy-novel grp.
26 Fine
27 Duel tool
29 Carnival city
30 Kreskin's claim
35 Lair
37 Soap opera, e.g.
39 "Borstal Boy" author
40 Drenched
41 Poor area of town
42 Carry on
43 Tosses in
44 Taj Mahal city
45 Anything but that
46 Greek vowels
49 Have bills
50 Allow

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | F | R | O | L | A | B | G | E | A | R | |
| R | I | O | T | I | D | O | R | A | C | E | |
| C | A | S | H | F | L | O | W | E | T | N | A |
| S | T | E | E | L | Y | E | R | A | S | E | R |
| S | I | B | W | A | S | M | E | R | G | E | |
| H | O | O | T | D | O | H | D | O | U | R | |
| E | N | D | O | W | N | O | S | W | Y | E | |
| Y | U | R | T | O | U | T | | | | | |
| E | M | B | R | Y | O | S | E | E | T | H | E |
| D | E | L | T | Q | U | I | Z | S | H | O | W |
| E | R | O | S | U | S | E | T | O | R | E | |
| N | E | W | T | E | A | R | S | U | N | S | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | |