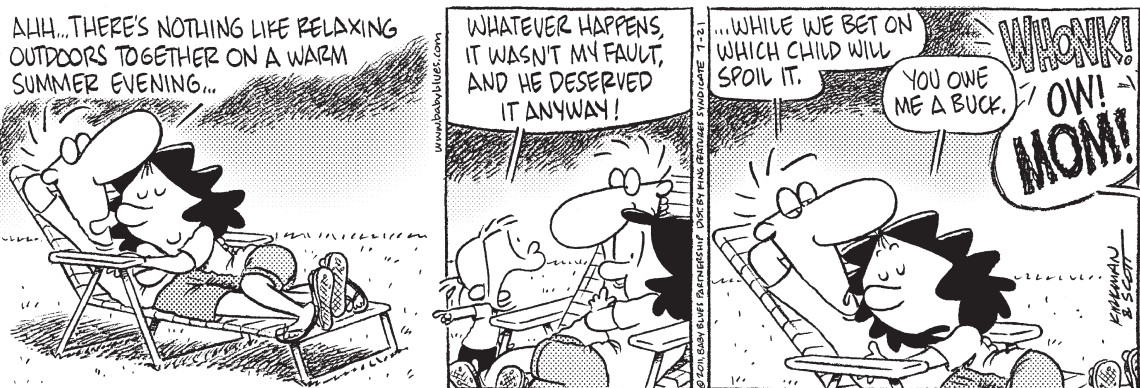
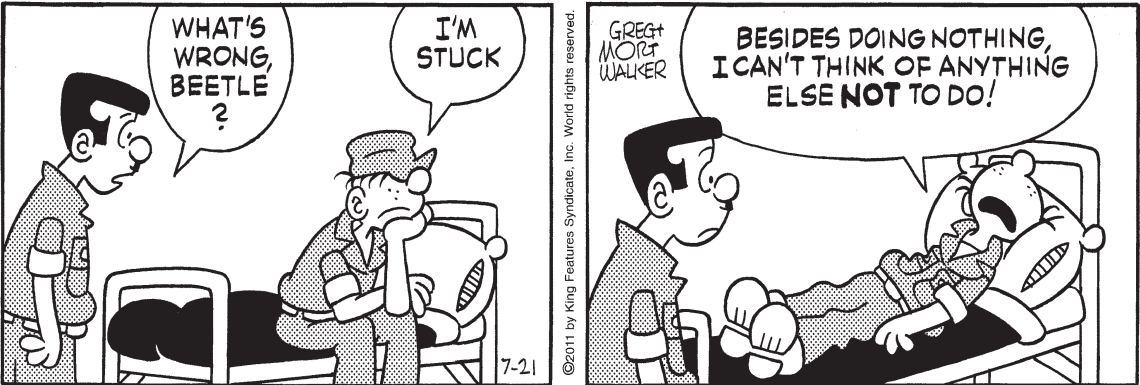


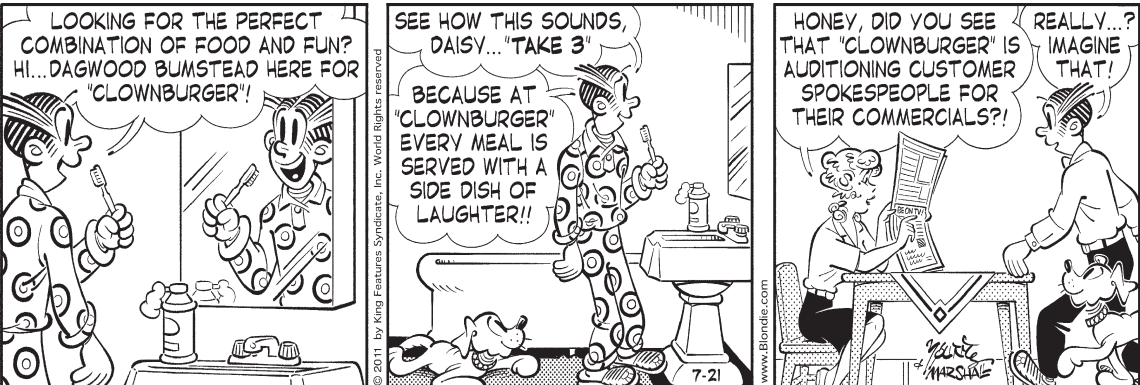
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



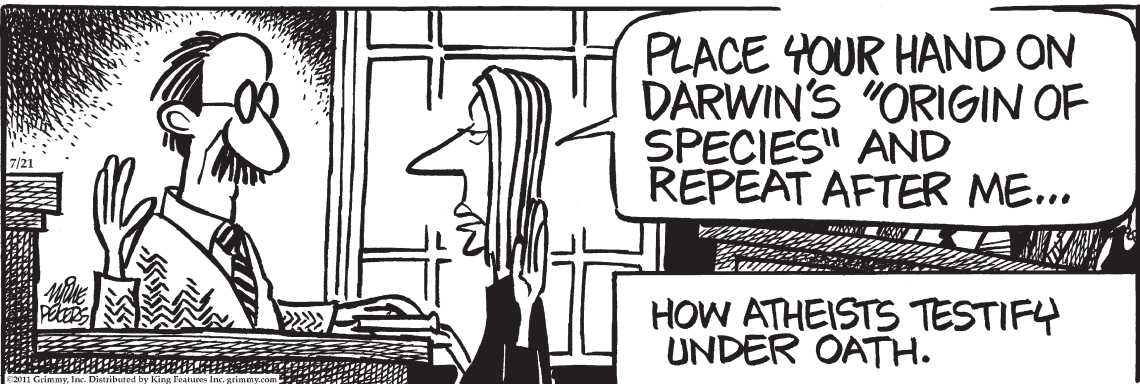
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



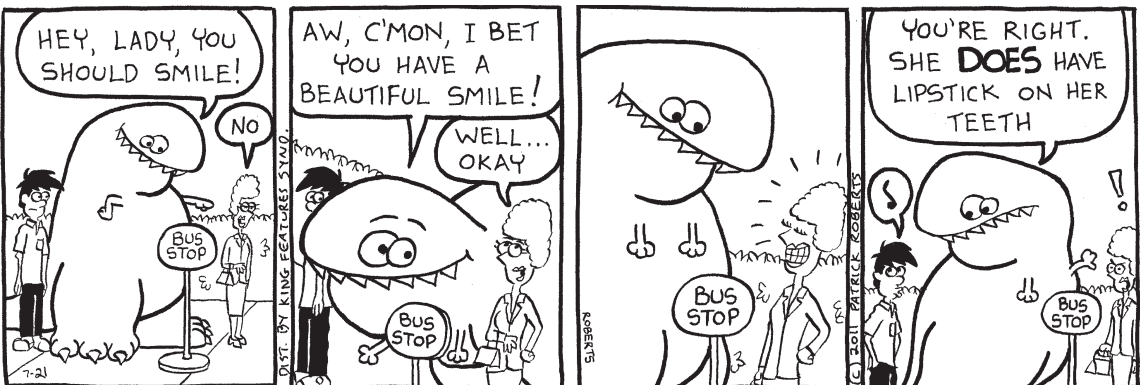
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Mom gets angry over everything

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a single mom of two toddlers, and life is getting to me right now. I just had to pick up extra overnight shifts at my job, and I'm so tired and cranky at home I feel like I can't deal with my kids. I have a neighbor who helps, but I still find myself getting angry at the kids over little things like dropping their cereal or complaining at bedtime. How can I control these outbursts while I'm so overworked? — M.D.

Dear M.D.: It's great you've recognized that you're having trouble controlling your anger, and the source isn't your kids but the stressors in your life. Now, the key is remembering that at the critical times when you're about to blow up. It sounds like you're good at figuring out which behaviors are just nuisances and which deserve more serious punishment, but you're having trouble sticking to those differences. It can help simply to repeat to yourself over and over again, when one of these annoyances happens, some short mantra like "accidents happen," or "I'm mad at the mess, not at my child." By focusing on statements that actually do reflect how you feel when you're more cool-headed, you can put a lid on your anger.

You want to make sure you express your displeasure in your child's actions even when it's small things, but make sure you don't let your anger escalate. Often when parents get angry at their kids, they get even more angry at themselves for losing control, and that only perpetuates the anger cycle. Try to stop beating yourself up, and use this motivation to act positively next time your kids smear paint all over the walls.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son hates getting dressed. He's 3 and realizing he can have a say in dressing. He wants to wear shorts in the winter and his Superman T-shirt every day, and when we don't agree, he throws a tantrum. We've tried disciplining him and taking a hard line, but it's only getting worse. What can we do to make getting dressed easier on the whole family? — A.H.

Dear A.H.: There are lots of tips and tricks that make dressing time more enjoyable for kids, and easier to face for parents. The important thing is giving your son increasing freedom, while making it fun to follow the rules you see as important. And sometimes just letting go of some notions on appropriate dressing can make life a lot easier. After all, why do socks really have to match? Planning ahead also can help when it comes time to get dressed — at the store, choose clothes that are easy to put on a sometimes-resistant kid, and give him some say in what you pick out.

Most kids can dress themselves by about age 4, and start expressing preferences about what to wear as early as 2. In between, you'll have to help him dress. If he wants to wear seasonally inappropriate clothes, put these in storage until the correct season, leaving the available options. You can encourage him to get dressed by dressing together, singing songs about the proper order of dressing, or making it into a peek-a-boo game or story with favorite characters. The main thing is to respect your son's personality while maintaining your authority as the parent and adult.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J
♥ Q J 5 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ J 9 8 6

WEST
♠ 9 8 7 5 3
♥ A 4 2
♦ 9 7
♣ K 3 2

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ 10 8 7 6
♦ 10 6 4 3
♣ Q 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 2
♥ K 9
♦ A Q J 8
♣ A 10 7

The bidding:
South 2 NT West Pass North 4 NT East Pass
6 NT
Opening lead — nine of spades.

Bad Bidding Sometimes Pays Off

In many circles, the range for an opening two-notrump bid is 20 or 21 points. There is no ordinance or statute that compels you to conform to that range — even if you've agreed with partner to play 20-21 points — and if you occasionally yield to temptation and cheat by one point, it will rarely prove fatal.

The really big trouble in these cases usually comes later on. If, for example, you decide to stretch your range by opening two notrump with only 19 points and then bid again when partner merely invites a slam, you are guilty of compounding one felony with another. Most of the time, such excessive zeal will prove costly.

However, you might get lucky once in a while, which is exactly what happened in this deal where South had no extra values (other than two tens) for his two-notrump bid and yet accepted a slam invitation by North.

South's play of the hand was much better than his bidding. Fortunately, he escaped the club lead that would have put him out of commission immediately. Instead, West made the more natural lead of the nine of spades, and South quickly realized that he could not make 12 tricks with routine play.

Accordingly, after winning the spade with dummy's jack, South led the three of hearts and played the nine from his hand after East followed low! When the nine forced West's ace, South had 12 sure tricks consisting of four spades, three hearts, four diamonds and a club.

Observe that South would have gone down one against proper defense had he gone up with the king of hearts at trick two. Declarer needed three heart tricks to make the slam, and his best shot by far was to finesse the nine at trick two.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



7-21
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

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

RGWQS QSHVQ'T "TQTRZQ
TWSQQW" SBBZZRWQ ERT IBSH,
V EBHOQS EKB MSQMRSQO
KVT IQSW UQSWGVURWQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PARTOOK OF A HORRID-TASTING CHICKPEA PATTY, I WOULD GUESS YOU ATE AN AWFUL FALAFEL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals W

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Macrame and origami
5 Spill the beans
9 Swine home
12 Old Italian money
13 Parks or Bonheur
14 Rage
15 "Animal House" event
17 Aviv preceptor
18 Garb
19 "Monopoly" building
21 Therefore
22 "SNL" alumna
24 Bridge coup
27 Writer Buscaglia
28 Giant in a nightmare, maybe
31 Moray, for one
32 Under the weather

DOWN
1 —
2 Romeo
3 Horse's gait
4 Cruelty
5 Cheese choice
6 Journal
7 Blond shade
8 Wash in a tub
9 Wait patiently
10 Genealogy chart
11 Holler into
16 To and —
20 Acapulco gold
22 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
23 Sacred
24 Collection
25 Meadow
26 Fine
27 Biography
29 Carnival city
30 Kreskin's claim
35 Inmate
37 Parsley servings
39 "La Toilette" painter
40 Coffee vessel
41 Take to the pool
42 Gait
43 Finds the sum
44 Look lustfully
45 Roller coaster cry
46 Goblet feature
49 Sapporo sash
50 "— the ramparts ..."

Yesterday's answer 7-21

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	