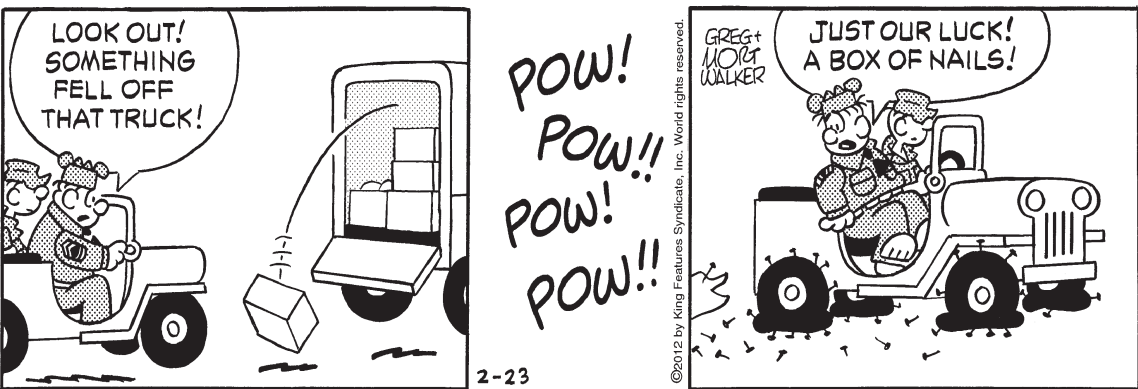


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



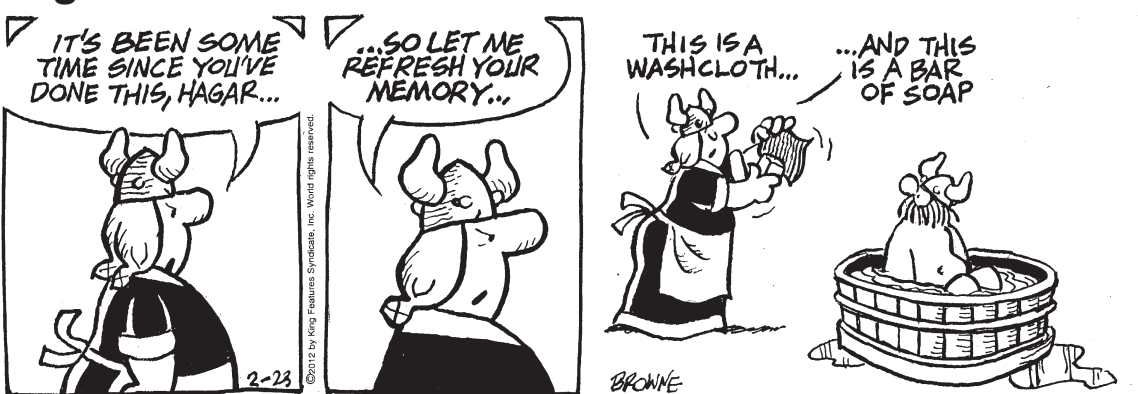
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



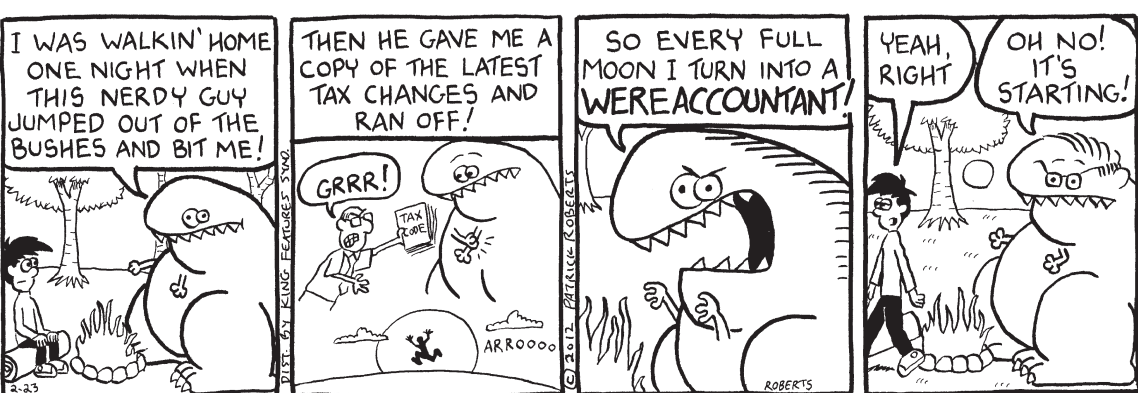
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



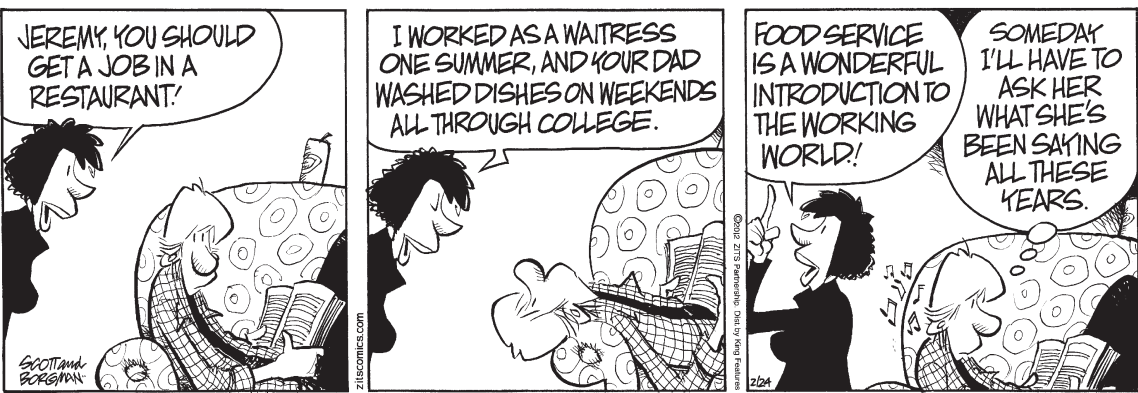
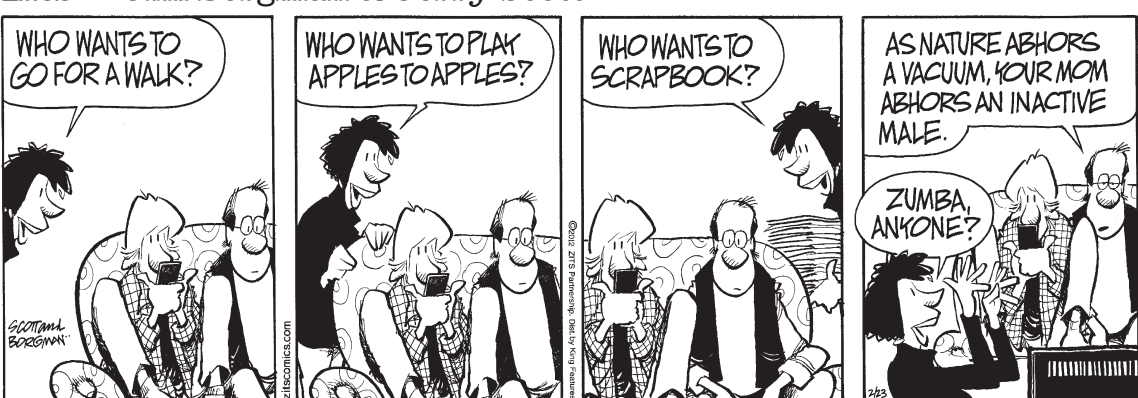
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Child, mother have conflicts

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son is in kindergarten, and he hasn't been doing well. The teacher tells me he is aggressive and hostile, and I was hoping he would have grown out of this stage. Ever since he was a toddler, he's been a difficult child who I have had to battle all day long. I don't know how to make him behave. I have always had a hard time being nice to him because he was difficult and we didn't get along. Is this my fault? – G.M.

Dear G.M.: I am not here to blame you, but it is likely that your parenting style has a significant effect on how your son behaves, especially if he shows anger and opposition. How he acts with his teacher and classmates is an extension of interacting with you. If you showed a lot of anger and punitive intent in your interactions with him, he learned to respond in an angry way. Maybe it worked and maybe it didn't, but the stage was set for his behavior when he got to school. Now you may find it wise to become a more calm and accepting parent, with appropriate limits and correction when he goes into his routine.

The first months of a baby's life are just as crucial as the "terrible twos" or any stage – so says a study by researchers at the University of Minnesota, reported in the journal *Child Development*. If children are parented in a negative style while toddlers, the study concluded, they are likely to develop anger, which will translate into behavior issues when they start school. But it is never too late to change your parenting style, and there are plenty of resources to help you to do it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a single mom trying to raise two kids. My 4-year-old has been a great helper since my son was born, but now he is walking, she seems tired of him. I think she thought of him as a doll before, and now he is hard to dress. She cries and refuses to help me, where she used to have fun. Do you think I should give up and get a neighborhood kid to help me? – L.W.

Dear L.W.: It sounds as though you are overwhelmed by the responsibilities that go with raising two children under 5 years old. You may have taken your 4-year-old down a path that is not appropriate for her. It's great to have a big sister be a helper if she wants to be – not to avoid hiring help, but to allow your children an opportunity to bond with each other and you. You probably have taught your daughter skills that will be useful as she grows, but her attitude shows it may have been too much work and too little fun for her.

When your oldest child starts school, she probably will be a responsible and capable student, but if you keep trying to make her work for you, she could find herself burnt out when it comes time to share, or put away toys, or clean up her space. I'm sure you don't want that to happen. So by all means, hire a baby sitter and take your daughter out for some fun with Mom, and do the same for your son as he gets older. Your daughter eventually will find him a good playmate, and will resume her role as a helpful big sister.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ J 8 5 3
♥ K J 8 2
♦ K 4
♠ A Q 7
WEST
♦ 10 7 4 3
♥ J 10 9 7
♠ J 9 6 5 3
EAST
♦ Q 10 9 6
♥ 9 5
♦ Q 8 6 5 2
♠ 4 2
SOUTH
♦ A K 7 4 2
♥ A Q 6
♦ A 3
♠ K 10 8
The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 6 ♠
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

What Can Defeat Me?

A surprisingly large number of players show a lack of respect for safety plays. What is particularly annoying about this attitude is that their casual disrespect usually doesn't cost them a blessed farthing because the remote situation that they should be trying to protect against seldom occurs.

However, lightning sometimes does strike, and when that happens, these players often wind up bemoaning their fate. For example, consider this deal where South gets to six spades and sees – or should see – that the only way the slam can be lost is if he loses two trump tricks.

So, instead of dismissing this "remote" possibility, South should instead concentrate all his thoughts on how to overcome a 4-0 trump division, if that unlikely distribution happens to exist.

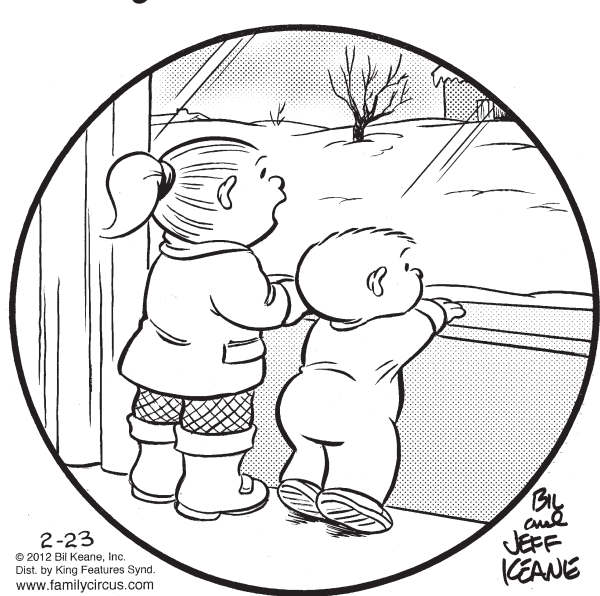
Accordingly, he should win the diamond lead in dummy and return a low trump. When East follows with the six, South should play the seven, being perfectly willing to lose the trick to the nine, ten or queen in order to assure the slam beyond the shadow of a doubt.

In the actual deal, the safety play pays off, and South avoids going down one. Playing the ace on the first trump lead would be correct if East produced the nine, ten or queen at trick two, or if East showed out on the first trump lead. In all of these cases, South could then limit himself to either one trump loser or none with proper play. (In the actual case, if East played the nine or ten, South would next lead a spade to the jack and later finesse against East to hold himself to one trump loser.)

This frame of mind – where declarer hopes for the best but prepares for the worst – is often crucial to achieving a winning result. There is no good reason to incur an unfavorable outcome that could have been avoided.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-23
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/23

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

T Q D U F Q D H H V U R K G V R

E S Q H V M S H P E D U R D U H P S

P D E V X D U , H P S N S K H P S E G T E S K T

V F F T S C K M V X K E C N K E U V U R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A LIVE-IN NANNY GETS DRESSED EVERY MORNING, ONE WOULD ASSUME SHE PUTS ON AU PAIR APPAREL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Beige
5 Owns
8 Excellent, in slang
12 "You've got —"
13 Individual
14 Wealth source
15 "— She Lovely"
16 Periodical, for short
17 Congregation's cry
18 Government in power
20 Stress
22 Wrestling surface
23 Towel designation
24 Vocal comeback
27 Snake-related
32 To and —
33 Personal question?
34 Ernesto Guevara
35 Middle-ear membrane
38 Old card game
39 Shade source
40 Ram's mate
42 Of Hebrew descent
45 Light-house light
49 Shaving cream additive
50 Tokyo's old name
52 Tardy
53 Catherine, Henry VIII's sixth wife
54 Moreover
55 Grand story
56 BPOE members
57 Deposit
58 Dilbert's work-place
21 Actor McBride
24 Salamander
25 Weep
26 Student's assignment
1 Eastern potentate
2 24 bottles
3 Peal
4 In the preceding month
5 Where you grew up
6 Literary collection
7 Genesis name
8 Tranquil
9 Nostalgic, in a way
10 Port of Yemen
11 Camper's shelter
19 Mother
29 One dis-inclined to do the town
30 "Eureka!"
31 Trawler need
36 Needle-nose tool
37 Mornings (Abbr.)
38 Un-opened
41 You and I
42 Scoff
43 Israeli airline
44 Get better
46 Garb for Superman
47 Elevator name
48 Choker location
51 "CSI" evidence

Yesterday's answer 2-23

