**Play**

**Struggling to create a new ad campaign for Kellogg’s Raisin Bran, ad exec Danny Nichols took a box of the product home, then spent the evening analyzing it, trying to single out those qualities that separated this brand from the pack. As a matter of course, he dumped the contents onto the kitchen table and began to play with them. Grabbing a miniature scoop he used to measure out coffee, he filled it with raisins. Twice. The next day, when asked by his agency if he had come up with anything, he informed them that he had. “There are two scoops of raisins in every box,” he announced. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 38)**

**The big business of adult coloring books: "Once considered little more than a novelty," coloring books for grown-ups have become a "bright spot" for publishers and retailers alike, said Sarah Halzack in The Washington Post. Some 12 million adult coloring books were sold in 2015, up from 1 million the year before, according to estimates by Nielsen Bookscan. Sales of colored pencils have also shot up more than 26 percent. Attracted by elaborate illustrations that are beautiful in their own right, stressed-out adults see the books as "a calming distraction from hours spent tapping, swiping, and staring at screens." Craft retailer Michael's now carries more than 150 adult coloring books; Walmart has added a "dedicated 4-foot section for adult coloring books" in 2,000 of its stores. "I've been in this business for 20 years, and I've never seen anything like this," said Kathleen Schmidt, vice president at Running Press, which publishes humor and craft books. (The Week magazine, March 25, 2016)**

**Have regular hours for work and play; make each day both useful and pleasant, and prove that you understand the worth of time by employing it well. Then youth will be delightful, old age with bring few regrets, and life will become a beautiful success. (Louisa May Alcott)**

**One of my clients, a computer architect, has this to say about the subject: “Play is what I do for a living; the work comes in organizing the results of the play.” He realizes that there are two sides to the creative process. The play side enables him to try various approaches (perhaps some traditional ones, some fantastic ones, and some crazy ones), to learn what works and what doesn't and to take this knowledge to germinate new ideas. The work side enables him to take what he has learned, evaluate it, corroborate his findings with existing knowledge, and to put it into a form which will be useful. (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 98)**

**The folly of banning rough play: "No roughhousing. No superhero games. No tag. And certainly no dodgeball." These are the new norms on school playgrounds through the U.S., said Virginia Postrel, as educators try to impose a "zero tolerance" policy on any kind of aggressive play by kids. It's all based on the nonsensical belief that playing rough will make kids more aggressive and antisocial; in reality, the opposite is true. Psychological research shows that aggressive physical play is not only good exercise for our increasingly inactive school kids, "it's essential to childhood development." In such games, kids learn to communicate verbally and non-verbally, how to follow rules, how to win and lose, how their bodies move, and how much strength they can use without hurting others. Yes, some particularly aggressive kids get too rough during such games, but these are precisely the kids who need feedback and discipline to learn social norms. When kids are banned from any expression of their natural aggression, research indicates, they "actually tend to be more violent in later life." To grow up, kids need experience in the real, rough-and-tumble world. Adults should stop depriving them of it. (The Week magazine, October 16, 2015)**

**Remember what the umpire says at the beginning of each and every baseball game: “Play Ball,” not “Work Ball.” (David J. Seibert)**

**Shortly after we moved to a new house near Atlanta, I installed a basketball backboard above the garage door. As it turned out, none of our children used it, so I was the lone hoop shooter in the family -- I had played in high school and a church league 25 years before. Now the neighbors could see me practicing my fade-away jump shots, behind-the-back dribbling and reverse layups. One Sunday afternoon, my wife and I were in the living room when the doorbell rang. She opened the door and beheld three neighborhood boys, each holding a basketball. They were all on the high-school team, which was a perennial state play-off contender. What they asked her made my week: "Can your husband come out to play?" (David P. Millier, in Reader's Digest)**

**Being foolish is a form of play. If necessity is the mother of invention, play is its father. When faced with a problem, let yourself play, risk being foolish. And write down the ideas that then come to you. (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head)**

**Billy says to his friend: “I can’t come over today. It’s my dad’s birthday, and I have to stay home and play with him.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Grandma: “What happened to all the bologna I just bought?” Grandpa: “Nelson and I’ve been using it.” Grandma: “Using it? Using it for what?” Grandpa: “For making bologna snowflakes.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**Zoe: “I’m bored!” Mother: “Why don’t you play with Hammie?” Zoe: “Okay.” Suddenly Zoe whacks Hammie in the head. Mother: “I meant, play nice!” Zoe: “Why didn’t you say so?” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Billy: “I can’t play today ‘cause I’ve got something-itis.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**Dennis says to his Dad while playing a card game: “So, if this is called playin' cards, when does the playin' part come in?” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)**

**Dolly says to Jeffy: “I like playin’ cards on the computer ‘cause the cards never get dirty.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**We do not cease playing because we are old; we grow old because we cease playing. (Eric Butterworth, in How to Improve Your Life)**

**Husband: “Dithers treats me like a child!” Wife: “Why? What happened, honey?” Husband: “I was sitting at my desk building a little fort out of paper clips, and he sneaked up from behind and shot me with a rubber band!” *(Dean Young & Denis Lebrun, in Blondie comic strip)***

**Children's Christmas toys would last much longer if the grownups were given some of their own to play with. (Greenfield, Indiana, Reporter)**

**Jeffy asks his Dad: “When I get to college, what toys will they have for me to play with?” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Underwater pioneer Jacques Yves Cousteau’s long trail of experiments was inspired by the desire to see more, dive deeper, stay longer and above all to “have fun.” “It’s fun to do things you’re not made to do,” he said, “like going to the moon or living under the ocean. I was playing when I invented the aqualung. I’m still playing. I think play is the most serious thing in the world.” *(Sara Davidson, in New York Times Magazine)***

**The suits in a deck of cards represent the four major pillars of society in the Middle Ages: hearts represent the church, spades represent the military, clubs represent agriculture, and diamonds represent the merchant class. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**You know that old saying: "You're never too old to play. You're only too old for low-rise jeans." *(Ellen DeGeneres, television host)***

**Billy says to his Mom: “I wouldn’t get this dirty if you’d just let me play my Xbox.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Researchers have found that doctors who spend at least three hours a week playing video games make about 37 percent fewer mistakes in laparoscopic surgery than surgeons who didn’t play video games at all. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 54)***

**I picture each day as if it were a happy dog looking at me. I may not be in the mood, but the dog always wants to play. Trust the dog. *(John Patrick Shanley, playwright)***

**Dolly: “Do you play with your dollhouse much when I’m not visitin’ you, Grandma?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Spring bursts today, for Christ is risen and all the earth’s at play. *(Christina Rossetti)***

**What we are doing our working hours determines what we have; what we do in our leisure hours determines what we are. *(George Eastman)***

**It is a happy talent to know how to play. (*Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**One man, the president of a microprocessor company, told me that playfulness is one of his keys to success. “When we hire new people, we're not so concerned with how intelligent or efficient they are. To us, the important characteristics are their playfulness and their intensity. When people have these two traits, they're enthusiastic -- and these are the ones who generate new ideas. I might add that the word ‘enthusiasm’ comes from the Greek word ‘enthousiasmos' which means ‘the God within you.’ Enthusiastic people seem to have access to a spirit which serves as the source of their inspiration.” (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 98)**

**Alfred C. Gilbert (1884-1961) started his company in 1909 and invented his Erector set in 1913. His inspiration reportedly was the steel construction girders used on a nearby railroad. After the U.S. entered WWI, authorities contemplated a ban on toy production. Gilbert went to meet with them, accompanied by several men carrying bulky packages. The packages contained only toys, including his Erector sets. The U.S. secretaries of commerce, war and the interior were invited to play with them and soon were on their hands and knees. Gilbert told them his toys helped build “solid American character.” The officials played and talked for 3 hours before voting down the ban on toys. The press called Gilbert the “man who saved Christmas.” (Reminisce magazine)**

**The father, playing with his train set and holding a few more toys in his hands, says to his son: “One day, kid, this will all be yours.” (Jim Unger, in Herman comic strip)**

**Famous people whose favorite toys were toy soldiers: Charles Lindbergh, Henry Luce, Elizabeth II, Dalai Lama, Ingmar Bergman, Thomas Mann, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. (World Features Syndicate)**

**Child says to Mother: “We wanted to buy you toys, but Daddy said you'd rather play with flowers.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**George knocked on the door of his friend’s house. When his friend’s mother answered he asked, “Can Albert come out to play?” “No,” said the mother. “It’s too cold.” “Well, then,” said George, “can his football come out to play?” (Tidbits)**

**For amusement, it was agreed by four friends holidaying in Switzerland that each would write a ghost story. Percy B. Shelley, George Byron, and Dr. John William Polidori never finished theirs. Only eighteen-year-old Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin did. She published it anonymously two years later, in 1818, with a preface by her husband, Shelley. Mary Shelley’s novel about Dr. Victor Frankenstein and his monstrous creation became a classic. (Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 215)**

**Old boys have their playthings as well as young ones; the difference is only in the price. (Ben Franklin)**

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**Husband says to wife: “Just because the game is over doesn’t mean we have to stop playing. I could still throw a few passes your way, as long as you promise there’ll be plenty of holding penalties.” *(Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)***

**Games -- really fun, captivating games -- are the mental counterpoint of physical exertion. If you work up a mental sweat doing something that is also fun, you keep the psyche agile because you’ve tingled your brain cells in a way they won’t forget. The cells actually thicken and grow as you learn. *(Gene Cohen, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Grandma: “What’s that, a new garbage can?” Grandpa: “It’s not just a garbage can, it’s an infrared garbage can. It opens by itself when you hold garbage up to it, and then it closes itself. See?” Grandma: “How long have you been playing with the garbage can?” Grandpa: “Couple hours.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**While observing Mr. Wilson down on his hands and knees in the garden, Dennis thinks to himself: “Gardenin’ is just an excuse for grownups to play in the dirt.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

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**A doctor died and went to heaven, where he found a long line at St. Peter’s gate. As was his custom, the doctor rushed to the front, but St. Peter told him to wait in line like everyone else. Muttering and looking at his watch, the doctor stood at the end of the line. Moments later a white-haired man wearing a white coat and carrying a stethoscope and medical bag rushed up to the front of the line, waved to St. Peter, and was immediately admitted through the Pearly Gates. “Hey!” the doctor shouted. “How come you let him through?” “Oh,” said St. Peter, “that’s God. Sometimes he likes to play doctor.” *(Patricia Thomas, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dolly says to her siblings as they play together at the beach: “Every day God lets some water out so there’s room to play on the beach.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The game of tag may precede the human race. British biologists have found that gorillas play tag, in much the same way as people do. The researchers studied three years’ worth of videos of gorillas interacting in zoos, and saw a pattern of play that looked very familiar: First gorilla hits second gorilla, then runs away and tries to avoid getting hit back; swap roles and repeat. Higher-ranking animals can tag lower-ranking ones much harder, while lower-ranking animals usually just tap their betters. The game, researchers say, serves as a means for apes to test out what is acceptable with peers of various ranks. Playing tag “helps young gorillas to improve their social and cognitive skills,” study co-author Marina Davila Ross tells ABC Science. The finding, she says, also suggests that this form of play has deep roots in primates, and isn’t limited to humans and gorillas. “I think it’s very likely present in various species.” *(The Week magazine, July 30, 2010)***

**With the introduction of the Happy Meal, McDonald’s became the largest toy distributor in the world. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 137)***

**A little boy and girl were playing house and decided to go visiting next door. The little girl rang the bell and when the neighbor lady answered, she said, “We’re playing house. This is my husband. May we come in?” Enchanted by the scene, the lady responded, “By all means, come in.” The lady then offered “the couple” cookies and lemonade, which they happily accepted. But when she offered a second glass of lemonade, the girl declared, “No, thank you,” she said. “We have to go now. My husband wet his pants.” *(Sibyl Miller, in Reminisce)***

**Some of the important human inventions and ideas were originally conceived for the purpose of play--their practical value to be discovered later. A good example of this is the Moebius strip, a one-sided surface which has many unexpected properties. This topological idea was discovered by the German mathematician and astronomer Augustus Ferdinand Moebius (1790-1868). For years, the Moebius strip was considered to be the “plaything of topology” -- a nice amusement but not much more. In the last forty years, however, some practical applications have been found for the Moebius strip. Rubber manufacturers have used the Moebius strip for conveyor belts. The belt lasts longer because both sides are actually one and receive equal wear. Electronic engineers have found that a resistor with a twist bent back upon itself performs its function more efficiently. A continuous loop in a cassette cartridge will play twice as long if it has a twist in it. Chemists are exploring ways of making molecules in the shape of the Moebius strip. When they split, they get bigger rather than smaller. (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 100)**

**Another client had this to say about the interrelationship of play and innovation. “Humor, frivolity, and play have a place in this world. Most large companies should remember that they began with a person enjoying himself in the garage. Too many of today's managers, however, have eliminated fun and humor from the job, and hence have eliminated creativity.” To these people, I dedicate Laroff's credo: It is not so important to be serious as it is to be serious about the important things. The monkey wears an expression of seriousness which would do credit to any great scholar. But the monkey is serious because he itches. (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 99)**

**I have seen many eager leaders trying to bring others to the conference table, instead of to the party. They would be better off playing with their clients first. The world is bursting with joy. Jesus must have embodied that or he could not have been who he said he was. A transparent leader is full of joy, because nothing is hidden. Leaders who share their spontaneity and joy build love and loyalty. Bonding occurs when defenses are down, and nowhere are people more open to love than when they are playing. Jesus played with them. *(Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus, CEO, p. 266)***

**The father says to the child: “Just sit here a second, sweetie, while daddy checks the calendar. Hmmm, it looks like you’re scheduled for a playgroup this Saturday. You have to join a group in order to play?” *(Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)***

**My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, “You’re tearing up the grass.” “We’re not raising grass,” Dad would reply. “We’re raising boys.” *(Harmon Killebrew, Hall-of-Fame baseball player)***

Under a new law in New York state, childhood games such as tag, Wiffle ball, and horseshoes may soon be designated “non-passive recreational activities with significant risk of injury” subject to regulation by local health officials. Republican State Sen. Parry Ritchie says she’ll fight the proposal on behalf of her youngest constituents. “I’m just trying to save summer,” said Ritchie. *(The Week magazine, April 29, 2011)*

**The ancient Greeks knew that learning comes from playing. Their concept for education (paideia) is almost identical to their concept for play (paidia). Perhaps, Plato was thinking this when he said, “What, then, is the right way of living? Life must be lived as play.” If you are playing, then you are still learning and living. (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 97)**

**The children of Berlin can play as loudly as they like, thanks to a new city law. Residents living near playgrounds and other kid-friendly areas have long complained that local children make too much noise; the grumpy adults have even forced some day-care centers to close. But the city government last week declared that making noise is “an essential part of a child’s development” and placed it in the same category of “tolerable” din as church bells and street-cleaning vehicles. Berlin’s children must still observe “quiet times” at night and all day Sunday. (The Week magazine, March 5, 2010)**

**John Adams, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were avid marble collectors and players. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 101)***

**The masters of the art of living make little distinction between their work and their play, their labor and their rest, their minds and their bodies, their importance, their recreation, their love and their religion. They hardly know which is which. They simply pursue their vision of excellence at whatever they do, leaving others to decide whether they are working or playing*. (James Michener)***

**The zoo monkeys permitted to play with dolls live longer than the zoo monkeys that are not permitted to play with dolls. Studies so show. What do you make of it? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When I play with my cat, who knows if I am not a pastime to her more than she is to me? *(Montaigne)***

**In every real man a child is hidden who wants to play. *(Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher)***

**The opposite of play is not work. The opposite of play is depression. (Brian Sutton-Smith, scholar)**

**Thirty-five percent of parents play video games with their kids. Of those parents, 47 percent are women. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 249)***

**If so many people get hurt in war, why do they keep playin’ it? *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Mom: “No climbing, no throwing, no digging.” Dennis then says to his friend: “Don’t worry, Joey. There’s plenty of stuff she left out.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Elmo: “Mr. B., may we leave our pool toys in your garage so we can play with them tomorrow?” Mr. B.: “Sure, Elmo! Don’t worry, boys, I’ll take care of ‘em for you.” Mr. B. is then seen taking a bath, playing with the toys in his own bathtub. (Dean Young & John Marshall, in Blondie comic strip)**

**Trendy adults in Brooklyn are reliving their childhood at the world's first preschool for grown-ups. Preschool Mastermind charges up to $999 for a five-week course in which adults play dress up, sing "Wheels on the Bus," and make PlayDoh sculptures. The attendees include photographers, teachers and corporate lawyers. "It sounded so freeing, to go play and not deal with adult problems," said pupil Sarah Fader, 35, a CEO. *(The Week magazine, December 25, 2015)***

**What was John Tyler doing when he was informed that William Henry Harrison had died, making Tyler president? He was on his knees playing marbles. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 120)***

**A local ordinance in Atwoodville, Connecticut, prohibits people from playing Scrabble while waiting for a politician to speak. *(Absolute Trivia Website)***

**Queen Elizabeth II is into 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Mickey Mouse isn't the only rodent that knows how to chuckle. According to an article in Science Week online magazine, “If rats are tickled in a playful way, they really emit (laughter-like chirps). The tickled rats became socially bonded to the experimenters and were rapidly conditioned to seek tickles. They preferred spending time with other animals that chirped a lot rather than with those that did not.” (Rocky Mountain News, July 19. 2005)**

**Hide-and-seek with rats: Rats can be trained to play hide-and-seek, new research has found -- and they love the game so much it makes them leap and squeak in joy. A team of neuroscientists in Germany taught adolescent male rats to play in a 300-square-foot room fitted with boxes and barriers behind which rodents, or researchers, could hide. The rats started the game inside a box that could be remotely opened. They quickly learned that if the door was closed, they were seeking; if it was open, they were hiding. When they located the human player, or were found themselves, the rats would be rewarded with a tummy rub. The rodents developed pending strategies: going where a human had previously hidden or holing up in a box that was opaque rather than transparent. While playing, the rats let out high-pitched giggles -- inaudible to humans -- and made so-called joy jumps, both of which are believed to be expressions of happiness. The study reveals the complexities of play and of the animals that enjoy it, study leader Michael Brecht tells the Los Angeles Times. "We should have more appreciation for our playful capacities." (The Week magazine, October 4, 2019)**

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**Seems quaintly curious, does it not, that we recite in plays and play in recitals. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Play is often talked about as it it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood. (Fred Rogers, Family Communications)**

**Dennis looks around and says to his friends: “This looks like a safe place to play, buys. I don’t see any windows.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**My son asked his grandmother and me to play with him in his new sandbox in our front yard. He equipped us each with a shovel and pail, which we promptly put to use at his request. As my mother and I became involved in conversation, we began to notice that people passing by seemed very interested in what we were doing. It was then that we realized we’d been so busy talking we hadn’t noticed that Jason had gone into the back yard to play – leaving us alone in the sandbox. *(Esther Sears, in Reader’s Digest)***

**After a few days in kindergarten, my daughter came home with a question. “Mom, kids in class say there is no Santa Claus,” she said. “Is it true?” “Yes,” I said reluctantly, sensing it time to admit the truth. “It’s just a game mommies and daddies play to have fun with their children.” She looked at me for a moment then said thoughtfully,” Can we still play the game?” *(Phyllis Orlando, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Another client, a satellite design manager, told me that at one of his design meetings everyone was in a very playful mood. People started making fun of the satellite. They made jokes about it. They made bad puns about it. They even played with the whole notion of what a satellite is. The meeting turned out to be their most productive one in months. The next week, everyone approached their design problems in a serious mood, and no new ideas were generated. (Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 98)**

**Servant: “How can Dr. Zook take time out during the week when his patients need him?” Hagar: “He says it’s no problem. In an emergency he can always see a patient on the golf course!” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

**Billy says to his Dad as he scoops sand out of the bucket at the beach: “You don’t have to show me how to do it – I already know how they work.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**In 1979 Willie Stargell was being interviewed by a reporter. (If you don't remember Willie, he was the captain and first baseman of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. He was leading his team to the Pennant and the World Series.) The reporter asked him “Willie, how do you do it? You're 38 years old (over the hill for some ball players) and you're still leading your team to the World Series.” Willie replied: “We listen to the umpire.” Reporter: “What do you mean?” Willie: “After the Star Spangled Banner's played, what's the first thing the umpire says?” Reporter: “Play ball!” Willie: “That's right. We play ball. We don't work ball!” (Joe Sabah)**

**Hattie: “Can Wilberforce play?” Dad: “I’m afraid not -- he’s sick in bed with the flu!” Hattie: “Then can I come in and play with his stuff?” *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**While visiting the ocean, Dolly asks: “Is it okay to play in the suds?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**I tried to teach my child with books. He only gave me puzzled looks. I tried to teach my child with words. They passed him by, often unheard. Despairingly, I turned aside. “How shall I teach this child?” I cried. “Come,” said he, “Play with me!” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Charles Pajeau invented Tinker Toys. They sold well, then not so well. He hired midgets to play with them in a show window at New York City’s Grand Central Station. Then they sold even better than before. That’s sales promotion. (L. M. Boyd)**

**When he’s had it up to here with life on Capitol Hill, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, farmer and Iowa Republican, goes to his closet and reaches for a briefcase marked “Top-Secret.” Inside are a tiny model railroad track, an electric train, Lilliputian farm animals, a small farmhouse, and even an engineer’s cap, which the Senator puts on. “It makes me laugh just to think about it,” remarks Grassley’s press secretary, Beverly Hubble. “The Senator zooms the train along the track – and suddenly the mood around the office has lightened. (New York Times)**

**Hammie: “Wanna play twactors, Zoe?” Zoe: “I am a girl, and girls don’t play with tractors!” Hammie: “Wanna play twactors, Mom?” Mom: “Okay!” Zoe: “Hey!” Hammie: “She’s not a girl, she’s a Mom.” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**A home-economics teacher was trying to encourage her third-graders to try new foods. The teacher had a piece of venison, which she cut up into little squares. She placed the pieces on spoons and gave them to each of the children. “Now, boys and girls, the game we’re going to play today is to taste this new food, and to guess the name of the animal from which this meat came,” the teacher said. “I’ll give you a hint -- it’s a name that sometimes your mommy calls your daddy when he comes home from the office.” There was a long pause. Finally a youngster in the back exclaimed, “Don’t eat it!” *(Executive Speechwriter Newsletter)***

**Billy says to the boy playing with a sling shot: “We’re not allowed to play with weapons of mass destruction.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Zoe: “I’m bored!” Mother: “Why don’t you play with Hammie?” Zoe: “Okay.” Suddenly Zoe whacks Hammie in the head. Mother: “I meant, play nice!” Zoe: “Why didn’t you say so?” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

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**Every January and February, large gray whales make their way down the Pacific Coast from Alaska to the lagoons in Baja California, Mexico. You would think that the whales would be in a hurry to get to the lagoons of Baja to give birth to their young. But the whales take time to dive deep and then leap up above the ocean surface. They frolic through the kelp beds, while eating their "daily bread," the plankton that feed on the kelp. We would think that the whale's migration is serious business, that their movement needs to be completed on time and according to schedule. It surprises us that they take time to play. (Gordon A. Beck, in Portals of Prayer)**

**Beluga whales play tag. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**When people see that I'm quiet, they think something's wrong. In down times I like to go for a long bike ride or run. The other thing I'm doing in that quiet time is just observing. But I'm also recharging. The truth is I'm probably addicted to laughter. My energy has been described as manic, but it's more like that of a kid having a great time. (*Robin Williams)***

**What would life be without play. (Diane Ackerman)**

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**Edward Durell Stone is often spoken of as the successor to Frank Lloyd Wright, the world’s outstanding architect. His design of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India, was praised by Wright as one of the finest buildings in the last one hundred years. He is a dynamic personality, yet with an air of calmness about him. Not that he is at all complacent for he knows that he will never be able to get done all that his mind tells him could be done. Still, at heart he is an easy-going Arkansas boy. “Don’t work too hard,” he says. “If you find that you do not have enough ideas in an eight-hour day, the chances are that your soul needs therapy.” (*William R. Buttendorp, Church Herald)***

**Learn to play by working at it. *(J. Sig Paulson, Unity minister)***

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