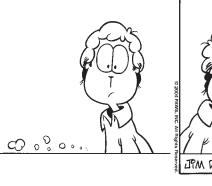


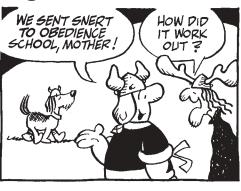
Garfield • Jim Davis







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





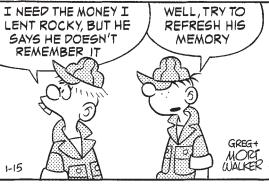
Blondie • Chic Young







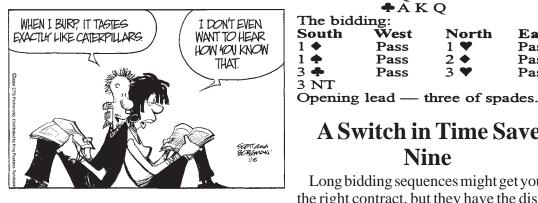
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





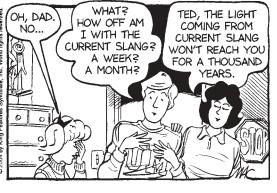
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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WEATHER

NEWS





Cryptoquip



PUIFVPFZLQGCV

QSCRRHQGZT PSQ JPCJ EGXS

GR ZF WSL FX ZSHQFRSR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN DIVING BIRD DISCOVERED AN APPLE, I GUESS THAT'D BE FRUIT OF THE LOON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

Girl learns comfort from cat's death

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-yearold girl. My grandfather passed

Then my rabbit died. On top of that, my cat, "Rocky," was diagnosed with cancer. It spread to all parts of his body. After hearing Rocky cry out in pain at 3 a.m., my family and I made the heartwrenching decision to have him put to sleep. We took him to the vet, where I stroked his fur and spoke softly to him as he peacefully departed.

My parents stayed behind to speak to the vet, but I couldn't stand seeing Rocky lying on the table, so I walked out to the waiting room, still sobbing.

The only other person there was an elderly man with a black Lab. With a foreign accent he asked what was wrong, and I tearfully told him my cat had just been put to sleep. He handed me a tissue and

said, "You made the right choice, dear. You were very unselfish. Just think how your pet would have suffered had you not done this for him." I asked if he had ever put a pet

to sleep, and he nodded. "Many times," he said. "Although it is sad, I think of it as one last act of love." I thought about his words because I had never thought of it

"Here," the man said, gesturing to his dog, "sometimes animals can comfort best." I knelt beside his dog, still crying, and the friendly Lab made me smile in spite of my sadness.

Then my parents came out and said it was time to go. I never found out the man's name, but I'd like to thank him for that act

Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

show up just when we need them most. (I'll bet you didn't expect yours to have an accent and a canine companion.) The following may bring more comfort to you.

It's worth remembering.

A DOG'S PRAYER by Beth Norman Harris

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest hands. music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

ask no greater glory than the Calif. 90069.

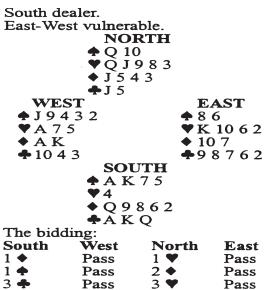
of kindness. I'll never forget how privilege of sitting at your feet he helped me when I was hurting. beside the hearth. Though you - MISSING ROCKY IN had no home, I would rather MOUNT PROSPECT, ILL. follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest DEAR MISSING ROCKY: pillow in the warmest home in Our guardian angels seem to all the land, for you are my god and I am your devoted worship-

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life should your life be in dan-

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, When it is cold and wet, please and was founded by her mother, take me inside, for I am now a Pauline Phillips. Write Dear domesticated animal, no longer Abby at www.DearAbby.com or used to bitter elements. And I P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles,

Bridge



A Switch in Time Saves Nine

Long bidding sequences might get you to the right contract, but they have the disadvantage of drawing a road map for the defenders to exploit.

West had a difficult choice of opening leads and selected a spade.

This might have worked well if East had held a couple of spade honors, but in the actual situation, dummy's ten won the opening trick.

Declarer led a diamond to his nine, losing to the king, and West now had to find the right play to defeat the contract.

He solved the problem neatly when he led the ace of hearts and continued with the seven after East signaled with the six.

Declarer played the queen from dummy, and East contributed to the excellent defense by following with the deuce.

South could do no better than lead another diamond, whereupon West took the ace and returned a heart, and East scored the K-10 of hearts to put the contract down

From West's viewpoint, once his opening lead proved ineffective, his only chance was to attack hearts.

The bidding had marked declarer with either a singleton or void in hearts — South had bid three suits—and a heart switch was therefore clearly indicated.

There was no hope of stopping the contract unless East had four or five hearts headed by the K-10. East's duck of dummy's queen of hearts

was based on the assumption that West had to have another heart and a further entry card as well. East was in the same position as West, in-

sofar as judging South's distribution was concerned.

He likewise had to hope the cards were divided as they were, since otherwise the contract could not be defeated.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Sorry. This is people food, and you're not a people."

Crossword

ACROSS 1 Scoff 5 Potato — 9 Adipose tissue 12 Model Macpher- son 13 Ford or	37 Rope fiber 38 Also-ran 40 Derek or Diddley 41 He loved Juliet 43 Bamboo eaters 47 Past	 3 Scatter extraordinaire 4 Aspirin's purpose 5 Audis and Fords 6 Coloration 7 "— 	24 Tarzan's son 25 Exploit 26 Lycan- thropy instigator 27 Collapse 29 Physicist Georg
Lincoln	48 Flush	Impos-	Simon
14 "This	beater	sible"	_
tastes	51 Showman	8 Riddle	30 Coxcomb
awful!"	Ziegfeld	9 At maxi-	35 "The
15 Super-	52 Vicinity	mum	Gold
formal-	53 Curb	speed	Bug"
wear	54 X rating?	10 Screen-	writer
17 Main-	55 Endorse a	writer	37 Fetes
lander's	check	James	39 Parlor
memento	56 Bed-	11 Willowy	pieces
18 Talents	frame part		40 "Hum-
19 Actor De-		Joanne	bug!"
Generes	DOWN	20 Sad	41 Missis-
21 Good	1 Comic	22 Dido	sippi
(Pref.)	Foxworthy		trans-
22 Ersatz	2 Hebrew	surrepti-	port
chocolate	month	tious hand	42 Give
24 Polish	Solution tim	o: 25 mine	the eye
27 Semi			to
compart-	FACT GE		43 Blueprint
ment	PAMPHLE	TEMME	44 Burr-
28 Bowwow	STPAUL	HARPER	Hamilton
31 Columbus	Z E E A M S Y O U	E T C H M E O W S	battle
sch.	PAYSNF		45 Tibet's
32 Mimic 33 Greek	TEMPOO		place 46 Faxed
letter	P I K E B E H E S T	N I S E S C A P E	49 Swiss
34 Shrill bark	AGOGHU		
36 11/11	L A N E I M	I A W E R E	canton 50 Journey
honoree	I D Y L C A		segment
Honoree	Yesterday'	s answer 1-15	segment

43 Blueprint 44 Burr-Hamilton battle 45 Tibet's place 46 Faxed 49 Swiss canton 50 Journey