





For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston









Garfield • Jim Davis







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





Blondie • Chic Young







Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker







Zits• Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott











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WEATHER

NEWS



Cryptoquip

K J Q B Q A Q V M H R V R E B U

ZQDZAQ VDAAQVM,

R RLEXRBQ UDLQDBQ KRAA

EVVQZM MJQ VJEHXQU. Saturday's Cryptoquip: IT COULD BE SAID

THAT "E PLURIBUS UNUM" IS A PHRASE THAT'S BEEN COINED MANY TIMES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals C

Bride worries about second time

DEARABBY: I am engaged to be married on Valentine's Day. He is a wonderful man; we have been together for three years. It will be the second marriage for both.

I really like this man. He's funny, witty and kind. He loves me and my children, and they love him very that we're soul mates. Is this just a fantasy? What if I'm making another mistake? I don't want to hurt anyone, but I can't help feeling that since I don't feel butterflies after being with him for more than three years, something is missing.

Am I being silly or looking for something that does not exist?

— STILL LONELY

DEAR STILL LONELY: The thing about "butterflies" is, if you don't catch them and mount them, they tend to fly away. I often suspect that when people talk about butterflies, they are describing a mixture of anxiety and excitement otherwise known as infatuation O-which isn't permanent. However, if you truly feel lonely when you're with this funny, witty, kind and likable man, after three years of dating, then he isn't the life partner for vou. Let him go. It wouldn't be much of a marriage if you felt you were in solitary confinement.

DEAR ABBY: I'm getting married in the summer. Everything is great except for one issue that is about to explode. I have two nieces, 3 and 8, who will be flower girls along with a third girl. My fiancee wants the girls to be taken to another room with a baby sitter after the ceremony and cocktail hour. I fear an ugly scene because my

older niece and I have a special relationship, and she loves weddings. My family would like her to stay for the reception.

East-West vulnerable.

♦ J 3

NORTH KQ987

♣QJ983

SOUTH

♦ K Q 10 9 8 6 5

Pass

— queen of diamonds.

♥AJ93

South

Pass

EAST

♣K 10 7 6 4 2

Pass

Pass

All Pass

♠ J 10

♥ 5 4 2

♦ A 7

Bridge

East dealer.

WEST ♠ A 6 5 4 3

4 4 2

The bidding:

Opening lead -

East

Pass

♥K O 10 8 6

Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

much. My problem is I do not feel I wanther to have the wedding of her dreams. How should I handle this?

> DEAR GROOM-TO-BE: Handle it firmly. The wedding is not were fine until he started hanging only the bride's day, it is also your

While I understand the wisdom of the small children being entertained separately, the 8-year-old should be mature enough to beshould not be excluded.

DEAR ABBY: My 10-year-old son is extremely sensitive. The kids in his class know it and love to pick on him. I've talked to his teacher, but she can't seem to catch them in the act. I don't know what else to do. He is becoming depressed and eating less and less. I'm worried about him, but I don't know what to tell him to make him feel better. How can I help

DEAR MOTHER: Get your son involved in outside activities new friends who haven't been influenced by his classmates. This will also give him a chance to excel at something that interests him. Being bullied is something that can affect a person's self-imwith a counselor to help him build self-esteem may also be in order.

P.S. Most important, notify the school principal, who can and should implement a "zero toler-It's the bride's day, of course, and ance" policy toward bullying.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man I'll call Ben for five months. — GROOM-TO-BE He recently quit his job to go back to school full time (he's 29), and I support him financially. Things out with some college kids who live next door to us.

When Ben and I are alone or around his adult friends, things are fine. But when he gets around these fellow students, which is often, Ben have properly at the celebration. mocks me in front of them. For ex-Since you want her there, she ample, when I go next door to tell him dinner is ready, he'll start making fun of me in a really embarrassing and juvenile way.

I know it may be fun for him to relive his college days, but being made to look like a fool in front of his buddies is starting to wear thin.

I have discussed this with him. He insists that he's just playing around (even though I wind up in tears), and says that I'm too controlling, this is his only life, and he's only having fun. Is this something he's going to — CARING MOTHER grow out of?

DEAR TIRED: Not without and give him a chance to cultivate help. What you're describing isn't immaturity; it's hostility. You say you are supporting him while he attends school full time. Perhaps the burden of gratitude has grown uncomfortably heavy, so he's taking it out on you and trying to age for many years. Some sessions make himself look less dependent in front of his schoolmates. He could also be using you. Regardless of his motive, he is showing disregard for your feelings. Put your foot down now or it will get

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"... The White House has a swimmin' pool, a bowling alley and a movie theater.'

43 Avaricious 2 Bovine

pro-

3 B&B

4 Road

foe

5 Really

6 Carnival

7 Apples

and

pears

heredity

8 Rooted

9 Ulnar

nerve

area

11 Radiate

16 Pitching

10 Sandwich

cookie

with light

Runner's

45 Religious

retreat

47 Appre-

48 Miss

hend

49 Item for

Piggy's

pronoun

one who's

strapped

for cash?

54 Below par

55 Babble

56 Meadow

57 Scale

note

58 Ecclesi-

59 Teeny

DOWN

astical

council

Shade of

Solution time: 24 mins.

20 Part of

21 Trash

22 Director

Kazan

ski slope

23 Amateurs

27 Calendai

29 Incursion

30 Role for

32 A-line

34 Ignition-

37 Writers'

39 Asked

42 Atlanta

44 Undergo

woes

Calista

creator

current

generato

Almighty

university

recession 45 Writer

Kingsley

46 Unaccor

panied 50 Bread of

Indian

cuisine

51 2003

52 Main-

53 Bill

Will

Ferrell

movie

lander's

square

Crossword

ACROSS

"What

Kind of

Fool -

bones

9 Visibility

usually

garnish

address

structure

12 Junior,

13 Gibson

14 Internet

15 Apiary

17 Modern

(Pref.)

18 Marseilles

19 Hitherto

24 Alluring

25 Eskimo

knife

28 Actress

31 Behave

35 Fuel

33 Highland-

er's cap

material

Worlds

38 Shrill bark

result

36 "War of

the

40 Zero

41 Bygone

times

26 Remnant

Winger

21 Forensics

practice

monarch

hindrance

4 Wrist

Famous Hand Part 1

In the closest and most dramatic final in the more than half-century history of the Bermuda Bowl, the United States defeated Italy to capture the world team championship held in Monte Carlo in mid-November last year.

Incredibly, the margin of victory for the Americans, after 128 grueling deals played over three days, was the smallest of all possible differences, 1 International Match Point — about the equivalent of a single overtrick at rubber bridge!

The U.S. triumph came after Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway and Richard Freeman-Nick Nickell had squandered a 62-IMP lead with 25 deals remaining to be played. In fact, with two deals to play, the Italians — Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace and Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes — were leading by 21 IMPs.

On the penultimate deal, Italy opened the door for the Americans by reaching five hearts and going down one while the U.S. pair at the other table stopped in four hearts.

This left the U.S. 11 IMPs behind heading into the last deal, shown here. The story of how they picked up 12 IMPs to win the title is presented today and tomorrow.

At the first table, with Italy holding the East-West hands, the bidding went as shown.

West's two-diamond bid showed both majors, and West later made a dubious decision to continue on to four hearts after East had competed to the three

East won the opening diamond lead with the ace, led a heart to the king, cashed dummy's ace of clubs and returned a low spade, losing to North's queen. North led a diamond to South's king, and South returned the heart nine, taken by dummy's queen. When declarer now tried to cash the spade ace,

South ruffed, cashed the heart ace and led a diamond, forcing dummy to ruff. Since declarer had no hearts left in his hand, he

had to lose all three of dummy's remaining spades to North at the end, so East finished down four -400 points for the U.S. This windfall for the Americans set the stage for

table, as we shall see tomorrow. Wednesday: Famous Hand — Part 2. (c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.

a series of astonishing developments at the other