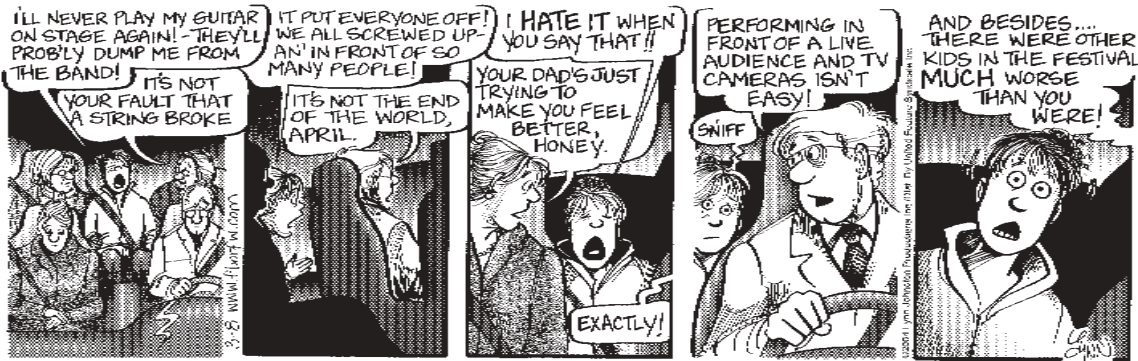
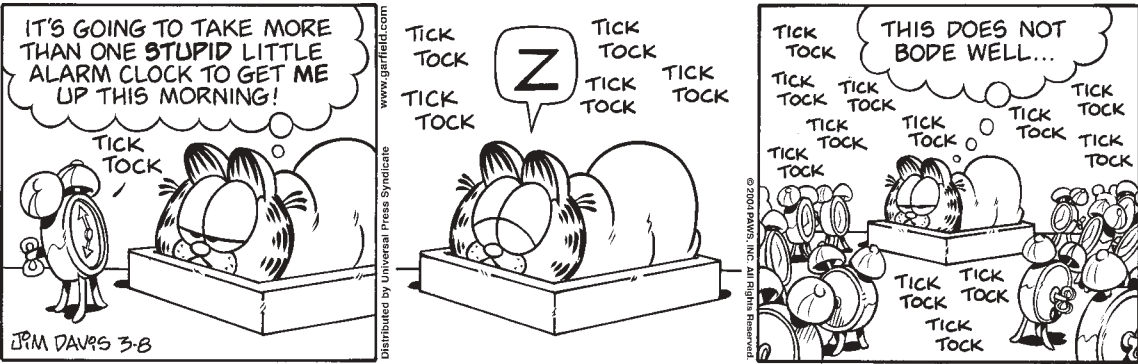


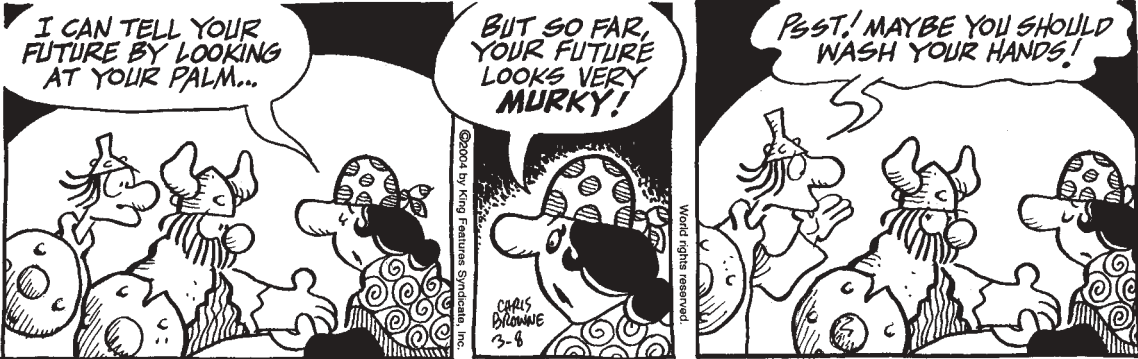
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



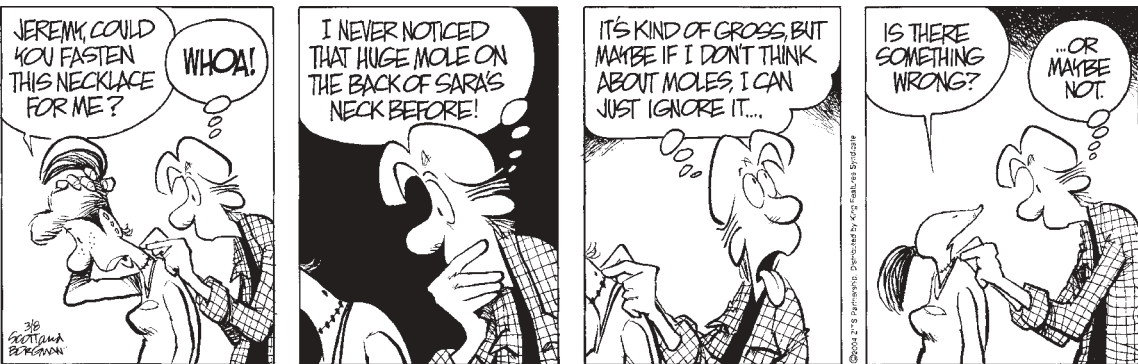
Blondie • Chic Young



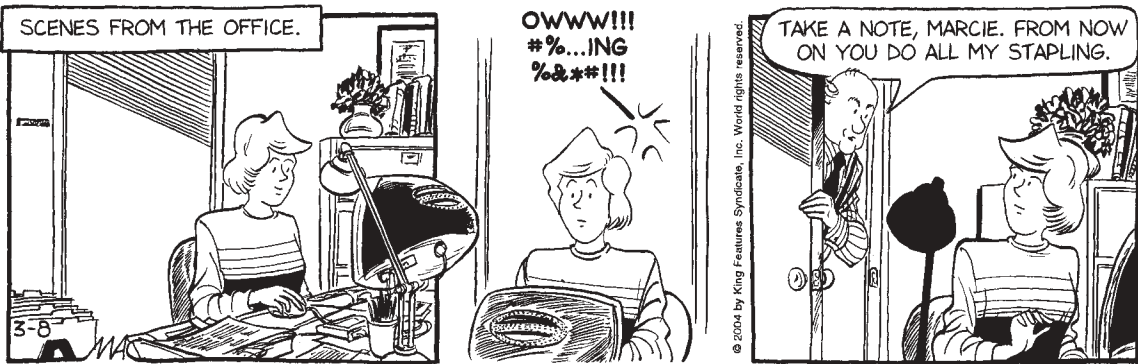
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

KX VLD RBLDAH MYTLMGB

M HLLT NBMN BMR M

Q F M D N K X D A , X M S G V

HLLTQFAA, HLS'N JSLGJ KN!

Saturday's Cryptoquip: MY DAD FINALLY KNOWS WHAT POISON IVY LEAVES LOOK LIKE. HE LEARNED IT FROM SCRATCH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

Mom outraged with child care

DEAR ABBY: I am 28 years old and a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

Recently, a friend I'll call "Toni" asked if my 5-year-old daughter, "Chris," could stay overnight with her 4-year-old son. I have always said no, but this time Chris wanted so badly to do it that I said yes.

Toni knows how protective I am. She assured me Chris would be safe in her care. So my husband and I went to a movie and dinner. Since we were in the neighborhood, we stopped by around 10 p.m. to check on our daughter. When we arrived, we found Toni had gone to a party and left the children with a teenage baby sitter.

The children were upstairs jumping on the bed and raising Cain. I was horrified that my child had been left with a stranger when my friend had assured me she would be there. We packed up our little girl and left.

Toni called later to find out what happened. I explained my feeling that she should not have left Chris with a stranger without discussing it with me first. She called me paranoid and said I have a mental disorder and that I can't always protect my child. Abby, I am not asking for advice. I am asking for your opinion so that I can prove a point. I want to open other parents' eyes to the fact that in this day and age we must do whatever is in our power to protect our children — no matter whose toes we step on.

— PARANOID MOTHER

DEAR PARANOID: I agree that parents must do everything they can to protect their children. However, that is not what your letter is really about. Your friend was wrong to lead you to believe she would be supervising your daughter when that wasn't the case. It was dishonest and unfair, and I don't blame you for taking your child home. I see nothing



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

wrong with parents socializing with other adults and leaving their children with a responsible sitter. But parents should have the right to screen the sitter themselves if they wish.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter returned to college after Christmas break, my live-in boyfriend, "Ollie," informed me that he considers her to be a "guest" in our home and that she had overstayed her welcome. I feel that since she is still in school and my dependent, my home is her home and she is welcome to spend her breaks with me. My other daughter starts college in the fall, and I don't want her to feel that she, too, is a "guest" when she comes home. This has been eating at me, Abby. I love Ollie, but there are no "choices" between my children and him. I thought he liked my children. I want to talk to Ollie to find out why he feels this way, and I am prepared to ask him to move out if he is firm about this.

Am I justified in drawing the line? — HURT AND CONFUSED

DEAR HURT: You certainly are. Because your live-in appears to be both presumptuous and controlling, be glad that he spoke up now. A child coming home for a holiday vacation is hardly a major invasion. Consider very carefully what his attitude will mean for you in years to come. It is your daughters' home as well as yours, and he should not be dictating how long they should stay.

DEAR ABBY: I have two friends

who divorced during the past year and now share custody of their children. During a recent argument, they began fighting over who gets to keep the church and the minister. So who does get custody of the minister? — THE MINISTER

DEAR MINISTER: Do not allow yourself to be drawn into something so petty. Both parties should be able to attend your church if they wish; there is usually more than one service on Sunday and separate sections in which to sit if they should happen to show up at the same time.

If they cannot agree to behave like civilized adults, then whichever one joined the church first should remain.

DEAR ABBY: I have two friends who divorced during the past year and now share custody of their children. During a recent argument, they began fighting over who gets to keep the church and the minister. So, Dear Abby, who does get custody of the minister? This is a new one on me. — THE MINISTER IN QUESTION

DEAR MINISTER: Do not allow yourself to be drawn into something so petty. Both parties should be able to attend your church if they wish; there is usually more than one service on Sunday and separate sections in which to sit if they should happen to show up at the same time.

If they cannot agree to behave like civilized adults, then whichever one joined the church first should remain.

Bridge

South dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠	Q 7 5	♠	K 8 6 3 2
♥	A 9 6 4 3	♥	8 7
♦	10 7 6	♦	A K Q J
♣	K 2	♣	J 4
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	J 10 9 4	♠	A
♥	J 2	♥	K Q 10 5
♦	9 3 2	♦	8 5 4
♣	A 9 8 7	♣	Q 10 6 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Famous Hand

It is certainly not rare for declarer to make a contract that could have been defeated. Sometimes this happens because the defenders slip even though the correct defense is fairly obvious, and sometimes it happens because the winning defense is complicated or hard to spot.

However, there is also another type of situation where the defense goes awry because declarer leads the defenders astray, causing them to go wrong in a perfectly innocent way.

Here is a case of this sort.

The deal occurred in the 1980 London Sunday Times Invitational Pair Championship. Declarer at four hearts was one of the world's top players, Bob Hamman, and he was faced with the task of trying to make the contract even though he had four obvious losers.

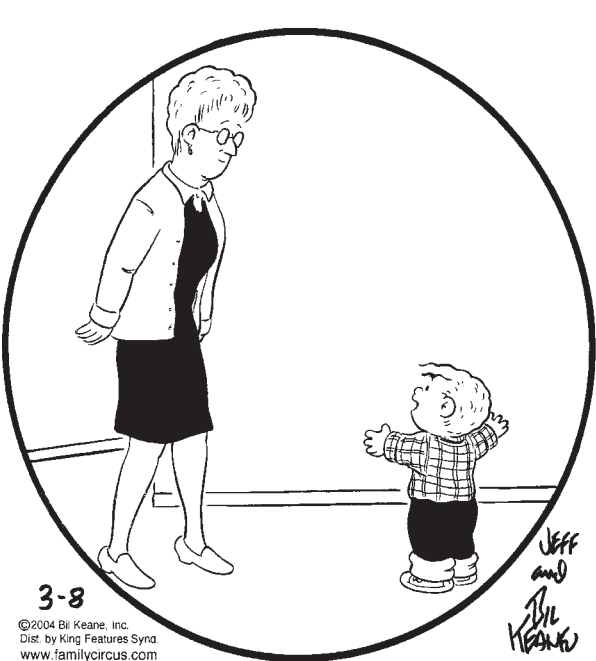
In an effort to mislead the opponents, Hamman made the extraordinary play of covering West's jack-of-spades lead with dummy's queen at trick one — even though Hamman held only the singleton ace. Everything went according to plan when East covered with the king and South won with the ace.

Next came the K-Q of trumps followed by a low club to dummy's king and a low club back to the jack, queen and ace. West now tried to cash the ten of spades — he had no way of knowing that South had started with the singleton ace — and all of a sudden Hamman was in full control.

He ruffed the spade ten, cashed the ten of clubs, discarding a diamond from dummy, and then ruffed a club, establishing his fifth club as a trick.

After ruffing dummy's last spade, Hamman discarded another diamond from dummy on the six of clubs, conceded a diamond trick and ended up making the contract with an overtrick to complete his seemingly impossible mission.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS		39 Loose dressing gowns	61 "Alice" spinoff	19 Prepared																																																																																																																																		
1 DVDs' fore-runners	41 Achieve	DOWN	21 Carnival city	23 After-hrs. bank																																																																																																																																		
4 Faux —	43 Animal wringer	1 Bin	25 This "Oz" character...	26 ... was startled by this one																																																																																																																																		
7 Coil of yarn	44 Movie rating org.	2 Extinct bird	27 Individuals	28 Hindu prince																																																																																																																																		
11 "Portnoy's Complaint" author	46 Different	3 Leftovers concoction	29 "— an earthquake, or ..."	30 Cushy																																																																																																																																		
13 A matter of pride	50 He's told to make a sad song better	4 Cribbage scorer	31 Erstwhile acorn	35 Tease																																																																																																																																		
14 Sunblock ingredient	53 Family	5 Malarial symptom	38 Shril bark	40 Cattle call																																																																																																																																		
15 Notion	55 Rain	6 Echo-location method	42 Bare	45 John/Rice collaboration																																																																																																																																		
16 Holster occupant	56 Cupid's field	7 "Man-eater" duo	47 Fifty percent	48 Malfice																																																																																																																																		
17 Eugene of "A Mighty Wind"	57 Conductor de Waart	8 Brewery product	49 Give an extreme makeover	50 Predication																																																																																																																																		
18 Athletic stadiums	58 Approached home, maybe	9 Calendar abbr.	51 Ms. Thurman	52 Two (Sp.)																																																																																																																																		
20 Count counterpart	59 Grand-scale	10 Crucial	54 Yule (beverage																																																																																																																																			
22 Meadow	60 Trygve's successor	12 Coopers-town inductees, e.g.																																																																																																																																				
Solution time: 24 mins.																																																																																																																																						
<table><tr><td>S</td><td>N</td><td>A</td><td>F</td><td>U</td><td>P</td><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>A</td></tr><tr><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>I</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>P</td><td>A</td><td>R</td><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>P</td><td>A</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>A</td><td>P</td><td>K</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>L</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>P</td><td>G</td><td>E</td><td>N</td><td>T</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>R</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>A</td><td>R</td><td>D</td><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>B</td><td>A</td></tr><tr><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>U</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>D</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>I</td><td>M</td><td></td><td>B</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>L</td><td>A</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>P</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>T</td><td></td><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>U</td><td>L</td><td>A</td><td>I</td><td></td><td>D</td><td>O</td><td>U</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>G</td><td>E</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>E</td></tr></table>					S	N	A	F	U	P	R	I	M	A	R	A	I	N	O	N	R	I	S	E	I	M	P	A	R	T	I	M	P	A	C	A	P	K	E	L	S	E	I	N	E	E	L	S	E	A	T	S	I	N	S	L	E	E	P	G	E	N	T	E				E	R	A	R				P	A	R	D	O	N	S		B	A	O	N	U	S		N	O	S		D	D	I	M		B	E	L	L	A	P	I	M	P	O	R	T		I	M	P	A	U	L	A	I		D	O	U	S	S	E	R	G	E		E	S	T	E
S	N	A	F	U	P	R	I	M	A																																																																																																																													
R	A	I	N	O	N	R	I	S	E																																																																																																																													
I	M	P	A	R	T	I	M	P	A																																																																																																																													
C	A	P	K	E	L	S	E	I	N																																																																																																																													
E	E	L	S	E	A	T	S	I	N																																																																																																																													
S	L	E	E	P	G	E	N	T	E																																																																																																																													
			E	R	A	R																																																																																																																																
P	A	R	D	O	N	S		B	A																																																																																																																													
O	N	U	S		N	O	S		D																																																																																																																													
D	I	M		B	E	L	L	A	P																																																																																																																													
I	M	P	O	R	T		I	M	P																																																																																																																													
A	U	L	A	I		D	O	U	S																																																																																																																													
S	E	R	G	E		E	S	T	E																																																																																																																													
Saturday's answer 3-8																																																																																																																																						