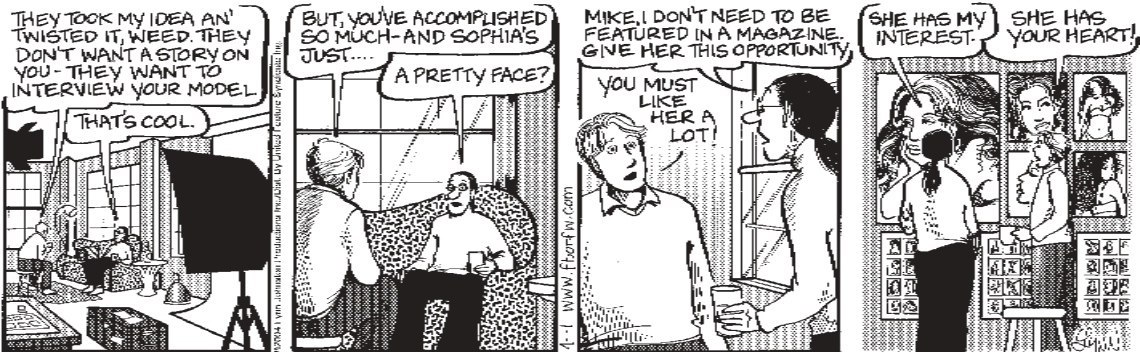


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



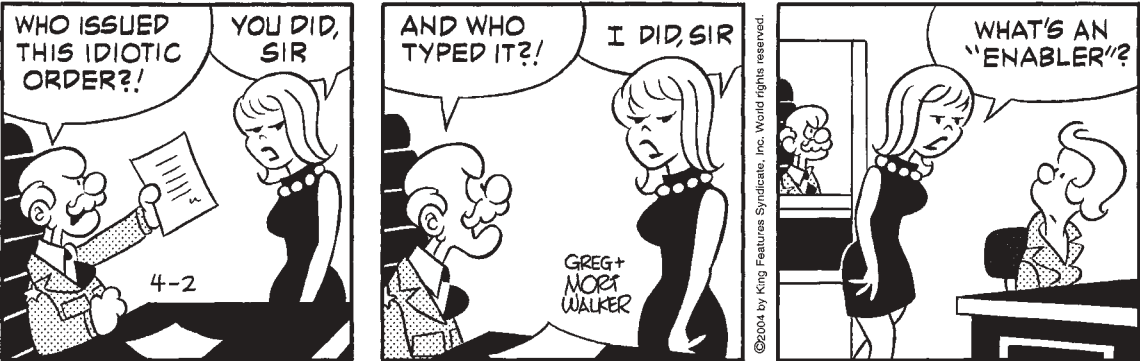
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



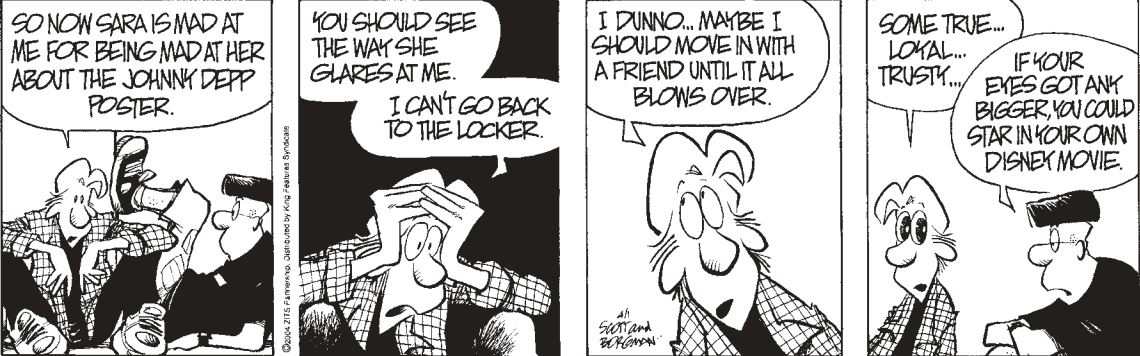
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

H G C Y R S Z M Z W F U M Q Y W U  
R C W U L C N W U S Z W W F U  
W Z H T C M ' N N F C L : " Q T C N U S  
G C M Z T W U M Z W H C R N . "  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ACADEMY'S  
DOORS ARE MADE ENTIRELY OF IRON. IT'S THE  
SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Cat shelters teach lessons of life

DEARABBY: Spring is here, and once again animal rescue workers are preparing for the inevitable: kitten season.

Shelters from coast to coast will soon be inundated with pregnant cats, mother cats with kittens and unwanted litters.

I am writing to remind people about the importance of spaying or neutering their cats.

Too often we hear about parents wanting to give their children an opportunity to witness the "miracle of birth," so they allow their cat to have one litter.

What most people don't know is that they can reduce the feline population by having their own cat spayed or neutered and still participate in the miracle.

All they need to do is contact any private or public animal shelter and offer to become foster parents to a pregnant cat. Their offer will be greatly appreciated.

The shortage of foster homes at this time of year is immense.

Most shelters, like our own, provide the foster families with support that includes: education about pregnant cats, testing of cats for feline AIDS and leukemia, medical attention when needed, help with supplies if the foster family is unable to pay, spaying or neutering of the mother cats and kittens, and finally — finding good permanent homes.

Thank you for getting the word out, Abby, and for all your support.

— JACQUELINE WOOD,  
MEOW CAT RESCUE IN  
KIRKLAND, WASH.

DEAR JACQUELINE: You have made a terrific suggestion, one I'm sure many people haven't considered.

Parents who want their children to witness the "miracle of birth" and plan to get rid of the cat and her litter should first ask themselves what kind of message they are sending.

By adopting your idea, the lesson would be conveyed that pets



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

are more than expendable commodities — their lives have value.

DEAR ABBY: I need help dealing with my alcoholic husband, "Tom."

He drinks from morning till night. Now my children say he's bribing them not to tell me.

What bothers me most is that he drinks and drives when he has our 10-year-old son, "Tommy," in the car with him.

Tommy described several places where his dad bought vodka and 7UP. Another time Tommy told me his father bought him candy at the movies so he wouldn't tell me about the drinking.

My mother-in-law has advised me to approach the matter "positively."

She thinks that if I tell Tom I can no longer trust him with the children, he will try to corrupt them to spite me.

I don't want my children to grow up to be liars and substance abusers. What can I do to fight this?

— TOM'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: I agree with your mother-in-law on one point. You should "positively" tell your husband that he will either get help for his drinking immediately or he is out the door.

Driving a child while under the influence is child endangerment! That he would bribe his son and encourage him to lie to you is an indication of how much his addiction to alcohol has impaired his judgment.

You cannot "fix" your husband; only he can do that. But at all costs you must protect your children.

The worst thing you can do under these circumstances is nothing.

I recommend that you attend some Al-Anon meetings. You will benefit from it.

Al-Anon is a 12-step fellowship of men, women, adult children, and children whose lives have been affected by the compulsive drinking of a family member or friend.

The toll-free number is (888) 425-2666.

DEAR ABBY: "Paul" and I have been dating for about 10 months. He is wonderful.

He is going through a divorce because throughout his 20-year marriage, he was unfaithful to his wife. Paul swears he will never cheat on me because I am exactly what he has been looking for.

Paul's friends are cheaters, too, and frankly, I'm worried he will eventually stray, no matter what he says now.

Recently Paul asked me to move in with him.

I am 32 and he's 46. Do you think because he's older now he will really be able to change?

— LOVING AN EX-CHEATER

DEAR LOVING: No, I do not. And birds of a feather flock together. Listen to your intuition. Instead of moving in, move on.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ A 4 2  
♥ 7 5 3  
♦ A K 8 7 6  
♣ 10 5

WEST  
♠ 10 3  
♥ K 9 4 2  
♦ J 5  
♣ Q J 9 7 2

EAST  
♠ 9 7  
♥ J 10 8  
♦ Q 10 9 3  
♣ 8 6 4 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦  
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♦  
4 NT Pass 5 ♥  
5 NT Pass 6 ♦  
6 ♣

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

A Question of Probabilities

Bridge is basically a game of percentages. You do well if you follow the odds, and you don't if you don't!

Assume you're declarer at six spades and West leads the queen of clubs.

You win with the ace and cash the K-Q of spades, finding the trumps divided 2-2. You then must decide which of three lines of play to adopt.

Perhaps the simplest approach is to cross to the king of diamonds and lead a heart to your queen. If the finesse succeeds, you're home. If it fails, you still have a reasonable chance to recover by cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond, making the slam if the opposing diamonds are divided 3-3 (a 36 percent chance).

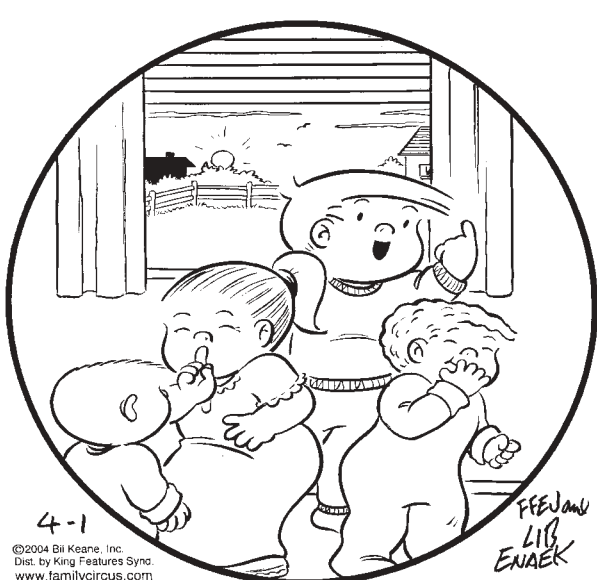
Alternatively, after drawing trumps, you could start by cashing the A-K of diamonds and ruffing a diamond. If the suit breaks 3-3, you make seven. If it doesn't, you can cross to dummy with a trump and try the heart finesse.

If you choose either of these lines of play, you have about a 68 percent chance of making the slam. Not bad, of course, but not as good as a third method of play, which consists of leading a low diamond from your hand at trick four and playing low from dummy!

Let's assume East wins and shifts to a heart. You go up with the ace, cash the A-K of diamonds, discarding a heart, and ruff a diamond to establish dummy's last diamond as a trick. You then lead a trump to the ace and discard the queen of hearts on the eight of diamonds to make the slam.

This approach succeeds whenever the diamonds are divided 3-3 or 4-2, an 84 percent probability. It is therefore the best percentage play.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>39</b> Brit. ref. bk.	<b>2</b> Frau's mate	<b>25</b> Fr. biz abbr.
<b>1</b> Cows and sows	<b>40</b> Prune	<b>3</b> Pennsylvania port	<b>26</b> Dr. Seuss book
<b>5</b> Cribbage scorer	<b>42</b> "Becker" star	<b>4</b> Time off for many	<b>28</b> Tikkanen of hockey
<b>8</b> Incite	<b>45</b> Gifford successor	<b>5</b> Breakfast treats	<b>29</b> Toddler's treat
<b>12</b> Indiana city	<b>50</b> Venomous viper	<b>6</b> Lamb's dam	<b>30</b> History chapter
<b>13</b> Hold the deed to	<b>52</b> Maleficence	<b>7</b> Rodents do it	<b>31</b> Coming-out honoree
<b>14</b> Singer Tennille	<b>53</b> "Survivor" immunity emblem	<b>8</b> Breast-bones	<b>36</b> Used-car lot transaction
<b>15</b> Green land	<b>54</b> Sticky stuff	<b>9</b> Top-40 renditions	<b>37</b> "What can — for you?"
<b>16</b> Royal insomnia cause	<b>55</b> Paper quantity	<b>10</b> Military subdivision	<b>38</b> Orb
<b>17</b> Typical DeMille movie	<b>56</b> LePew of cartoons	<b>11</b> High-calorie	<b>41</b> Functioning
<b>18</b> Attribute	<b>57</b> Dine	<b>19</b> Dog tag, e.g.	<b>42</b> Plumbing problem
<b>20</b> Ardor	<b>58</b> Messes up	<b>24</b> Schedule abbr.	<b>43</b> Staffer
<b>22</b> Computer language			<b>44</b> Com-plaints constantly
<b>23</b> Wilde-beest			<b>46</b> State with certainty
<b>24</b> Needing liniment			<b>47</b> Half a Jim Carrey film title
<b>27</b> Set free			<b>48</b> "Desire Under the —"
<b>32</b> Carnival city			<b>51</b> Without a — (broke)
<b>33</b> General on a Chinese menu			
<b>34</b> Anger			
<b>35</b> "Eye for an eye" act			
<b>38</b> Under cover			

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

T	E	M	P	A	B	C	S	T	O	P
A	L	A	R	S	O	U	T	A	L	L
B	L	U	E	L	A	W	S	A	N	D
S	A	L	V	E	P	U	L	E	E	
I	O	T	A	S	K	I				
B	A	R	N	A	B	L	E	N	B	C
O	D	D	B	R	A	I	D	E	A	R
O	D	D	R	O	S	E	A	S	H	Y
C	P	A	H	U	F	F				
E	R	R	A	T	A	A	L	O	N	G
D	O	O	R	G	R	A	V	A	R	E
A	P	S	E	E	O	N	M	A	S	T
M	E	S	S	D	E	N	E	L	S	E

Yesterday's answer 4-1

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

COLBY  
FREE PRESS

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR:  
NEWS • WEATHER  
SPORTS

155 W. 5th • 785-462-3963