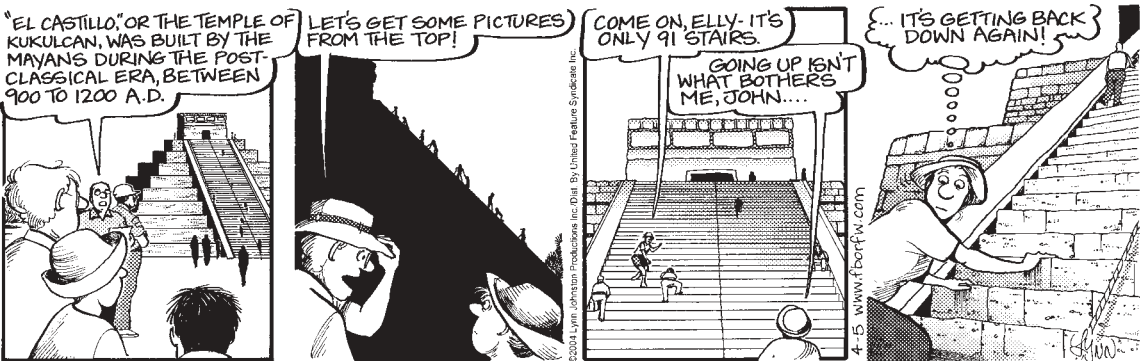
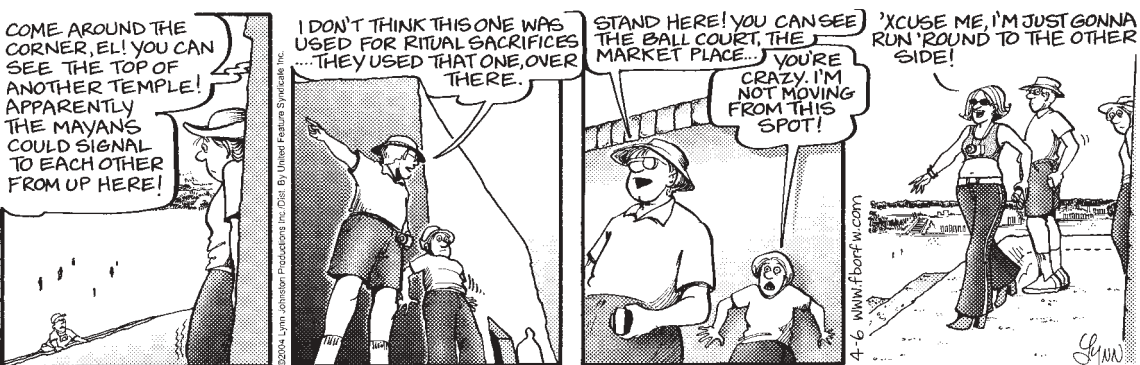


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



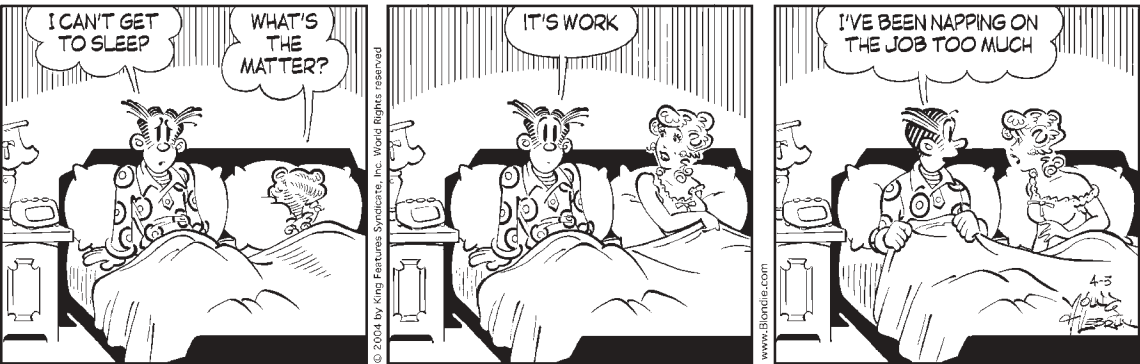
Garfield • Jim Davis



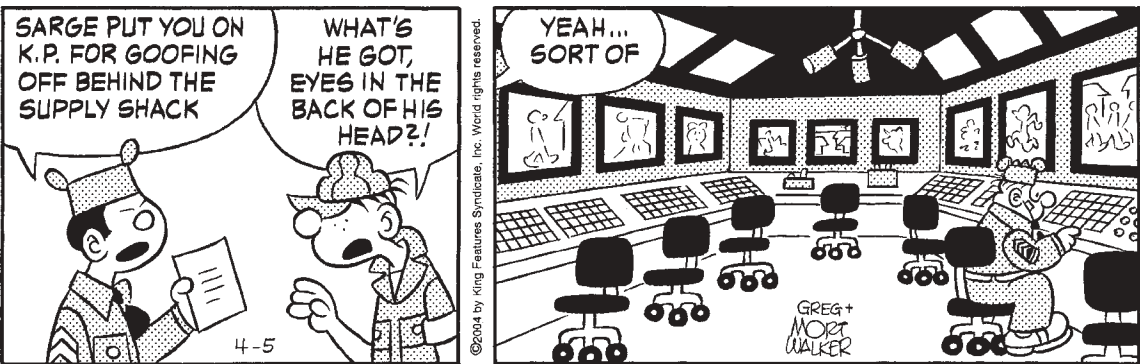
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

X ROYXOLO SCO BESO  
GHO ICHEYG UIJ SCO  
REBJ XD CO PUQSI SH

CULO U YXSSYO DUPQ.  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE ORCHESTRA HAD A BIG PROBLEM READING THE MUSIC. IT WAS THROWING TEMPO TANTRUMS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

# Man needs support after surgery

DEARABBY: I am a 54-year-old married man with two wonderful children. Two months ago, I was diagnosed with colon cancer. That was the first shock. Then I learned that I would need to have part of my colon removed and would have a permanent colostomy. I was devastated.

I had the surgery and am healing, but I don't know how to get on with my life. I need more help with self-care than my doctor can give me. I also have questions about intimacy, returning to my career and participating in activities with my family.

Is there any place I can find support from other people who have had this kind of surgery? I feel so alone.

— B.J. IN GEORGIA

DEAR B.J.: You are not alone. There are an estimated 750,000 people with ostomies in the United States, and I am told that number increases by about 65,000 each year. One of them is a woman who works out with me at my gym — and believe me, she lives a very full life and misses out on nothing in her business or personal life.

You should contact the United Ostomy Association Inc. It's a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide education, information and support for people who have had ostomy or related surgeries. There are many resources available for you. Call the toll-free number, (800) 826-0826, between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. PST. An individual will answer your call and provide ostomy information and referrals to local support chapters and special-interest networks. The UOA Web site is [www.uoa.org](http://www.uoa.org). It contains information about different types of surgeries, ostomy management tips, patient discussion boards, organizational activities, and links to sources for ostomy products.

Please don't procrastinate about contacting them. It will make a positive difference in your rehabilitation and help you to return more quickly to a full, productive life.

DEARABBY: I am 12 years old, and I am the only male I know who reads your column. There is no reason for us guys not to, because you give unconditional advice. You help us see different views from our own, just like you do with females. So don't be afraid, guys — read it!

— READS EVERYTHING

DEAR READS: Bless you for the endorsement, but I have a flash for you — males of every age read my column. (They just don't always tell each other about it.) I'm pleased you are an enthusiastic reader. If I could give

## Bridge

East dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ A Q 9 7 6 4  
♥ 9 8 3  
♦ 7 5 4  
♣ 5

WEST  
♠ K 10 2  
♥ 10 7 5 4 2  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ K 10

EAST  
♠ J 3  
♥ A K Q J 6  
♦ Q J 9 8 6  
♣ 2

SOUTH  
♠ 8 5  
♥ —  
♦ K 10  
♣ A Q J 9 8 7 6 4 3

The bidding:  
East 1 ♥  
South 5 ♣  
West Dble  
North Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

## Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the 1993 Cavendish Invitational Pairs, which for 30 years has attracted a strong international field. South was Ron Gerard, who, with Mike Kamil, finished second in the event to Fred Stewart and Steve Weinstein.

Gerard wasted no time bidding five clubs on his nine-card suit after East had opened with one heart. West, with three potential defensive tricks in his own hand, confidently doubled, no doubt expecting at least a two- or three-trick penalty.

As the cards lie, it might appear that South must lose two diamonds and a club for down one. But Gerard found the way to get home safely.

After ruffing the opening heart lead, he cashed the ace of clubs and conceded a club to West's king. Gerard ruffed the heart return and led a spade to the queen. When this held, declarer ruffed dummy's last heart and cashed three more trumps to produce this position:

North [S] A 9 [D] 7 5  
West [S] K 10 [D] A 3  
East [S] J [D] Q J 8  
South [S] — 8 [D] K 10 [C] 7  
Gerard now led his last trump, forcing West to discard the diamond three. Declarer then pitched dummy's nine of spades, and East did his best to try to deceive him by discarding the diamond jack, hoping Gerard would next lead the diamond king in an attempt to fello the ace and queen together.

But Gerard read the position perfectly and led the diamond ten, felling West's ace. The spade ace and diamond king then scored the last two tricks, and the doubled game was home.



## Abigail Van Buren

### • Dear Abby

younger people one piece of advice, it would be: Read, read, read! In reading, you will open up new worlds, real and imagined. Read for information; read for pleasure. Our libraries are filled with knowledge and joy, and it's all there — free for the taking. A person who does not read is no better off than the person who CANNOT read.

DEAR ABBY: The advice you gave "Afraid for the Children" concerning the two 5-year-old girls walking home alone was correct.

I should know. I am a police officer. Those two little girls are definitely in danger walking home alone.

Five-year-olds are extremely vulnerable to predators and traffic violators. It is important for concerned adults to safeguard children. Calling the police for assistance is vital, as an investigation is necessary to see why those children have been put in such a dangerous situation.

Don't wait until it's too late and children are abducted or hit by a speeding car. When it comes to children, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

— BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY  
DEAR BETTER: Amen!

DEARABBY: We at the National Center on Elder Abuse read the tragic letter from "Worried Sick in Alabama." Sadly, her story illustrates how financial crimes pose a growing threat to the well-being and independence of our "greatest gen-

eration."

It is cause for concern when a senior grants unusual access or control of his or her assets to another person in suspicious circumstances.

A challenge in detecting this is that victims may be reluctant to reveal financial abuse or accuse their abuser out of fear of retaliation or losing their independence. They may also feel embarrassed or reluctant to get the perpetrator in trouble.

In addition to consulting an attorney and contacting law enforcement, our advice is to report concerns to Adult Protective Services, the long-term care ombudsman or the state attorney general's office. Call the Eldercare Locator, a public service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Aging, at (800) 677-1116 (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST) to quickly find the numbers of your local agencies. To learn more about how to prevent, recognize or respond to elder abuse, neglect or exploitation, please visit our Web site at [www.elderabuse-center.org](http://www.elderabuse-center.org). Thank you, Abby, for helping millions of American seniors with your informative and sensitive advice.

— AMY HANLEY, NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE

DEAR AMY: Thank you for a helpful letter; you will never know how many people you have helped today. It breaks my heart that these services are necessary, but I'm grateful that you are there to protect vulnerable seniors from predators.

## Family Circus • Bil Keane



## Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Lengthen, maybe
  - 4 Some-where out there
  - 7 Incursion
  - 11 Ancient mariner
  - 13 Rd.
  - 14 Look lecherously
  - 15 Sicilian spouter
  - 16 Happy companion
  - 17 Watson's beconer
  - 18 Harbor structure
  - 20 Carry on
  - 22 "Awe-some!"
  - 24 Package
  - 28 Pinocchio-like game
  - 32 Mail unit
  - 33 Piccadilly statue
  - 34 Chang's brother
  - 36 Crooner Jerry
  - 37 Bug
  - 39 Lincoln or Douglas
- 41 Aggregate of e-bulletin boards
- 43 Bud's partner
- 44 Equitable
- 46 Radiant
- 50 Zilch
- 53 Dead heat
- 55 Take on
- 56 Famous lab assistant
- 57 Past
- 58 Requisite
- 59 Walden, e.g.
- 60 Tandoori bread
- 61 "Help!"
- 2 Biblical verb
- 3 Actress Delany
- 4 Craze
- 5 Acknowledge
- 6 Summary
- 7 Solo player on 1960s TV
- 8 Demographic statistic
- 9 Under the weather
- 10 N.J. neighbor
- 12 Solo player in three movies
- 19 Biz Web site info
- 21 Petrol
- 23 Soon to arrive
- 25 Paint application
- 26 — Stanley Gardner
- 27 See 14-Across
- 28 Sweet-heart
- 29 Sea flock
- 30 Region
- 31 Conclusion
- 35 Solidify
- 38 Verily
- 40 Slithery squeezer
- 42 Mythological giant
- 45 Latvia's capital
- 47 "True —"
- 48 Sandwich cookie
- 49 Becomes one
- 50 Hurry along
- 51 Personality part
- 52 Director Howard
- 54 Very long time

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-5



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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