

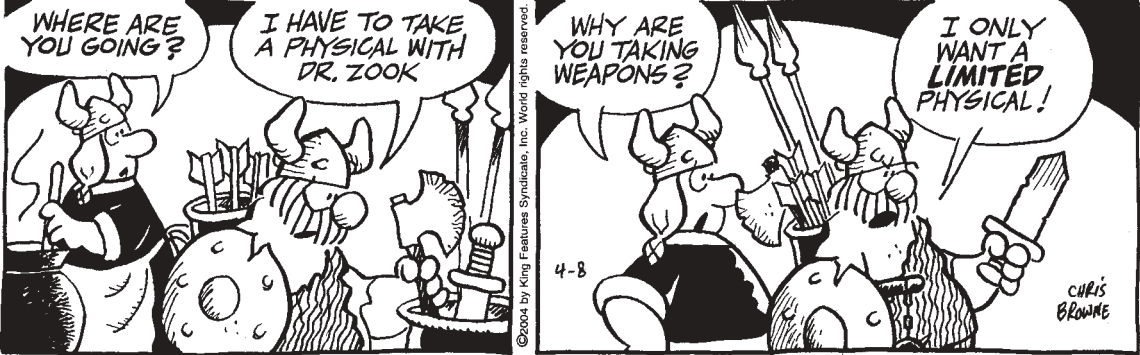
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



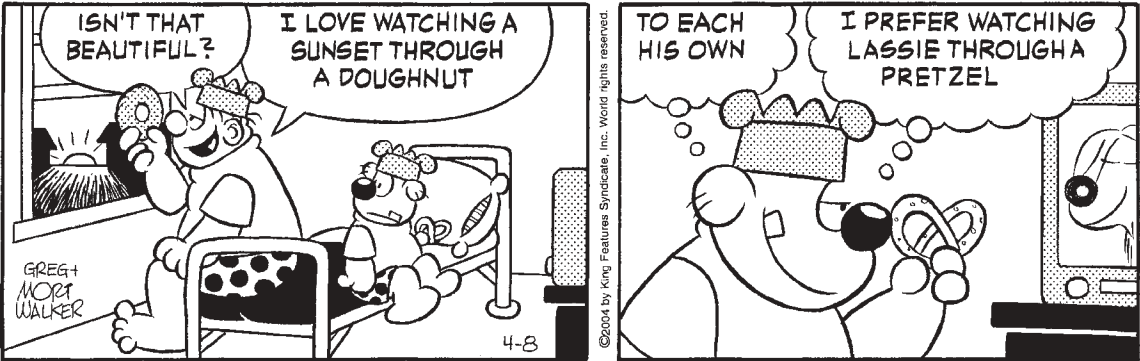
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



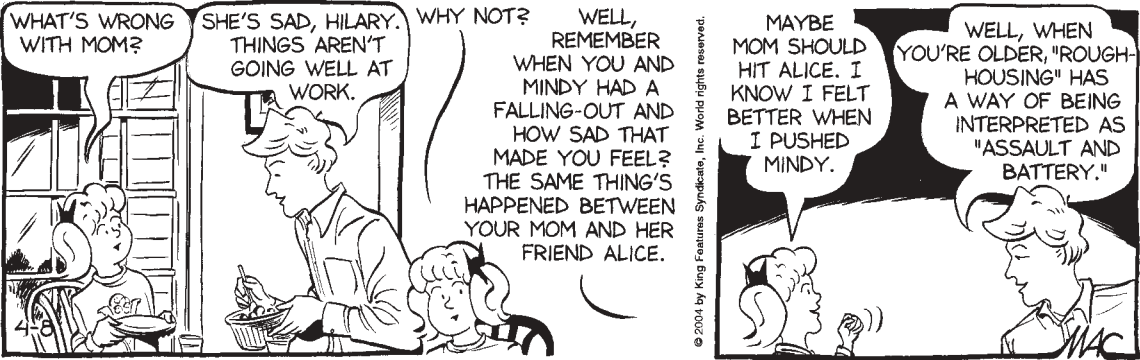
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



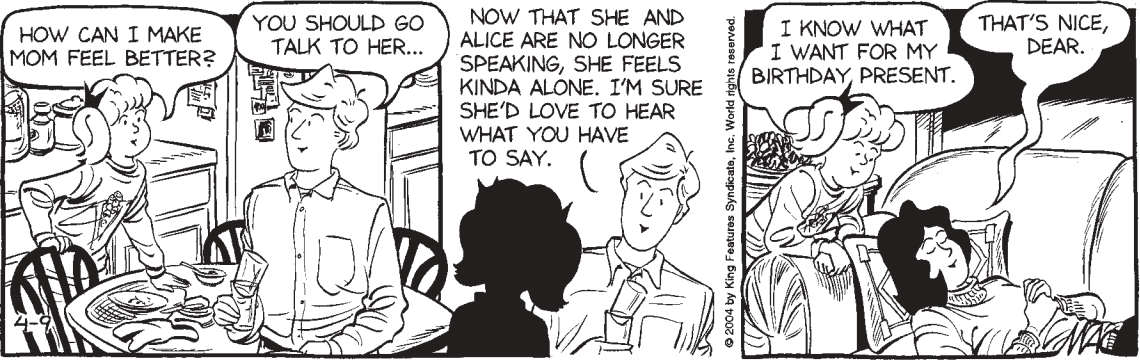
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

H D E W O A R O C I L H W
W L D M U H B I O A Z L D Z V W
R O A X V C O M I . L O A O V U U X
L V C I L O Q H B I D B Q A V E .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SLOGAN I RECENTLY
READ ON A FEMINIST'S OFFICE DOOR: "A MISS
IS AS GOOD AS A MALE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals L

Home system offers no security

DEARABBY: After reading the letter from "Concerned in Northbrook," where the 14-year-old niece was instructed to stay home alone and let the tile man in, I feel compelled to share my story.

My former husband, "Steve," seemed attractive, gentle and polite. While working as an installer for a nationwide security company, he lured a 14-year-old girl into his van and sexually assaulted her. Her parents' determination to shield their daughter enabled Steve to plea-bargain a prison sentence of only eight months. After his release, Steve returned to work as an installer for a satellite TV company and currently works for another security company, installing systems in homes.

Although he is a registered sex offender, no one would ever guess Steve is a pedophile.

His parole officer told me that he shouldn't be around children. Can you imagine leaving your 14-year-old daughter home alone to let in my charming former husband?

—ALSO CONCERNED
DEAR CONCERNED: Your warning is chilling. Parents, please take note and take nothing for granted. Better to be overly cautious than not cautious enough.

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 13. My best friend, "Heather," moved an hour away, and we have kind of drifted apart. On Saturday, I ran into her at my friend "Tanya's" house here in town.

We all went to the mall, and Heather met "Johnny," a 16-year-old guy who goes to my school. Well, Johnny came back to Tanya's house (her parents weren't home), and he and Heather were all over each other. They were hot

Bridge

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — two of clubs.

Dynamic Defense

This deal poses an interesting defensive problem. West leads a club, and East wins dummy's jack with the queen.

The question is what East should play at trick two.

East knows, of course, that West led a singleton. He can therefore be sure of collecting two club tricks and the king of spades. His problem is to try to find the best way of securing a fourth trick.

One possibility is that West has the king of hearts. (Given the bidding, it is unlikely that West has the ace.) In that case, it might be best to return a heart at trick two to establish the setting trick in that suit.

Another possibility is to return a low club and let West ruff, thereby retaining control over dummy's clubs.

Still another method of defense is to cash the ace of clubs and return a club, hoping to create a trump trick for West. This would succeed if West has the queen of spades, J-x-x or 10-x-x.

There are other possibilities for East to consider, but the problem is to select the play that offers the greatest chance of success. It is a tough problem to solve (without seeing all the hands), but there is a standout solution that covers practically every case.

East should cash the ace of clubs.

This has, first of all, the great advantage that if West has the king (or ace) of hearts, he can signal by discarding a high heart, and East will still have time to shift to a heart.

If West discards a low heart instead, East can then play a club and hope to build up an extra trump trick.

But in the actual hand, the ace-of-clubs play defeats the contract for an entirely different reason. It allows West to discard the nine of diamonds, and when East plays another club and declarer ruffs, West discards his last diamond, completing a high-low.

Then, as soon as East gains the lead with the king of spades, he gives West a diamond ruff to sink South's game.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

and heavy on the couch while Tanya and I tried to watch TV. To make a long story short, Johnny and Heather ended up having sex right there in the same room with us. I

couldn't believe what I was seeing — they hadn't known each other more than a few hours.

The news about Johnny and Heather spread fast. Everyone wants to know if I still consider Heather my friend. Kids are calling her "easy," along with other names I won't mention.

As much as I want to be her friend, I'm worried about getting a bad reputation if I stick up for her. Plus, I'm scared my mom will hear about what went on that day. What should I do?

—STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT IN A TEXAS TOWN

DEAR STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT: Tell the truth. Say that you and Heather used to be close friends, but since she moved away you're not close anymore.

P.S. I hope you WILL tell your mother what happened that day. Heather's mother needs to know that her daughter is sexually active, and vulnerable to STDs and pregnancy. It will be doing Heather a tremendous favor, and help her to avoid a lot of trouble in the near future.

DEAR ABBY: I've just had the most dreaded of all shopping trips: the New Bra Expedition. No

woman over the age of 12 looks forward to it. I'd rather strip and wax a kitchen floor.

Now brassiere manufacturers have made things worse by placing the strap length adjustment in the BACK of the bra. What were they thinking?

Why not move the opening to the back of men's briefs — it makes just as much sense.

I'd be interested in hearing from other women about this lunacy.

Abby, dear, let's start a campaign to return sanity to women's underwear.

—DOUBLE-JOINTED

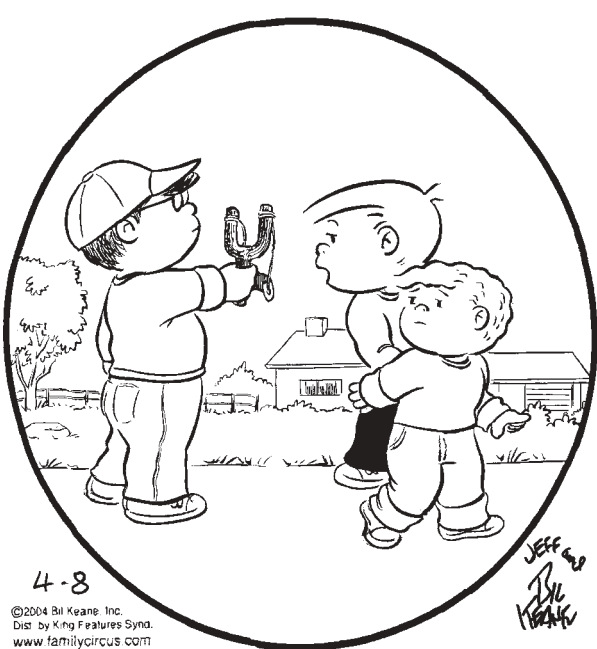
DEAR DOUBLE-JOINTED: I'll join you on the bandwagon because I too sometimes wonder whether certain garments have been designed by men without first consulting women.

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.Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1

Prejudice

5

United nations

9

Opposite of post-

12

Advantage

13

Flight-related

14

"— the ramparts ..."

15

Brandy recipe

17

Chaps

18

Get all snug and cozy

19

Caffeinated?

21

Chicago transport

22

Crenshaw, for one

24

Italy's silhouette

27

Existed

28

Toteboard tally

31

Hooter

32

Snake

33

Corrode

34

Borscht base

36

Demure

37

Horde

38

Producer Spelling

40

"When — 64"

41

Dixieland instrument

43

Had night vision?

47

Anti-quoted

48

Parsley-like herb

51

Summer quencher

52

Dangling locale

53

Soap actress Linda

54

Anderson's "High —"

55

Halite, e.g.

56

Blue material

DOWN

1

Rowan Atkinson character

2

Between assignments

3

Shakespearean seven

4

Hockey team, e.g.

5

Poison

6

Went first

7

Mined-over matter

8

Reef stuff

9

Aromatic ball

10

Stench

11

Sea eagle

16

The whole enchilada

20

Court

22

Burr role

23

Catch sight of

24

Move up and down

25

Have something out-standing

26

Evergreen shrub

27

Texas city

29

Weir

30

Pigpen

35

— Mahal

37

Restitution

39

Gems (Sl.)

40

George's brother

41

Bathtub toy

42

Designer Gucci

43

Regimen

44

Leading man

45

Carte

46

Jog

49

— shoe-string

50

Cath. or Prot.

Solution time: 25 mins.

MOSS	ADJ	SHOT																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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Solution time: 25 mins.

MOSS	ADJ	SHOT
ABIT	LEO	PEGO
TOMAHAWK	EELS	
TESTED	ETCHES	
SAD	RITA	
ALB	PIP	NEWEL
HARP	NOR	RELY
SWARM	DEN	DIE
DIRE	NOV	
BASEST	EVOLVE	
OOPS	HAWAIIAN	
GNAT	EWELAND	
SEWS	LED	ARES

Yesterday's answer 4-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
			21		22	23				
24	25	26		27			28		29	30
31				32				33		
34			35	36				37		
			38	39			40			
41	42					43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

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