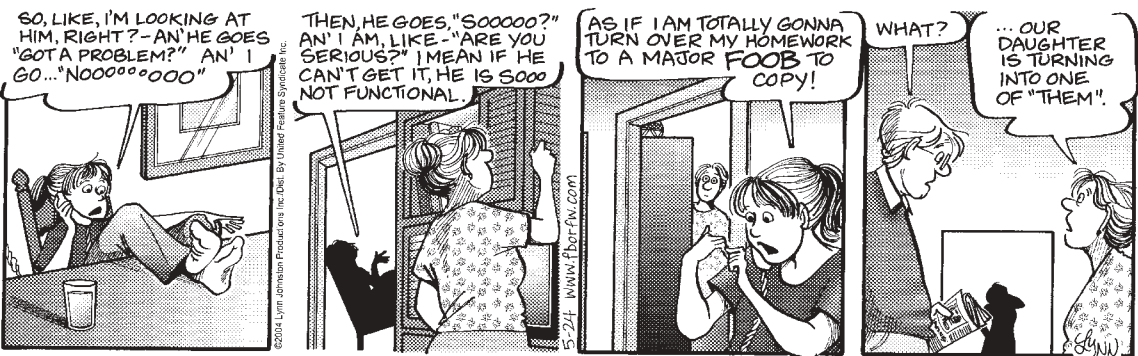


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



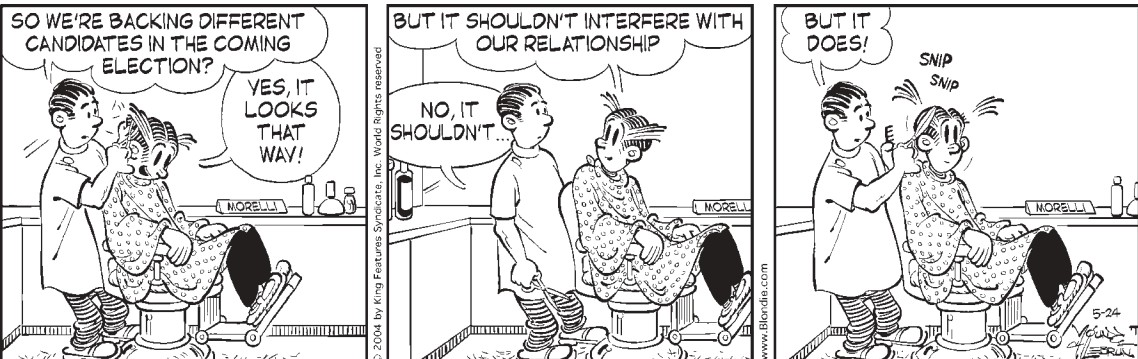
Garfield • Jim Davis



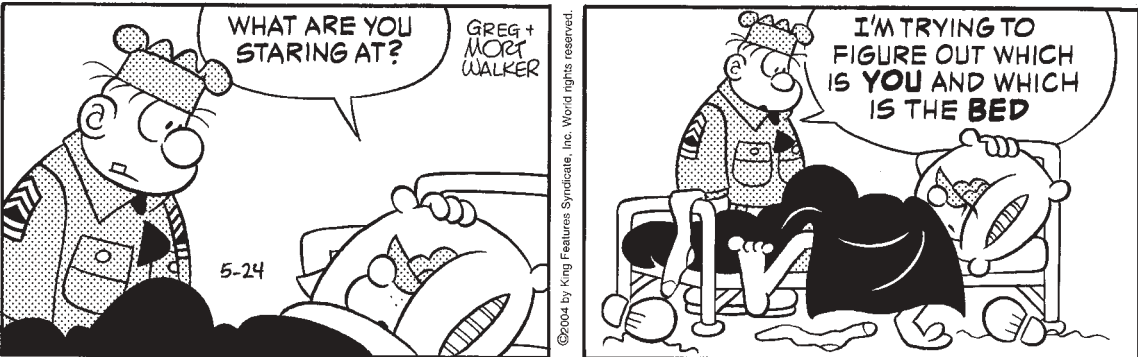
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



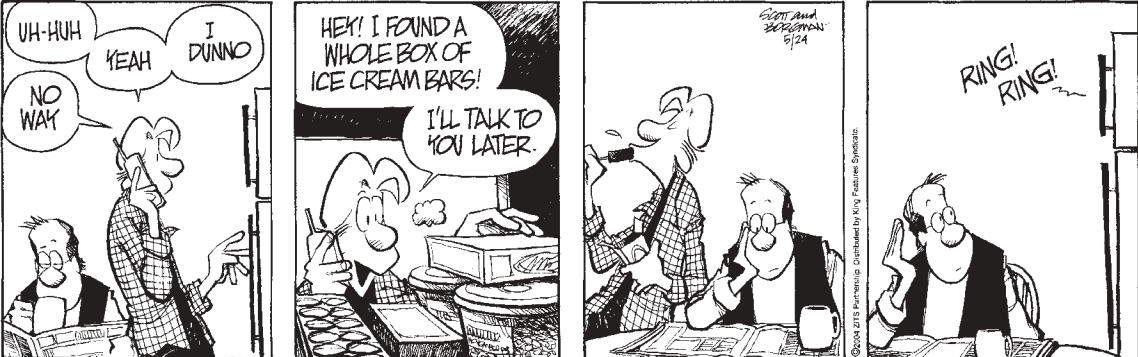
Blondie • Chic Young



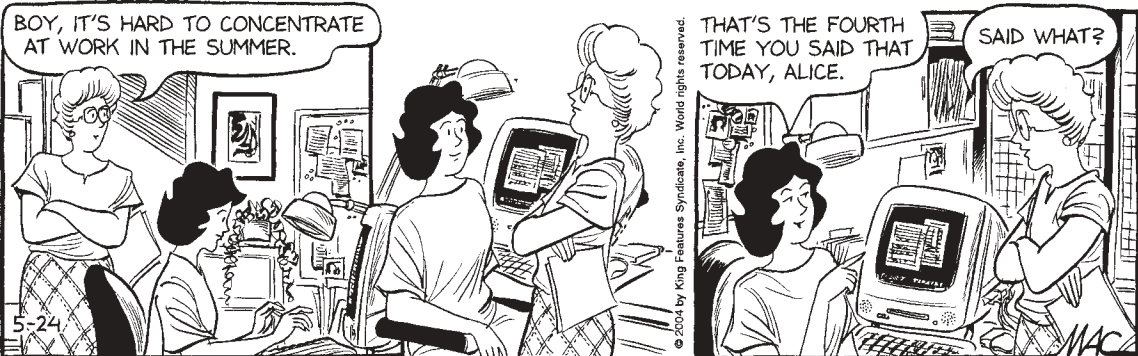
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

PXV PXLVV DIQMMVW

BMENVTYJ WETYVLD RV

DER MEDP NJTPX RVLV

BQTCVL-YMQYIQT' CJJW.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A GROUP OF PHILOSOPHERS RIDE ON AMTRAK, DOES THAT MAKE IT A TRAIN OF THOUGHT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals E

Mom wants to make wrong right

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Skylar," just started middle school, and she has fallen in with the wrong crowd. She walks around the house with a chip on her shoulder, wearing what looks to us like boys' clothes. She curses and lies, and she and her new friends have vandalized the girls' restroom four times. Her latest trick is to forge my signature on school papers.

I have discussed these problems with the school. They suggested counseling and therapy. What I want is advice on how to discipline Skylar for all the wrongs she has done.

How do I guide my daughter down the right path?  
— UNABLE TO DISCIPLINE

DEAR UNABLE: Guiding a child down the "right path" involves more than discipline; it involves open communication and the assurance that he or she is loved. If Skylar were my daughter, the first thing I'd do is have her tested for drugs. If she tested positive, I would start her in a rehab program and possibly place her in another school. If she tested "clean," I'd do exactly as the school suggested and get counseling and therapy for her. In fact, counseling for your entire family would be a good idea, because it appears that Skylar is not the only one who could use some help. Your parenting skills may need to be upgraded.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are concerned that his father may be in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. He's doing childish things like biting my daughter (only with his upper dentures, not his lower ones), hitting her, and getting mad when she "tattles" on him.

He can no longer remember simple things and even forgot to take my daughter to school one day. My mother-in-law keeps putting off talking to him, and says she'll do it



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

"after the holidays," "after his birthday," then "after Father's Day" — you get the picture.

We are worried that he will become worse and there will never be "a better time" to tell him. I want to talk to my father-in-law myself, but my husband thinks his mother should do it.

I don't want my 4-year-old to think it's OK to bite and hit, or that this is appropriate behavior for her to copy in preschool.

DEAR TROUBLED: There are other dementias in addition to Alzheimer's. Your father-in-law should be scheduled immediately for a complete physical and neurological evaluation. Tell the doctor what you have told me. His behavior with your little girl is inappropriate, and if he is so impaired that he forgot to take her to school, he should not be behind the wheel of a car.

Please do not allow this to continue. Your first obligation must be the physical and emotional well-being of your daughter.

DEAR ABBY: I have a huge problem. This boy I like, "Terry," told me over the phone and the Internet that he thought I was "hot" and he loved me, but his best friend's brother, "Rick," told me different. Rick said that Terry hates me, thinks I'm ugly, and I should never call or e-mail him again.

Who should I believe?  
— HEARTSICK  
DEAR HEARTSICK: Tell Terry what Rick said. It's possible that Rick also likes you and wants you for himself, so don't be so

quick to believe what he said. Hold those calls and e-mails for a while. If Terry calls and e-mails you, the chances are he likes you. However, until you are absolutely certain about his feelings, be cautious about the way you respond to his e-mails and about what you say on the phone. It could prevent embarrassment later.

DEAR ABBY: Ever since my last report card, my relationship with my mother has deteriorated. I got all A's and B's and have a 3.78 GPA. However, this isn't good enough for Mom.

My mother went to Harvard and doesn't understand why I can't get a 4.0. She has started telling me what a failure I am, that I am worthless and have ruined her life. I know she's probably saying these things without thinking, but it still hurts. She doesn't apologize after her temper dies down — she just acts like everything is OK.

I don't think I deserve to be treated this way. When I try to talk to her about it, she turns it around and says I deserve this treatment because I am a failure. I'm really hurting and don't know what to do.

SAD DAUGHTER: I disagree with your mother. Although she may think she is motivating you to do better, telling a child that she is worthless, a failure, and that she has "ruined her life" is verbal abuse. Please talk to an adult relative or counselor at school about interceding on your behalf with your mother, because her standards are unrealistic, and her method is destructive.

Bridge

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Famous Hand

There are times when a partnership misunderstanding, which would normally spell disaster, instead produces a spectacularly good result.

For example, take this deal from the match between Canada and Panama in the 1980 World Team Championship. The Canadian North-South pair reached four spades as shown, making five after West led the ace and another heart.

But when a Panamanian pair held the North-South hands, the bidding went:

South	West	North	East
1 [S]	Pass	2 [D]	Pass
2 [H]	Pass	4 [C]	Pass
4 [H]	Pass	4 [S]	Pass
5 [C]	Pass	5 [D]	Pass
5 [H]	Pass	6 [S]	

North's four-club bid was a "splinter," indicating a singleton club. Supposedly, it accepted South's last bid suit, hearts, as trumps. Accordingly, South, with a minimum opening bid and no interest in a slam, signed off with four hearts.

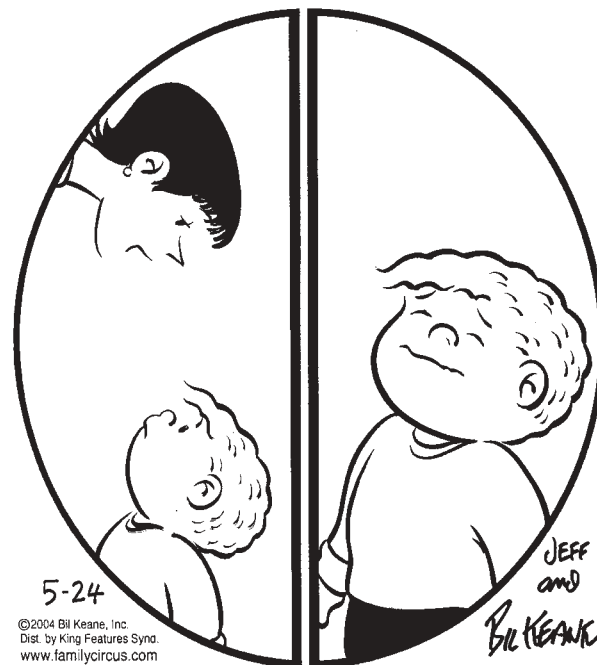
North, who had no desire whatever to play with hearts as trumps, then corrected four hearts to four spades. But South, acting under the delusion that hearts had been agreed upon as the trump suit, read the four-spade bid as an ace-showing cuebid.

He therefore cuebid five clubs to show the ace of clubs. North then cuebid diamonds, but South had run out of cuebids and signed off with five hearts. This did not discourage North in the least, and, having heard his partner bid hearts three times, he jumped to six spades.

All these machinations had a deleterious effect upon West, who was left with a difficult choice of leads. Unfortunately, he decided to lead a club, hoping to find his partner with the queen. South gratefully took East's ten with the queen, drew trumps and discarded one of dummy's hearts on the club ace to bring in the slam.

Tomorrow: Gazing into the future.  
(c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"A smile will improve your face value."

Crossword

ACROSS

1

Comical

4

Garden invaders

9

Feathery neckwear

12

Big fuss

13

Plankton components

14

Sprite

15

Dancers' milieus

17

Meadow

18

Pump up the volume

19

Reception area

21

Bite a bit

24

Blue material?

25

Tuna, in Hawaii

26

Cent. fractions

28

Overact

31

Leave suddenly

33

Pouch

35

Hearty drink

36

Divide 50-50

38

AAA job

40

Our lang.

41

Malaria symptom

43

Wimbledon arenas

45

Cosby's "Fat" pal

47

Cool dweller

48

Resume, for short

49

Corrida

54

Coffee-shop vessel

55

Farewell

56

Thee

57

Play-ground game

58

Kath-mandu's country

59

Encountered

DOWN

1

Poke

2

McKinley's First Lady

3

Actress Gretchen

4

With ardor

5

Romeo and Juliet, e.g.

6

Freudian concept

7

Lessens in intensity

8

"— Street"

9

Quasi-modo's workplace

10

Bread spread

11

Some-where out there

16

Retriever type, for short

20

Piratic potables

21

Arrests

22

Breakfast chain (Abbr.)

23

Australian stream-bed

27

Perched

29

Hue

30

Easter booty

32

Buster Brown's dog

34

Inner-ear tube

37

It'll wind up on your head

39

Deplorable

42

Chopin piece

44

Half of bi-

45

Touch

46

Italian pre-euro coin

50

Pitcher feature

51

Workout place

52

Get rid of

4-Across

53

Historic boy king

S

P

A

B

A

R

D

C

L

A

P

C

A

M

E

R

I

E

R

E

D

O

A

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Saturday's answer

5-24

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

Saturday's answer 5-24

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
31		32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40
		41		42		43		44		
45	46					47				
48				49		50			51	52
54				55					56	
57				58					59	

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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