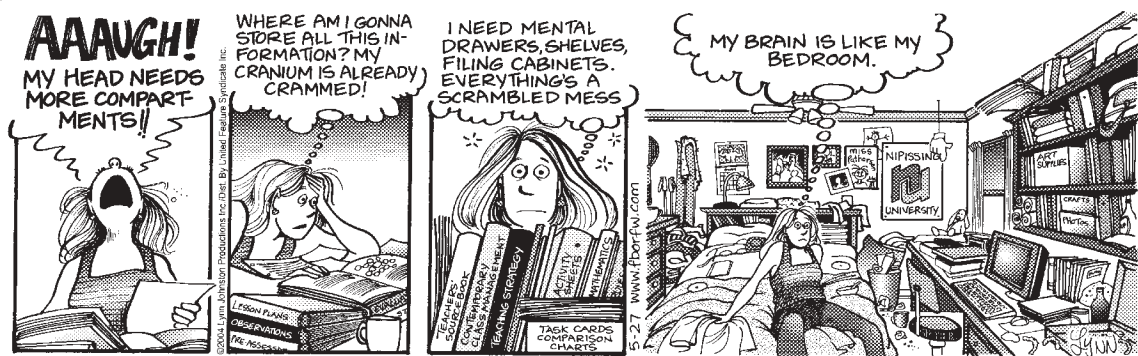


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



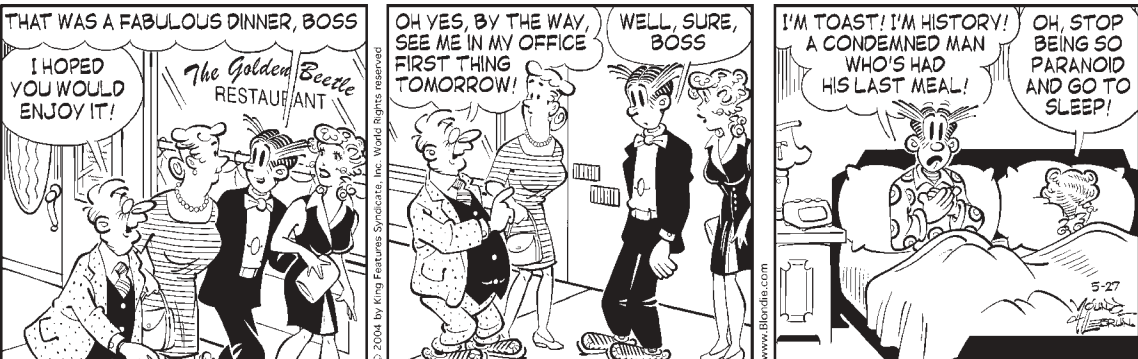
Garfield • Jim Davis



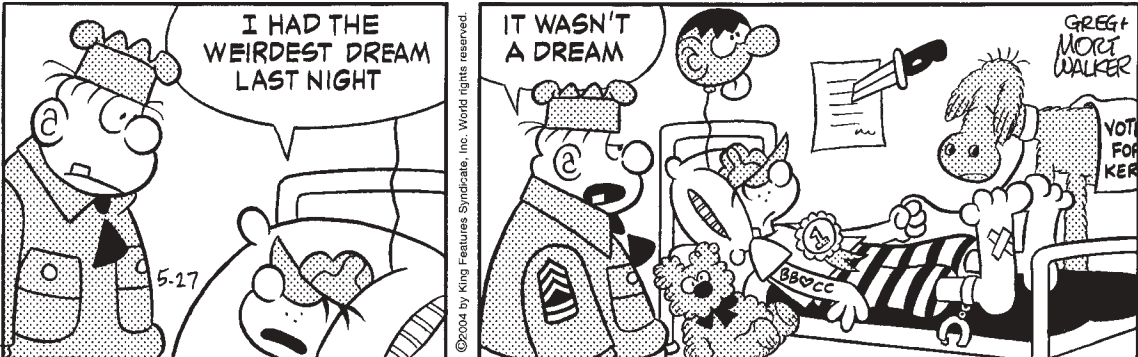
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



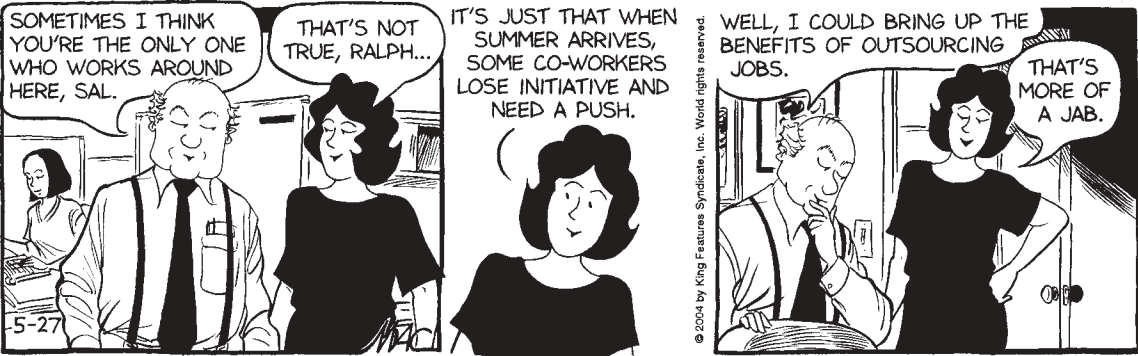
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

V X S F X K Y R M T P Y H V

U R Q W Y K T N Q K S M V I S Q N .

W Y I R H Y F H Y W R P Y M R I F

H V G K X Q W Y K U T M G Y K Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GROUP OF PRAGUE CITIZENS ARE SECRETLY CONCEALED, ARE THEY CACHED CZECHS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals R

Devotion may not be too healthy



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEARABBY: "Resentful in Illinois" described her husband as so obsessed with his cousin's little daughter that he acts as though she is his child — saying he is "in withdrawal" if he doesn't see her often. "Resentful" confided that she would love to have a child of her own and was hurt because her husband kept postponing it. She asked you if she was overreacting. You suggested that the child might really be her husband's.

Abby, you missed one other important possibility. "Resentful's" husband may be involved with that child in an inappropriate relationship. Statistics show that 80 percent of sexual abuse of children occurs in a relationship with someone the child, the mother and other family members trust.

"Resentful" should watch for any signs that the relationship has gone too far. If the husband is resistant to marriage counseling, it could be a red flag.

I am a pediatrician. I deal with some of these same situations in my medical practice.

— DISTURBED PHYSICIAN IN CINCINNATI

DEAR DISTURBED PHYSICIAN: Yours was one of several hundred letters and e-mails I received echoing the same suspicion.

Although "Resentful in Illinois" wrote anonymously, I'm printing your letter because I thought she should see your take on the situation. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In your response to "Resentful in Illinois," you mentioned the man's excessive attachment to his niece. The child of his cousin is his "first cousin once removed," not his niece.

— MOLLY IN DENVER

DEARMOLLY: Thank you for straightening out my genealogy terminology.

DEARABBY: "Sonia" and I have been married 10 years and have two young sons. Our marriage has been rocky for the last few years. Six months ago, I told her we had to get counseling — which we did. After the second session she refused to go back. I suspect she realized that our counselor knew she was lying.

Sonia doesn't think I deserve a sex life. She picks arguments with me, and when I walk away she berates me. She seems to enjoy fighting in front of the children. She threatens me in front of them that she's going to "take everything," and I'll be left with nothing. I promise my boys repeatedly that I will never leave them.

Sonia has a part-time job. She refuses to work full time because if we split up, she "wouldn't get as much child support." Last week she told me the only reason she married me was because I made good money. Now I'm unable to work because of a back injury, and Sonia complains my disability check isn't enough to maintain the lifestyle she deserves.

Abby, I pay all the bills. I do most of the cooking and cleaning. My kids mean everything to me. I am not leaving my home, but living with Sonia is becoming more difficult by the day. Please give me some advice.

— TROUBLED HUSBAND IN MAINE

DEAR TROUBLED HUSBAND: You are married to a verbal abuser, a person with no regard for the emotional security and well-being of your children or for your feelings. It is now time to consider how destructive this kind of atmosphere is for the chil-

dren. Since counseling hasn't worked, consult an attorney and thoroughly explore your options. However, before you do, carefully document exactly what your wife is doing and saying. Be sure to include dates and times. It will strengthen your case.

DEAR ABBY: I have never seen this problem in your column. My husband and I have been seeing "Dr. Smith" for more than 10 years. We like him, but we're considering going to another doctor who was recommended by a friend. Dr. Smith does only cursory examinations. He doesn't ask enough questions or really listen to our complaints. Our friend says her doctor is very patient and thorough.

This is a very small town, and we run into Dr. Smith at the country club from time to time. We don't want to offend him or be uncomfortable when we see him.

Your advice will be appreciated.

— ALLAN AND KRYSTAL IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR ALLAN AND KRYSTAL: Change doctors if you feel you will receive better care. Your doctor may have such a full roster that he won't even miss the two of you. Please do not feel the need to apologize. Medicine is a business, and if Dr. Smith isn't customer-friendly, you are within your rights to seek care elsewhere. If you are asked why you felt the need to change doctors, tell him the truth. You'll be doing him a favor and helping to improve his practice for other patients.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is writ-

Bridge

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 6

♥ Q 9 4

♦ K Q 6

♣ Q 10 5 2

WEST

♠ K 7 3

♥ J 8 6 5 2

♦ 8 2

♣ A 4 3

EAST

♠ 8 5 2

♥ K 10 7

♦ J 10 9 5

♣ 9 8 7

SOUTH

♠ A J 9 4

♥ A 3

♦ A 7 4 3

♣ K J 6

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

The Rule of Eleven

The practice of leading fourth-best goes back more than a century to the days of whist, grandparent of contract bridge. However, it wasn't until 1890 that R.F. Foster formulated the Rule of Eleven, a gadget designed to interpret the lead.

The rule can be very valuable to either side. Many problems that arise during the play can be solved by its application. If a fourth-best card is led, the rule is infallible.

Let's see how it works in today's deal. After declarer follows low from dummy to West's opening lead, the outcome rests on which heart East chooses to play. If he plays the seven, South goes down; if he plays the ten or king, declarer makes the contract.

The Rule of Eleven directs East to the winning play. Applying the rule, East knows that South has only one heart higher than the five. He determines this by subtracting five, the card led, from 11, which tells him that there are six cards higher than the five in the North, East and South hands combined.

East sees three cards higher in his own hand and two in dummy, so he knows declarer has only one card higher than the five. Since South opened with one notrump, he is likely to have the ace of hearts. Playing the seven will consequently force the ace and hold South to one heart trick, while playing the ten or king establishes a second heart trick in dummy.

Declarer is helpless against the seven play. When he takes it with the ace and leads the king of clubs, West wins and plays another heart, trapping dummy's Q-9. Since the diamonds don't break 3-3, and the spade finesse, if attempted, fails, South must go down regardless of how he proceeds.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How old do you hafta be to write with all the letters hooked together?"

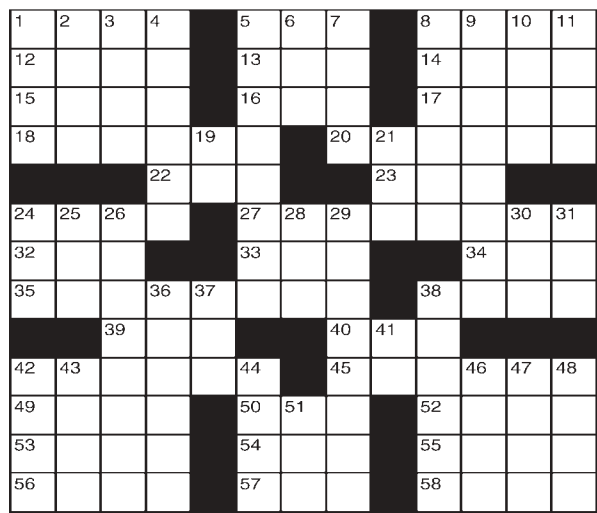
Crossword

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Expeditionist | 11 Venomous vipers |
| 5 Gridiron arbiter | 19 Franken or Gore |
| 8 In a quandary | 21 Snoop Dogg's genre |
| 12 Part of the foot | 24 Mandible |
| 13 The whole shooting' match | 25 Reaction to fireworks |
| 14 Lather | 26 Reason to plow |
| 15 Portico of yore | 28 "Agnus —" |
| 16 Harry's successor | 29 Cloudy |
| 17 Wield the shears | 30 Born |
| 18 "The Sopranos" employee | 31 Comprehensive |
| 20 Where handcuffs go | 36 Ribs |
| 22 Polar worker | 37 Always |
| 23 Blond shade | 38 Multi-colored |
| 24 Apple co-founder | 41 Greeting |
| 27 Taking as one's own | 42 Rickey flavoring |
| 32 "You've got mail" co. | 43 Persia, now |
| 33 Book after Exod. | 44 Beginning |
| | 46 Carnival attraction |
| | 47 Radius' neighbor |
| | 48 Celebrity |
| | 51 Daisy — |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-27



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