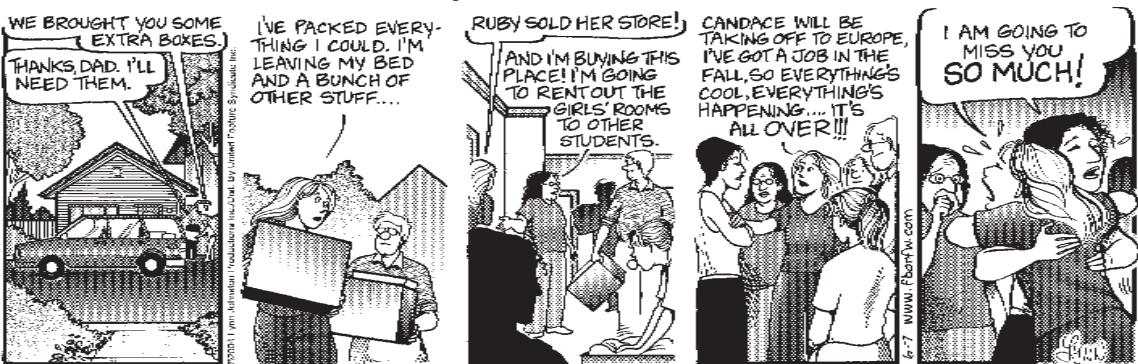
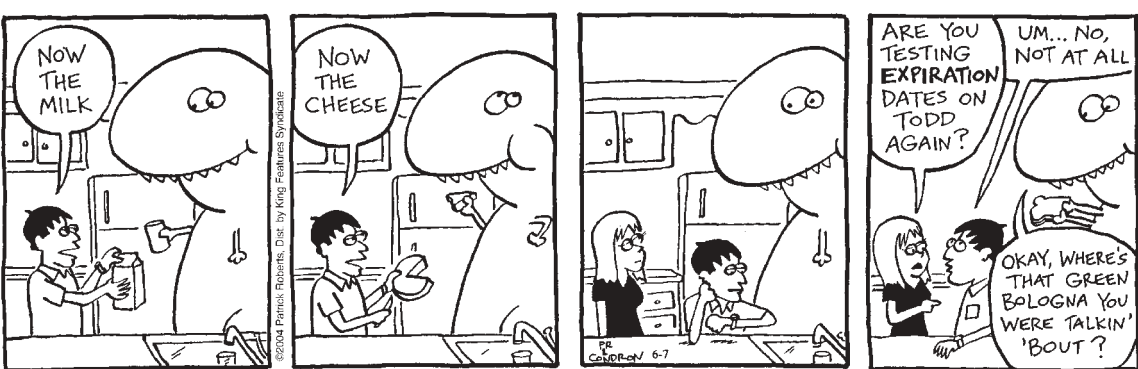


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



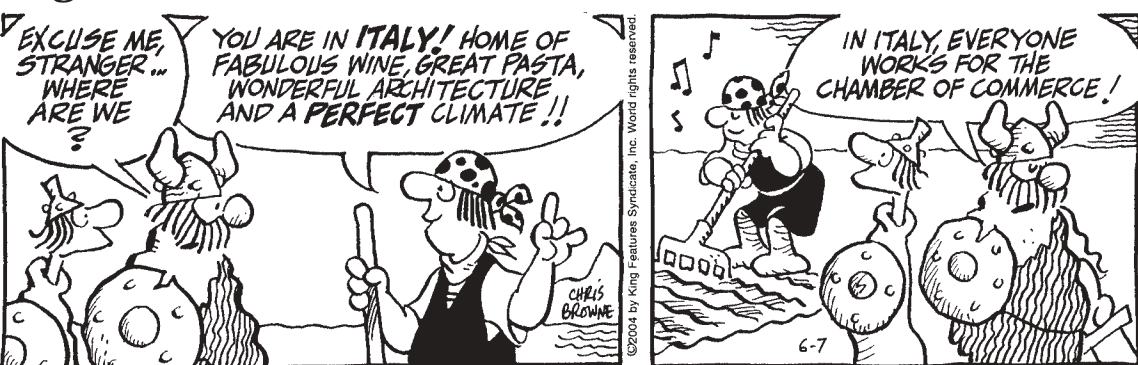
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



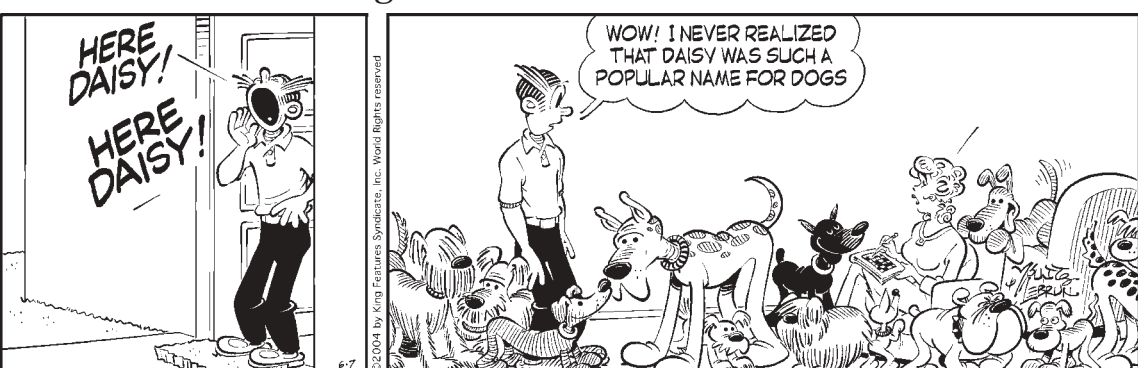
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



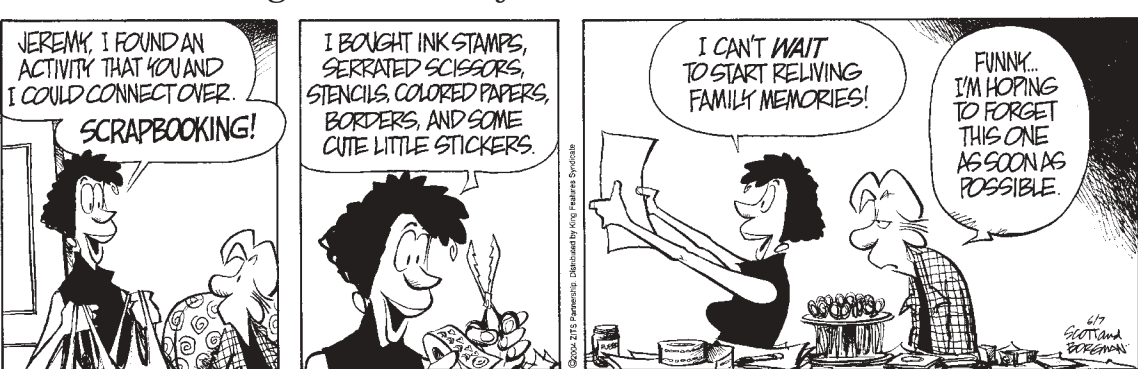
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

LND TXQZFS ZFLZNELXLA
QUN VEFIWNST HTTFZXHQNJ
DXQU FWJ IFHQNET:

“EFDXLA VHXL T.”
Saturday’s Cryptoquip: IF STEINBECK WROTE A BOOK ABOUT FINLAND, IT COULD BE CALLED “EAST OF SWEDEN.”
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals C

Boyfriend not sure about baby

DEARABBY: I am almost 22 and become very emotional when I hear about friends who are expecting. All my friends from high school have children. My mother already had two children by the time she was my age.

My boyfriend and I are madly in love; however, he continues to tell me he’s not ready to be a parent. We don’t take precautions when we have sex, but I haven’t become pregnant yet.

Abby, should I be feeling desperate to have a child? Am I rushing parenthood? — WANTS A BABY NOW

DEAR WANTS: Before you make a mistake that could affect three lives (yours, your boyfriend’s and that of an innocent child), I urge you to get to the bottom of what’s missing in your life that has made you “desperate” to fill that void with a baby. You have a way to go before you’ll be ready to become a mother — and your first stop along the way should be at the altar.

Parenthood can be rewarding and fulfilling, provided the couple is prepared, emotionally and financially, for the new arrival. But your boyfriend has made it clear that he isn’t ready.

Please respect that fact and do what is necessary to prevent a “surprise.” Having a child because your parents had two at your age, or because your friends from high school have children, is a poor reason to become a parent.

DEAR ABBY: I am a college freshman (female), living more than 300 miles from home. Despite the distance and the fact that I am 18, I am still under my parents’ thumb. They call me every day to ask what I ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner. They chose my major for me, and the prospect of spending my life in



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

that profession doesn’t thrill me.

I have never had the strength to tell my parents how I feel or what I think, even when I knew that they were wrong or unfair. I love them and respect their opinions, but I believe I deserve more input regarding my own future — especially since I am paying more than half the cost of my education. How can I free myself from their well-meaning, but strangulating nets?

— FRUSTRATED IN NEW YORK

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Cutting the cord will take some work on your part. You are the “good child” who never questioned or rebelled, so it’s entirely possible that your parents think you’re in 100 percent agreement with them. The daily phone calls indicate that they’re having trouble accepting that you have left the nest and are on your own.

The place to start is at the student health center, inquiring about counseling services. Your inability to stand up for yourself and express your true feelings can be remedied with assertiveness training and counseling, which will help you learn where your parents leave off and you begin. It may not be easy, but I assure you it will be time well spent.

DEAR ABBY: I invited a neighbor to my son’s bar mitzvah. I did not invite their children, who are 8 and 6.

When they RSVP’d, they said that all four of them were attending. What can I do?

— ON THE SPOT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ON THE SPOT: You welcome them graciously. I am surprised that you excluded the children in the first place, since a bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah usually includes children, and is not considered an adults-only affair.

DEAR ABBY: I can identify with that 23-year-old girl because I had a similar experience.

My pride and self-confidence were also crushed. I felt worthless. After five years, I took matters into my own hands.

On my 30th birthday, I got the best gift God could have given me. A friend and I began dating. I asked HIM out for our first date (something I’d sworn I’d never do). I haven’t looked back since. We were married last June.

You were right, Abby, when you told “Burned” that her bad relationship was a learning experience. I hope she takes your advice to heart and doesn’t let it keep her down. She needs to take that first step forward. You never know what you can accomplish until you try.

— VERY HAPPY IN COMMERCE, TEXAS

DEAR VERY HAPPY: Well said. I would like to extend that message: No one ever accomplished anything by sitting passively and waiting for success to come to them.

The greatest rewards come to those who have the courage to stand up, step forward and take their swings at bat.

Bridge

North dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
Dble	Pass	3 ♥	

Opening lead — king of spades.

Famous Hand

France won the 1992 World Team Olympiad, handily defeating the United States in the 96-board final, 251 IMPs to 171.

Oddly enough, the deal most critical to the French cause came not in the final, but in its quarterfinal match against Denmark. Going into the last hand of the 64-board match, the Danes led by 2 IMPs. The deal shown then occurred, and the outcome hung in the balance.

When a Danish pair held the East-West cards, they reached three spades and made exactly nine tricks, apparently an excellent result.

The auction shown occurred at the other table, with Knut and Lars Blackset of Denmark seated North-South.

The Blacksets bid aggressively (North’s double was “negative”) to reach three hearts. It appeared the Danish team was in a commanding position, since if South either made three hearts or went down one, the Danes would win the match.

Even if declarer went down two for a loss of 2 IMPs, the match would be tied, with an eight-board playoff to follow. Only if South went down three could the match be lost.

West cashed two spades and then shifted to the king of diamonds.

At this point, declarer could have made the contract by taking the ace, crossing to dummy with a club, leading a heart to the queen and cashing the A-J of hearts.

South could then run clubs until West ruffed in. The only other defensive trick would have been a diamond.

But Lars Blackset allowed the diamond king to hold, after which West reverted to spades. Declarer ruffed in dummy, discarding a club, and led the heart jack, covered by the king and ace.

If he had now cashed the heart queen and then started running clubs, he would have gone down one and won the match.

Instead, Blackset played a club to the ace and led a heart to the nine. Curtains!

West won with the ten and returned a spade, forcing declarer to ruff and lose control of the hand. When the smoke cleared, Blackset was down three and the French had scored a 2-IMP victory.

Of such stuff are world championships made!

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“While I’m being the flower girl at the wedding, who’s gonna be the Ring Master?”

Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Harmo-nization, for short	1 Child’s play
5 Conk out	2 Days gone by
8 Hebrew month	3 Neet competitor
12 Ark-itect?	4 Pure
13 Praiseful verse	5 Receive a Web file
14 — con-tendere	6 Mountain of Crete
15 Opera highlight	7 Slithery fish
16 Took immense pleasure (in)	8 Conse-crate with oil
18 “Wheel of Fortune” category	9 Make cutbacks
20 Fishing nets	10 Sheltered
21 Body powder	11 Angling gear
23 Reply (Abbr.)	17 Meadow
24 Detour, perhaps	
28 Neat	
31 Com-motion	
32 Mead’s venue	
34 “Sesame Street” Muppet	

35 Cuts the grass	37 Inno-cence	39 To the — degree	41 “Lean —”	42 Rome’s — Way	45 Caution-er’s word	49 Some pots and pans	51 Pur-chases	52 NFL’s Flutie	53 Feathery neckpiece	54 Angers	55 Nimble	56 Prepared	57 Relaxa-tion
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Solution time: 24 mins.	
BLANC	SCHOO
GLOBAL	AROUSE
EUROPE	NETTLE
MENUA	IDA ROK
TENT	MOI
ARKVEER	MAGED
WALTER	MATTHAU
ENOS	SIDE TUG
NEW	ZITI
WED	IDEA
HAIRDO	TODDLE
ICKIER	ORIOLE
THEORY	REARS

Saturday’s answer 6-7

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				57		

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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