### For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston I GODDA LEEB DIS ON FOR 5 MINUTES .... IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO HAPPY! WEED? DEANNA'S MOM IS HERE, SO IM GONNA WORK WHERE ARE YOU? (HRGL!) INTHE ATTIC. WOW.

### **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



### **THANK YOU FOR READING THE**



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### **Cryptoquip**

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K X V MX T U XB K LGVF. Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ANGRY BIRD WERE TO LAND ON A DOORKNOB, I GUESS IT WOULD FLY OFF THE HANDLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals S

# Mom finds gay lifestyle difficult

DEAR ABBY: I noticed that my 16-year-old daughter wasn't her usual self. So I questioned her one night and asked if there was anything bothering her, or if she was worried about something. She started crying and told me she is gay.

I responded by crying with her and asking her if she was sure. She said she was. I told her she is still my daughter and I love her very much, but that I can't help hoping she's just confused and that as time goes on, she might see that this is not who she really is. I'm trying my best to accept it, but it is difficult at times.

Please help me understand if my feelings are normal.

- CONFUSED PARENT IN **TEXAS** 

**DEAR CONFUSED: Your feel**ings are normal. Most parents have plans and dreams for their children, and your child has turned out differently than you expected. I admire your daughter for her courage and honesty in telling you about her orientation, and I admire you for making it safe for her to do so.

Your next step is to contact PFLAG. I have mentioned this organization many times before in my column. It offers support groups, educational outreach and more to families and friends of gay, lesbian, intersexual and transgendered family members. The Web site is www.pflag.org and the telephone number is (202)467-8180. Please don't wait to contact them. They will welcome you with open arms.

DEAR ABBY: I am nearly in my 30s and have this little problem. I tend to fall in love really easily. I sometimes can't tell if it's love, lust, or just a strong connection.

I have lost some very good friends because I became insecure and jealother people. They weren't leading me on, they weren't giving me mixed signals — I just fell for these people.

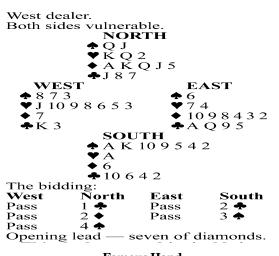
Last week I was so depressed I didn't eat for four days because of an incident like this. I got jealous because the object of my affections was on a date.

Rationally, I know I need to be there as a friend because most great relationships are built on friendships first. How can I tame my heart and not fall so easily? -THE FALLEN IN D.C.

DEAR FALLEN: It isn't your heart that needs taming — it is

your insecurity! When people encounter needy, clingy, jealous people, their instinct is to run, not walk, in the opposite direction. Counseling could help you. You must get a grip and learn to like yourself more. Once you do, you'll feel less threatened if someone you like wants to take his (or her) time before making a commitment.

### **Bridge**



### **Famous Hand**

This deal occurred in the Netherlands-Italy match at the 1966 world team championship.

With Benito Garozzo North and Pietro Forquet South for Italy, the bidding went as shown. The Italians were playing the Neapolitan Club system, and, in accordance with it, Garozzo opened one club, indicating 17 or more points. The two-club response by Forquet was artificial and indicated two aces and a king. From then on, the bidding was natural. Garozzo showed his diamonds, and Forquet jumped to three spades, indicating a long, strong spade suit. Garozzo raised to four, and Forquet passed, fearing North's clubs might be of poor quality since North had failed to cuebid the suit. West led his singleton diamond, and Forquet made 11 tricks to score a seemingly normal 650 points.

At the second table, with a Dutch pair North-South, the bidding was less scientific but more successful:

West North East South Pass 1D Pass 1S

Pass 2 NT Pass 3 C

Pass 3 NT Pass 6 S

for being too scientific!

West led the jack of hearts, and declarer had no trouble taking 13 tricks. Three clubs was probably meant to inhibit West from leading that suit though in the actual deal West would hardly have led a club even if the suit had not been bid.

A diamond lead would also have stopped the slam, as it would have cut declarer off from dummy's red-suit tricks before trumps could be drawn. As it was, Holland gained 810 points on the deal and in that way punished Garozzo and Forquet

## **Abigail** Van Buren

### Dear Abby

mother is retired and addicted to the jokes, poems and "urban legend" articles a day.

It is annoying and time-consuming to wade through such nonsense, from her mailing list, but I don't want to hurt her feelings. Please tell me what to say.

### NEBRASKA

**DEAR PUSSYFOOTING:** Since you haven't said otherwise, your mother may think you enjoy what she's been sending. Say: "Mom, I love you. But there's something you must understand. I don't have time to read a lot of e-mail. I'd love to get a personal message from you, but if the deluge doesn't stop, I'll have to delete your e-mails unread."

truth.

DEARABBY: Iam an 11th-grade girl who should be an all-around happy teenager, but lately I've been depressed. Ever since seventh grade, I've gotten depressed at the same time every year. The first time it happened there

were many reasons for it. Around that time, you published a list of signs that point to depression. I fit all of them except one — thoughts of suicide. Your list made me realize I needed help, and I got it. For a while I was doing great. But

now, every year I get this recurrence. My mood gets low and I have no ous when they showed an interest in energy. My grades drop. I feel 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My 67-year-old worthless and cry easily.

Is there a reason why this hap-Internet. She e-mails me at least five pens, and is there anything I can do about it? (I live in an area where there is little climate change yearround.) Also, could you please publish the signs of depression again? and I'd like to ask her to remove me It helped me immensely, and may help others, too.

### ANONYMOUS TEEN

DEARANONYMOUSTEEN: — PUSSYFOOTING IN I'm certainly willing to publish them again, but before I do, allow me to direct some remarks to you. The fact that your depression recurs each year is not unusual, I am told. However, it is important that you tell your doctor about it. You should also discuss it with your family. Because depression often runs in families, you may be surprised to discover you are not

My experts tell me that regard-It's not unkind, and it's the less of age, anyone who experiences any five of the following symptoms for two weeks or more should consult a mental health professional:

(1) Fatigue or loss of energy; (2) Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed; (3) Feelings of sadness and/or irritability; (4) Inability to concentrate, remember things or make decisions; (5) Changes in sleep patterns; (6) Changes in weight and appetite; (7) Restlessness or decreased activity noticed by others; (8) Feeling guilty, hopeless or worthless; (9) Thoughts of death or suicide.

Editor's note: Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box

### Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Randy Johnson pitched a perfect game at 40, so I have 33 years to go.'

### Crossword

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