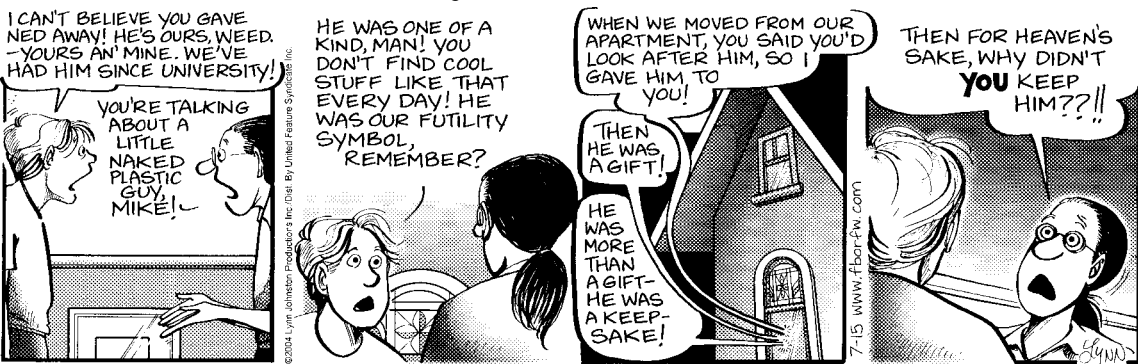
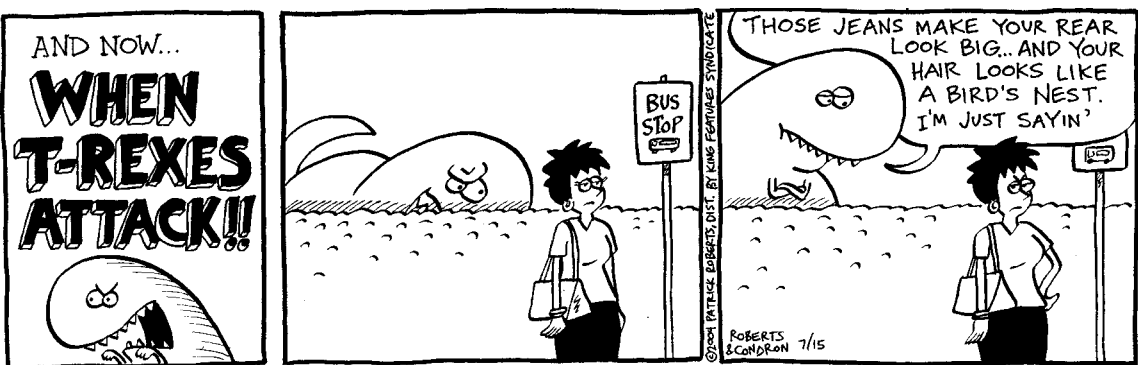


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



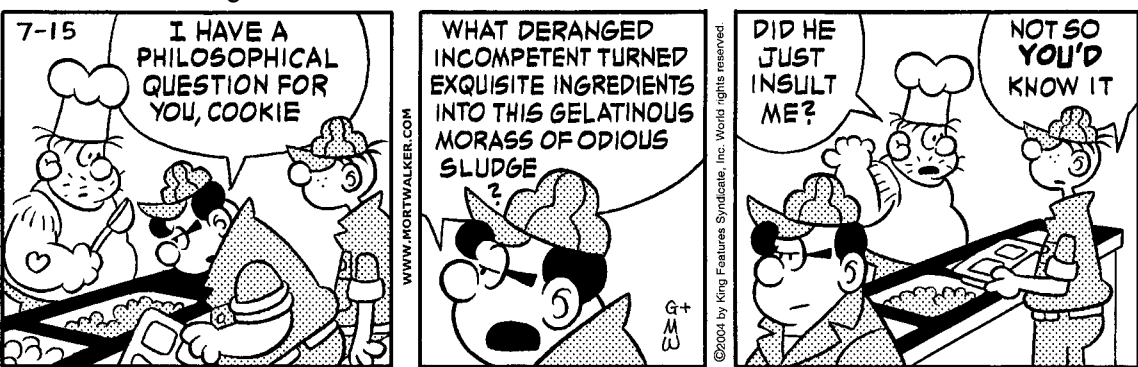
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

T R O O D X Z R X R M M T R V Z
Y I R Y I R O A Z Z J K D Y H R Q Z E
S K D H E A Z S R H H Z E R
Q Z E E T J V A R J J Z E.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR PARENTS AND SIBLINGS ARE PHYSICISTS, YOU MIGHT BE CALLED A NUCLEAR FAMILY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals D

Woman unhappy with pool guests



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in a small community of fewer than 200 people. We installed a swimming pool in our back yard and made the mistake of allowing neighbors to come over to swim.

I recently started a home-based business, and one of my neighbors refuses to understand that I have to work. Even in the winter she comes over and sits on our yard furniture, waiting for me to come out and talk to her. In the summer, she comes unannounced and either sunbathes in our yard or swims in our pool. One day she caught my poor husband on the deck tanning in his birthday suit.

We have asked people to call before coming, but some of our neighbors have come to swim and left their kids there — as though I am expected to baby-sit for them.

Have you anything I could laminate and post in my back yard that will remind my neighbors about observing common courtesy and not coming over unannounced?

— DESPERATE IN KANSAS
DEAR DESPERATE: There's an old saying, if folks take advantage of you once, shame on them; if they take advantage of you twice, shame on YOU.

You can put a stop to the drop-ins by becoming assertive. The next time you find your yard populated with uninvited guests, go outside and tell them, "I'm sorry, but today isn't a good day for me to have people use the pool. Next time, please call before coming over."

Some pool owners have solved the problem by installing a flagpole in their yards and raising a "welcome flag" when guests are invited to swim.

Others post signs next to the pool area, stating that the pool is open to guests from () to () on specified days and that children must be supervised by parents at all times.

It is extremely important that you be properly insured because should someone be injured on your property, you would be liable — so call your insurance agent and make certain your homeowner's insurance is current and adequate. Good luck.

P.S. Have you considered putting in a fence with a locked gate?

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife have two children, a son, age 7, and a daughter, age 5. Every day when my son leaves for work, he drops his son off at school.

Before they leave the house, he takes his daughter to the bathroom and then she is locked in her bedroom until her mother gets out of bed.

I have tried telling them that this isn't right. To me, it is very dangerous — and probably illegal — to leave a young child locked in a room unattended. I also worry that it may cause psychological damage. Could you please give me some words that I can pass along to them? They refuse to take me seriously.

Bridge

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ K 10 9 7 2
♦ A 6
♣ A
WEST
♠ 4
♥ 6 5 4
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ 10 7 6 5 4
SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9 2
♥ A
♦ Q 9 7 5 2
♣ J 3
EAST
♠ K 7
♥ Q J 8 3
♦ K 10
♣ K Q 9 8 2
The bidding:
East 1 ♠
Pass
Pass
South 2 ♠
1 ♦
2 ♠
5 ♦
West Pass
Pass
Pass
North 2 ♣
4 NT
6 ♠
Opening lead — five of clubs.

Stop, Look and Listen

Today's deal from a team contest shows how taking the time to try to visualize the opposing hands — instead of blithely plunging ahead with the play — can reap big dividends for declarer.

At both tables, South arrived at six spades after East opened the bidding with one club. At one table, declarer took the club lead with dummy's ace, crossed to the ace of hearts, led the queen of spades and finessed after West followed low. East won with the king and returned a spade, and declarer eventually lost a diamond to East's king for down one.

At the other table, South took a dim view of his chances of winning a spade finesse, given East's opening bid and the fact that only 15 high-card points were missing. So he adopted a line of play that offered a much better chance of getting home safely.

After taking the club ace, he, too, led a heart to the ace followed by the spade queen. But when West followed low, South put up dummy's ace. Had the king fallen, declarer would have been home free, but the fall of the king was not really crucial to South's plan.

Abandoning spades for the moment, declarer cashed the king of hearts and ruffed a heart. A club ruff in dummy was followed by another heart ruff, establishing dummy's last heart.

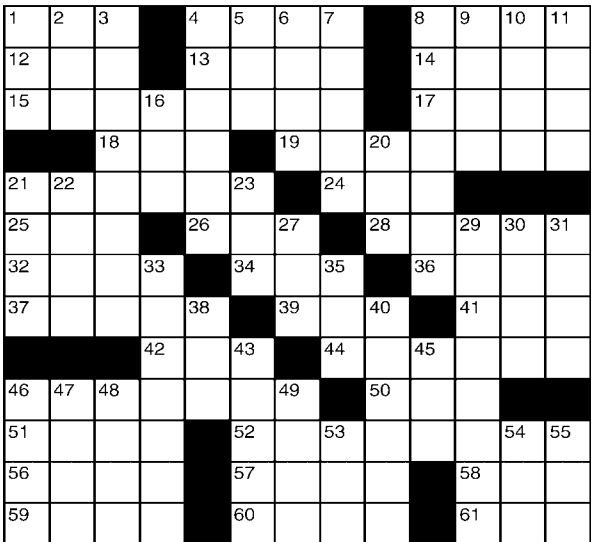
This brought South to the end position he had visualized from the start. Having eliminated the hearts from East's hand and the clubs from his own hand and dummy, he now led a spade.

East won with the king but had no safe exit. If he returned a diamond, declarer would win with the queen and score the rest of the tricks, while if East returned a club, declarer would ruff in his hand and discard a diamond from dummy to produce the same result.



Crossword

ACROSS 36 — gin fizz
1 Tire-pressure meas.
4 Makes lace
8 Get ready
12 Many millennia
13 "Bonanza" role
14 Move like molasses
15 Replace humans with robots
17 Angry
18 "The Crying Game" org.
19 Outstanding athlete
21 Samuel Richardson novel
24 Falsehood
25 Eggs
26 Conclusion
28 There's a lot of interest in it
32 Apportion
34 Piper's son
DOWN 1 Shell-game need
2 Without a — (broke)
3 Hint
4 Mexican entree
5 Computer language
6 "See ya"
7 Bloodhound's clue
8 Have
9 Origin
10 Pound of poetry
11 Juror, e.g.
16 Tricar contents
20 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
21 Circumstance partner
22 State
23 Pismire
27 Homer's expletive
29 Last
30 Reddish steed
31 Safe-cracker
33 River offshoot
35 Pie material?
38 Trinity member
40 The way we were?
43 Nancy of "Access Hollywood"
45 Caribbean export
46 Beckoned, in a way
47 Hydrox rival
48 Rend asunder
49 One side of the Urals
53 Take a whack at
54 AAA job
55 Storm center
Solution time: 25 mins.
B I B A V O N L A P S
O N E M I R A I D E A
A C E H A R P O M A R X
T H R O E S U B
H A R D R U M T E S L A
E R A T O I E T R E I N
R I N D T O L E T A S K
A D I E U H A R R U M P H
H A S S I S S U E
H A R L E Q U I N O R B
A L O E F A C E A G O
D E E R T R E E K E N
Yesterday's answer 7-15



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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