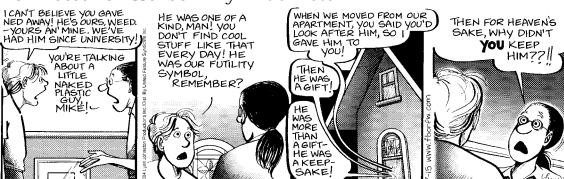
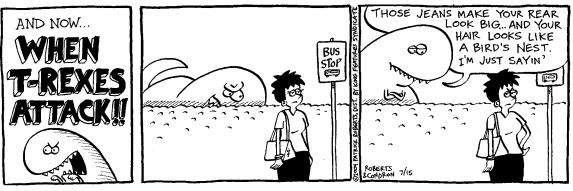
#### For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



### Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron

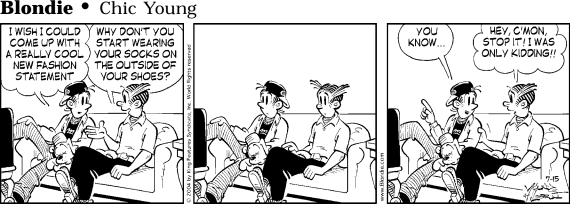


## Garfield • Jim Davis



### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





### Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





# Woman unhappy with pool guests

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 dropins 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.

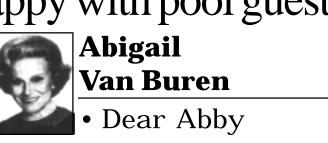
It is extremely important that you be properly insured because should someone be injured on your property, you would be liable --- so call your insurance agent and make certain your homeowner's insurance is current and adequate. Good luck.

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



- SLEEPING BEAUTY'S your grandchild, but rather that would be interesting to know how long and why your daughter-inlaw stays in bed in the mornings. Could she be depressed? Substance-addicted? It is her respondown on the job until it's convenient.

Since your son and daughter-inlaw are deaf to your concerns, please inform child protective services. I, too, am worried about the psychological implications for your grandchild.

DEAR ABBY: I have an 8-yearold dog and a 5-year-old cat. Unfortunately, my new grandson is allergic to both.

I live only a few miles from my daughter and grandson and visit them every day, but the baby can't come to my house. My daughter is insinuating that I have chosen my pets over her baby.

Abby, I need a truthful answer: Do you think I should get rid of my pets, or tell my daughter to wait to bring her baby over until he is old enough to be treated for his allergies? Please help. WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT

THING IN FLORIDA DEAR WANTS: I see no reason

why you should have to give up your pets — provided your clothing is free of dog and cat dander when you visit your grandson. Since you visit the baby every day, ten by Abigail Van Buren, also known I see no urgency about visiting at as Jeanne Phillips. Write Dear Abby your house until he is older. It is not at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box that you have chosen your pets over 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



MOTHER-IN-LAW your daughter shouldn't force you DEAR MOTHER-IN-LAW: It into the position of having to choose unless it's absolutely necessary. (And it's not.)

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother with a wonderful 4-year-old sibility to care for and supervise boy. I have been seeing this great her daughter — not (literally) lie man, "Mike," for about seven months. I have not let him spend time with my son because I don't want my child to become attached.

You see, I don't know if Mike wants a real relationship or just wants to keep things simple. He's 33, and that's a 10-year difference in our ages. Mike has never been married, and I have.

My friends have given me mixed advice. One says to go with the flow and just enjoy.

The other says I should invite him to go somewhere with my son and if he objects, get rid of him.

Abby, he's the greatest guy I have ever met — everything I could want in a man, and to top it off, he's dropdead gorgeous. When is the right time to have a serious talk with him?

-LOST IN ARIZONA **DEAR LOST:** After seven months, I'd say the time is right. Invite him to go somewhere with you and your son. If he and the boy get along, share your concerns about your son becoming attached and later disappointed. Then be quiet and listen to what Mr. Won-

derful has to say. Editor's note: Dear Abby is writ-

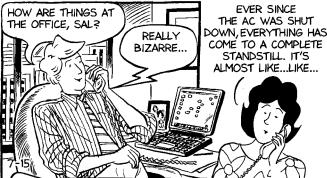
**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



## Sally Forth • Greg Howard

SPORTS

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals D

I can pass along to them? They refuse to take me seriously.

## Bridge

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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### 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, de-24 | clarer took the club lead with dummy's ace, crossed to the ace of hearts, led the queen of spades and fi-25 I nessed after West followed low. East won with the 26 ( king and returned a spade, and declarer eventually lost 28 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 32 / were missing. So he adopted a line of play that offered 34 | 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.

"Around the world in 80 days? Boy that guy was SLOW!"

## Crossword

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