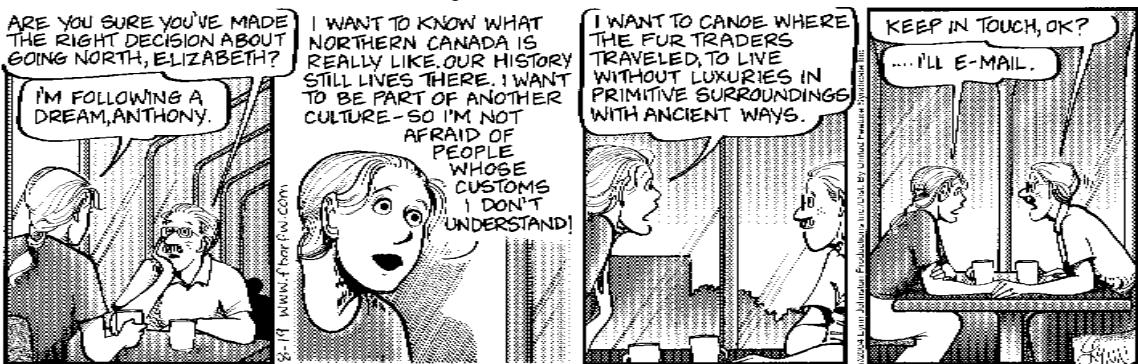
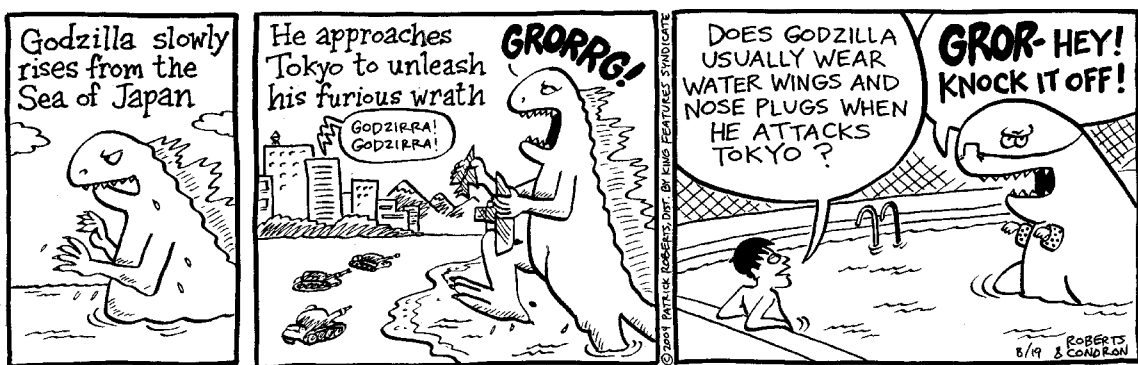


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



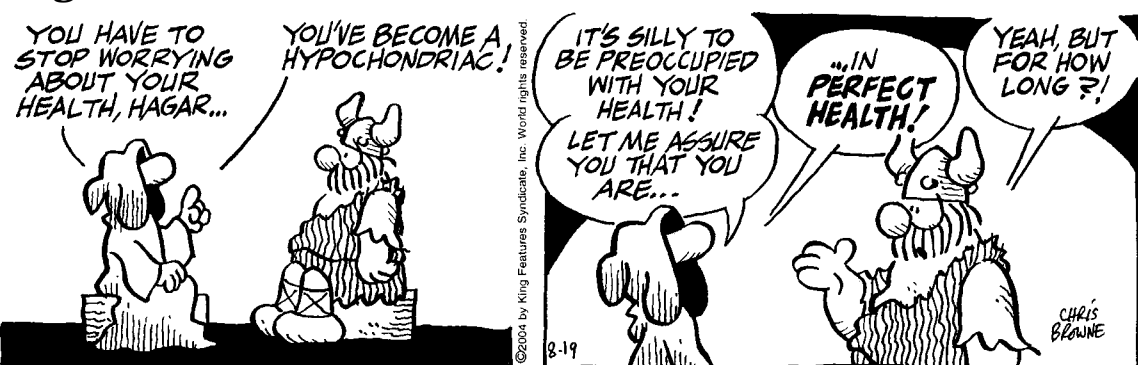
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



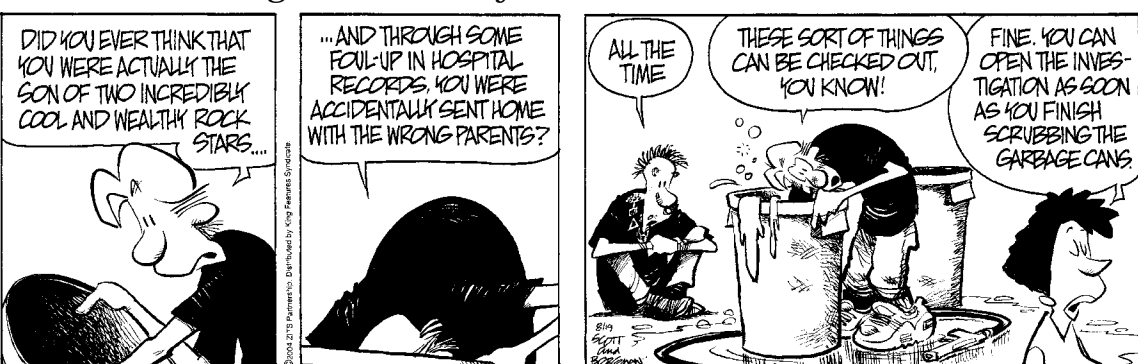
Blondie • Chic Young



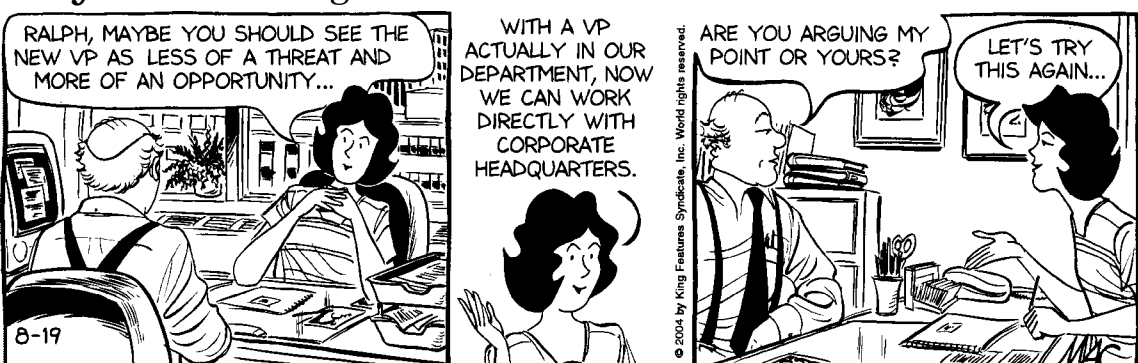
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

FS VSD CYPRE CYJC J

TSRJNCIHV'N KIJFPRU

TSRE QSDKF WI QJKKIF

CYI WPU WHSCYIH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SAILOR RETALIATES AGAINST SOMEONE, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY THAT'S AN AYE FOR AN AYE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Those left behind by suicide seek help

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing concerning the letter from the 15-year-old girl, "Needs Closure in Georgia," whose grandfather committed suicide. You suggested she write a letter to him, and then to burn it.

Another useful technique is to sit opposite an empty chair and speak your heart to the person you need to communicate with. I wasn't getting on with my life after my husband died, and it worked for me.

— DOING BETTER
DEAR DOING BETTER: Thank you for the helpful suggestion. Many readers were touched by that girl's letter and wanted to reach out to her. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: When my grandmother died, my father and his wife planted a small rose garden. Over the years, as we have lost family members (including pets), additional rose bushes have been added in their honor. It is peaceful and comforting to sit among the blooming roses and think of our loved ones.

— REMEMBERING
DEAR REMEMBERING: I believe you. After Cary Grant passed away, his widow, Barbara, gave my mother a rose bush that had been named for her husband. Mama, who had been very fond of both of them, planted it outside her office window — and when the roses were in bloom, it gave her many hours of pleasure.

DEAR ABBY: I found "The Grief Recovery Handbook," by John W. James and Russell Friedman, to be extremely helpful. My grandfather committed suicide more than 25 years ago, when I was in seventh grade, and my parents didn't want us to tell anyone what happened, which didn't help at all.

Perhaps "Needs Closure" could organize a memorial service with a local church, depending on what is



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

going to be done with his ashes. If that's not possible, she should reach out to other family members and grieve with them. I hope they do not feel embarrassed about the suicide.

— LOYAL READER
DEAR LOYAL READER: One thing is certain: She should not suffer alone and in silence.

DEAR ABBY: While "Needs Closure" feels that her grandfather's cremation is the reason she has had a difficult time letting go. I suspect it is the manner in which he died. Suicide is a traumatic loss — sudden, unexpected, often violent. That girl is now a survivor of suicide. One does not "get over" a suicide. The effects may stabilize, but the loss is forever felt. Five years ago, my beautiful little sister committed suicide at 19. I have read many books for suicide survivors and belong to an online support group for sibling survivors. One great resource for her could be SOLOS — Survivors of Loved Ones' Suicides. The Web site is www.solos.org. She can also write to the group for information at P.O. Box 592, Dumfries, VA 22026-0592.

— STILL GRIEVING
DEAR STILL GRIEVING: Please accept my sympathy for your loss, as well as my gratitude for suggesting this resource.

DEAR ABBY: Your advice was right on the money. I was away when my best friend dropped dead of a heart attack. Since I had no chance to say goodbye, I wrote him a letter telling him what his friendship had meant to me. At first, I planned to

"send it" to him by burning it in the fireplace. But it is now 2004, and I still write letters to him. What started as a way to bring closure became the beginning of a wonderful journal.

— J. IN OCEANSIDE, ORE.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 21-year-old, happily married woman. "Nolan" and I were married in 2002 and only recently informed my parents. Two years ago, I just wanted to be married to Nolan. I knew my family would not approve, so we eloped. Nolan's family knew about our elopement and are happy for us.

We planned to have a large family wedding "later." I have been planning my perfect wedding since I was 5. Now my grandmother says that having a reception would be a good idea, but a "wedding" with a dress and attendants would be in very bad taste. I disagree — but am I being selfish? I love my family, but I am going to have only one ceremony in my life. I was thinking we could have it in the church and I could have bridesmaids and everything. I won't wear white — my gown would be ivory.

— MARRIED
DEAR MARRIED: Your grandmother is a wise lady, and you should listen to her because she's right. A reception to celebrate your marriage would be far more tasteful than staging the wedding you skipped when you eloped. However, if and when you and Nolan decide to renew your vows — perhaps on your fifth anniversary — the ceremony you have in mind would be more appropriate at that time.

Bridge

East dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	4 NT	5 ♠	6 ♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

Once, Maybe — Twice, Never

Expert players don't always play expertly. They make mistakes just like everyone else. The difference is that they do so less often than ordinary mortals.

Consider this deal from an intercity match between Los Angeles and Houston. We won't name names, 'cause that's not cricket; we'll only tell what actually happened. With Houston North-South and Los Angeles East-West, the bidding went as shown. Six hearts was a sound contract, but six diamonds would have been much safer.

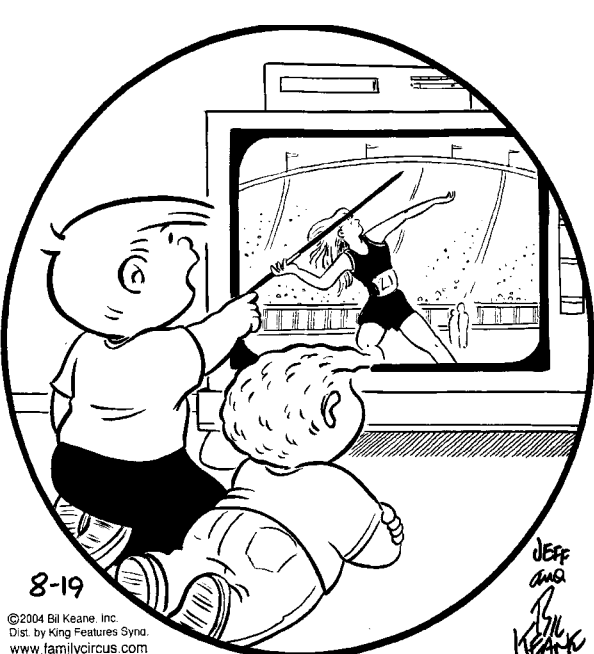
West led the king of spades, East playing the four, and continued with the ace, ruffed by South. Declarer then drew trumps and chalked up 1,210 points for making six hearts doubled.

Of course, the slam could have been defeated. West had two chances and muffed them both. First of all, West should have led a diamond originally. East, the player not on lead, had doubled six hearts, which — according to the Lightner slam-doubling convention — called for an unusual lead, normally dummy's first-bid suit. The only other suit North had bid besides hearts was diamonds, so this was clearly the lead East was asking for. Had West led a diamond, East would have ruffed, returned a spade and gotten another ruff to put the slam down two — 300 points. But even after the king-of-spades lead, West could have saved the day by shifting to a diamond. Instead, he ignored East's low-spade play on the king — which directed West to stop playing spades — and continued the suit. After that, it was curtains.

The lesson to be learned is that bridge is a partnership game, and that one shouldn't ignore warning signals transmitted by partner. Once, maybe, but twice, never!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS		35 Nymph who became Ursa Major	55 Old Italian bread	8 Forward pass
1 In addition				9 Volition
5 Stir-fry vessel			56 Salamander	10 Lends a hand
8 Somewhere out there		38 Rorschach picture	57 Sushi offering	11 Whatever's left
12 Willy Wonka's creator		39 Fond du —, WI	58 Grandson of 1-Down	19 Exist
13 Rage		40 Buck's mate	DOWN	21 Catcher's place?
14 One of HOMES		42 Pencil pusher?	1 Leading man	24 Lobbyist org.
15 More than eager		45 Breathe with difficulty	2 Kilauea flow	25 Literary collection
16 Kathie — Gifford		49 Sewing machine inventor	3 Doorstop, often	26 Sudden violent wind
17 Cincinnati squad		50 Foreman foe	4 He played Oswald in "JFK"	28 Part of NIMBY
18 Human, e.g.		52 Deuce beater	5 Boston Pops VIP	29 Benevolence
20 Deacon's superior		53 Verve rock	John	30 Bill's partner
22 Parisian pal		54 Hodges of baseball	6 Raw rock	31 Suitable
23 Deviate off course			7 Refuse to relinquish	36 Untapped
24 Kasparov's soldier				37 Bar supply
27 Sweet wine from California				38 Scarab
32 Blackbird				41 "I see"
33 Jane Smiley novel				42 Timely question
34 Prune				43 Portrayal
				44 Fashion
				46 " — Brockovich"
				47 Zilch
				48 Sight-seers?
				51 Whopper

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-19

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
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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