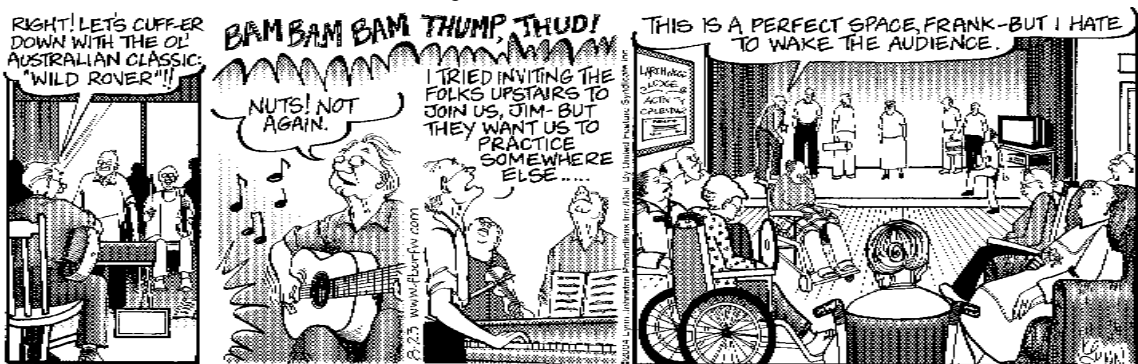
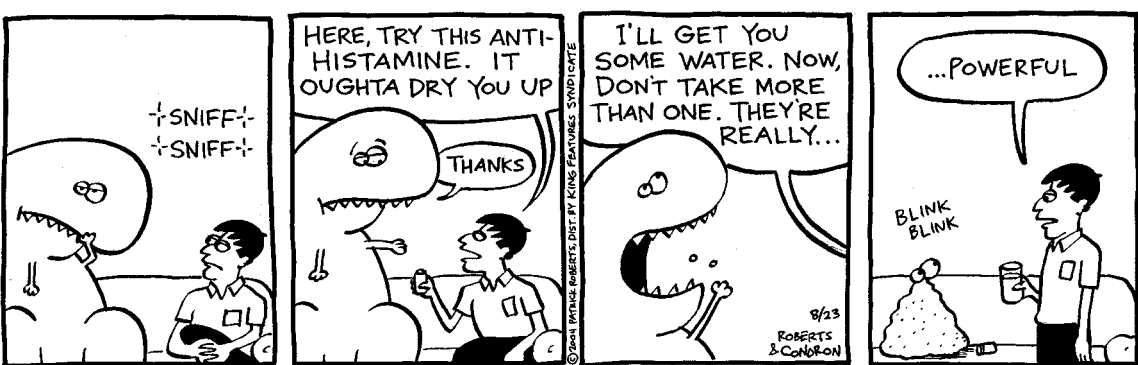


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



Garfield • Jim Davis



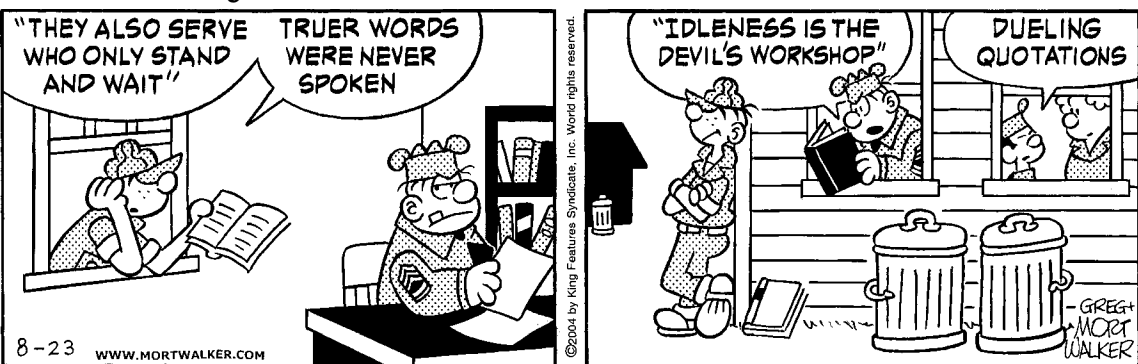
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



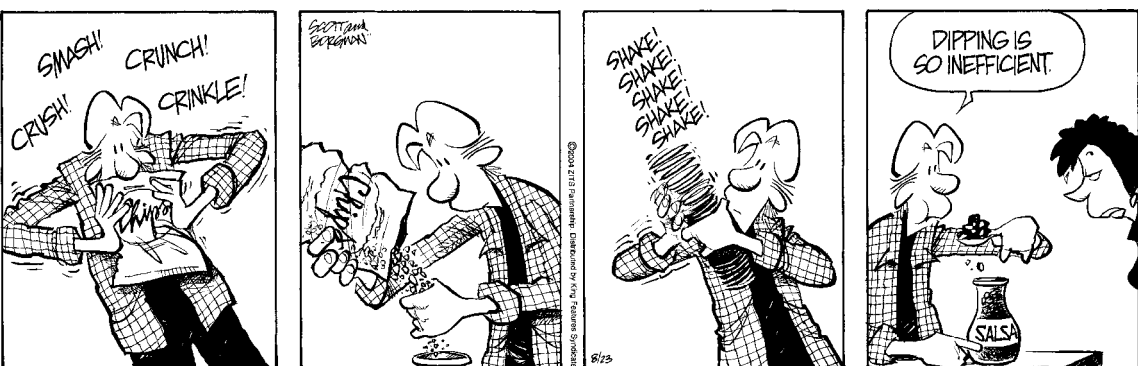
Blondie • Chic Young



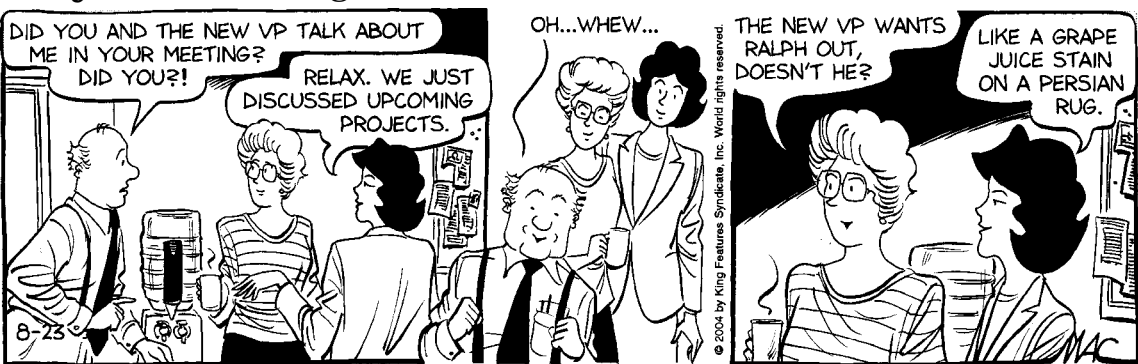
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

OU XGE PATZQ AKTCCX
MOYMHX GU XGEK
STOHOWY, O KTSQGW XGE'KT

AKZOPOWY CMT KGGU.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE A CAT'S DEFINITION OF "UTOPIA" WOULD PROBABLY BE "A PURRFEKT WORLD."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Daughter tired of mom's stay



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Owen and I have been married for 30 years. My mother has lived with us for 27 of them. We moved in with Mom to help her with expenses after Dad passed away. Five years later, we bought our own house and invited her to come with us. She has always been helpful. Other than a lack of privacy, the arrangement has worked out well. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I always thought she would remarry. Owen lost his job of 28 years a year ago, and I recently was laid off from the place I had worked for 15 years. I recently took a part-time job to pay for groceries.

My two sisters and brothers have done nothing to help in the support of our mother. I feel that Owen and I have been cheated out of a normal marriage. Our children are grown now, so when is it OUR time? Mom is in her mid-70s. I would never tell her how I feel because it would hurt her terribly.

When she finally passes away, I don't think I'll ever speak to my siblings again because the older I get the angrier I become. The only reason I see them now is because Mom wouldn't understand my disgust with them. What should I do?

—BITTER UP NORTH
DEAR BITTER: Your mother has been living with you for so long that your siblings probably have no idea that you feel the frustration you have described. They may need to be reminded that your financial situation has changed and that you need their monetary help.

Or, just a break from your mother and some private time with your spouse.

You are a devoted daughter, but please do not continue to suffer in silence. I'm not suggesting that you talk about this to your mother, but a conversation with your siblings is long overdue.

DEAR ABBY: I don't know what to do. My friend and I were told by someone that stealing is just borrowing without asking and it's OK. So we "borrowed" candy from a vendor and ate it.

We now know this is wrong. What should we do — apologize? We don't want to get caught.

—MISLED IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR MISLED: For the record, "borrowing" is taking something with the lender's permission and then returning it. In your case, you and your friend ate the vendor's candy and the person suffered a loss.

That's stealing. You owe the vendor an apology and payment for the candy you stole. Ideally, it should be done in person. However, if you are afraid or ashamed to face the vendor, write him or her an anonymous note of apology and include payment for what you took.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I used to have a problem with kids sitting on the stone wall in front of our house and smoking cigarettes. Nothing would dissuade them, and our lawn was continually littered with butts.

Finally, I found a motion-sensor water sprinkler, and whenever the smokers came into the yard the sprinkler would activate. That solved our problem without confrontation.

Thanks for your steady good sense every day.

—TOM IN NUTTING LAKE, MASS.

DEAR TOM: Your solution is intriguing because it has probably discouraged more than smokers. I'll bet those sudden bursts of water also keep your yard free from deposits left by pets running loose in the neighborhood.

DEAR ABBY: "Lindsey" and I are co-workers. We have known each other nearly 10 years. We slept together on a recent business trip and I agreed to keep it between us. I didn't keep my promise and it got back to Lindsey.

She is terribly hurt, and sadly, I can't undo the wrong I've done. As a result, I have lost a friend and will always regret what I did.

Lindsey told me she had denied that anything happened between us to the person who approached her. She asked me to do the same and say that it was all a joke — that I had made up the story about our being together. I know I betrayed her trust after I promised her I wouldn't speak to anyone about it.

I feel she's justified in her anger toward me and is right to have ended our friendship. But I don't think it's a good idea for me to compound the situation with a lie. I don't see how it would make things better. Should I grant her this favor?

—MR. BIG MOUTH IN BROOKLYN

DEAR MR. BIG: Yes, you should grant her this favor. There's an old saying: A gentleman doesn't kiss and tell. Considering the damage you have done to your friend's reputation by crowing, a little white lie is not too much to ask.

Bridge

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A K Q J 10 7
♥ K J 10 3
♦ —
♣ A J 5

WEST
♦ 9 4
♥ 9 8 7 6
♦ 8 3
♣ K 10 9 7 3

EAST
♦ 6 5 3
♥ A 4 2
♦ J 10 4
♣ Q 8 6 2

SOUTH
♦ 8 2
♥ Q 5
♦ A K Q 9 7 6 5 2
♣ 4

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	7 NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Redble		

Opening lead — nine of spades.

Famous Hand

It's hard to believe this deal was played as described here, but it happened nevertheless.

It occurred in the 1974 National Mixed Pair Championship in San Antonio.

Obviously, something went very wrong with the bidding when South wound up as declarer in seven notrump redoubled, missing an ace.

The fault is not hard to find. It can be traced to North's five-spade response to Blackwood ostensibly showing three aces. North incorrectly treated the diamond void as the equivalent of an ace, and it was this departure from the straight and narrow that ultimately led South to bid seven notrump.

Despite this indiscretion, however, South made the grand slam and scored 2,930 points!

West had a difficult choice of opening leads and unluckily selected the nine of spades.

A heart lead would have settled declarer's hash immediately — down one, 400 points — while the ten-of-clubs lead would have resulted in down five, assuming best defense, for a loss of 2,800 points!

But the nine-of-spades lead handed South the contract, since it established the eight of spades as an entry to his hand.

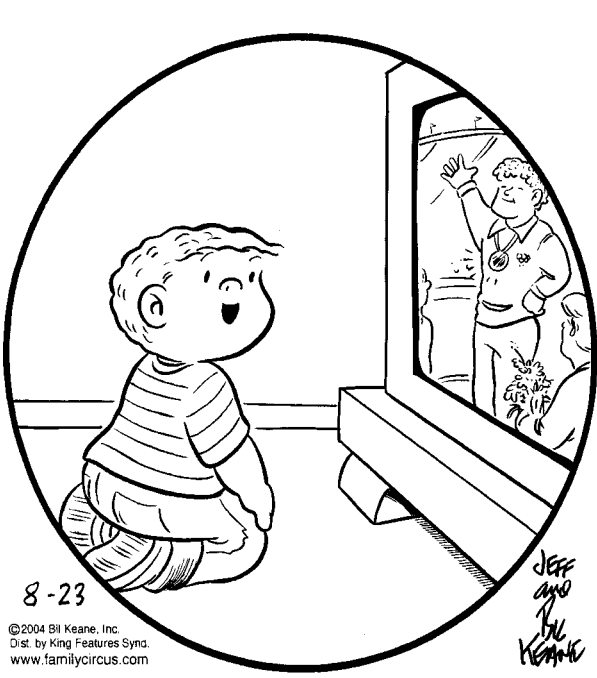
After taking the first trick with dummy's ten, declarer simply crossed to the eight to cash his diamonds, which would otherwise have withered on the vine.

It is rare indeed for a player to lose 5,730 points because of a wrong opening lead, but that's precisely what it cost West for choosing a spade instead of a club as his opening shot.

Tomorrow: Eavesdropping on the defense.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Muppet eagle
4 Little devil
7 Banshee's cry
11 Dickens' Uriah
13 Somewhere out there
14 Bush's NSA
15 "Rule, Britannia" composer
16 — Paulo
17 Notion
18 Get on
20 Castle protector
22 Corn eater's castoff
24 Plaster art
28 Cupboard
32 Folklore dwarf
33 Pitch
34 Pooch
36 Tater
37 Burst forth
39 Their hands move in circles
41 Character
43 Standard

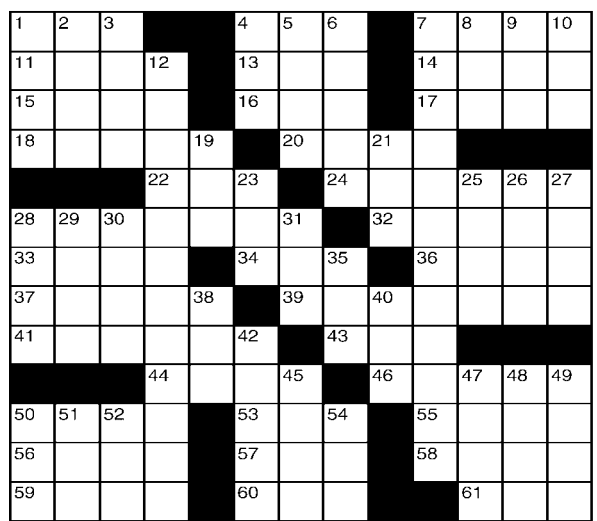
44 Simultaneity
46 A to Z
50 Sitcom set in Korea
53 "God-father" title
55 Mimicking bird
56 Sheltered
57 Inseparable
58 Prudish
59 Celebrity
60 Drenched
61 Broke a fast

4 Conditions
5 Sir's counter-part
6 Irrefutable evidence
7 Early version of carpal tunnel syndrome?
8 Help
9 Lemieux milieu
10 Meadow
12 One engaged in much paper-work
19 Great weight
21 Illustrations
23 Foundation

25 Former frosh
26 Mrs. Peacock's game
27 Silhouette maker
28 "Big Brother" host Julie
29 Emanation
30 Very dry (of champagne)
31 AAA job
35 Hiatus
38 Take a whack at
40 Play-ground game
42 Provide income for
45 Scoop holder
47 "Breckinridge"
48 Troop group
49 Domes-ticate
50 Barker and Bell
51 Elev.
52 Baltic —
54 Bottom line

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 8-23



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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