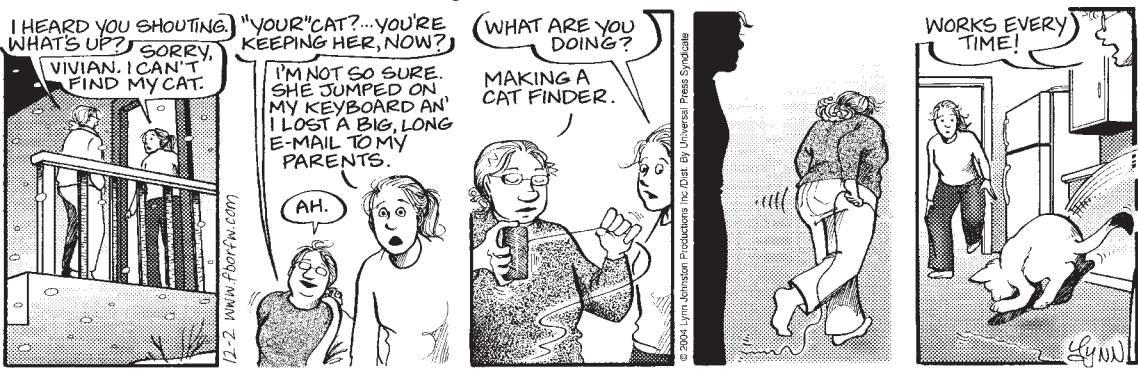


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



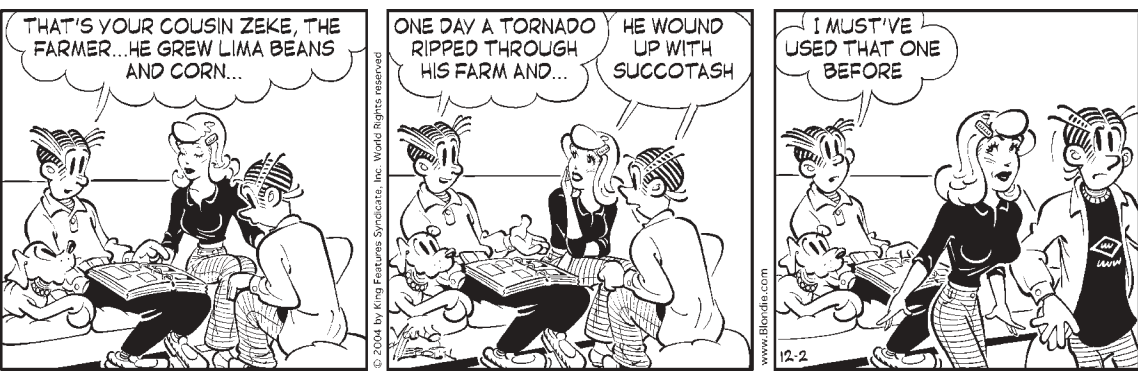
Garfield • Jim Davis



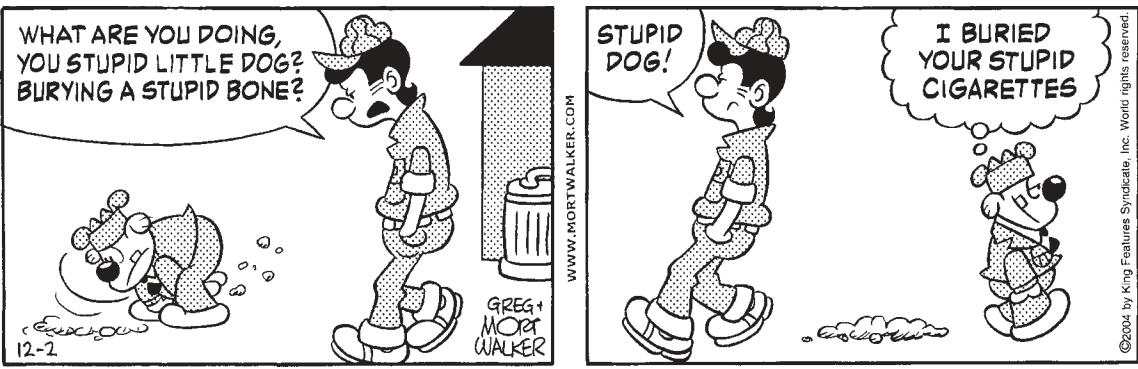
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



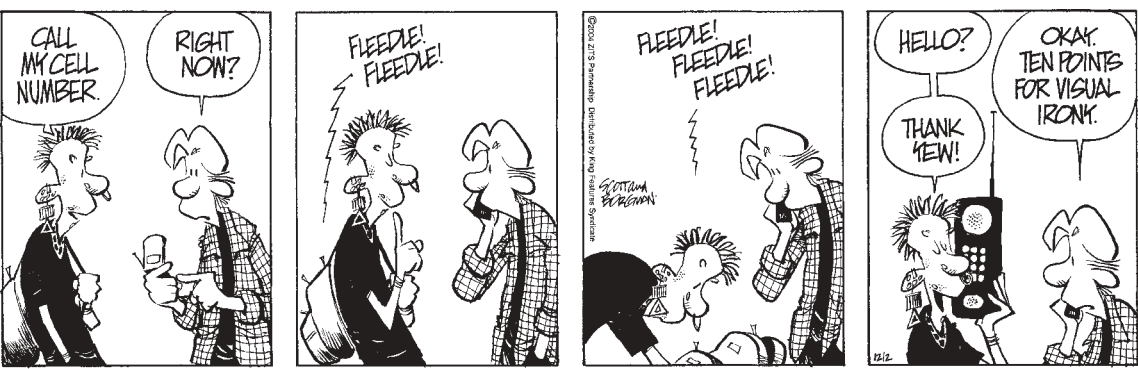
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

M H S L N M E F M J I T Q V Q
Y V Q G G X , T M G B M K X
U W K Q V M J I A N U B W H M G ,
M G T W N E F L Q Z M A Y E X
F Q - K M J Q !
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CONCERT PIANISTS
MIGHT ALSO BE GOOD CHESS PLAYERS.
THEY'RE BOTH GRAND MASTERS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equal E

Mom makes unrealistic promise



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A promise I made to my child is tearing me apart. My 7-year-old son, "Lyle," has been talking a lot about death. A while back, we were in the car and he brought the subject up again. He said how sad he would be in heaven alone, and asked that should anything ever happen to him, if I would go with him. I promised that I would, and it seemed to make him feel much better. We talked about how we would fly down to Earth and touch our loved ones to give them comfort, even though they would never see us.

That promise I made is killing me now, because, God forbid if something bad did happen to Lyle, I could never go with him. I have four other children who need me. I'm afraid if I take back the promise that gave my son so much comfort, it will upset him. Also, I need to know why, at his tender age, Lyle is talking so much about death. Is this normal? Sometimes it scares me.

— TORN MOTHER IN VERMONT

DEAR TORN MOTHER: Do not "take back" the promise. Your son was asking for reassurance that you would never leave him, and you gave it to him. Because you are concerned about this preoccupation with death, gently try to draw him out when he brings it up again. If you are not satisfied with his responses, enlist the aid of a child psychologist.

DEAR Abby: I dated "Carter" for five months. During that time, he bought me all kinds of presents, from flowers to tires for my car. I never asked Carter for anything. In fact, I told him twice that there were "too many presents." He responded that I was insulting him, and told me I should just accept them graciously and say thank you.

I tried to reciprocate by doing things for him. I would cook him

dinner every time he came over, and give him fresh produce from our garden. I even loaned Carter my car when his was in the shop.

Now that we are broken up, he is demanding that I return all his gifts and pay him \$300 for the tires or he will sue me. (I have proof they were gifts, and given with love.) I feel Carter is wrong. Should I give him back the things and pay him?

— SORRY I EVER MET HIM
DEAR SORRY: Once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient to do with as she (or he) wishes. However, in this case, since you now know they were intended as strings to bind you to him, it might be better to return them and be rid of him once and for all.

P.S. He can sue you if he wishes, but whether he could WIN is another matter. I hope for his sake he won't decide to try.

DEAR ABBY: I was having a snack in a restaurant a few days ago. A mother and her two young children were sitting at the next table. The younger child — a boy about 3 — picked up the salt shaker and licked the top of it. The mother instructed the older child to take the salt shaker to an unoccupied table and exchange it for another salt shaker.

Should I have spoken to her about it, or taken it off the other table myself and turned it over to an employee? I feel I should have done something, but I didn't.

— FEELING GUILTY
DEAR FEELING GUILTY: You should have informed your server or the manager of the res-

taurant about what you saw, so the item could have been removed and sanitized. And shame on that mother for what she was teaching her older child. Mother of the year, she's not.

DEAR ABBY: The letter from the "Worried Mom" made me laugh, remembering when I was in high school. A group of friends and I decided to "kidnap" four other friends and take them out for breakfast before school. We surprised them in their beds, intending to take them out in public in their pajamas.

All was well until the third house. Like the girl in the letter, our friend "Angie" slept in the nude. I have never seen anyone blush harder than she did that morning.

— CHRISTA IN SALT LAKE CITY

DEAR CHRISTA: I guess the "surprise" was on YOU.

DEAR ABBY: I suspect that "Worried Mom" reacted so strongly because she's terrified of her daughter's awakening sexuality, and Mom equates nudity with sex, and sex is "wrong."

Now Mom has two tasks ahead of her. The first is to overcome her own hang-ups. The second is to have a frank discussion with her daughter about how to protect herself in sexual situations. Please tell her to stop worrying. Sleeping nude IS more comfortable.

— DOES IT TOO

DEAR D.I.T.: What was it that Marilyn Monroe used to say? At bedtime her preferred attire was Chanel No. 5.

Bridge

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Two-for-One Deal

If you lose a trick you don't have to lose, but get back two in exchange, you show a profit of one trick.

The opportunity for such a transaction seldom arises, but when it does, it should be grabbed with both hands.

Take this case where declarer wins the opening diamond lead with the ace and apparently must sooner or later lose two diamond tricks and go down one.

But declarer actually has an excellent chance for the slam. It is all a question of how the hearts are divided. If East has four or more of them, which is likely on the bidding, the slam is ice-cold.

South plays the A-Q of spades, discards a diamond on the ace of clubs and ruffs a club. He then cashes the A-K of hearts, ruffs a heart and trumps dummy's last club.

His preparations now complete, South leads the nine of hearts and discards a diamond from dummy, allowing East to win with the ten.

Obviously, South could ruff the heart in dummy and avoid a heart loser, but instead he sacrifices that trick because he aims to get it back with interest.

And that is exactly what happens. East, who is known from the bidding to have no more diamonds, is forced to return a heart or a club.

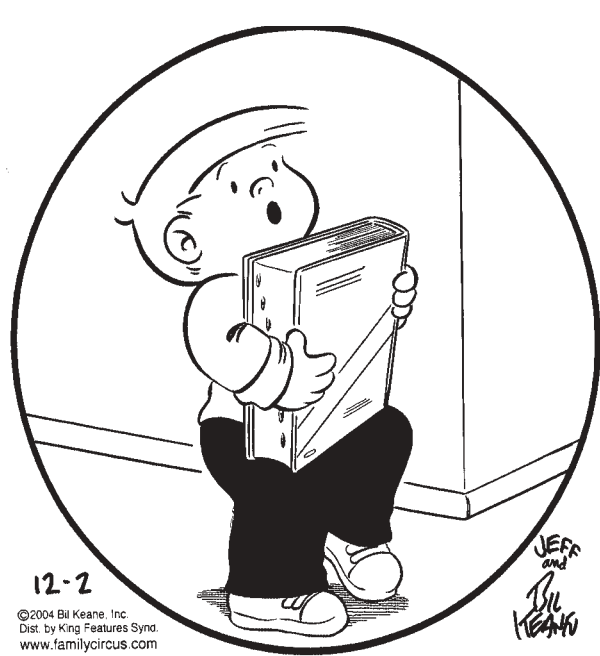
In either case, South ruffs in his hand and discards dummy's last diamond to make the slam.

In effect, declarer substitutes one heart loser for two diamond losers.

The exchange is very profitable, since South winds up plus 1,630 points instead of minus 100.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"You have to be strong to use an unabridged dictionary."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Subtraction result (Abbr.)

4 — Raton, Fla.

8 Use finger-paints

12 Immigrant's study (Abbr.)

13 Prior nights

14 Fashion reporter

15 Car-crash injury

17 Doggerel

18 Luau bowlful

19 Bank staff

21 Talented

24 Paulo preceder

25 Every last crumb

26 Watch pocket

28 Interval of recurrence

32 Lahr role

34 Diastema

36 "Pygmalion" writer

DOWN

1 Conden-sation

2 Sorta (Suff.)

3 Change your mind, maybe

4 Tenet

5 Eventual aves

6 "— Magni-fique"

7 Campfire remains

8 Spreads out

9 Lotion additive

10 Addict

11 Nutty as a fruitcake

16 Cauldron

20 Varnish ingredient

21 Chutzpah

22 Pelvic bones

23 Follow relentlessly

27 Prohibit

29 Golf tactic

30 Spike the punch

31 Basin accessory

33 Lands

35 Atl. counterpart

38 Nothing

40 Money

43 Necessities

45 "Mayday!"

46 "How silly of me"

47 Big name in scat

48 Campus bigwig

49 Interminable

53 "— picture paints 1,000 words ..."

54 Pussy-cat's partner

55 Xmas abbr.

Solution time: 25 mins.

OFF	THE	A	H	A	G	S
P	A	L	H	O	G	S
A	D	A	E	I	G	H
L	E	W	I	S	Y	E
S	P	A	R	N	O	T
T	W	O	T	I	M	E
A	O	K	S	O	L	O
B	R	I	C	S	I	X
S	M	E	A	R	C	Y
M	O	O	T	T	Y	P
T	H	R	E	E	P	E
W	A	I	L	T	A	M
O	D	S	T	A	R	S

Yesterday's answer 12-2

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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