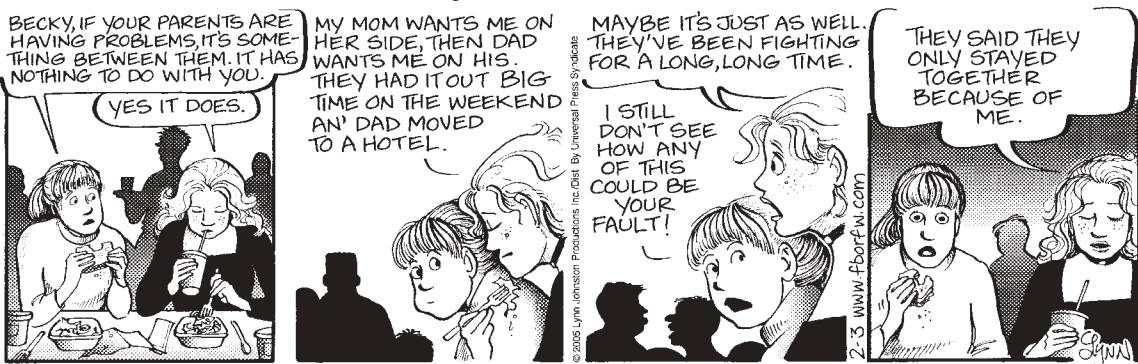
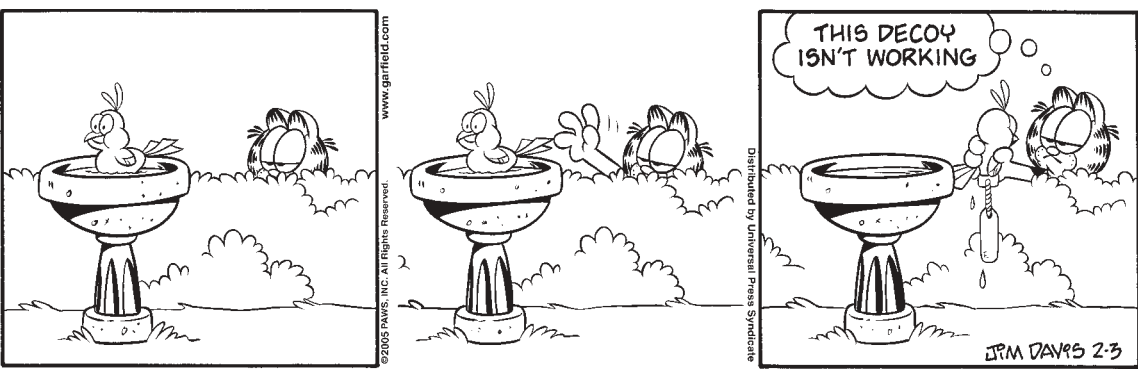


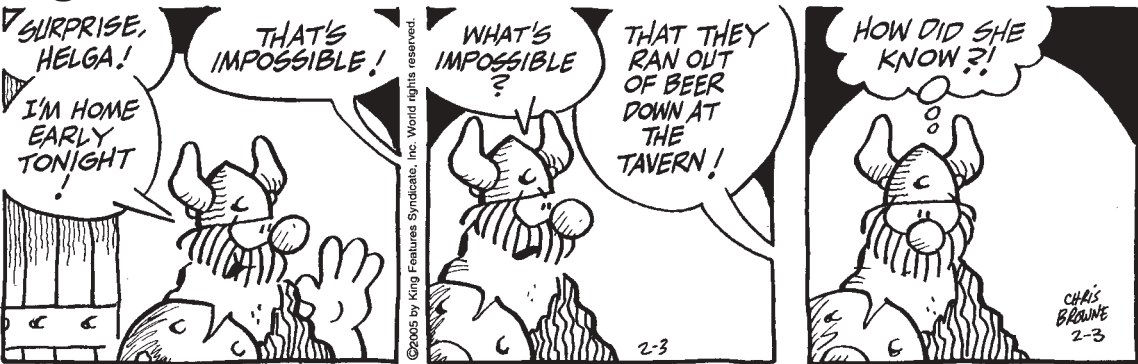
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



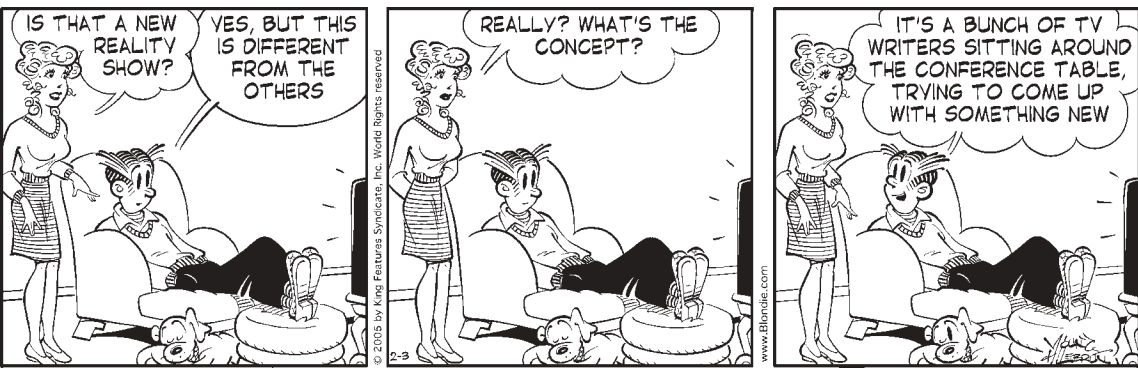
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

O C I J Y J Y P S A B J B D I A

O B A F P P B D I O C I A I I V P I Y S

J T K C S , T S Y F I T S C I ' P

D B B J V T K C S T J K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHE JUST CANNOT TAKE A JOKE! I SUGGEST SHE GET CHECKED FOR AN IRONY DEFICIENCY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals N

Bars have legal responsibilities too

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Fed Up in N.Y.," whose father-in-law scoots off in his motorized wheelchair to the local bar a mile away and returns home drunk, missed one point. The bar has a legal responsibility not to allow customers to leave drunk, and instead of serving drunk customers, to cut them off.

"Fed Up" should go to the bar with the police and inform the bartender and management that the next time they "overserve" "Papa Jake," she'll see to it that the New York state liquor license people get an earful, and if anything happens to Papa Jake, or he causes injury to anyone in his drunken condition on the way home, the bar will share in that responsibility.

I'll bet a gin and tonic after that the bar will cut Papa Jake off long before he gets drunk.

— DAVID J. DEAR DAVID J: That may be true in California, but I'm not sure it's so in every state. Your suggestion is an intelligent one, and it's certainly worth making an inquiry to the beverage control board in that woman's state.

DEAR ABBY: Why didn't you suggest counseling for that poor man? Obviously, Papa Jake is widowed and has too much idle time on his hands. After he has been given a thorough physical and mental evaluation, he needs to be introduced to AA, as well as activities that could spark his creative talents.

— JESSICA IN TENNESSEE

DEAR JESSICA: I'm sure that at the time of his stroke and afterward, Papa Jake received physical and neurological evaluations. However, if he's willing to admit he has an alcohol problem, AA could be helpful. (And so could Al-Anon for "Fed Up" and her husband.)

They might also consider contacting the American Stroke Association, which maintains a listing of telephone support groups for stroke survivors, their families, friends and interested professionals.

Bridge

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 7

♥ A 7

♦ J 10 9 3

♣ K J 6 2

WEST

♠ J 8 5 3

♥ K J 6 5 4

♦ A 4

♣ A 7

SOUTH

♠ K 10 4

♥ Q 9 8 2

♦ K Q 6

♣ Q 10 3

EAST

♠ 9 6 2

♥ 10 3

♦ 8 7 5 2

♣ 9 8 5 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♥	Dble	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Uncanny Approach to the Play

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a heart. How can you give yourself the best chance for the contract?

This is by no means an easy question. However, to begin with, you know quite a lot about how the missing cards are divided.

First, West is likely to have all the missing high cards, since he opened the bidding and only 13 high-card points are unaccounted for.

Second, West is also likely to have five or more hearts and presumably does not have the K-J-10, from which he would have led the jack.

You can put this knowledge to work in an unusual fashion. The first step is to go up with the ace of hearts, even though you know you can win the trick more cheaply in your hand. Next you force out one of West's aces — let's say by playing a diamond to the king.

West takes the ace and makes the best return of a low heart to East's ten, which you allow to win the trick! There is, of course, a method to this madness — as soon becomes evident.

Assume East returns a diamond (his play really doesn't matter). You win and force out the ace of clubs. The best West can do now is to cash his king of hearts to hold you to nine tricks.

Observe that the contract goes down if you don't play the ace of hearts at trick one. In that case, West would score three hearts and two aces before you can collect nine tricks.

You also go down if you win East's ten of hearts with the queen at trick three.

Both plays are contrary to the norm, but can be justified because West's hand is virtually an open book. You don't actually have to see West's cards to know what they are.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

The toll-free number is 888-4STROKE.

DEAR ABBY: As a follow-up to the letter from "Fed Up in N.Y.," whose father-in-law was using his motorized scooter to travel to a bar, I suggest that she or her husband disconnect the battery to his scooter.

— PHILIP C., HOUSTON DEAR PHILIP: It might prove helpful, but only as a last resort.

DEAR ABBY: I need advice. My mother-in-law expects a phone call or card from her son and me on her wedding anniversary. Her husband died two years ago. I haven't called her or sent a card on that day since his death.

She frequently comments on who remembered to call her. Should I be sending her happy anniversary cards?

— CONFUSED DEAR CONFUSED: Consider how you would like to be treated on such a bittersweet occasion. Surely you would not want to be ignored. Because you feel uncomfortable sending her a "happy" anniversary card, create one that says you are thinking of her and the many happy years she shared with her husband. But don't treat her special day as if it never happened.

DEAR ABBY: I received a full set of utility knives for Christmas and would like to know the proper way to dispose of the old knives. Thank you.

— BEVERLY IN NEW PORT. DEAR BEVERLY: Make cardboard sheaths for the knives so they will retain their sharpness and not hurt anyone, and donate them to any charity that will take them. Or, offer them to a neighbor at a penny apiece. (In some cultures, it is bad

luck to give a knife to someone without financial consideration.)

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Bobby," and his girlfriend, "Claire," had a baby two weeks ago. Bobby lives with us and Claire lives with her parents, although they hope to get a place together soon.

Bobby and Claire are having a problem deciding on where to sleep. They each want to be with their family. They were going to alternate one night at each house, but Claire's mom said it wouldn't be good for the baby, as the baby needs a regular place to live. Is it bad for a newborn to switch beds? Both houses are equipped with all the baby things the little one needs.

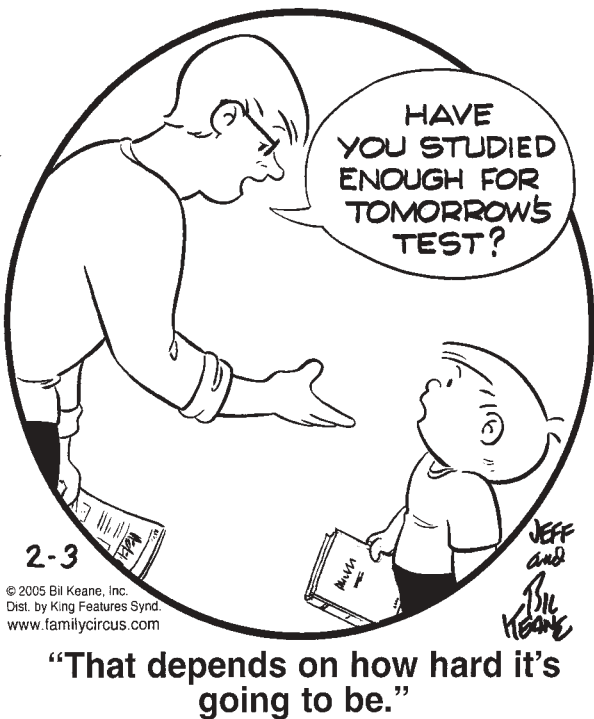
Bobby works about 30 hours a week and attends college full time. Claire doesn't work or go to school. What can I do to help them resolve their issues without hurting anyone's feelings? My son wants to be in Claire's and the baby's lives. I just don't know how to help him.

— WANTS TO HELP IN OHIO DEAR WANTS TO HELP: The biggest favor you could do for Bobby and Claire would be to encourage both of them to complete their education before moving anywhere.

The fact that your son and his girlfriend can't decide which house to sleep in should be a clue that neither he nor she is mature enough to be moving out on their own.

Your son will have plenty of time to see his girlfriend and child after work and on weekends, and since your house is well-equipped, your grandchild can come for visits. But for now, it would be in the best interests of everyone to stay where they are. Trust me on that.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS

1 Out of play

5 Eminem's genre

8 Jog

12 Icicle's place

13 Avail oneself of

14 Exceptional

15 Home, in today's jargon

16 The girl

17 Unoriginal one

18 Getting on in years

20 Area

22 Male turkey

23 Cover

24 Web site list, often

27 Cops

32 —

33 Inlet

34 Still

35 Some pitches

38 Group of quail

39 Magnon precursor

40 Seesaw quorum

42 Charlatanism

45 Ding site, often

49 — Romeo (car)

50 — Annie ("Oklahoma!" role)

52 Unaltered

53 Porter's

54 Court

55 Saharan

56 Alluring

57 Starred

58 Busy with

DOWN

1 Erté's style

2 Count counter-part

3 Champing at the bit

4 Red-ink entries

5 Where to see a rock quartet?

6 Blond shade

7 Juror, theoretically

8 Dire

9 — movement (sleep phenomenon)

10 Sandwich treat

11 Gull's cousin

19 "And I should care, why?"

21 Actor Wallace

24 Mis' neighbors

25 Intensity

26 Duct tape, maybe?

28 Evergreen

29 Whoppers, e.g.

30 Gun the engine

31 Pigs' digs

36 Pact

37 Rocky height

38 Dwarfed tree

41 Constitution's first word

42 Manias

43 Lotion additive

44 Sailing vessel

46 "Phooey!"

47 Give off

48 Start over

51 The buck stops here

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-3

