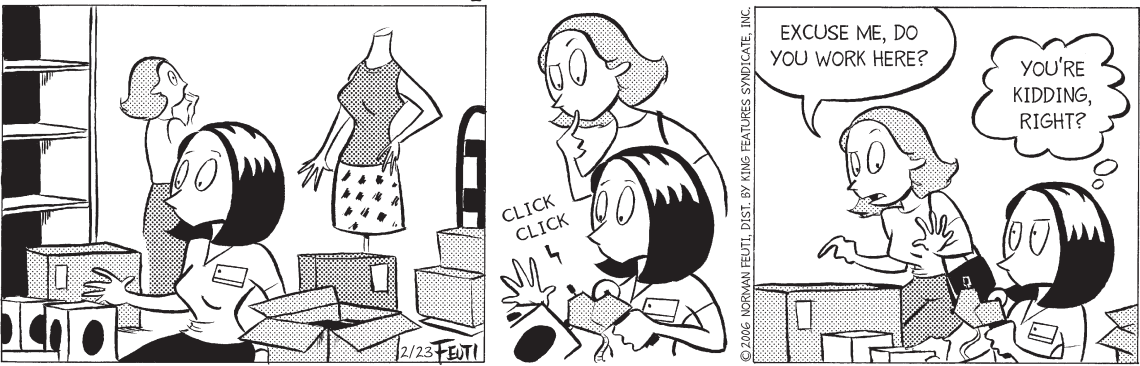
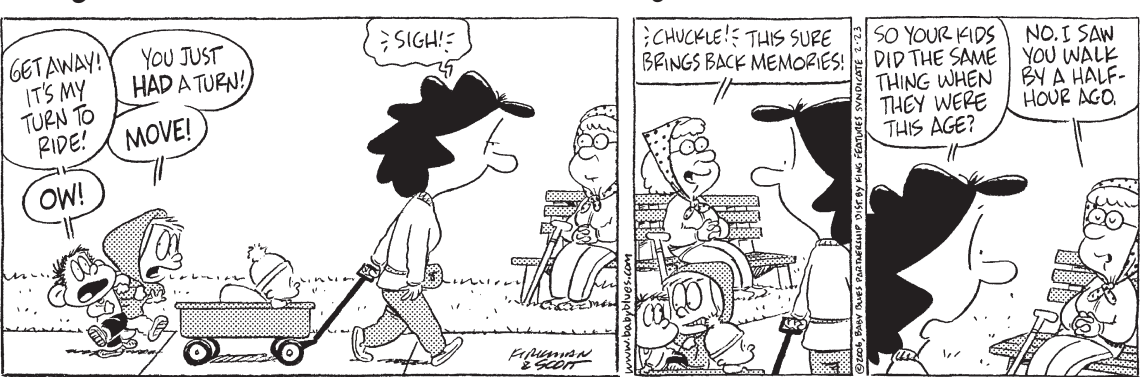


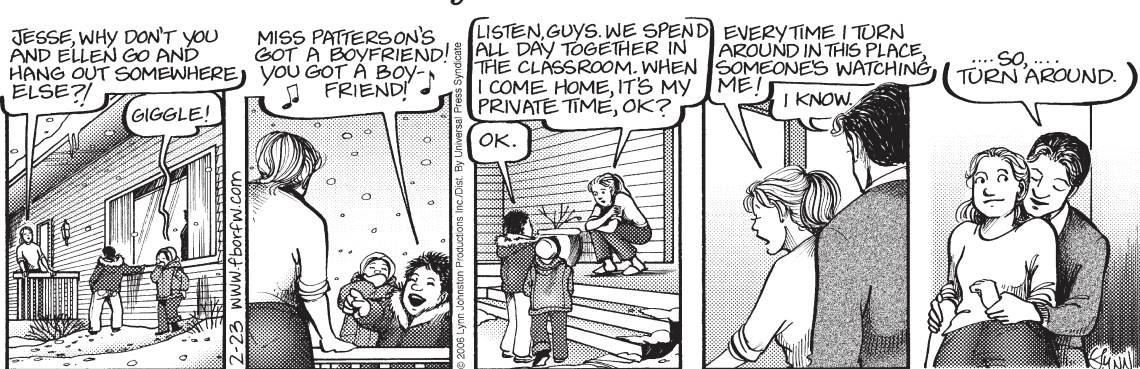
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



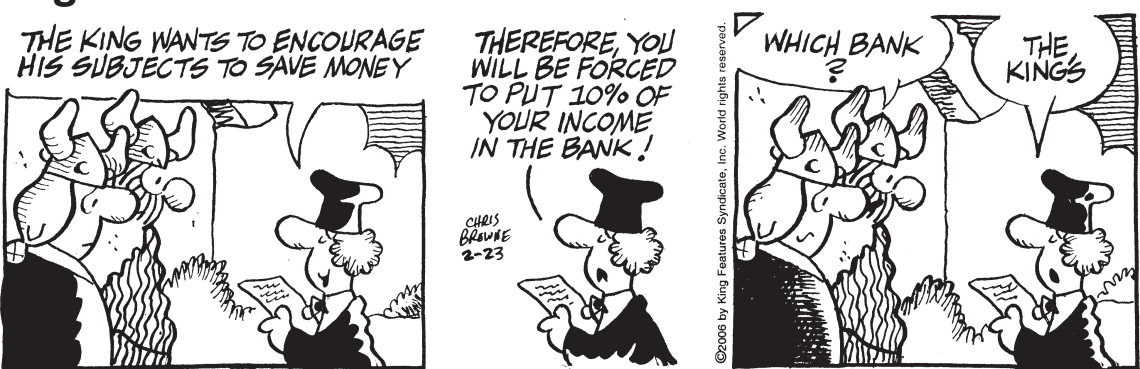
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



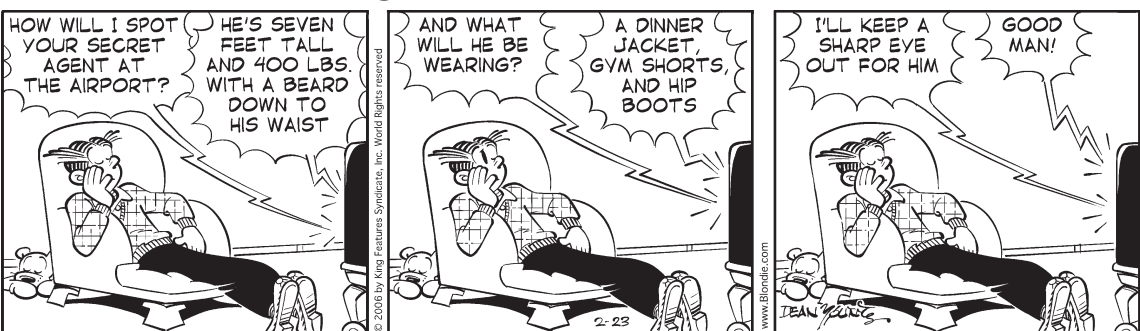
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



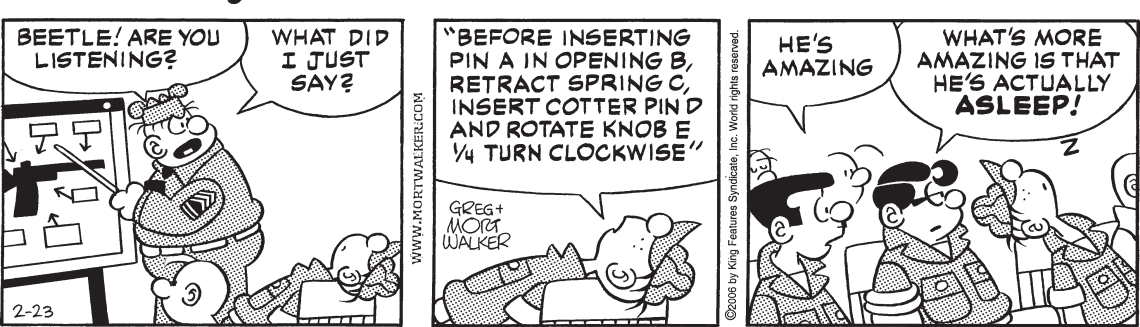
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



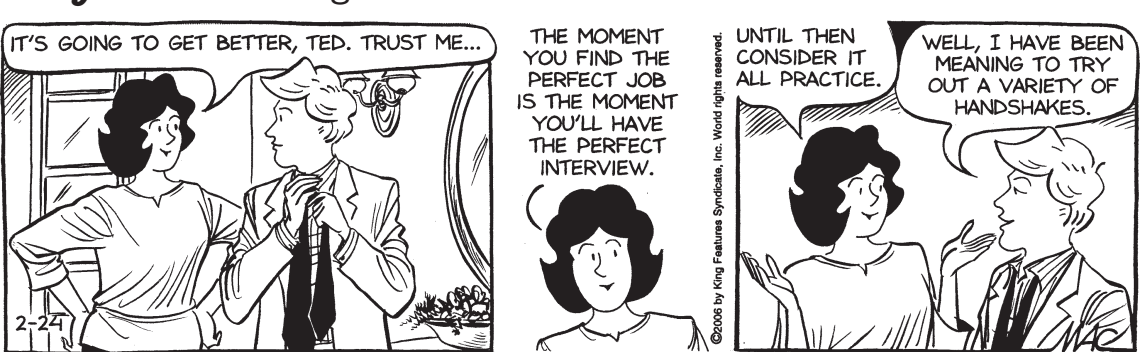
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Pastor's wife could cause havoc

DEAR ABBY: Being a pastor of a church, I had to respond to the letter from "Hates Hypocrites in Washington." She's the woman who discovered that the new associate pastor's wife, "Millie," is the same woman who broke up her marriage, in addition to having had a "history," so to speak.

The senior pastor is probably aware of at least some of what she wrote about — that Millie has had two previous marriages, countless affairs and did time in prison for drugs. However, on the off chance that he doesn't, "Hates Hypocrites" should say something.

As you suggested, she needs to introduce herself to the woman in question: Millie's reaction will give her a pretty good idea of whether she has had a change of heart in recent years.

If Millie hasn't, then the writer needs to go quietly to the pastor, approaching it from the standpoint of, "I hope Millie has turned over a new leaf since all of this, but you need to know that ..."

I have seen firsthand what can happen when not enough questions are asked when a staff person comes into a church. While I hope and pray that Millie has learned from her mistakes, that may not be the case.

— REV. CHET THOMAS, DAWSON, GA.

DEAR REV. THOMAS: Although I am reluctant to see anyone "carry tales" that could ruin a career — specifically the associate pastor's — I bow to your expertise. You are not the only clergyperson who weighed in on this one. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am an ordained minister and pastoral counselor. While it's traditional in many churches, simply being a pastor's spouse in no way qualifies someone to teach marriage classes any more



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

than being a doctor's wife qualifies her to teach CPR. That she knows firsthand where the pitfalls are does not make one an expert on how others might form healthy relationships and avoid adultery, drugs, prison, etc.

Whether or not this pastor's wife, "Millie," may have repented of her sin and amended her life, she is still responsible for her past behavior, and one of its consequences is that her credibility as an expert on marriage may rightfully be questioned. Nor should one assume that all pastors' marriages are exemplary. Since clergy families live highly public lives, whatever flaws this marriage has are on public display, and given Millie's past, one would assume there might be many that come to light.

The woman's real value to a marriage class could be as an example of one who has acknowledged her failing and changed her ways, and shows openness to learn from others who have had longer, more healthy relationships — but not if she hides her past and pretends to be something she's not.

— MARY KRAHN, BEMUS POINT, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: If it is true that the new associate pastor's wife broke up the writer's marriage, and has a history of similarly disruptive behavior elsewhere, then the woman represents a potentially destructive force in that congregation. As a parish minister of nearly 30 years, I can see the red flags flying high on this one.

"Hates Hypocrites" should notify

the appropriate denominational officials of whatever larger body this church is affiliated with and let them take whatever action they feel may be warranted. This is not about "Hates Hypocrites" getting revenge; it is about protecting the stability and well-being of the congregation.

— REV. STEPHEN EDINGTON, NASHUA, N.H.

DEAR ABBY: I have a son, "Max," who is 1. At Christmas, we were at my sister-in-law "Babette's" home for dinner. Babette has a peek-a-poo dog that occasionally growls at her teenage kids.

Max kept trying to go over and see the dog. I kept telling him that the dog didn't want to play right now, and to leave him alone. (My sister, who frequently baby-sits Max, has three very friendly dogs.) Babette's dog growled at my son, so I asked her if we could put the dog elsewhere. She said, "No. He doesn't have a cage or anything."

I think she was rude because I don't think I was asking too much for her to put her dog in another room for a short period of time. What do you think? I'd like your opinion.

— PROTECTIVE MOTHER IN OHIO

DEAR PROTECTIVE: When a dog growls, that's the dog's way of saying, "Stay away!" Because your son was too young to understand this, and because your sister-in-law was unwilling to separate her dog from your child, you should have separated your child from her dog by cutting the dinner short and leaving.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K J 7  
♥ 6 5 2  
♦ K J 7 4  
♣ K Q 6

**WEST**  
♠ 10 9 8 5 3 2  
♥ K 10 3  
♦ 6 3  
♣ 9 2

**EAST**  
♠ A Q 6 4  
♥ J 9 8 7  
♦ 8  
♣ J 10 5 4

**SOUTH**  
♥ —  
♦ A Q 4  
♠ A Q 10 9 5 2  
♣ A 8 7 3

The bidding:  
South 1♦  
West Pass  
North 3♦  
East Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

Declarer Makes a Key Play

Assume you're declarer at six diamonds and West leads the ten of spades. How would you play the hand?

From the outset, your only concern is to avoid losing two hearts. Two possibilities are immediately apparent: If the clubs divide 3-3, a heart can be discarded from dummy on the fourth club; failing that, a finesse in hearts can be attempted. As the cards lie, though, both of these approaches would fail.

However, a third possibility exists, and when the deal occurred, declarer exploited it to bring in the slam.

The ten of spades was covered by the jack and queen, ruffed by South. Trumps were drawn, and the three top clubs were cashed, ending in dummy. When the suit failed to break evenly, declarer made the key play — he led the king of spades and ruffed East's ace. South then trumped his last club in dummy and led the seven of spades.

Had East been able to cover the seven, declarer would have ruffed and eventually tried the heart finesse. But when East was unable to top the seven, South discarded the four of hearts instead, happily conceding the trick to West.

This left West in a hopeless position. He could lead a heart into South's A-Q, or he could return a spade, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of hearts. Either way, the slam was home.

By catering to the possibility that West might have started with the 10-9-8 of spades, South was able to make his contract without having to resort to the heart finesse. The play he used — known technically as a loser-on-loser — involved discarding a card he would always lose, the four of hearts, on another losing card, the seven of spades, in order to place West in a no-win situation.

Cryptoquip

IPL RXLBFSBI'Y SLQ

RUAFBL CUO QGY YU OUUC,

VUX G QPFAL PL QGY IPL

YBLSILX UV GIILSIFUS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MUMMY'S EGO WERE REALLY INFLATED, YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-23  
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www.familycircus.com

"I have to go in. My mom thinks I'm cold."

Crossword

- ACROSS**  
1 Billy Ray Cyrus series  
4 Assessment  
8 Put an end to  
12 Magda's sister  
13 Grad  
14 Machu Picchu's home  
15 Semi-aquatic rodent  
17 Verve  
18 Turn on the water-works  
19 "At last!"  
21 Outpatient facility  
24 Dutch river  
25 Cartoonist Chast  
26 AAA job  
28 Ticket  
32 State with confidence  
34 Cratchit tyke  
36 Senate staffer  
37 Lower the lights  
39 Trump casino-hotel
- DOWN**  
1 Calendar abbr.  
2 Eggs  
3 Over-turned  
4 Hasen-pfeffer base  
5 In the style of  
6 Sod  
7 AOL delivery  
8 Say something  
9 He got the point across to his son  
10 Exam format  
11 Slight  
16 Thither  
20 Actor Beatty  
21 Grouch  
22 Eros' specialty  
23 Barracks bed  
27 Oscar Wilde's sine qua non  
29 Maximum contents  
30 Not "fer"  
31 See to  
33 Retaliatory response  
35 Frenzied  
38 Pie filling?  
40 Court clown  
43 Edging loop  
45 Ms.  
46 Component of "E = mc<sup>2</sup>"  
47 Send forth  
48 Easter symbol  
49 "Raising Arizona" star  
53 Shell game need  
54 Born  
55 2004 movie thriller

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

ADD	BASS	SLAP			
BIO	OBOE	HOWE			
USE	SALT	WATER			
THROW	SOD				
	FEDS	WESTS			
SALT	LICK	SHOW			
ERE	LORTS	AGA			
ACES	SALT	AWAY			
SHRUB	MOOT				
	BUS	REBEL			
SALT	NPEPA	EVA			
EVIL	AGOG	LED			
CEDE	NOPE	TRY			

Yesterday's answer 2-23

