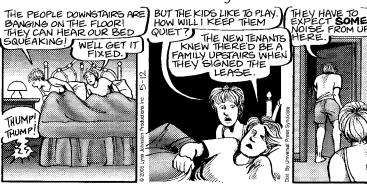
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

WE WENT

SAILING

EVER HAD A

STUCK UP

YOUR-

MIZZENMAST

NO, AND LET'S

TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE

RIGHT NOW

I KNOW ... HAVE YOU EVER

SEEN A COW WITH RED



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Husband wants to save marriage

DEAR ABBY: After six years of marriage and a beautiful daughter, my wife, "Chanelle," demanded a separation. She said she needed time to "find herself." She forgot to mention that she was having an affair with a subordinate at work, "Earl." Eventually, Earl's wife and I found out. Chanelle lost her job, her bovfriend and her self-respect.

Suddenly she wanted me back. I wasn't sure I could live with a woman who had lied and cheated on

After a year later, Chanelle became pregnant with our son, who is due in a few months. I'm positive the baby is mine, so we decided for the children's sake to reconcile.

I still can't forgive Chanelle for the affair. She used a string of lies to cover her activities, so I'm having severe trust issues. I was faithful throughout our marriage.

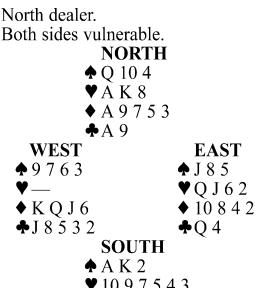
While we were separated, I frequently lent her money and ran errands for her. At the time, she told me she hadn't been in love with me since the birth of our daughter. Now I feel used.

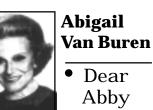
During our separation, I made sure our daughter called Chanelle's parents every night. We spent holidays with them while Chanelle worked. Instead of thanking me for it, they insist that I drove their daughter into the arms of another man. To make things worse, my parents refuse to accept Chanelle back into the family.

In all fairness, Chanelle was the last person you'd think would have an affair. She was family-oriented and had conservative values. Earl was the last person you'd imagine she'd choose. He's a chain-smoking, married redneck with a history of infidelity.

Both sets of in-laws are trying to sabotage the marriage, my feelings for my wife have changed, and I now realize I never really knew Chanelle at all. Can this marriage be saved?

Bridge





- SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED **DEAR SHAKEN:** Absolutely, provided you and your wife make up your minds that you really need each other and are willing to work out your problems in marriage counseling. Both of you have your work cut out for you. You must explore what drove you apart in the first place and fix it. Do not blame your parents for their attitude, or your in-laws for reacting to what they were told during your separation. If you

DEARABBY: I have been dating "Chris," a wonderful guy, for nine months. The subject of marriage has come up, and Chris says that when he's married he will not wear a wedding ring because of his job. He is a police officer.

nothing will come between you,

they'll come to accept it.

I don't think wearing a wedding ring would in any way put his life at risk. I'm extremely upset about this. Am I making a big deal out of nothing-ñ or is Chris making excuses out of fear of commitment?

- SUSPICIOUS IN ROCHES-TER

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I consulted the Los Angeles Police Department and was told that an officer may wear a wedding band on duty if he or she chooses. However, if the officer is going undercover, it might be in his or her best inter- ten by Abigail Van Buren, also est not to wear certain jewelry.

the subject of marriage, I doubthe Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.has a fear of commitment. It's DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, possible that he simply doesn't Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

like to wear jewelry. Not all married men wear wedding rings, and not all men who wear them are faithful husbands. If I were you, I'd lighten up.

DEAR ABBY: My late husband, "Luke," was born in Arkansas in 1944, a time when unwed mothers, abortion and child adoptions were spoken of only in private, if at all.

Luke died from leukemia 20 years ago. During his treatment, blood samples were taken from his mother and father as possible candidates for a bone marrow transplant. The testing revealed that his parents were not, in fact, his biological ones. In an effort to spare their feelings, Luke asked that neither I nor his siblings say anything to them.

My sons are men now. One of and Chanelle make it clear that them suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. We would like to know, for both medical and personal reasons, who their biological grandparents are. At the same time, we're concerned about disregarding their father's wishes. Please help us decide what to do.

- STUCK IN NEVADA CITY

DEAR STUCK: I believe that everyone should have full and complete knowledge of his or her medical history. When a child is adopted, that information should be made available to the adoptive parents.

However, because your husband's parents may be unwilling or unable to cooperate, it may ease vour mind to know that I took your question to a respected psychoanalyst who informs me that there is no clear-cut evidence that schizophrenia is genetic.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is writknown as Jeanne Phillips, and was If Chris was the one who raised founded by her mother, Pauline

Family Circus • Bil Keane





PEOPLE HAVE THEIR

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

I'M NOT SAYING WE NEED TO GO ON SOME EXPENSIVE VACATION, TED. JUST SOMETHING MEMORABLE, DIFFERENT.



ENTIRE LIVES TO PUT OFF ADVENTURE. THEY ONLY HAVE SO MUCH TIME TO ACTUALLY EXPERIENCE IT.



Sally Forth • Greg Howard







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Cryptoquip BX U NPK C P QIGGCL ΚP A G SGUOOT WUICBC, SGWMPI ΒK H B Q N K В ULM "HUT B AG XSUIM?" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE WOULD THINK THAT A TREE SURGEON COULD BE FOUND WORKING OUT OF HIS BRANCH OFFICE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals K

| | V 10 5 | ,,,,,, |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| | ♦ | |
| | ♣ K 1 | 076 |
| The bidd | ling: | |
| North | Ĕast | South |
| 1 NT | Pass | 3♥ |
| 4♥ | Pass | 6♥ |
| | | |

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Vanishing Trick

It is a fundamental principle of declarer play that if a contract can be made only when the adverse cards are divided in a specific way, declarer must assume that they are divided that way.

For example, consider this deal where declarer made a slam even though East had two seemingly sure trump tricks.

South ruffed the diamond lead and played a heart to the king, on which West showed out.

After this development, declarer's only chance to avoid two trump losers was to develop an endplay against East.

This could not be achieved unless East had the appropriate distribution for the proper end position to be reached.

South therefore had to assume that East would follow to three high spades and two high clubs as they were cashed, since otherwise the situation was hopeless.

He also had to assume that East had precisely four diamonds. There was no distribution East could have, except 3-4-4-2, that would allow the slam to be made.

So at trick three, South cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a club, and then ruffed a diamond.

This was followed by the A-K-Q of spades and another diamond ruff.

Next he cashed the K-A of clubs, producing this

East

| osition with the lead in dummy: |
|---------------------------------|
| North |
| HA8 |
| D 9 |
| West |
| Immaterial H Q J 6 |
| South |
| H 109 |
| C 10 |
| When the diamond nine was now |
| 1 1 1 1 1 60 11 1 1 |

w led, East was helpless whether he ruffed high or low.

Whatever he did, South would win two of the last three tricks, and East's two seemingly unassailable trump tricks would dwindle to one. Tomorrow: Test your play.

(c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

"Look, Mommy! We're pretending to love each other.'

Crossword

West Pass

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