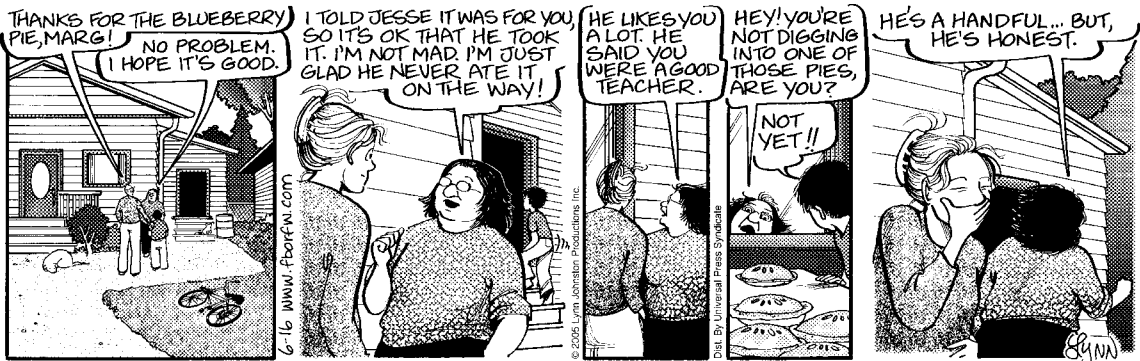


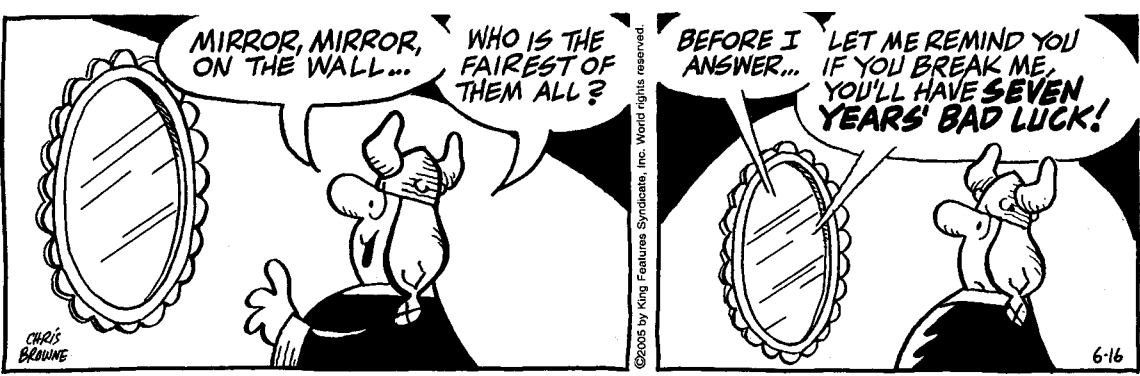
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



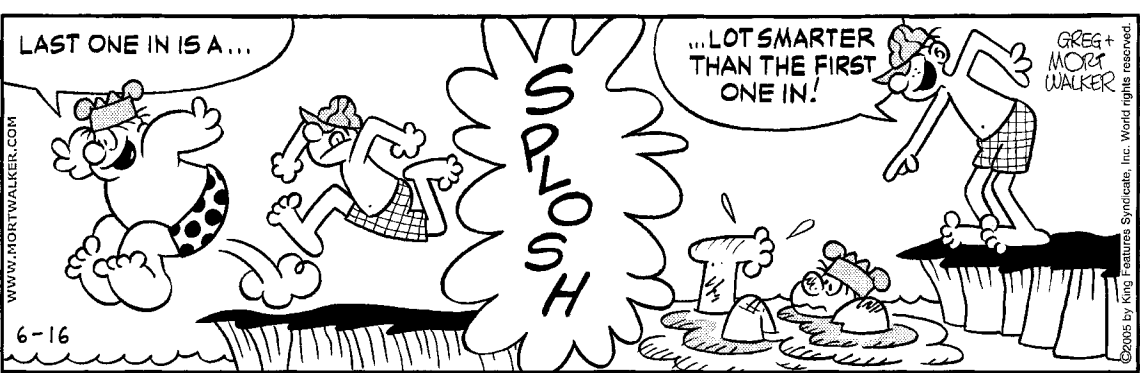
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



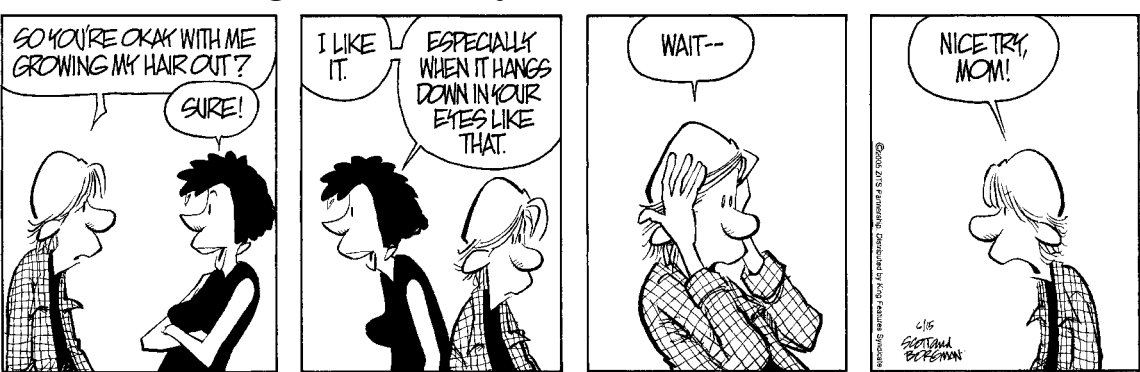
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

B H A E R X C N B X E G H B

M H N R I Y A W M S E R X B F H H I

I H G H Y E R W M O E R N E

S H I C X M E N M N A O N M S X F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL ANY FATHER WHO COMES FROM INDIANA? I WOULD SAY "HOOSIER DADDY!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O

Woman escapes her violent past

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Gene," and I met a week before my 30th birthday.

Gene had always been a poor student and preferred a job making money to learning. (He never learned to read past a kindergarten level; therefore he doesn't write well.)

We moved into our own home in 1999. We both wanted children, and our daughter was born in 2001. Our relationship was great — until we had someone else to care for.

Because Gene was brought up old-fashioned, he decided I was to stay at home and care for the house and kids while he worked and provided for us.

Things got physical not long after our daughter arrived. We'd argue and I'd try to leave, only to result in my being choked. Or he'd throw me against a wall to prevent me from calling 911.

One time, he broke my nose. He was never violent toward the children — I had a son in 2004 — only toward me because of them. He said I never did things right or I took up for them.

I left for good six weeks ago. I have left many times before, but went back because of dependency. This time I have a lot of support, plus I'm enlisting in the Air Force. My father served in the military for 21 years, and is quitting his truck-driving job to care for my children while I attend basic training and tech school.

Gene knows I'm not coming back this time. We're on speaking terms only because of the children.

Abby, I find myself wondering if, after my six years in the service, I should try to reconcile with Gene. On some level, I know it wouldn't



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

work and it's wrong to even think about going back to that life after being given a chance for a better one.

But then, I picture Gene with us in that better life. Would it be a slap in the face if, in the end, Gene and I worked out our differences and forgot about the past?

— NEEDS ANSWERS IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR NEEDS ANSWERS: It could be a slap in the face; it could also be a broken jaw, another broken bone — the possibilities are endless. Although your husband "wasn't violent toward the children," by failing to control his rage he EXPOSED them to violence.

Nowhere in your letter did you mention that he has any desire to change.

Because your 4-year-old daughter knows no different, she thinks her daddy's behavior is normal. It is urgent that she learn it is NOT normal, and it's your job to teach her that lesson by example.

You are making positive strides in the right direction. My advice is to keep marching forward and don't look back.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé and I plan to be married next winter. Our church holds 700 people, while the reception hall holds only 200.

We would love to invite lots of people to the ceremony — co-

workers, acquaintances, etc. — but have the reception only for out-of-town guests, close friends and family due to the limited space.

Is there a proper way to exclude people from the reception?

I don't want to insult anyone. — WEDDING BELLE IN FLORIDA

DEAR WEDDING BELLE: In a word, no. To invite 700 guests to a wedding and exclude 500 of them from the reception would be insulting and a social gaffe that would take you years to live down.

Either limit your wedding to 200 guests or find a larger place to hold your reception.

DEAR ABBY: My grandchildren, ages 2 and 4, sleep in their mother's bed at night. (They do have rooms of their own.)

When my son and daughter-in-law go on vacation this summer and I baby-sit, do I have the right to try to get them to sleep in their own rooms?

— SOLO SLEEPER IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR SOLO SLEEPER: Absolutely. I wish you luck!

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.Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

West dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
West North East South
1♥ 1♠ 2♥ 3♠
6♥ 7♣ Dble
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Believe It or Not!

The biggest swings in team-of-four play occur on those rare hands where a pair at one table bids and makes a grand slam, while their teammates at the other table also bid and make a grand slam with the opposing cards!

Unlikely as this might seem, that's exactly what happened in today's deal.

At the first table, South wound up in seven clubs doubled on the bidding shown. Had West led the ace of hearts, declarer would have gone down one.

But it seemed to West that the ace of diamonds was much more likely to survive as the opening salvo than the ace of hearts. This was certainly a reasonable assumption, but declarer ruffed the first diamond in dummy and easily made the grand slam.

He trumped four diamonds in dummy and four spades in his hand, establishing dummy's spades as well as his last diamond.

After drawing East's lone trump, South discarded his heart loser on a spade and had the rest of the tricks.

At the second table, after a different sequence of bids, West wound up in seven hearts.

A spade lead by North would have stopped this grand slam, but instead North made the uninspired lead of the king of clubs.

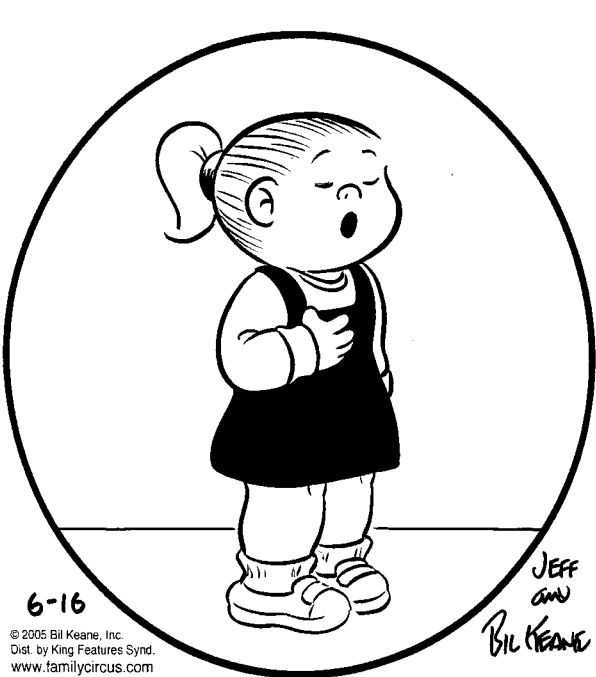
Declarer ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps, took the obvious finesses in spades and diamonds, and so made all the tricks.

So the successful team scored 2,330 points at the first table for making seven clubs doubled, and another 2,210 points at the second table for making seven hearts undoubled, and thus gained 4,540 points on one deal!

What all this teaches us is difficult to say, but the fact is that at both tables a different opening lead would have set both slams! Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"... one Nation under God, invisible ..."

Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN	Solution time: 25 mins.
1 Sib address	1 Greet the villain	SIP
4 Actor Johnny	2 Fliers O.H.M.S.	ROMA
8 Bob the builder		JEAN
12 LummoX		WOE
13 Earthenware pot		ERIC
14 Highly excited		ALTO
15 Borderline indecent		BARNACLES
17 Iditarod terminus		PALAU
18 "Holy moley!"		MISS
19 Wants		FERAL
21 Teacher's place		BARTLETT
24 Benicio — Toro		DEM
25 Foreman foe		ASA
26 "Bam!"		TREAD
28 Flying musical		RIMS
32 "Memory"		BARITONE
34 Symbol of intrigue		KAPPA
36 Kind of hairdo		MASH
37 Massage noble		EGG
41 Enjoyment		COWLS
		BARCELONA
		AMOK
		ODOR
		NAY
		DINS
		WEND
		TUX

Yesterday's answer 6-16

