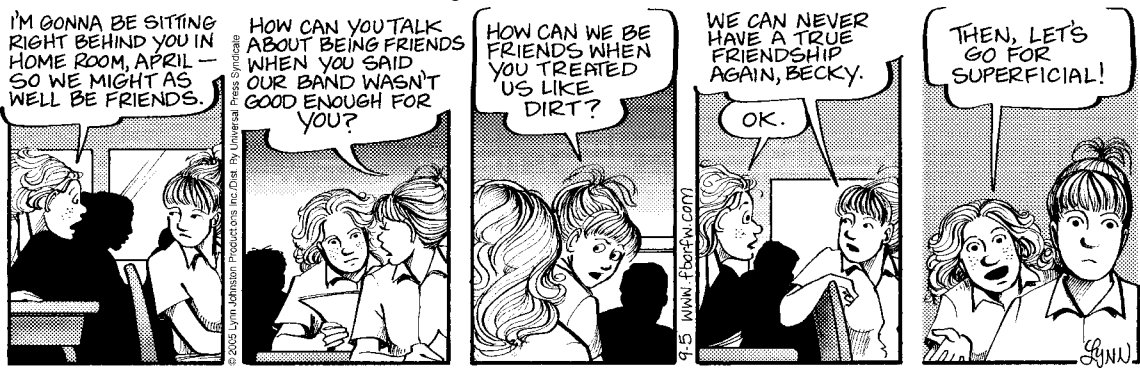
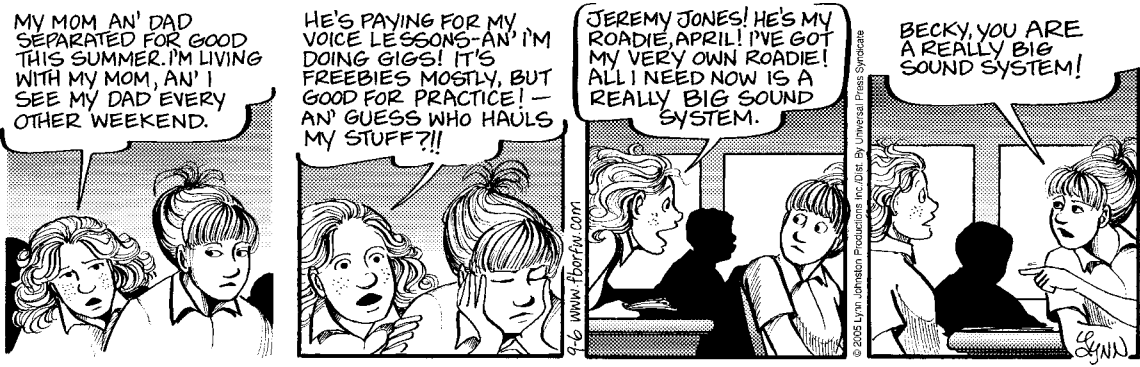


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



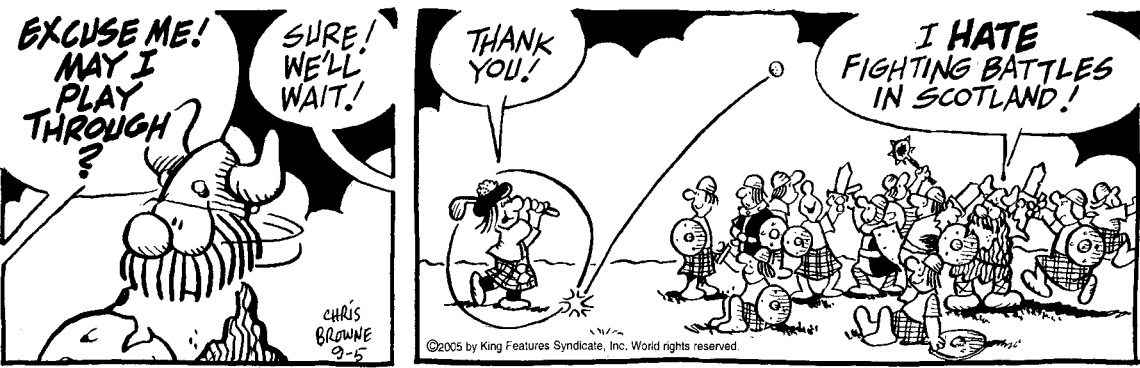
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



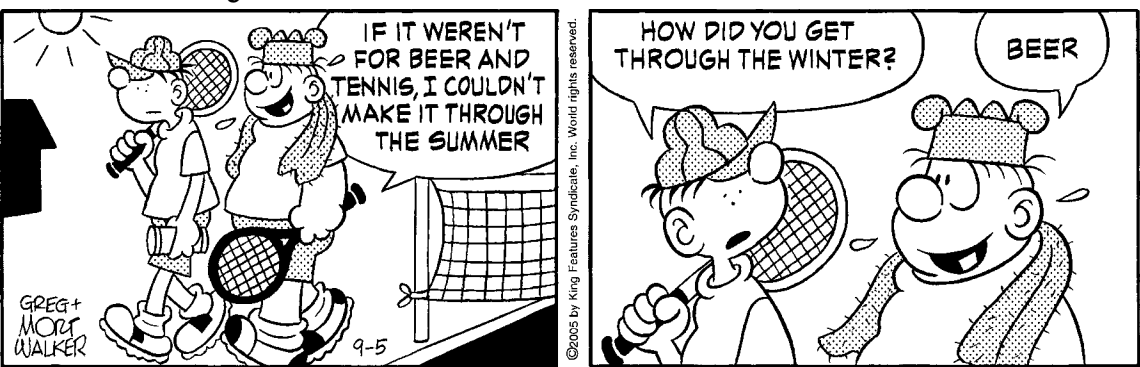
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



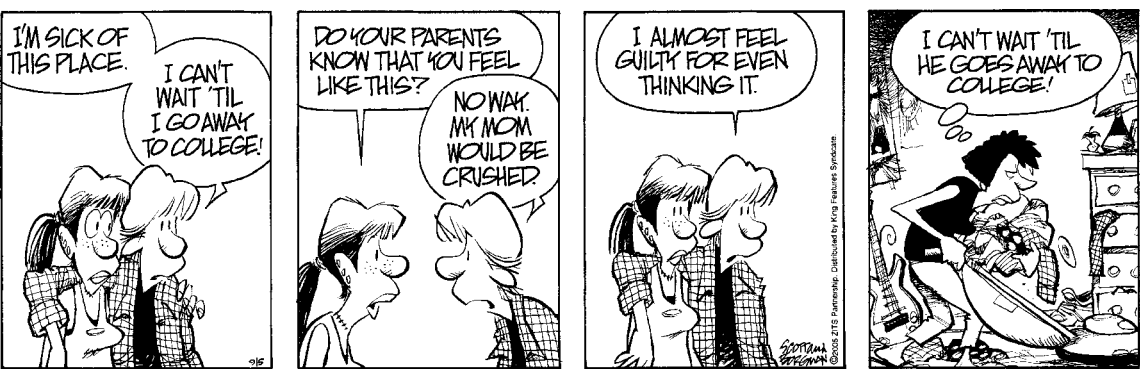
Blondie • Chic Young



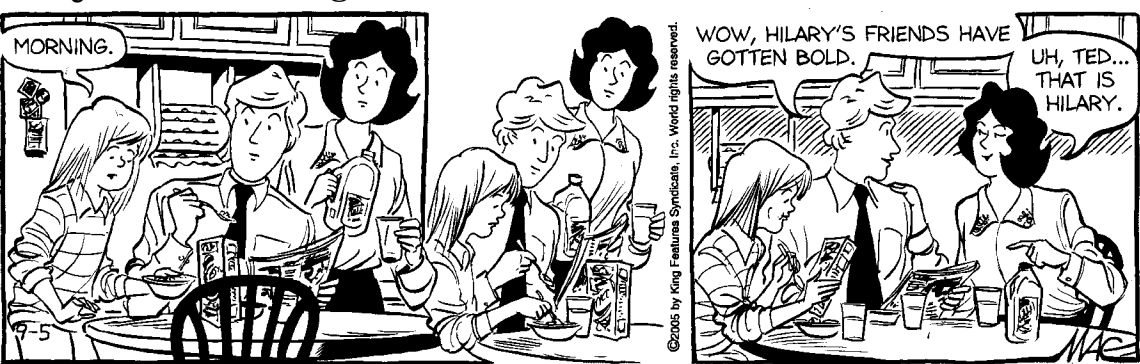
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

YA WPLPHSH RHQH T RPQCB-
ATLPGW LYSHQTCPNYWU, Y
NGHWW APCEW LYN OU JTCC
OYL T QPJE WUTQ.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK THE RIGHT SPELL TO CAST, WOULD YOU CALL IT WITCHFUL THINKING?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

Mom mad son took wife's name

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Jack," and I have been married three years. I'm a feminist and didn't want to change my family name upon getting married. In addition, my husband had his stepfather's name, and the man was physically abusive to him while he was growing up.

Jack agreed to take my last name and legally changed his name a year after we were married. When we mentioned it to his mother before our wedding, she was completely against it and threatened to disown Jack if he took my name. That's when we decided to do it and not disclose it to his family.

Jack still uses his original name, but once we have children (which will be in the next year), he and our children will be using my last name. How, and when, should we tell his family? I feel it might be better to break the news before we have kids.

— EAST COAST
DEAR FEMINIST: When you say your husband's mother threatened to "disown" him if he changed his name, I assume she meant in the financial sense. If he is prepared for that, then it makes no difference when he gives his mother the news. Because his stepfather was abusive and his associations with the name are unpleasant, I see no compelling reason for him to carry it on.

However, it will be interesting to see if his mother follows through with her threat, in light of the fact that if she does she'll be cutting herself off



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

from her grandbabies when they arrive. That's a hefty price to pay for trying to make a point, I'd say.

DEAR ABBY: Please don't mention my name or town because this is a small community and people will know it's me. I'm an avid reader, and I trust only you with this.

I'm a 15-year-old sophomore in high school. I have been told I live the "perfect life." I'm popular in school and in the top 10 percent of my class of 300 and get straight A's. I have a cute boyfriend, and my parents are "cool" and let me do things. I've never had sex, done drugs or drunk alcohol.

The problem is I'm not happy. I've been cutting myself for two years. All my dad does is degrade me and tell me everything I do is wrong. We argue constantly. Mom tries to be my best friend instead of a mother, and I can't stand to be around her.

I don't feel anything toward my best friends or my boyfriend. I don't know if I really like him. We have been together on and off for two years. This is the fifth time we've tried to work things out. When I break it off, I get even more depressed and cut myself more. My best friends annoy me, but if I don't hang out with them they'll get concerned and tell my

parents about the cutting. My closest friend knows I do it, but she does it too, so she can't treat me out. Please help me. It's not that I want to commit suicide, but it's like I have forgotten how to be happy.

— FEELING BLUE IN N.Y.
DEAR FEELING BLUE: The feelings you have described can be symptoms of chronic depression, which is an illness. Everybody has days when they feel down and isolated. However, when people begin cutting themselves to take away the pain, it is time to get help from a trained therapist.

Please clip this letter, show it to your parents or a trusted adult — a relative, a teacher or counselor at school, a clergy person — and admit that you wrote it. You need to be evaluated and treated by a doctor because there is help for your problem. Please don't wait to do this, because you have a right to be happy, and it's only a phone call away.

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

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 6 4
♥ A 10
♦ K 6 5
♣ A Q 9 4

WEST
♠ J 8
♥ K 8 6
♦ A 10 9 8 2
♣ K 10 8

EAST
♠ A 10
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ 7 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 5 3 2
♥ Q 5 4
♦ Q J 4
♣ J 5

The bidding:
North 1 ♣
East Pass
South 4 ♣
West Pass
* balanced raise to game in spades.
Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the opening round match between Norway and the United States at the 1993 world team championship. When Peter Weichsel and Bobby Levin of the U.S. held the North-South hands, they reached four spades as shown. It might appear that with the spades dividing evenly and the king of clubs favorably located, Levin was certain to make his contract. But this did not take into account the inspired defense of 23-year-old Geir Helgemo, who, with his youthful Norwegian teammates, finished second to the Netherlands for the world title.

For his opening lead, Helgemo selected the diamond ten! Barring a defensive slip, there was now no way for Levin to make the contract. But the Norwegians demonstrated in this, their first match, that they had not come to the world championship to settle for anything less than perfection.

Levin took the opening diamond lead in his hand and led a spade to the queen. East, Tor Helness, won with the ace and returned a diamond to his partner's ace.

Helgemo then carefully led the diamond deuce for Helness to ruff.

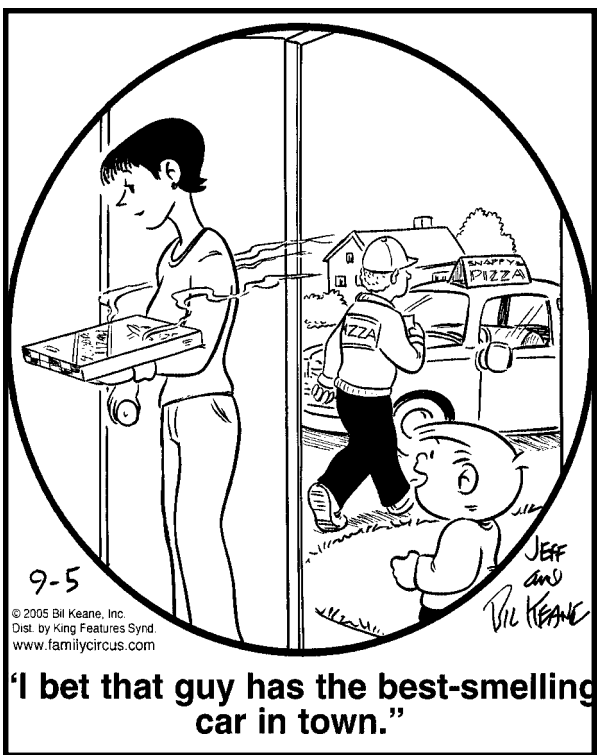
Had Helness returned a heart — certainly tempting in view of dummy's club holding — declarer could have gotten home safely by playing low from his hand, trapping West's king. But Helness followed the suit-preference signal carried by the diamond deuce and returned a club.

After Helgemo's ten forced dummy's queen, there was no way for Levin to avoid losing a heart, and he finished down one.

At the other table, Norway's Glenn Grotheim and Terje Aa stopped in three spades and made four for plus 170, giving the Norwegians a 6-IMP pickup on the deal.

Tomorrow: Luck is a friendly enemy.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

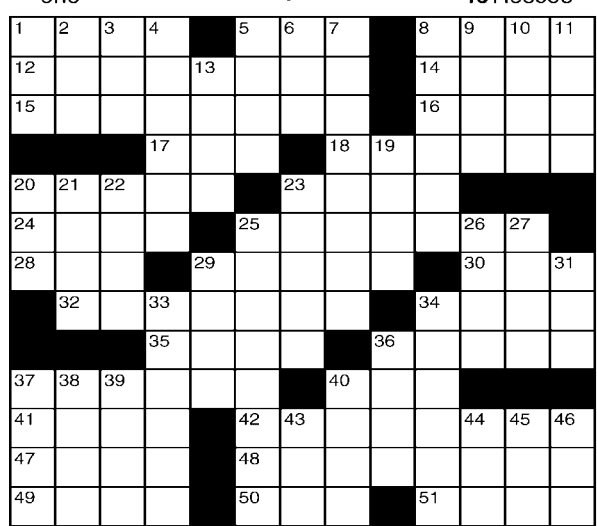
ACROSS
1 Spumante city
5 Clothing protector
8 Retain
12 Standard holder
14 Rose's beau
15 Government building
16 Arm-strong's destination
17 Dog tags et al.
18 Bemoan
20 Touches
23 Alaskan city
24 Finished
25 In the direction of
28 Pop
29 Lucky roll
30 Grafton's "— for Ricochet"
32 Flaxen-haired one

DOWN
34 Status
35 Island quarters
36 "— Sue Got Married"
37 Spud
40 Turf
41 Wicked
42 Impres-sively high
47 Story
48 Airline at Leonardo da Vinci Airport
49 Right angles
50 "Amazing Race" episode
51 Cried

20 Continue talking
21 Gravy vessel
22 Destroy
23 Temporarily bright stars
25 Don't take the fifth?
26 "Tootsie" wardrobe
27 Spill the beans
29 Close
31 Firmament or Seeger
33 Pod members
34 Alter the sketch
36 Versifier
37 Sampras or Seeger
38 Ellipse
39 Cash drawer
40 Hearty quaff
43 Bullring bravo
44 —de -France
45 Pinch
46 Roscoe

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 9-5



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