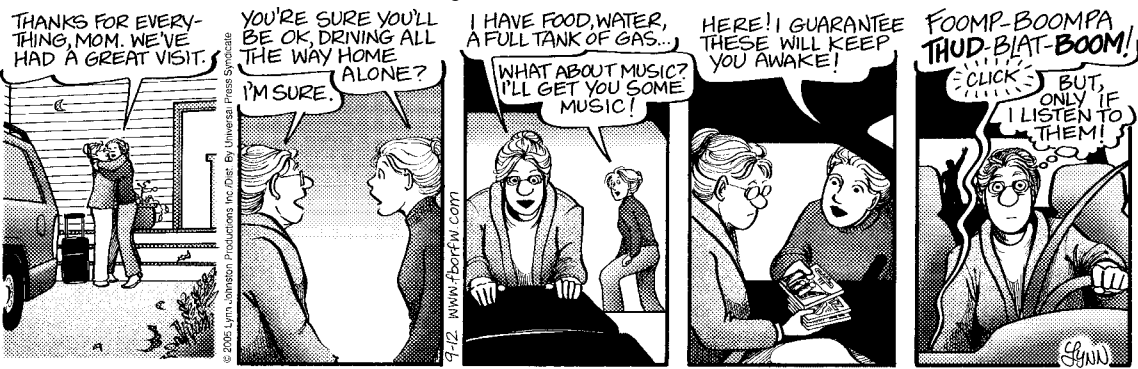


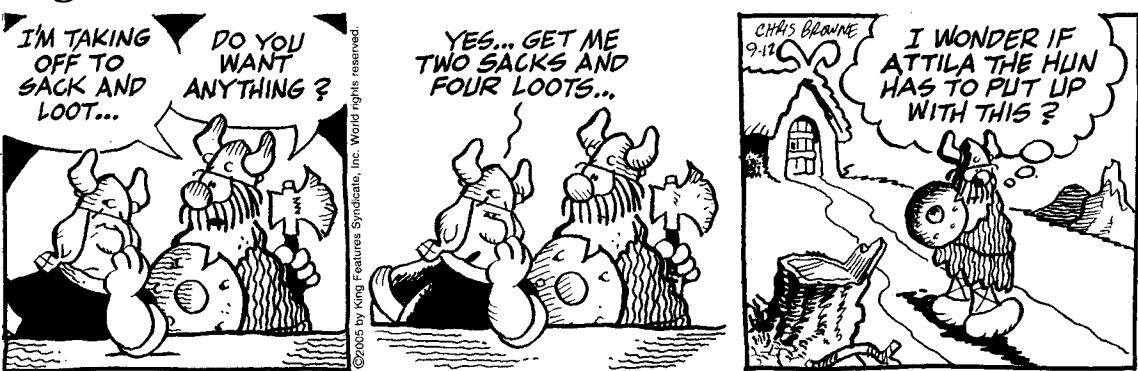
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



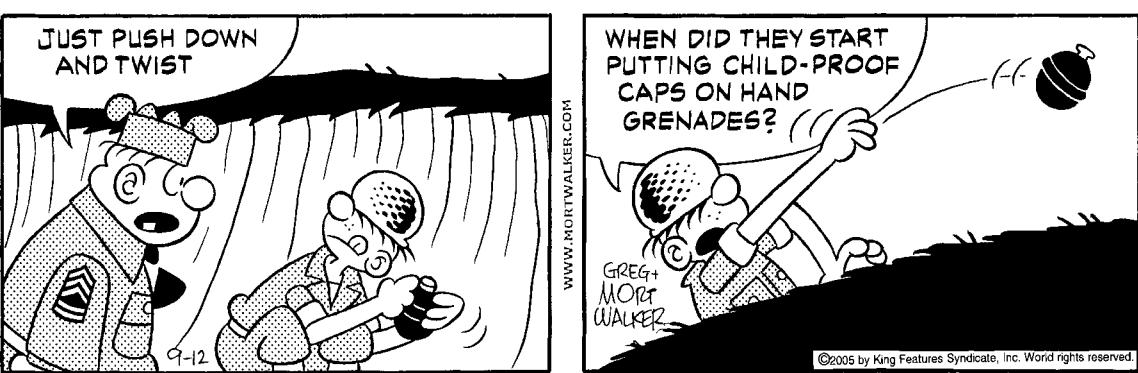
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



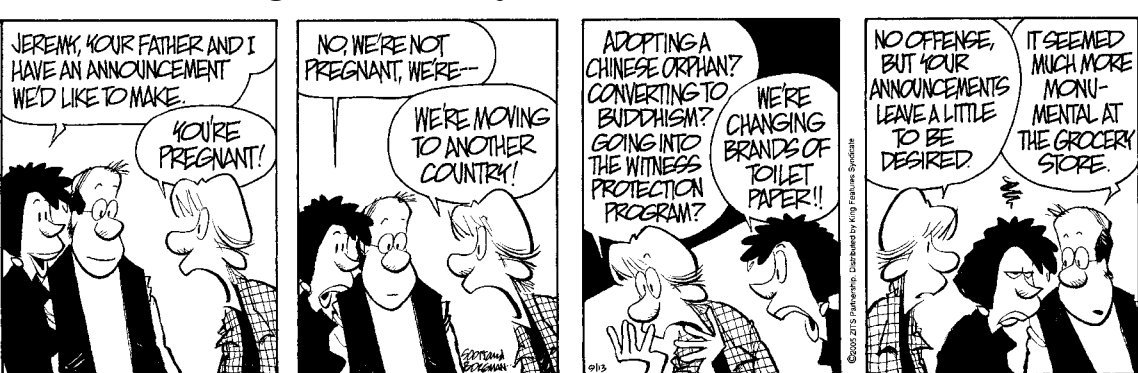
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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Driving accident strains friendship

DEAR ABBY: I was in a car accident two months ago. My best friend, "Heather," was driving. We grew up together and refer to each other as sisters. We were both under the influence, and I was so intoxicated I didn't realize how smashed Heather was. Anyway, I was really banged up in the accident. She got away without a scratch.

For an entire week after the accident, Heather never once came to see how I was doing. It wasn't until after I was practically healed that she stopped by my house. Sometimes when I see her, I still feel angry at her — or some emotion I can't put my finger on. I don't know if I still blame her or what. But now that I have healed, she doesn't want to talk about the incident, and I can't say anything because it makes her uncomfortable. But don't you think I am the victim here?

It is almost to the point where I don't want to be around her. After 20 years of having Heather in my life, I think I can survive without ever speaking to her again.

— LOST IN SAN MATEO, CALIF.

DEAR LOST: For the sake of your 20-year friendship, clear the air and say what's on your mind — including the fact that you felt betrayed when Heather failed to see you after the accident. She may have felt too guilty to face you.

There are times when saying "I'm sorry" and "I'll never drink and drive again" may seem inadequate. And yet, those things are exactly what need to be said — and you need to hear them — regardless of whether or not the subject makes Heather uncomfortable. For your own peace of mind, please do it soon. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of four children (ages 6, 4, 3 and 2



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

months). About a year ago, I gave my dad and stepmom temporary custody of my older kids so I could get my life together. During that time, I have gotten a job and found a great man. The fourth baby was not planned. I plan on moving to a larger place in February when my lease is up, and then getting my older three kids back. My question is: My stepmom says that my other children won't understand about the new baby and the fact that he can live with Mommy and they can't. So they have not seen him or Mommy since he was born. I'm not sure it is right to keep him from them.

— CONCERNED MOM IN MISSOURI

DEAR CONCERNED: You are. Your children are old enough to understand that they are living with your father because you had problems and couldn't afford for them to stay with you for a while. If they want to know why the baby can live with you and they can't, tell them that it's because the baby is tiny and needs to stay with you — just as they did when they were babies. Assure them that in just a few months you will all be together again. THAT'S what they need to know. Distancing yourself from your children and hiding their sibling is not healthy for them — or for you.

DEAR ABBY: I have often heard the saying, "That would be like opening Pandora's box." Where did that phrase originate?

— YVONNE IN NORLINA, N.C.

DEAR YVONNE: It refers to a

story from Greek mythology. The box was a gift to Pandora from the gods, but was given with the warning that she should never open it. When curiosity got the better of Pandora and she opened it anyway, a swarm of evils was loosed upon mankind.

DEAR ABBY: I am 10 and live with my parents, my sister, my grandmother, my aunt and my 6-year-old cousin, "Nina." (Don't task — it's a long story.)

Nina doesn't have brothers or sisters. Her parents are separated. She and her mom are always fighting, and Nina is almost always crying. She really needs help. Nina almost lost her memory because my sister pushed her and she fell and hit her head on a metal bar. I can't stand the crying anymore. It's driving me crazy. I need advice, and you I can trust. Please help us.

— LOYAL 10-YEAR-OLD, MESQUITE, TEXAS

DEAR LOYAL 10-YEAR-OLD: When three generations — plus extended family — live under one roof, there are bound to be tensions. I admire you for spending time with your little cousin, trying to make things better for her. However, you are only 10, and the entire responsibility shouldn't be on your young shoulders.

Please show this letter to your parents and tell them you wrote it. Your aunt is going through a difficult time right now, but she shouldn't be taking her unhappiness out on her child. If there are supervised activities that would get you and Nina out of the house, together and individually, it would do you both a world of good. And if your parents can step in and convince Nina's mother to get some help, it could change the atmosphere around your house for the better for all of you.

Bridge

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
North Pass East 3 ♠ South Dble West Pass
4 ♣ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
5 ♦
Opening lead — ace of spades.

Famous Hand

An unheralded team from Russia defeated a highly favored United States team in a 96-deal match to win the World Women's Bridge Olympiad held in Istanbul last fall.

The two finalists were the survivors of a 43-team field that had played through a series of round-robin qualifying matches and then head-to-head knockout matches.

Throughout the course of the event, the Russians — Olga Galaktionova, Victoria Gromova, Natalia Karpenko, Maria Lebedeva, Tatiana Ponomareva and Irina Vasilkova — established a pattern in their matches of falling behind early and then storming back to win. It was no different in the final, after the Americans — Marinesa Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Janice Seamon-Molson, Tobi Sokolow and Carlyn Steiner — had assumed a 57-IMP lead over the first 32 boards.

The Russians then staged another furious rally to take the lead. Today's deal occurred shortly after the Russians had moved in front for good.

When a U.S. pair sat East-West, the bidding went as shown. After East's opening three-spade bid, Gromova-Ponomareva reached the laydown game in diamonds to score +400.

At the other table, the Russian East opened with two diamonds, a "multi" bid showing a weak two in either major.

Montin, South, could have passed to await developments, but she bid two notrump to show her point count and at the same time make it more difficult for West to find out what East's real suit was.

Meyers, North, then raised to three notrump. Galaktionova, West, could tell from her own hand that hearts was not her partner's suit. So she led the A-Q of spades, East overtaking the queen to defeat the contract three tricks.

This, plus the 400 points gained at the other table, gave the Russians an 11-IMP pickup to move them even further ahead in the match. Tomorrow: The Grosvenor Gambit.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS 1 Vagrant 4 Emulates Ella 9 Occupation 12 Ms. Thurman 13 Cole Porter topic 14 — out a living 15 Gum flavor 17 Falsehood 18 Wade opponent 19 Hot 21 Load to carry 24 Count-out start 25 Greek X 26 Upper portion 28 Lute's cousin 31 Landlord's due 33 Actor Cruise 35 Clinton Cabinet member 36 Hall's singing partner 38 "What's up, —?"

40 Help 41 "West Side Story" gang 43 Beach Boys' "Help Me, —" 45 Whom Simple Simon met 47 Junior Olympics org. 48 Not up to snuff 49 Jack's ladder 54 Solidify 55 On the level 56 Conk out 57 Opinion 58 Wipe out

59 Bond, e.g. 60 "Grapes of Wrath" persona 61 Existed 62 Sandy's comment 63 Lollapalooza 64 Height (Pref.) 65 Comic Caroline 66 Lamb enhancement 67 Spacecraft compartment 68 Villainous look 69 Chic no more 70 Fairy-tale trio 71 Jejunas' neighbors 72 Khan title 73 Billboards 74 Back talk 75 Crucial

