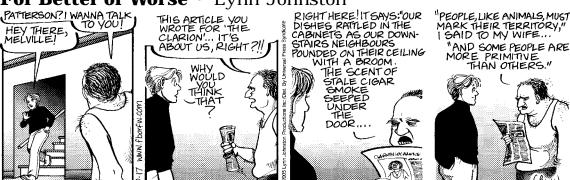
#### For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



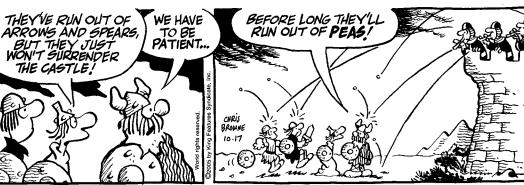
#### For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



#### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



#### Blondie • Chic Young



# 'Rite of Turning 21' risky passage

DEARABBY: I am the mother of four children, ages 18 to 25. A "practice" they discuss among their friends is the "rite of turning 21," which is to drink 21 shots of hard alcohol.

I'd like to think my children are intelligent and informed enough to know how dangerous this could be, but when I mention it, I get the standby, "Everyone does it" or "It's fine."

I worry myself sick over this, not only for my own kids, but for all young adults. Please shed some light on this practice. Perhaps they will listen to you.

I'm not naive enough to think they won't drink, but 21 shots is not the best birthday gift to themselves.

-WORRIED MOM, MISSOULA, MONT.

**DEAR WORRIED MOM:** Your children are mistaken. Binge drinking isn't"fine" and not everybody does it.

Rapid consumption of alcohol, particularly in large amounts, is extremely dangerous.

It has been known to cause severe illness, coma and even death.

This is a topic that has appeared in my column before, in the form of letters from concerned members of the healthcare profession and from grieving parents. The rite of passage that your children are discussing can be a "passage" right out of this life and into the next.

Only a fool or someone very immature would take that kind of risk.

# **Bridge**

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. **NORTH** 97 • A K Q 10 9 8 🕈 K Q J 8 3 WEST EAST 🕈 K J 1086532 ♥97653 A 10 4 2 ♦ J 6 4 3 **+**10 2 🕈 A 7 4 SOUTH **A** O 4 ♥KQJ8 ♦ 7 5 2

# Abigail Van Buren Dear Abby

DEARABBY: I have been liv- the most wonderful man in the ing with "Angelo" for six years. world. He is my best friend and His dog passed away in May. Frankly, I was relieved because the dog had been the main focus concerns how to deal with the in Angelo's life and the cause of many problems and fights. I had considered leaving him over it, but didn't want to give up on the relationship.

After the dog's death, things got much better. Angelo and I started going places without the constant "... have to get home to the dog."

He started talking about getting another dog, but I told him I was against it.

Well, some members of Angelo's family and some of his friends urged him to get another one. They said I'd grow to love it.

it. He is now entirely focused on the new dog, and I feel betrayed. I told Angelo it was either me or the top down; I measure them the dog, but the dog is still here. from the eyebrows up. What should I do?

**DEAR BETRAYED:** Now that you know how little Angelo respects your feelings, you written by Abigail Van Buren, should move. When you told him it was you or the dog, and hegotoneanyway, hegaveyou Pauline Phillips. Write Dear

your answer.

lover.

He is also a dwarf. My problem public.

When we are out, people make comments and faces. I am aware of it, but I'm not sure my husband

When I catch people staring, I give them a dirty look. How should I handle this? I am considered attractive, and people who don't know us well ask why I am with this wonderful man.

> - OFFENDED IN OR-LANDO

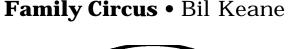
**DEAR OFFENDED: Your** husband is probably aware of the stares, but has grown used to them by now.

If someone is so rude as to Last month he took them up on question you about why you married him, be truthful. Say: "I don't measure my men from

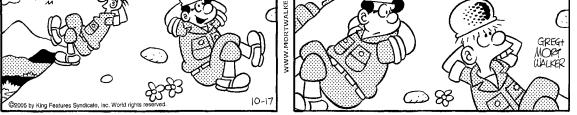
And when you get to know - BETRAYED IN my husband, I'm sure you'll WESTCHESTER, PA. also appreciate what a wonderful person he is."

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

DEARABBY: I ammarried to Calif. 90069.







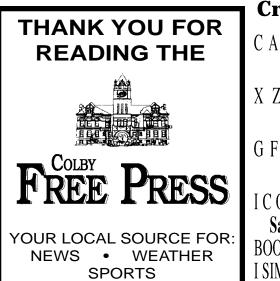
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



### Sally Forth • Greg Howard







Cryptoquip CA CKM GFZKCGCUJUCPO AJQQCOB XZFZ P 0 GFZICWZOU, XPLQW MPL ICOB "EJCQ UP UEZ KECZA?" Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE ANTIGRAVITY BOOK I CHECKED OUT WAS VERY ABSORBING. I SIMPLY COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L 155 W. 5th • 785-462-3963

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South	West	North	East
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Opening	lead — l	king of spa	ides.

# **Famous Hand**

It goes without saying that partners are not supposed to discuss a hand while it's in progress. This is especially true of the two defenders. Of course, we all know that in many bridge games — the chatty ones — this rule is broken all the time.

The most famous hand on record where this rule was violated was, surprisingly enough, in a national pair championship some years ago, with four Life Masters at the table.

The bidding was astonishing. South should have passed but opened one club.

He had traveled hundreds of miles to play in the event, had paid his entry fee and wanted his money's worth. West, clearly a great believer in the right of free speech, then made a takeout double that did not fit the minimal requirements for that bid in any respect.

North, who didn't know what was going on but knew a good hand when he saw one, made the sensible bid of six clubs. East, looking at two aces, didn't care what was going on, and vociferously expressed his doubt that this contract could be made.

West, on lead, struggled a while and finally tried the king of spades as a desperate measure. Declarer gratefully won with the ace and led a club to the jack, losing to the ace. East returned a spade, and when South won with the queen, East almost fell off his chair.

After declarer led a club to the queen, collecting West's ten, East could contain himself no longer.

He leaned forward, red-faced, and whispered to his partner so gently it could be heard at the far end of the room: "You idiot! You could have led a heart, a diamond or a club, and we would have beaten the hand. Instead, your nimble brain had to pick a spade."

South, who was neither blind nor deaf, greeted this information with cocked ear. He knew East to be a good analyst, and if East thought a diamond lead could beat the hand, it meant East was void.

So declarer played a club to his nine, drawing East's last trump, then led a diamond and finessed dummy's eight.

He had to, to make the slam.

Tomorrow: Point count is doubly useful. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

"I could've made it look more like vou but you moved."

# Crossword

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