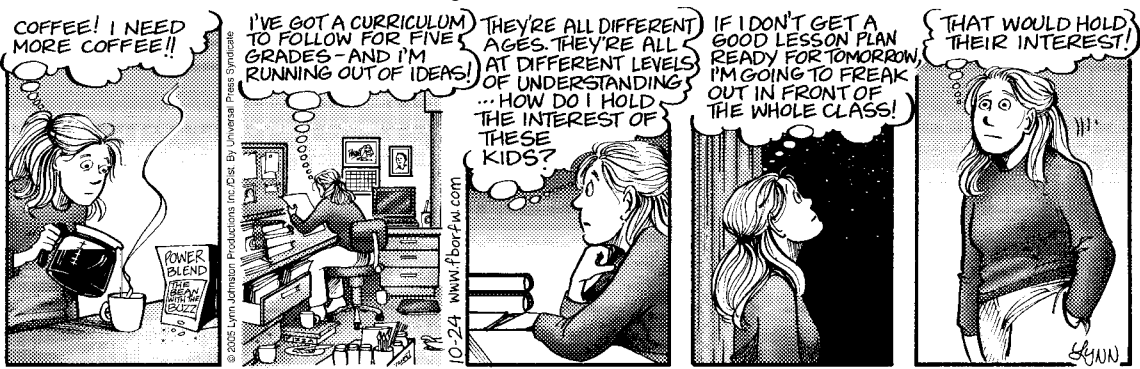
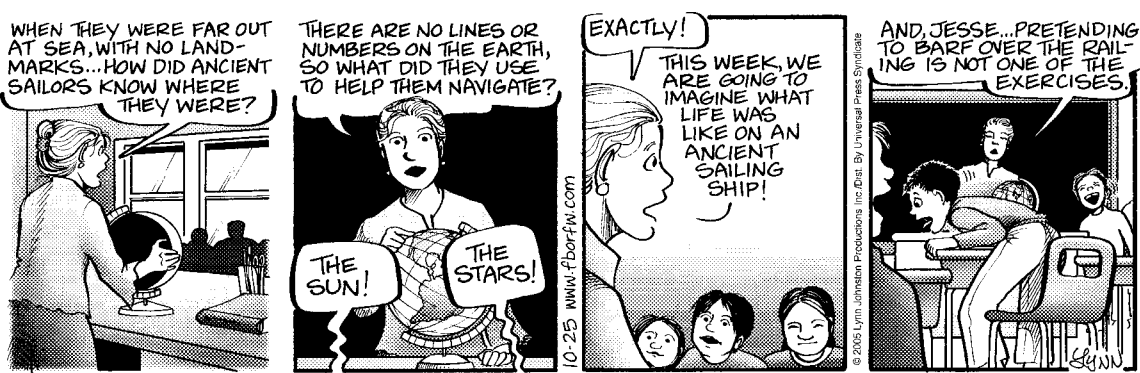


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



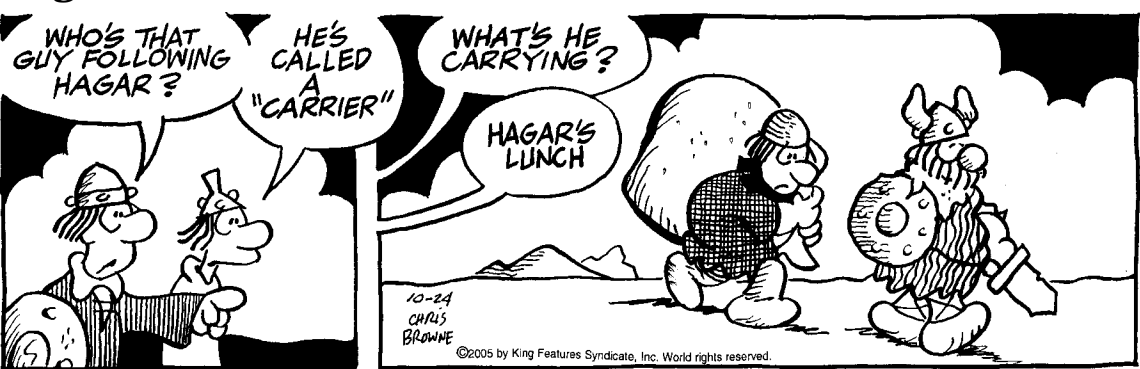
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



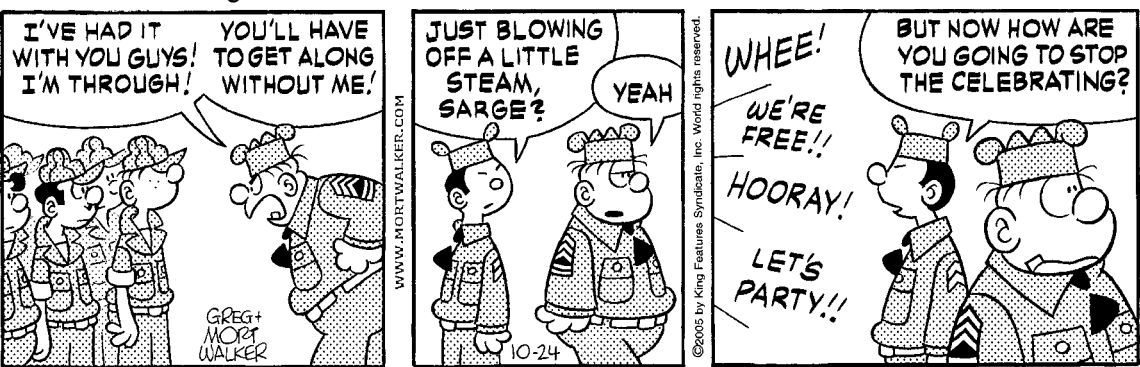
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



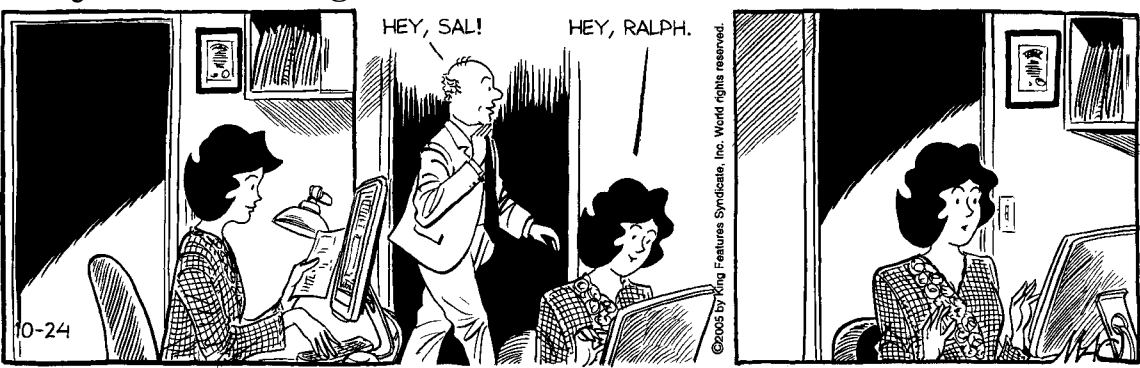
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

MQ T RYMPPKN YKNK FX

R CX ASM QF Q NXP T

RDAKNPTNZKF, M RDAAXRK

CK YXDSB FTZK T BMA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF KING ARTHUR'S WARRIORS MADE MOONSHINE, WOULD THEY DO IT IN THE STILL OF THE KNIGHT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

Daughter thinks mom is insane



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Today was my son's fourth birthday. I gave him a party. Some of the children who came were dropped off by their parents.

One of the boys started grabbing my son's gifts and opening them. But the real trouble began when my mother grabbed him by the arm and pulled him roughly away. This happened twice before my husband could make it across the room and tell Mother to stop it immediately.

I am very worried about my mother. She's 64 and seems to be losing her mind. Her displays of nervous and strange behavior are increasing. Her mother, my grandmother, was a paranoid schizophrenic, and I have often believed my mother might have some type of psychiatric condition.

How do I tell her she needs to talk to someone before this escalates further? I allow her to baby-sit my son for short stints only, and now I'm questioning any further "alone time" at all for them. She calls me constantly, insisting that she wants to see him. Is there an easy way to tell your own mother that you think she is close to "losing it"? If I'm going to gear up for the conversation, I want her to take me seriously. Thank you for your input.

— WORRIED DAUGHTER IN DENVER

DEAR DAUGHTER: No, there is no "easy way." Do you have siblings? Does your mother? Does she have any close friends who also might have noticed her bizarre behavior? If there are, talk to them and get examples.

It might be better if you and your husband approach your mother together. Tell her you are very concerned about her mental and physical health — and give her chapter and verse about why. Then offer to go with her to her doctor for a complete physical and neurological checkup. If she

refuses, remember that you have an important bargaining chip — your son. Under no circumstances should he spend unsupervised time with his grandmother unless you are absolutely certain that it's safe for him to do so.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "George," and I have been married 22 years. We have four teenagers. Five years ago, we decided to leave the West Coast and move back east to be closer to family.

George moved first. The children and I stayed behind until our house was sold and the school year had ended. We commuted as often as possible, but commuter marriages are never easy.

During our separation, George had an affair with a woman, and she became pregnant. A paternity test confirmed that he is the father. George was very remorseful, and we decided to save our marriage. He promised he would never see the woman again, nor would he have a relationship with the child, who is now 4. (He pays child support through the woman's attorney.)

Recently, she has begun breaking her part of the agreement by sending photos of the boy, with occasional letters about his progress. Abby, if our marriage is to survive this affair, there must be absolutely no contact. I don't want my children to know about this child, or my family to suffer further. What should I do?

— ANONYMOUS WIFE IN THE EAST

DEAR WIFE: I understand your feelings, but I am not sure

they're realistic. It may not be possible to keep knowledge about this half-sibling from your children indefinitely because there is no guarantee he won't show up one day asking for answers — which he is entitled to.

Has it occurred to you that the real "victim" in this mess is the child, and not you? You may not want to hear this, but my advice to you is to open your heart, recognize that the boy is a reality that should not be ignored, and relent.

DEAR ABBY: What's the correct protocol for parents of a newly engaged couple to meet? Should the bride's parents make the initial contact to the parents of the groom to arrange a meeting, or vice versa? This has been bugging me for some time.

— BUGGED IN BURRIDGE, ILL.

DEAR BUGGED: The groom's family should make the first move.

However, if they don't, then the bride's parents should take the initiative. Remember, above all, that this is supposed to be a happy occasion for all concerned, so it's important that ill feelings be kept to a minimum and the benefit of the doubt be extended along with the hand of friendship.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Bridge

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

	East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the U.S.-Italy match in 1969. It features a striking illustration of top-notch defense.

To begin with, Sidney Lazard, the hero of this piece, got off to the killing lead when he chose the queen of spades as his opening shot against three notrump. Without a spade lead, the Italian declarer would have made at least 10 tricks by establishing dummy's diamonds.

But with it, South found himself fighting an uphill battle.

He ducked the first spade but was forced to win the continuation with the king.

A diamond to the queen lost to the king, and Lazard returned a spade to the ace, leaving dummy with no entry to the diamonds.

Declarer played a club to the queen, which held, and led a second diamond, won by Lazard with the ace.

Lazard exited with a club to South's ace, at which point this was the position:

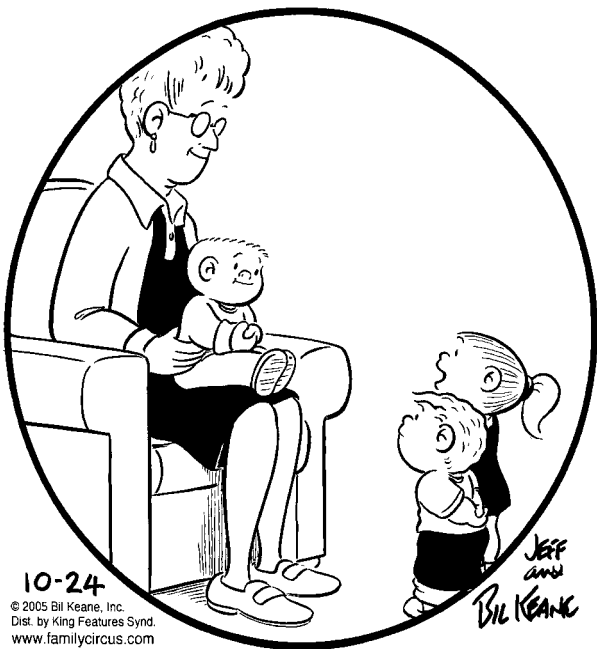
North		East	
H 8 4		S 10	
D J 10 9 8		H 9 3 2	
		C K 9	
South		West	
H A K Q 7		H J 10 6 5	
C 8 3		D 4 3	

Declarer now cashed the A-K-Q of hearts, hoping next to put West on lead with a fourth round of hearts and compel him to yield the last two tricks to dummy.

But on the A-K-Q of hearts, Lazard played the 5-10-J in that order, and when declarer next led the seven, he found himself an unhappy winner of the trick. As a result, South had to yield the last two tricks to East and so went down one.

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the ball. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Don't be selfish, PJ. She's our Grandma too, y'know."

Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Contrabassoon cousin	1 Exam format
5 Potential syrup	2 "— Ha!"
8 Requests	3 Court officer's call
12 What beachgoers "catch"	4 Houdini's specialty
13 Way back when	5 Turned blue?
14 Old portico	6 Time of your life
15 Actor Baldwin	7 "— and Circumstance"
16 Loss of a stripe, maybe	8 Late-summer flowers
18 Iguana, e.g.	9 Heel type
20 "Mission: Impossible" name	10 Former surgeon general
21 Juror, theoretically	11 Without

MACAW	CATTLE
KIMONO	ADORER
JIMPAIR	ROGUES
MESS	STARKE
TITO	NEB
DUE	NEAL
IFSANDS	ORBUTS
MOTH	STOA
IAN	ESPY
ATM	IERE
COAXED	NACHOS
NOTICE	ETHERS
ELEVEN	DETRE

Saturday's answer 10-24

