

For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



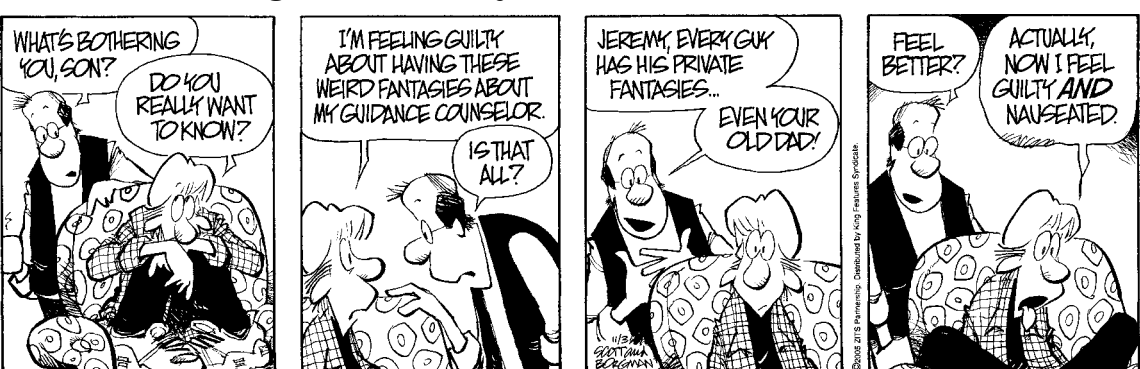
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

O APSSMAG OV'A BY BZVPBC

XBZV VRBV BIBH BYI GEG

BVG VRGHAGCEGA MPV

MX RMPAG BYI RMHG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FELINE HAD A STORY FOR EACH OF ITS LIVES, COULD YOU HAVE A CAT O' NINE TALES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

Should people bathe every day?

DEAR ABBY: I totally disagree with your answer to "Separate Bedrooms in the Future," the man who complained that his wife doesn't bathe every day. Who would want to share a bed or have sex with a woman who doesn't bathe or shower every day? It makes me wonder if she washes her hands before preparing dinner. Disgusting, to put it mildly! I was sure you knew better.

—LEON W., SKOKIE, ILL.

DEAR LEON W.: "Separate Bedrooms" has been married to his wife for 35 years. Until he retired from his job, he never noticed that she didn't bathe every day. He didn't complain that she didn't wash her hands before preparing food — and he's watching her like a hawk — so let's give her the benefit of the doubt. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As an internist, I treat people every day for conditions ranging from contact dermatitis to fungal rashes that would not occur if people gave up bathing daily. The skin is covered in bacteria that constitute "normal flora." It is not to anyone's advantage to wash these beneficial bacteria away, as it leaves one open to rashes and skin irritation from a number of sources. Also, to state the obvious, if he's been married to her for 35 good years, then a rose by any other name could not smell as sweet. -

—MICHAEL G., M.D., JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

DEAR ABBY: We Americans are so obsessed with cleanliness that we may be endangering our health. Exposure to bacteria helps us to develop antibodies to fight disease. Studies are under way to see if the autoimmune diseases may be at least partly due to so much cleanliness that our immune systems have nothing to do but attack healthy tissue.

In Europe, whose culture and lifestyle are otherwise similar to



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

ours, people bathe less often than we do. It was also fine with our ancestors, who bathed only on Saturday nights!

"Separate" should be thankful he's living with someone hygienic enough that he can't tell the difference.

—DAILY BATHER BUT HOLD THE ANTI-BACTERIAL SOAP

DEAR ABBY: I lived in Italy for a year. When my Italian hosts realized I was showering every day, they thought I was crazy. The only thing you really need to wash every day are your private parts. That's why bidets are so common in Europe.

—ERIN IN HESPERIA, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a nurse, but you don't have to be a nurse to know that a few dead skin cells aren't harmful. For someone with dry skin, a daily bath can do more harm than good. That husband must have other problems going on — like retirement boredom, as you suggested. I wonder if he drove his former co-workers nuts, too? Thanks for setting him straight. —KOKOMO, IND., R.N.

DEAR ABBY: Queen Isabella of Spain, one of history's most famous rulers and sponsor of Christopher Columbus' voyages, bragged that she took only two baths in her entire life — when she was born and when she got married. Of course, hygiene standards have improved in 500 years. —ROBERT C., ATHENS, GA.

DEAR ABBY: If that jackass fig-

ured out a way to make a lady "work up a sweat," maybe they could shower together.

—THOMAS MC D., CINCINNATI

DEAR ABBY: "Separate Bedrooms in the Future" needs a hobby. He's a perfect example of why women hate it when their husbands retire!

—PAT IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR ABBY: My parents had a bitter divorce. Our mother refused to be in the same room as our father, and in the end, my brother and I were always forced to choose between our parents.

When I proposed to my girlfriend, my mother forbade me to invite my father to the wedding. My fiancée and I realized that our future children would also be forced to choose between their grandparents. It was a legacy we didn't want them to inherit, so a full year before the wedding, we arranged for everyone to attend religious family counseling.

When Mother was confronted with the reality of having to forgive and compromise, she literally disowned me, saying that I was "dead" to her. Then, one by one, Mother forced each family member to choose between her and me. In the end, even my brother disowned me.

Most people say, "Good riddance" and "You're better off without them." I disagree.

Where is the virtue in loving only those who love you back? As long as it doesn't disrupt my marriage, I feel I should continue to make every legal attempt to reconcile. Am I crazy?

—MICHAEL IN TEXAS

DEAR MICHAEL: You're not crazy. You are coping with abandonment in a way that is healthy for you. I wouldn't recommend it, but it's your life, and you must live it the way you see fit.

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 6
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ A 7 6 4 3

WEST

♠ 10 7 4
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 8 6 3 2
♣ J 10 2

EAST

♠ 8 2
♥ A 9 6
♦ A 7 4
♣ K Q 9 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J 9 5 3
♥ J 7 5 2
♦ K 9
♣ —

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♣	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Plotting the Course of Play

Assume you're declarer at four spades, reached as shown, and West leads the jack of clubs. How would you play the hand?

When the deal occurred, declarer won the opening club lead with dummy's ace, discarding a heart, and drew trumps in three rounds, discarding clubs from dummy. He then led the king of diamonds, ducked by East, followed by the nine of diamonds, losing to the ace.

East exited with a club, ruffed by South, who next led a heart to the eight and East's nine. East returned another club, and after South ruffed, he tried ducking a heart, hoping East had started with the A-9 doubleton. But when East followed low to the second heart, the contract went down one, declarer losing a diamond and three hearts in all.

South's downfall was precipitated by his play of the ace of clubs at trick one, which yielded virtually no gain. In fact, it managed only to create a situation where the defenders could safely exit with clubs whenever they gained the lead.

Observe the effect of retaining the ace of clubs and ruffing the opening lead instead. Declarer then draws trumps and leads the K-9 of diamonds as before.

When East takes the ace (it does not help him to duck), he can no longer enjoy the luxury of a club return, since the ace is still in dummy along with two good diamonds. Regardless of what he does next, the only other trick East can score is the ace of hearts, so declarer makes the contract with an overtrick.

Note that even if West has the ace of diamonds, and East the A-Q of hearts, the best the defense can do is hold South to 10 tricks. The key for declarer is to appreciate at the outset the importance of keeping the club ace in dummy so that it can be put to good use later on.

Family Circus • Bil Keane

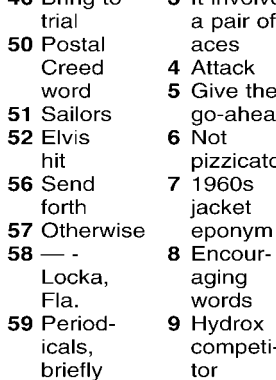


"No, PJ, you can't change the channel on a painting."

Crossword

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Become one | 1 Bankroll |
| 4 Family | 2 Freudian concept |
| 8 Prince Charles's pastime | 3 It involves a pair of aces |
| 12 Past | 4 Attack |
| 13 Present | 5 Give the go-ahead |
| 14 Green acres | 6 Not pizzicato |
| 15 Night shift | 7 1960s jacket eponym |
| 17 Ring out | 8 Encouraging words |
| 18 Ever-green | 9 Hydrox competitor |
| 19 Public speaking | |
| 21 Play-ground set | |
| 24 Dos Passos trilogy | |
| 25 "Price Is Right" decor item | |
| 26 Will Ferrell movie | |
| 28 Chubby | |
| 32 Mideast potentate | |
| 34 Still | |
| 36 Dangling locale | |
| 37 Lucy: Ethel :: Wilma: — | |

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-3

