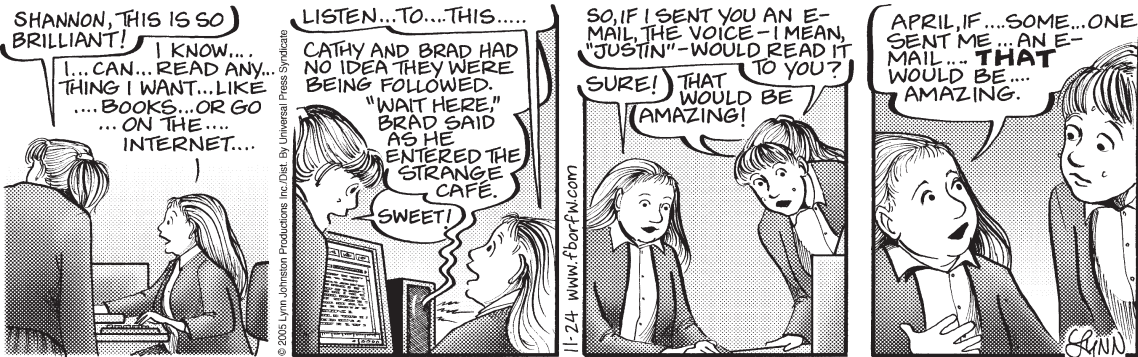


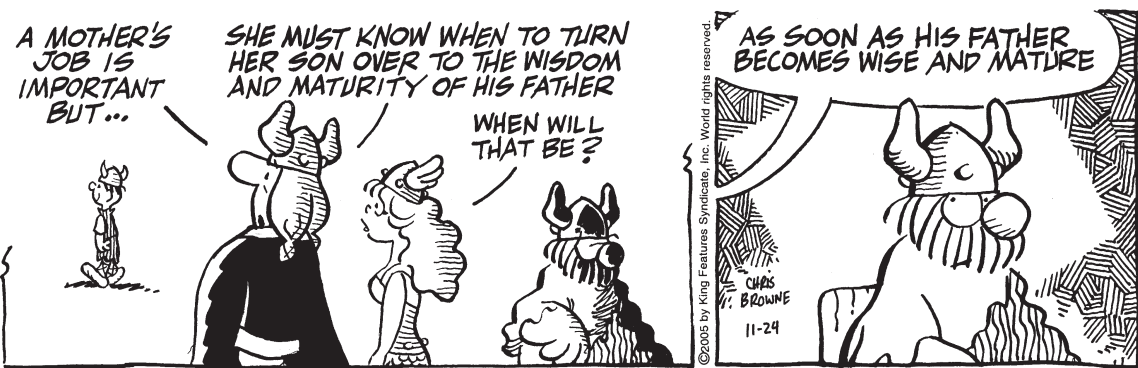
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



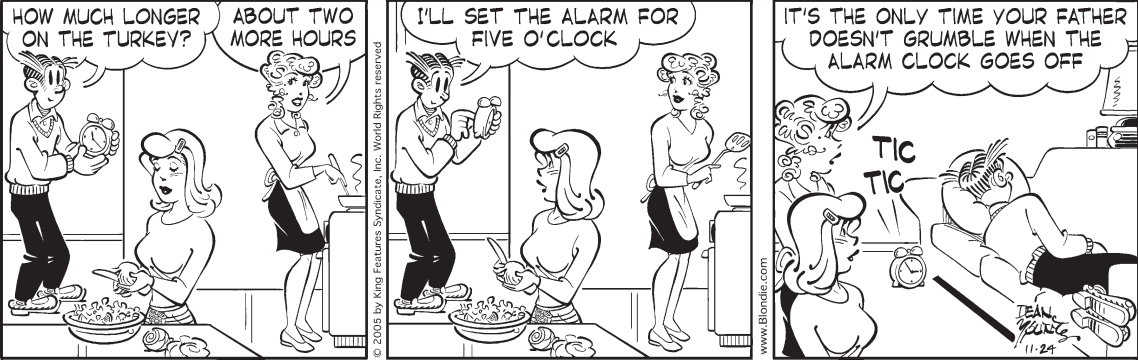
Garfield • Jim Davis



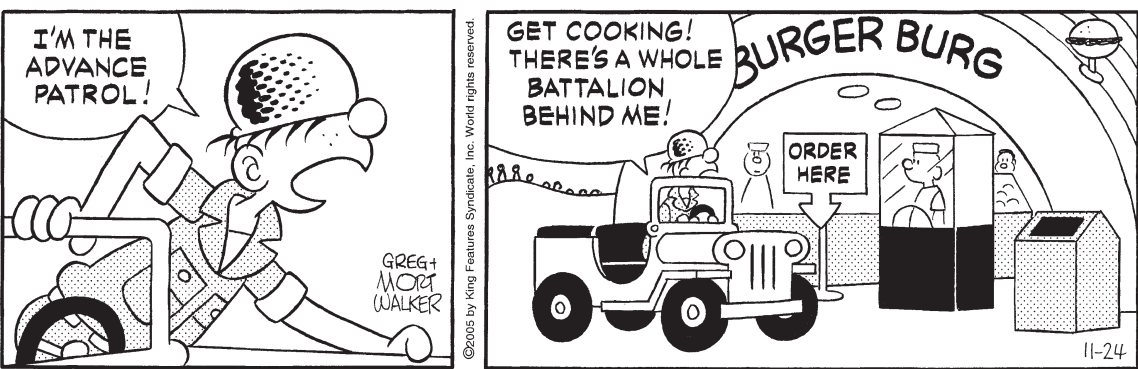
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



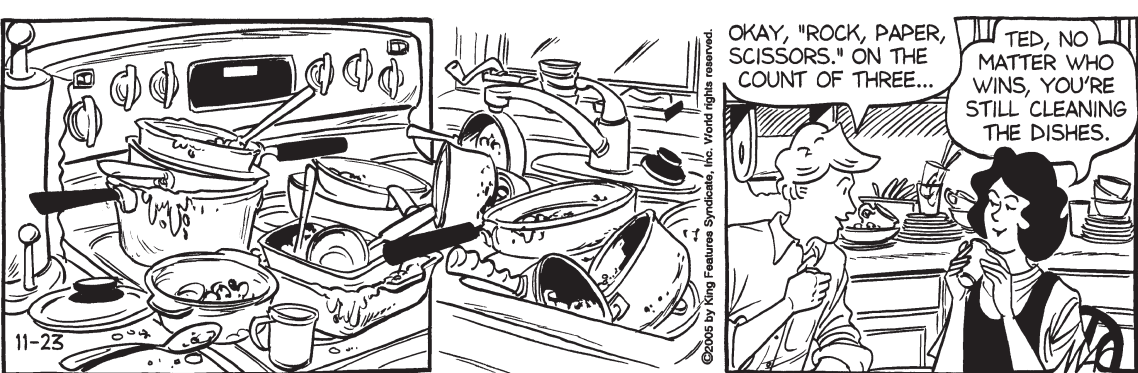
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



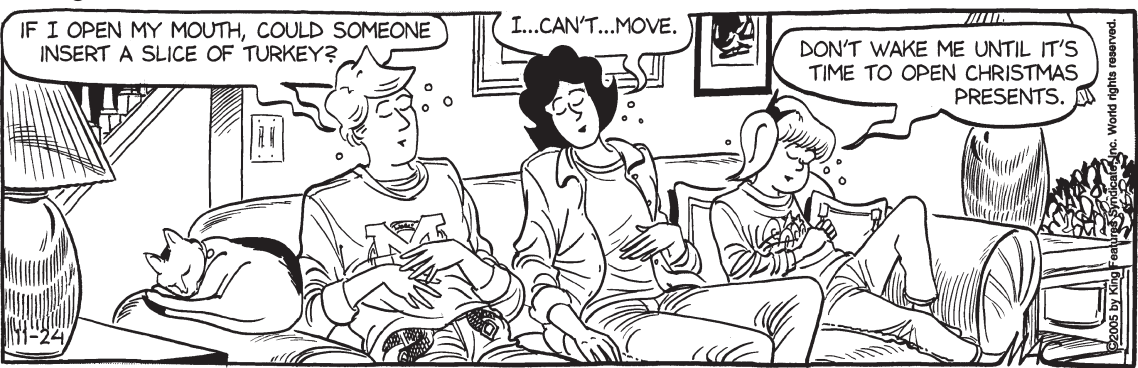
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Reunion brings nothing but pain



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When I was 4, my two older siblings and I were taken from our mother and her live-in boyfriend by Social Services. All three of us had been victims of molestation. We had also been exposed to illicit drugs. If that wasn't enough, I later learned that our grandfather was also our father. I spent half my childhood in three different foster homes until, finally, at the age of 8, I was adopted by a caring family.

Eleven years went by, and I never heard from any of them. Then one day, my father received a call from one of my sisters. The two of them had been looking for me. He told them where I could be found. At first, I was overjoyed to hear from them. Of course, I made contact with my birth mother after that.

We have now been communicating for 10 years, and it has been nothing but pure hell. Every time we speak, I'm reminded of the horrible events that occurred when we were younger. So much so, that it has affected my sex life with my husband. I don't want to subject my family to this anymore. How can I tell them I want to cease all contact with them without causing a huge uproar? Please help me.

— MISERABLE IN THE MIDWEST  
DEAR MISERABLE: I'm surprised you waited this long to ask that question. Your reasons for waiting to be left alone seem reasonable to me. Inform your siblings and your unfit birth mother that contact with them is so painful for you that it has affected your marriage, and you must stop it. Do not apologize for your feelings or allow yourself to be made to feel guilty. Explain this to your adoptive parents as well so they can't be used as pawns. And if necessary, block unwanted calls, e-mails, etc.

Because it appears you did not get counseling as a result of the

sexual abuse you suffered as a child, and it has adversely affected your relationship with your husband, I urge you to do it now. Your physician can refer you to a trained psychotherapist who can help you deal with your past. For the sake of your marriage, please don't wait any longer to do this.

DEAR ABBY: While sitting with my husband in the hospital following his surgery, a nurse entered his room. We all chatted while she took his pulse, etc., when — without warning — she removed his covers to check the surgery site and totally exposed his genitals.

I was shocked and embarrassed, and have trouble ridding myself of the image of my naked husband lying there in front of another woman. I wish the nurse had given me the chance to leave the room.

Is there something wrong with me for having so much trouble with this? What can I do to avoid this in the future?

— RED-FACED IN EUGENE, ORE.

DEAR RED-FACED: On a scale of 10, I'd say you are probably an 8 on the "uptight" scale. You seem to have forgotten that the woman in the room with you was not a lap dancer, but a health-care professional performing her duties. Your husband was her patient, and in her eyes, was probably as sexless as a CPR dummy. To avoid embarrassment in the future, leave the room when the nurse enters.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and

I invited our family to Thanksgiving dinner and everyone wanted to bring their dogs. That would have meant I'd have 15 people and six dogs in my home.

My husband and I told our families that it is not OK to bring their family pets. Now they're upset with us. Did we really do the right thing?

— CONFUSED IN ONTARIO, CANADA  
DEAR CONFUSED: Let me put it this way: You didn't do a doggone thing wrong.

DEAR READERS: Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! I know you are busy with the hustle and bustle of entertaining, but let's not forget that our young men and women in the military are always in need of encouragement. Most of these dedicated young people are between the ages of 17 and 21, and away from home for the first time. The Department of Defense tells me that messages of support from home are their greatest morale booster.

So if you can spare a moment, go to your computers, type in www.OperationDearAbby.net, and tell our troops you are thankful for their sacrifice and devotion to duty, especially on the day of Thanksgiving. You'll be glad you did it, and so will they. Thank you in advance from me — and from me.

Love — ABBY  
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

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ K 7 5  
♥ —  
♦ 10 8 6 5  
♣ A Q 10 5 4 2

**WEST**  
♦ 10 9 8 3  
♥ Q 10 9 7  
♦ K Q 7 4 2  
♣ —

**EAST**  
♦ 6  
♥ A K 6 5 4 3 2  
♦ A J 9  
♣ J 9

**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q J 4 2  
♥ J 8  
♦ 3  
♣ K 8 7 6 3

The bidding:  
**South** 1 ♠  
4 ♣  
Pass  
6 ♣  
**West** 2 ♦  
4 ♥  
Pass  
6 ♥  
**North** 3 ♠  
4 NT  
5 ♠  
6 ♠  
**East** 3 ♥  
5 ♦  
Pass

Opening lead — seven of hearts.

**How Championships Are Won**  
Occasionally there are enormous swings in world team championship competition. For example, consider this deal played in 1974 in the match between Italy and Indonesia.

The bidding at the first table went as shown when Benito Garozzo and Giorgio Belladonna were North-South for Italy.

Garozzo made a fine decision when he elected to bid six spades over six hearts, and Belladonna had no trouble making the slam.

He ruffed the heart lead in dummy, drew trumps, and cashed the obvious 12 tricks to score 1,430 points for Italy.

At the second table, the Indonesian North-South pair doubled six hearts when the Italian East-West pair reached that contract.

The heart slam proved to be unbeatable, and, in fact, declarer made the contract with an overtrick when South elected to lead his singleton diamond.

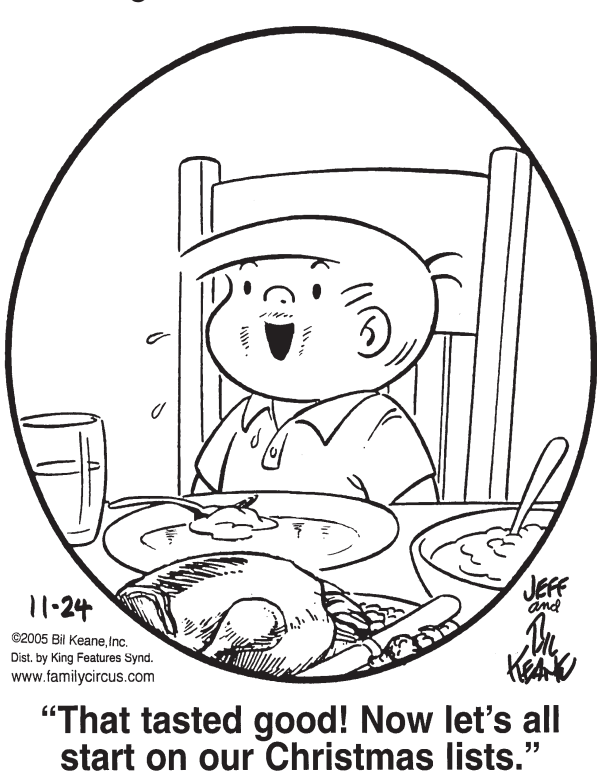
So the Italians scored another 1,310 points — making a slam with the East-West cards after their North-South teammates had also made a slam — to give them a gain of 2,740 points on this one deal.

Six spades could have been stopped at the first table had West been smart enough to lead a diamond at trick one and had East then been smart enough to win the trick and return a club at trick two.

On a more practical basis, though, East would have been well advised to bid seven hearts, following the general principle that it pays to take another bid in a tight competitive situation where you stand to lose little by bidding but potentially a great deal by passing.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“That tasted good! Now let's all start on our Christmas lists.”

Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Eat and run?  
5 Blond shade  
8 Thor's father  
12 Lotion additive  
13 Shell-game need  
14 50% (Pref.)  
15 Night light?  
16 Frivolous one of song  
17 Trojan War hero  
18 Senility  
20 Links warning  
22 Attacks from concealment  
26 Cries loudly  
29 Pick a target  
30 Spigot  
31 Reed instrument  
32 Pismire  
33 Waiter's handout

**DOWN**  
34 Non-extremist (Abbr.)  
35 Hostel  
36 Relinquished  
37 The minors, in baseball  
40 Actress Celeste  
41 Showing skill  
45 "— go  
47 One who gives a hoot?  
49 "Casa-blanca" heroine  
50 Ready for picking  
51 Zilch  
52 Requirement  
53 Optimistic  
54 Navy rank (Abbr.)  
55 "Pretty Woman" actor  
**DOWN**  
1 "76 Trombones" group  
2 Bread spread  
3 Booty  
4 Having support  
5 Basilica sections  
6 Vast expanse  
7 Dim one  
8 "Butterfield 8" author  
9 Blue  
10 "— Little Teapot"  
11 Put the kibosh on  
19 Astronaut  
21 Resistance unit  
23 Barbera's animation partner  
24 Welles's role  
25 Tater  
26 Failure  
27 "— ben Adhem"  
28 Puts on a pedestal  
32 Wind-flower  
33 Session  
35 Under the weather  
36 Scoundrel  
38 Bobby Goldsboro  
39 Irritates  
42 Take off  
43 Addict  
44 Put cargo on  
45 Blunder  
46 Carnival city  
48 Triumph

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterdays answer 11-24

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    | 19 |    | 20 | 21 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 22 |    | 23 |    |    |    | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |    | 29 |    |    | 30 |    |    |    |
| 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |
| 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 40 |    |    | 41 |    |    | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| 45 | 46 |    |    | 47 | 48 |    | 49 |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |    | 51 |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |    | 54 |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

11-24 CRYPTOQUIP

FCBHW TFICCO CHXFP

JHW WZFIX WAMZ. OAS'BF

JFITP JHW MIEASW ZSVF

“C A B F E F I Z Z F V P F T.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SELFISHLY SCHEMING MATHEMATICIAN IS CHILLY, I SUPPOSE HE'S COLD AND CALCULATING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals L