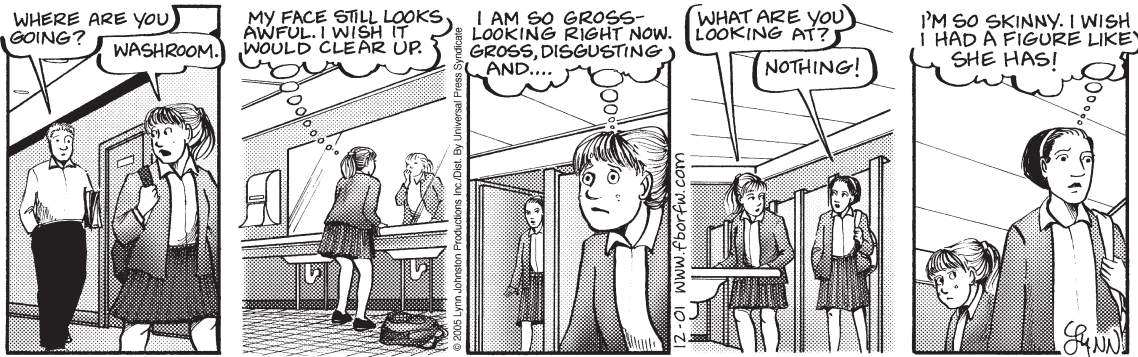


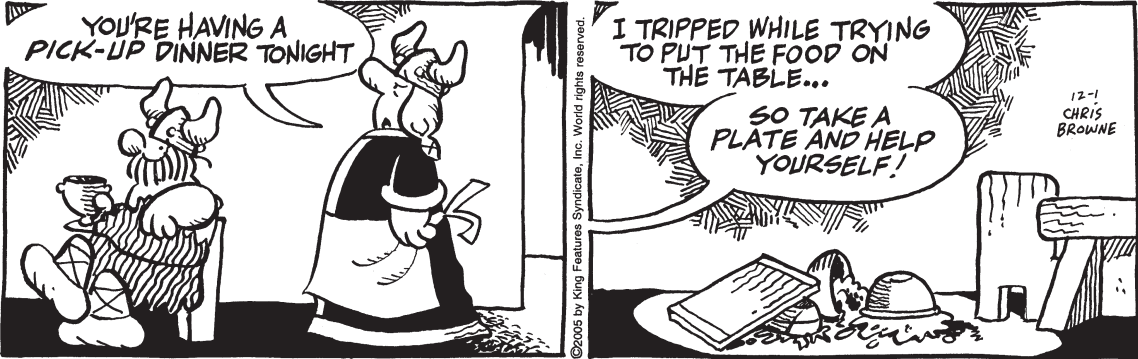
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



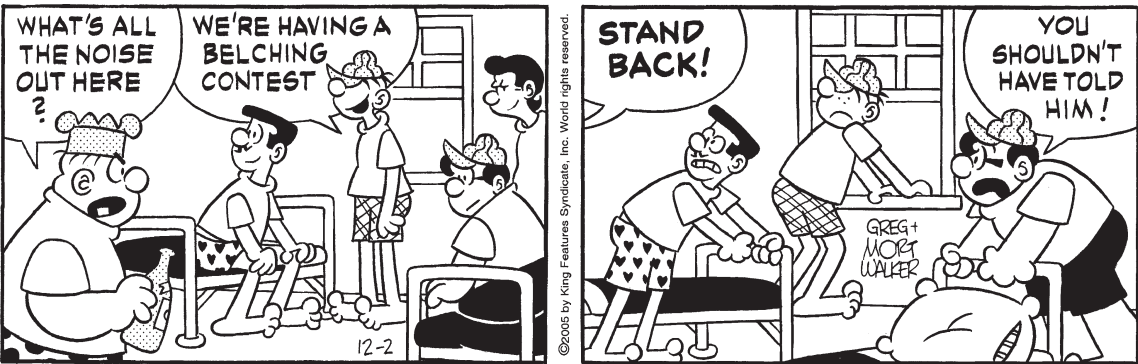
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



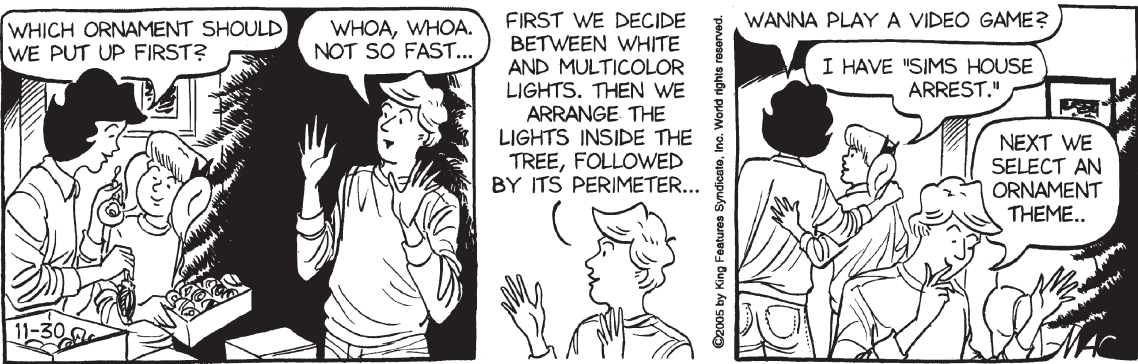
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

DW Q RQK OJIILILX ZLQC

IBOLZEBRQK IVZLKNVE,

XJ TJB IBOOJIL EL RDNEV

VZT IEJO CDWVDKN?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FILM CONCERNING A JAR OF GRAPE JUICE SPILLING ON SOMEONE'S SHIRT: "THE COLLAR PURPLE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Binge drinking proves deadly

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding "Worried Mom" from Montana, who is frightened about her children drinking "21 shots" on their 21st birthday. She is rightfully concerned about this so-called "rite of passage." We lost our daughter, Kim, to binge drinking two years ago on Nov. 25. She consumed between 22 and 24 shots in a four-hour period and died in her dorm room. She was only 18. Did she know the danger she put herself in? No.

We now have a Web site that lists the signs of alcohol poisoning and what to do. The URL is www.kims-awareness.net.

To lose a child over a senseless mistake causes pain that never goes away. Young adults must realize that if they indulge in any kind of binge drinking, they could never see tomorrow.

— MOTHER WHO'S BEEN THERE, UPPER DARBY, PA.
DEAR MOTHER: Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss, as well as my thanks for reaching out to warn parents and young adults about this practice. If your letter saves even one life, your effort will have been worth it. After "Worried Mom's" letter appeared, I was deluged with mail. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In Minnesota, the practice is called "Power Hour," and the person turning 21 tries to drink 21 shots between midnight and 1 a.m. of his or her birthday. We begged our son not to do it. We told him the danger. He, too, insisted, "It's fine!" At 1:30 a.m. we got a phone call from the hospital where he spent the next 12 hours on life support. We were lucky. Our son nearly died. This foolish, dangerous practice can lead to tragedy.

— MINNESOTA MOM

DEAR ABBY: I work on a military base. Several months ago, we



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

heard the tragic news that a service member had died after "celebrating" his 21st birthday by drinking 21 shots. It turned out to be his last birthday. The cause of death was alcohol poisoning. Despite all the warnings and lectures, it still happened. Please, parents, tell your children it is NOT "fine." It's deadly.

— READER IN MO.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty-one drinks is over the lethal dose for alcohol. A local man bet he could drink 21 martinis in one hour. He won the bet and expired immediately. That mother is right to be worried.

— LEWIS R., M.D.

DEAR ABBY: In my hometown, a man took his son to the local bowling alley on his 21st birthday and proceeded to buy him 21 shots of liquor. Two hours later, the "birthday boy" was dead and his father was in jail. There's no way the human body can process that much alcohol in a few hours.

— DOUG

DEAR ABBY: I'm surprised that "21 shots" nonsense is still happening. I witnessed it twice when I was in the Air Force and college. The first time, the guy tried to drink a fifth of whiskey. He died on the way to the hospital. The second guy tried to drink a case of beer in one sitting. He was hospitalized for weeks and was never the same again. Alcohol should not be necessary to have a fun time — but getting that across isn't easy.

— SILVER FOX

DEAR ABBY: If my daughter

Bridge

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 9 5 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ 7
♣ J 7 6 4

WEST
♠ Q 8 4 3
♥ 10
♦ K Q 10 6 5
♣ Q 9 8

EAST
♠ J 10 6
♥ Q J 3
♦ 9 8 4 3 2
♣ 10 2

SOUTH
♠ 7
♥ K 9 7 6 5 2
♦ A J
♣ A K 5 3

The bidding:
North 1 ♠
East Pass
South 2 ♥
West Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Choosing the Right Line of Play

Assume you're declarer at six hearts and West leads the king of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

When the deal occurred, South took the diamond ace, ruffed the jack in dummy and then played the A-K of hearts, discovering he had to lose a trump trick. When the A-K of clubs later failed to drop the queen, declarer finished down one, losing a club and a heart.

South's method of play depended essentially on a 2-2 heart division — a 40 percent chance — or, failing that, finding the queen of clubs singleton or doubleton, about a 33 percent possibility. While these are by no means the longest of odds, the fact is that declarer could have greatly improved his chances of landing the slam.

South's view from the outset should be that he has no control over whether he will lose a trump trick. Therefore, he should concentrate all his efforts on avoiding a club loser by attempting to establish an extra spade winner in dummy.

To achieve this goal, declarer should win the first diamond, lead a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. After testing hearts with the K-A, the king of spades is cashed, South discarding a club, and a fourth spade is led and ruffed, East discarding a diamond. This sequence of plays establishes the nine of spades as a trick.

Then and only then can South afford to ruff the jack of diamonds in dummy. This is followed by the spade nine, on which he discards his remaining small club, and the slam is home. Basically, all declarer needs for this approach to succeed is a 4-3 spade break, a better than 60 percent proposition. And even if the spades divide 5-2, the slam is still safe if the hearts break 2-2 or the club queen falls, making South a huge favorite to bring in the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Good! I hope this one isn't full of craters."

Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Fabric border	1 Scenery
4 Large quantity	2 "I" strain
8 LECTERN locale	3 Home of McGill University
12 Some time back	4 Beauty shops
13 Ethereal	5 XIII quadrupled
14 Part of the foot?	6 Gaelic
15 Nat "King" Cole hit	7 An Earp brother
17 Old portico	8 Vessel for washing
18 Afternoon hour	9 Oppositionist
19 Art made with lasers	10 Pedestal occupant
21 Progenitor	11 Carpet style
24 Gregory Hines' specialty	
25 Pub request	
26 Final answer?	
28 Circus employee	
32 Bound	
34 Go up and down	
36 Iditarod terminus	
37 Showy display	

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	D	A	S	A	R	A	D	E	M	O
G	O	P	E	L	I	S	E	M	I	R
O	D	E	L	I	G	H	T	B	U	L
R	O	X	I	E	Y	E	T			
	S	C	A	R		D	O	R	I	S
R	I	G	H	T	N	O	W		R	O
O	N	E	S	O	D	A	S		T	W
S	T	E	P		N	I	G	H	T	C
Y	O	K	E	L		N	E	E	R	
	L	E	A			R	I	V	A	L
F	I	G	H	T	C	L	O	B		A
A	R	E	A		T	O	R	E		S
D	E	E	M		S	P	I	T		I

Yesterday's answer 12-1

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
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
		42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57				58		
59				60					61	