

Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



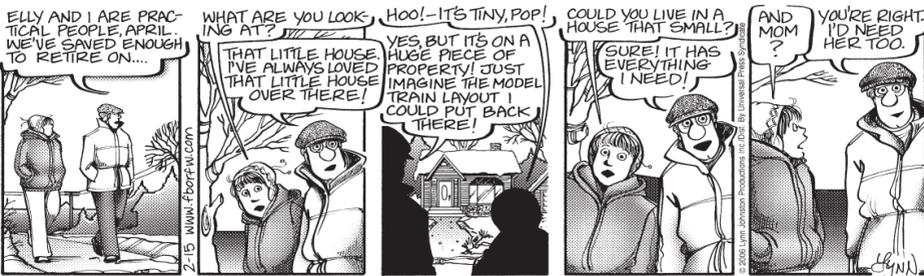
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



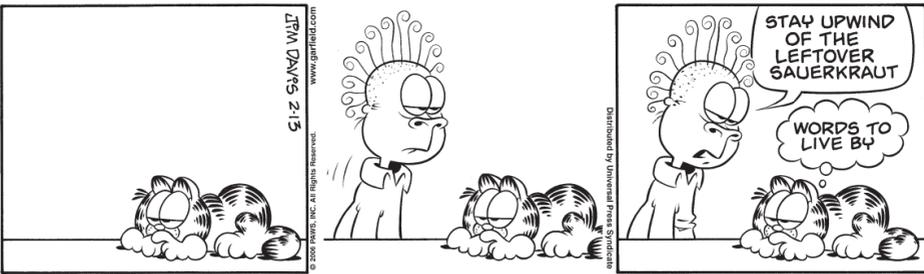
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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



Domestic assaults are not love

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for your continued support of victims of domestic and dating violence. Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, a day filled with romance for many couples. Unfortunately, for some, it is like any other day — filled with fear, anxiety and violence.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

The sad truth is, every year, close to 4 million American women experience a serious assault by someone who said they loved them. I would like to remind your readers that domestic and dating violence is not just physical abuse. It can also be sexual, emotional, economic or psychological abuse. It is actions, or threats of actions, meant to frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any age, race, sexual orientation, religion, gender or socioeconomic background. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or dating.

With Valentine's Day only a day away, let's work to keep our loved ones safe.

— SHERYL CATES, NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

DEAR SHERYL: Thank you for your important letter. As readers of my column know, your organization is one I have relied upon for years to help victims of abuse. If anyone reading this column today feels she is being abused, or knows of someone who is being abused, I hope she will call the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is (800) 799-7233 (SAFE). The number for people with hearing disabilities is (800) 787-3224 (TTY). You can also log onto the Web site at www.ndvh.org. There is help available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The danger is great, so please don't wait to contact them.

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend "Rose" has a 3-year-old great-granddaughter I'll call "Andrea." I am concerned because the child does not play nicely with her dolls. She chokes them, bashes their heads against the wall and "drowns" them in the bathtub. Rose and her daughter think it is funny. I think Andrea needs help.

The little girl doesn't get hit or abused herself, but she has an on-again, off-again father who has beaten up her mother on more than one occasion. And there has been a new baby in the house since November.

DEAR WORRIED: Andrea appears to be a very angry little girl who is using her dolls to channel her aggression. She may feel displaced by her new sibling. It might help to suggest to Rose that she and her daughter give Andrea more attention because you are concerned that she might take her resentment out on the baby. If that fails to improve the child's behavior, then point out that a visit with a child psychologist might be in order.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, a male friend and I decided to save our spare change in a jar for a road trip. There are now three large jars, and they're all at my house.

During the time that we've been saving, my friend and I have grown apart. It's not that we don't like each other anymore, but sometimes that's the way things go.

There is nearly \$300 in the jars, and I'd like to give him his share, but I have no idea how to do it. There is no way

of knowing how much of the money is his and how much is mine. There isn't an even amount in the jars, and I'm considering giving all of it to him. What do you suggest?

— TRYING TO BE FAIR
DEAR TRYING: Either get a neutral friend to help you count the money, or "guesstimate" the amount in the jars and write the man a check for half. It's better than cheating yourself out of your share of what you have accumulated. Or, with your friend's approval, the entire amount could be donated to charity.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together nearly five years. We have two beautiful children.

Over the weekend, I had a friend over. We had a few drinks, and my husband asked if I wanted to try "something new." I thought he meant between us, but when I said yes, he went to my friend and asked her to join us! We had never discussed having a third person join us in our "private time." I would never be with anyone besides my husband.

Why would he ask her without consulting me? I am really hurt and offended because now I think he is interested in her, and I'm not enough for him. He did apologize. He said he thought that's what I wanted.

I no longer know how to act around him because he made me feel so worthless. Should I forgive him?

— HELEN IN HOLLYWOOD
DEAR HELEN: I don't know how many drinks your husband had, but it appears he had at least one too many and acted on an impulse to live out a sexual fantasy. Should you forgive him? Yes, but not until you have hashed this whole episode out in the sober light of day — and are fully assured that he's faithful and intends to remain that way.

Bridge

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ J 10 8 6 3
♥ J 10 7 5
♦ Q
♣ A J 3

EAST
♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ 9 3
♦ 9 5
♣ Q 10 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K 6
♦ K 10 8 7 3 2
♣ K 9 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1♦
Dble Redble Pass 3♠
1♠ 2♦ 2♠ 6♦
Pass 4♥ Pass
Opening lead — jack of spades.

The opponents' bidding often helps declarer make a contract that might otherwise fail. Consider this spectacular example from the match between the United States and France in the 1969 World Championship. The American North-South pair (Bobby Goldman and Billy Eisenberg) reached six diamonds as shown, and West led a spade.

Eisenberg won with the ace, played three rounds of trumps, cashed the king of spades, discarding a club, then ruffed a spade and played two more rounds of trumps to produce the following position:

North
H Q 8 4 2
C 7

West East
H J 10 7 5 H 9 3
C A C Q 10 8

South
H A K 6
C K 9

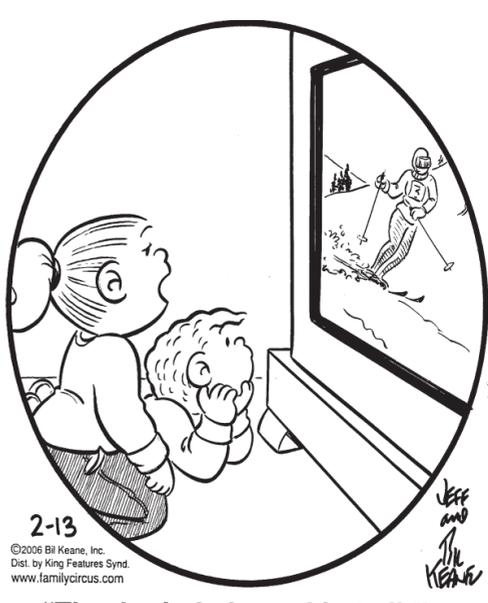
West had been forced to discard the jack of clubs on the previous trick in order to keep four hearts, and declarer's sole task at this point was to decide whether West had started with three hearts or four. It was just to certain that West had the ace of clubs to justify his double of one diamond.

Exercising his customary good judgment, Eisenberg concluded that West was far more likely to have four hearts and the lone ace of clubs at this point than three hearts and the ace and another club.

Accordingly, Eisenberg cashed the heart ace, led a low heart to the queen and returned a club. When East put up the ten, South backed his conviction by playing the nine and so brought home the slam.

Tomorrow: A self-inflicted injury.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-13
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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Wound cover
5 Favorite
8 Robin Cook novel
12 Sites
13 Raw rock
14 "Planet of the —"
15 A Baldwin
16 Rose Parade venue
18 Hoodlum, e.g.
20 Appear
21 Brazilian river
23 Nourished
24 NBC soap opera
28 Fly with the eagles
31 Illustrations
32 African capital
34 Hooter
35 "Yup!"
37 Meadows — along way

DOWN
1 Thick chunk
2 Pop flavor
3 Scored 100 on
4 Arm muscles
5 "NSYNC, for one
6 Historic time
7 Criterion works
9 Freedom of access
10 Diner's card
11 Pronto, in an e-mail
17 Wiedersehen preceder
19 Pace
22 Nicole Smith and Devereaux Smith
24 Remuneration
25 Exist
26 Play area
27 Sororal
29 Shock and —
30 Literary monogram
33 Impale
36 Cinderella's mice
38 Suave
40 Fuss
42 October stone
43 Crooner Jerry
44 Squashed circle
46 Rainbow
47 Zeroes
48 Merri-ment
50 Farm female

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 2-13

Cryptoquip

Z D P I H U Q U Z X C U ' W

A Z B C L W C E I S U C X I T C Q , Z

U C B T I L P I H B I H A Q R C

D C C A Z L E J R Z S Q Z W - B J U Q C Q .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BRITISH GAME SHOW IN WHICH A PRETTY WOMAN PICKS FROM AMONG SINGLE GUYS: "GO FOR BLOKE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals Y

