

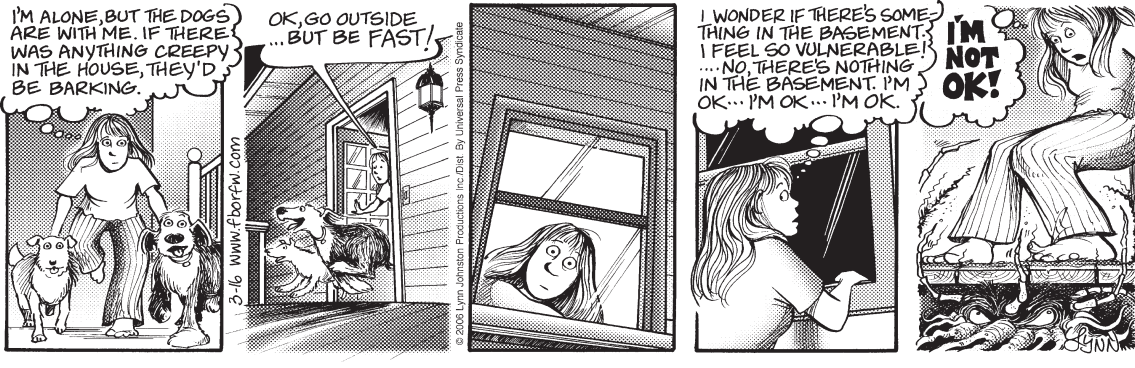
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



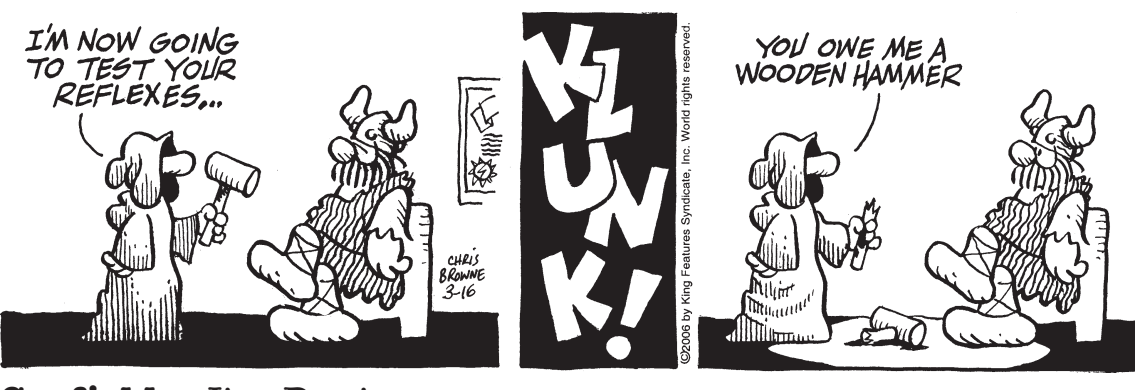
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



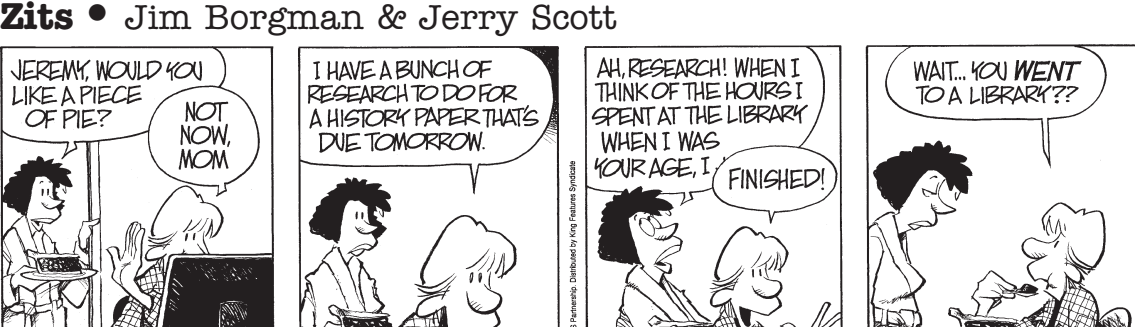
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Lying kind to victims of Alzheimer's

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to "Sad in California," who is uncomfortable lying to her elderly mother, who has Alzheimer's, about the fact that her husband died. Your answer was correct.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

I am a therapist. Years ago, I was a consultant to nursing homes. Once, I was called in to see a woman in the middle stages of Alzheimer's who had adjusted well to the nursing home. Suddenly, however, she had become depressed and began having daily crying jags. I went in to speak to the woman, and the first thing she asked me was, "Is my husband coming to see me today?" (Her husband had been dead 20 years.)

Upon checking with staff, I found that in the past, staff working with her had always answered, "Yes, I believe he will be in later." Recently, however, a new supervisor had been hired who did not approve of lying, so she made staff start telling the woman each time she asked that her husband was dead. Naturally, each time she heard it, she became upset, believing he had died just that day and she was hearing it for the first time.

Fortunately, the supervisor was open to suggestions, and everyone went back to saying the husband would be in "later." It made the woman happy each time she heard it, and she lived the rest of her days believing her husband was just running a little late.

— PAULA C., WOOSTER, OHIO

DEAR PAULA: Your anecdote makes sense to me. One of the frustrations of writing this column is that I can't print more of the terrific letters I receive on a subject. I received a bushel regarding the letter you referenced. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a social worker. After 25 years in the field, I have found that everyone needs to be told

of deaths — but they need to be told only once. Someone with short-term memory problems does not need to be reminded every time they ask, as it is painful. But everyone deserves the dignity of grieving for a loved one at least one time. Death is a part of life, as so many of our elders with dementia understand.

— SUSAN IN DULUTH, MINN.

DEAR ABBY: Ten years ago, I worked at a care facility. We had one very active man with Alzheimer's. His ex-wife died suddenly (he thought they were still married). The Social Service workers and his family decided to tell him.

Then they found out they had to KEEP telling him, often 12 or more times a day! It was a nightmare for him, his family and the staff, and it lasted for several months — until his meds were adjusted and he calmed down. I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy. "Ignorance is bliss" is darned smart advice in a case like that.

— TRUDY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: When my grandmother died, her younger sister, Rose, was alive, but with Alzheimer's. I sat behind Aunt Rose at the graveside. After a while, she asked whose funeral it was. I told her Ethel had died, and she started to cry. A little while later, she asked again whose funeral it was.

When we went back to Mom and Dad's after the funeral, Aunt Rose said it was "such a nice party." She asked where Ethel was.

We told her that Ethel couldn't come — and Aunt Rose had a won-

derful time. Enough said?
— JOAN IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: At several parties I have attended recently, other guests have felt it appropriate to bring their dogs with them. Occasionally they compare their dog with their child, saying that other people brought their "kids," so they did too. However, if someone's human child sniffed the crochets of, jumped upon, licked and shed on or wiped dirt on the clothing of other guests, they would obviously be unwelcome at the party.

I'm not alone in feeling this way — often the hosts do, too. Whenever anyone has hinted at not being a dog lover, they have been instantly labeled an "animal hater," a crime likened by many to be equal to animal abuse.

I have seen this occur throughout the United States and in American communities abroad, in a wide variety of social circles and classes, so I'm writing to you in hopes that you will spread the word. When attending a party at a dog-free home, the other guests expect — and deserve, in my humble opinion — the party to be dog-free as well.

— MR. "C" AT A MILITARY BASE IN ITALY

DEAR MR. C: It is my "humble opinion" that no one should bring an animal to anyone's home unless permission has first been sought from, and granted by, the hosts.

And an excellent way to keep from being jumped on, licked and "sniffed" by an animal is to sprinkle a dash of cayenne pepper on one's clothing.

For the record, I am an animal lover — but it's far easier to love an animal that has been taught good manners than one that has not. (And the same goes for children.)

Bridge

South declarer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 9 6 4
♥ 8 5
♠ J 8
♣ Q J 10 8 5
WEST
♦ K 8
♥ A J 6 4
♠ K Q 6 3
♣ K 4 2
EAST
♦ 5 2
♥ Q 7 3
♠ 10 9 7 5 4 2
♣ 6 3
SOUTH
♦ A J 10 7 3
♥ K 10 9 2
♠ A
♣ A 9 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Dble 2 ♠ Pass
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Six Plus Seven Equals 13

It has been said that nothing is certain except death and taxes, but the knowledgeable bridge player would add to these the maxim that each player is dealt 13 cards. The backbone of good card play, both offensive and defensive, rests on this simple truth.

Take this case where West leads the king of diamonds against four spades. Declarer wins and plays the ace and another spade, losing to the king. West tries to cash the queen of diamonds, but declarer ruffs.

South enters dummy with a trump and tries a club finesse, losing to the king. If West, eyeing dummy's clubs, now gets panicky and leads the ace of hearts because he is afraid South will discard his heart losers on dummy's clubs, he hands declarer the contract. West may make this play because he thinks the only chance to stop the contract is to find East with the king of hearts. However, this reasoning is unsound, to say the least. West should return a club instead, because this cannot cost him the contract!

West has all the information he needs to make the club return completely safe. He knows South started with exactly five spades and one diamond, leaving declarer with seven cards in hearts and clubs.

If South has two clubs, he must have five hearts; if he has three clubs, he must have four hearts; if he has four clubs, he must have three hearts. In all of these cases, South cannot escape whatever heart losers he has.

Consequently, West's only correct action is to return a club at trick seven and let nature take its course. The danger that South's heart losers will somehow disappear is more imaginary than real.

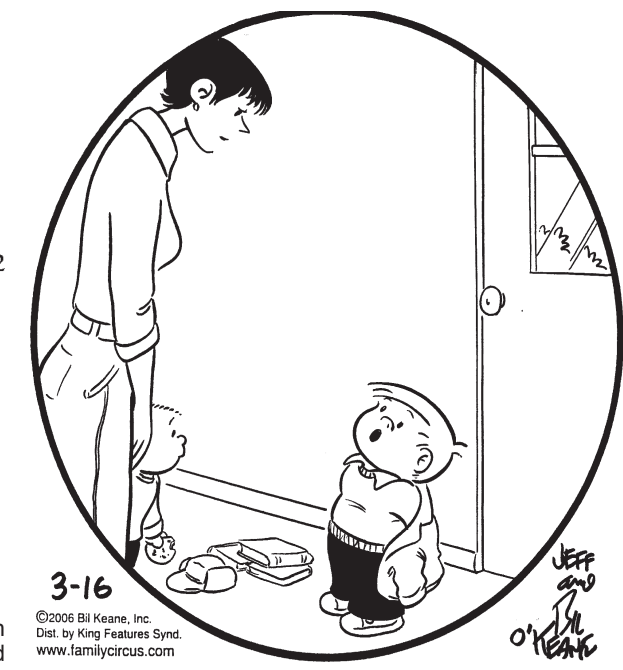
Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Cryptoquip

QH UQSTVGB HTEIB T
PQUI BHVVK VL EO PIQK
BV HPQH T ETXPH HGSL

HPTLXB VUIS TL EO ETLK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAD A LOT OF RUBBER SWATTING GIZMOS IN YOUR HOME, WOULD IT BE A NO-FLY ZONE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T

Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-16
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Crossword

ACROSS	36 World-weary	DOWN	1 Elite alternative	19 Honest politician?
1 Jab	37 Legendary jazz musician	2 Muscat's land	21 Pos-sessed	23 37-
5 Trouble-some	40 Comedienne	3 Mideast plateau dweller	24 Gear teeth	25 Elbow counter-part
8 Bamako's country	41 Pearl's house?	4 Gist	26 Bric-a-Dem.	27 Hurry candidate
12 Don of MSNBC	45 Somewhere out there	5 Bugs Bunny's voice	7 Drop	28 Pro-nounce an H
13 Shelter	49 Glitch on the page	6 1950s Dem.	8 Leger-demain	32 Provincial sovereign
14 In due course	50 Carry	9 Big constrictor	9 Big constrictor	33 Stretchy
15 Lincoln and Ford	51 Eggs	10 Dem-pressed	10 Dem-pressed	35 Firma-ment
16 Pompous	52 Rainbow	11 Squid	11 Squid	36 Turkish title
17 Stare stupidly	53 Encounter	12 Squid	12 Squid	38 Insertion mark
18 Re-territory	54 Longing	13 Squid	13 Squid	39 Comic actor
20 Stylish	55 Caesar co-star	14 Squid	14 Squid	42 Novice
22 TV logo		15 Squid	15 Squid	43 Grand-scale tale
26 Pair (of birds)		16 Squid	16 Squid	44 Parks or Bonheur
29 Neither Rep. nor Dem.		17 Squid	17 Squid	45 \$ dispenser
30 "Smoking or —?"		18 Squid	18 Squid	46 Adversary
31 Stratagem		19 Squid	19 Squid	48 Rd.
32 Cistern		20 Squid	20 Squid	
33 Rim		21 Squid	21 Squid	
34 Uraean		22 Squid	22 Squid	
35 Sermon subject		23 Squid	23 Squid	

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-16