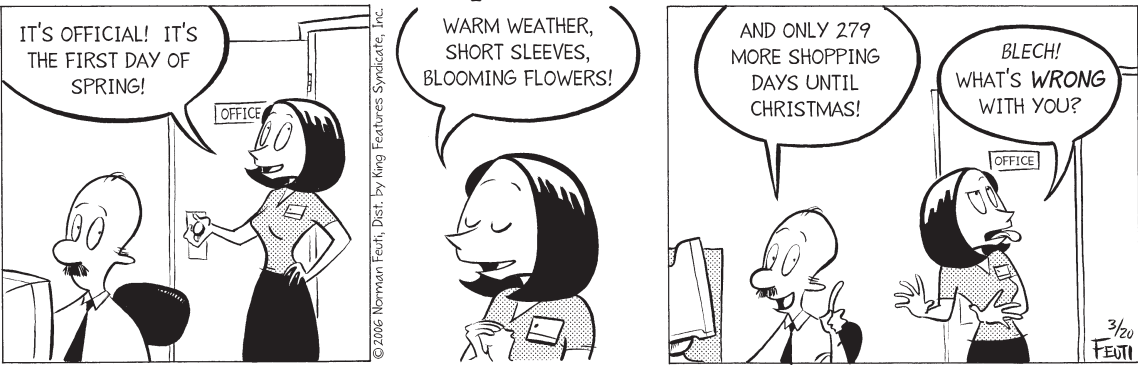
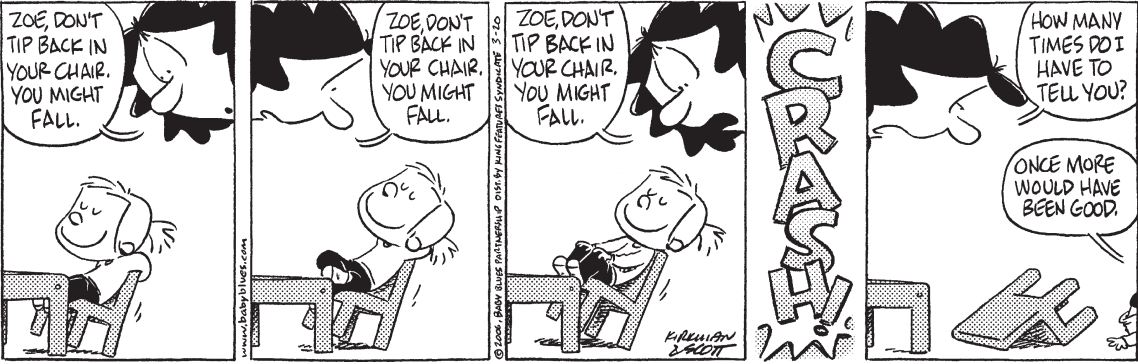


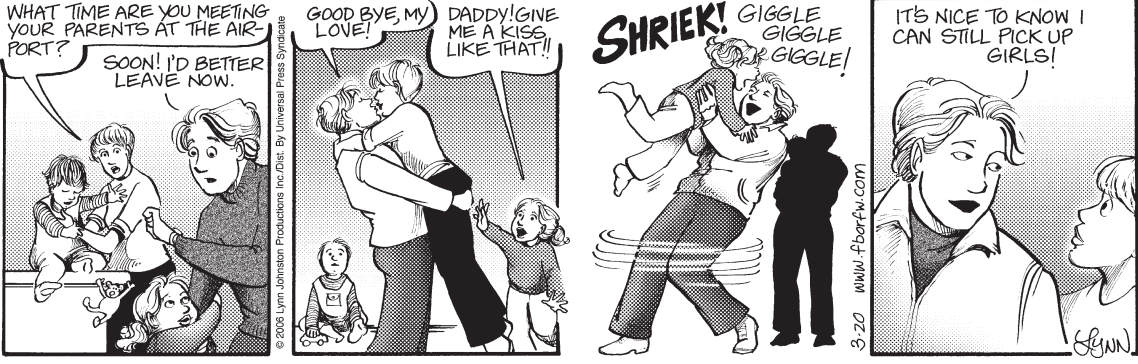
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



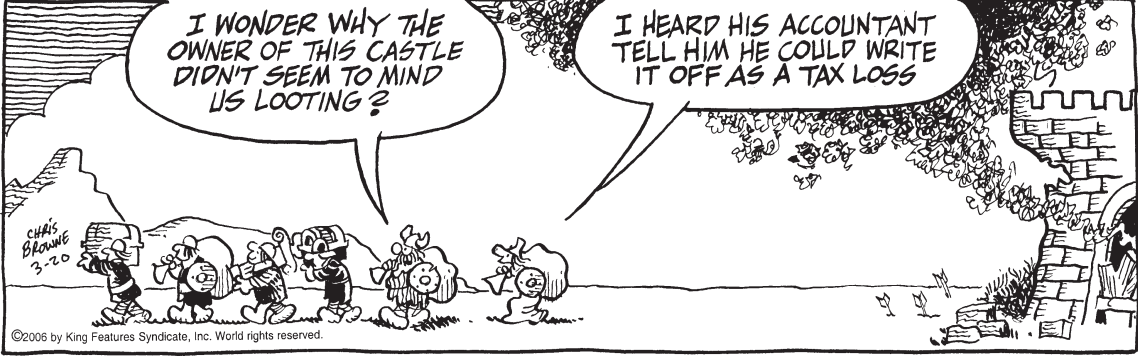
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



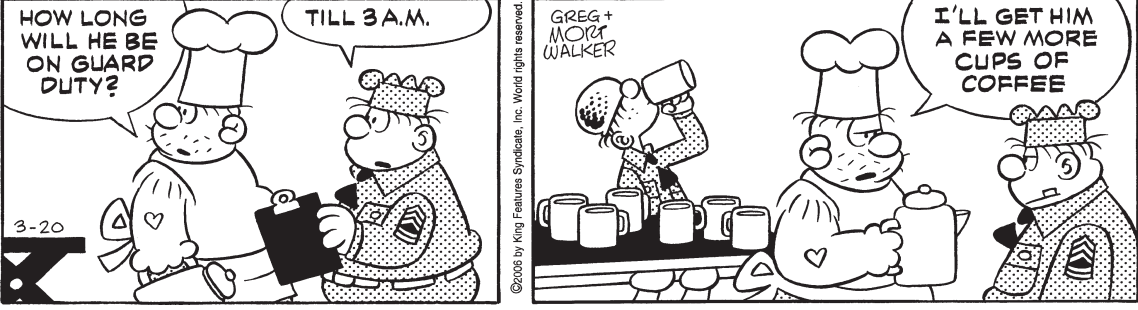
Garfield • Jim Davis



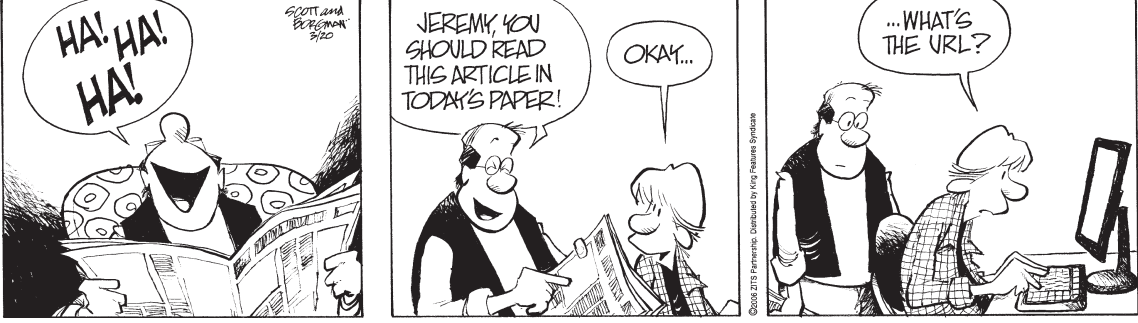
Blondie • Chic Young



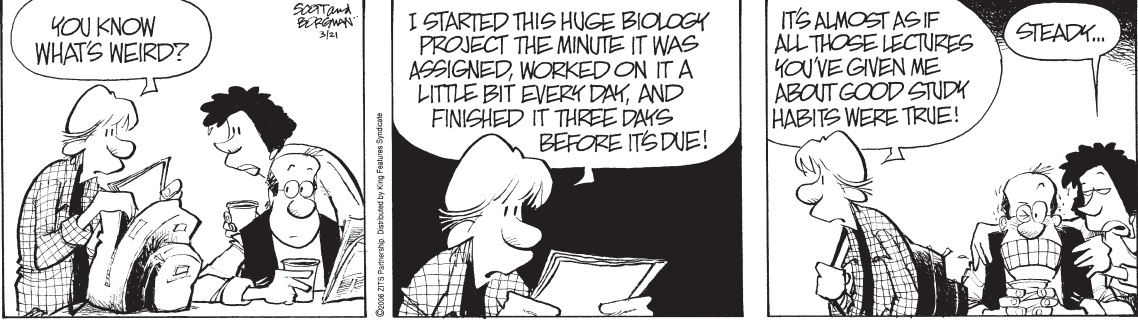
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



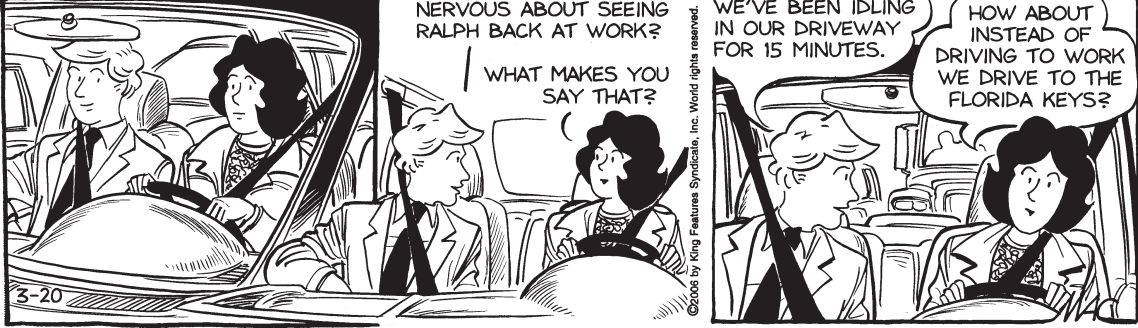
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Neighbor has more than odd jobs for teen

DEAR ABBY: I think my grandson lives next door to me, but I'm not sure. I can't sleep at night wondering and worrying.

About two years ago, my neighbor kept inviting my then-18-year-old son over to help her do odd jobs while her husband was at work. He seemed happy to help out, and she always gave him some money for the jobs. A few months later, she and her husband announced they were expecting.

I work with this man's ex-wife, and she confided to me once that she never had children because he couldn't give her any. To me, this could mean that the husband knows he's not the father, or maybe that they used my son as an unintentional sperm donor. The little boy looks a lot like my son did at that age. Should I confront him about the affair and possible parenthood? He may be unaware that he fathered the child.

— SUSPICIOUS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I don't know if "confronting" your son on the subject would be warmly received, but you are certainly entitled to discuss your concerns with your son and find out if they are well-founded. Whatever happens — or doesn't happen — after that is up to your son.

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter was invited to a classmate's birthday party today. When I asked for the details of the party, she told me it was a slumber party. Here's the kicker: The classmate in question is a boy!

As my shock dissipates, I'm suddenly reminded that the times sure are a-changin', and that even



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

younger parents like me need to brace themselves. (I am 32.) I don't consider myself oblivious, but boy, do I suddenly feel that way.

I don't feel it is at all appropriate for my child, but I'm interested in what you and your readers have to say about this.

— PERPLEXED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: The times may be a-changin', but they ain't a-changin' THAT much. It's the duty of a conscientious parent to do what is right for his or her child, even if it isn't a popular decision. By that, I mean that every family has different standards, and it's up to the parents to enforce them. The excuse, "But everyone else is doing it," does not mean that your child must. Remember that when the pressure is on, and it seems the whole world is going crazy. It'll keep you balanced.

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional man in my early 40s. When I was in my late teens, I started losing my hair. By the time I was 22, I was almost completely bald.

Someone suggested that I get a wig, so I did. I have been wearing it for years.

Now, however, I'm uncomfortable with the wig. I think it's obvious that it's not my own hair, and

I'm self-conscious about it.

I'd like to stop wearing the wig, but I wonder what my co-workers will think.

Also, my mother tells me that my head is shaped a little "funny." But I feel like a fraud when I'm wearing the darn thing. What do you suggest?

— BALD IN BALTIMORE

DEAR BALD: If ever there was a time when bald was "in," it is now. And that's to your advantage.

My advice to you is to have a "coming out party," invite your friends and co-workers, and attend the way God made you. I'm betting the only reaction you'll get is the comment, "What took you so long?"

DEAR ABBY: I'm ready to tear my hair out. My boyfriend of two years refuses to divorce his wife. He tells everyone he wants to marry me.

He says he doesn't love her, he just "doesn't have time" to go and get the divorce.

She was in a mental hospital for a while for killing her boyfriend. Now they talk a lot, and he says he feels sorry for her. I want him to get the divorce so he can marry me.

Am I pushing too hard on this, because I told him if he isn't divorced by July 4, I am leaving.

— CONFUSED IN INDIANANA

DEAR CONFUSED: I don't think you're pushing too hard, and I also don't think he is being completely honest with you. Your timing seems logical to me. What better time to declare your independence than Independence Day?

Bridge

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ K Q 8 7 2
♦ K 2
♣ A Q 4
WEST
♠ J 8 3 2
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ 10 7
♣ 6 5 2
EAST
♠ 9 7 6
♥ 4
♦ J 9 8 6 4
♣ J 10 7 3
SOUTH
♠ A 10 4
♥ A 6 5
♦ A Q 5 3
♣ K 9 8

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠
Pass 2 NT Pass 3 ♥
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 NT
Pass 5 ♠ Pass 5 NT
Pass 6 ♠ Pass 7 NT
Opening lead — six of clubs.

Famous Hand

Anyone who's played the game long enough has learned from experience that occasionally even the most hopeless-looking contracts can be made.

One critical factor in such successes lies in declarer's state of mind, which means that when the outlook seems bleak, he should start visualizing hands the defenders might have that would render the impossible possible.

Consider the present deal from the 1980 World Olympiad match between Canada and Israel. South was Eric Murray of Toronto, who arrived at seven notrump after having denied four cards of either major.

West led the six of clubs (top of nothing), taken by the king. Had the hearts been divided 3-2, the grand slam would have been laydown. But when declarer cashed the A-K, East discarded a spade, and Murray now had only 12 sure tricks.

Many declarers might have folded their tents at this point, but not the unflappable Murray. He saw two ways he might still make the contract. First, if West had four diamonds, he would be squeezed when the black-suit winners were cashed. Second, East might be coaxed into making a discarding error.

Accordingly, Murray next cashed the A-K-Q of spades — the suit in which he was known not to hold four cards. East parted with a diamond on the third spade, but when the heart queen was next played, East had to guess whether to discard a club or a diamond. After long thought, East opted to part with a diamond, and Murray's five of diamonds became his 13th trick.

Seven notrump was also reached at the other table, but here the Israeli declarer cashed his clubs before his spades. This clarified the club situation for East, who held on to his four diamonds and so defeated the slam.

Cryptoquip

BH Q YGSDAQAGJ SGJG

HZWW PH IBDRQVGD QYM

RFAPD, B TZGDD BR IBTCR

EG AZEWBDCGM SGQVWF.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY DRIVER'S LICENSE IS COVERED IN SHEEPSKIN, DO YOU THINK THAT'S LAMB-INATION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals F

Family Circus • Bil Keane



“In the spring Mother Nature gives all plant life the green light.”

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Mountain goat
5 Bumped into
8 Appear
12 Wedlock
14 Possess
15 Model
16 Tennessee's state flower
17 Japanese money
18 Saffron-and-rice recipe
20 Jazz type
23 Turnpike payment
24 Audacious
25 Contradiction in terms
28 Swindle
29 Big brass
30 Pump up the volume
32 Sunshade
34 Quaker address
35 Reverberate
36 Hot spot?

DOWN
1 Mischievous tyke
2 Sheepish remark
3 Mess up
4 Saw through?
5 Principal bird?
7 Of earthly life
8 Protection
9 Count counter-part
10 Badder than bad
11 Mini-plateau
13 Mid-month date
19 "Sad to say, ..."
20 English channel?
21 Aerobic maneuver
22 Radius' neighbor
23 Forbidden
25 Release, in a way
26 Diamond Head island
27 Comic-book super-group
29 Diplomacy
31 Shell game
33 Library patron
34 A type of bike
36 Unforeseen problem
37 Knight's backup
38 Reed instrument
39 Grow weary
40 Bedouin
43 Noshed
44 Rage
45 Vast expanse
46 "Guinness Book" suffix

Solution time: 24 mins.
V E T O C A R E B O A
A S A P L I O N R I P
R A T E O D D S A L E
Y U A N U S E O N Y X
S T D O P P
C O V E R S S L E A Z Y
A N I S E A N N I E
D E M A N D V I S I T S
M T A A D E
Z A N E M A S A L S O
E R E S A C S O W N
R E X A G R A O B I T
O A T D E E R N O G O

Saturday's answer 3-20

