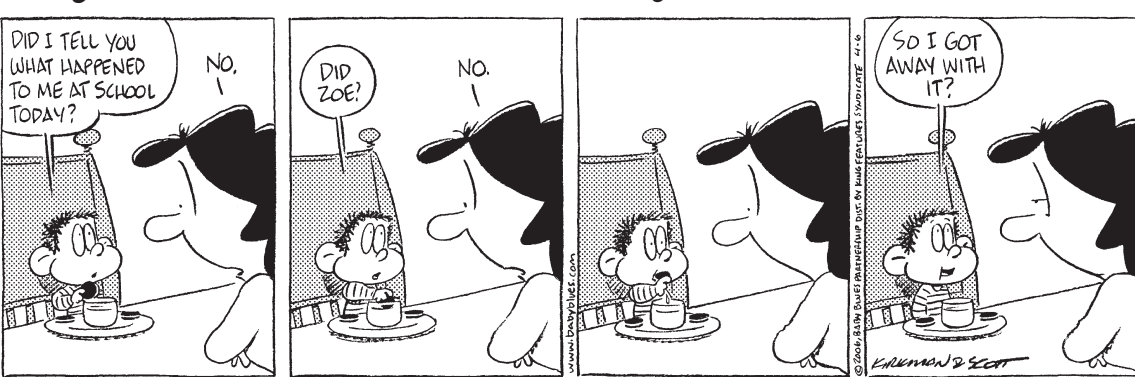


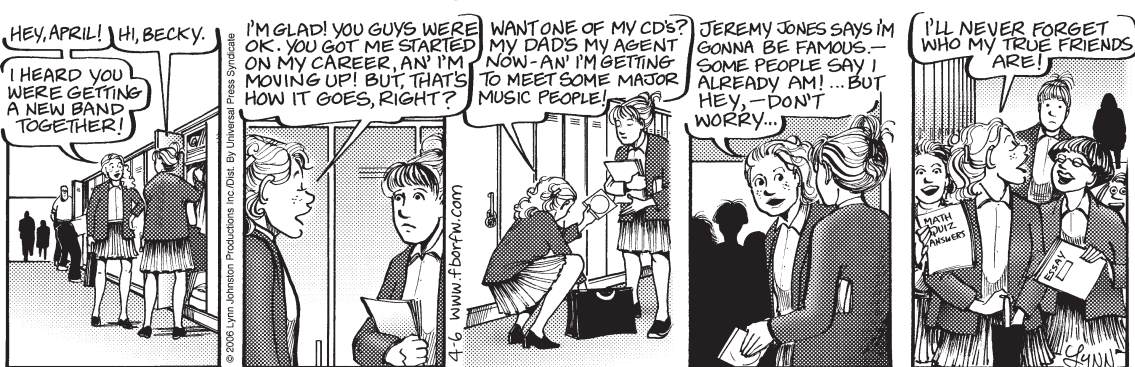
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



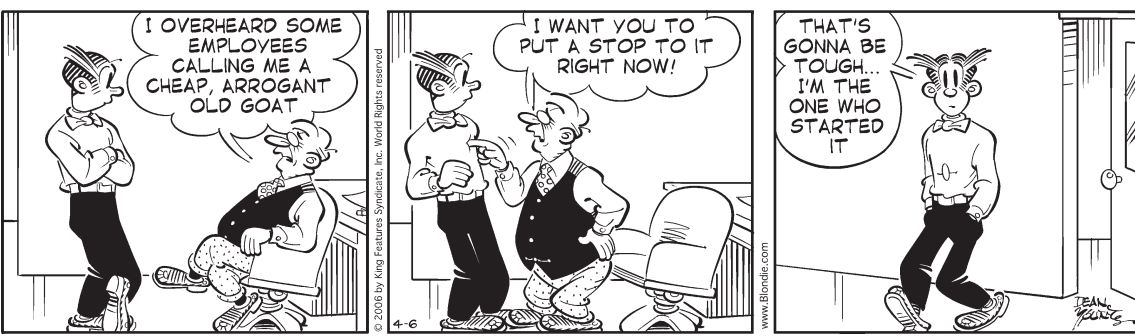
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



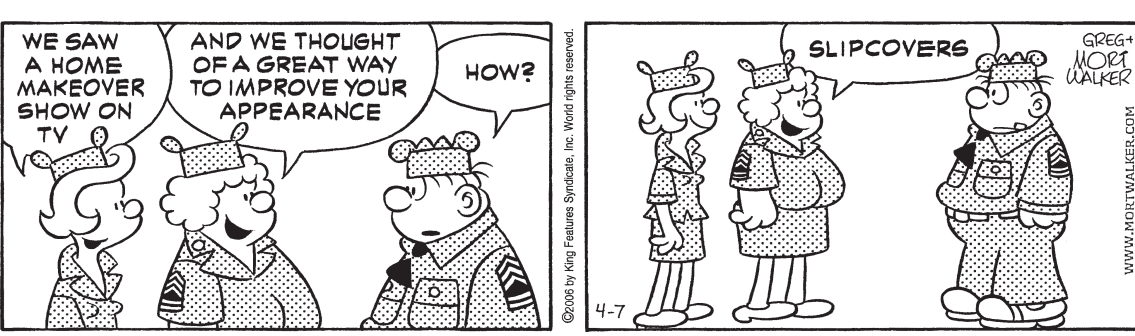
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



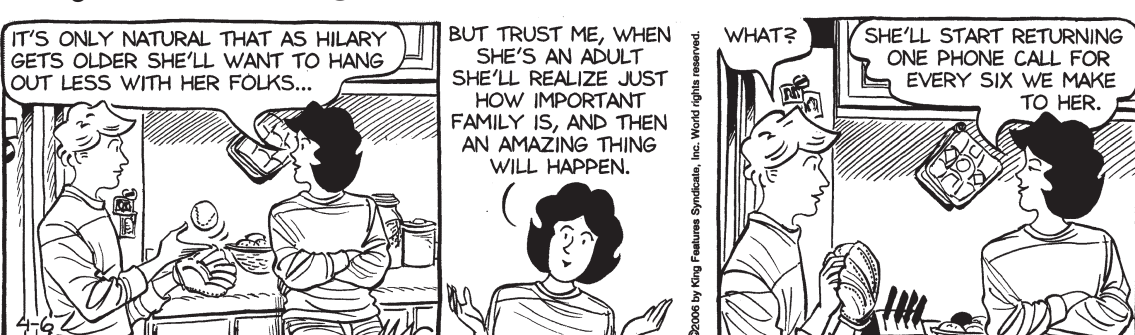
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Teen's generosity gives life to others

DEAR ABBY: One evening as I was preparing dinner, my teenage son, Allen, came to me and asked whether or not he should check "yes" to organ donation on his driver's license. I was shocked and unprepared to address the subject, but he persisted, saying, "If I don't need my organs, Mom, and they can help someone else — why not?"



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

One year later, our beloved 17-year-old son suffered a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident. As his father and I sat by his side, it became clear that Allen's life was to be no more. Brokenhearted, we desperately searched for guidance to somehow extend his time with us. But Allen had already given us the answer — that evening discussion as I was preparing dinner.

Our son became a true hero the next day, when he donated the gift of a kidney/pancreas to a 29-year-old father of three boys. His left kidney, heart, liver, intestine and corneas went to other people in need of the "gift of life." Allen's love lives forever in our hearts, and his circle of life continues within the lives of those he saved.

This summer, I will see firsthand the power of Allen's gift of life as I join his kidney/pancreas recipient and thousands of others at the Olympic-style National Kidney Foundation U.S. Transplant Games, where he will celebrate and pay tribute to the gift of life.

April is National Donate Life month. In the spirit of love, I am thankful for Allen, the wonders of transplantation and the miracle of life.

— ALLEN'S MOM, AKA JEAN JANOHSKY

DEAR JEAN: Your letter touched my heart. Please accept my condolences for the loss of your son, and my admiration for your courage and determination to see that his wishes were carried out. I encourage all of you to talk to your loved ones, listen to them, and say "yes" to giving the "gift of life." It

is a way to ensure that a part of our loved ones lives on, and to improve the quality of life for people — many of whom have been suffering for years, waiting and praying for an organ. For more information, call the National Kidney Foundation's toll-free number at (800) 622-9010, or go to www.kidney.org.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior in high school with no life. I'm not a bad-looking guy, although I'm a little short and skinny for my age, at 5-foot-7 and 110 pounds. I know I'm young and when I get older I'll find someone, but it's hard never having had a girlfriend during your entire high school years. I have never felt that joy of the first kiss or had a real date. Prom is coming up soon, and it seems that most likely I'll either be going solo or, like last year, not at all.

DEAR SENIOR: OK, you don't have a girl you're romantic about. Do you have a friend of the opposite sex you can invite? Someone you know outside of school? How about asking a freshman, sophomore or junior? (When an underclassman is invited to the prom by a senior, it is very flattering.) I can't guarantee you'll have the "joy of the first kiss," but there's no reason why you won't have a good time — particularly if you are with someone you're comfortable being around.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "George," died seven months ago, after a four-month battle with esophageal cancer. He was the oldest of six siblings. We all got along well. My three children and I are grateful to

both of our families for all the help they gave us throughout George's illness.

My problem is George's brothers, sisters and their families. They have dropped us from their lives. I know they are grieving for their brother. My children and I are grieving for him, too. They say it's "too hard to see us" because there are too many memories.

Abby, I like being with George's family because they remind me of my husband. I don't sit around talking about him all the time, and I don't expect them to do that either. I guess what I'm looking for is a feeling of still belonging. I'm not talking about wanting to be with these people 24/7, just maybe seeing them once every two or three weeks. We all live close to each other.

Losing my husband was devastating, but losing his family makes it ever so much worse. How do I get them to see I need to stay in the family "loop"?

— GEORGE'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. You did not mention how often you saw your in-laws before your husband's death, or what demands there are on their time.

However, families are made up of individuals, and it would be interesting to know which of your husband's siblings expressed that it is "too hard to see you," whether they all feel the same way, or if one person was speaking for all of them.

While it may not be possible to remain close to all of your husband's brothers and sisters, it may be possible to stay close with some of them. At the same time, please consider enlarging your social circle. Volunteer work is an excellent way to do that if you have the time. It will also give you less time to dwell on your loss.

Editor's note: Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

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

The bidding:
South West North East
4♥ 4♠ 5♥ 5♠
6♥ 6♠ Pass Pass
7♥ Pass Pass Dbie
Opening lead — ace of spades.

From Bad to Worse

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. Maybe what happened shouldn't have happened, but the fact is that it did.

At the first table, where Team A held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. South had no good reason to think that six spades could be defeated, so he bid seven hearts, not expecting to make it but entirely willing to suffer a small loss in order to avoid the possibility of a much greater one.

To his surprise, however, South wound up making the grand slam after West made the abominably bad lead of the ace of spades instead of the ace of clubs. This allowed declarer to get rid of both of his club losers on dummy's diamonds to rack up a score of 2,470 points.

This outcome was surely bad enough from Team B's viewpoint, but matters got infinitely worse at the second table, where the bidding went:

South West North East
4H 4S 5H 5S
6H 6S Dbie

This time Team A's East-West pair got to six spades and again came out on top when North chose the king of hearts as his opening lead. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps, cashed his clubs, and so lost only a diamond trick to tack on an additional 1,660 points. Team A thus gained the incredible total of 4,130 points on this one deal!

Of course, North could have stopped six spades by leading a diamond instead of a heart, but his team would still have lost 2,270 points on the deal. Then too, had the defense at each table found the winning lead, Team B would have finished with a 700-point gain. As it was, though, the total swing came to an astounding 4,830 points!

Cryptoquip

VCK NE KEF DCOML XEUP
CSZZK DEMXOJX TED SJJ
XZHFIPN FZ? DCP NEIDEH

V SX DSL OMT D CPU EFD.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ACADEMY AWARDS, THE BASEBALL PLAYER WAS ONE OF THE NOMINEES FOR BEST PITCHER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals U

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"But on the box it says, 'Open here'."

Crossword

ACROSS
1 "National Treasure" star
5 Narthex neighbor
9 Energy
12 "So be it"
13 Hold your horses?
14 Galena, e.g.
15 Con-taminant
17 Whopper
18 Turn bone-hard
19 Ms. De-Generes
21 Therefore
22 Rids of rind
24 En-grossed
27 Unruly group
28 Dance lesson
31 "— not choose to run"
32 The whole thing
33 Prior to
34 Gang-ster's companion

DOWN
36 Thickness
37 Rocky pinnacle
38 Real bad
40 Gift-tag preposition
41 Jane Goodall subject
43 Glenn Frey's band
47 Uncultured
48 Bees do it
51 Judge Lance
52 Real bad
53 Teen's woe
54 Plead
55 Units picked up by Geiger counters
56 Blue hue

1 Mafia bigwig
2 Old Testament prophet
3 Comes together
4 Sign up
5 Avant-garde
6 Shell-game need
7 Sermon subject
8 Sign up for
9 Gallup staffer
10 One of HOMES
11 Hammer-head part
16 Venusian vessel
20 "— Misérables"
22 Bergen on Holiday
23 With skill
24 Edge together
25 Big fuss
26 Tadpole
27 Navigator's stack
29 Historic time
30 Cribbage score-keeper
35 "Pink Panther" actor
37 Brandy variety
39 Top
40 Skater Babilonia
41 Nursery furniture
42 Loathe
43 Right angles
44 Adorned with
Chantilly, maybe
45 Sicilian spouter
46 Wit-nessed
49 Eggs
50 Cover

SOLUTION TIME: 25 mins.
S I P S B U N O P E D
A B E T I R A V I B E
F E R R I G N O E N O L
E X T E N D M A R I N E
W O E I D L E
L A C N A N D A L L Y
A C H Y L O U P L E A
S H R U B D N A A I M
I C E D M U D
I N S A N E A N I S E S
M I T T C O S T E L L O
A S I A A R K G O A T
M I E N Y E S O W N S

