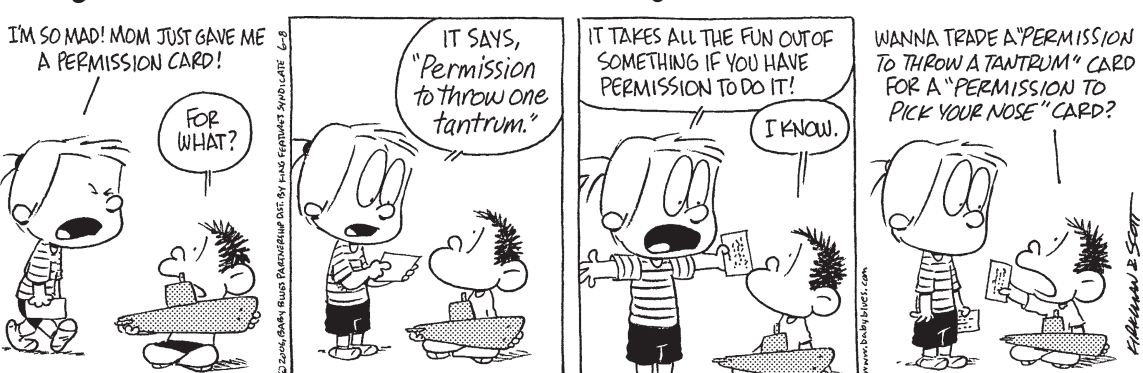


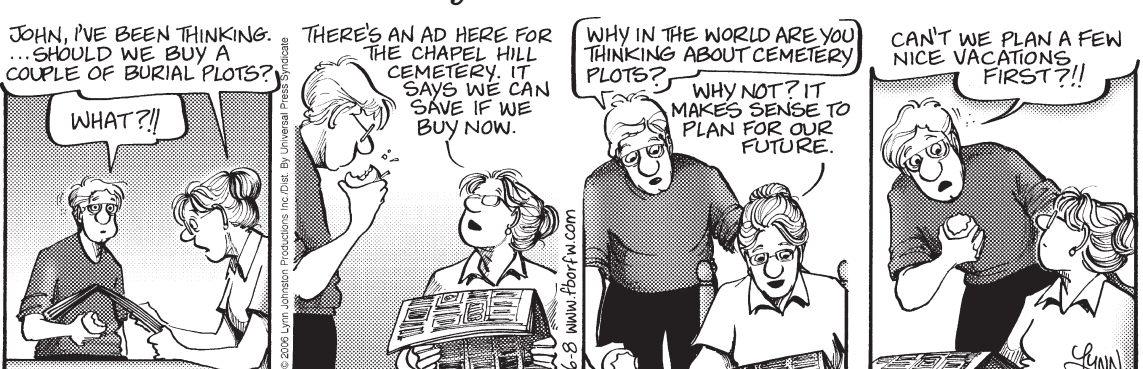
**Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)**



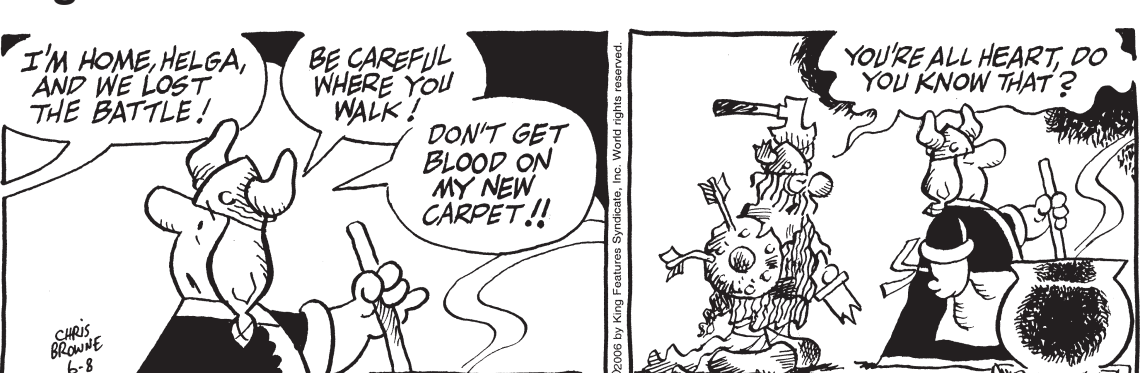
**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



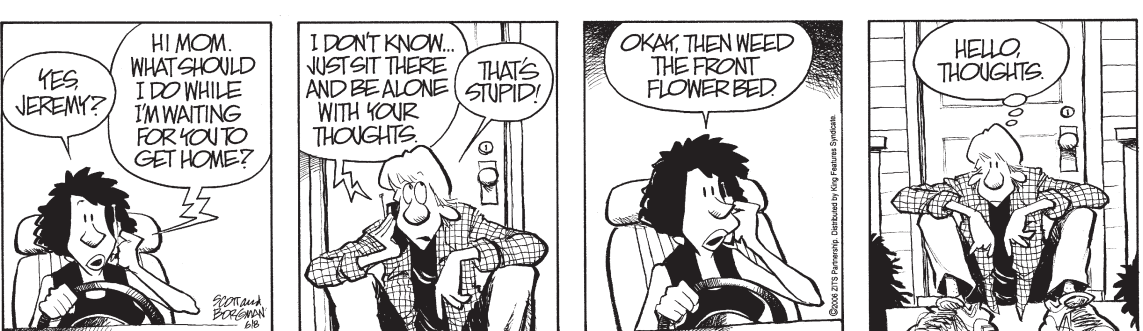
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Sleepwalker has suicide on her mind**

DEAR ABBY: I am a 37-year-old married woman with a problem. My mother committed suicide when I was 18, and I have never dealt with my loss. The day after she died, my father bagged up all of her possessions and gave them to charity. I tried talking to him about her, but he told me she was "gone" and I had to move on. I guess I have just put my pain on the back burner all these years.



**Abigail Van Buren**

• Dear Abby

For the last five years or so, I have been sleepwalking and having horrible nightmares about my mother's death. My husband tells me I carry on conversations with him, but that I am not really "there." I also take baths when I'm technically asleep. On one occasion, I woke up behind the wheel of my truck in my garage. I don't know if I went out driving or not, but the thought terrifies me.

I am afraid I will hurt myself, or possibly others, in my zombie-like state. Any advice you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

— OUT OF IT IN LAS VEGAS  
DEAR OUT OF IT: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your mother. The first thing you must do is ensure that your husband has the keys to your truck at bedtime.

Then, contact your physician and ask for a referral to a sleep disorder specialist for an evaluation. Some people experience the symptoms you have described as a side effect from certain sleep-aid medications. However, if you are not taking anything, you may have a treatable sleep disorder.

After that, ask your doctor to refer you to a licensed psychotherapist who can help you deal with the emotions you have kept buried all these years since your mother's death. Once your feelings are out in the open, you will be able to deal with them — and discussing them with a professional will help you more quickly through the process.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend, "Cathy," whose 11-year-old son, "Evan," is a friend of my son, "Noah."

Evan has always been a name-caller. He constantly uses words like "stupid," "idiot" and "butthead" when talking to my son, but Noah has always laughed it off or told him to cut it out.

Today Noah told me he no longer wants to play with Evan because Evan is such a name-caller. Evan's habit apparently doesn't bother Cathy, since Evan constantly calls his baby sister the same names, and Cathy doesn't seem to notice.

She is, however, worried about Evan's socializing at school because no one seems to like him.

How do I approach her about this problem, and mention that her son's name-calling is the reason Noah doesn't want to be with him anymore — and probably part of the reason Evan is not very popular at school — without causing discord between us?

— PUZZLED  
DEAR PUZZLED: Arrange a private chat with your friend and tell her exactly what you have told me. Love may be blind, but she must be besotted to have allowed her son to verbally abuse his little sister and the other children around him for so long. This is as much her fault as it is her son's. Evan would be a much happier boy if she had curbed his behavior when it began. (I wonder if he watches too much television or is emulating his father...)

DEAR ABBY: Last night, on a popular television reality show, the host repeatedly addressed a 70-something-year-old participant as "young man." I have seen it many times before, of course — young man, young lady, sweetie, dear, etc.

In my opinion, this borders on dis-

respect, regardless of the good intentions behind it. My parents actually stopped shopping at a local grocery store because the staff was always calling them "young people." They were embarrassed, and I don't blame them.

I know people are trying to be nice, but I wonder how many seniors feel the way my parents do.

— JENNY IN PASCO, WASH.  
DEAR JENNY: Many people feel exactly as your parents do. You would think that people would be more sensitive, but many service personnel in their 20s, 30s, 40s and older make the same mistake. The way to combat it is to speak up when it happens, or, as your parents did, stop patronizing the establishment. (Nothing hits home like a sagging balance sheet.)

One woman I know told me recently how she handled it when a young server in his 20s called her "young lady" as he was taking her order. (She's 50.) Her reply: "Well, little man, I'll have the..."

DEAR ABBY: I am 11, and there is a boy I like. I'll call him "Cole." He knows I like him, and for Valentine's Day he gave me a necklace and earring set.

All my friends, and even my mother, think that we are boyfriend and girlfriend. But I don't know for sure. I think the boy should ask the girl to be his girlfriend before they are officially boyfriend and girlfriend. Am I right or wrong?

— PERPLEXED  
DEAR PERPLEXED: Sometimes boys are too shy to make a formal request. However, when a boy gives a girl a gift on Valentine's Day, you can be sure it means he has special feelings for her. I vote with your friends and mother.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

**Bridge**

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A J 8 6  
♥ K J 7 3  
♦ A J  
♣ 8 6 4

**WEST**  
♠ 4  
♥ 9 4  
♦ K Q 10 8 6 5  
♣ A Q 7 2

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q 10 9 7 3  
♥ A 6 2  
♦ 9  
♣ K 5 3

The bidding:  
South 1♠  
West 2♦  
North 3♠  
East Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Sitting in the Driver's Seat**  
Assume you're declarer at four spades and West leads the king of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

At first glance, it doesn't seem there's much of a choice. You win the diamond with the ace, draw trumps, then play the ace and another heart, finessing the jack. Unfortunately, East wins with the queen and returns the jack of clubs, and the next thing you know, you're down one, losing three clubs and a heart.

Bad luck, you might say, since both the queen of hearts and ace of clubs were badly placed. But, depending on how seriously you take the game, you might also say to yourself: "I wonder if there was any way I could have made the contract?"

It is only when you start thinking along these lines that you realize you should have made four spades, and that no lie of the cards could defeat you.

The correct line of play, after taking the king of diamonds with the ace, is to cash the A-K of trumps and A-K of hearts, then play dummy's jack of diamonds and discard your heart loser on it!

West wins with the queen but must present you with the contract whatever he returns. A diamond lead hands you a ruff-and-discard, while a club return makes your king the game-going trick. And if West has a heart to lead, he can't play it without establishing a heart trick in dummy.

Once West leads the king of diamonds, indicating that he also has the queen, you can safely predict that 10 tricks are yours for the taking. All you have to do as soon as dummy comes down is to recognize the importance of dummy's jack of diamonds, which allows you to put West on lead later and force him to hand you your 10th trick.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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**Cryptoquip**

XGD GWL, GWOBHQ UDDH

QTWODVF BVV UPX

KZLCVDXDVF TDKZODTA,

CTZKVBBLDA "B'L KPTDA!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A SOCIETY OF MIDWESTERN RESTAURANT COOKS SHOULD NAME ITSELF THE KANSAS CITY CHEFS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Equals M.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**

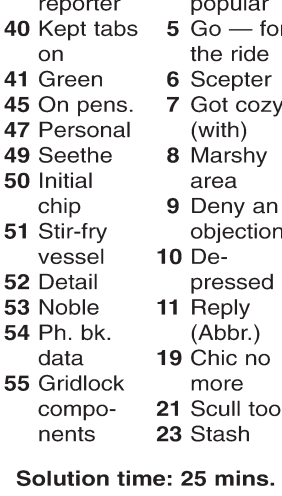


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**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
1 Not fern.  
5 Lob's path  
8 Gaucho's weapon  
12 Celebes ox  
13 Comic Costello  
14 Shakespeare's river  
15 "Meet Me \_\_\_ Louis"  
16 Peculiar  
17 Evergreens  
18 Priest's subordinate  
20 Entrance  
22 "House" star  
26 Edging loop  
29 "— the ramparts ..."  
30 Ms.  
31 Thurman  
31 Carolina college  
32 Young fellow  
33 "Woe is me!"  
34 Attorney's abbr.
- DOWN**  
1 Hotel employee  
2 Boleyn or Bancroft  
3 McGwire's rival  
4 Become popular (with)  
5 Go — for the ride  
6 Scepter  
7 Got cozy (with)  
8 Marshy area  
9 Deny an objection  
10 Depressed  
11 Reply (Abbr.)  
19 Chic no more  
21 Scull tool  
23 Stash
- 24 One-name supermodel**  
**25 Bridge position**  
**26 Rind**  
**27 "Casa blanca" role**  
**28 Firtatious lass**  
**32 Get some rest**  
**33 Tart**  
**35 "A pox upon thee!"**  
**36 Baltimore news-paper**  
**38 Actress Winona**  
**39 Servings of beef-cake?**  
**42 Tittle**  
**43 Harbor structure**  
**44 Shade providers**  
**45 50 Cent piece**  
**46 Away from WSW**  
**48 Seek one's hand**

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-8

