

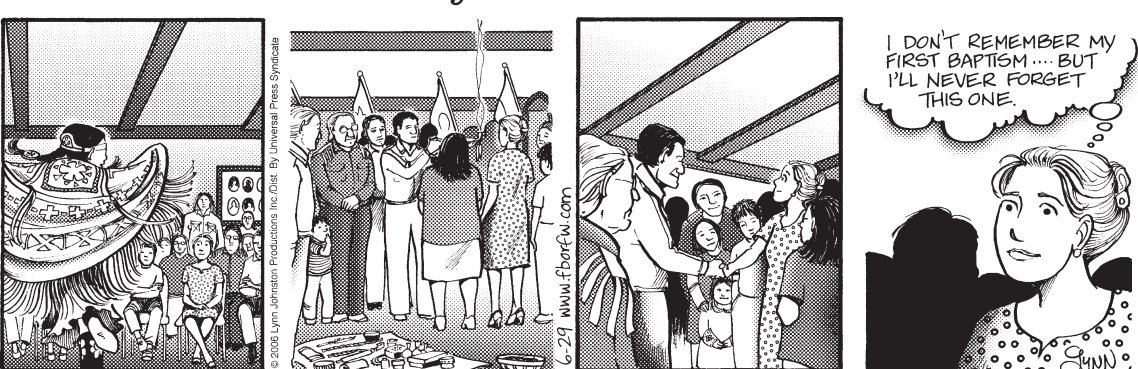
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



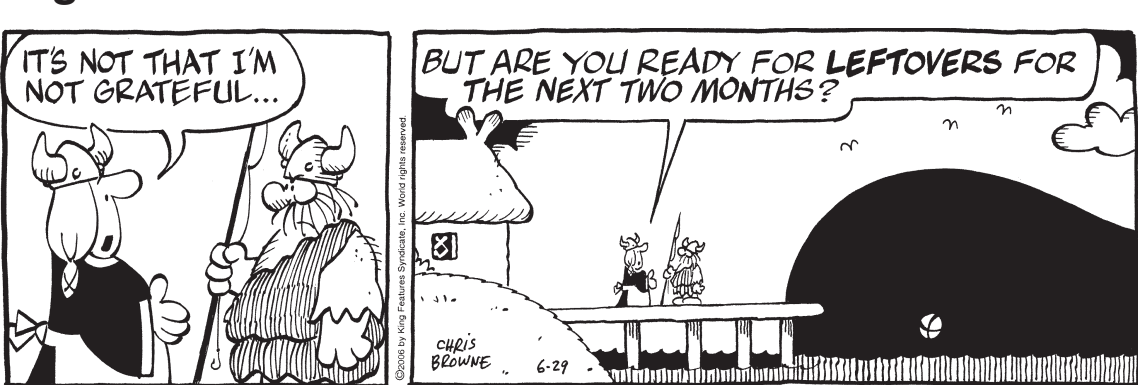
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



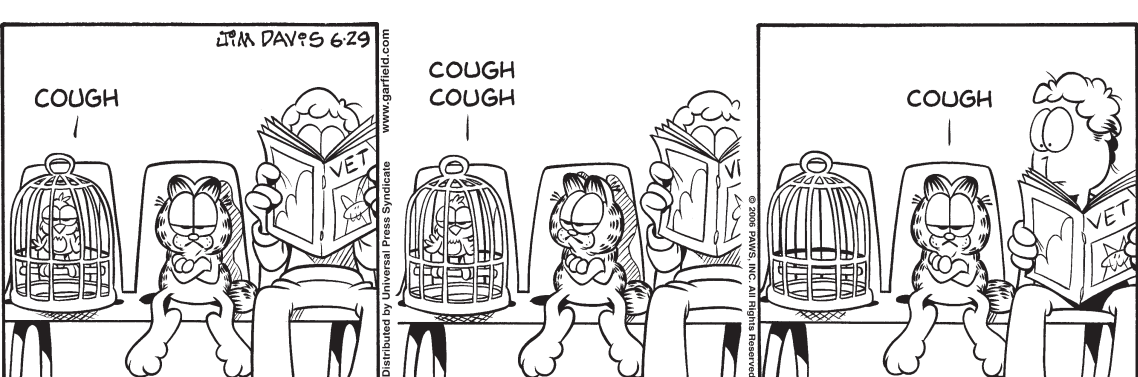
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



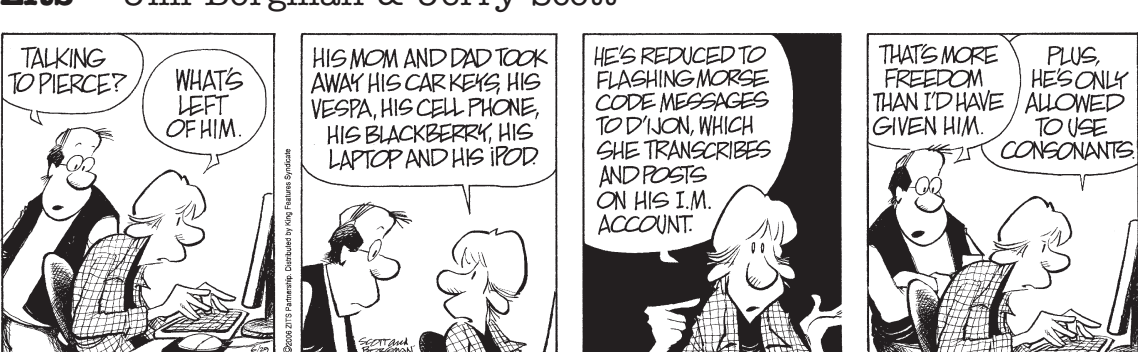
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



# Mother caught in middle of feud

DEAR ABBY: My youngest daughter, "Liza," is going through a divorce that has turned ugly, with her soon-to-be ex, "Dick," choking and threatening to kill her.

The problem is, my oldest daughter, "Mimi," has remained in contact with Dick. She claims she doesn't want her children "to suffer the loss of an uncle they really love." Mimi had promised Liza she would no longer speak to Dick, but when Liza went to her former home to pick up some personal items, she saw on the caller ID that Mimi had been calling there several times a week.

Liza is devastated and feels Mimi has betrayed her. When she called Mimi to discuss it, Mimi refused. Liza then announced that she would never speak to Mimi again.

I feel that Mimi did betray Liza, but I had hoped there would be further communication. Mimi is now avoiding me.

There have been other sticky situations in the past when Mimi has deprived family members — including me — from seeing her children as a means of punishment.

I am at a loss. I feel supportive of Liza because I know she really needs me and is being subjected to problems of all kinds from all sides.

— HEARTBROKEN

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: You have my sympathy. However, Liza may have jumped to the wrong conclusion when she spotted Mimi's number on Dick's caller ID. Caller ID registers the number the call was made from and to whom that number is registered. It does not necessarily reveal the identity of the caller. Rather than Mimi calling, it might have been one or more of her children wanting to talk to "an uncle they really love."

One thing is clear. There is trouble between your daughters. Whether it's recent, or the ill feelings go all the way back to their



## Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

childhood, you'd be better served to let "the girls" work it out between themselves than to allow yourself to be put in the middle. You can't be their referee forever. You're all adults now, and it's time they resolve their own conflicts without dragging you into it.

DEAR ABBY: I am 19 and have been in love with "Jordan" for three years. I know he loves me, too. My problem is I am not sure where Jordan leaves off and I begin. He is older — 27 — and I almost feel like I haven't had a chance to become my own person.

My dilemma is that I'm afraid if I leave him and venture out on my own, I might lose him forever. I don't want to make a mistake. I am also afraid that if I leave him and meet someone, and it doesn't work out — I'll be left all alone.

— CAN'T DECIDE

DEAR CAN'T DECIDE: As risky as it may seem now, take a break from Jordan. You didn't mention whether you are still in school. If you are, tell Jordan that you need time to concentrate on your studies and get involved with campus life. It's the truth. If you are not, then consider taking some classes to further your education and help you develop independently.

Before making a lifetime commitment to anyone, it is imperative to have established some independence both emotionally and financially. If your romance is so fragile that a little time apart will destroy it, then it wasn't strong

enough to begin with.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 45-year-old single mom. My last romantic relationship ended more than a year and a half ago, after he cheated on me. I have not been out on any dates or anything, and I am a hard-working mom. I recently met in person a guy I have been talking with for over a year.

He has been here to visit, and my son, who is 14, told me that my mother — his grandmother — has asked him if this guy and I were sleeping together.

Can you please tell me how to handle this, as my son does not want me to let his grandmother know that he has told me this?

I have been very proud of myself for spending time alone for more than a year, getting to know myself and not settling for whatever comes along. I am appalled that my mother would, first of all, ask my 14-year-old son that question, and second, that she can't just for once be happy that I have someone in my life, even if the person is not up to her standards — which never could be met in the first place. Please help me.

— UPSET IN DANVILLE, KY.

DEAR UPSET: I don't blame you for being upset. Your mother's question was out of line. You and your mother are overdue for a face-to-face visit. While you're together, ask her if there are any questions she would like to ask you "woman to woman." I don't know whether she will have the nerve to ask you what she asked your son, but she should be made to understand that your son does not keep secrets from you — and if she has any questions about your sex life in the future, they should be directed to you, and you alone.

Editor's note: Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

## Bridge

North dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	J 7 4		
♥	A 5		
♦	A J 10 8 2		
♣	K 6 3		
WEST			
♠	A K 6 3		
♥	2		
♦	Q 9 5 4 3		
♣	7 4 2		
EAST			
♠	Q 10 9		
♥	J 9 8 6		
♦	K 7		
♣	10 9 8 5		
SOUTH			
♠	8 5 2		
♥	K Q 10 7 4 3		
♦	6		
♣	A Q J		

The bidding:  
North 1 ♦ East Pass South 1 ♥ West Pass  
1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass  
4 ♥ Pass  
Opening lead — king of spades.

### How to Capture a Knave

It is easier to sink a two-foot putt in golf than it is to hole a 10-footer, and it is easier to make some contracts in bridge than it is to make others. For a hand difficult to make at the table, when the lie of the opponents' cards at the outset is unknown, we cite this one.

West led the K-A and another spade. East took the queen and returned the ten of clubs. Declarer won with the ace, led a heart to the ace and another heart back to the king. West showed out, and declarer's goose was cooked. No matter how he continued, he had to lose a trump trick, and he finished down one.

After examining the East-West hands, it is, of course, easy to see that South could have made the contract by finessing the ten of hearts on the second trump lead. However, this is hindsight and can hardly be justified without taking a peek at the adverse cards.

But South nevertheless could — and should — have made the contract. When the club ten is returned, declarer's only real concern is the possible loss of a trump trick. This can occur only if the opposing hearts are divided 4-1 (or 5-0). He should therefore take whatever steps are necessary to overcome the potential bad break.

If West has four hearts, nothing can be done; but if East has them, a trump coup can be arranged. So, after taking the club return with the ace, South leads a diamond to the ace and ruffs a diamond. He then cashes the king of hearts and continues with a heart to the ace, disclosing the trump situation.

This is where the precautions taken earlier pay dividends. Another diamond is ruffed, reducing declarer to the Q-10 of hearts and Q-J of clubs, and the two remaining clubs are cashed, ending in dummy. When a diamond is nextled from dummy, East's J-9 of hearts succumb to South's Q-10, and declarer scores the last two tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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## Cryptoquip

EOGL IHI LOK JZEPHCR

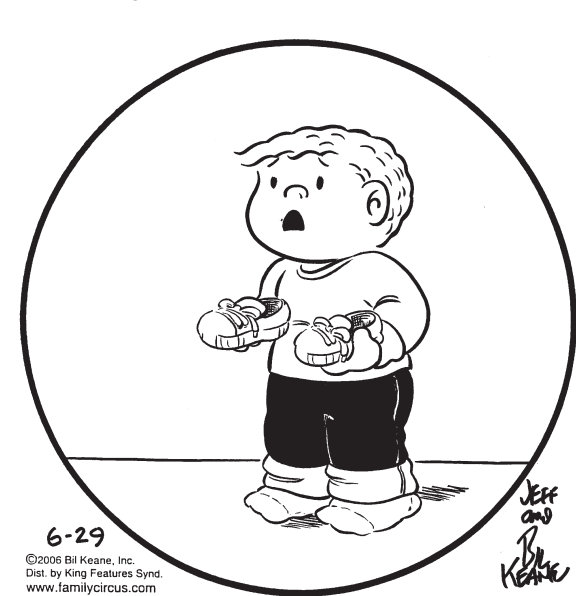
THC TQZDPGHB LZ LOK

GTTQZGDOHCR JZEPHCR

JGPP? "TPKGWK, WTGQK BK!"  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW FOR PAPER TOWELS, COULD YOU BE A BOUNTY HUNTER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals D

## Family Circus • Bil Keane



## Crossword

ACROSS	36	DOWN	20
1 Iridescent stone	Crafty	1 Slays, Sopranos style	Many millennia
5 Red Skelton character	37 Omit	2 Audition goal	22 Might
9 Tackle moguls	38 Underwent a recession	3 Met melody	23 Bohemian
12 Gambling game	40 Bell or Barker	4 Detest	24 White House nickname
13 Teensy amount	41 FCC concern	5 Give as an example	25 Benicio — Toro
14 Frank McCourt memoir	43 Anise-flavored liqueur	6 Boudreau of baseball	26 Some politicians
15 Sherwood Forest cleric	47 Ostrich's cousin	7 List-ending abbr.	27 Snoot
17 Puncturing tool	48 Rodent in a tongue twister	8 Smith	29 Miss Piggy's pronoun
18 David, e.g.	51 Elmer, to Bugs	9 Mate aboard the Pequod	30 Jazz style
19 Too coincidental	52 — moth	10 New Zealand bird	35 — Wan Kenobi
21 The guy	53 Online auction house	11 Gilligan's home	37 Beauty pageant IDs
22 Ersatz chocolate	54 Mork's home planet	16 Wish undone	39 Takes to the lanes
24 Between assignments	55 Perches	42 Cupid's field	40 Singer Davis
27 Neither mate	56 Logical	43 Handheld secretaries (Abbr.)	41 Give an extreme makeover
28 Senseless?		44 One of the brass	42 Cupid's field
31 Mauna —		45 Volunteer's phrase	43 Handheld secretaries (Abbr.)
32 Chic no more		46 Terrier type	44 One of the brass
33 Bill's partner		49 Overseas agreement?	45 Volunteer's phrase
34 Ticklish Muppet		50 Can. prov.	46 Terrier type

