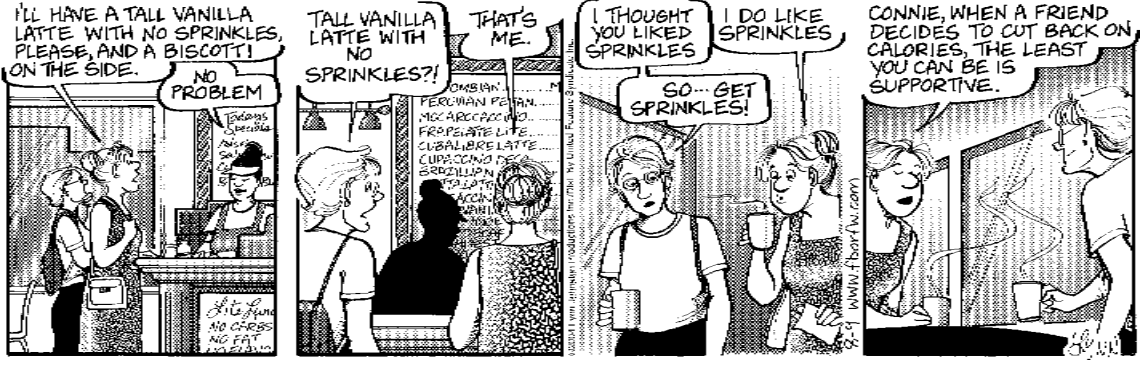


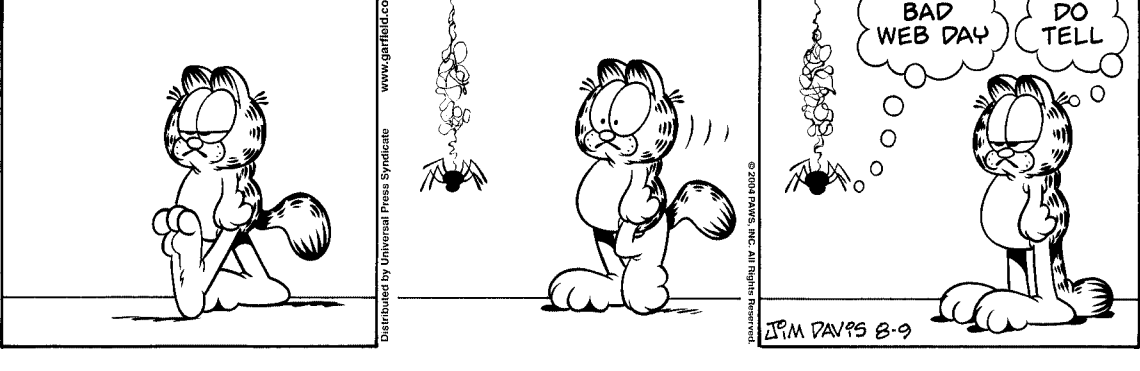
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



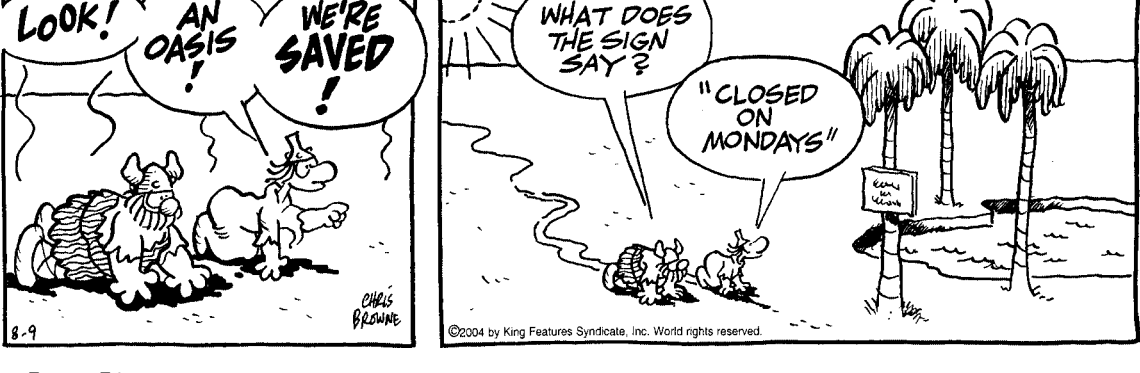
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



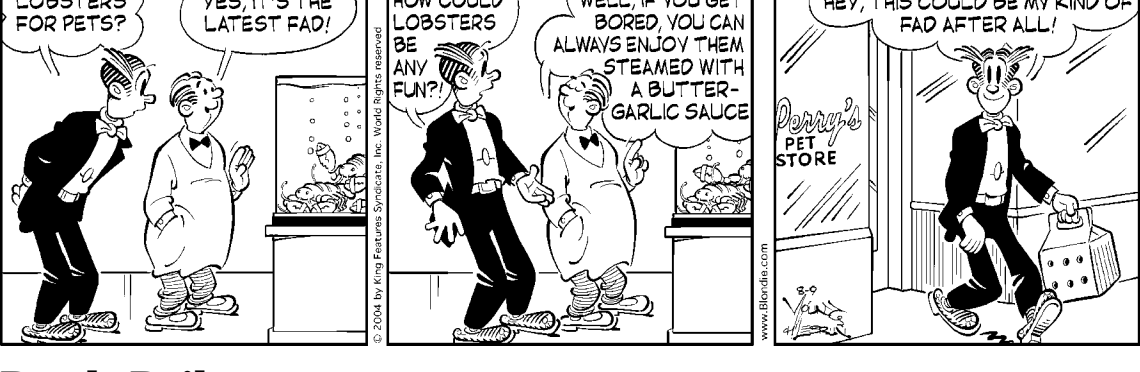
Garfield • Jim Davis



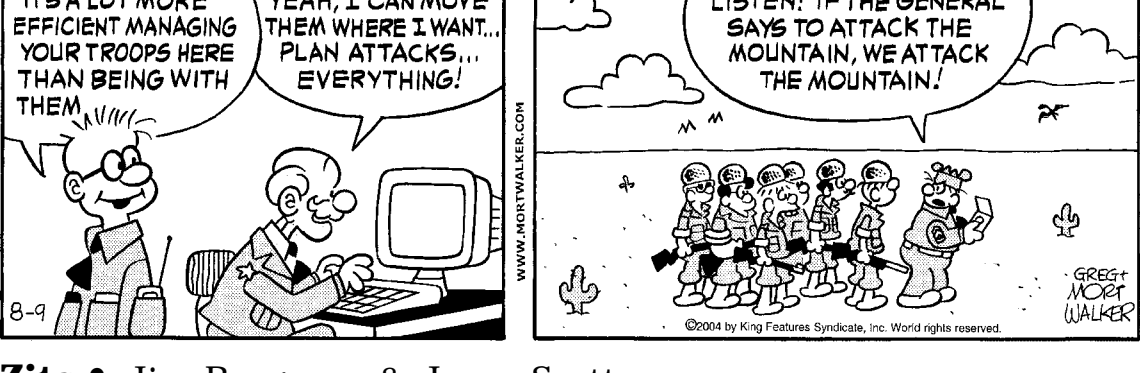
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Child's eating habits worrisome



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of three — ages 10, 9 and 6. My parents are both gone, so I can't ask them about a problem I am having with "Ashley," my 6-year-old.

Since she learned to walk at about 10 months, Ashley has eaten just about anything she could get her hands on.

She prefers things like hairspray, makeup, cleaners, soaps, baby oil — and has even tried bleach. I am scared that my child is going to do permanent damage to herself or even die.

I watch her like a hawk; however, last night we were at a Daisy Girl Scout meeting, and Ashley went to the restroom and was caught spraying air freshener into her mouth.

I have called her pediatrician and left messages, but he has not returned my calls.

I used to think she was just extremely curious; now I'm beginning to think she is obsessed and can't resist the urge.

Please advise me how I can save my beautiful little girl.

—ALARMED IN TOPEKA, KAN.

DEAR ALARMED: The first thing you should do is contact another pediatrician. Meanwhile, lock up the products that are a danger to her.

Your daughter needs a medical evaluation, and you must ensure that she gets one as soon as possible. Her problem may be caused by some sort of nutritional deficiency, or she may have an emotional problem.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Milt," has a friend, "Jack," whom I find insufferable. He not only talks loudly and constantly, but he's an exaggerator and a know-it-all.

I respect Milt's choice to be friends with Jack, but when he comes to visit I quietly disappear

into other parts of the house and avoid his company. Milt told him I am like this with all his friends. He said it to spare Jack's feelings. I do not run and hide from any of Milt's other friends.

My daughter says I'm being rude to Jack. Is she right? I swear, Abby, after five minutes of listening to him talk, I want to pull my hair out and run screaming from the room. Must I sit there and endure it for my husband's sake?

Milt thinks it's funny, but my daughter thinks my behavior is wrong. Who's right?

—PEACE LOVER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR PEACELOVER: It appears that Jack doesn't want company; he craves an audience. Since your husband and daughter enjoy him, let them continue to do the entertaining.

I see no reason why you should be hostage to a boor who dominates the conversation to the point that you're ready to scream. Continue to make your exit quiet and unobtrusive.

DEAR ABBY: I have a question about birthday etiquette. When there's leftover birthday cake from a party, isn't it true that the honoree should be allowed to take it home, or does the remainder belong to the person who paid for the cake?

—BIRTHDAY GIRL

DEAR BIRTHDAY GIRL: The leftover cake should go home with the birthday girl, if she wants it. However, if the generous person who paid for it would like some,

the birthday girl should be willing to share it. Consider this: Your hostess may have wanted to be sure you didn't eat your cake and have it, too. (On your hips, I mean.)

DEAR ABBY: I recently relocated to live near my son, "Gary," and his girlfriend, "Gina."

Gary supports Gina and her three children, and talks constantly about marrying her and adopting the kids. Gary believes that Gina will marry him one day, but she has confided to me that once she finishes college and starts her career, she does not see herself married to my son.

I'm torn between telling Gary the truth and hurting him (not to mention damaging our relationship), or letting him find out in two years that he has been seriously used.

—TORN MOM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TORN: Talk to Gina and urge her to level with your son. If she refuses, then you must do it. If he finds out in two years that you knew all along that he was being used and said nothing, it will be more damaging to your relationship than if you tell him the truth now. He won't like hearing it, but you must tell him what Gina told you. If he were my son, I would.

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

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 4 2
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ A
♣ 7 5 3 2

WEST
♠ 10 8 6 5
♥ —
♦ J 8 5 4 3 2
♣ J 9 4

EAST
♠ 9 3
♥ Q 8 7 6 5 4 2
♦ 9 6
♣ 10 6

SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ A J
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ A K Q 8

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 3 NT
Pass 4 ♣ Pass 4 ♦
Pass 6 NT
Opening lead — six of spades.

Famous Hand

It's difficult to fathom some of the oddities that occur in world-championship play. Consider this deal from the 1966 match between Italy and North America.

At the first table, with Lew Mathe North and Bob Hamman South for North America, the bidding went as shown.

Certainly the North-South hands justify bidding a grand slam in notrump, since that contract is certain to come home with a heart lead, or if the clubs are divided 3-2, or if the jack of diamonds falls as the A-K-Q are led, or by a heart finesse if that proves necessary, or, possibly, by a squeeze.

But it is much easier to proclaim the merits of seven notrump with the cards exposed than it is to bid it at the table.

North's four-club bid was Stayman, asking partner to show a four-card major, and South's four-diamond response denied having one.

North then leaped to six notrump, knowing that the combined point count was at most 35 or 36 — a point or two short of the 37 that would make a grand slam mandatory — and that was the end of the auction.

When the deal was over and Hamman had wrapped up 13 tricks, it seemed likely that the Italian North-South pair at the other table would either tie the result by also bidding six notrump or would gain 750 points by reaching seven notrump.

This was certainly a reasonable expectation, especially with the highly accurate Giorgio Belladonna and Walter Avarelli occupying the North-South seats.

But when Eric Murray and Sami Kehela of Toronto held the East-West cards against them, the bidding surprisingly went:

West North East South
Pass Pass 1H (!) 3 NT
Pass Pass (!!) Pass

Tomorrow: A necessary assumption.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"The helmet isn't for my bike. It's for somersaults."

Crossword

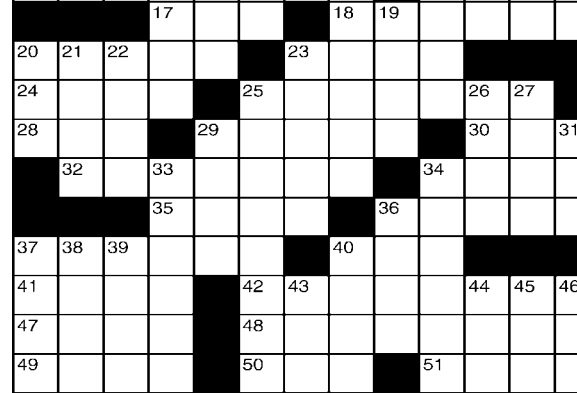
ACROSS
1 Literary Jane
5 Remote
8 Shaft of light
12 Rural vendor's place
14 Wheel-base terminus
15 Bracing lines
16 Crab's zodiac neighbor
17 Rocks, at the bar
18 Took out of context?
20 Mettle
23 Blueprint
24 Dumbo's "wings"
25 Patsy
28 Conclusion
29 Kegler's path
30 Sequence
32 Garrison Keillor's "radio private eye"
34 Pre-swam
35 "Son of —!"

DOWN
1 Work unit
2 Ad-dressee
3 Bob's longtime partner
4 Newman and Meese
5 Pink-slip
6 Summer-time
7 Fence, in a sense
8 Hay work
9 Egress
10 Lotion additive
11 Patch substance
13 Ailing
19 "What's My Line?" host
20 Witness
21 Throe
22 Language of Pakistan
23 Michael of "Monty Python"
25 Wide ruffles
26 Incite
27 Christ-mastide
29 Halo wearer, in Le Havre
31 Gov. Pataki's domain (Abbr.)
33 Brutes encountered by Gulliver
34 Turmoil
36 "Dressed to —"
37 Billions and billions
38 Russian writer Ehren-berg
39 Birth doc.
40 Touch
43 "What Kind of Fool —?"
44 Donate, to Burns
45 Sch. founded by Jefferson
46 "Of course"

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 8-9



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Cryptoquip

QI NVQ CXTAV JZQFSQSIJ,
S'R PCW C QWTSBCA
NMIPQ XZPQ VCQ QMFVV
PBCFV XVCAP C RCW.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WANT AD: "WE ARE SEEKING A COUPLE OF GIFTED TELEPATHS. YOU KNOW WHERE TO APPLY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T