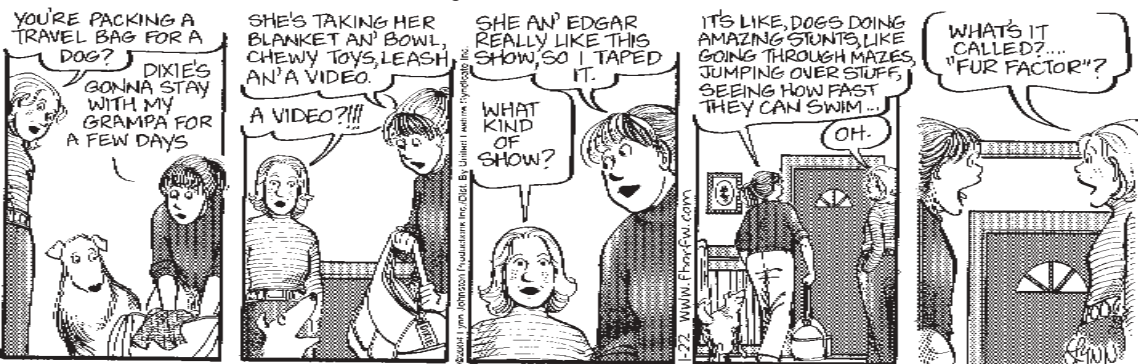


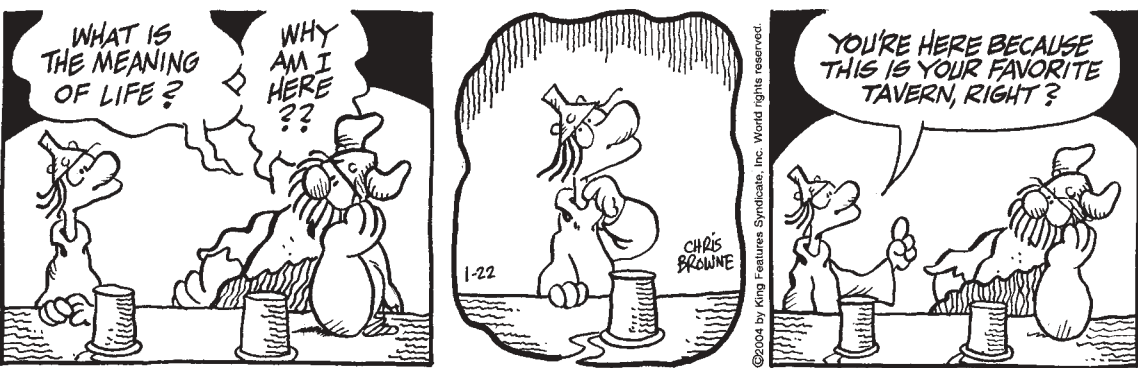
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



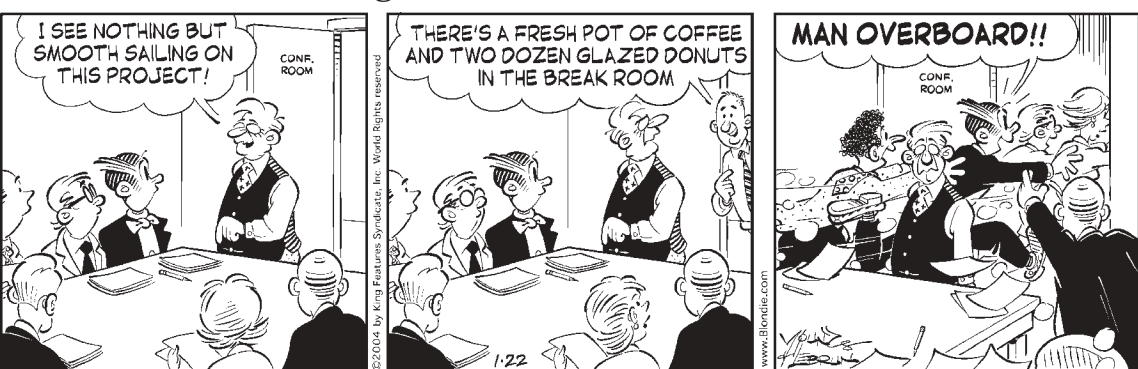
Garfield • Jim Davis



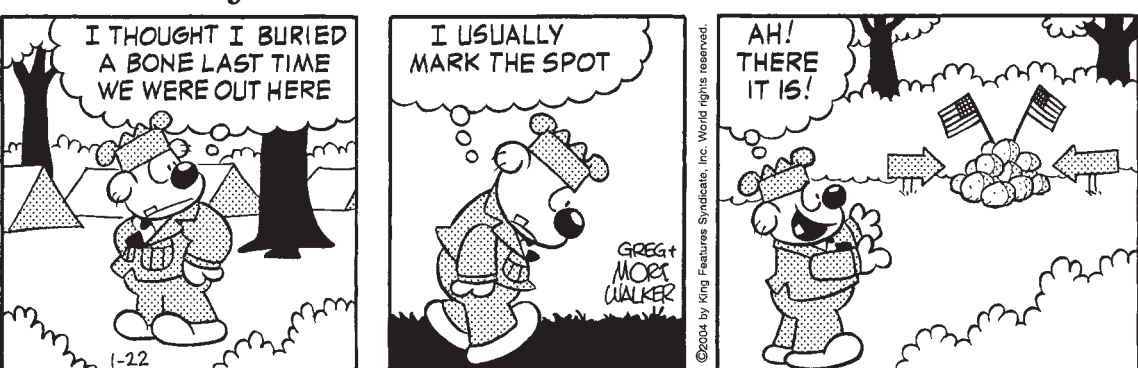
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



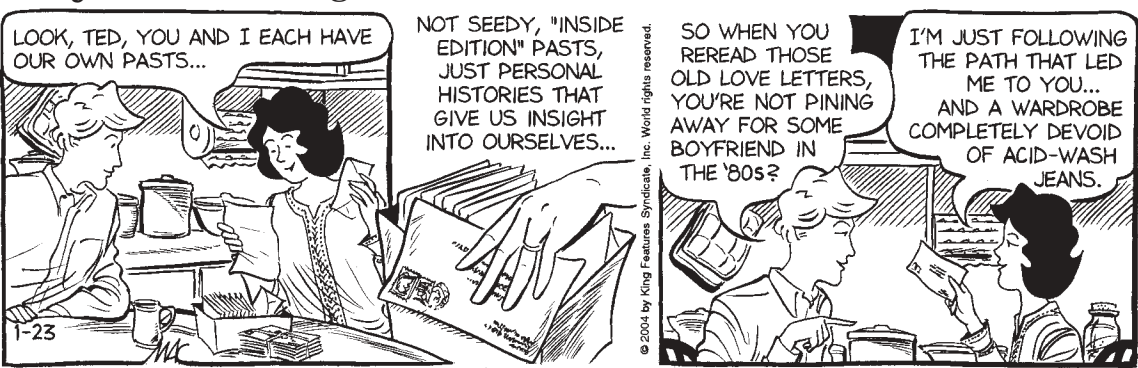
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

H J P Z S ' X Q F Z C Y R

Z X Q M L Q Y L D Q R D Y N ,

L O Z S N T P Z S A Y N N O Q M Y

J Z M Q H F R A Z M M Q L D Z R T Q R C ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ANY MIME HAD A FAVORITE SONG, I BET IT'D REALLY HAVE TO BE "SILENT NIGHT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

Daughter mourns sale of home

DEARABBY: I am in my 30s. I have not lived at home for 10 years; however, my parents sold the family home a few months ago, and I got very depressed when the sale became final.

My parents are in excellent health and live nearby. I am grieving, but I don't know why. My brothers and sisters and I grew up in that house, and we all feel a real sense of loss.

Maybe I'm having trouble getting used to the idea that time marches on and that all good things eventually end. Also, we're not getting together as often as we used to when we gathered at the house.

Can you suggest anything that will help me move along with my life? I want to focus on positive things and not look back for something that is gone.

— GRIEVING FOR THE HOUSE

DEAR GRIEVING: The house was a symbol of your childhood. Now that it is gone, in a sense, so is your childhood.

That may be a sad thought, but dwell on the positive. You have the rest of your life to live as an adult, with all the guaranteed rights and privileges that go along with it.

If the family isn't gathering as often as it used to, consider starting new family traditions. Perhaps it's time for you and your siblings to trade off hosting holiday celebrations. Look at it this way: Nothing stays the same. Sometimes it gets better and better.

DEARABBY: I am a 24-year-

Bridge

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A J 5
♥ K J 6 3
♦ 9 8 7 3
♣ K 7

WEST

♠ 3
♥ Q 7 5 4
♦ A Q J 5 4
♣ A 8 5

EAST

♠ 10 9 7 4
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ 2
♣ 9 6 4 3

SOUTH

♠ K Q 8 6 2
♥ A
♦ K 10 6
♣ Q J 10 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

The Luck of the Irish

The opening lead often determines the outcome of a contract, and yet choosing this lead can be a difficult task.

There are frequently several choices, and selecting the winning one is sometimes no more than a shot in the dark.

But in this hand from a match between Ireland and Denmark, the Irish West player, Peter Fitzgerald, drew a valid inference from the bidding and found the killing opening lead.

He led the ace of diamonds and continued with the four, which East ruffed. Back came a club to West's ace, and Fitzgerald played another diamond, ruffed by East again to put the contract down one.

Fitzgerald reasoned that, on the bidding, South had at least a partial diamond fit for his initial jump-shift response and subsequent three-notrump bid, so that leading the ace and another diamond had a good chance of hitting pay dirt. He reasoned further that passive defense was likely to get him nowhere. He was right on both counts.

At the second table, the Irish North-South pair also got to four spades, but on this bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 [S]	Pass
4 [S]			

The opening notrump bid showed 12 to 14 points, but the sequence that followed did not give the Danish West nearly as much information as his opposite number at the first table had received.

West had no good reason to think that only a diamond lead could stop the contract, and he made the more normal lead of his fourth-best heart.

South had no trouble making four spades after this lead, eventually discarding one of his diamonds on dummy's king of hearts, and Ireland gained 720 points on the deal.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

old mother of a beautiful 5-year-old daughter, "Donna."

I was married to her father for a year.

When we divorced, Donna and I relocated 600 miles away to move in with my new boyfriend.

A year later, I realized that the relationship was going nowhere, so Donna and I returned to our hometown.

Four months later, I met "Gary." We've been together for two years now.

Gary loves Donna and she loves him. However, he recently told me he has no intention of marrying me. (And like an idiot, I continue to let him spend the night.)

Donna cries when Gary and I fight, and now I'm afraid that if I leave him, Donna will have major abandonment issues and not trust men when she is older.

I know I am not being fair to my daughter, and I worry about whether it's too late to make things better for her.

I don't want to give up dating for good, but I feel hatred toward Gary every time I think about how easy it would be for him to pack up and never see us again. I hate the fact that I let this happen and that there's nothing I can do to change it.

I love Donna and would give my life for her, but I am confused because if I didn't have her, I would have no problem with my

relationship with Gary. It just seems so unfair.

Will my daughter resent me for the selfish decision I have made?
— MIXED-UP MOM IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR MOM: That remains to be seen.

As it stands, you have had a flash of insight about your lifestyle and your responsibilities as a mother.

The time has come to start thinking like a mature adult.

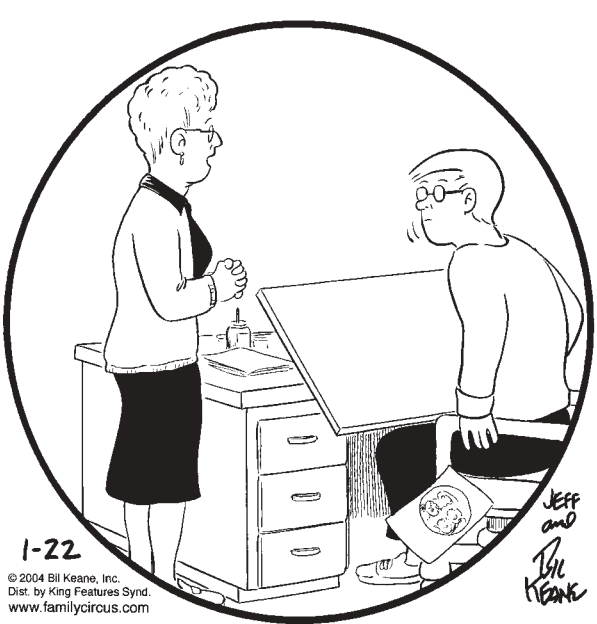
That means putting your daughter first and not rushing into intimate relationships. If I were you, I'd consider taking a sanity break from men for a while.

When you resume, do not introduce your daughter to the people you're dating until you are sure they are sincere and honorable.

P.S. Since Gary has no intention of guaranteeing a stable future for you and your child, end the relationship. This may seem harsh, but it will be less painful in the long run.

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.

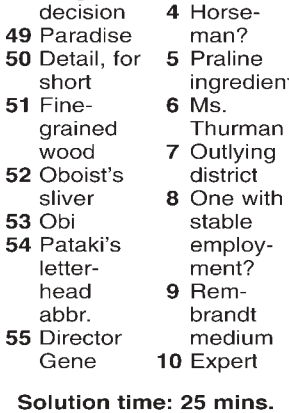
Family Circus • Bil Keane



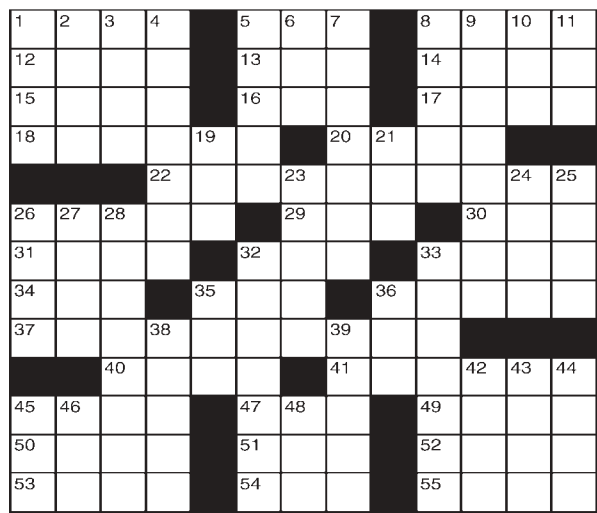
Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Stylish	1 Untalkative one
5 Baby dog	2 Story-telling dance
8 Blame-bearer	3 Dr. Seuss' "If — the Zoo"
12 Entice	4 Horseman?
13 Ostrich's cousin	5 Praline ingredient
14 Puerto —	6 Ms. Thurman
15 Rob Petrie's boss	7 Outlying district
16 Game-show prize	8 One with stable employment?
17 Bread spread	9 Rembrandt medium
18 Om, e.g.	10 Expert
20 Aerobic maneuver	
22 Patrick Dennis' kin	
26 Rainbow or speckled	
29 That girl	
30 Charged bit	
31 Session with a shrink	
32 Utah campus letters	
33 Aware of morsel	
34 Feedbag	
35 Tramp units	
36 Data	

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-22



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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