

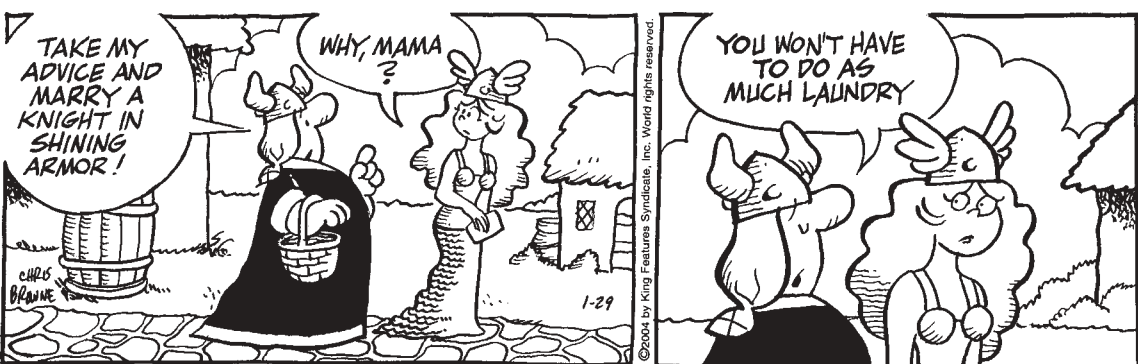
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



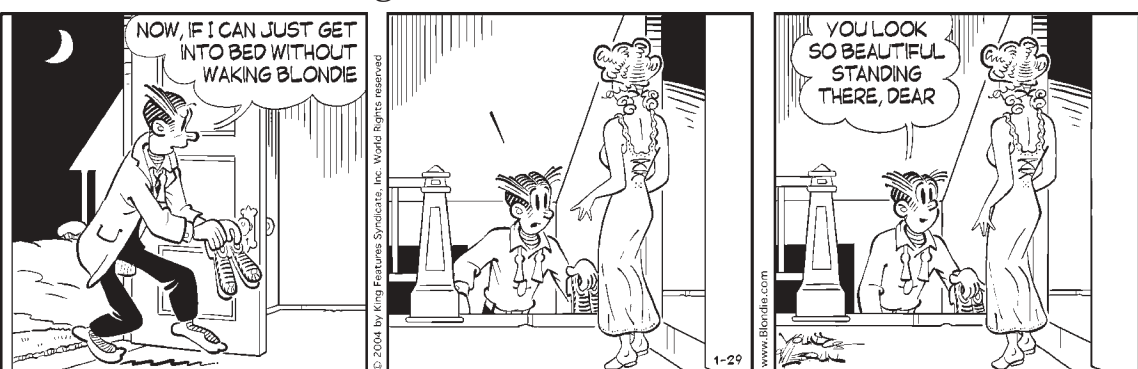
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



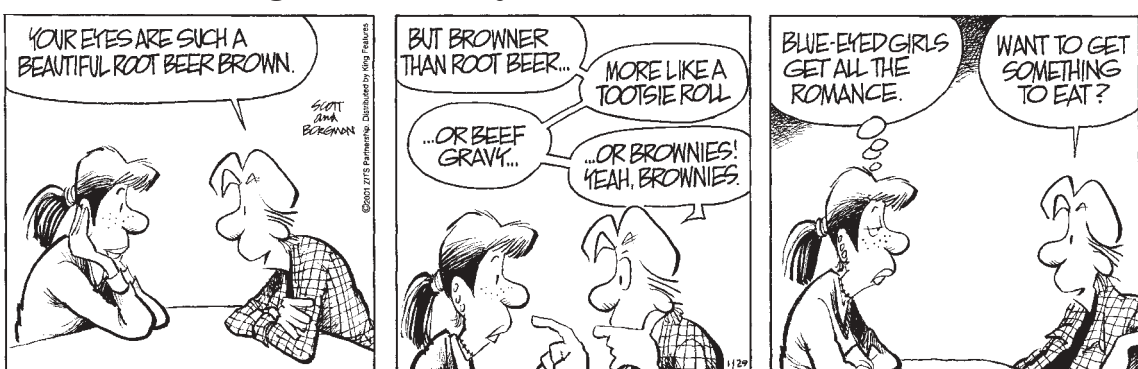
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



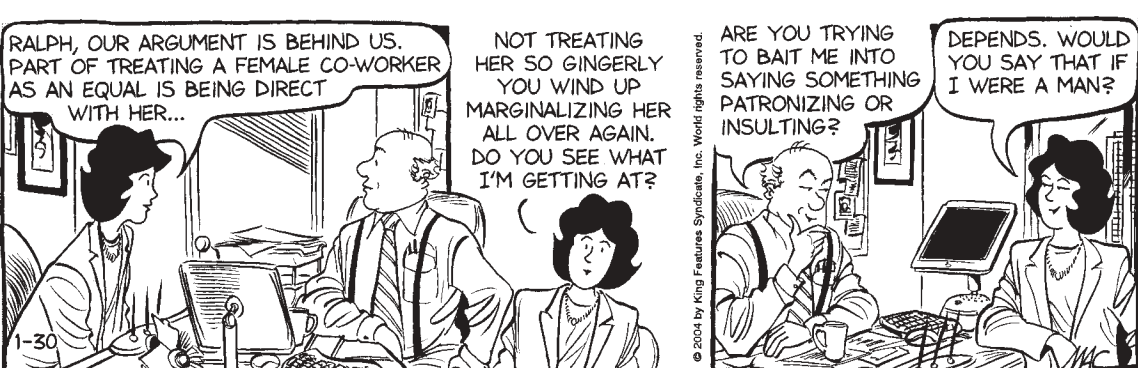
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

Q G B E F E G V B E H P S

N E M N S F M P M C K M K T S A Q E

V Q E A V G T H S F D F S C G Z K F Z D:

“K N Z E N R A E F R E F K M C.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE HEARD TALES OF A VERY BIG STONE IMAGE OF A BOXER IN EGYPT, NAMED LEON SPHINX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals C

# There comes a time to stop waiting



## Abigail Van Buren

### • Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I sympathize with “Waiting in Wisconsin,” whose boyfriend promised her an engagement ring three years ago. Six months ago, I broke up with my boyfriend. We had lived together for four years and everyone assumed we would marry.

I needed to take the next step in our relationship. We discussed it, and he told me he was not ready and might not be for several more years — if then. I agonized about it for several months.

Then one day, I envisioned myself five years down the road in the same situation — together but no closer to marriage. I broke down and cried.

It was then that I finally accepted what I already knew in my heart. If he wasn't ready in five years, he might never be. I moved out.

Upon reflection, I think part of the reason I needed the commitment was that I wasn't sure of his love for me. I also believe that he wasn't ready to get married because he wasn't convinced that our relationship was the best for him.

Your advice to “Waiting” was absolutely right. She should move on and waste no more time. I am now in a relationship that is more satisfying than I ever thought possible. Leaving that previous relationship was the hardest thing I ever had to do, but the best decision I've ever made because I listened to my heart.

— DID THE RIGHT

THING, SANTA CLARA, CALIF.

my ring finger, he got another one.

I have never been happier. Please tell “Waiting” that the sooner she lets this loser go, the sooner she'll find a real man. — NO MORE DRAMA

DEAR NO MORE DRAMA: They say a gesture is worth a thousand words. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: That woman should not wait another day to move on! My girlfriend was with her childhood sweetheart for 15 years. Each year, he would raise the income level he felt he needed before getting married. In the process, he diminished her self-esteem to the point that she felt no one would want her.

She finally had enough and threw him out.

Within two weeks, he had another “sweetie” sleeping over, and six months later he married the girl.

— LIFE'S TOO SHORT

DEAR L.T.S.: How sad that it took your friend so long to realize she had made a bad investment. However, she should look on the bright side. If they were still together, she'd still be waiting.

## Bridge

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
South 1♥ West Pass North 2♣ East Pass  
2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass  
4♥  
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

## Walk Into My Parlor ...

Here is a case where a shrewd defender laid a clever trap for declarer and turned what appeared to be a certain loss into a tidy gain.

West, the hero of the tale, began by leading the king of diamonds against four hearts. Next came a low diamond to East's ace, followed by another diamond, ruffed by declarer.

South now crossed to dummy with a club, led the heart jack and, after East played low, finessed. This was when West made a most insidious play. He allowed the jack to win the trick!

Declarer swallowed the bait — hook, line and sinker.

Convinced that East had the queen, and certain he was about to make the contract with an overtrick, South led dummy's ten of hearts and repeated the finesse.

West pounced on the ten with the queen and played a fourth round of diamonds. South ruffed with the king of trumps and cashed the ace, hoping to find the two missing hearts evenly divided.

But when East showed out, declarer, out of trumps, had to go down two, losing a trump and a diamond to West.

Note that if West wins dummy's jack of hearts at trick five, declarer makes the contract easily, since a diamond continuation can be ruffed in dummy.

Note also that if South does not take the second trump finesse but cashes his A-K of hearts instead, he maintains control of the hand.

West would then have the high trump, but declarer plays clubs until West ruffs, after which South scores the rest of the tricks.

West's ingenuity notwithstanding, in the final analysis it was South's greed for an overtrick that led to his downfall. He should have followed rule No. 1: Making the contract is always the first priority.

## Family Circus • Bil Keane



## Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Bat wood  
4 “Goldberg Variations” composer  
8 Grand adventure  
12 —Magnon  
13 Lotion additive  
14 Black, to poets  
15 Big-beaked bird  
17 Broadway brighter  
18 Penpoint  
19 Hay plant  
21 Fall over  
24 Chic no more  
25 Parisian pal  
26 Actor Ron  
28 Judicial attire  
32 Bottle tops  
34 Larry’s pal  
36 Inconsiderate  
37 Delight  
39 Last (Abbr.)  
41 Whopper  
42 Ball noonee

**DOWN**

1 Interlaken intersection sign  
2 “No seats”  
3 Lively folk dance  
4 Talk foolishly  
5 “The Greatest”  
6 Pop flavor  
7 Conversation piece?  
8 Capitol Hill figure  
9 First victim  
10 Blooper  
11 Kournikova of tennis  
16 Pinch  
20 Bear hair  
21 Diplomacy  
22 Mr. Sharif  
23 Shade provider  
27 Ad-dressee  
29 Mega-phone’s kin  
30 Actress Falco  
31 Burpee product  
33 Riders’ needs  
35 Sprite  
38 Aviv preceder  
40 Something to shoot for  
43 Downstairs  
45 Scroogean expletive  
46 Implement  
47 Excessive indulgence  
48 Show guts  
49 Automaton (Pref.)  
53 “Smoking or —?”  
54 Dale’s mister  
55 Leno’s employer

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

G	E	M	W	A	N	D	S	I	P	S
O	R	E	A	R	E	A	U	N	I	T
D	I	N	I	C	E	H	O	C	K	E
S	Q	U	A	T	L	A	C			
I	C	E	B	E	D	S	F	O	G	G
B	O	X	S	L	U	E	S	R	E	
I	V	A	N	I	C	E	W	A	T	E
D	E	M	O	B	E	K	E	D		
			I	O	N		A	D	L	I
I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E	R	I	E
T	H	E	E	Y	O	G	I	S	I	C
S	I	R	S		S	O	O	N	A	S

Yesterday’s answer 1-29

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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