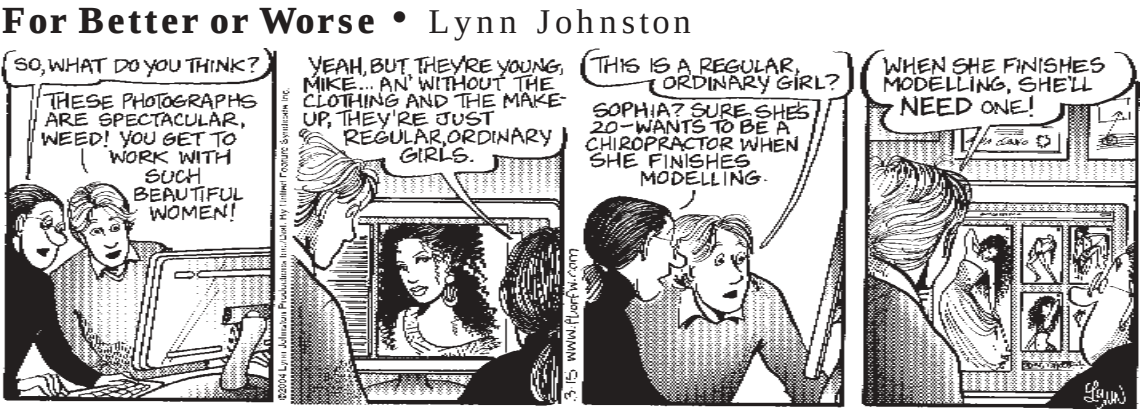
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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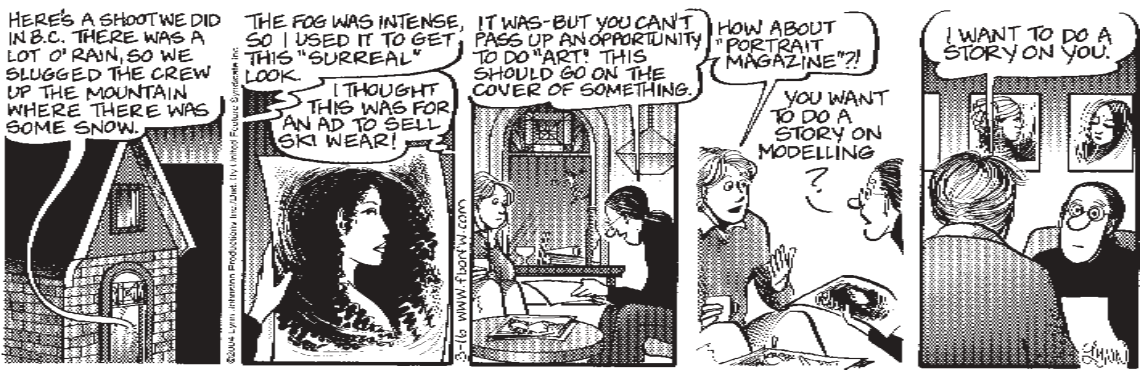
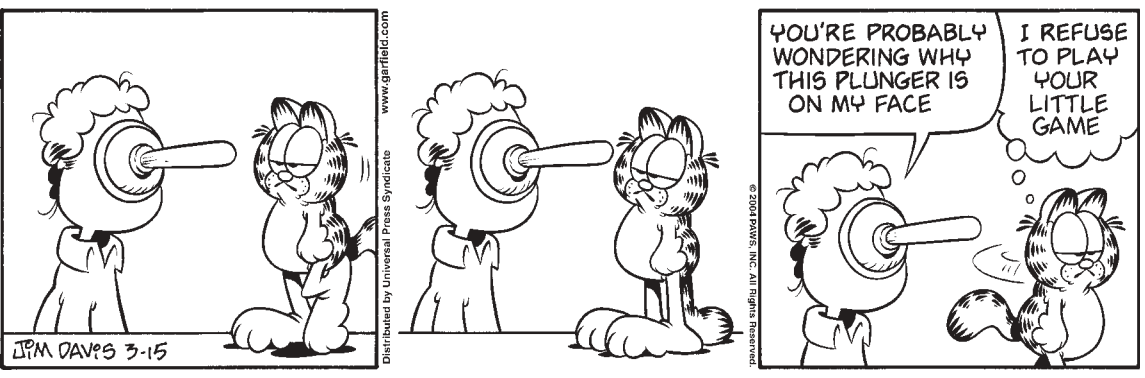
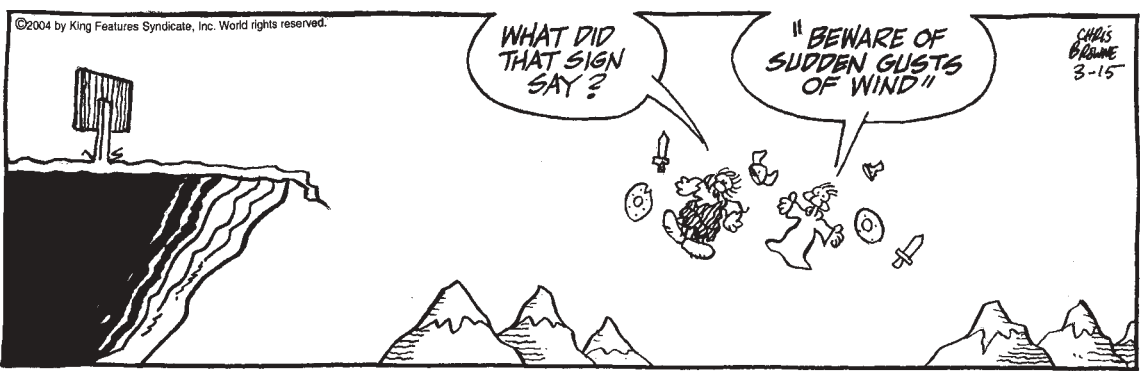


Garfield • Jim Davis

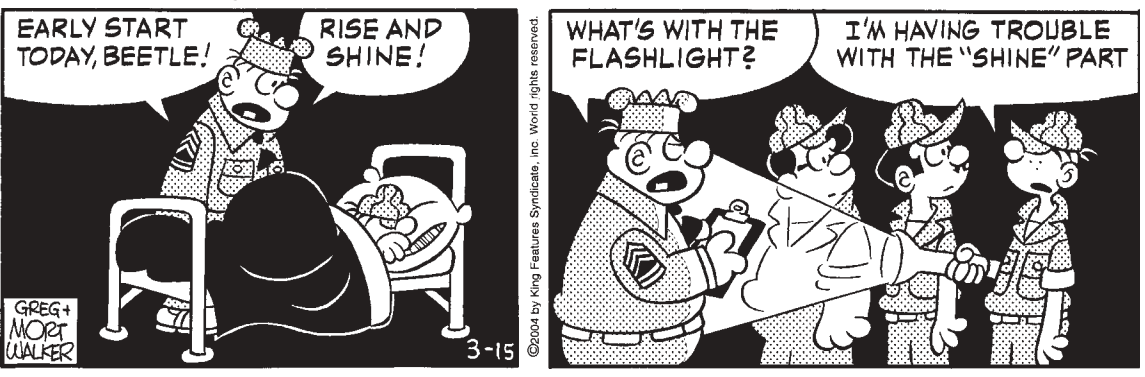


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



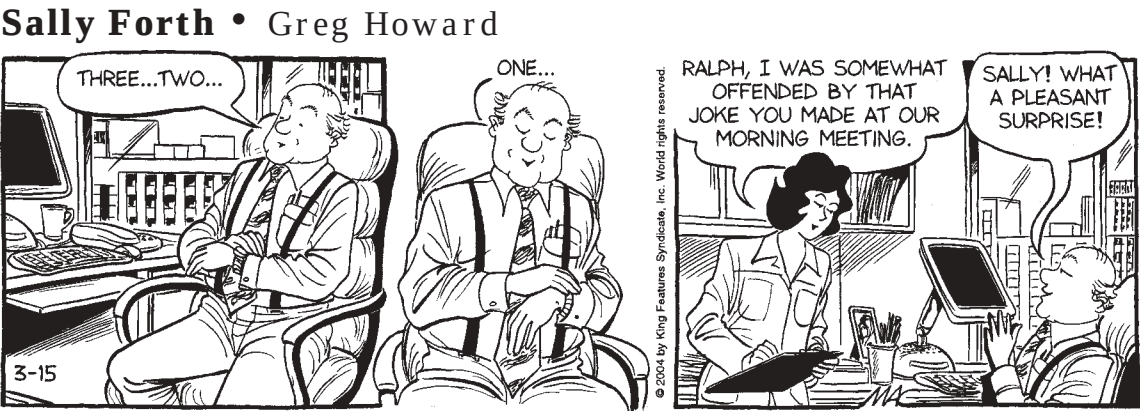
Blondie • Chic Young

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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Cryptoquip

T AQHGFD K IQQ NQBZTDX FJL KDFLNQA IQQ HFJBC IQ HFDETCQAQC K IKHGJZ ELTDXQA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: COULD A BLIZZARD BE CONSIDERED A WEATHER PHENOMENON THAT WINTERRUPTS TRAFFIC?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals B

Daughter needs to know the truth

Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter I'll call "Maya" who adores her father. "John" and I were together for more than eight years and have been apart for about a year. During our last year together, he was caught selling drugs and was convicted of possession and distribution, as well as possession of an illegal weapon. I knew nothing of this until he was arrested. (I worked while he was a stay-at-home dad.)

John is now serving a four-year sentence in federal prison. However, he tells Maya that he is in "Daddy School," and when he gets home she will live with him.

Abby, I have struggled long and hard to get back on my feet after paying all of John's legal bills and finding a place for Maya and me to live.

Should I tell her where her father really is, and that she won't be living with him but can visit him? (He will be living with his mother again when they let him out.)

He keeps telling Maya how much fun they'll have together. I want her to love John and have a good relationship with him, but I don't want to lose her. What's the answer?

— WORRIED MOTHER IN TEXAS

DEAR MOTHER: Your daughter deserves to know the truth about her father — that he did something that was against the law, and he is now paying for it. If you go along with his lie, Maya will have good reason to believe that everything John is telling her is the truth — including the part about where she is going to live.

Your next step should be to discuss child custody with an attorney. Since it appears that you and John are not married, and he is not contributing financially to Maya's welfare, I fail to see how he can claim the right to have her live with him.

A lawyer can help you make sure it doesn't happen, so please waste no time in contacting one. It will ease your mind, and that's what is important right now.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Jeff," is 35 and I'm 41. We've been married 10 years. Jeff is an excellent provider. He spends quality time with the children and will do anything I ask. I have only one problem. Every gift occasion — anniversary, Christmas, Valentine's Day or birthday — Jeff buys me an outfit I consider trashy.

His most recent gift was a black leather miniskirt and bustier, black mesh stockings and thigh-high boots. When I asked Jeff where he expected me to wear that stuff, he said, "On a date with me — or in our bedroom."

Is it healthy for Jeff to have those fantasies?

— NOT A SLUT

DEAR NOT: Oui, oui, Madame — as long as the fantasies include you!

WORTH REMEMBERING: "To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves." — Will and Ariel Durant

DEAR ABBY: My mother was unloving and downright cruel to all of her children, but now that we're all over 18, she has suddenly decided she wants to have relationships with us. (I haven't even told her that I've been engaged for two months.)

She has caused so much suffering and heartache, but I don't know how to tell her to leave me alone. She recently showed up at my house. I don't know how she got my address, because I didn't give it to her and I never return her calls. I don't understand how she can act like everything is fine between us and get angry with me for not calling her back. Mother has never in her life said the word "sorry." I am at a loss as to how to deal with her.

— ANGRY AND CONFUSED

DEAR ANGRY: I have heard from readers who cut themselves off from their parents after abusive childhoods and later regretted that there was no closure. I have also heard from people who did it and have no regrets about it at all. If you feel that any aspect of your relationship with her is salvageable, consider trying to heal the relationship.

However, if that is not possible, tell her plainly that you want to be left alone, and if she doesn't cooperate, you will be forced to get a restraining order.

DEAR ABBY: My niece, "Debra," had her breasts enlarged before she was even 20, and she dresses to draw attention to them. She's so proud that she pushes them out even further, which makes her posture appear abnormal.

We are modest people, and we felt especially uncomfortable last summer at a family beach party where she pranced around in a thong!

Now we have a messy situation. Debra has accused a male family member of behaving inappropriately toward her. He denies ever thinking "that way" about her, but admits he couldn't help looking at her breasts "because they were on display all the time."

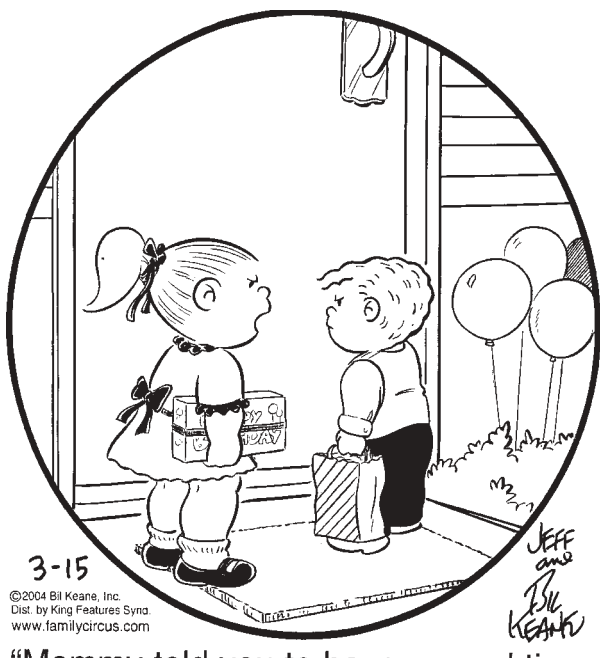
My sister, Debra's mother, refuses to accept that her daughter is in any way responsible for this mess, and says the man involved is completely at fault. I blame Debra.

Is it fair for a girl to dress seductively and then accuse a male family member of behaving inappropriately?

— MODEST IN COLORADO

DEAR MODEST: Let's stop assigning blame and assess what's really happening. For years, Debra probably felt something was lacking. Since she has had her enhancement surgery, it appears she has been overcompensating. The episode with the thong bikini at the family beach party is an example of a girl who once felt invisible and is now flaunting her assets. However, when someone prominently puts something on display, it's unrealistic to expect viewers to wear blinders or look away. She can't have it both ways.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Mommy told you to have a good time, so you have to."

Bridge

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 2
♥ 10 8 5 4 2
♦ A J 8
♣ 10 5

WEST
♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 9 6
♦ Q 10 7 6 3
♣ A K

EAST
♠ J
♥ A J 7
♦ 9 5 2
♣ Q J 9 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 6 4 3
♥ 3
♦ K 4
♣ 8 7 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

This deal occurred in the women's team championship at the 1972 World Bridge Olympiad. The declarer was Emma Jean Hawes of the United States, pitted against Rina Jabes and Maria Robaudo of Italy. Hawes was no doubt quite satisfied with her four-spade contract after the dummy was tabled, but was reduced to the role of an innocent observer as Jabes and Robaudo collaborated beautifully to collect the first four tricks.

Jabes led the king of clubs and continued with the ace, on which Robaudo played the queen! This seemingly extravagant play was a suit-preference signal asking West to lead a heart — the higher ranking of the two remaining side suits — at trick three.

Jabes did exactly as instructed, but to ensure getting a club return at trick four, she shifted to the nine of hearts, pretending it was her highest heart.

Robaudo took the ace and returned the jack of clubs, and the contract went down one when West heartlessly ruffed with the nine of trumps.

As if this were not enough misfortune on one deal, the American team suffered a second reversal at the other table, where the bidding, with the U.S. now East-West, went:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 [S]	Dble
Pass	3 [C]	3 [S]	Pass
Pass	4 [C]		

The Italian South led the king of spades and then shifted to the king and another diamond! North cashed the A-J to put the contract down one, but the Italians were not yet finished. After South discarded her singleton heart on the third round of diamonds, North returned a heart, and South ruffed to secure a two-trick set.

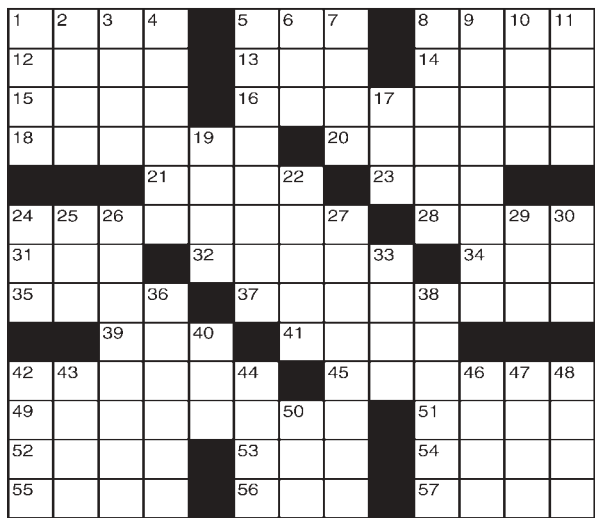
No wonder Italy won the women's title that year!

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Impale
5 Encountered
8 Maker of the 9-7X SUV
12 Dagwood's boss's wife
13 "— Little Teapot"
14 Erstwhile Peruvian
15 Picnic invaders
16 Topics
18 Capital of Saudi Arabia
20 Most wise
21 Polygraph blips
23 Undeniably
24 Take away
28 Unescorted
31 Wore away
32 Un, deux, —
34 Raw rock
35 Miss America's term of office
37 Dunk
39 Filch
41 Stagger
42 Los —, NM
45 Backcombed
49 Command to appear in court
51 Urbanite's call
52 Hardy cabbage
53 Calendar abbr.
54 Green acres
55 Sought restitution
56 Egos' counterparts
57 Cornerstone info

DOWN
1 "Lion King" baddie
2 Author Morrison
3 Bohemian
4 Dark gray igneous rock
5 Gets the story wrong
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Surveillance
8 Persistent attacks
9 Genealogist's concern
10 Play segments
11 Cordage fiber
17 Dave's rival
19 Gossip
22 Do the pots and pans
24 Put into words
25 Multipurpose truck
26 Not too much to take
27 Yak herders, often
29 S.A. nation
30 "Holy cow!"
33 Hook's henchman
36 Cavorted
38 Walking on air
40 Halloween shout
42 Answers, on "Jeopardy!"
43 Waikiki wingding
44 Half (Pref.)
46 TV chef Moulton
47 Egress
48 Partake at a banquet
50 Affirmative action

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 3-15