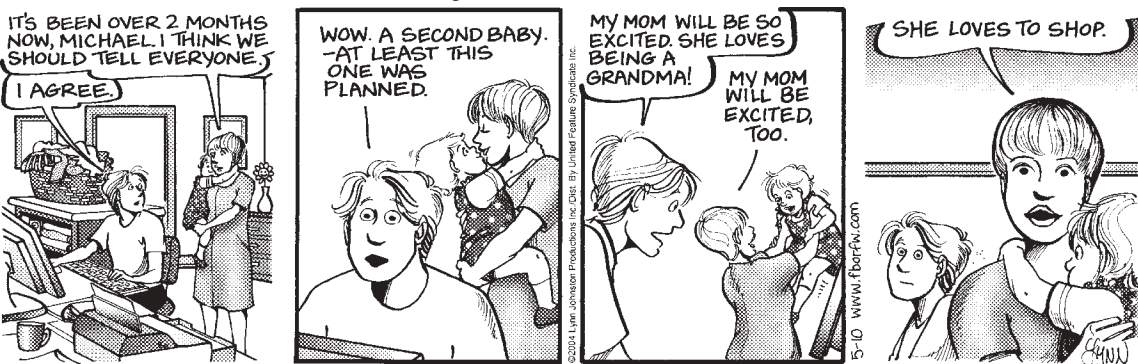


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



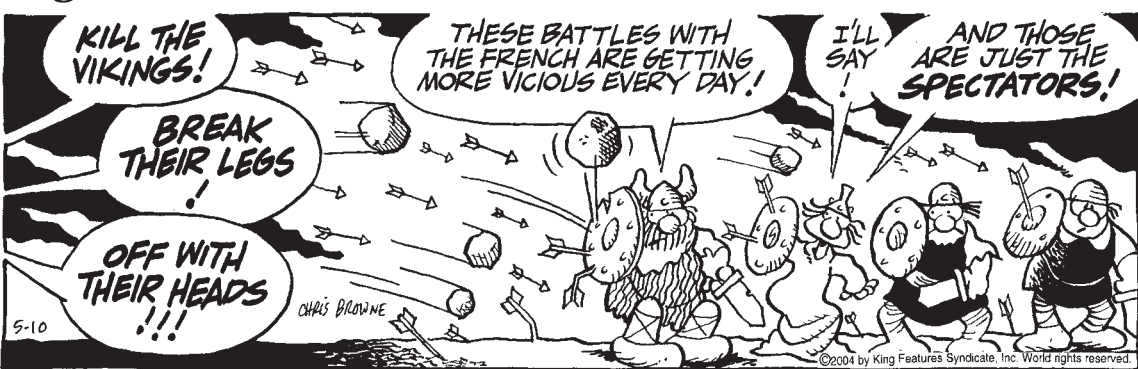
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



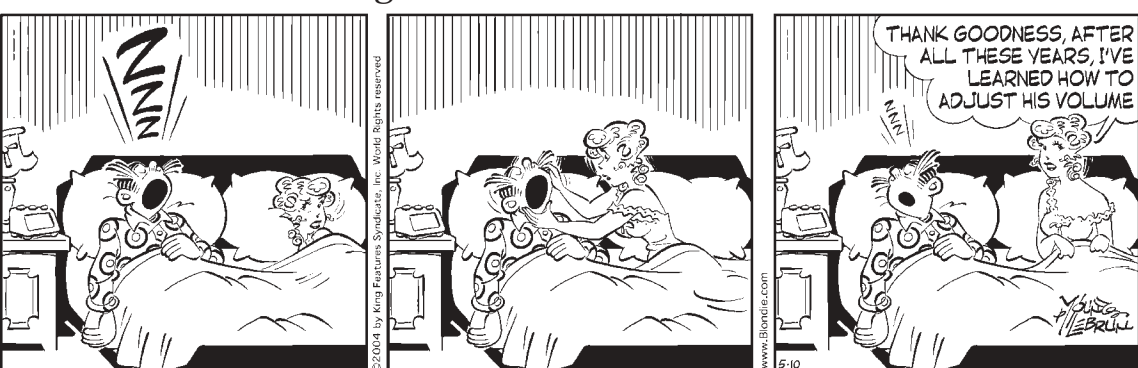
Garfield • Jim Davis



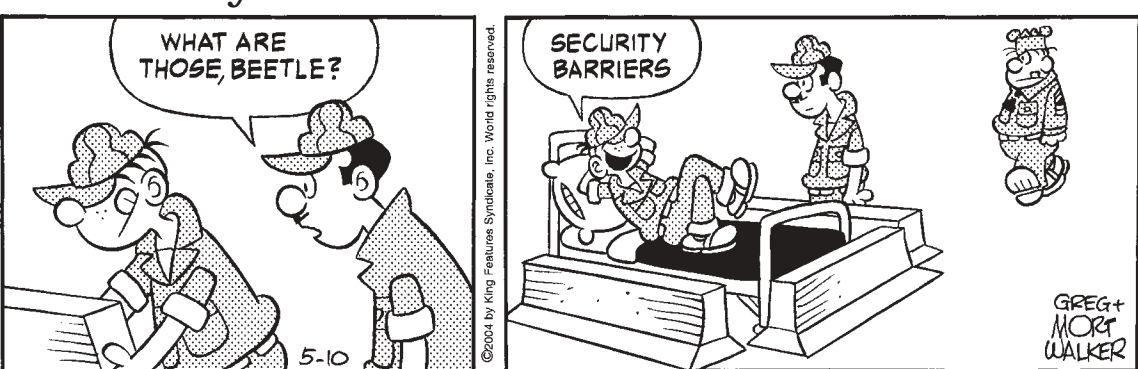
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



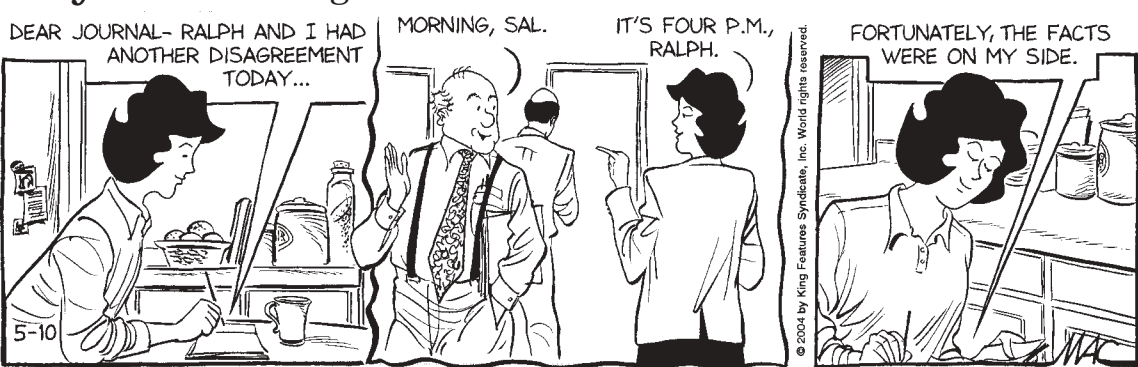
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Wife wants to leave cheating spouse



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Ron" for 11 years. Throughout our marriage he has been unfaithful. We have three children under age 12. I work a minimum-wage job and have no family, nowhere to go, and no one to turn to.

A few months ago, Ron brought home a sexually transmitted disease, which he gave to me. I feel trapped, alone and terribly depressed. I realize the children must be sensing my tension and pain. As Ron is not physically abusive, I cannot go to a shelter, and this has taken a toll on my health and well-being.

Should I stay until I'm financially able to leave? Or should I flee now and hope for the best?

— LONELY AND SAD IN LOUISIANA

DEAR LONELY AND SAD: If you haven't already done so, contact your physician and be treated for the STD. Make a list of Ron's assets, as well as his Social Security, driver's license and bank account numbers. Next, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233. Although there may not be room for you at a shelter, they can help you formulate an "escape plan." Once that's in place, consult an attorney who specializes in family law. You've suffered enough.

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old son was killed by a drunk driver. Garrett was hit at freeway speed as he got out of a disabled vehicle that had been blocked by a flatbed tow truck with its lights flashing.

The drunk driver went around the tow truck and never slowed down. He already had a prior DUI from seven years ago. From my research, the laws are too easy on these people.

Offenders are getting five years, often reduced to one or two or community service, for taking an inno-

cent life. The vehicle is their weapon. This should be second-degree murder, not manslaughter.

How can we get the laws changed? Whom do we contact to get results?

It won't bring my wonderful, loving son back, but these verdicts are nothing but a slap on the wrist to the drunk drivers, and a slap in the face to families who lose their children. My son was my best friend. He had his whole life ahead of him. This man took it away because he made the choice to drink and drive. Please, Abby, help me make a difference.

— GRIEVING MOTHER, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

DEAR GRIEVING MOTHER: I offer my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. One way to channel your grief would be to join a community of other grieving parents who are also determined to put more teeth into the punishment meted out to repeat offenders.

I recently became a member of the advisory board of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). It is a non-profit, grassroots organization that's a leader in the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking.

Because of MADD, more than 2,300 anti-drunk driving laws have been passed, public awareness has increased, and thousands of drunk-driving victims have received assistance. With their help, you can work within your own community to change the laws regarding repeat offenders in

your state. The toll-free number is (800) 438-6233, and the Web site is www.MADD.org. Call and you will receive the support you need.

DEAR ABBY: Today is Mother's Day and I'm feeling rather down. Eight years ago, I found out the joyous news that I was expecting. Following that, a devastating thing happened in my life. I was brutally raped. I gave birth prematurely — at 5 1/2 months — and my daughter passed away three hours later.

Abby, I feel that although I didn't have the joy of raising my daughter, I am a mother nonetheless.

She has a name and I think of her daily. A good friend of mine disagrees. She says I'm not a mom because I have no living children to show off. She has told some of our mutual friends that I'm "not all there" upstairs.

Could you tell me how to deal with this tactfully? I would also like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all those who have lost children to miscarriage and stillbirth.

— STILL A MOM IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR STILL A MOM: Clip this letter and give it to your "friend," who doesn't sound like much of a friend to me. You ARE a mother — you're the mother of an angel.

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

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 8 3
♥ 5 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ K Q J 10

WEST
♠ K 4 2
♥ A Q J 8 6 4
♦ A 7
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ —
♥ K 10 9
♦ K J 10 9 5 3
♣ A 9 5 3

SOUTH
♠ J 10 9 7 6 5
♥ 7 2
♦ 8 2
♣ 8 7 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Dble
2 ♥ 2 ♠ 4 ♥ 4 ♠
5 ♣ Pass 6 ♥ Pass
Pass 6 ♣ Dble
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Famous Hand

In duplicate bridge, if you bid and make six hearts vulnerable, you score 1,430 points. If your opponents sacrifice against the slam and go down 1,400 points, they get the best of the exchange. The 30 points they save would be meaningless in rubber bridge, but in a pair game, where every point counts, the 30-point savings can be highly significant.

George Rapee, one of the game's all-time greats, once held the West hand in a pair event. He got to six hearts — and would have made seven — but South, a courageous soul, bid six spades. Rapee doubled and led the ace and another diamond. East won and cashed the K-10 of hearts before playing the king of diamonds at trick five.

When declarer ruffed with the nine, Rapee discarded a club! This extraordinary play worked like a charm. Declarer could not conceive of Rapee holding the king of spades and not overruffing, so he naturally placed East with that card.

Accordingly, when declarer next led the jack of spades and Rapee followed low, South rose with the ace on the basis that nothing could be gained by finessing and that he would escape a trump loser if East had started with the singleton king.

But East showed out, and declarer realized — too late — that he'd been had. Rapee won the spade continuation with the king and, having discarded one club, led his remaining one. East took the ace and returned a club, which Rapee ruffed, and South was carted off to the tune of 1,700 points.

Had Rapee overruffed the nine of spades with the king, he would have beaten the contract only 1,400 points and wound up with a mediocre score. As it was, he got an ice-cold top.

Tomorrow: It's all in the spots.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

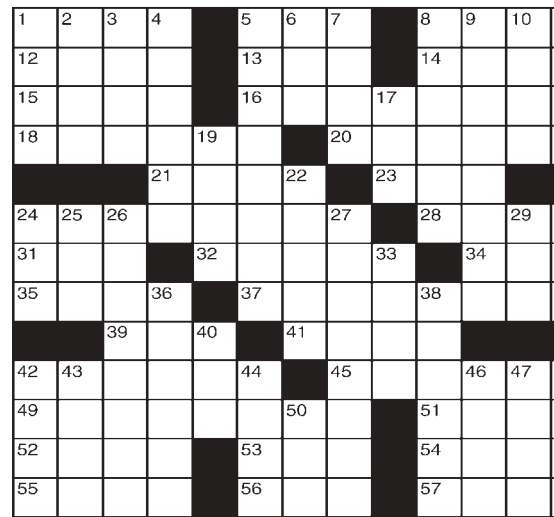
ACROSS
1 Nursery furniture
5 Potential syrup
8 Mosque official
12 Stash
13 Hasten
14 Hindu prince
15 A Baldwin brother
16 Cheese choice
18 Comment
20 Prayer beads
21 Actor Cobb
23 "— Rosenkavalier"
24 Cheese choice
28 Couch
31 Ram's mate
32 Spoke angrily
34 Complain constantly
35 Guns the engine
37 Cheese choice

DOWN
39 Inventor Whitney
41 Terrier type
42 Beekeeper's setup
45 Hardy's partner
49 Cheese choice
51 Pop
52 Gilligan's home
53 Fond du —, WI
54 Eternally
55 Active one
56 Macabre author
57 Lairs

11 Scads
17 Scepter
19 Shipwreck cause
24 min.

STORM VALUES
ATA XIA A MANDA
CAR BON DESIGN
TYPO AMEN OED
W A C O D R U
T A J S L I T T E A R
B R O O K E S H I E L D S
S A N S S T U N Y E T
Q U A E R N O
Y O U L E N S O A T H
O L I V I A D A H L I A
R E L I E S A G E O L D
E O S I N E Y O D E L

Saturday's answer 5-10



Cryptoquip

W I Q E D J Z M L ' P W M R
O A A O V B Q Z A J Z M M Z W V D Z Q O
U D P E W R M L S V W U V D P

" E W Q B I V O S W W S Z O ."
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A RAILROAD ENGINEER BECOMES FAMOUS, I THINK HE MIGHT BE CALLED A TRACK STAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals C

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