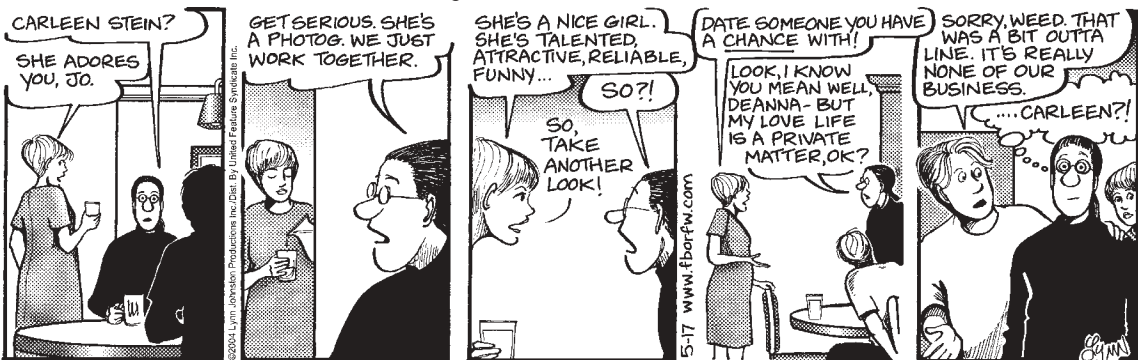


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



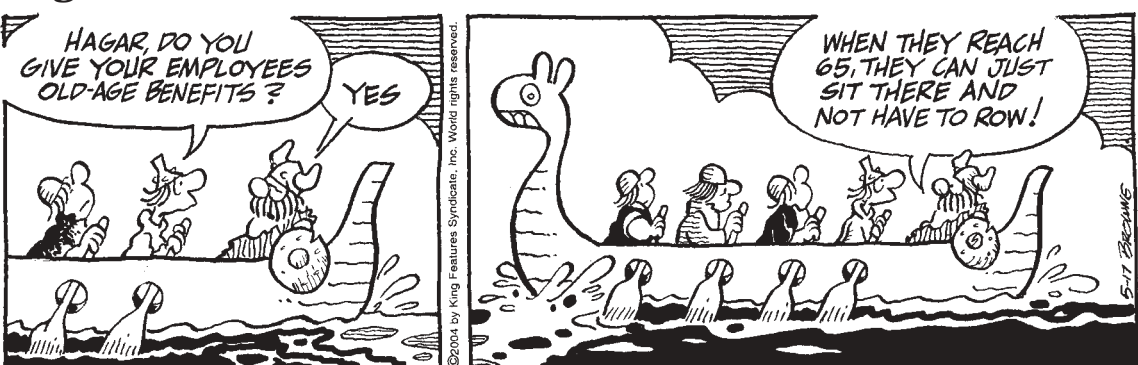
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



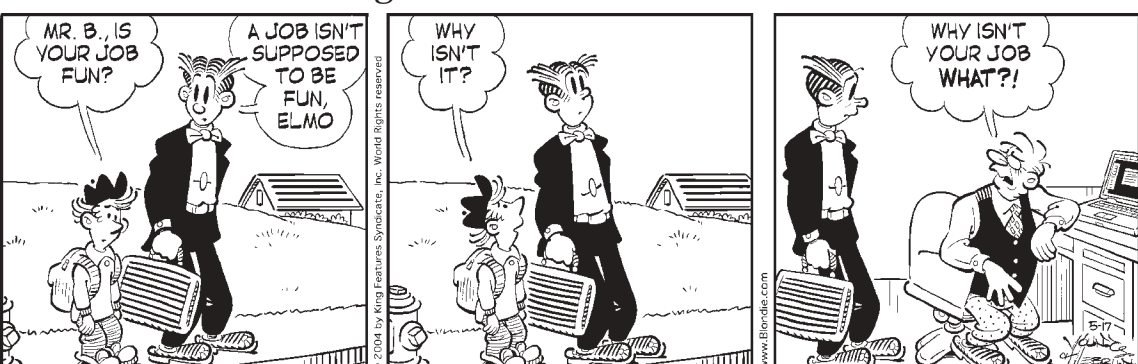
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



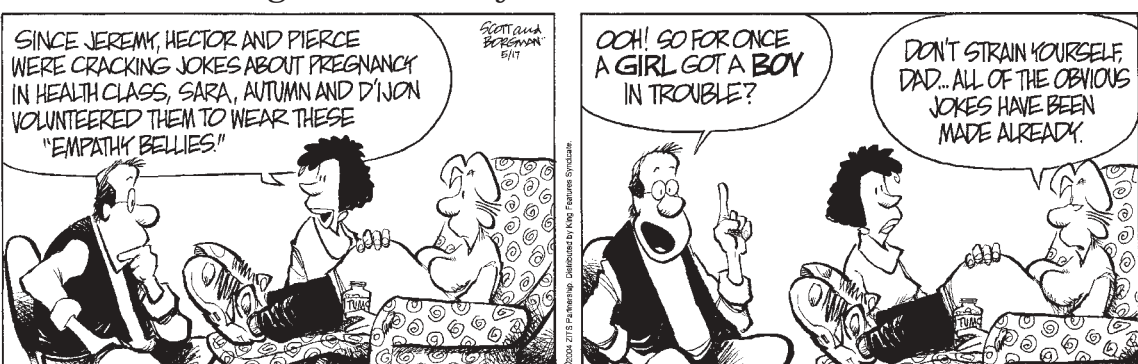
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Woman afraid to talk about past



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 24 and have been in many bad relationships. Every guy I have dated has been an addict, and some of them have been in jail. All of them were abusive. Finally, I have met a decent man and I care for him a lot. The problem? I have a criminal record and haven't told him because I didn't want to scare him off.

If I tell him now, he will know I lied, and he has made it clear that he hates liars.

So far, I have been able to avoid telling him about my past, but I won't be able to much longer, and I'll have to fill in the blanks.

What am I going to do? Should I tell the truth and face the consequences, which will probably mean losing him, or continue skirting the issue with lies?

— TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES IN TEXAS

DEAR TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES: Honesty is the best policy. Tell him now. The longer you wait, the more deceived he will feel. Explain that you kept silent because you were afraid you would lose him. It's the truth. He may not be thrilled with the news, but he will have to give you marks for wanting to set the record straight. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a self-employed contractor. We recently had to convert our home office into a bedroom for my son, so our "office" is now in our bedroom until we can add on to the house. My husband has a new client who thinks nothing of calling at 10 p.m. or later, and last night he sent a fax at 11:45! The ringing woke me and it took two hours to get back to sleep.

I want my husband to ask his clients not to call after 9 p.m. He thinks I'm being unreasonable, and he's embarrassed to admit that our office is in our bedroom. I don't think any

explanations are necessary. What do you think? This issue is creating hard feelings.

— SLEEPLESS IN THE MOUNTAINS

DEAR SLEEPLESS: I have another idea. Most phones and faxes have switches that control the ringer volume. Turn them off when you go to bed, and you should be able to slumber like a baby. If yours do not have volume control, consider investing in ones that do.

DEAR ABBY: This letter is for "Invited but Can't Always Go," who is reluctant to allow her daughter to attend all the birthday parties to which she is invited because she can't afford to buy the gifts.

I suggest that the girl create a scrapbook of the event. She can take photos and collect memorabilia such as napkins, ribbons and wrapping paper for the scrapbook. She might use pieces of the wrapping paper as borders or corners for the pages, or "frames" for the photos she'll mount inside. She could also have each guest write a special note or birthday wish for the party child and include them.

In her card to the birthday child, she should include a note that says her gift will arrive in a week or so. I have done this for shower gifts, and they always become treasured keepsakes.

— ON THE CHEAP IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ON THE CHEAP: Treasured? I'm sure they are priceless! Thank you for a terrific idea.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged woman who is finishing college. I have never had much of a personal life because my mother embarrasses me in front of the gentlemen I date.

I now have the opportunity to move to another town where my mentally challenged son is in a group home. For the first time in our lives we can be together as our own little family unit.

Mother is now talking about moving herself and my sister to the same town. I don't have a life because of her, and now I never will. What should I do?

— SMOTHERED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SMOTHERED: You're an adult. It's time to "un-mother" yourself. Make the move, form your family unit, make friends and a life of your own.

If your mother is determined to make the move, you can't prevent it. But no law says you have to introduce her to the men you date or include her in your social life if she embarrasses you in front of others.

That's her attempt to control you — and you can remedy that by "flying the coop" emotionally as well as physically. If you feel unable to loosen the family tie, then I recommend counseling.

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

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ A 9 4 2
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ A J 10 4 3

WEST
 ♠ K 10 5 3 2
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ J 10 6
 ♣ K 6 2

EAST
 ♠ J 9 6 4
 ♥ J 6 5 3
 ♦ 9 5 2
 ♣ Q 9

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 8 7
 ♥ K 8 7
 ♦ A 7 4 3
 ♣ 8 7 5

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass
 2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 NT
 Opening lead — three of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the semi-finals of the 1991 United States Bridge Championship, which determined the U.S. representative to the 1991 World Team Championship.

When the deal was first played, Kerri Shuman reached three notrump as shown. West led a spade to dummy's ace, and Shuman decided her best chance was to play for both hearts and diamonds to divide favorably.

Accordingly, at trick two she led a low heart to her eight, losing to West's ten. When West exited with a diamond, declarer played the K-Q-A of diamonds and was pleased to see the suit break 3-3. She then cashed her fourth diamond before playing the K-A of hearts. When that suit failed to divide evenly, she cashed out for down one.

At the second table, the auction began the same way but then took a different turn:
 North East South West
 1 [C] Pass 1 NT Pass
 2 [H] Pass 3 [H] Pass
 4 [H]

South, Dan Morse, elected to raise two hearts to three with just three-card support, and North, John Sutherlin, carried on to four, opting for a 4-3 fit.

Sutherlin won East's spade lead with the ace, led a heart to the king and then a club to the jack and East's queen. East returned a spade, and the queen was covered by West's king, ruffed by North.

Declarer crossed to the diamond ace and led a club to the ten. When this held, he continued with the club ace, ruffed by East for the defenders' second trick. East forced declarer to ruff another spade, leaving North with the singleton ace of trumps opposite dummy's 8-7 while East held the J-6.

Sutherlin cashed the heart ace and began to run his remaining clubs. East could score his heart jack whenever he so desired, but dummy's eight of trumps prevented the opponents from taking their spades, and declarer had the rest of the tricks. The score of +420 at this table and +50 at the other gave Sutherlin's team a 10-IMP pickup on the deal.

Tomorrow: The philosophy of defense.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"In real life, this dinosaur was much bigger and not made of plastic."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Georgetown athlete
 5 "Hum-bug!"
 8 Actress Neuwirth
 12 Lengthy choral work
 14 Persia, now
 15 One of a set of adjoining dwellings
 16 Benevolent
 17 Make up your mind
 18 Activities
 20 Hotel accommodations
 23 Grad rags?
 24 Between jobs
 25 Potter creator
 28 "The Raven" writer
 29 Deserves
 30 LummoX
 32 Hooligans
 34 Mr. Lugosi

DOWN

1 Perp. to vert.
 2 Acapulco gold
 3 Go off course
 4 In the bullring
 5 Very dry, as champagne
 6 Grafton's "— for Alibi"
 7 Square dances
 8 It's like wearing nothing "atoll"
 9 "— Go Bragh!"
 10 Sudden noise
 11 Remnants
 13 "I'm sorry"
 19 They give a hoot
 20 Tear
 21 Stench

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 5-17

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

R Q K Y R D G Y S J F I X K F J
 R A G J X L R S D K L J W A U S R S
 X R Q J, R A Y G K Y K
 L W K F Y R F K X F G U I J W ?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE SUCCESSFULLY HAILS A CAB, I SUPPOSE HE MAY BE CONSIDERED A TAXI MEETER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L