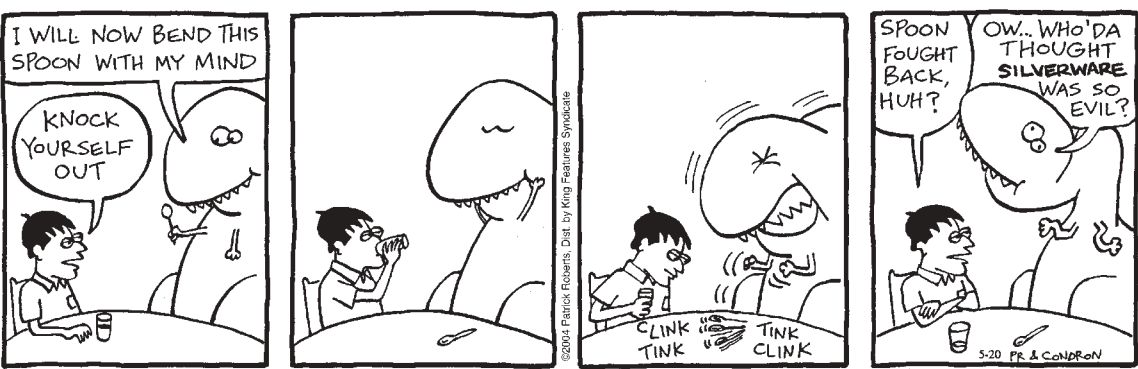


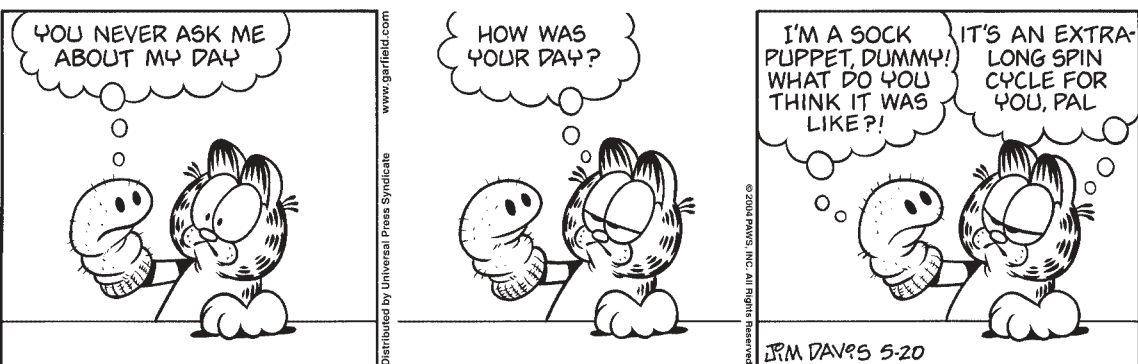
**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon**



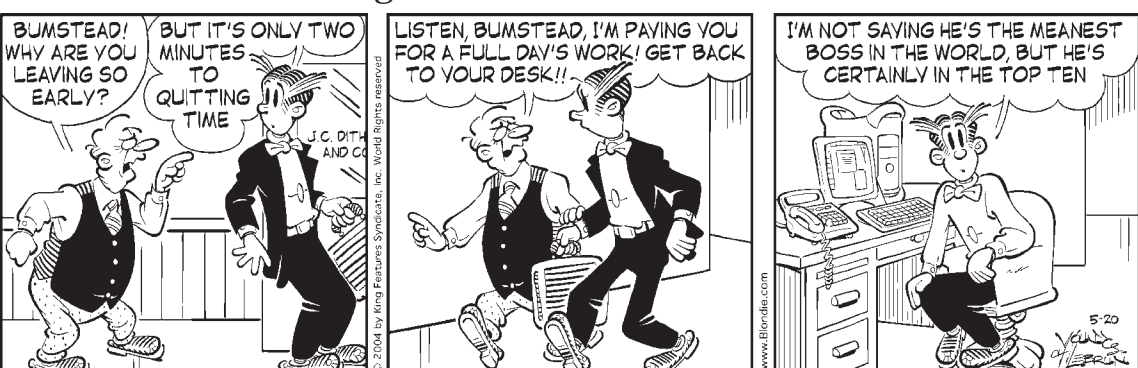
**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



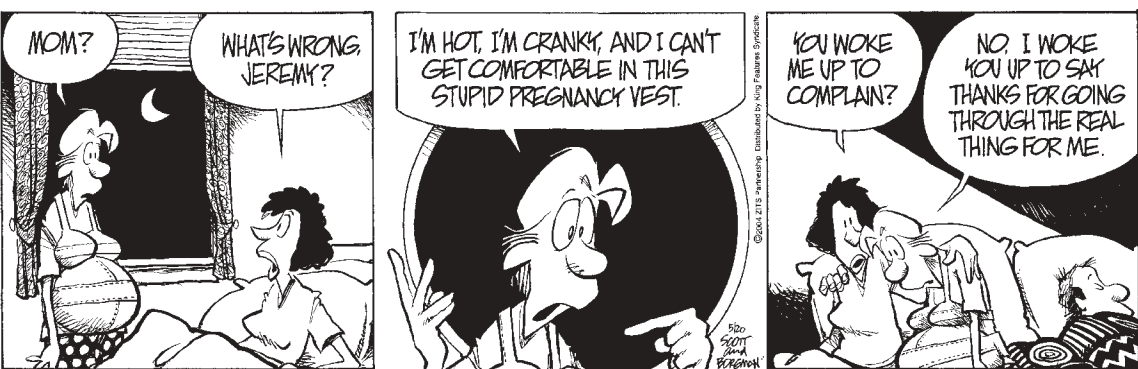
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

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**Cryptoquip**

C J T D Y T J S R H T M  
D G M R S Y B D S R T  
F K T B S C J B A H T M S K A,  
R Q G B A U Q K F K R Q K A J -  
R T S C R J C K U ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS ONE ODD TYRANNOSAUR WAS VERY ANXIOUS ALL THE TIME. WE NAMED HIM NERVOUS REX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

**Dream to be president defended**

DEAR READERS: I'm still receiving fascinating letters in support of the 13-year-old girl who was ridiculed by her teacher and classmates for revealing that she'd one day like to be president of the United States. Read on:



**Abigail Van Buren • Dear Abby**

DEAR ABBY: I read the letter from "I Have a Dream" and would like to offer her encouragement: DEAR "I HAVE A DREAM": I was touched by your letter to Dear Abby, and I want you to know that you can become the president of the United States because of who you are, not in spite of it. I have no doubt a woman will be president one day, and America would be lucky to have you leading us every step of the way. When young people like you express such a desire to make a difference in people's lives, you should be applauded. Your teacher and your classmates were wrong to laugh at your dream.

says volumes about you as a person.

DEAR ABBY: As the first woman elected Illinois state treasurer, the first woman re-elected to a statewide office in Illinois and the first woman to lead a major party in Illinois, I was appalled by the negative response the 13-year-old girl ("I Have a Dream") received from her teacher, her guidance counselors and fellow students when she shared her dream of becoming president of the United States. As a woman who has fought hard to succeed in politics and government, I truly believe that service to your nation is a most rewarding career.

sister, with whom she has always fought. She goes on and on about her financial problems and lashes out at me when she's upset with other people. I am only 20. I'm a full-time college student, have a full-time job, and I am deeply involved in a relationship.

I am trying to understand my mother's problems, but lately every time I hang up the phone after talking with her, I cry. I am young and trying to learn how to handle my own problems. I don't think I can handle hers, too. I have tried explaining to her how I feel, but she refuses to listen.

What you already know, but they seem to have forgotten, is that we live in a country where every child, girl or boy, has an equal chance to grow up and become president, or a teacher, or a doctor, or a CEO, or the shopkeeper down the street. That is what makes our country unlike any place on Earth. Anything is possible. But to do the things we believe in, we all have to work hard, do our best, and fight those who do not always believe in us. It is not easy to ignore their criticism, and it is tough to look beyond their doubts. But remember, doubters never made America a better place. It is people like you — people who dream big and are filled with hope — who make a difference. Always remember that the great thing about America is that you can become president, and you should never let anyone tell you different.

It is true a woman in politics does have disparities to overcome. For years, women fought for the right to vote, and today we continue to fight for equality in many careers. Women in government can bring creativity, vision and commitment to the table. We come with a different mind-set than our male counterparts, which makes for better debate and legislation. Both parties need more recruitment of qualified females. Schools need to encourage young women to become interested in public service through career days and mentor programs.

I know that the first woman president is alive. Somewhere out there, a young girl is sitting in her classroom interested in becoming our nation's first female commander in chief, and I wouldn't be surprised if it's her. Best of luck to you!

My sister says I should hang up on Mother when she calls to complain, but I don't want to do that.

I've asked Mom to talk to Dad about her problems. They have been married 30 years. She says she doesn't want to stress him out. She doesn't realize the stress she puts on me. How can I ask Mom not to call me with her many complaints?

— STRESSED OUT BY MOM  
DEAR STRESSED OUT: Your mother is using you like the valve on a pressure cooker. When her frustrations build up, she calls you to vent. I agree it would be better if she talked to your father about her problems, but you appear to be her dumping ground of choice.

Since you can't change her, you're going to have to change the way you react to her. Tell your father that you've reached your limit and it's time for him to intercede — or tune her out when she starts dumping.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

— SEN. JOHN KERRY, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
DEAR SEN. KERRY: To say that you are a busy man these days is an understatement. That you would still reach out to help a child

— JUDY BAAR TOPINKA, ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

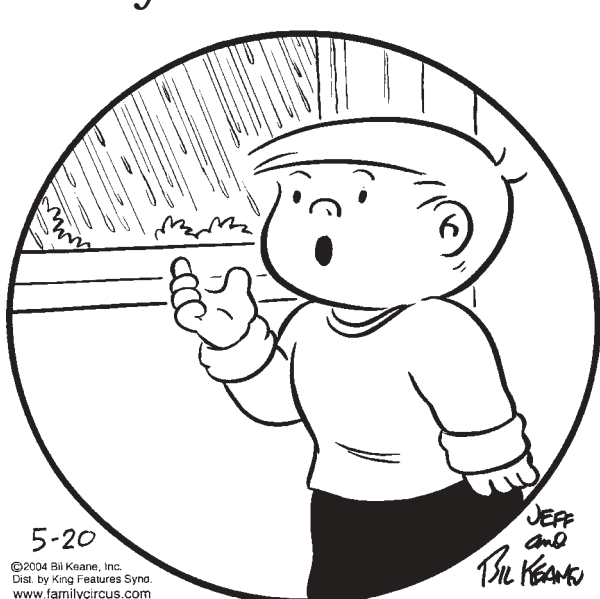
DEAR ABBY: My mother calls me every day to complain about my

**Bridge**

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ Q 10 5 2  
♥ 10 9 6 4  
♦ Q 7 2  
♣ 8 3  
WEST  
♠ A 9 8 7 3  
♥ 7  
♦ A J 9  
♣ Q J 10 6  
EAST  
♠ J 6  
♥ 5 2  
♦ 10 8 5 3  
♣ A 9 7 4 2  
SOUTH  
♠ K 4  
♥ A K Q J 8 3  
♦ K 6 4  
♣ K 5

The bidding:  
West 1 ♠  
North Pass  
East Pass  
South 3 ♥  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



**Eliminating the Luck Factor**

A play that offers declarer a good chance for the contract is obviously not as good a play as one that makes certain of the contract. Whenever the element of luck can be eliminated, declarer should do everything possible to eliminate it.

Consider this case where West leads a club against four hearts. (South's three-heart bid in the balancing seat showed a powerful hand.) After East wins and returns a low club to declarer's king, how should South continue? His apparent losers are a club, two diamonds and a spade.

The actual declarer drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and then led a low spade to his king. West won with the ace and returned the seven of spades. Mindful of West's opening one-spade bid, declarer finessed the ten and finished down one.

South was certainly unlucky to lose the spade finesse, since it was highly probable that West had the jack. However, this was not a certainty, and South should have shaped his play to cover the possibility that East might have the spade jack.

He should have taken two rounds of trumps, ending in his hand, and then led the spade four to dummy's queen. In the actual case, after the queen won the trick, a low spade back to the king would have settled the issue then and there. East's forced play of the jack would have established dummy's ten as a trick.

But now let's suppose that East had started with the x-x of spades instead of the J-x. Even so, South would have been on solid ground, since West would find it impossible, after taking the spade king with the ace, to make a play that would not hand declarer an extra trick in either spades or diamonds.

A spade lead to dummy's queen at trick five thus would have eliminated the relatively small risk of losing a spade finesse to the jack.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
1 "See ya!"  
4 True-crime TV show  
8 Cabin makeup  
12 Lubricant  
13 Tackle-box item  
14 Reed instrument  
15 Someone standing by?  
17 Give as an example  
18 Energy  
19 Lindbergh, e.g.  
21 Winners  
24 Pack away  
25 Feedbag morsel  
26 Drench  
28 Friars  
32 United nations  
34 Evergreen  
36 Hindu princess  
37 Repentant  
39 Apprehend  
41 Flag color  
42 Moray, e.g.  
44 Edict  
46 Where you get no latitude?  
50 Simile center  
51 Batter's ploy  
52 Czar  
56 "Hair" co-lyricist James Bush whacked  
58 Vacationing  
59 Skunk's protection  
60 English boys' school  
61 "Awe-some!"  
20 Cartesian conclusion  
21 Stocky steeds  
22 Head light  
23 Sauce source  
27 Hoosergow  
29 Storyteller  
30 Footballer's sore spot  
31 Faction  
33 Maker  
35 Bankroll  
38 Still  
40 Vanquished  
43 Get stuck  
45 Civil War grp.  
46 Longest wholly Spanish river  
47 Campus area  
48 Destroy  
49 Laugh-a-minute  
53 Magnon predecessor  
54 Son-gun link  
55 "Mayberry"

**DOWN**  
1 Halloween shout  
2 Shriek bark  
3 It'll give you a lift  
4 Holds tightly  
5 Escape clause  
6 Boat's bow (Sp.)  
7 Do a waiter's job  
8 Arrow on a map  
9 Last writes?  
10 "You — My Head"  
11 Palmist, maybe  
16 Edge

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 5-20

