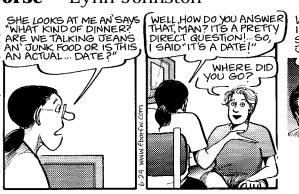
# CARLEEN AND I HAD BEEN, YOU KNOW KIDDING AROUND AFTER WORK, AN' I SAID "DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT FOR DINNER?"

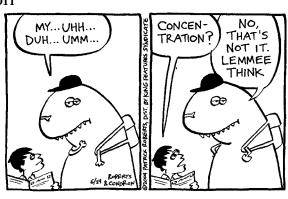




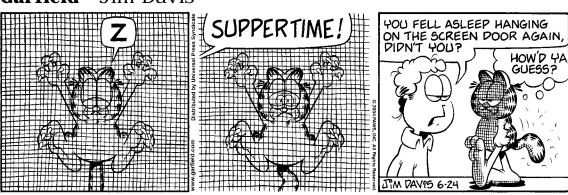


## **Tod The Dinosaur •** PR Condron

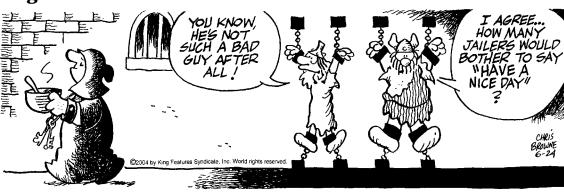




#### Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



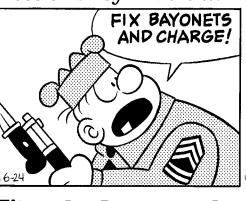
Blondie • Chic Young







**Beetle Bailey •** Mort Walker





Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









## **Sally Forth •** Greg Howard

**THANK YOU FOR** 

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## **Cryptoquip**

DIFWQNI DJRU H C U J Z V

F P C O W UFKWIN

RFGGIN HRJUPIN: "WLI

RCNG CDWLI NQZVK. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO PASTORS

CHAT BY PHONE, I'D PROBABLY CONSIDER IT A PARSON-TO-PARSON CALL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals R

# How to stop chronic complaining

DEAR ABBY: I had a problem similar to the one described by "Stressed Out by Mom," the college student whose mother calls to unload her problems. A therapist taught me a technique that worked wonders. When Mom called and complained, instead of sympathizing (which is why she called in the eight siblings, the folks at the senior them have daughters they're close first place), I'd mirror her complaint back to her so she didn't receive the positive feedback she was seeking.

When she said, "Your sister doesn't know how to save money," I'd reply, "So what you're saying is my sister doesn't know how to save money." However, when she said something positive, like, "Isn't it a lovely day?" I'd be sure to give her all kinds of positive feedback. "It sure is! I'll bet your marigolds are really blooming now!"

It worked like a charm and preserved my relationship with my mother. She quickly lost interest in the topics that didn't bring positive feedback, and we'd end up talking about all kinds of interesting things. This method is tried-and-true. It's

based on behavioral psychology, and it works with spouses, kids, coworkers—the applications are end-—TRIED IT

**DEAR TRIED IT: Thank you** for the suggestion. I was unprepared for the deluge of mail I received from readers who identified with "Stressed's" problem. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 57-year-old woman who has had the same problems with my now 76-year-old mother since childhood. Please tell "Stressed Out" that she must take immediate steps to set healthy boundaries. She should schedule an appointment at the student health center and talk to a psychologist about her problem. I am the only family member still

on speaking terms with Mother. Her

# Abigail Van Buren

# Dear Abby

and if I try to set boundaries now, the sometimes I'm jealous. breach it will create will leave her with no support system at all.

#### - WISH I'D DONE IT DEAR WISH: Perhaps the suggestion offered by the next writer will be of help to you.

who is an alcoholic. He calls to ramble, complain and generally make me miserable. I relieve my stress by playing computer games, reading a magazine or watching TV while he's talking. The trick is to otherwise engage your mind while uttering an occasional response. It works. When he hangs up, I have no idea what he said, but he is happy and I'm not stressed. He's never really wanted answers — just somebody to unload on.

COPING IN BLOOMINGTON, IND. **DEAR COPING:** Not everyone has your level of tolerance. Read

DEAR ABBY: I made similar

calls to my daughter. They would begin as friendly calls to chat and nosedive from there. I hope that girl's mother locates a therapy group to attend. Maybe she can find some help and comfort there. My daughter eventually made it plain that if I the phone, she would not talk to me. I know she screens her calls and of-

ten doesn't pick up. group about my problems. Most of marry him.

center and people from her former to. When I see families with mothchurch no longer talk to her. I'm the ers, daughters and grandmothers all only one she has left to lash out at — together I am happy for them, but

- SCREENED OUT IN **SACRAMENTO** 

**DEAR SCREENED OUT: I'm** pleased you're getting emotional support from your therapy group. It may be healthier for all con-DEAR ABBY: I have a relative cerned. Many people have confessed that they, too, screen their calls because they haven't the courage to set boundaries. However, no one ever solved problems by dodging them.

> DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged to a man who is a really good friend of mine. We have great times together watching movies or just hanging

> The problem is I want to be intimate more than he does. He's a once-a-month kind of guy. I'm a once-a-day kind of girl. We have had many arguments about this because it seems like he doesn't want me. He says that's not true, that he is just tired, or stressed, etc. — the list is never-ending. We get along in every way except this one. Am I being a baby, or is this not the relationship for me?

> > — NEEDS MORE

**DEAR NEEDS MORE: Much** as you may wish otherwise, he is continued to cry when we were on not the man for you. You have a larger appetite than he can cater to. Marrying him will only compound your problem. Keep him as So now I talk to the women in the a friend if you can, but don't

# **Bridge**

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

> **NORTH** ♥QJ96542 ♦ K 6 3 ♣Q 8

WEST **♦** K 9 6 Q 8 7 5 3 2 ◆ J 10 9 7 5 2 **♣**J 5 3 **♣**K 109642

**V** A K 10 8 3

♦ A 8 4 **♣**A 7 The bidding:

South West East 1 **Y** Pass **Pass 6** ♥ Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

## On the Beam

Declarer starts the play of many hands knowing little about how the unseen cards are distributed. But as the play progresses, rays of light often emerge to illuminate the landscape and help him find the winning line of play.

Take this case where South is in six hearts and West leads a diamond. Declarer wins with the ace and must avoid the loss of either a diamond or a club. This is by no means an impossible feat.

South begins by cashing the ace of hearts and ace of spades, ruffs a spade, leads a trump to the king and ruffs another spade. He then cashes the diamond king, producing this position:

North [H] QJ9 [D] 6 [C] Q8 West [D] 1097 [C] J53 East [S] Q8 [C] K1096 South [H] 1083 [D] 8 [C] A7

Declarer now faces a crucial decision. He is sure to make the slam by guessing who has the king of clubs. If West has it, a diamond lead will force

him to win and return a club or concede a ruff-and-discard. If East has the king, playing the ace and another club will force him to yield a ruff-and-discard.

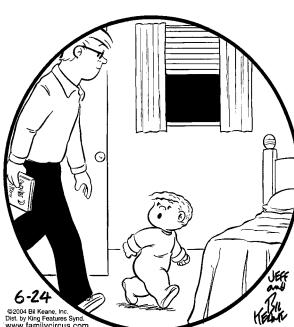
The evidence gathered to this point makes East a strong favorite to hold the king.

West is known to have started with six diamonds, a heart and at least three spades, leaving him with at most three clubs. East consequently has at least six clubs and is therefore much more likely to have the king.

So South plays the A-7 of clubs, and East must resign.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. (c)2004 King Features Syndicate Inc.

# Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I'll never forget what happened today ... or no, I think it was yesterday."

Crossword			
ACROSS	38 Coaster	56 Congers	<b>19</b> La
1 Out of	39 Ostrich's	<b>57</b> Scale	follower
5 WWE	kin	member	21 Mimic
surface	<b>40</b> Make	58 Streisand	24 Latin 101
8 Perukes	up your	movie	word
12 Wheels of	mind		25 Sinbad's
fortune?	<b>42</b> Bar	DOWN	transport
13 Zsa Zsa's	<b>45</b> Make	1 Workout	26 Fabric
sis	less	target	<b>28</b> Away
14 Send	dense	2 Puerto	from
forth	<b>49</b> Met	_	SSW
15 Scored	melody	3 Portent	29 Serving
100 on	<b>50</b> Will	4 Adapt	to instruct
16 Tillis or	Smith	5 Monu-	<b>30</b> Have
Brooks	biopic	ment, e.g.	bills
17 Basilica	<b>52</b> Farm	<b>6</b> "Hail,	31 Roulette
section	fraction	Caesar!"	bet
<b>18</b> Tuna's	<b>53</b> Water-	<b>7</b> Body	<b>36</b> Eskimo
cousin	gate	powder	boats
20 Former	problem	8 McCloud	<b>37</b> Young
talk-show	<b>54</b> "— and	portrayer	seal
host Dick	Sym-	9 Regal	38 Pressure
<b>22</b> Ever-	pathy"	10 Heart	<b>41</b> Dad
green	<b>55</b> Dr.	of the	<b>42</b> Post-
23 Apiece	Seuss' "If	matter	Christmas
<b>24</b> Host	— the	<b>11</b> Undo a	event
27 Decora-	Zoo"	dele	<b>43</b> Gene-
tor's area	Solution tim	e: 25 mins.	alogy
32 Extinct	ROMPDA		chart
New	I D E A U S		44 Packs
Zealander	SITTIGH		away
33 Chief	KNEES	HUSHED	46 Beige
Babylo-	J I L T M C		47 "Animal
nian god	ADOLIN		House"
34 Idolater's	MOOODC	REDGE	group
emotion	SMUF	E P S	48 Strong

to instruct 30 Have 31 Roulette esar!" bet 36 Eskimo /der boats 37 Young Cloud trayer seal 38 Pressure al **41** Dad he 42 Post lter Christmas do a event 43 Gene alogy nins chart 44 Packs away 46 Beige 47 "Animal House" group 48 Strong 35 One of a recordsetting birth

51 Writer caglia