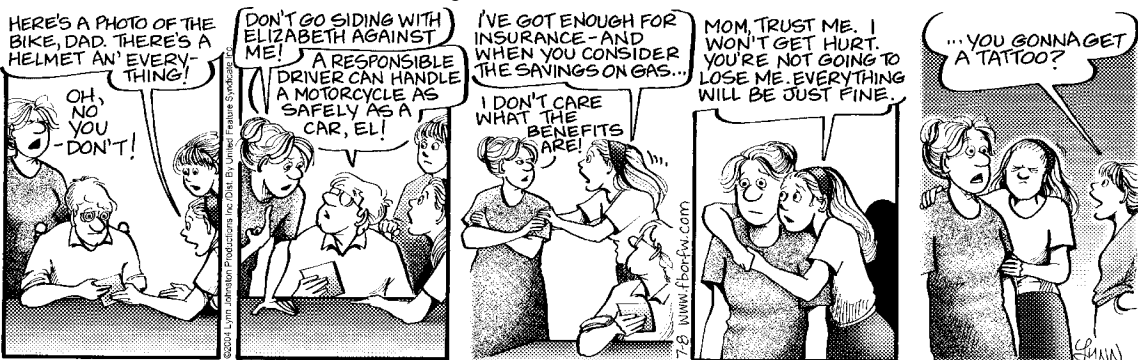


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



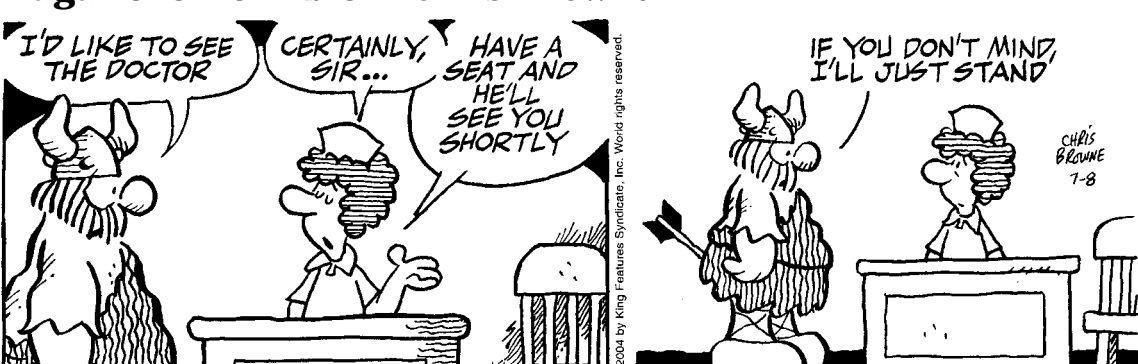
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



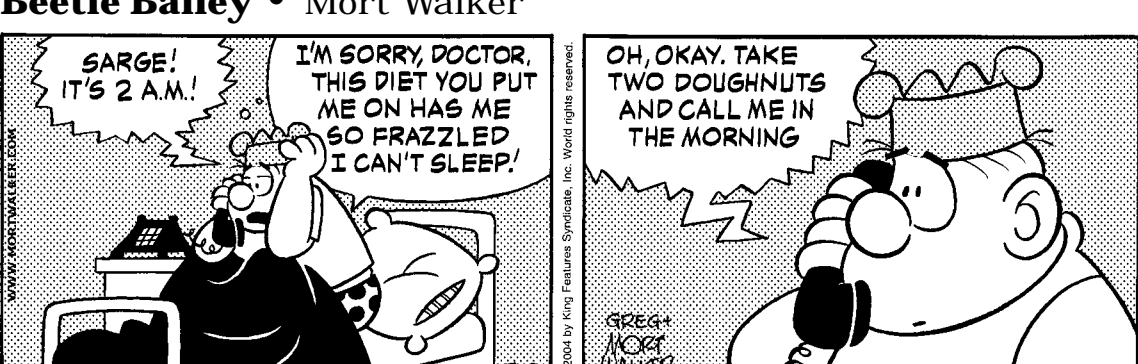
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



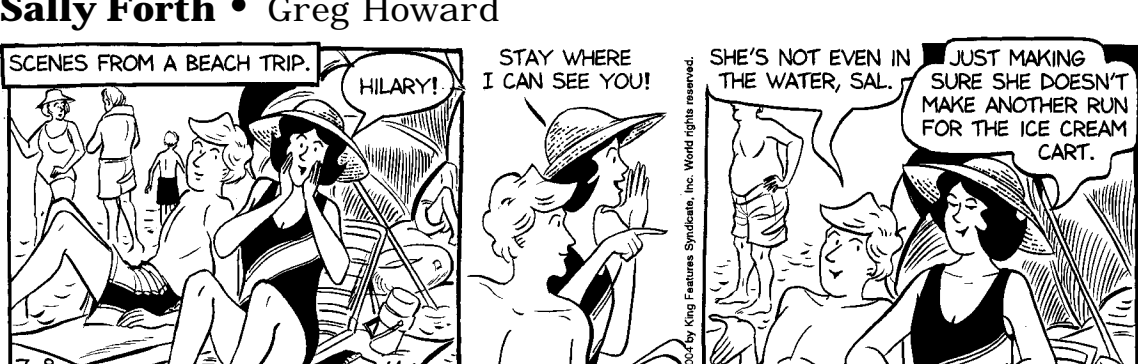
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

OXME CSJEC SKZPJQM
 ZS ZMEQ VSKB CTBQME,
 VSK PXSKYQ TYOTVP
 OMTB TOMMQJEC CSOE.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON PREFERS HIS EMBELLISHMENTS QUITE ORNATE, IS HE GOING FOR BAROQUE?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals N

Barmitzvah not always for children



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have read your column for years and usually agree wholeheartedly with your advice. However, I was stunned to read your reply to "On the Spot" in New Jersey, who chose not to invite her neighbor's 8- and 6-year-old children to her son's bar mitzvah.

Yes, it's true that children are invited to bar mitzvahs. But in this case, the neighbor's children are not family and are too young to be playmates of the bar mitzvah boy.

The parents are within their rights to exclude these children from the guest list, especially when the cost of additional guests is taken into consideration.

Furthermore, it was rude of the invitees to RSVP that their uninvited children would attend.

—LINDA M., ROCKVILLE, MD.
DEAR LINDA: You're right — I goofed. My readers were quick to set me straight. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 and recently had a bat mitzvah myself. I understand the situation. This was a challenge for our family, too.

Abby, these affairs are expensive, and it is not always affordable to include kids who are not close to the family.

Also, young children can't sit through a three-hour service. That mother should discuss the situation with her neighbors and tell them that due to budget and space restrictions, the number of guests is limited.

—ASHLEY S., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIF.

DEAR ASHLEY: Where were you when I needed you?

DEAR ABBY: The bottom line is, it takes "chutzpah" to include uninvited children.

—SUE K., WEST ORANGE, N.J.

DEAR SUE: It also takes a lot

of nerve or gall ("chutzpah") to bring uninvited guests to weddings, anniversaries and other invitation-only events. However, if my mail is an indicator, chutzpah is one commodity that's never in short supply.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning a small, intimate wedding this summer. Most of our guests will be family and very close friends.

My mother asked me to invite a longtime friend and co-worker. We sent the woman a save-the-date card.

When Mother saw her the next day at work, the friend said she would be happy to attend — if she didn't have a "band gig." Mother felt embarrassed and slighted.

She would now like to start working from home to avoid this person and has asked me not to send an invitation.

What should I do?

—SOON-TO-BE BRIDE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR BRIDE: Since the co-worker has indicated that if a job comes up she might be absent, take the hint and don't send the invitation.

Better that she was honest in advance about the fact she might be able to attend, rather than being a no-show.

P.S. Although your mother is disappointed, she should not let her co-worker's reaction spoil a warm workplace relationship. Avoiding the woman is not the answer.

Forgiving her and moving on is

DEAR ABBY: I am 24. My fiancée is 28.

We have been together for five years and are engaged to be married in August.

I love him, but I wonder if I love him enough to marry him. The closer we get to our wedding, the more I want to be free.

I want to go out, have fun and not feel so serious about everything. He makes things so much more complicated than they have to be. I can't even suggest a place to go for dinner without him having to think it over.

I feel guilty because I feel less attracted to him all the time. Should I marry him?

—CLAUSTROPHOBIC IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CLAUSTROPHOBIC: You may be experiencing pre-wedding jitters, but one thing is certain: You shouldn't say "I do" unless you mean it with all your heart.

You and your fiancée could benefit from premarital counseling. It is something that many churches offer and can be valuable for any couple considering a lifetime commitment.

Only if you can accept your fiancée the way he is should you go through with the marriage.

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

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

The bidding:
West 2♠ **North** Pass **East** 3♠ **South** 5♦
 Opening lead — king of spades.

Once Upon a Midnight Dreary

Here is a dream hand played once upon a time by Dorothy Hayden Truscott. She didn't actually play the hand — it occurred in one of her rare bridge dreams — but it features a play the likes of which you've probably never seen.

Mrs. Truscott held the East cards, and South got to five diamonds on the bidding shown.

Looking at all four hands, it's hard to imagine South finessing the jack of hearts successfully — since Mrs. Truscott had the well-guarded queen — but ducking the jack of hearts proved to be the only way to beat the contract!

West led the king of spades and continued with the ace. South ruffed, played a heart to the king and tried a trump finesse, losing to West's queen. Back came a second heart, on which declarer played dummy's jack.

He reasoned that playing the king and discarding one club wouldn't help him a bit, because he had two small clubs to worry about, and one discard was virtually useless.

So South finessed the jack, and Mrs. Truscott — in her dream — followed low. South discarded a club on the jack of hearts and then — because he did not know that the clubs were so favorably divided — continued with the ace of hearts, on which he discarded his remaining small club. West ruffed, and declarer went down one.

Had Mrs. Truscott played her queen of hearts on dummy's jack, as she surely would have if she had been awake, South would have ruffed and made the contract by drawing trumps and playing the A-K of clubs.

The moral of the story seems to be that it's much easier to play good bridge when you're asleep than when you're awake!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS	33 Oodles	53 Pantheon group	19 Dawn goddess
1 Post-bath application	34 Call-day link	54 Foul up	21 Invite
5 Curved line	35 Badge earners' org.	55 Picket-line crosser	23 Whodunit writer's award
8 Valhalla VIP	36 Top		24 1000
12 Asian nursemaid	37 Anti-erosion plantings	DOWN	1 Forbidden (Var.)
13 Scrooge's cry	40 Skunk's defense	2 Iowa city	25 Vacillate
14 Long (for)	41 Takes the helm	3 Off schedule	26 Fashionable
15 VHS alternative	45 "Wozzeck" composer	4 Altar area	27 Ford or Lincoln
16 Bee follower	47 Biz letterhead abbr.	5 Jennings' employer	28 Having a taste
17 Basilica section	49 Read — (study)	6 Actress Charlotte	32 Refer (to)
18 Aggregate of e-forums	50 Author James	7 "Farewell"	33 Art houses?
20 Count counter-part	51 Downy accessory	8 Dizzying designs	35 Street address?
22 Page 1 article	52 Soybean paste	9 Ambassador	36 Make up your mind
26 Sidewalk eateries		10 Office-holders	38 Borders
29 "Hagar the Horrible" cartoonist		11 Born	39 AMPAS bestowal
30 1960s jacket eponym			42 Big story
31 Ship's framework			43 Passenger Parks
32 Past			44 Nose-in-the-air sort

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-8

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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