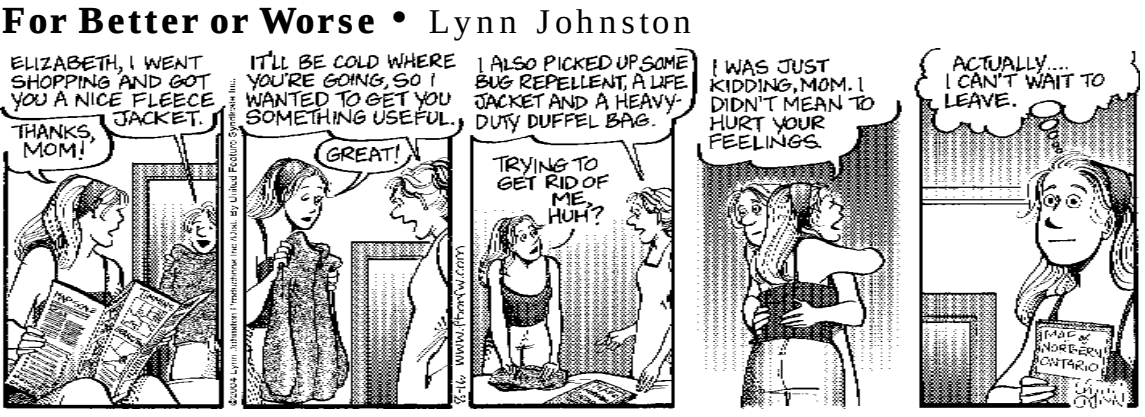
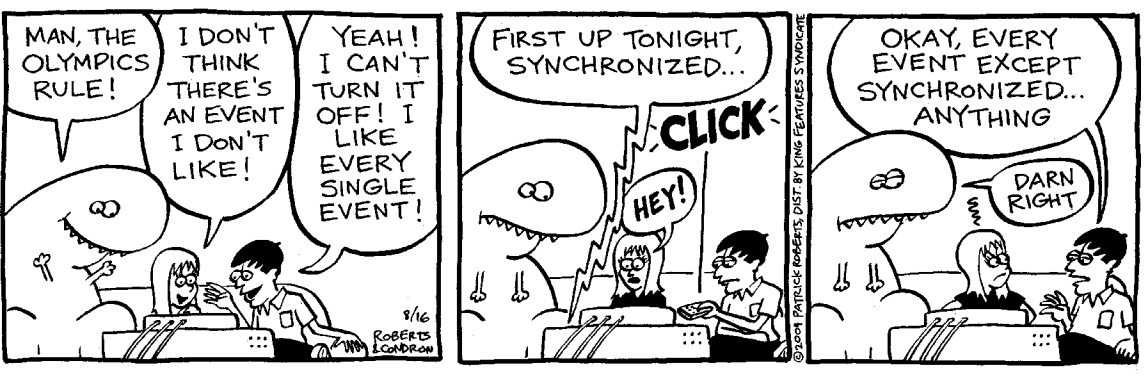
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

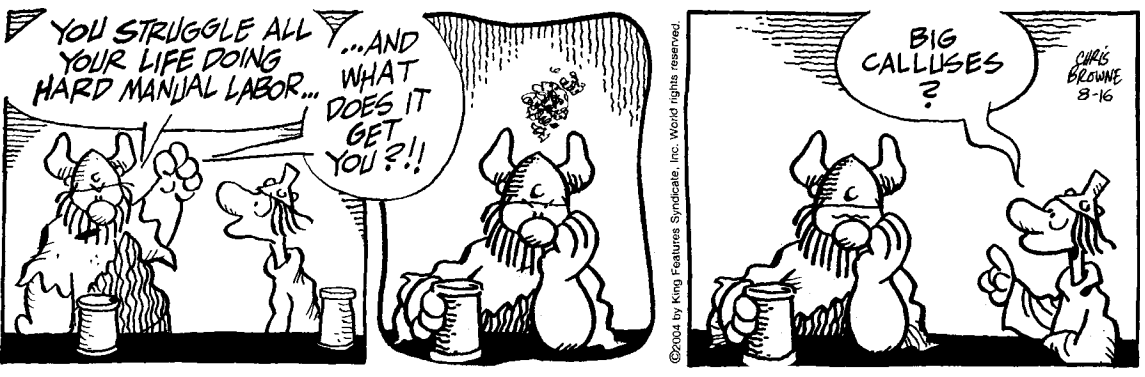


Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron

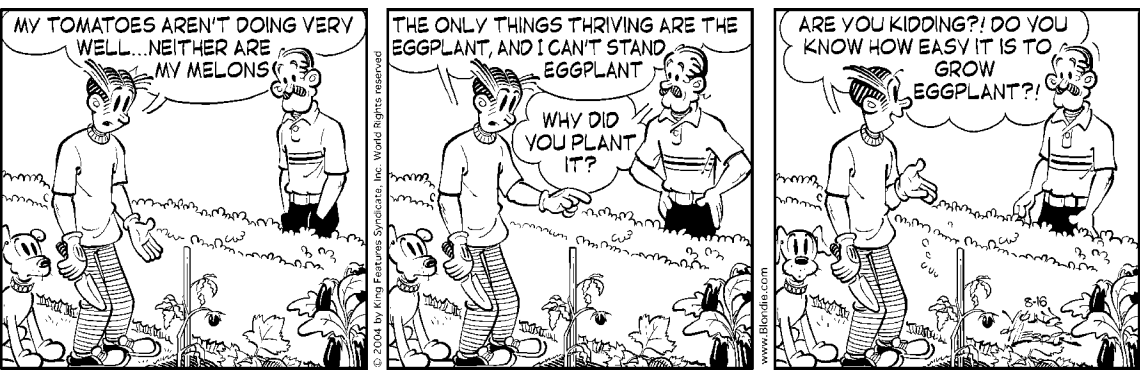


Garfield • Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



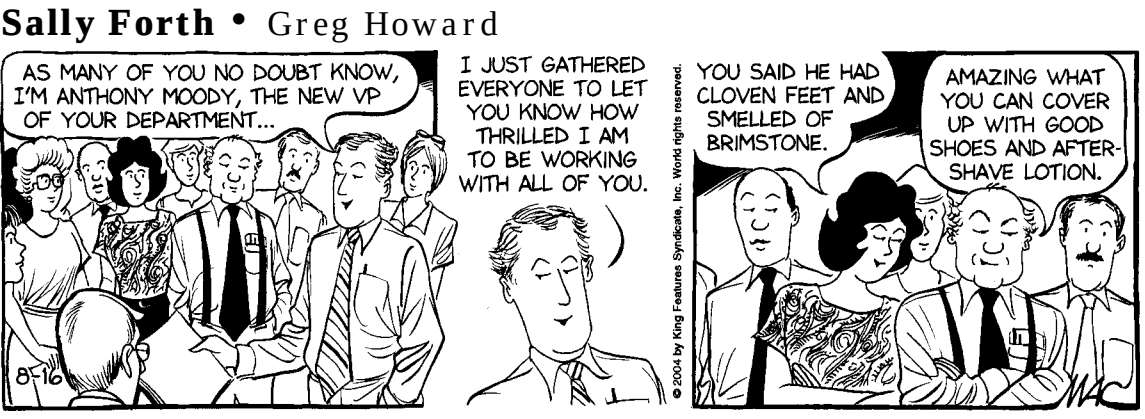
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

SV TIKWW FDZFWN VZDSL IKGNT ARD MNPRIN CKBA, S ZNPGRB ARD IDTL MN FWDI PZKCA!

Saturday's Cryptoquip: CERTAIN BIRDS BUILD CLIFFSIDE NESTS. IT MUST MEAN THEY LOVE LIVING ON THE EDGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals L

Teen wants to accentuate positive

Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 years old and a ward of the court. I have a horrible social worker who never looks at any of the positive things I do. I have good grades and barely ever do anything wrong. Recently I have been doing things that they call "acting out." I am not acting out!

At our last court appearance, her report stated that I'm a juvenile delinquent who is in need of serious help. I am consistently told by the people at the group home where I live that I am none of those things.

How do I tell my social worker that she needs to see the positive things I am doing and not just look at the negative? Please help me. I am going nuts. I need to know if it is me or her.

— CONFUSED IN REDWOOD CITY, CALIF.

DEAR CONFUSED: It's possible that the problem isn't all yours or all hers, but a combination of both. The caseload social workers must manage these days is overwhelming, which means that, much as they might wish otherwise, they are often unable to give each client a lot of personal attention.

"Acting out" is misbehaving and expressing angry feelings in inappropriate ways. When a child is separated from home, school, family and friends, that's a good reason to be angry.

However, if you and the people at your group home feel that the social worker is mistaken, then the administrator should write a letter to the court explaining that fact. I'm sure the judge would take it into consideration. (I know I would.)

P.S. If the social worker thinks you need "serious help" — which I assume to mean psychological counseling — go for it. Almost everyone can benefit from having a trained person listen to his or her concerns, pains and problems. It is considered to be a huge benefit, not a punishment.

DEAR ABBY: What is the rule of etiquette concerning guest lists that include both friends and co-workers? Does one have to invite all co-workers to a private/personal function, or can a select handful of co-workers be invited?

— NEEDS ADVICE, LATHAM, N.Y.

DEAR NEEDS ADVICE: Much depends upon the size of your office, how many co-workers you plan to ask, and what percentage will be excluded. If you invite only a few co-workers, it's important that you not offend the rest. This can be accomplished by keeping the invitation private, separate from work, and confidential.

However, if you plan to invite the majority and exclude only a few, there are bound to be hurt feelings and you could create unnecessary tensions, so I advise against it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding your reply to "Needs More," whose sexual appetite is bigger than her fiance's. You advised her not to marry him because of it. I disagree.

I have been married to a wonderful man for three years. Had I let our differing drives stop me from marrying him, I would have missed out on a loving, mature, attentive husband and father to our children. I actually think I have it better than many women out there whose husbands demand sex daily.

There is more to a relationship than sex. My husband shows me love and affection in hundreds of other ways. Perhaps "Needs More" should take a closer look at their relationship. If sex is the only thing lacking, other ways of physically expressing love — like hugging, holding hands and kissing — could be substituted. If she nurtures her relationship in all the other ways, she may find, as I have, that his desire grows in time. Libido fades with age; love does not.

— SATISFIED IN ALL WAYS IN KNOXVILLE

DEAR SATISFIED: You and your husband have been able to negotiate past your differences and make your marriage a fulfilling one. That is not the case with many of the wives and husbands who write to me. Sometimes I wish I could run a dating service for all of the mismatched couples who feel sad, frustrated, isolated and unattractive to the person they love. The reasons for a low sex drive can vary.

DEAR ABBY: My second wife found herself with a far stronger libido than I could match. This, of course, left me with a lot of disappointment. She, a nurse, said, "Off to the doctor with you!" The doctor said, "Let's do some lab work." Sure enough, there was a little brain chemistry issue I needed to deal with. I am now on medication, which solved our problem.

— HAPPIER NOW IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR HAPPIER NOW: I'm pleased that your problem was resolved. Thank you for pointing out that a low sex drive may be an indication of a medical problem.

Bridge

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ —
♥ A K 2
♦ A K J 8 6 2
♣ 9 8 5 4

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 5
♥ Q 9 6
♦ Q 7 3
♣ A J 2

EAST
♠ J 10 7 4
♥ J 10 8 5 3
♦ 5
♣ Q 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 9 3 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 10 9 4
♣ K 7 6

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — six of hearts.

Famous Hand

France won the 1992 World Team Olympiad, defeating the United States in the 96-deal final. Today's deal provided the French with one of their more significant pickups in the match.

When France's Alain Levy and Herve Mouiel held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown, and West, Eric Rodwell, led a heart. No doubt many declarers would have taken the first heart and cashed the A-K of diamonds without giving the matter much thought.

But when the diamond queen failed to fall and the club ace later proved to be offside, they would have finished down at least one, unable to reach the A-K of spades in the closed hand.

However, this was the final of the world championship, and Mouiel, as would be expected, spotted the virtually sure way to make nine tricks. After taking the first heart in dummy, he led the diamond deuce to his ten.

This lost to West's queen, but the diamond nine was established as an entry to the closed hand, and there was no way the defenders could stop South from scoring five diamonds, two hearts and two spades for a total of nine tricks.

At the other table, the U.S. North-South pair of Michael Rosenberg and Seymon Deutsch reached five diamonds.

Rosenberg, North, won the opening heart lead and played the A-K of trumps.

He then cashed his other high heart and ruffed a heart in dummy.

Next came the A-K of spades, declarer discarding two clubs, followed by a spade ruff.

Rosenberg then exited with a diamond to West's queen.

Had West started with precisely a 3-3-3-4 pattern, he would have been forced to return a club at this point, allowing dummy's king to score the game-going trick.

As it was, though, West was able to exit with his last spade.

Rosenberg had no choice but to ruff and lead a club to the king, and when West produced the ace, the contract was down one, giving the French a 12-IMP gain on the deal.

Tomorrow: A quest for information.

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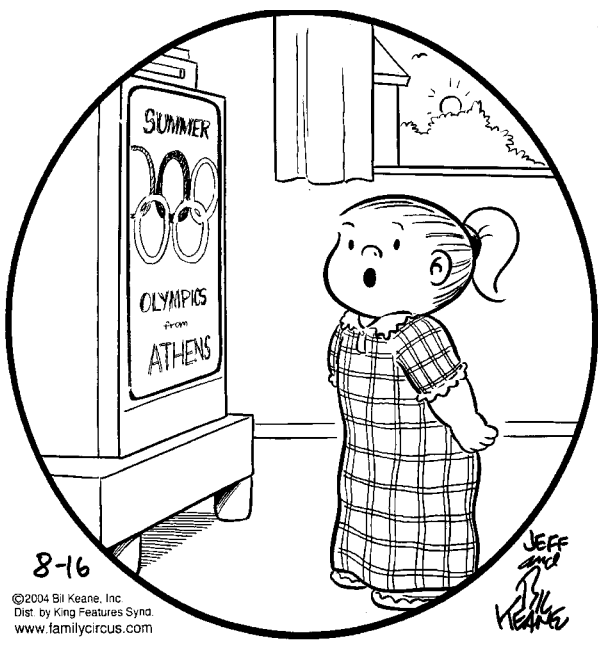
Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Why does Athens have its afternoon so early in the morning?"

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Throw into the mix
4 Type of nose
9 Despondent
12 Floral wreath
13 Bowl over
14 Former first daughter
15 Clinging strongly
17 "Holy cow!"
18 Trench
19 Leave helpless
21 Warning
24 A Baldwin
25 Past
26 Started
28 Proclamation
31 This follows "Que" twice
33 Flop
35 Acidic
36 Tract of wasteland
38 Head of st.
40 Where, to Caesar
41 Beatnik's "groovy"
43 Disturbing sounds
45 With hands on hips
47 First X or O?
48 Writer Buscaglia
49 Insolent
54 Wildebeest
55 "Lather, —, repeat"
56 Put to work
57 Foolish one
58 Trees yielding a yellow-brown wood
59 Uncivilized

DOWN
1 Ht.
2 Billy — Williams
3 "Gunga —"
4 Relating to a people
5 Left out
6 Name in China's history
7 California city
8 Get snug and cozy
9 Wise
10 Congregational shout
11 Went blond
16 Mimic
20 Cincinnati ball team
21 Method of payment
22 Screenwriter James
23 Insatiable
27 Used a shovel
29 Rubik's baffler
30 Speaker of baseball lore
32 Teensy bit
34 "I'd rather not talk about it"
37 Capital of Tasmania
39 Tenor and alto
42 Comedian Anderson
44 Here (Fr.)
45 Plankton component
46 Writer Kesey and others
50 It may be recombinant
51 "— Town"
52 Dos Passos trilogy
53 Wield a needle

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	I	C		A	V	I	S		V	E	N	D
H	O	E		L	I	S	T		E	M	I	R
A	W	L		O	N	T	O		R	I	C	O
W	A	T	C	H	Y	O	U	R	S	T	E	P
			H	A	L		T	O	E			
A	L	I	A	S		T	E	D		T	W	O
L	E	N	D		R	U	R		L	O	A	N
L	O	N		R	E	X		M	O	O	S	E
			S	A	M		I	O	N			
S	T	E	P	F	O	R	D	W	I	V	E	S
L	I	N	O		V	O	L	E		E	R	E
U	N	D	O		A	V	E	R		R	I	P
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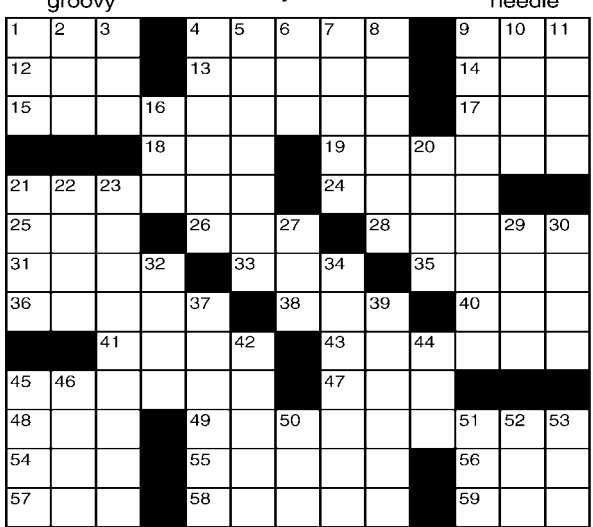
Saturday's answer 8-16