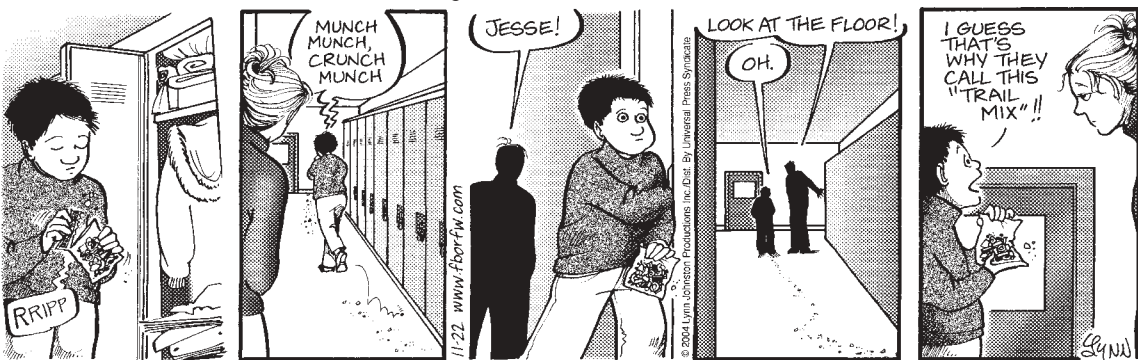
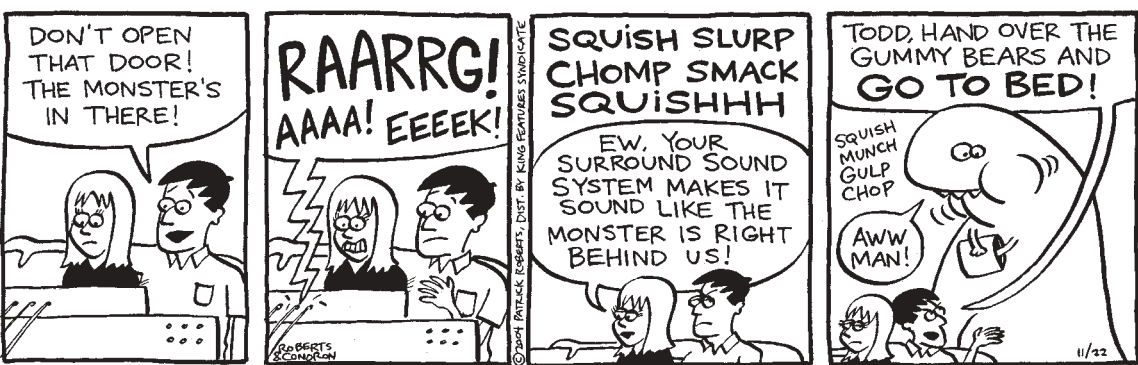


**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



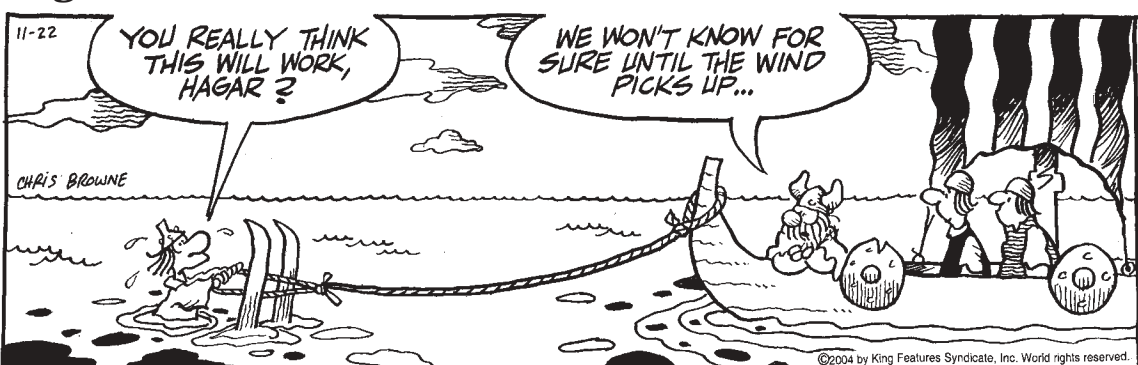
**Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



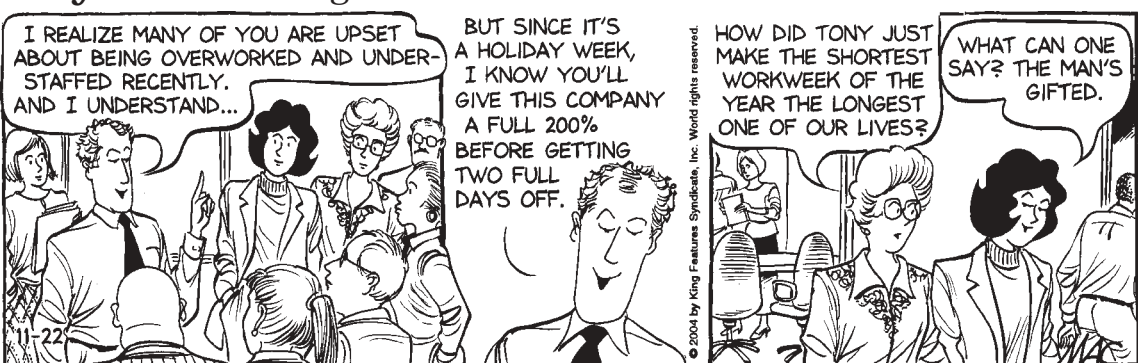
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Widower has new issues with family**



**Abigail Van Buren**

**Dear Abby**

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, I lost my wife of 16 years to cancer. "Ethel" and I didn't have a perfect marriage, but we worked at it. We both had grown children from first marriages. We also had a child together, a boy, "Ben," who is 13.

Last spring I began seeing a very nice lady I'll call Blanche. Ethel's daughters have little to do with me since their mother's death and are encouraging Ben to be rude and distant to Blanche. I realize Ben has issues, but I have tried to explain to him that life goes on. Blanche is not trying to replace his mother; she would like to be his friend.

My question is, when should I tell my in-laws about Blanche? To everyone reading this: If at all possible, become a donor of some sort. My eternal thanks to the caring individual who gave his bone marrow to Ethel in an effort to save a complete stranger. God bless you.

— NEEDS TO MOVE ON IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR NEEDS: Ethel's daughters most likely have already told your in-laws about Blanche, so you should tell them the "news" now.

If you don't, it will appear that you are sneaking around — and it's important not to create that impression. It may be painful for Ethel's relatives to hear, so don't be surprised if they are less than thrilled.

Family counseling might be helpful for you, your son, and Ethel's daughters if they are open to it. Should the "girls" refuse, go with Ben. He is still young, and he lost his mother at a time when he still needed her. You are probably further along

in the grieving process than your son because you had a chance to grieve for your wife during her illness. For Ben's sake, I hope you take your time before remarrying. He apparently needs more time to adjust and to understand that the new lady in your life is not a threat to his mother's memory.

DEAR ABBY: I met my biological father last June, after waiting 15 years to do so. His side of the family was very warm and welcoming. They treated me as though they had known me all my life.

I was nervous about meeting them, so I took my boyfriend. They treated him like family too.

I have not told my mom that I went to see the other family, because she would no longer speak to me, and I don't want her mad at me. My parents had an extremely bitter divorce. Mom still holds a grudge, and she expects me to as well.

I am being married soon, and now I am being forced to choose between my mom and my biological father. I would like everyone to be there, and for my stepdad to walk me down the aisle.

My fiancée likes my biological father and his side of the family and wants them all to be there, too. I am stuck in the middle. What should I do?

— IN THE MIDDLE OUT WEST

DEAR IN THE MIDDLE: It's time to grow up and tell your mother what you did.

Although the divorce was devastating, you have the right to know your father and paternal relatives if you wish. Ask her, as her wedding gift to you, to bury her enmity for one day so you can have the wedding of your dreams. Many other families have done this, and the experience can be healing.

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to "Deb in Knoxville" was right on. You advised her that if the man is a gentleman, he should buy it. And if he refuses, she should enter the marriage with her eyes wide open and no illusions about what her future will be. Even though my husband popped the question to me, he never bought me a ring. It was an indication of what was to come. He is the world's worst cheapskate.

I can count on one hand the number of gifts he has given me over the years.

He is equally withholding emotionally. When I was single, I never thought that such things were important in a relationship.

I was wrong. It's been a lonely life.

— LONELY IN DIXIE

DEAR LONELY: In your case, the lack of gifts is less important than the absence of what they stand for. You have my sympathy.

**Bridge**

North dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 5 3  
♥ A 6  
♦ K J 10 7  
♣ Q 9 6 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ 10 9  
♥ Q J 10 8 7 5 4 3 2  
♦ 5 4  
♣ —

**EAST**  
♠ 8 6 2  
♥ —  
♦ 9 8 6 3 2  
♣ K J 10 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q J 7 4  
♥ K 9  
♦ A Q  
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 2♣ 5♥  
6♥ Pass 7♠

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

This dramatic deal occurred at the 1968 Women's Olympiad Teams in the match between Canada and the United States.

The bidding headed into the stratosphere very quickly at both tables.

When the United States held the North-South cards at table one, Dorothy Hayden opened with a forcing two-club bid, and West, Jackie Begin, jumped to five hearts in an effort to deprive North-South of bidding space.

Emma Jean Hawes, impressed with her high-card values opposite a forcing two-bid, cuebid hearts to show values sufficient for a small slam and interest in a grand slam.

Hayden obliged by leaping to seven spades, which became the final contract.

(Looking at all four hands, seven notrump would have been safer, but Hayden couldn't tell whether six hearts indicated a void in hearts or the ace.)

West led a diamond, and declarer took the obvious 13 tricks to score 1,510 points.

At the second table, with Canada now North-South, the bidding went:

NorthEast South West  
Pass Pass 2C 6H  
Pass Pass 6S

West, Hermine Baron, leaped to six hearts over two clubs, posing an extremely difficult problem for both opponents.

North made a forcing pass, and South bid only six spades.

Remarkably, this contract went down four! Mrs. Baron chose the deuce of hearts as her opening shot, and East, Rhoda Walsh, ruffed and returned a club in accordance with her partner's suit-preference signal.

Declarer went up with the ace, expecting to win the rest of the tricks, but West ruffed and led another heart for East to ruff.

East then played the king and another club, ruffed by West, and South found herself down four for a total team loss of 1,710 points.

Tomorrow: Eliminating the risk factor.  
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**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



11-22  
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"If they ever need referees at a horse race, they could use zebras."

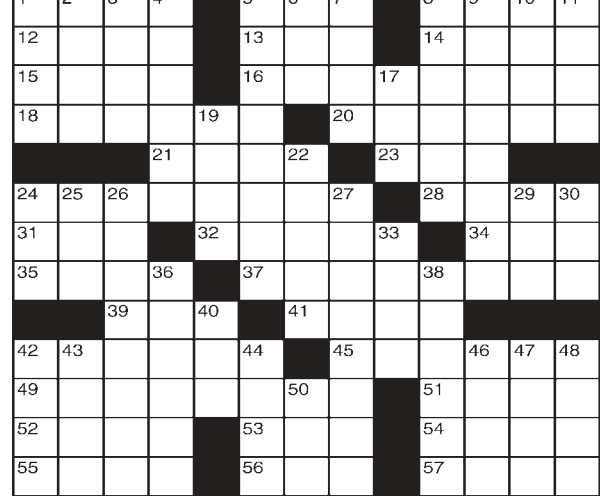
**Crossword**

- |                               |                            |                       |                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                 | 35 Turn on the water-works | 57 Make one's way     | 11 Tourney favorite          |
| 1 Llamas' home                | 37 Lake vessel             |                       | 17 Actress Gena — Nolin      |
| 5 U.K. fliers                 | 39 Curve                   | <b>DOWN</b>           | 19 Comments from Sandy       |
| 8 Commandments                | 41 Artist Paul             | 1 Vatican VIP         | 22 Dismal                    |
| 12 Potter's need              | 42 Northern hemisphere?    | 2 Squared             | 24 Present                   |
| 13 Blueprint addition         | 45 Trafalgar admiral       | 3 Peruse              | 25 Brewery output            |
| 14 Grenoble girlfriend        | 49 Follow too closely      | 4 Open an envelope    | 26 One with lofty goals      |
| 15 Carrots' partners          | 51 Weak, as an excuse      | 5 Doesn't do          | 27 Sin                       |
| 16 Guaranteed not to go wrong | 52 Otherwise               | 6 Chicken-king link   | 29 "Eureka!"                 |
| 18 Evoke affection            | 53 More (Sp.)              | 7 Impertinent         | 30 Comprehend                |
| 20 Looked narrowly            | 54 S-shaped curve          | 8 "Star Wars" weapons | 33 Sheltered                 |
| 21 Speedy steed               | 55 Becomes entangled       | 9 Almond liqueur      | 36 Working-class types       |
| 23 Antecedent                 | 56 Navy rank (Abbr.)       | 10 Former fiancée     | 38 "Hum-boldt's Gift" author |
| 24 Beauty-parlor item         |                            |                       | 40 Gear tooth                |
| 28 Companionless              |                            |                       | 42 Detail                    |
| 31 Ancient                    |                            |                       | 43 Festive event             |
| 32 Tom of Indy 500 fame       |                            |                       | 44 Unaltered                 |
| 34 Article in "News-week"?    |                            |                       | 46 Prudent                   |
|                               |                            |                       | 47 Portent                   |
|                               |                            |                       | 48 Requisite                 |
|                               |                            |                       | 50 Hosiery shade             |

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 11-22



**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

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**Cryptoquip**

GI L FRAJPHMYLBS LCRJY  
IGEX GE VBHLY, G VJHEE  
SRJ PGVXY FHEABGCH GY  
LE IGMYLEYGA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE A PRO AT DESIGNING STATISTICAL CHARTS COULD BE LABELED A GRAPHITI ARTIST.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals S