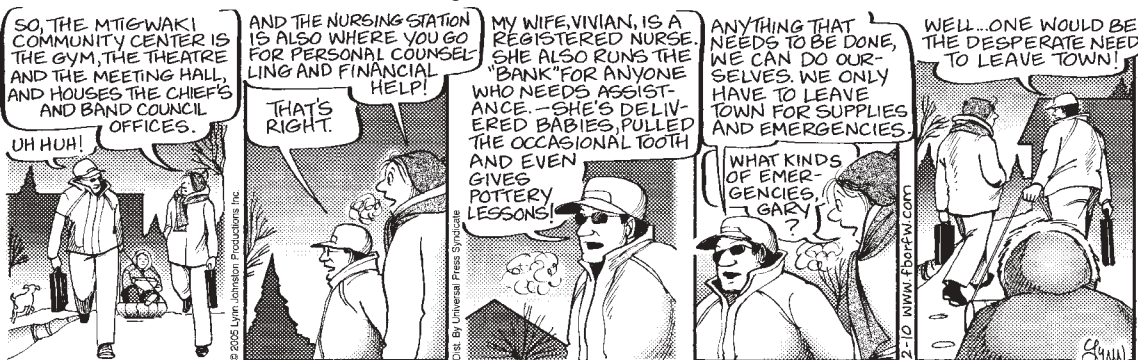


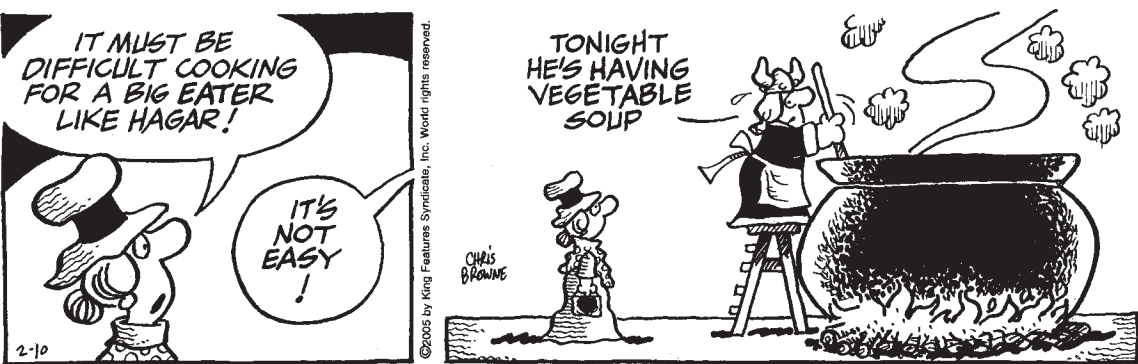
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



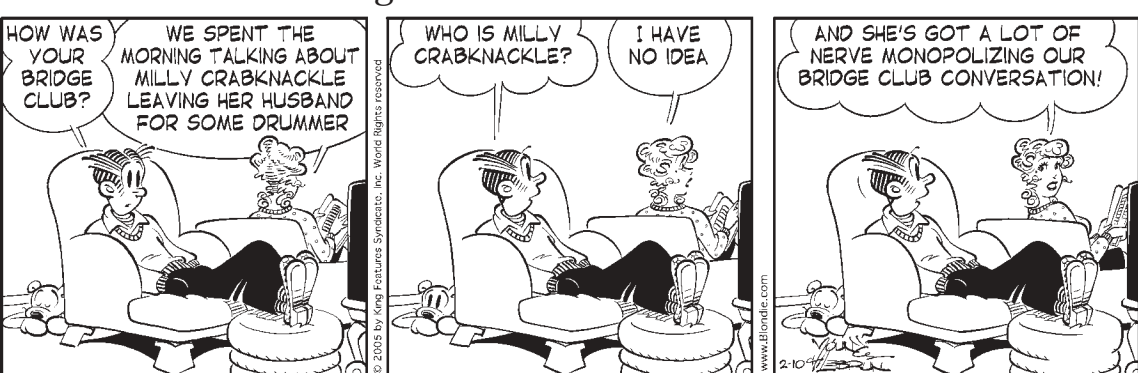
Garfield • Jim Davis



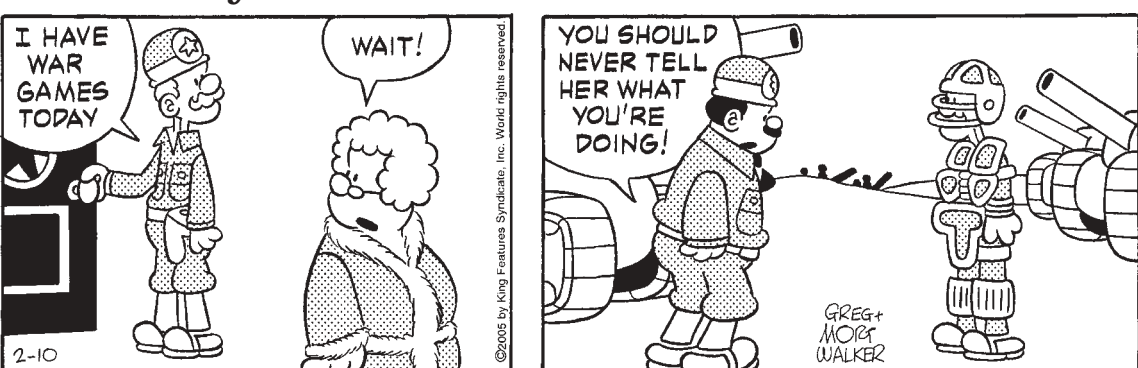
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



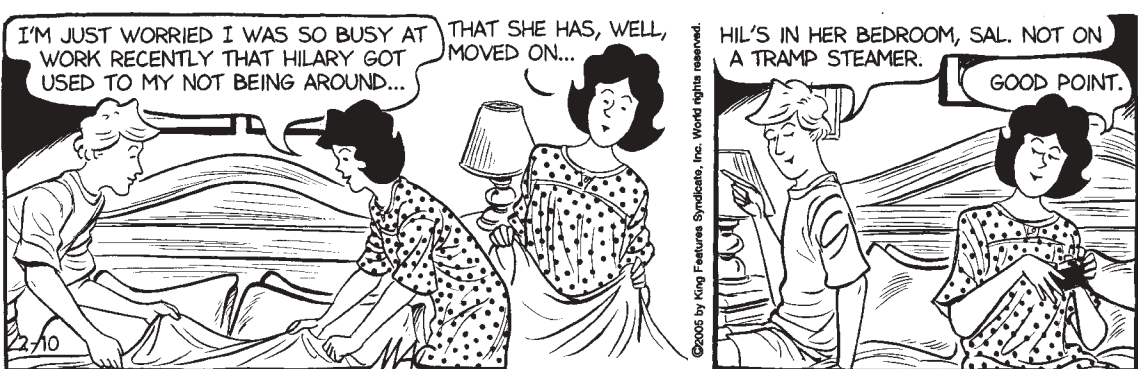
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



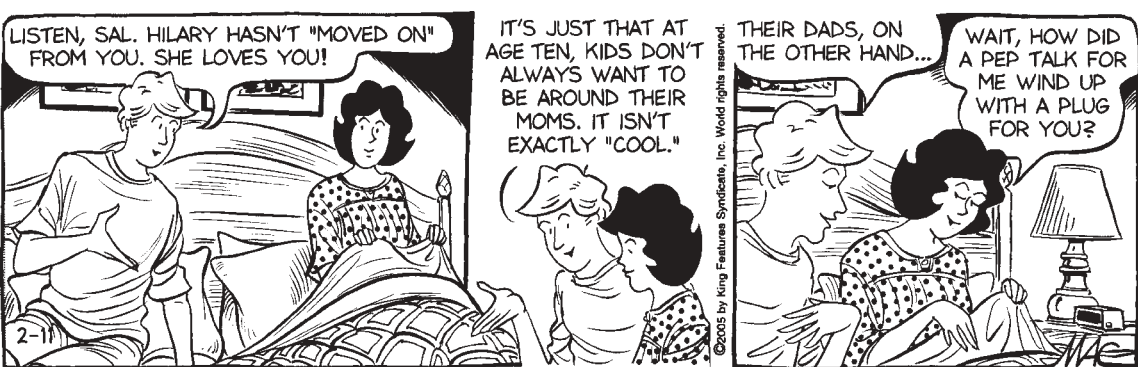
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

J I U L F U G B F N L W T Z
 N U G N Z T G F G S X U I Z I F X X F G S
 B J G Z X M J X R W V V Z R "S U G Z
 M F L E L E Z M F G R U M."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SCRAWNY PUPPY IS BORN IN A STEELWORKS, I RECKON HE MUST BE RUNT-OF-THE-MILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

Ex-boyfriend has ulterior motive

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of 2 1/2 years, "Neil," broke up with me last August.

At the time, I couldn't understand why he suddenly changed so drastically. Early in our relationship he had been accepting of my two children, but toward the end he became distant and cold to them. Then he told me he didn't want to raise another man's children and wasn't interested in being a mentor to a teenage boy.

Neil was also angry that I refused to end my relationship with my best friend, who happens to be a gay man. Neil said there is no place in society for gays and he didn't want a gay person calling his house.

Neil works for a company that he has always had an interest in owning. Last spring, the owner died suddenly and left shares of the business to his widow, "Nancy," and their children.

Neil told me he intended to borrow money from his family and buy out the youngest son's interest — but his family didn't have the money to loan. About a month after that, in the midst of complaining to me about his financial woes, Neil commented, "Maybe I'll get me a rich older woman to take care of me ... someone like Nancy."

Over the next few months, I saw him less and less. Little did I know Neil had already manipulated a relationship with her.

Abby, Nancy is a very nice, classy person. I like the woman. I went to her home for her husband's wake.

Should I tell Nancy what Neil is up to, that he's a conniving loser? I'm afraid if I do, she won't believe me. Neil can be very sweet when he wants to be, and I'm sure she



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

hasn't glimpsed his hateful, controlling side. His only real love is money and power.

My motive is not spite. I don't want Neil back. I have a new boyfriend who is everything Neil could never be.

I just feel Nancy should know what's ahead. She has a gay teenage son. I'm sure when Neil gets what he wants, that boy's life will be hell.

So, you tell me: Should I talk to Nancy and risk looking like sour grapes, or let her find out what a lowlife, gold-digging scumbag Neil is for herself?

— TORN IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR TORN: Ordinarily, I would tell you to stay out of it. However, because of Nancy's son, I'm reversing myself. Make a date with Nancy (if she'll see you), and without calling names, tell her about Neil's longtime interest in buying into her business, his cash-flow problem and his homophobia. If she has a legal adviser, I'm sure that person will discuss with her the advisability of a prenuptial agreement should she decide to remarry. And your conscience will be clear.

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 years old. At home, when I do something wrong, I am usually threatened with a loss of my allowance, but lately it has gotten more severe. I took some food off my sister's plate.

I was warned against it, but I continued to take her food.

My father threatened me with a \$20 deduction from my allowance. I don't get that much money in a month! Was that unreasonable of him, and furthermore, is this blackmail?

— BIG SIS IN SILVER SPRING

DEAR SIS: It was neither unreasonable nor blackmail. It was an expensive life lesson. Your father was telling you that the price for ignoring his warning would be steep, and he did it in a way that got your attention. In the future, I'll bet you won't ignore your dad when he gives you a warning.

DEAR ABBY: I am a Caucasian woman married to a Filipino man. We have a 9-month-old daughter.

The problem is that strangers come up to me and ask if my daughter is adopted. I find this extremely offensive. What can I say to these people?

— TEACHING TOLERANCE IN TAMPA

DEAR TEACHING TOLERANCE: Just say no — and keep walking.

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

South dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST
♠ 5 3 2		♠ A 8 7
♥ J 7 4		♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ K 6 2		♦ A 7 4
♣ K 9 8 3		♣ 7 5 2
WEST		SOUTH
♠ Q		♠ K J 10 9 6 4
♥ 10 3 2		♥ A K Q
♦ Q J 10 9 5		♦ 8 3
♣ Q 10 6 4		♣ A J

The bidding:
 South 1♠
 West Pass
 North 1NT
 East Pass

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

The King Can Do No Wrong

Most books on play tell you how to handle card combinations that occur frequently. But because these books can't treat all possible combinations, it becomes important to learn to solve such problems all by yourself.

Take this deal where South is in four spades and three rounds of diamonds are led, declarer ruffing the third. He crosses to dummy's only entry, the king of clubs, and leads a trump on which East plays the seven.

Declarer is now faced with a crucial problem: Should he play the jack or the king? In attempting to solve this problem, South dismisses all those cases where his play makes no difference.

Thus, if West has a void, the singleton eight, the singleton ace, the A-Q or the A-Q-8, South fails whether he plays the jack or the king.

This leaves those hands where West was dealt the A-8 or Q-8 (in which case tossing a coin is as good a solution as any), and hands where West started with the singleton queen of spades.

It is when you reach this point that the correct play becomes apparent:

The king is the percentage play, since it wins in two cases — where West started with the Q-8 or the singleton queen — while it loses only when West started with the A-8.

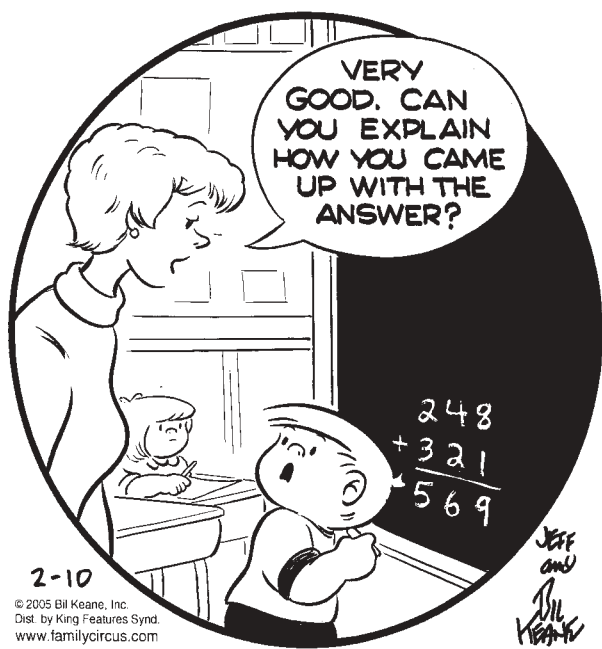
In effect, declarer eliminates from consideration all hands where the missing trumps are divided 2-2 or 4-0 because his cause is either hopeless or amounts to a 50-50 guess. The only case that matters is when the trumps divide 3-1 and West has a singleton honor.

If West's singleton honor is the ace, South cannot succeed whether he plays the jack or the king. But if West's singleton honor is the queen, South can play the king, catch the queen and so make the contract.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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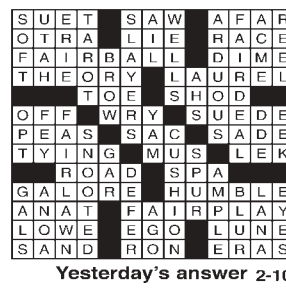
Family Circus • Bil Keane



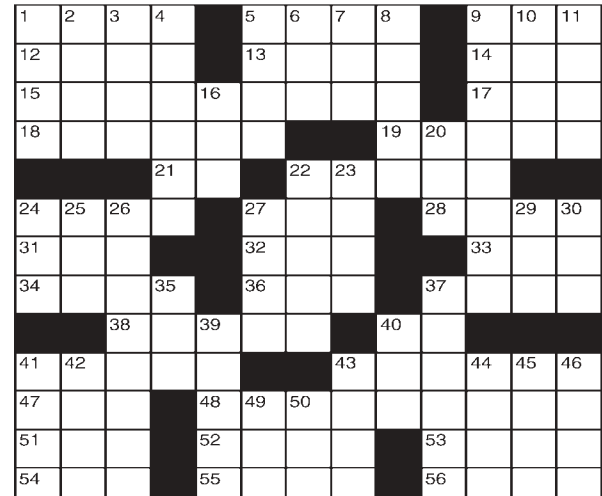
Crossword

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Weaving apparatus (Abbr.) | 1 Reindeer herder, maybe |
| 5 Infatuated (Abbr.) | 2 Hodge-podge |
| 9 Milne's "Mr. — Passes By" | 3 "My bad" |
| 12 Lotion additive | 4 Unkempt situations |
| 13 Rhone city | 5 Morose |
| 14 Cold War faction (Abbr.) | 6 Favorable vote |
| 15 Runt | 7 Asian antelope |
| 17 Apiece | 8 Bracelet setting |
| 18 Play — (to pretend) | 9 Camping gear |
| 19 Rubber source | 10 "Not if — you first!" |
| 21 Poet cummings | |
| 22 Colander | |
| 24 Upper-case | |
| 27 Likely | |
| 28 Tackles' teammates | |
| 31 ID datum | |
| 32 Miler Sebastian | |
| 33 Father's Day gift | |
| 34 Maximally | |
| 36 PTA member | |
| 37 Cellar, in want ads (Abbr.) | |
| 38 Alienate | |
| 40 Continent (Abbr.) | |
| 41 Shopping center | |
| 43 Dash | |
| 47 Have something wrong | |
| 48 Baseball: Little League :: football : | |
| 51 Western st. | |
| 52 1998 Andrea Bocelli album | |
| 53 Neutral shade | |
| 11 "You Bet Your Life" emcee | |
| 16 What, in Oaxaca | |
| 20 Hail or farewell | |
| 22 Thread holder | |
| 23 Thing | |
| 24 Heathcliff, e.g. | |
| 25 Past | |
| 26 Pre-game morale booster | |
| 27 Pinnacle | |
| 29 Poorly lit | |
| 30 Collection | |
| 35 " — who?" (Sl.) | |
| 37 Keg | |
| 39 Relating to the pope | |
| 40 Health farm | |
| 41 Treaty | |
| 42 Fabulist | |
| 43 Bat a gnat | |
| 44 Erstwhile Peruvian | |
| 45 Dweeb | |
| 46 Authentic | |
| 49 Galena, e.g. | |
| 50 Brooch | |

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-10



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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