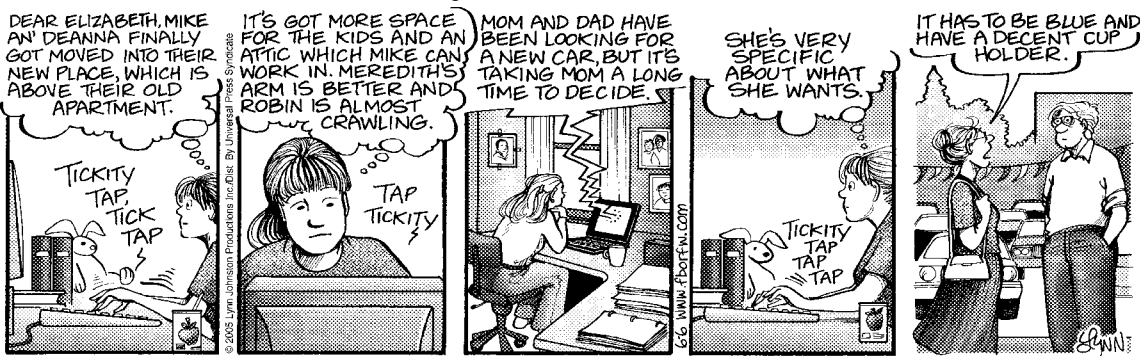
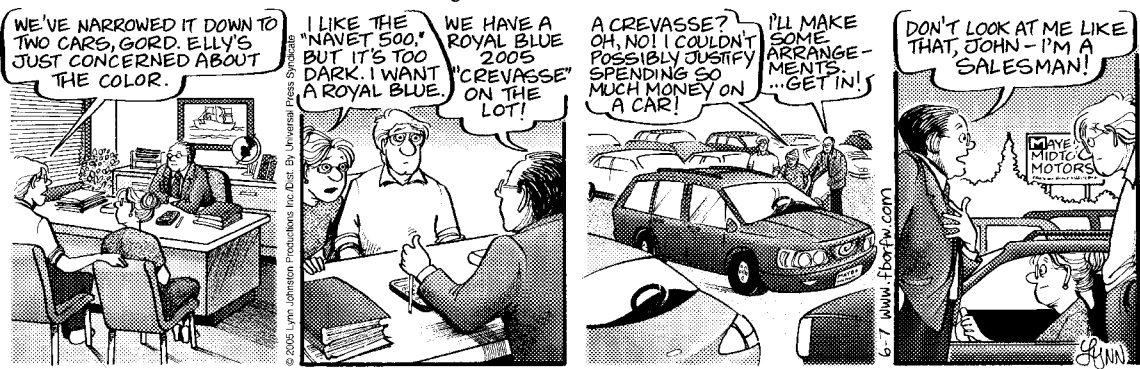


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



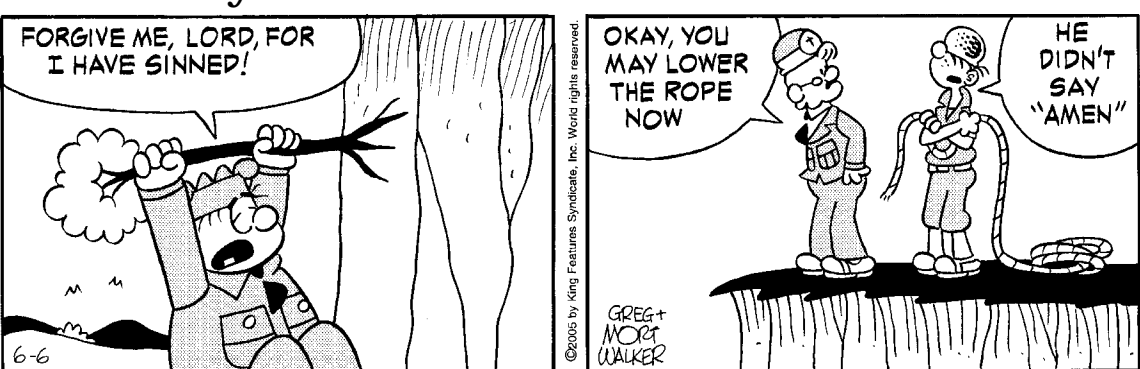
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



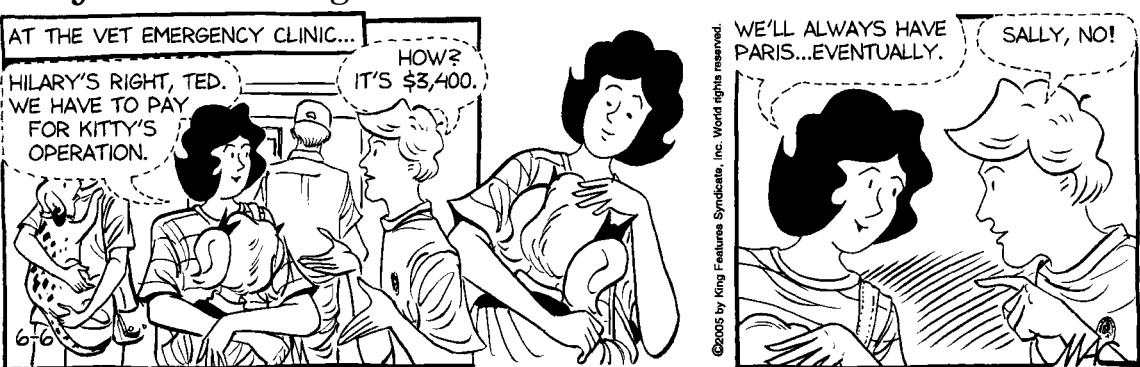
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

JBT WTYGRA KOYQXOGJQCRYM

GUKWOYP XUCTKOY MUJ

XRCTZ. BT GUQAZY 'J

MTJ JBT ATOZ UQJ.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I USUALLY SIT IN A TALL CHAIR WHENEVER I PLAY CARDS. THAT WAY I HAVE THE UPPER HAND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals C

Mom not welcome at graduation

DEAR ABBY: While most of my friends are eagerly anticipating graduation, I am dreading it. The reason? My mother.

Ever since I was in second grade, my mother has been addicted to prescription drugs. Mom and Dad divorced when I was in middle school, and I have lived with my dad ever since.

This year, Mom began to press for a ticket to my graduation. I don't want her there. She won't admit to having a problem, despite the fact she has been in rehab 10 times. I can't remember a time prior to her extended hospital stays and visits by home nurses.

Before I have any event, she becomes manipulative and checks herself into the hospital. This hasn't happened just once or twice. I'm talking about every event since I was in fourth grade — including my birthday, my older brother's graduation, everything. Last year, she forgot my birthday. I didn't even get a phone call. I don't think she has earned a ticket for graduation.

Many people in my life have been there for me when my mother was not. Now Mother is claiming that because she is my mother, she should supersede all the others. She is still heavily medicated and prone to making scenes, including threatening suicide, if she doesn't get what she wants — that ticket. There are only a limited number available. I would like to give them to people who have shown they care about me. What are your thoughts on this?

— SHATTERED SENIOR  
DEAR SENIOR: You have my sympathy. I know you feel cheated because you didn't have the kind of mother you wished for. However, from your description, your mother appears to suffer from a severe mental illness. A person who is heavily medicated and repeatedly hospitalized is not entirely responsible for her actions. Giving birth to you and your brother may have been her only



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

positive accomplishments in this life. For that reason, I think she should attend your graduation.

The people who have supported you over the years will be happy to celebrate with you after the ceremony, I'm sure. And I'm also sure they'll understand why your mother should see you get your diploma if she is able.

DEAR ABBY: I have been a client of a wonderful hairstylist I'll call "Valerie" for about four years. There's only one problem. She wears large rings on her fingers, and when she uses her fingers to "comb" through my hair as she dries it, the rings catch on my hair. I end up with several hairs either being torn out by the roots or broken at the point where herrings catch. It's downright painful.

I love how Valerie styles my hair and don't want to leave her, but I'm not sure how to tactfully call this to her attention. I'm hoping that she — and other stylists who do this — will see themselves in this letter and remove their rings when it's time to dry their customers' hair.

— GOING BALD  
DEAR GOING BALD: Nice try, but don't count on it. What if your hairstylist misses my column today? One would think that a client's natural reaction to having her hair jerked out by the roots — an emphatic "OUCH!" — would be enough. However, because the discomfort she's causing seems to have escaped her notice, use the direct approach and tell her your preference in plain English.

DEAR ABBY: From time to time in years past, you have offered your

readers tips for a happy marriage. Have you any to share today?

— ENGAGED IN OHIO  
DEAR ENGAGED: As a matter of fact, I do. At the wedding of his youngest daughter, my friend John P. McMeel offered the following "three phrases that guarantee a happy marriage":  
— "I was wrong."  
— "You were right."  
— "I love you."

DEAR ABBY: I have a touchy family situation. My husband, who is turning 40 this year, doesn't know his biological father. He has been having some health issues, and we feel it would be good to know his paternal medical history.

Abby, his mother refuses to give him the name. When he approached her, she told him she didn't remember it. Bullpucky! How can you get pregnant by someone and not remember his name — unless it was incest, and then I could understand the skeleton in the closet.

My mother-in-law had to sell her house and move in with us about a year ago. This is delicate because I don't know how to approach her about this.

— ANONYMOUS  
DEAR ANONYMOUS: You and your husband could approach his mother together and stress the importance of his knowing his father's medical history. However, if she still insists she does not know his father's name, you will have to accept it. She could be telling the truth. When your husband was conceived, his mother might have been drunk, drugged, raped — or had a one-night stand.

Bridge

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 6  
♥ A K 5  
♦ 10 9 3  
♣ A 7 4 3 2

WEST

♠ J 10 9 5  
♥ 10 8 4 2  
♦ 8 7 6  
♣ Q 6

EAST

♠ A K 8 7 4  
♥ 9 7 6  
♦ 4  
♣ K 9 8 5

SOUTH

♠ 3 2  
♥ Q J 3  
♦ A K Q J 5 2  
♣ J 10

Famous Hand

Bridge is much too complicated a game for anyone to expect to bid every hand perfectly. Even the best partnerships in the world, with all their skill and experience, cannot hope to arrive at the best contract as often as 90 percent of the time.

Consider this deal from the 1979 World Team Championship.

It was played at six tables, and at only one was the correct contract — a partscore in diamonds — reached.

There is no question that the hand is a made-to-order trap for North-South. With 27 high-card points in the combined hands, plus an excellent trump suit, it is almost impossible not to reach a game contract.

Here is how the bidding went at the six tables:

	North	East	South	West
1 C	1 S	2 D		Pass
3 D		Pass	3 H	
3 S		Pass	5 D	
1 D	1 S	2 S		Pass
3 C		Pass	3 S	
3 NT				

1 D	1 S	2 S		Pass
3 C		Pass	3 S	
3 NT				

1 C	1 S	2 D		Pass
3 D		Pass	3 S	
Pass	Pass	4 D		

1 D	1 S	2 D		Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT		

1 D	1 S	2 S		3 S
Dble	Pass	5 D		

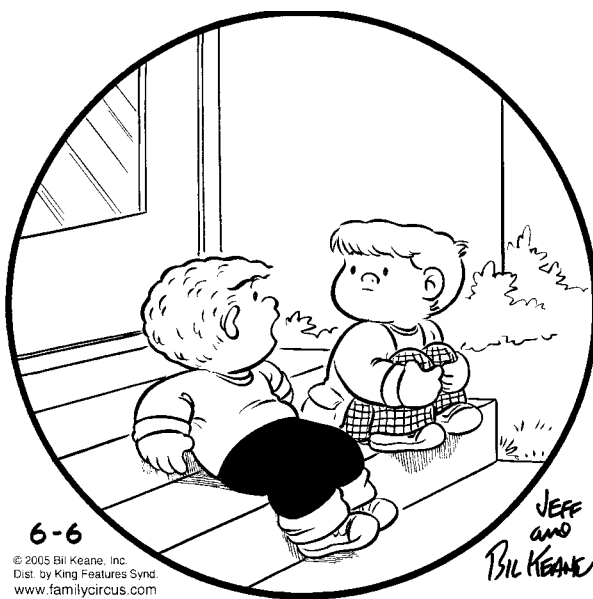
Two of the three Norths that got to three notrump actually made the contract! At one table, East led the spade seven, and declarer made five notrump.

At the second table, East led a club, and declarer made four notrump. At the third table, East led the K-A of spades, on which West played the jack and then the nine to unblock the suit.

As a result, declarer lost five spade tricks and went down one.

Tomorrow: The bread-and-butter hands.  
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"The best part about gettin' married is you get a big white cake."

Crossword

ACROSS  
1 False god  
5 Bribe  
8 "Brian's Song" star  
12 "Green Mansions" girl  
13 Commotion  
14 Heche or Hathaway  
15 Stench  
16 Black marks  
18 Poured the tea  
20 Prepares for painting  
21 Census statistics  
23 Teachers' org.  
24 Bearing  
28 Impale  
31 Past  
32 One of Donald's nephews  
34 Inseparable  
35 Information  
37 Bill Clinton, e.g.  
39 Toe tally

41 Water-control structure  
42 Actress Silverstone  
45 Sarge, for one  
49 Put one's foot down  
51 All (Sp.)  
52 Congregation's call  
53 "Got a Secret"  
54 Director Kazan  
55 Shopping center  
56 Pitch  
57 Carry on

2 Staffer  
3 Cupid's forte  
4 Potential pupae  
5 Turned blue?  
6 Praise in verse  
7 "— and Circumstance"  
8 Dentist's case  
9 Pixar employee  
10 Initial chie  
11 Capone foe  
17 Sea eagle  
19 "Zounds!"  
22 Emulated Johnny Appleseed  
24 Margery of nursery-rhyme note  
25 Swelled head  
26 Philosopher  
27 String around your finger  
29 Literary collection  
30 Wager  
31 Wager  
33 Julian's stepmom  
36 Pour  
38 Heart  
40 Diarist  
42 Leading man?  
43 Tony of golf lore  
44 Mine entrance  
46 Pop choice  
47 Valhalla VIP  
48 Castle surroundings  
50 Space-walk acronym

