

For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

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Garfield • Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Blondie • Chic Young

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

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Cryptoquip

Z C U T J O X J O W X Y B X

G X N Y U Z V Q U D X R X B Z U I J C

U D X B R J I U Y U I, T J S W G Z U

N X Y D X Y U X G Y B Q S R X V U?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: A BIG, MYTHICAL BIRD WAS JUST CONVICTED AND IS NOW SERVING TIME. IT'S A JAILHOUSE ROC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Husband thinks he is unimportant

DEAR ABBY: My wife spends all her spare time with a female friend I'll call "Cassandra." Last August they went to Nicaragua for two weeks, at Cassandra's expense. They are planning a trip to Puerto Rico next month. Again, Cassandra is footing the bill. They spent a week together in Louisville at a church-sponsored activity. They give each other oil massages in our bed and make frequent bets with each other with the massages as the payoff.

They spend as much as three hours a day communicating, whether it be via phone, e-mail or text-messaging. They see each other a minimum of once a week, plus at church, and we live 50 miles apart.

When they're together, I can repeat a question four times or more and never be acknowledged. They make special dinners and buy each other gifts. The items my wife receives are many times what we can afford. When they're on the phone or e-mailing, dinners have been burned and normal things that should be done around the house don't get done.

Do you think there is something I should be concerned about here?

— WONDERING IN ILLINOIS

DEAR WONDERING: Yes, I do, because you do not appear to be first on your wife's list of priorities. You and she — and probably her girlfriend — are overdue for a long and very frank talk.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I expect our first child in three months. His mother is already pressuring us to let her baby-sit, and eventually have the child for summers and vacations. The problem is, her negligence and poor judgment while raising her own children led to them both being physically and sexually abused.

She continues to be friendly with anyone who will be friendly with her, including the family members

Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South 1 NT **West** Pass **North** 2 ♣ **East** Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — three of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal was played in the match between Argentina and the United States in 1961. Oddly enough, the bidding and opening lead were exactly the same at both tables.

Two clubs was artificial and asked South to bid a four-card major if he had one. After South denied a major by bidding two diamonds, both Norths elected to conceal their five-card heart suit and went directly to three notrump.

When the Argentine South was declarer, he ducked the spade lead, East winning with the queen.

East shifted to a club, and when declarer finessed the queen, West won and led another spade. Again declarer finessed, losing to the king, and when East played another club, South's ten lost to West's jack.

By this time, the Argentine declarer had tried four finesses and lost them all!

West returned a spade, and even though the diamonds were favorably divided, South finished down one.

When Peter Leventritt of the United States held the South hand, the contract was made. The Argentine East won the spade lead with the queen and also returned a club.

But Leventritt, alert to the danger of allowing West to gain the lead for another spade play, went up with the ace of clubs in order to get started on establishing dummy's heart suit.

Accordingly, after taking the club ace, he led a diamond to the queen followed by a low heart to the eight.

West took the jack and returned a spade, but Leventritt rose with the ace and ran his hearts and diamonds to finish with 10 tricks.

As a result, the U.S. team gained 730 points on the deal.

Leventritt did not allow himself to get caught in the series of crisscross finesses that undid the Argentine declarer.

Instead, he relied on the strong likelihood that dummy's hearts could be established and run before the defenders could score enough tricks to defeat him.

Tomorrow: A stunning victory.
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Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

who abused her children.

There is no way I'll ever let her be alone with my child. My husband supports my feelings. But we don't know how to tell her that her services are not needed or wanted without causing hurt feelings.

— SETTING LIMITS

DEAR SETTING LIMITS: When she asks to baby-sit, tell her nicely that you already have made other arrangements. Ditto for extended vacations. Explain that she's welcome to visit when it's convenient for all of you. However, if she insists on knowing why she can't take the baby, repeat exactly what you have told me. Your child's safety is more important than your mother-in-law maintaining the fantasy that her children's upbringing was normal.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for three years. His 27-year-old daughter, "Jan," wants him to give her a wedding reception because at the time she was married, two years ago, they were not on speaking terms. (She was married by a justice of the peace with no family present.)

Jan now has two small children. I think at this late date, a wedding reception would not be appropriate. I have suggested we give her a generous cash gift as a belated wedding gift — and she can do what she wants with the money, including throwing herself a party. My husband dreams of giving her the memories of a reception with her dad. What do you think?

— AGAINST IT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR AGAINST IT: Consider

ering that Jan was not even speaking to her father at the time of her marriage, it's presumptuous of her to be hitting her father up for a reception now. A cash gift would be more generous; and a "wedding reception" under these circumstances would be a charade.

DEAR ABBY: I am about to be divorced from an alcoholic. At the time I filed, he said he would get his own place and move the furniture he wanted out of my home. (Some of it is hand-me-downs from his family.)

Now that things are in the final stages, he still hasn't saved any money and shows no sign of getting a place of his own. He's staying with friends and has very limited space.

According to the divorce agreement, we have settled all property disputes, and whatever each has in his or her possession belongs to him or her. I have a lot of his possessions — mostly furniture.

I don't want or need this stuff. He still says he wants some of it and expects me to hold it indefinitely. I am ready to move on with my life, and can't do it in a house filled with all of his belongings. I have tried to be nice and have been repaid with alcoholic rampages. What should I do about his belongings?

— TRYING TO MOVE ON IN FLORIDA

DEAR TRYING TO MOVE ON: Discuss this with your lawyer. Have your lawyer contact his lawyer, and give him a date after which the furniture must be out of your house. Make it plain that if it isn't out, it will either be donated to charity or put in storage under his name and at his expense.

Family Circus • Bil Keane

7-11

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Crossword

ACROSS

1 False god

5 Mich. neighbor

8 Moist

12 Circuitous

14 Pennsylvania port

15 Moon comparison, in song

16 Totenberg of NPR

17 Pismire

18 Game-show loot

20 Trophy

23 Indigent

24 007

25 PC "boxes"

28 Barracks bed

29 The end

30 Pack away

32 Early Mormon territory

34 One of the Three Bears

35 Pay attention

36 Nicholson role

DOWN

1 Marcel Marceau character

2 Blackbird

3 Wood-shaping tool

4 Gecko, e.g.

5 Turned on the water-works

6 Here (Fr.)

7 "Hurry!"

8 Oscar winner as LaMotta

9 N. Mex. neighbor

10 Cry of the avaricious

11 Look-alikes, idiomatically

13 McNally partner

19 Fishing gear

20 Fox rival

21 Unfinished furniture?

22 Initial chip

23 Longed (for)

25 Watergate equipment

26 Feeble

27 Unchanged

29 Retainers

31 Pitch

33 Tops

34 Not merely that much

36 Jack's companion

37 Bullets

38 Any second now

39 Unmatched

40 Location

43 Macabre author

44 "Great Expectations" hero

45 Mrs. McKinley

46 Moray, e.g.

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
			17			18	19			
20	21	22			23					
24				25				26	27	
28			29					30	31	
	32		33				34			
			35			36				
37	38	39			40					
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50			51			