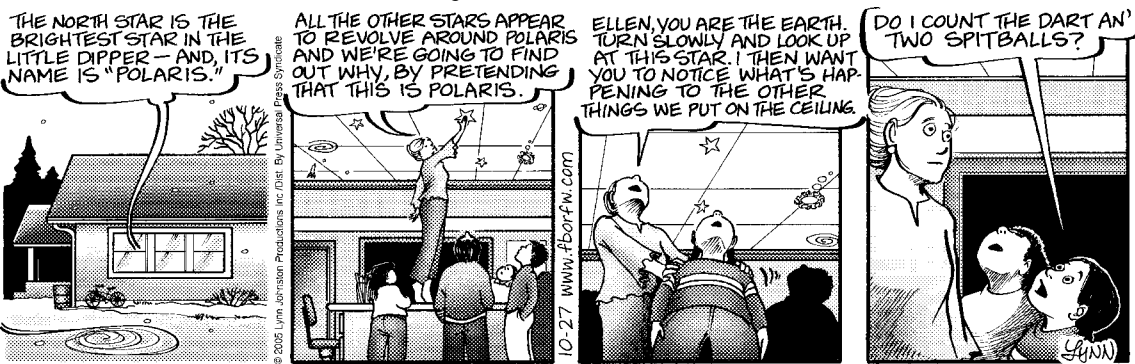


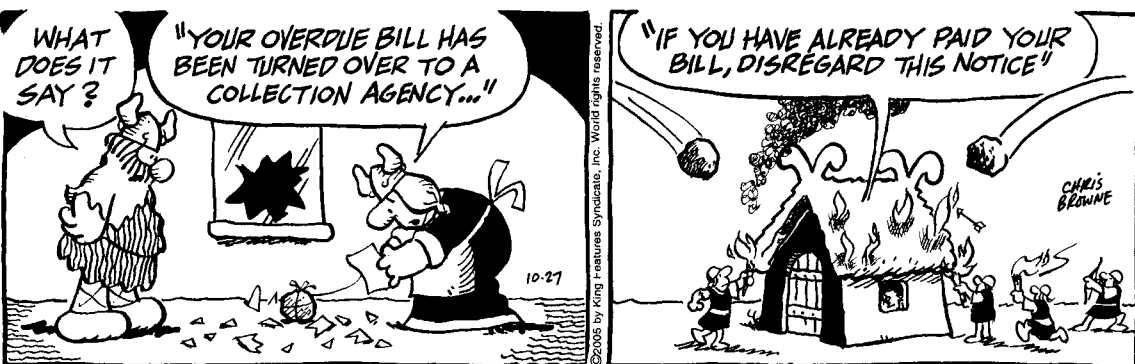
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



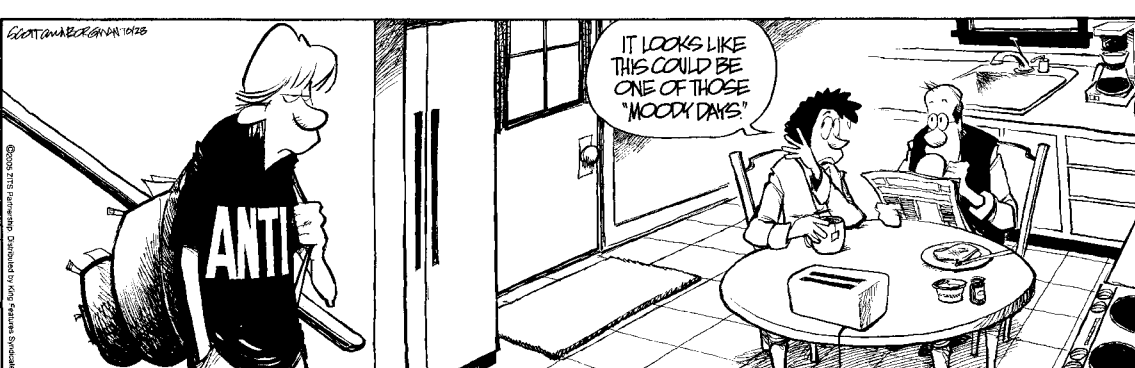
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Abusive behavior is passed down



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Last week, my 1-year-old son, "Tommy," crawled up on the couch where his father, "Monte," was resting. Tommy smacked his daddy in the face with a toy. Monte slapped Tommy back so hard he left a welt on his face. I grabbed the baby and said some things I perhaps shouldn't have. Monte got so mad at me that he threw me on the couch and began choking me.

A neighbor called Monte's father, "Lyle," to the house. Lyle asked what happened. When I told him Monte had slapped Tommy in the face, Monte called me a liar. Then Lyle turned around and came after me, cornering me in the kitchen. He got in my face and screamed that I was at fault for Monte losing his temper. He said it was because of my "nagging." I was cornered three times. Each time I tried to move away, he'd start up again.

Monte just stood there and watched me holding the baby and getting screamed at. He didn't lift a finger to defend me. I am so hurt. It's one thing to have a fight with my husband, but his father had no place getting in my face. Monte said his dad was trying to prove a point — that a person can only take so much. Monte said he patted his father on the back for what he did. I am no longer talking to his father. Please help me. I am desperate for guidance.

—SHAKING IN OHIO

DEAR SHAKING: To slap a 1-year-old baby and leave a welt on his face is child abuse. Throwing you on a couch and trying to choke you is spousal abuse. What his father did is verbal abuse. Monte is standing behind his father because he thinks this is normal behavior. Unless you take your baby and get out of there, your son will turn out just like his father and grandfather. So leave now, before you or your baby are physically,

as well as emotionally, damaged. If you are afraid to leave, call the National Domestic Violence toll-free hotline: (800) 799-7233. Counselors there will help you formulate an escape plan. (For people with hearing impairments, the TTY number to dial is (800) 787-3224.)

DEAR ABBY I have been married to "Grant" for eight years. Soon after our marriage I learned he was a compulsive liar. Grant told me while we were dating that he had a sister. I later learned the woman was a friend. He said he was divorced from his second wife when we met. They weren't divorced until one month before our wedding, something I discovered only when I found his divorce papers.

Grant's first wife swears they are still married. He says they're divorced, but he lost the divorce papers. A year ago, I found out my husband was never in the Marines like he said, and after eight years of believing he had a BA in business, I just learned he dropped out of college after his freshman year.

I have just about had it with his constant lying. He has also cheated on me. I want a divorce, but I don't want to look like a failure to my family and friends. Grant is begging me to stay. He promises he'll change, but I have heard that all before. What should I do?

—WIFE IN CRISIS

DEAR WIFE: Consult a lawyer. Tell him or her exactly what you have told me. Because your

husband misrepresented himself before your marriage, you may have grounds for an annulment. Your attorney should also check to see if there is any record of his first divorce, because if there isn't one, you and Grant are not married, which solves your problem. Cross your fingers.

DEAR ABBY: My parents are planning a family vacation — it's an annual tradition in my family. The problem is my sister-in-law has been inviting members of her family without consulting my parents beforehand. This is supposed to be a special event that both my parents and I feel should be limited to only our side of the family, not hers. We feel helpless to stop her from inviting everyone in her family, because we don't know how to tell her, "Please stop because this is not an open invitation event."

She has done this before with other events, and the results were chaotic. The last thing we want to have this vacation in chaos, but if her family is there it will be inevitable.

What can we do to stop this without stirring up a hornet's nest?

—GRITTING AWAY IN SAN JOSE

DEAR GRITTING AWAY: It's time your parents stop gritting their teeth and bite the bullet. Because they are planning this family getaway, it's up to them to tell their son and his wife that this isn't a cattle call — and the invitations she issued will have to be postponed for another occasion (when you all will have been fortified with tranquilizers).

Bridge

West dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ K 7 6 4
 ♣ K 9 8 6 5 2
WEST
 ♠ A 6
 ♥ A K Q 7 5 3
 ♦ A 9 8 3
 ♣ 4
EAST
 ♠ 8 7
 ♥ J 9 6 4
 ♦ Q J 10 5 2
 ♣ Q J
SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J 10 9 5 3 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ A 10 7 3

The bidding:
 West North East South
 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ 2 ♠
 4 ♥ Pass Pass 4 ♠
 5 ♥ Pass Pass 5 ♠
 Dble
 Opening lead — four of clubs.

Forewarned Is Forearmed

Bridge is a competitive game in which each side tries to outscore the other. In a great many deals, the two sides achieve par — that is, they each obtain the best result the cards entitle them to obtain. In some deals, though, the outcome is uncertain and depends on how well or how poorly one side or the other bids or plays.

For example, take this case where South got to five spades doubled as shown. Had West led the king of hearts, a lead most players would endorse, declarer would have made the contract easily.

But West's mind was clicking on all cylinders, and he decided instead to lead his singleton club.

South won East's jack with the ace and led the nine of spades at trick two. Continuing his inspired defense, West went right up with the ace and returned the three of hearts! East took dummy's eight with the nine and returned a club for West to ruff, and South went down one.

West's defense was certainly of the highest order, but South could and should have overcome it.

West's opening lead was clearly a singleton — no other club holding could possibly justify the low club lead — so declarer should have directed all his thoughts toward stopping the impending ruff.

Since the ruff could occur only if East gained the lead for a club return, and since East's only possible entry had to be in hearts, South should have tried to neutralize that entry.

Accordingly, declarer should have won the opening club lead with dummy's king and returned the king of diamonds at trick two, discarding his deuce of hearts after East followed low.

West would have won the king with the ace, but with no way to put East on lead for the killing club ruff, he would have found himself a loser in the battle of wits.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I guess I wasn't listenin' when you told me to pay attention."

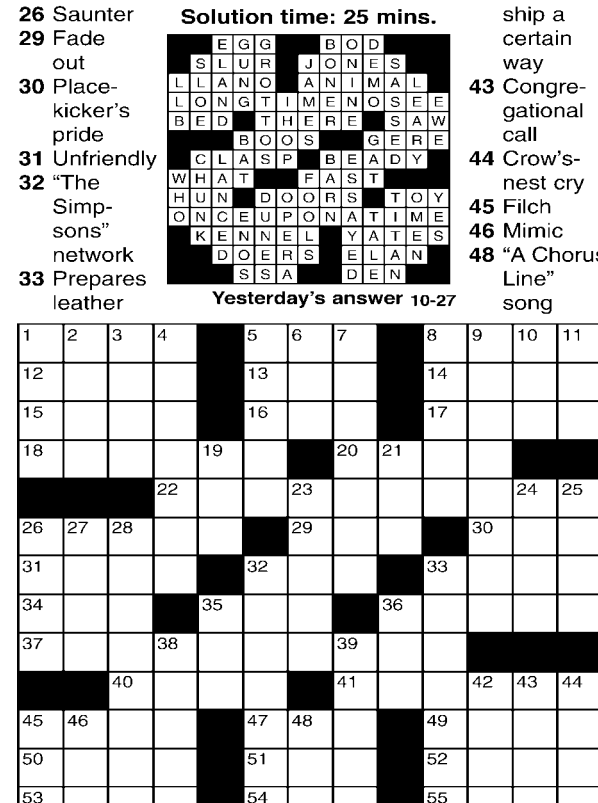
Crossword

ACROSS
 1 As well
 5 Min. fraction
 8 Belligerent deity
 12 "— et mon droit" (British royal motto)
 13 Afternoon social
 14 Miles of film
 15 "Consum it all!"
 16 Wapiti
 17 Mountain goat
 18 Polygraph component
 20 Jacob's brother
 22 Serving to embellish
 26 Saunter
 29 Fade out
 30 Place-kicker's pride
 31 Unfriendly
 32 "The Simpsons" network
 33 Prepares leather

DOWN
 1 Gets to the bottom of things?
 2 Old Italian bread
 3 Penn or Connery
 4 Surpassed in retailing
 5 "King of All Media"
 6 Slithery sort
 7 Baker's shortcut
 8 Birdlike
 9 Counterargument
 10 Prior to instrument
 11 Clinton's

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 10-27



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Cryptoquip

LRK UKE APQH ZLK
 VKLKY LQHK ZOKUYB RZJ
 PKYKULNB ZVWALKV LRK
 JNWOZU "EK APB RZPKP."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU FOLLOW A COCKTAIL WITH A DIFFERENT DRINK, I GUESS YOU MIGHT CHASE MANHATTAN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals W