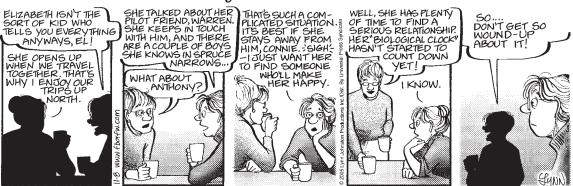
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mom defends right to plan family

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our mid-30s, married 13 years. We have four wonderful young sons, ranging in age from 11 to 2, and I'm expecting our fifth and final child.

Abby, you would not believe the number of people who feel free to make comments like, "You DO know how to prevent pregnancy, don't you?" or begin to lecture me about how much it's going to cost to send them all to college.

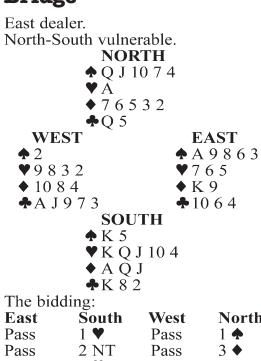
I am a college graduate, with a career that I love and for which I am well-paid. My husband is also college-educated and successfully selfemployed. We are by no means short of money. I think these things get said because we are perceived as younger than we actually are. (People often assume we're in our mid-20s, but still it's rude and oftentimes hurtful.) Our children are healthy, happy and well-cared-for.

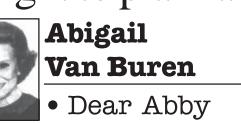
Please give me some advice, because I'm about to lose it with the next person who says such things to me.

- MOM WHO LOVES A

LARGE FAMILY **DEAR MOM: There is no end** of presumptuous comments that people make, trying to be funny, trying to be "helpful" or simply out of intrusiveness. Rather than losing your temper, try to handle them with humor. For those "wits" who say, "You DO know how to prevent pregnancy, don't you?" smile and reply, "Of course we do, but our dream has always been to have a large family." (What are they going to tell you that you're wrong?) And to the person who lectures you about the cost of higher education, give a wink and grin, and say, "Thanks for pointing that out. When the time comes, we'll hit you up for a loan."

Bridge





girl whose father is an alcoholic. about church leadership (the ministhat my dad is always drinking.

My mother has decided to move away with my little brother and me. She says it's for our own good because she doesn't want us to suffer what she did when she was a child. I understand and agree with her, but what is Dad going to do if we leave him? Is he going to drink more than may have been implying what you he already does? Is he going to die? Please help me.

- SCARED ABOUT DAD, PATERSON, N.J.

DEAR SCARED: When you, your brother and your mother leave, your father will come faceto-face with what his addiction to alcohol has cost him. I can't predict what his reaction will be. On the one hand, he may drink more. On the other, it could be the shock he needs to propel him into sobri-

should not be your responsibility to "save" your father. Only he can do that. I hope that once you are all resettled, your mother will help you and your brother to join have no one to pass them on to and Alateen. Alateen is an international group that was started in 1957 to provide support to young people like you, whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Once you attend a meeting, you will find you have a lot in common with everyone you meet there. To find out more about them, visit www.al-anon.alateen-.org.

DEARABBY: I am a 14-year-old

Dad needs help, but he doesn't want ter and board of trustees) who would to get it. I'm very sad and depressed invite the congregation to an afternoon meeting in the sanctuary to address a conflict between members and leadership, and then turn off the air conditioning for the meeting in sweltering 100-plus degree heat? JUST WONDERING IN

DALLAS **DEAR WONDERING: They**

could expect if you didn't come around to their way of thinking.

DEAR ABBY: How long should people be expected to keep school memorabilia, baby albums, childhood scrapbooks, etc? My husband and I recently moved to a smaller home and down-sized our belongings. I disposed of almost all of the memorabilia. None of it had been looked at in at least 35 years.

There are no albums of my husband. They could still be at his par-Of one thing I am sure: At 14, it ents' house ñ- or maybe there are none.

My mother is so angry over this she's ready to disown me. Why would I keep those things, since I they are just taking up room? Your opinion, please.

- CINCINNATI READER

DEAR READER: Obviously, the items you threw away had sentimental value to someone — your mother. Because there were presumably pictures of other relatives in those albums, it would have been a kindness to have offered them to those relatives including your mother — rather DEARABBY: What do you think than just throwing them away.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





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Cryptoquip
XS V WRVY NRYR VQQLNRU
PL KYRKVYR JLSSRR LY
PRV, JLGQU ALG PMRH
O V A M R N V O W Y G X H ? Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF EVERYBODY'S HALF-BAKED IDEAS CAUSE YOU TO GET ILL, I GUESS YOU HAVE NOTION SICKNESS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals E

East	South	West	North		
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 🔶		
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦		
Pass	3 🖤	Pass	3 NT		
Openin	g lead — s	even of c	lubs.		

Famous Hand

The best players often disagree on how to bid or play a hand. But that is perhaps all to the good, since this lack of unanimity adds zest to the game.

Consider this deal played by France and the United States in 1971. When Mike Lawrence and Bobby Goldman were North-South for the U.S., the bidding went as shown and West led a club.

Goldman played dummy's queen, which won, and tried a diamond finesse, which succeeded.

He then returned to dummy with a heart, led another diamond and so scored nine tricks consisting of five hearts, three diamonds and a club.

When Pierre Jais and Roger Trezel held the North-South cards for France, the bidding and play were totally different. This time the bidding went:

orth
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)

Again a club was led by West and won with the queen, but here declarer played a low spade from dummy attrick two. Bobby Wolff (East) rushed up with the ace and returned a club, and South quickly went down one for a combined loss to France of 700 points.

It seems clear that the French declarer misplayed the hand. True, he would have succeeded had West held the ace of spades instead of East—roughly a 50-50 chance. But as against that possibility, Goldman's method of play would bring home the contract if he either found East with the king of diamonds or West with the ace of spades — roughly a 3-to-1 shot in his favor.

Tomorrow: What can defeat me? (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc. "What happens if you run out?"

Crossword

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