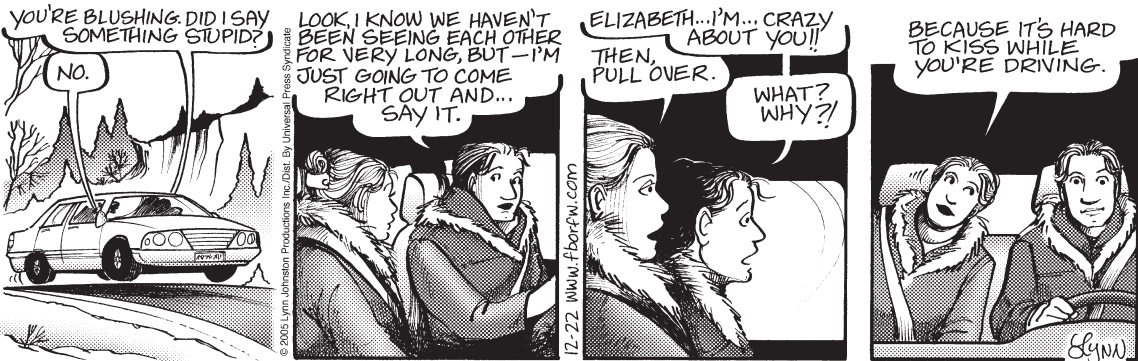


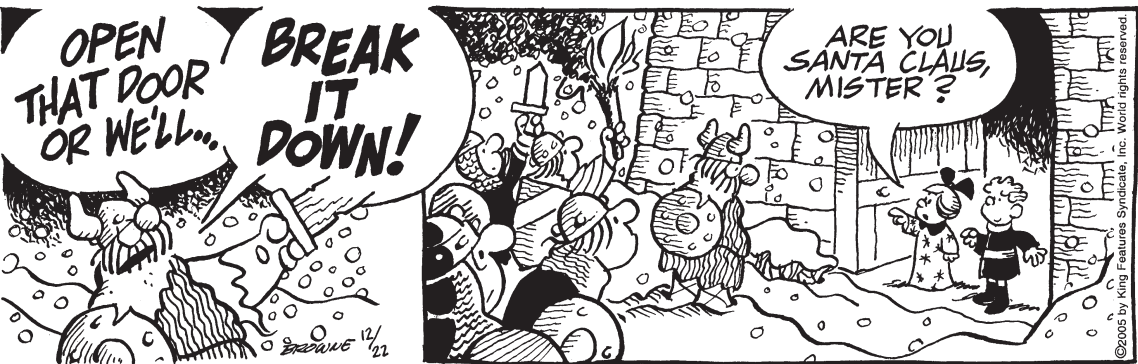
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



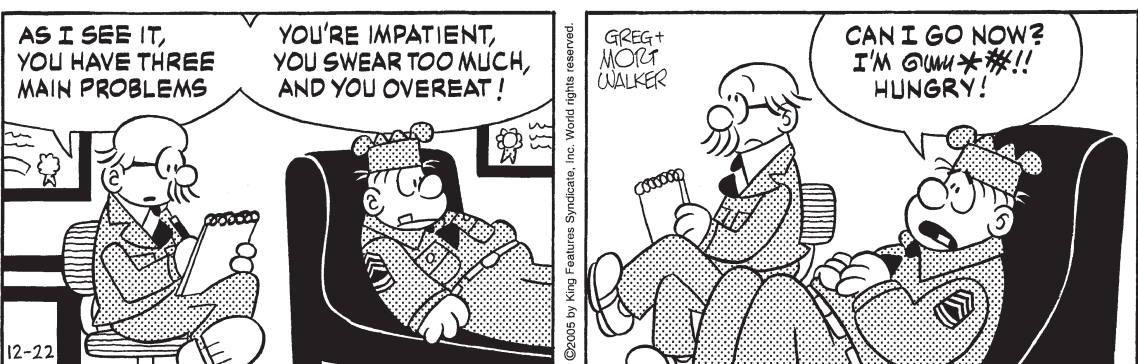
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



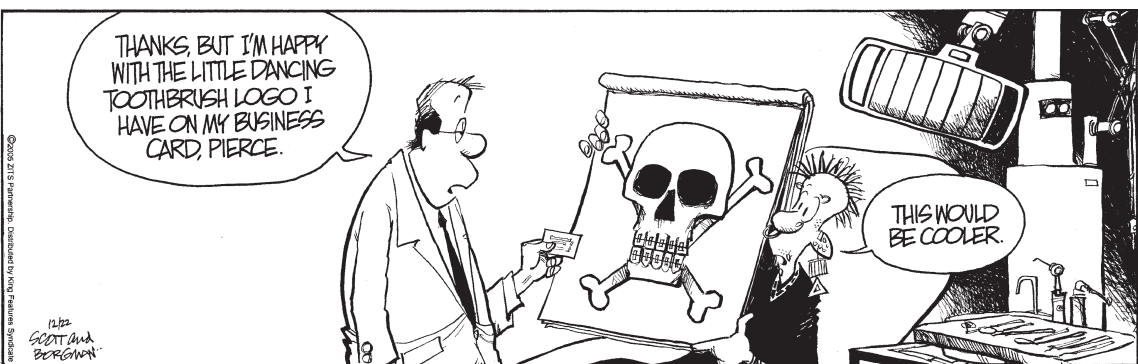
Blondie • Chic Young



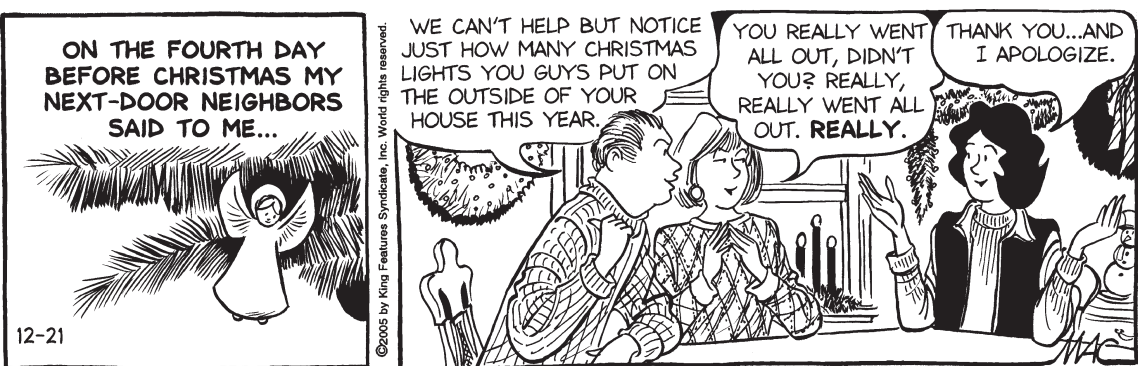
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

EFKA WZM'JK VBOOBAU  
VZMO, B VMOOZVK  
VZQKCPW QBUFS VTW  
“PZA’S ETVSK WZMJ CJZSF!”  
Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IF A NATIVE OF ALASKA HAD SUPER-SHARP VISION, I THINK I’D CALL HER AN OPTICAL ALEUTIAN.  
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: J equals R

Smart women dispair about true love

DEAR ABBY: Several of my friends and I were bemoaning our status as single women in our late 20s/early 30s, and discussing an article we had read in The New York Times about how smart women are less likely to get married. We’d all like to find Mr. Wonderful and be married. But if we have to curtail our professional success, financial wherewithal and IQ to do it, how can a person even begin to do such a thing?

I have a feeling you’ll say to be ourselves and it will all work out, but thus far it has NOT worked out, and we’re starting to worry. Personally, I think we’d be better off to take jobs as “administrators” in a large company somewhere and hope for the best.

Help, Abby! What’s the answer for smart, fun women who have their acts together? How can we best poise ourselves to find true love while being true to ourselves?

— LOSING FAITH IN FINDING MR. RIGHT  
DEAR LOSING FAITH: The truth is, there are no guarantees that ANYONE (male or female) will land a mate. It isn’t easy these days because people are commitment-phobic. And this applies to individuals at all economic and educational levels, not just you at the top. Pairing off is often a matter of luck and timing — being in the right place at the right time.

Eligible members of both sexes can be found in places of common interest — places that are intellectually rewarding, culturally stimulating, athletically challenging or financially advantageous. As to whether you should downgrade your job level in order to appear less “threatening,” I guarantee that if you don’t take financial care of yourselves while you can, you will regret it later. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, you could fool some of the bachelors



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

some of the time, but you couldn’t fool all of them all of the time.

There are worse things than not finding Prince Charming, and one of them is spending your life pretending to be something you are not. So my advice is to stop reading defeatist newspaper and magazine articles. They’ll only make you desperate, clingy and depressed — and none of those traits is attractive to either sex.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently had a baby. We chose a mature, Christian couple to be our child’s godparents.

However, my brother-in-law is infuriated over the fact that he’s not the godparent. He has disowned my husband and wants nothing to do with us.

Behavior such as this in the past is part of the reason he wasn’t chosen. However, I need to know this: Did we have an obligation to choose him as a godparent? How should we handle his immaturity and controlling behavior?

— NEEDS TO KNOW IN OHIO

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: A godparent can either be a relative or a close friend, and you were not obligated to choose one over the other.

Your brother-in-law may be hurt that he wasn’t chosen, but his subsequent behavior has been so childish that it’s apparent you made the right decision. The way to handle his immature and controlling behavior is to forgive him for it, and go on with your lives.

CONFIDENTIAL TO EDWARD PHILLIPS IN MINNEAPOLIS: Happy Birthday, baby brother! I hope you’re enjoying your special day.

DEAR ABBY: Could you please give me some advice regarding proper wedding etiquette when it comes to giving the bride and groom a blessing?

Our daughter was recently married, and her maid of honor and best man each gave a small speech with a toast. My husband was planning to give them a blessing and say a prayer over them.

However, before he had a chance to get the microphone, an older friend of the family got hold of it and gave a blessing she had absolutely no authority to give. She went on for five minutes while my husband fumed the whole time. He felt like he was robbed.

We have not discussed our feelings with this woman, and are unsure how to handle this situation. We don’t want this to happen again at our next wedding.

— ROBBED IN ILLINOIS  
DEAR ROBBED: Your question is a first. I have never heard of “blessing etiquette” or an order of priority for offering them. As far as I’m concerned, the more prayers and blessings a couple receives, the better — and your husband should have stepped up to the plate and offered his own.

P.S. The way to prevent someone from grabbing the microphone and speaking out of turn would be to control who has it, and have a list of scheduled speakers.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Editor’s note: 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

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ Q 4  
♥ 10 6 2  
♦ A 8 4 3  
♣ A Q 7 5

WEST  
♠ 10 9 8 2  
♥ K J 5  
♦ J 7  
♣ J 9 6 3

EAST  
♠ 7 6 3  
♥ 9 8 4 3  
♦ 10 9 6 2  
♣ 10 8

SOUTH  
♠ A K J 5  
♥ A Q 7  
♦ K Q 5  
♣ K 4 2

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 NT

Opening lead — ten of spades.

Bad Luck Is Not Always Fatal

It is certainly not a rarity for declarer to encounter unlucky developments during the play of a hand. In a surprising number of cases, though, bad news can be changed into good news — provided declarer keeps his cool.

Consider this deal where South started with 11 sure tricks — four spades, three diamonds, three clubs and a heart — and saw three different ways of trying for the slam-going trick. The critical trick could materialize if the missing clubs or diamonds were divided 3-3 or, failing both, if the heart finesse succeeded.

South began by cashing four spades, East contributing a heart on the fourth round as declarer discarded two hearts from dummy. South then cashed the K-Q-A of diamonds, but his first chance went aglimmering when West discarded a heart on the third diamond lead.

Declarer next tried the A-K-Q of clubs and saw his second chance go down the drain when East discarded a heart on the third round of clubs. It now appeared that South had only one last shot for the slam — a heart finesse against East.

But declarer suddenly realized there was a different way of producing a 12th trick — one that could not possibly fail. With only three more tricks to go, West was known to hold the jack of clubs and — since he had no more spades or diamonds — precisely two hearts. South had no idea which two hearts West held, but it didn’t really matter. A club lead from dummy forced West to win and return a heart at trick 12, thereby assuring the slam regardless of where the heart king was located.

South thus converted the supposedly bad news of the 4-2 club division into good news by adapting his play to the situation that had developed. In fact, after West showed up with four clubs, the slam was just as certain to succeed as it would have been had the clubs divided 3-3.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“I’m trying to sound this one out.”

Crossword

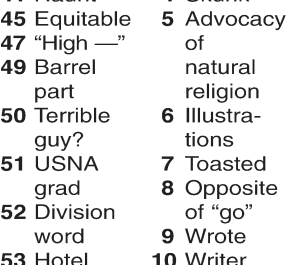
ACROSS  
1 Fleet member  
5 Apply lightly  
8 Airport lineup  
12 Novice  
13 Blunder  
14 Waikiki wing-ding  
15 Pedestal occupant  
16 Judge Lance  
17 Elemental unit  
18 Gets more magazines  
20 Clean up  
22 1978 Vietnam movie  
26 Mantle  
29 Cee follower  
30 Gun the engine  
31 Rinehart and Winston  
32 Central  
33 Existed

34 Frigid  
35 Pursue romantically  
36 Dull gray-green  
37 Tempting look  
40 Picks up the check  
41 Haunt  
45 Equitable  
47 “High —”  
49 Barrel part  
50 Terrible guy?  
51 USNA grad  
52 Division word  
53 Hotel furniture  
54 Society-page word

55 Attention-getter  
DOWN  
1 Mix  
2 Stevenson villain  
3 Press agent?  
4 Skunk  
5 Advocacy of natural religion  
6 Illustrations  
7 Toasted  
8 Opposite of “go”  
9 Wrote  
10 Writer Bette — Lord  
11 Bottom line

19 Moo goo gai pan  
21 Census statistic  
23 “A tale told by an ...”  
24 Unadorned  
25 Squared  
26 Stylish  
27 Crazy  
28 Interval between games  
32 Wet  
33 Adore  
35 Explanation  
36 Neighbor of Isr.  
38 Makes  
39 Pimlico entrant  
42 Many millennia  
43 No tee-totalers, they  
44 Espy  
45 Not quite a whopper  
46 “Hail, Caesar!”  
48 Indivisible

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday’s answer 12-22

