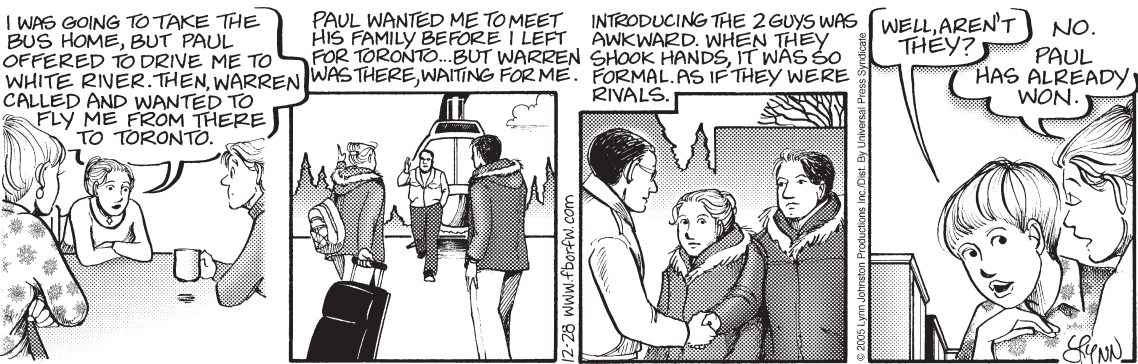


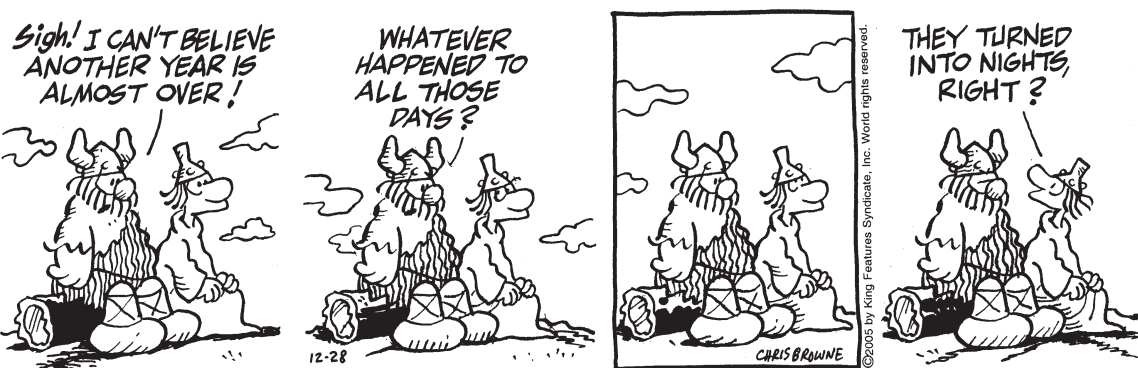
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



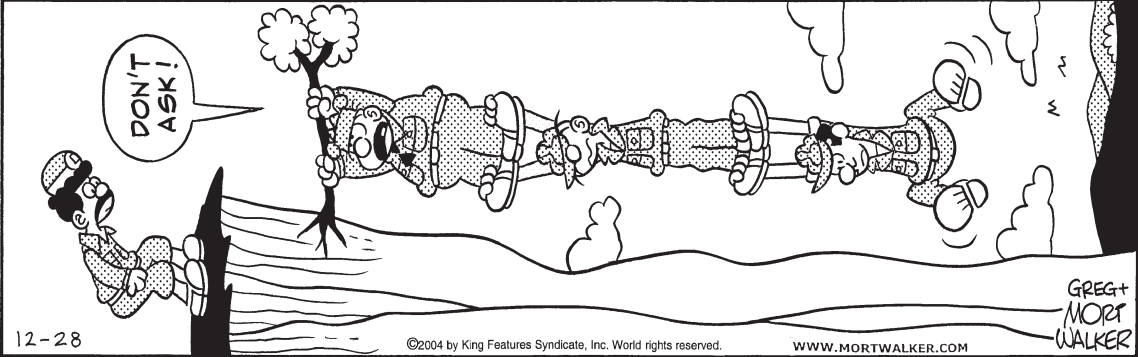
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



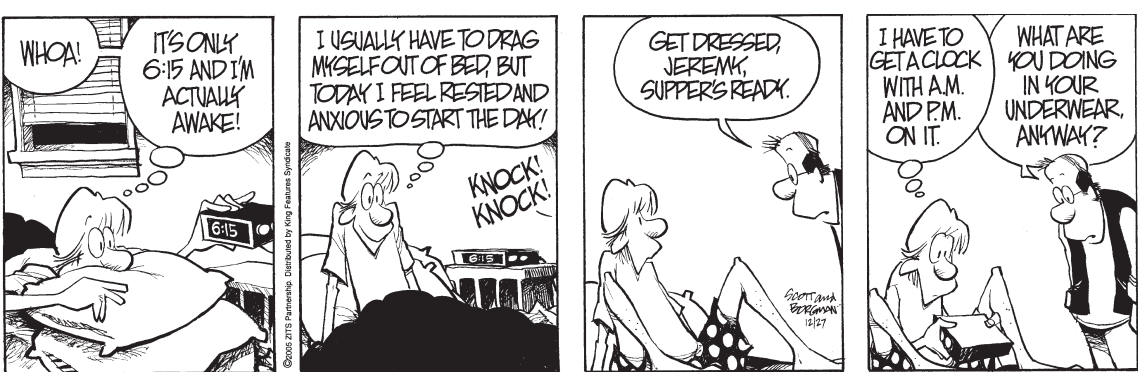
Blondie • Chic Young



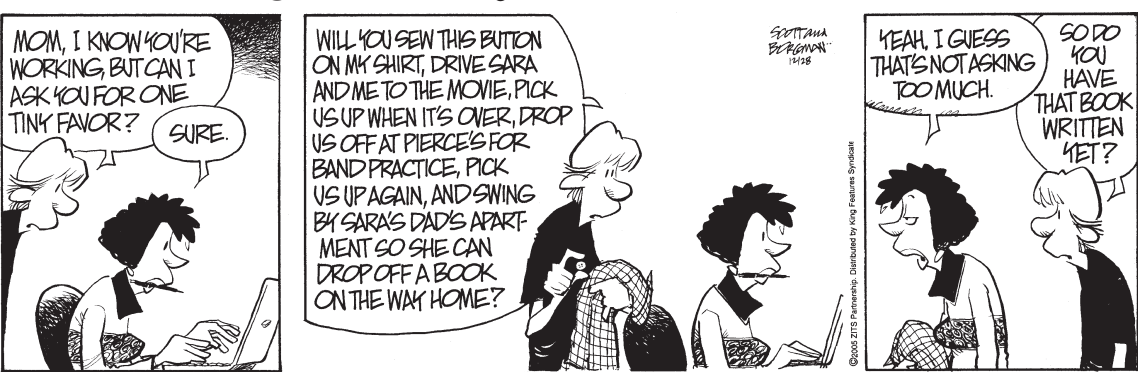
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

LO ZUP KUB'Y JTZ YUU

XPVG OUN VTNBLQTC ETXFD,

YGFB L DPJJUDF ZUP'QF

E UYYFB T OTLN KFTC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT I MIGHT HAVE TO RELOCATE. I EXPECT THAT'D BE A MOVING EXPERIENCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

Wife rescues spouse from himself

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my soul mate and best friend, "Herbert," for a year and a half. There's only one downside to our marriage.

Herbert speaks horribly about himself several times a day. It began after our wedding and used to be limited to bill-paying time. But over the last few months, he has been doing it several times a day.

He says he's a bad provider. (He's not! We're no worse off than millions of other newlywed couples.) He says he's ugly. (Again, he isn't. I find him very attractive.) He says he is lazy and that I married someone who, "if it weren't for bad luck, would have no luck at all." The list goes on and on.

At first, I'd disagree, but recently I have gone from arguing with him to suggesting counseling. Of course, Herbert will have none of that. He says we can't afford counseling, which brings on another round of his opinion that he's worthless.

Abby, it's exhausting to defend someone who constantly attacks himself.

What are my options here? I adore Herbert, but it would be nice to be able to talk about something other than, "No, you're not worthless. No, you're not a bad provider."

Please don't reveal my name or location. If he knows I've written to you, he'll start it again.

Help!

— GOING MAD IN THE SOUTHEAST

DEAR MAD: You have married a man with low self-esteem — a bottomless pit.

It would be interesting to know how he was treated as a child, because your husband appears so accustomed to verbal abuse that if he doesn't get it from someone else, he must do it to himself.

Thus, you are forced into the position of having to constantly inflate his sagging ego — which



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

I'm sure is exhausting and frustrating.

The next time he starts in, try this: Say, "I would never tolerate anyone else talking this way about the man I love, and I refuse to tolerate it from you, either. Are you trying to make me respect you less?"

If you don't stop, you'll destroy our marriage." Then insist on some sessions with a licensed professional to sort this out. It's NOT too expensive; it's something you can't afford to do without. Almost any luxury sacrificed will be worth it. And if he still refuses, go without him. I promise if you do, you'll gain much-needed insight.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 35-year-old man who recently reunited with his birth mother.

I had a very close relationship with my adoptive family and was not desperate to meet my birth family, but I have enjoyed making the connection and like them very much.

I am being married next year, and because my adoptive parents are deceased, and because my adoptive sisters (both in their early 50s) mean so much to me, I plan to have them escorted down the aisle in place of my mother.

My fiancée believes I should also have my birth mother escorted down the aisle.

I am afraid this would hurt the feelings of my sisters, who, while being supportive of my new connection, are still a bit sensitive about

"losing" me to this new family. What do you think?

— MUDDLED IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR MUDDLED: I agree with your fiancée. Talk to your sisters about this now, and impress upon them that they are not "losing" you to your birth mother. She is joining THEM in your life, and this is a time of celebration that should be enjoyed by all — not a turf battle.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is suffering from an Alzheimer's-like dementia, and her personality has changed greatly.

Mother has gone from being a conscientious and polite woman — most of my high school friends called her "June Cleaver" — to losing the checks and balances that prevent her from saying whatever comes to mind.

Specifically, my mother can be very unpredictable in restaurants. She has, several times, while the hostess has been walking up to the table, demanded in a loud voice that they "turn off the damn music!"

No matter what we say to her, she does not understand that this behavior isn't acceptable. What can we say to people in a situation like this that doesn't denigrate my mother, but will help them understand the situation?

— TORN IN FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

DEAR TORN: I know this situation is painful, and you have my sympathy. You should quietly inform the host or hostess of the truth, that your mother was not always like this, but is suffering from dementia. That's not "denigrating." It is the truth. That way, they won't assume that your mother is rude and demanding; they will understand that she is not responsible for what she's saying.

Bridge

East dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	2 ♠	3 ♦	4 ♠
Dble	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♠
Dble			

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Sylvia Strikes Again

This was one of the hands that caused the members of the club to sit up and take notice of Sylvia. It occurred long before she had learned the meaning of a cuebid.

Perhaps South, a world-famous expert, was pushing his luck too far when he overcalled East's one-spade bid with two spades to show a big hand with a spade void.

Playing with Sylvia as his partner, this was a very daring thing to do.

In fact, South died a thousand deaths before the hand was over.

Sylvia (North) jump-raised him twice in spades on the basis that she had exceptionally fine trump support for her partner.

South wisely passed six spades doubled, realizing that he was likely to wind up at seven spades doubled if he bid again over six.

West led a club, and South proceeded to demonstrate his prowess when he ruffed in dummy, took a heart finesse, ruffed a club, took another heart finesse, ruffed a third club, led a heart to the ace and ruffed a fourth round of clubs.

As a result, South now found himself in this position:

North		East	
SAK 10 9		SQJ 8 6	
D 8 7		D 10 2	
South		West	
H 10		S 3	
DAK 5		DQJ 9 6 4	
CQJ			

Declarer cashed the A-K of diamonds and ruffed a diamond with the nine.

East overruffed with the jack but then had to concede the last three tricks to dummy, handing Sylvia and her now-ecstatic partner the doubled slam!

Tomorrow: A crucial decision.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Abracadabra!"

Crossword

ACROSS			DOWN																																																		
1	Tibetan antelope	44	Witness of speech	4	Security devices																																																
4	Film fragment	46	Figure	5	"Skip to My —"																																																
8	Cushiony	50	Russian capitalist?	6	Office holders																																																
12	"Sound of Music" extra	55	"CSI" evidence	7	Lap dog, for short																																																
13	Top-notch	56	Gumbo ingredient	8	Hi-fi hookup																																																
14	Mah-jongg piece	57	Composer Satie	9	Tin Man's need																																																
15	Performance	58	Drag "Hud"	10	Impresario																																																
16	Cantaloупe	59	Oscar winner	11	Letterman list starter																																																
18	Complain	60	Agts.	17	Small rug																																																
20	Listening device	61	Tee preceder	19	Trawler gear																																																
21	Formerly, formally	DOWN			22	Con job																																															
24	Instruct	1	Rodents do it	23	Play a guitar idly																																																
28	Facial feature	2	"That hurts!"	25	Additionally																																																
32	Hodge-podge	3	Against	26	Florentine farewell																																																
33	Emmet	Solution time: 21 mins.																																																			
34	Evans and Moulton	<table><tr><td>LEGS</td><td>CLAD</td><td>HYPE</td><td>CBS</td></tr><tr><td>ATOM</td><td>PULTS</td><td>ALI</td><td>TOT</td></tr><tr><td>CATAPULTS</td><td>CAME</td><td>IMAGE</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>TACKY</td><td>ARAL</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>ALAS</td><td>CAPETOWN</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>POT</td><td>PILES</td><td>GOO</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>SEA</td><td>WATER</td><td>EURO</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>MANY</td><td>GLENN</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BWANA</td><td>SCAB</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>OAR</td><td>CATA</td><td>TATONIA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>AVA</td><td>HIES</td><td>WORM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>TEN</td><td>EMMA</td><td>STEP</td><td></td></tr></table>				LEGS	CLAD	HYPE	CBS	ATOM	PULTS	ALI	TOT	CATAPULTS	CAME	IMAGE		TACKY	ARAL			ALAS	CAPETOWN			POT	PILES	GOO		SEA	WATER	EURO			MANY	GLENN		BWANA	SCAB			OAR	CATA	TATONIA		AVA	HIES	WORM		TEN	EMMA	STEP	
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36	Bando of baseball	Yesterday's answer 12-28																																																			
37	Stop																																																				
39	Pizza topping																																																				
41	Beach blanket?																																																				
43	Unembellished																																																				

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