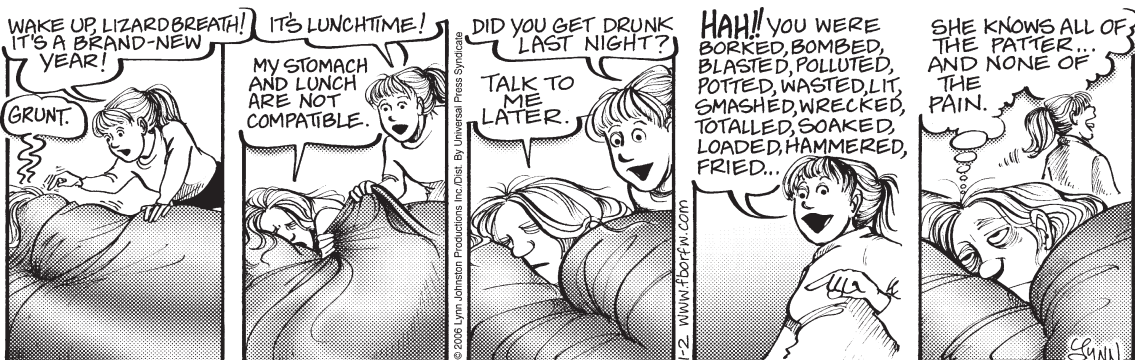
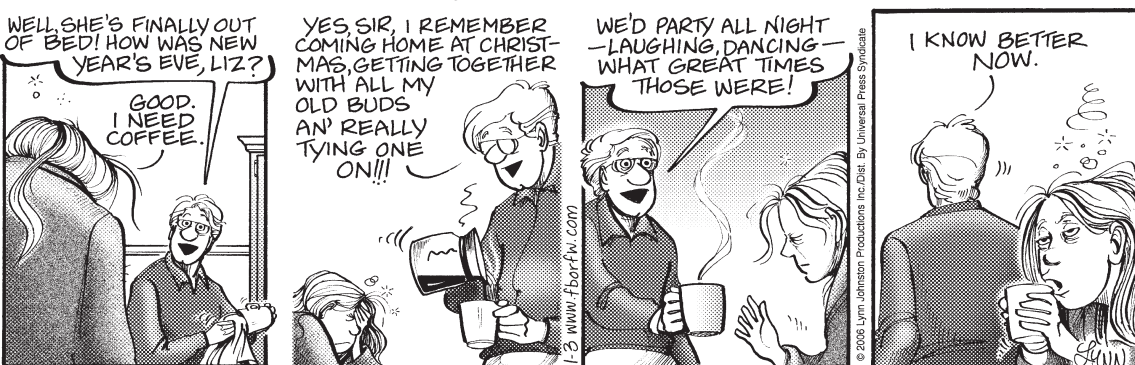


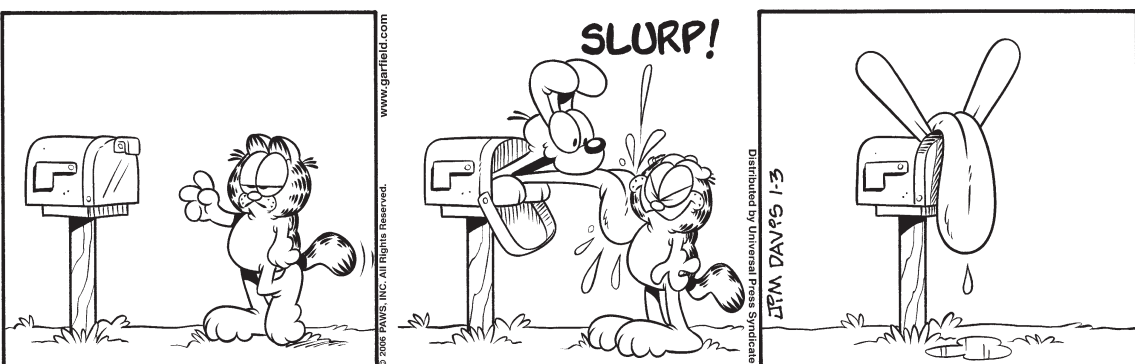
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



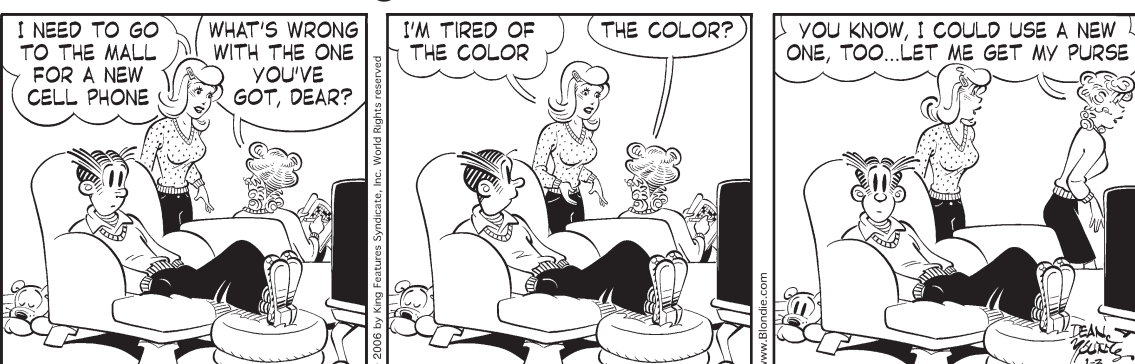
Garfield • Jim Davis



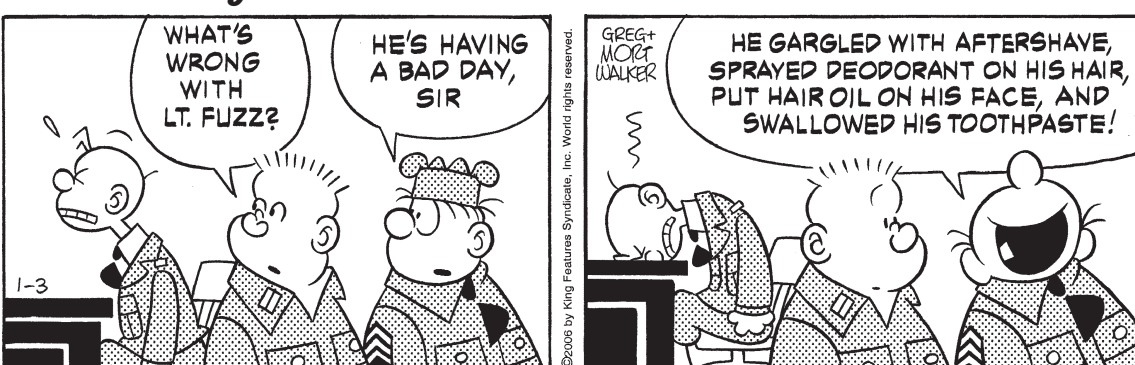
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Teen resists '21 shots' tradition



Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I turned 21 on the 11th of last month, and my friends wanted me to celebrate with "21 shots" of liquor. But after reading your columns about the 21 deadly birthday shots, I told them it was one tradition I wouldn't be trying.

Thank you for addressing this issue and printing the letters from the parents. I decided that my life is more important than impressing my friends. Your article was a sign from God to me.

— TARA IN CLINTON, MISS.

DEAR TARA: I'm pleased beyond words that the column helped you to make that wise decision. Too many young adults cave in to peer pressure and put their lives at risk when a "shot" of common sense would prevent it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The other night, my 19-year-old daughter, "Erin," told me about a "game" some teens are playing for kicks. She didn't seem to realize it could get her killed.

Abby, Erin jumped on the hood of a friend's truck and he took off as fast as he could. He was unaware that she didn't have her grip. When he slammed on the brakes, she went flying and landed on her back. She hit her head, scraped her back, backside and elbows, then hit her head again. She got up and nearly fainted, but no one bothered to call an ambulance or take her to the hospital.

Talking with people, I'm hearing that this game is not uncommon. I'm still shaken about how close I came to losing my daughter. Please, Abby, warn kids that these games are life-threatening, that burying a child or caring for one who is brain-damaged for life IS a big deal.

— STUNNED MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: I'm spreading the word in the hope that it will cause some of the risk-takers to wake up and realize that no one is invincible. However, strongly as I might stress that message, the fol-

lowing letter that arrived in the same batch as yours may be even more compelling. My advice is to do whatever you must to get your daughter away from the immature and irresponsible crowd she's hanging around with. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Last weekend, a 16-year-old young man was killed when he fell off a moving car while "body-surfing" on the roof of the vehicle. The police think the teenager had been lying on the roof of the car when he fell and struck his head on the pavement and a guard rail. The driver told police that his friend had seen "car-surfing" on an MTV show called "Jackass."

— STEVE IN COOKEVILLE, TENN.

DEAR STEVE: My deepest sympathy goes to that boy's family. I'm sure that when he decided to repeat a stunt he saw on television, he had no clue it would cause his own death and his family a lifetime of heartbreak.

After reading your letter, I spoke with Roberto Peccei, Ph.D., vice chancellor for research at UCLA, who kindly explained that the law of physics you mentioned is the Law of Inertia. It means that unless you are secured to a moving object (i.e., a car), you will continue moving forward at the same speed the car was going if the driver slams on the brakes! That's

why it's so important that passengers wear seat belts. I hope any teen who sees this and is tempted to car-surf will think again.

DEAR ABBY: My husband left me a year ago, and our divorce became final two months ago. We have a 3-year-old daughter who lives primarily with me, but sees him frequently. I am a preschool teacher, and my daughter attends classes at the same school where I teach. I have just learned that my ex was dating — and is still communicating with — one of my co-teachers, "Danielle." Ironically, she and I were working in the same classroom when he left me, and I cried on her shoulder about the situation. We bonded because her husband had left her.

It gets worse. It seems at least one other teacher has known about the situation for several months. Danielle was apparently reading e-mails from my ex in the staff room and shared a message with the other teacher, whispering, "Shhh ..." as she pointed to his name on the screen. I feel furious, betrayed and humiliated. I think my ex is pondscum, and Danielle is simply evil. I don't want my daughter connected to this woman in any way. I have to see Danielle every day, and I don't know what to say or do.

— EX-WIFE

DEAR EX-WIFE: I don't blame you for feeling betrayed, but you can't control who your ex sees or who might be with him when your daughter visits her dad. My advice is to keep your cool and continue to avoid Danielle. There is nothing to be gained — and you could have a lot to lose — if you create a scene at the school. Should you run into her away from the school and choose to give her a piece of your mind, that's your privilege. But don't count on shaming the shameless — because that's what she is.

Bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ J 9 7
♥ 10
♦ Q J 9 8 7 3
♣ K 10 8

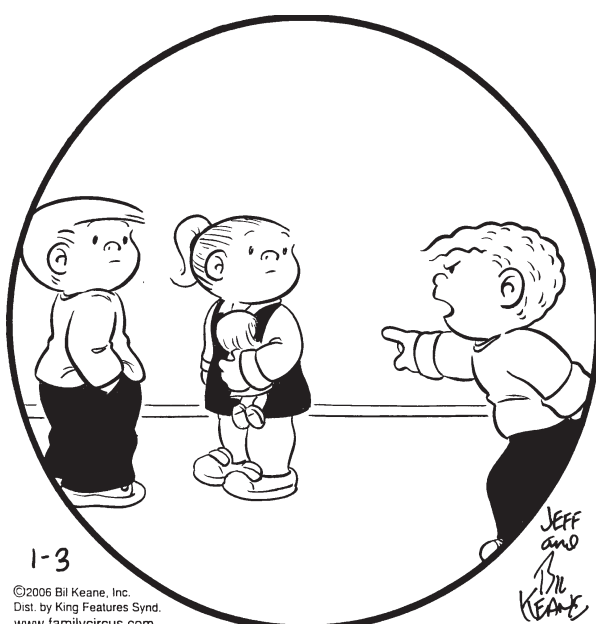
EAST
♠ 8 4 2
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ A K 5 4
♣ 9 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ A J 9 7 4 3 2
♦ —
♣ J 4 3

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 2♣
East Pass

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I heard that out of the corner of my ear."

This deal occurred during a match between Australia and Indonesia at the 1980 World Team Championship. With Tim Seres North and Dick Cummings South for Australia, the bidding went as shown.

West led the queen of diamonds. Cummings ruffed and played the ace of trumps at trick two, catching West's ten. Realizing that if the trumps were divided 3-2 there would be no problem producing 10 tricks, Cummings decided to try to protect himself, if possible, against a 4-1 trump division.

Accordingly, at trick three he led the jack of hearts instead of a low heart. The jack play had the great advantage of establishing a possible trump coup position against East later in the play.

East won the jack with the queen and returned a spade, West's jack forcing dummy's ace.

Cummings then ruffed a diamond to shorten his trump length and cashed the K-Q of spades, producing this position:

North S 10; D 10; CAQ 7 6
West DJ 9 8; CK 10 8
East HK 8; DK 4; C 9 5
South H 9 7 4; CJ 4 3

Cummings now led the club three to dummy's ace, brilliantly demonstrating that finessing the queen would unnecessarily jeopardize a sure contract. (Give East the K-5 of clubs instead of the 9-5 and finessing the queen is fatal if East returns a club.)

Next came the ten of spades from dummy.

East could not gain by ruffing, so he, and declarer also, discarded a club. Cummings then ruffed the ten of diamonds with the four of hearts, exited with the jack of clubs, and was sure to score a 10th trick with his 9-7 of trumps sitting behind East's K-8.

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Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Puncturing tool	1 Honest politician
4 Alumni function	2 Tussaud's material
9 Shade provider	3 Varnish ingredient
12 Sheepish remark	4 Infantrymen
13 Send payment, in a way	5 Withstands
14 Midnight, in a way	6 Parisian pal
15 Tabloid publisher's coup	7 Prima donnas
17 Swindle	8 Hi-fi hook-up
18 Blackbird	9 Immoderate
19 Impassioned	10 Pride member
21 Perfumery output	11 Julep flavor
24 Discovers	16 Interoffice PC setup
25 "Friends" cast member	
26 Pigs' digs	
28 Refuge	
31 Swiss range	
33 Blue	
35 Basketball team	
36 Bound hay	

Solution time: 24 mins.

VIP	SWAG	FLAP
ERA	LORE	LOBE
RON	AMAT	ONUS
ANGELA	BASS	SETT
YON	WAS	
HAREM	HAG	GPA
EGAD	JOY	KNOW
ROW	MUG	SHUTE
GOV	SPA	
BONNIE	POINTER	
OLEO	NARK	HAY
SIAM	ANTE	ERE
HOLE	LESS	OPS

Saturday's answer 1-2

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Cryptoquip

ZH BYT'QI FQIPIJMIA
HQYO IJMIQZJK XJB FTR,
Z KTIDD ZM OIXJD

BYT'PI RIIJ AZD-RXQQIA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: OUR CHURCH FAIR STARTS TOMORROW, SO I BAKED DOZENS OF COOKIES FOR SOME BAZAAR REASON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R