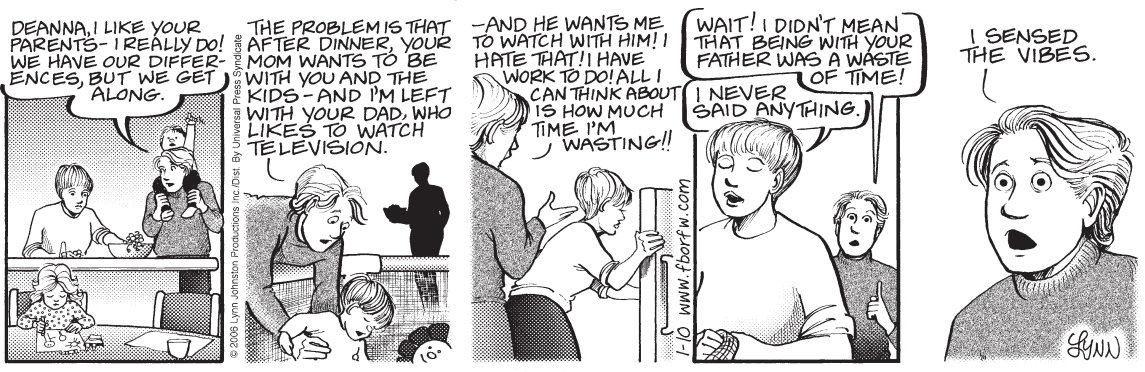
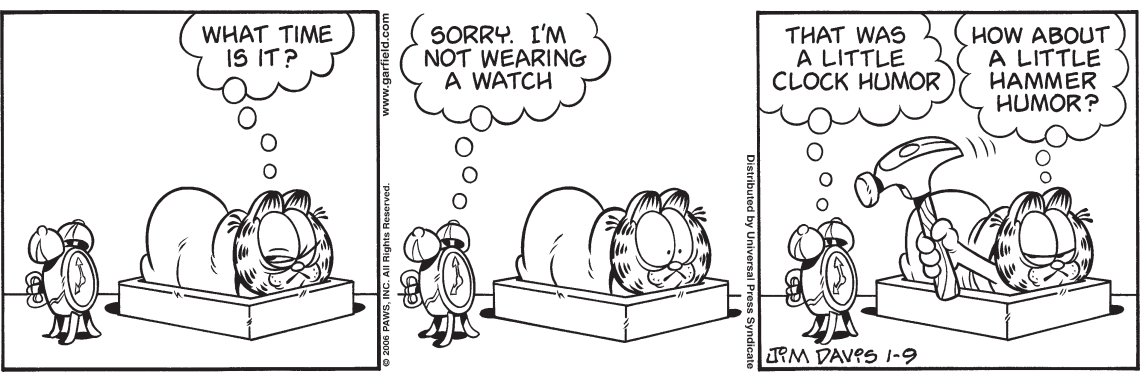
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

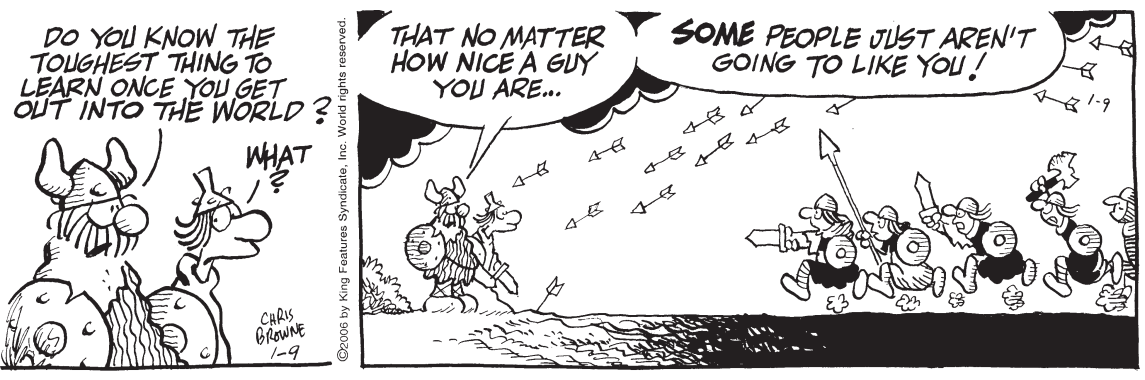
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



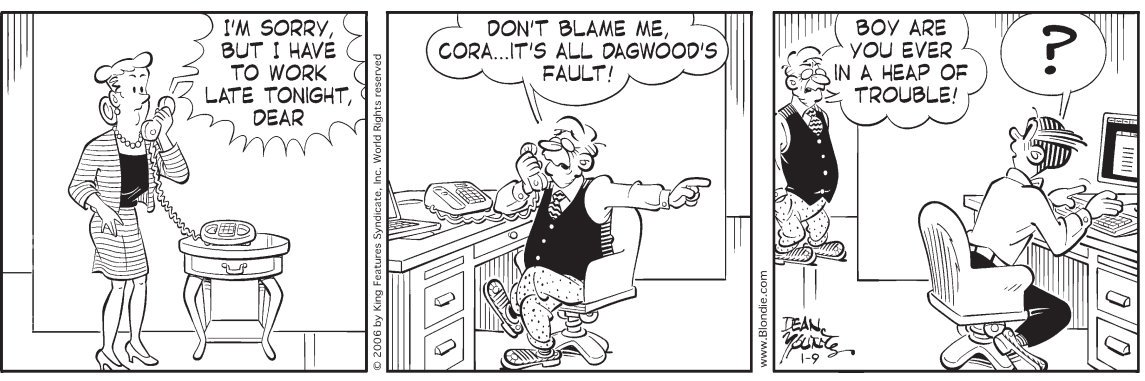
Garfield • Jim Davis



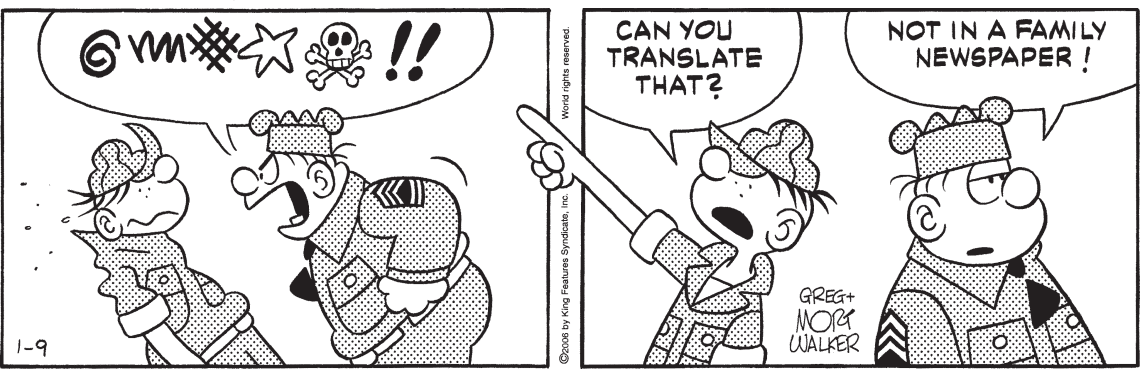
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young

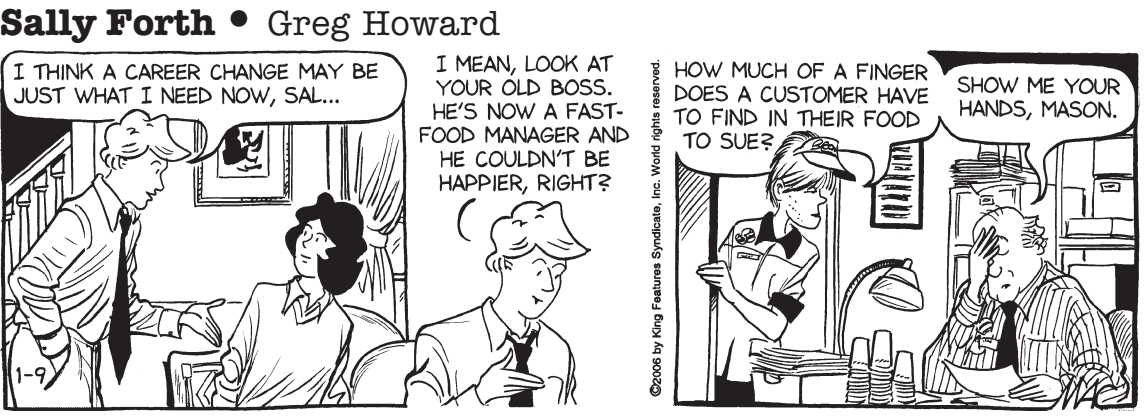


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

COLBY FREE PRESS

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR:
NEWS • WEATHER
SPORTS

155 W. 5th • 785-462-3963

How long can meat be frozen?

Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law was born during the Depression. My question is, what is a safe amount of time to be able to eat meat from the freezer?

We have noticed items that are more than 5 years old that my father-in-law insists are still good, "... you just cut off the freezer burn." We're afraid he's going to poison himself.

— CONCERNED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, WELLINGTON, COLO.

DEAR CONCERNED: According to Mike Herndon, media spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, meat can be frozen "almost indefinitely." However, it must be stored constantly at zero degrees to be safe. Freezer burn does not make food unsafe, but may affect the quality.

The following are freezer storage times for quality only: uncooked roasts, steaks or chops, four to 12 months; whole poultry, 12 months; poultry parts, nine months. Also, it's a good idea to check for odor after meat and poultry have been frozen for too long. If there is a rancid smell, obviously, do not use it.

DEAR ABBY: A new employee, "Nicki," was recently hired at the company where I work. A group of us eat lunch together, and we have tried to make Nicki as welcome as possible by asking her to join our table.

Usually our conversation consists of talk about our families or a movie we saw recently, but Nicki always seems to interject a piece of information that is so private as to be inappropriate. Recently she confided that her husband had cheated on her, and that he had been arrested for theft.

Lunchtime has become less pleasant because this woman seems to have no boundaries. How can I politely let her know that giving too much information about her private life makes me (and other employees) uncomfortable?

— SQUIRMING

DEAR SQUIRMING: The woman has my sympathy. She is trying to bond with you folks in the only way she knows how. It would not be impolite to take her aside and quietly tell her that it isn't necessary to air her dirty laundry in order to make friends at the company. You will be doing her a favor. Please do it now.

DEAR ABBY: When our grandchildren come to visit, their parents do not discipline them. When our children visited our parents, we made sure they behaved. As a matter of fact, we did it no matter where they went.

What do you do when the parents do not attend to their children? When I served Christmas dinner, they did not insist that their 6-year-old join the family. He was allowed to continue playing videos. How do I let them know there are rules here?

It hurts my feelings when my grandchildren treat my good furniture as a playground. I don't see them often, but I'd rather skip having them in my home and visit them. However, my children rarely offer to host the holidays. What's a person to do?

— CONFUSED GRANDMA IN INDIANA

DEAR CONFUSED: I'd suggest a two-pronged approach. Ask your children to inform the grandkids that when they visit their grandparents there are certain rules of conduct that must be observed — and that includes sharing mealtime together and not jumping on or off the furniture. And then, if the youngsters don't behave, take them aside and explain that they may act that way in their parents' home, but not in yours because you have rules — and tell them exactly what kind of behavior you expect from them.

The longer you remain silent, the longer your problem will continue.

DEAR ABBY: I am a female who is almost 38 years old. Most of my adult life has been spent in school, working or traveling. It is only in the last two years that I have met someone and settled down somewhat — although we are not married. We are both artists, so much of our time is filled doing the things that we love and believe in. Neither of us feels a giant void in our relationship or our lives that needs to be filled by a baby.

In the past year or so, several of my co-workers and other people I barely know keep asking, "When are you going to have a baby?" or, "You only have a couple more years — aren't you going to have a baby?" or, "Don't you want kids?"

Abby, my family doesn't even ask me these questions! I think they are extremely rude and intrusive, and I resent the simple-minded assumption that just because a person has a uterus and ovaries she must make a baby. How should I respond to these questions?

— CHILDLESS AND HAPPY

DEAR CHILDLESS AND HAPPY: There are several ways to handle questions that are nobody's business. One is to deflect the question by asking another: "Why do you ask?" Or, "Why do you think that's any of your business?" Alternatively, if you really want the person to back down, you can reply, "If it were any of your business, you'd already know the answer to that question. Please don't ask me again!"

Bridge

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ A 6 3
♥ Q 10 9 7
♦ K Q J 10 7
♣ 2

EAST
♠ 9 8 7
♥ K 8 2
♦ 9 3
♣ 10 9 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 5 4 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A 6 4 2
♣ K 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Famous Hand

It is not at all surprising that in every country where bridge is played — and that means practically every country in the world — different methods of bidding have developed.

Nowhere is this more noticeable than in the world championships staged every year.

Take this deal from the U.S.-Italy match in 1957. At the first table, Italy's Walter Avarelli and Giorgio Belladonna held the North-South cards.

They were playing the Roman Club system, which features many unusual conventions.

Avarelli opened the North hand with one heart. He could not bid one club because that would have indicated either a very powerful hand, or 4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2 distribution!

Belladonna responded two diamonds instead of one spade because in the Roman System the shorter suit is normally mentioned first when responder has a good hand.

Avarelli then bid three clubs, promising a five-card suit, and Belladonna bid three notrump. South's spade suit, oddly enough, was never mentioned.

All three suit bids were contrary to the American style, which calls for the longer suit to be bid first. West led the king of diamonds and defeated the contract one trick, scoring four diamonds and a spade.

At the second table, with Boris Koytchou and Harold Ogust North-South for the U.S., the bidding went:

North	East	South	West
1 C	Pass	1 S	2 D
Pass	Pass	Dble	

Here the bids were all natural, and West (Guglielmo Siniscalco) wound up in two diamonds doubled.

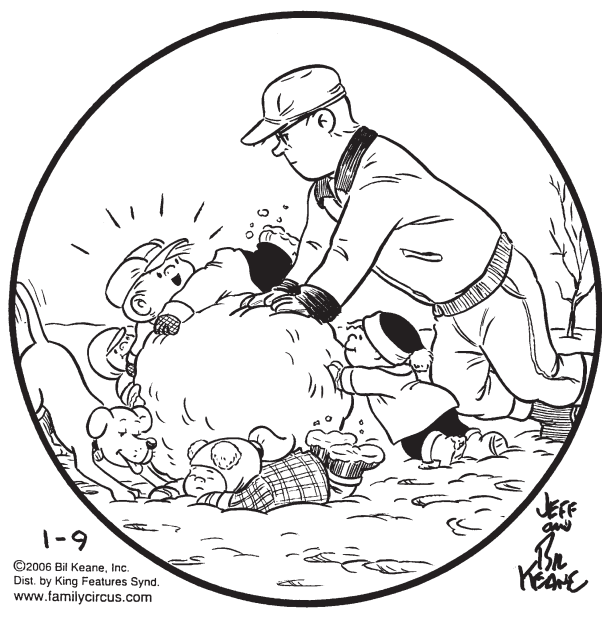
His overcall was certainly normal, but he scored only four diamond tricks, a spade and a heart to finish down two, minus 300.

So Italy lost 400 points on the deal, which proves virtually nothing other than that the language of bidding is far from universal.

Tomorrow: A stitch in time.

(c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"This snowman will be finished in no time, Daddy, with all of us helpin' you!"

Crossword

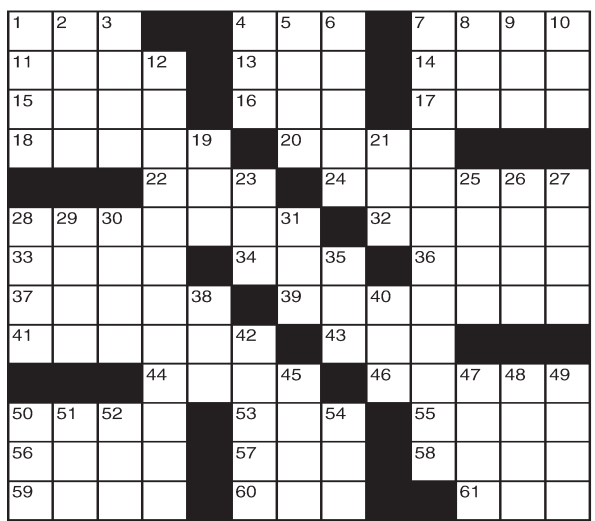
ACROSS
1 Third deg.
4 Sty dweller
7 Entrance
11 Told tales
13 Greek vowel
14 Inactive
15 Tangelo type
16 Fire up a motor
17 Coral structure
18 Avoid (a task)
20 Come together
22 Gratuity
24 "Leave me alone!"
28 Shrill-sounding grasshopper
32 Re an arm bone
33 Not up yet
34 British bar
36 Clearasil target
37 "American Graffiti" director
39 Dead give-away?
41 Like specialty cuisine
43 Holster occupant
44 Harvester's collection
46 Affix
50 Opposed
53 Eggy quaff
55 Anger
56 Stitched
57 Scream
58 Scream
59 Booty
60 Height of fashion?
61 "My Gal —"

DOWN
1 Asset
2 Lofty
3 Sandwich shop
4 Apiece
5 Particular
6 Judge's prop
7 Tabloid topics
8 Tribute in verse
9 Bullring bravo
10 Ump
12 Swayze/Grey movie
19 Tease
21 Water (Fr.)
23 Spade or diamond
25 Formerly
26 Bleacher-ites
27 Worry
28 Hardy cabbage
29 Touch
30 Cal —
31 Bestow knighthood upon
35 Plead
38 Round Table address
40 Sine-non link
42 Spiral-shaped shell
45 Hole in the head?
47 Fades away
48 Earthenware pot
49 Dudley Do-Right's love
50 Simpleton
51 Fresh
52 2001 American acquisition
54 Workout venue

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	R	E	A	D	S	■	L	A	S	S	O	■
B	O	R	N	E	O	■	I	D	I	O	M	S
W	A	R	D	E	N	■	G	A	R	D	E	N
A	M	A	■	M	A	D	A	M	■	D	N	A
N	E	T	S	■	R	O	T	■	S	E	E	P
A	D	A	P	T	■	S	E	C	O	N	D	S
■	■	■	R	O	B	■	S	U	N	■	■	■
T	R	A	U	M	A	S	■	P	I	T	C	H
R	E	N	E	■	Y	O	U	■	C	O	R	E
I	R	A	■	C	O	U	N	T	■	P	E	N
B	U	R	D	E	N	■	B	O	R	D	E	N
E	N	C	O	D	E	■	A	R	E	O	L	A
■	S	H	E	E	T	■	R	I	N	G	S	■

Saturday's answer 1-9



Cryptoquip

XO GJ IOOXQNM GMMNPSNY PIHN VGWVGMY UNSSKQN IM NJYXBN, WIK HXCZS ZGBN QIUUGMNY CMNNJP.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A FEMALE SOVEREIGN IS A GREAT RULER, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT SAY SHE IS VERY EMPRESSIVE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals U