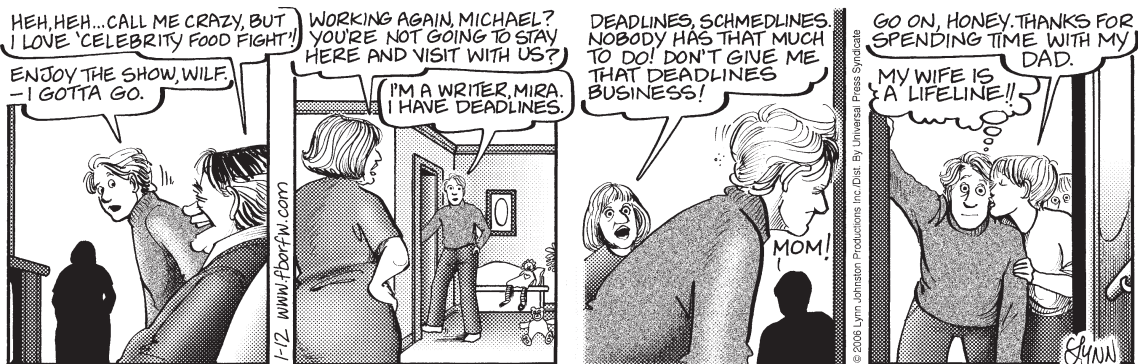
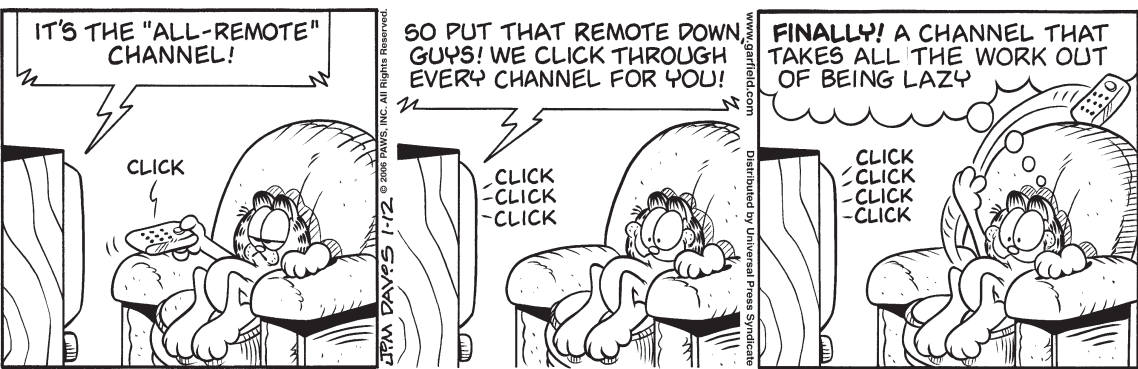


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



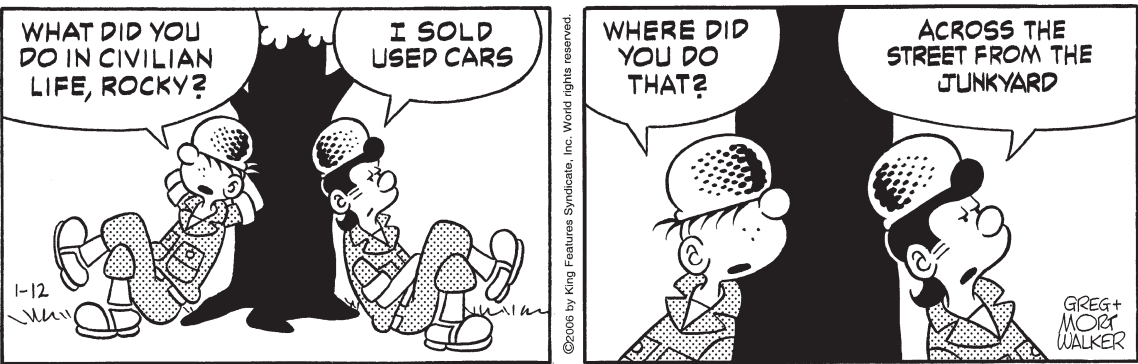
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

JY PSQKJPS MZJQX PZUST,

CF PBSX MJYC BFKST PBSX

UFLS ZYC PBSY UJLS

BZNNJUX SLSQ QZMPSQ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TRAVEL AGENT'S FOCUS IS PLANNING RESORT TRIPS, I GUESS HE HAS A VACATION VOCATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals D

Wife has nowhere to escape abuse

DEAR ABBY: I am 30 years old, married seven years, the mother of three children, and I'm at the end of my rope. My husband has quit or been fired from numerous jobs because of his "poor attitude." He calls the women he works with "fat b—es" and blames everyone else for his problems. He's addicted to weed and alcohol, and gets extremely upset if I don't partake of these things with him.

When he does work, he calls me an average of 15 times a day, or he instant-messages me constantly — and he's only gone six or seven hours. If I don't answer the phone or respond to his e-mail immediately, he'll drop everything and race home to accuse me of cheating or betraying him in some way. On three different occasions he has slapped me in the face, then immediately denied doing it.

He has also grabbed me around the throat a few times. He says very hurtful things to me, and then denies saying them. He is verbally abusive to my eldest son from a previous relationship.

I have no friends or family I can turn to. I am extremely depressed and at the point of either running away or killing myself. I'm scared all the time. I'd leave, but he tells me he will hurt me or take my kids away and never let me see them if I do. Can you help me?

— NANCY IN NEW MEXICO
DEAR NANCY: If ever I heard of a woman who needed to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, it is you, dear lady. The toll-free number (which won't show up on your phone bill) is (800) 799-7233 (SAFE). The people on the hotline can help you to formulate a safe escape plan from the drug-addicted bully you married. (If this seems harsh, he qualifies.) Please make the call TODAY, not only for your own sake



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

but also for your children's.

DEAR ABBY: The "Smiths" and our family live on either side of "Betty," an 84-year-old widow. Betty is a wonderful, caring neighbor most of the time. However, she is beginning to deteriorate mentally and physically.

She has a cleaning service that comes in, a teenager to mow her lawn and a MedicAlert necklace, but she has problems grasping and remembering the major things that need to be done outside her home as well as setting up her medication regimen.

Betty's son lives 250 miles away, but he visits only a couple of times a year. He arrives late one day, stays the next two nights, and leaves early the third morning. Her other children live in other states and rarely visit.

Betty is beginning to rely more and more on us neighbors to get things done for her.

While we don't mind helping out in emergencies, we feel someone else should take over her everyday needs.

She is adamant about not going to a nursing home — which I agree with — but there are less-confining possibilities that I think would be better for her and would relieve us of the responsibility and liability of tending to her.

Should we contact her son, or just start to let things go until things become serious?

— WORRIED ABOUT BETTY, GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.

DEAR WORRIED: You should absolutely contact your neighbor's son and tell him exactly what you have told me.

His mother may need the help of a visiting nurse, or even a case-worker to make sure she has what she needs and her property is well-kept. You appear to be caring neighbors, but this should not be your responsibility. If Betty's son doesn't know where to look for help, please tell him to contact a local senior center or the Colorado state agency on aging, which should be listed in the phone book.

DEAR ABBY: I am 35 years old and have been divorced for four years.

Hypothetically speaking, if I decide never to remarry (which is tempting), or if I remarry 20 years from now, what is my marital status between now and then?

I consider myself single, not divorced. If I'm still single when I'm 55 — or 80, for that matter — I'd hate to refer to myself as "divorced" and give anyone the idea that I was divorced recently.

— SYLVIA IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SYLVIA: The term "divorced" means that the person was at one time married and the marriage was legally dissolved. This is true whether the divorce was final 20 minutes ago or 20 years ago. When a person's marriage ends in divorce, she is legally a divorcee — and that includes you. To imply otherwise is dishonest.

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.Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
6 ♥			

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Probability Becomes Certainty

In many cases where declarer starts out as a strong favorite to make his contract by adopting an obvious line of play, he can significantly improve on his chances by seeking an even better way to attain his goal.

For example, take this deal where South is in six hearts and West leads a club.

Declarer sees that the only real danger is the possibility of losing two spade tricks.

One way of playing the hand, after winning the club lead with the king, is to draw trumps, lead a spade from dummy and finesse the ten.

If this loses to the jack, declarer can win West's club or diamond return in dummy and try a second spade finesse by leading to the queen.

In the actual deal, both finesses would lose and declarer would wind up down one — even though he was a 3-1 favorite to make the slam on this line of play.

However, a more cautious declarer would make the slam by adopting a different approach designed to overcome the possibility of West's holding the K-J of spades.

He would not settle for a 75 percent probability of success without first making an effort to raise his chances to 80, 90 or even 100 percent. This could be accomplished by an elimination play.

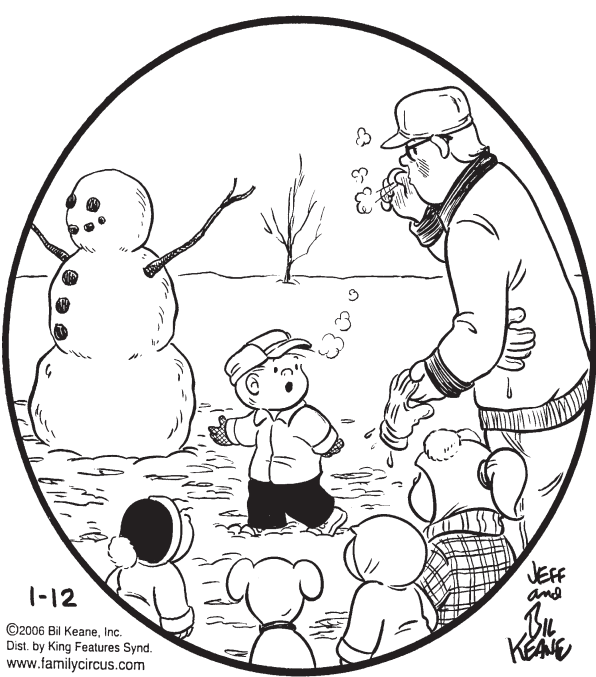
To reach the desired position, declarer would play as follows: king of clubs, ace of diamonds, diamond ruff, low heart to the nine, diamond ruff with the ace, ace of clubs, club ruff with the queen, low heart to the king.

This would reduce the dummy to three spades and the J-5 of trumps, while declarer has four spades and the ten of trumps.

A spade lead to the ten then destroys West. After he wins with the jack, he is forced to return a spade, a diamond or a club, and whichever he chooses, South scores the last four tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Will global warming be bad for his health?"

Crossword

ACROSS			
1	"Jabberwocky" starter	36	Dos Passos trilogy
5	Translucent	37	Union jack?
		38	Cheese
		56	Stench
		DOWN	
		1	Work at the keyboard
		22	Apparel
		23	Met melody
		24	North Pole employee

Solution time: 25 mins.

REAM	PEP	ALOE
OGRE	AGA	VIVA
SIBLINGS	ABOUT	
ASSESS	TOTEMS	
ELI	ALAR	
LAK	EEER	DRAIN
EPIC	SIN	STOA
KEBAC	POE	ENG
IBID	TAM	
FATONE	AROUSE	
OUZO	BIBLICAL	
ODES	AWL	SLIM
TIDE	ROY	TADS

Yesterday's answer 1-12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15				16					17	
18							19	20		
			21			22	23			
24	25	26			27			28	29	30
31					32			33		
34			35		36			37		
		38		39			40			
41	42					43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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