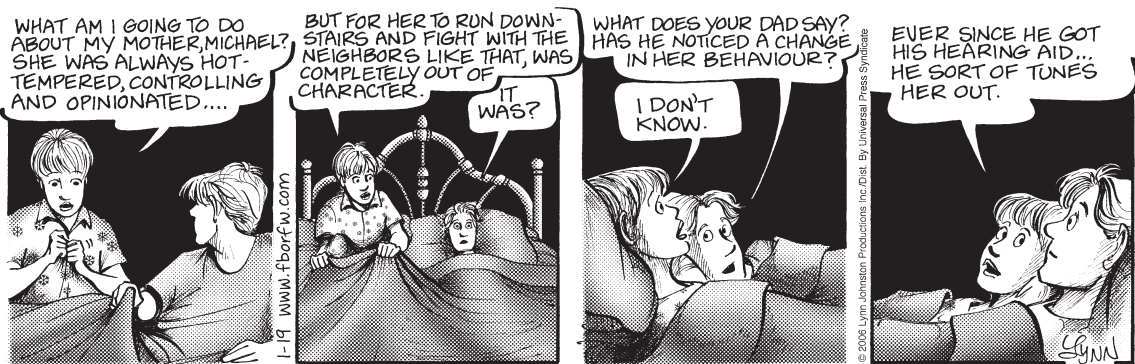


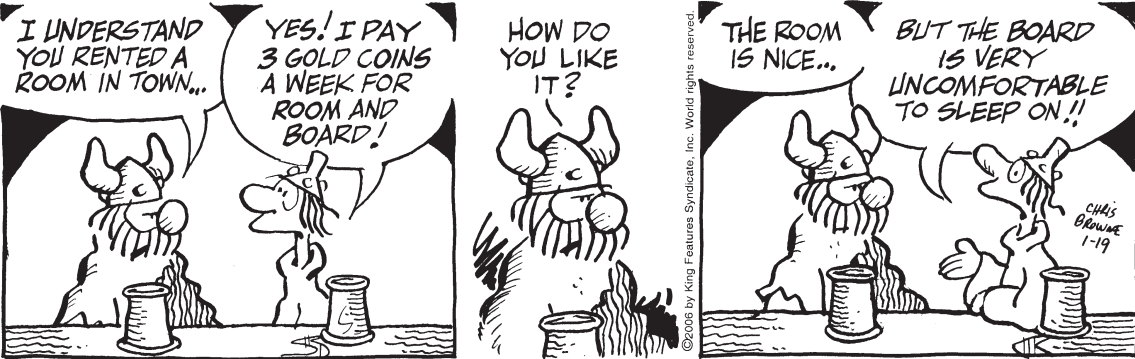
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



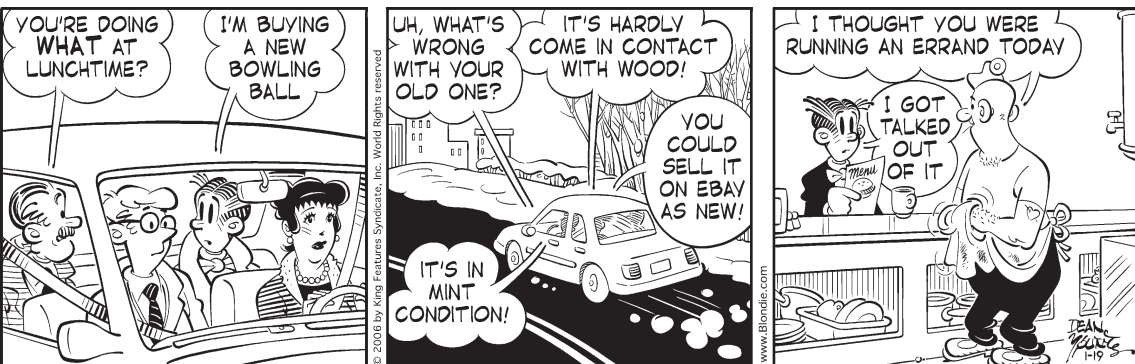
Garfield • Jim Davis



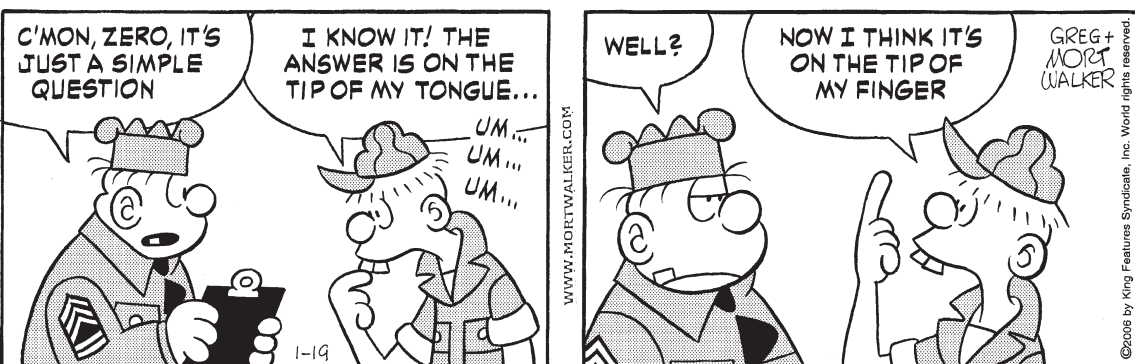
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



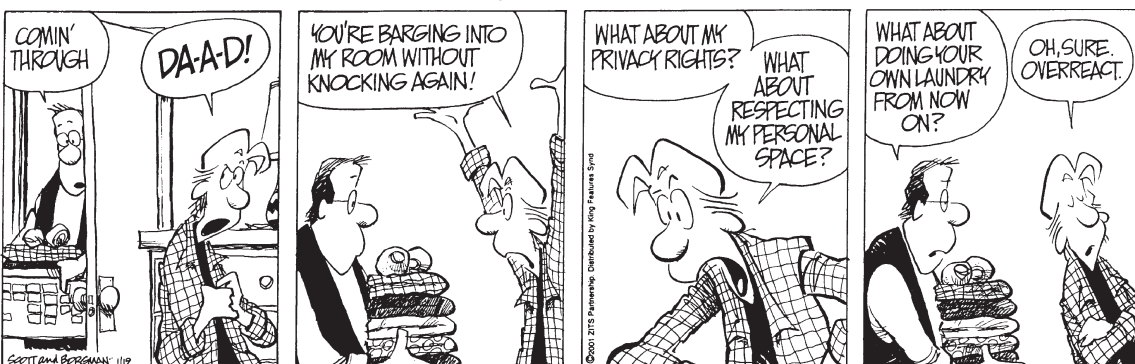
Blondie • Chic Young



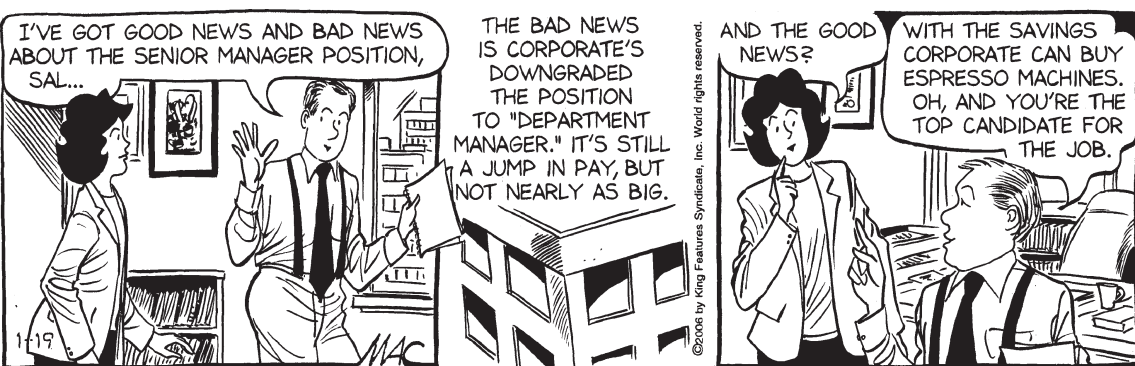
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



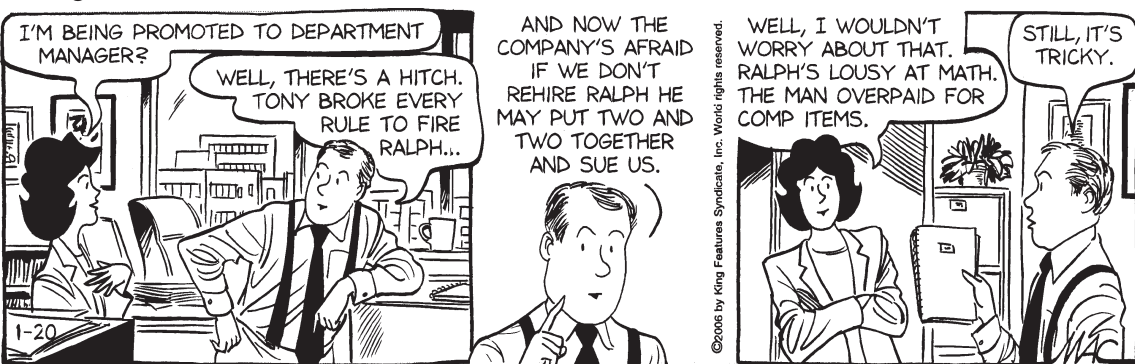
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

O G W S V G W J Q S T E D U T H V

O Q H D S E W U W J L S T L D H N B

P T U W Z, Z L B L D H D A A L H W

H G W P W N V Z W - P T N W Z ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU TAKE A LONG WALKING TOUR OF A WASHINGTON CITY, YOU MIGHT COME HOME SEATTLE-SORE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals W

Romantic gesture draws comment



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Regarding "Stressed-Out Driver," whose boyfriend wants her to drive him to and from the airport — you blew it! That boyfriend — and you — are out of touch with current reality. No one in his right mind would permit, much less encourage, his girlfriend to travel alone by car, cab, bus or subway during the hours of darkness as a "romantic gesture." It could result in her suffering severe mental or physical injury as a result of a car-jacking, assault, rape or kidnapping.

Please reverse your stance and caution all women to limit their exposure to violent criminals by avoiding unnecessary nighttime travel, particularly while they are alone.

Personally, I think she'd be better off finding a boyfriend who is more concerned with her personal safety.

— JACK B., COL., U.S. ARMY, RET.

DEAR JACK: Although other readers disagreed with my reply, I think you may have overstated your case. If your thesis is that all women must remain inside after dark due to threat of car-jacking, assault, rape or kidnapping, allow me to point out that those crimes also happen during daylight hours. Would the solution be that women not be allowed out without permission from, and escorted by, a male relative? (Just kidding.)

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The woman who wrote you is an example of modern women today. They expect everything but aren't willing to put forth any effort, sacrifice, or give back to their partner. She should be ashamed of her attitude. I hope her boyfriend recognizes her letter and dumps her, because this is just the tip of the iceberg!

— TONY IN TAMPA, FLA.
DEAR ABBY: I disagree with

your answer to the woman who doesn't like to drive at night, yet her boyfriend wants her to meet him at the airport after a business trip. He should use a car service and charge it as a business expense. Why should she subsidize his business travel?

What he calls a romantic gesture sounds more like a gesture of control to me. If he hired a car service, they could both enjoy the ride, giving each other their full attention, without having to watch the road.

— ARTHUR IN OSSINING, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: What's romantic about dragging yourself out of bed at midnight to make a stressful trip to the airport? Alert cab drivers get paid to do that. I think his attitude is controlling and selfish. Pampered men don't make good husbands. She should get rid of him, or she'll be cutting the grass every week for the rest of her life.

— FRED IN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: My story is a little different from "Stressed Out's," but it applies. I live near a beautiful trail in California. If you take the path to the left, it takes about an hour and a half to walk, and it is beautiful and peaceful. My husband always wanted me to walk that way. On the occasions when I agreed to walk, I'd insist we go the opposite way, which took only 45 minutes and wasn't nearly as pretty. I had too much to do and not enough time to do it, considering the kids, the errands, the house, etc.

Now I walk that trail the long way almost every day, but I'm doing it alone. My husband died two years ago. Now I ask myself what was so important I couldn't take the extra 45 minutes to go the longer and more beautiful way with him. It's the little things I miss the most, Abby. Life is so short, and there are no guarantees.

— ALONE NOW IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: I have recently returned home from a 3,000-mile driving trip.

Why don't radio stations give their city of origin when they give their call letters/numbers? This would greatly help travelers who are driving through the area when it comes to traffic or weather problems. Sometimes a station will report a bad accident on the "outer belt" that drivers should avoid. But "outer belt" to what city? Am I approaching it, or is it behind me?

The same could be said about weather. The announcer may report a severe storm coming, but unless one knows what city is reporting, again, a traveler has no way of knowing if it's ahead or behind where he or she is driving.

Please help to get the word out regarding the safety value of this one-second addition to these broadcasts. Thank you on behalf of travelers everywhere. — FRUSTRATED TRAVELER, MANSFIELD, OHIO

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your frustration is shared by many people who travel the highways. I say this because your letter is not the first I have received carrying the same message. I hope that radio weathercasters will give your suggestion the consideration it deserves, because if they do, it could prevent accidents and possibly even save some lives.

Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7 5 2
♥ K J 8 3
♦ J 7
♣ Q 7 4

WEST

♠ Q 9
♥ A
♦ A 8 4 2
♣ K J 10 8 5 3

EAST

♠ 10 8 6 4 3
♥ 5 4
♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ K J
♥ Q 10 9 7 6 2
♦ K Q
♣ A 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	2♣	3♥	Pass
4♥			

From the Mailbox

Dear Mr. Becker:

I have a sad tale to relate. I was playing with my beloved spouse in a pairs tournament not long ago, and we got to four hearts on the bidding shown.

As anyone can plainly see, there was no way for me to go down in this contract, as my only losers were a trump, a diamond and a club.

But the sad fact is that I did go down, and, furthermore, I was the only one in the entire event who failed to make four hearts!

You see, there was this rather odd-looking duck with a strange gleam in his eye sitting to my left. After the auction ended, he went into a long trance and then, believe it or not, emerged with the king of clubs as his opening lead!

I took the king with the ace and led a trump, whereupon the weird bird to my left won with the ace and continued with the jack of clubs. I covered with dummy's queen, which East ruffed. East then returned a spade, and there was no way for me to avoid losing a diamond and another club later on, so I wound up with a cold zero on the hand.

When the session was over and my dear spouse learned that I was the only one who did not make four hearts, she vowed she'd never play with me again.

I tried to explain to her that the outcome was not my fault, but my wife is a strict pragmatist and holds me personally responsible for this debacle. Is there any advice you can give me?

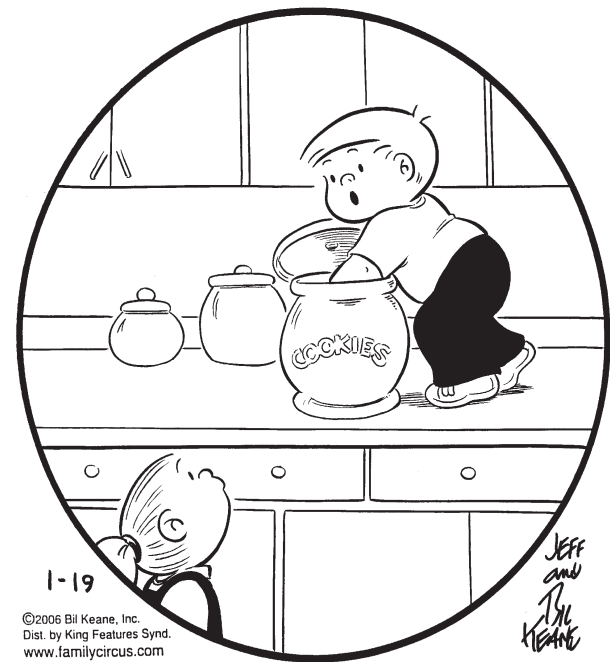
Constant Reader.

Dear C.R.: I have no idea how to get your wife to resume playing with you, but I suggest that as a matter of self-preservation you try to avoid opponents who display pronounced avian proclivities!

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

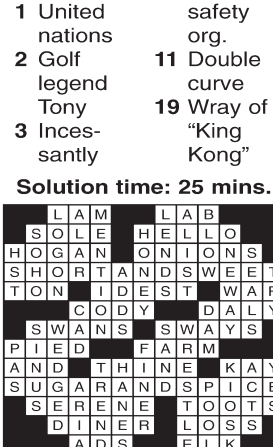


"I don't care if you tell. I'm already grounded."

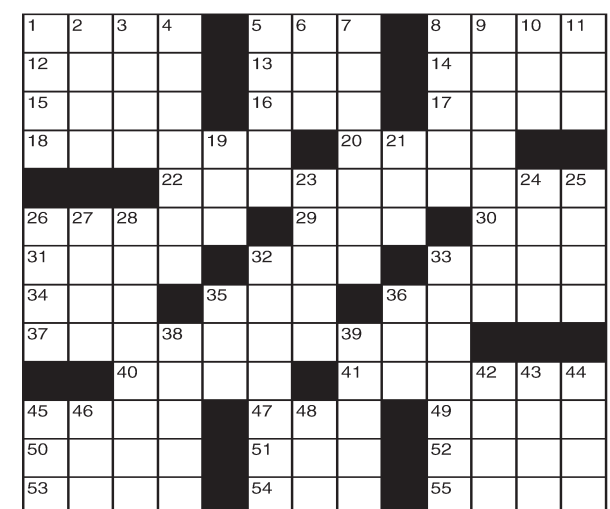
Crossword

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Methods | 4 TV's | 21 Lummo |
| 1 Evidenced | 41 Have at an injury | 5 Carring-ton saga | 23 Ties |
| 5 "Mayday!" | — Arthur | 5 "The West Wing" star | 24 "Hi and —" |
| 8 Biography | 47 Bill Capri, for one | 6 Erstwhile acorn | 25 Mark replacement |
| 12 It's an imposition | 49 European capital | 7 Kate's frequent co-star | 26 Pusher's apprehender |
| 13 Chance | 51 Right angle | 8 Night light? | 27 Not pizzicato |
| 14 Probability | 52 — out a living | 8 Yoga position | 28 Luke's story |
| 15 Portent | 53 Uncomplicated | 9 Superman had an extra one | 32 Put one's feat in one's mouth |
| 16 — out a bottle | 54 Conk out | 10 Food-safety org. | 33 Cracker type |
| 20 It may be a proper subject | 55 Grub | 11 Double curve | 35 Pigs' digs |
| 22 House on the beach? | 1 United nations | 19 Wray of "King Kong" | 36 Prepared |
| 26 Vile | 2 Golf legend | 3 Incessantly | 38 Govern-ness |
| 29 Ump | 3 Inces-santly | | 39 Fancy fur |
| 30 Chit letters | | | 42 On the briny |
| 31 Bohemian | | | 43 Coagulate |
| 32 Prevent | | | 44 Ranges of knowledge |
| 33 Commotion | | | 45 Copper head? |
| 34 Nipper's co. | | | 46 Meadow |
| 35 Spread seed | | | 48 "The Greatest" |
| 36 Permission | | | |
| 37 Ear append-age? | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-19



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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