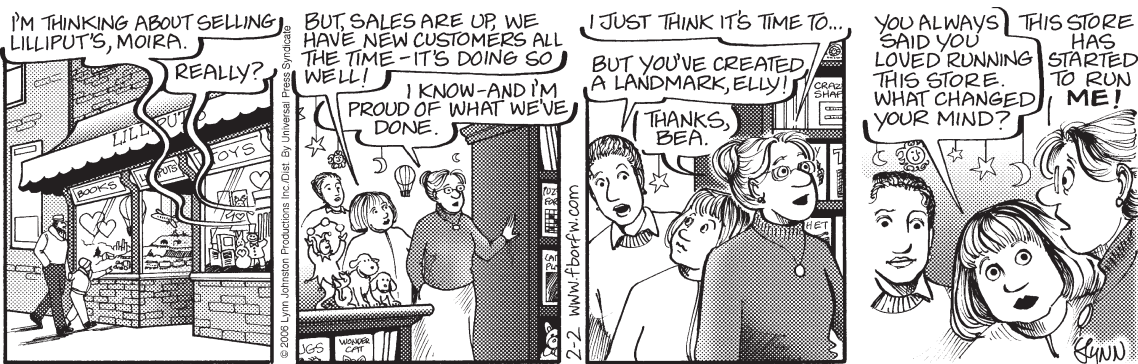
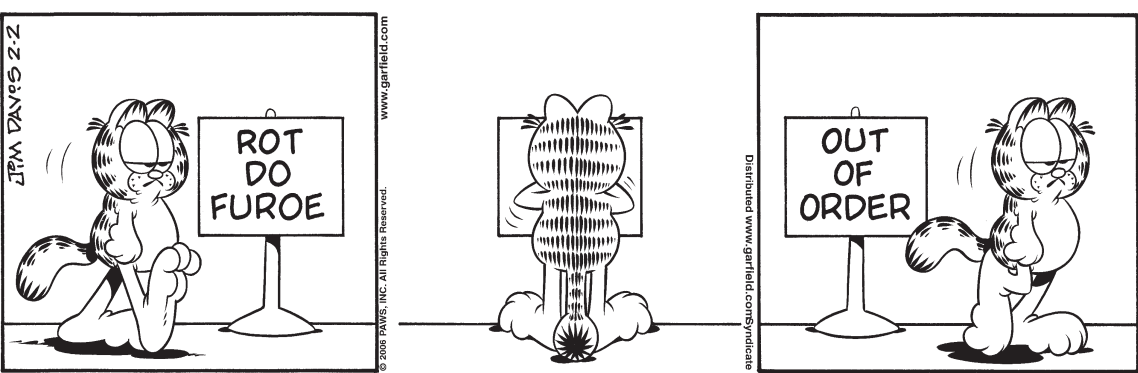


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



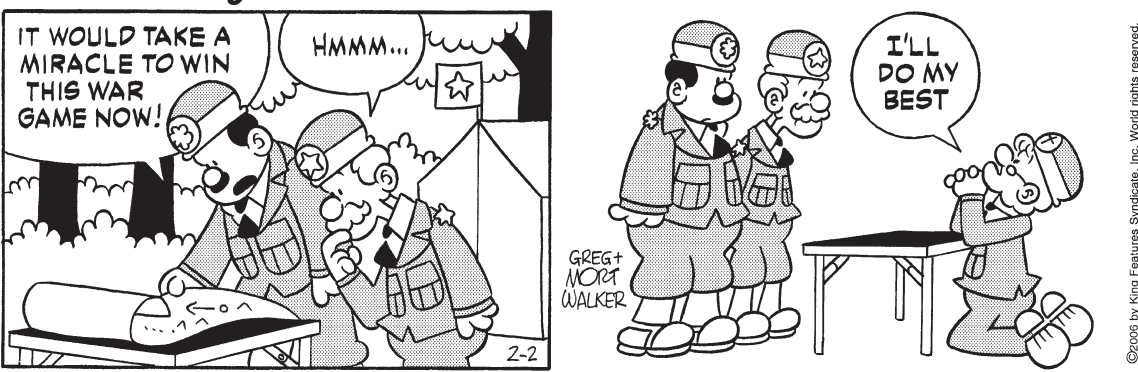
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



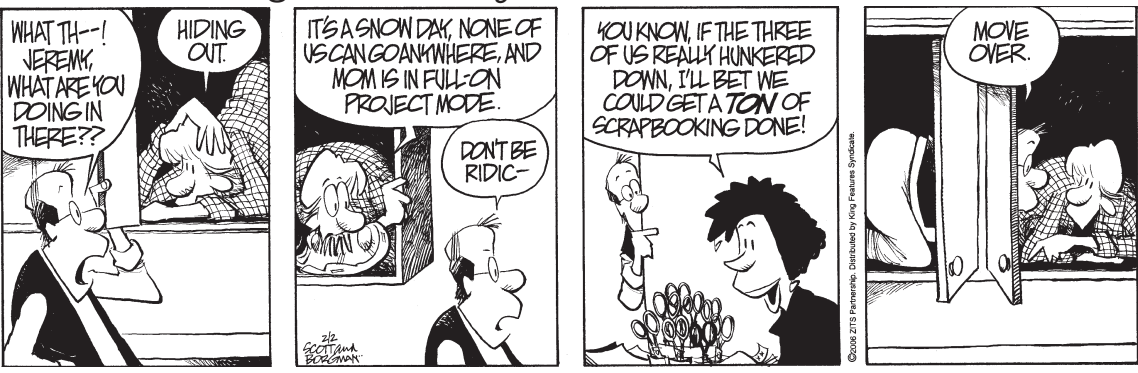
Blondie • Chic Young



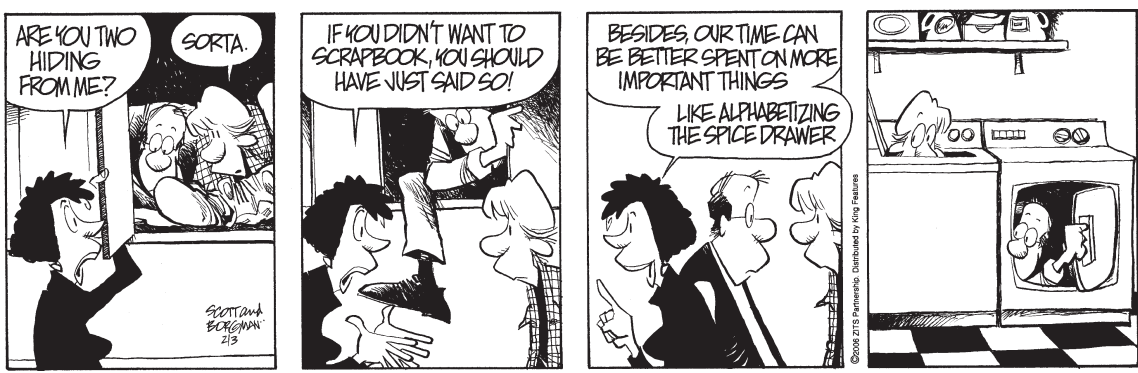
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

Q DWQYC-YIK FQPPXHWQBLA

JLNB XJ NBIYXYH JNNY.

XR KXPP WIBNWRICPA DI

FQPPIC BIY JRQRXNY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY LIKED HOT DOGS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, MIGHT HE BE NAMED FRANK DIGGER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals L

Baking binges concern spouse

DEAR ABBY: My beloved wife may be killing herself, and I can't stop her. Once or twice a week she stays up all night baking cookies for her "friends" at work — huge numbers of cookies. Over Christmas, she was up night after night baking, and it's very worrisome.

My wife is 63 and in a demanding profession. I cannot believe that the body can tolerate sleepless nights like this. She says she takes "a nap" in her car at lunchtime, but I doubt it.

How can I stop her from this self-destructive habit? I don't want to lose her, but I don't know what to do. If I try to dissuade her from cookie-baking, she gets extremely huffy, and it's hurting our marriage.

— MARRIED

DEAR MARRIED: You appear to be a concerned and loving spouse. Sleep patterns can vary from individual to individual, and different people require different amounts of sleep to function well.

However, because you are concerned about how your wife's sleep pattern could affect her general health, suggest to her — and possibly her physician — that she might benefit from discussing the subject with a sleep disorder specialist to determine whether she's getting the amount of rest she needs. (And if she isn't, how she can get it.) I hope this helps.

DEAR ABBY: Last May, the six of us had to put our 85-year-old mother and 90-year-old father into an assisted-living facility — Mom for Alzheimer's and Dad for heart problems and kidney failure. Our mother is in the late middle stages of her disease.

Dad died on July 2. My two siblings who live less than two hours away from Mom decided that it would not be a good idea to tell her that her husband had passed away. Three of us don't like that decision.

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West Pass
North 2 ♠
East Pass

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

By the Sweat of the Brow

The outcome of most contracts depends largely on how the defenders' cards are distributed. This refers not only to how the suits are divided, but also to the location of the missing high cards.

Nevertheless, a thoughtful declarer can sometimes overcome a bad lie of the cards by allowing for the possibility that it exists and adopting the proper precautionary measures.

To illustrate, take this deal where West leads the queen of hearts against four spades. Declarer sees immediately that he will lose at least one trump trick and two or three diamond tricks.

He doesn't know at the outset how he will ultimately fare in either suit because he doesn't know how the enemy cards are divided.

South begins by taking the heart queen with the king and cashing the ace of spades. As it happens, West's king falls. Declarer now knows he will eventually have to lose a trump trick to East's jack.

With the trump situation resolved, declarer now turns his attention to the question of how many diamond tricks he will lose.

If the diamond ace is on his right, he is in fine shape, but if it is on his left, he is in danger of losing three diamond tricks and the contract.

The challenge at this point is to make the contract even if West has the ace. To protect himself against this contingency, declarer first cashes the ace of hearts and queen of spades. He then plays the K-Q-A of clubs, followed by dummy's ten of hearts. But instead of ruffing the ten, South discards a diamond!

West takes the ten with the jack but unhappily has no safe exit card. He must either lead a diamond or hand declarer a ruff-and-discard, and whichever he chooses, South makes four spades.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby



to sign up is: 888-382-1222. (You must renew every five years to remain on it.) If, after three months of signing up, you still receive unwanted faxes, you may file a complaint by calling the same phone number or logging on to www.donotcall.gov. (Alternatively, unplug your phone when you go to bed to guarantee you won't be disturbed.)

DEAR ABBY: After 20 years of marriage to an abusive man, I finally divorced him. One night I was feeling depressed, so I contacted "Garrett," an old high school sweetheart. We ended up really clicking. Garrett has been married twice. Both his ex-wives were unfaithful and treated him shamefully, so he's afraid of marrying again.

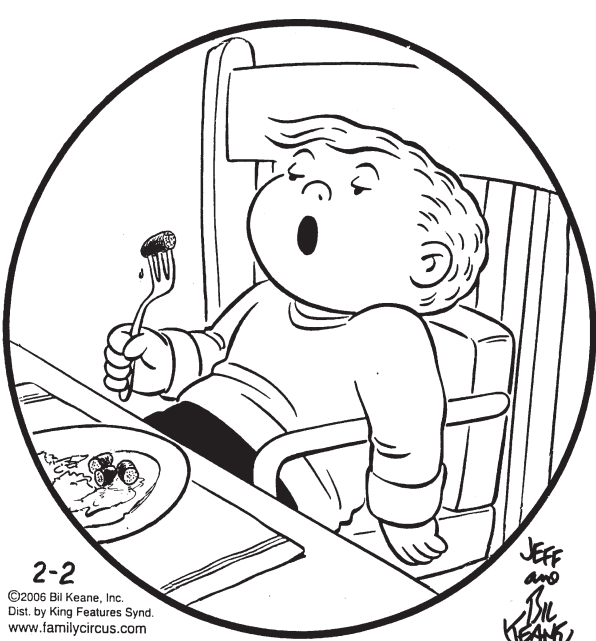
Garrett says he loves me and we plan on moving in together. The problem is his mother, who is very religious. She will have a hard time accepting our arrangement. I asked him if he wanted me to talk to her, and he said yes. How do I make her understand? I love Garrett very much and know in my heart we were meant to be together. I feel God brought him back into my life.

I am 42 and Garrett is 43, so it's not like we're kids. I respect his mother very much and know her son wants her acceptance.

— DESPERATE

DEAR DESPERATE: Say to Garrett's mother: "I love your son and feel in my heart that we were meant to be together. I want and need to be with him. He has struck out twice at marriage and is afraid to try again — and at least for now, I'm prepared to accept this. I like and respect you very much. We plan to live together, and if you would like to be part of our lives, we would like that, too." Then shut your mouth and hear what the woman has to say. She may pleasantly surprise you.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Billy said we're havin' pork sausages for Groundhog Day 'cause they're made of ground hog."

Crossword

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	Fratricide victim	1	Visual —
5	Allow	2	Ring competition
8	Amorphous sci-fi villain	3	Basin accessory
12	Big Ten team	4	Not yet visible
13	Eventual aces	5	"Lassie" actress
14	Trade-mark symbol	6	Longoria or Gabor
15	Pair with an air	7	Reveille's opposite
16	Upper limit	8	On the risqué side
17	Bruins' sch.	9	Big name in aircraft
18	Jog sans togs	10	Lecherous look
20	Base runner's wear	11	Feathery wear
25	Like a certain teaching method	12	Ring competition
28	Mid-month date	13	Basin accessory
29	St. Bernard's burden	14	Not yet visible
30	Youngster	15	"Lassie" actress
32	Thing-amajig	16	Longoria or Gabor
35	Leaves no tip	17	Reveille's opposite
39	Shaving-cream additive	18	On the risqué side
40	Make up your mind	19	Big name in aircraft
42	Sandwich treat	20	Lecherous look
43	Stitched	21	Feathery wear
44	Galena, e.g.	22	Ring competition
45	Tranquil	23	Basin accessory
46		24	Not yet visible
47		25	"Lassie" actress
48		26	Longoria or Gabor
49		27	Reveille's opposite
50		28	On the risqué side
51		29	Big name in aircraft
52		30	Lecherous look
53		31	Feathery wear
54		32	Ring competition
55		33	Basin accessory
56		34	Not yet visible
57		35	"Lassie" actress
58		36	Longoria or Gabor
59		37	Reveille's opposite
60		38	On the risqué side
61		39	Big name in aircraft
62		40	Lecherous look
63		41	Feathery wear
64		42	Ring competition
65		43	Basin accessory
66		44	Not yet visible
67		45	"Lassie" actress
68		46	Longoria or Gabor
69		47	Reveille's opposite
70		48	On the risqué side
71		49	Big name in aircraft
72		50	Lecherous look
73		51	Feathery wear
74		52	Ring competition
75		53	Basin accessory
76		54	Not yet visible
77		55	"Lassie" actress
78		56	Longoria or Gabor
79		57	Reveille's opposite
80		58	On the risqué side
81		59	Big name in aircraft
82		60	Lecherous look
83		61	Feathery wear
84		62	Ring competition
85		63	Basin accessory
86		64	Not yet visible
87		65	"Lassie" actress
88		66	Longoria or Gabor
89		67	Reveille's opposite
90		68	On the risqué side
91		69	Big name in aircraft
92		70	Lecherous look
93		71	Feathery wear
94		72	Ring competition
95		73	Basin accessory
96		74	Not yet visible
97		75	"Lassie" actress
98		76	Longoria or Gabor
99		77	Reveille's opposite
100		78	On the risqué side