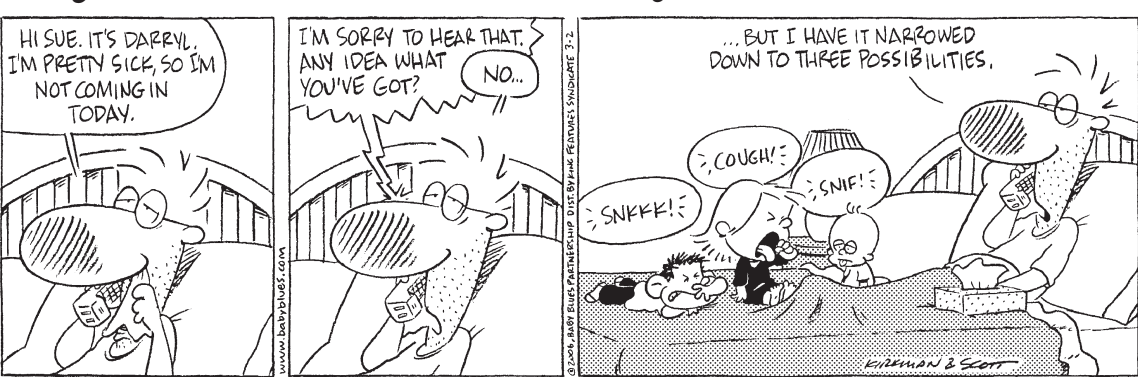


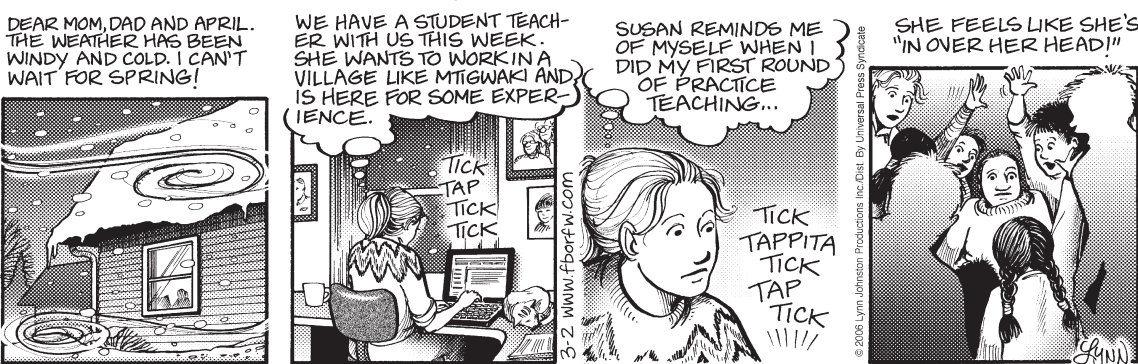
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



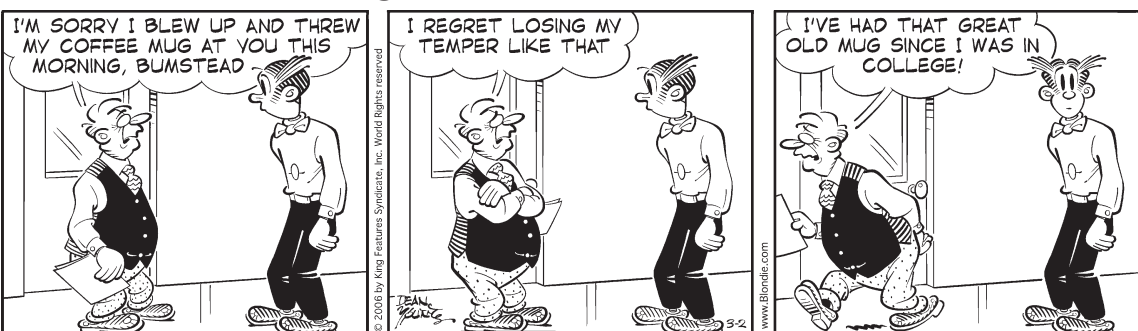
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



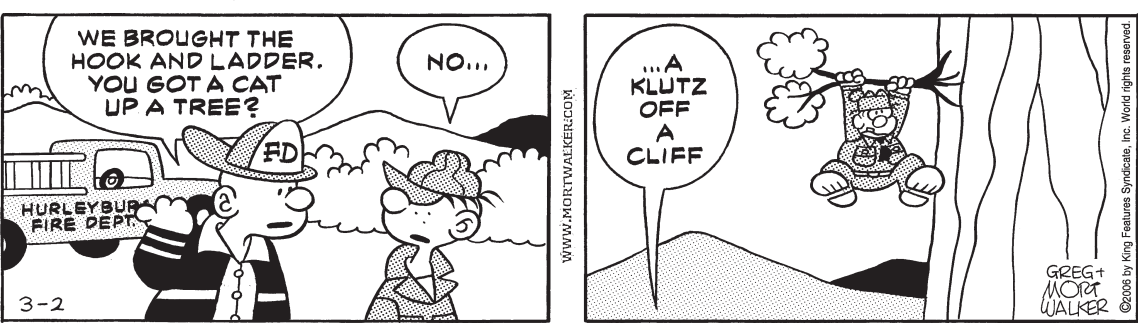
Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



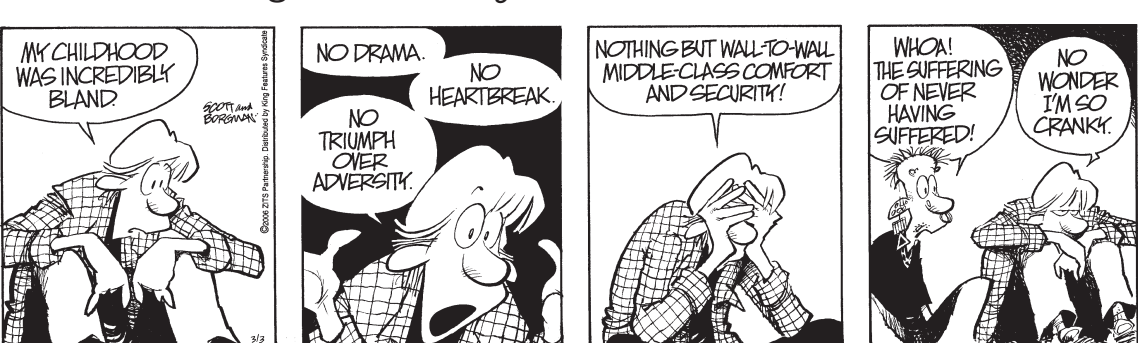
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



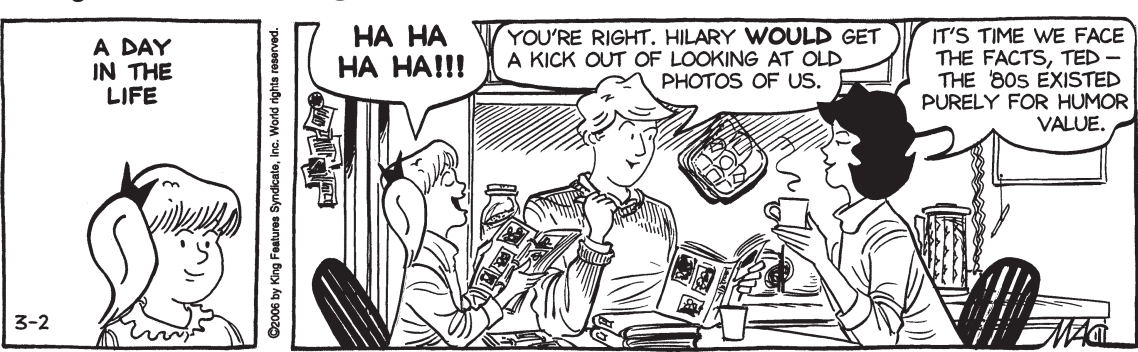
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Hospice can help with acceptance

DEAR ABBY: "Overwhelmed in Arizona" wrote that she is helping her dad care for her dying mother, and feels isolated and overwhelmed by her feelings. She said: "The doctors now say there's nothing more they can do. Basically, Mom is at home waiting to die." You recommended an American Cancer Society support group.

Please invite her to explore hospice. Hospice lovingly accompanies patients, together with their families, during their final stage(s) of a terminal illness. While attending to the pain management needs of the patient, hospice also nurtures both patient and family through this difficult time, addressing all aspects (medical, nursing, social work and spiritual care) for all involved. Hospice makes dying about how you LIVE, all of you, in relationship with one another. And that very much includes those who will survive and have to come to terms with their loss. Many hospice organizations provide bereavement care and counseling to anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one.

By turning to hospice, "Overwhelmed" can shortly turn into "Loved and Nurtured in Arizona."

— VIOLA IN SEVERNA PARK, MD.

DEAR VIOLA: Thank you for reminding me about hospice and the important work it does. Hospice is a service for patients who have been told by two physicians they have six months or less to live. It is paid for by Medicare, most of the time at no cost to the patient, and non-Medicare patients can receive care through private insurance. (People without insurance are usually entitled to services for free, or at a reduced rate.) It is listed in the phone book under hospice or palliative care, or log onto www.hospicenet.org, www.hospicefoundation.org, or www.caringinfo.org.

Bridge

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 NT Pass
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Extra Chance
A successful declarer tries to give himself as many chances as possible before he is forced to resort to the play that makes or breaks the contract. The trick, of course, is to spot the alternatives and then attempt them in the right order.

Take this case where South is in six notrump and West leads a club. When the deal was played, declarer won the club with the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and crossed to the queen of spades. He then cashed the king of hearts, on which East played the nine and West the jack.

Declarer couldn't tell whether the missing hearts were divided 1-1 or 2-0, and, fearing that another heart lead could defeat him before he had a chance to try the diamonds, he decided to abandon the heart suit. So at trick five, he cashed the diamond king and led a diamond to the jack. West won and returned a heart to defeat the contract. Obviously, South would have made the slam if he had played a third round of hearts instead of attempting the diamond finesse.

One can certainly sympathize with declarer's fear of continuing hearts when that action might set him at once. Nevertheless, the fact is that he overlooked a simple way to test the heart situation without risking immediate defeat.

All South had to do was to lead a low heart from dummy at trick four. He could then win the club return, cross to dummy and cash the heart king. If the hearts broke, he was home, while if an opponent showed out, he would have the diamonds in reserve.

In this way, South would have gotten two chances rather than one to make the contract, and that's what good play is all about.

Cryptoquip

V J X Z H E T K G P K T X V C

B X M R B X B V J P V V J X Z C J H E F B

T H F H T K X Q B X T Z V J X R Q

G E V E P F P V V Q P M V R H T.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BROADWAY SHOW FEATURED DICTIONARY AUTHORS, I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE A PLAY ON WORDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

Read on:
DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from the girl who said that she and her father were unable to talk about the mother dying of cancer, I had to write.

Imagine how isolated that poor mother must feel! I have survived two rounds of cancer in spite of the fact that I was not expected to. When I told my daughter (I am divorced) that I'd had a recurrence this year, she told me she was angry with me, because I have been "trying to die on her" for most of her life!

I can tell you from firsthand experience that the mother needs to hear it's all right for her to die, and that her daughter and husband love her, but will carry on and be fine. She needs to talk about the good times they have shared — review photographs, movies, trips, etc. She needs hugs, body contact. Dying is lonely, cold and final. You feel that you have let your family down, disappointed them, and that they are terribly inconvenienced by your not being there for them.

— SHIRLEY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEAR SHIRLEY: Thank you for an extremely informative letter. I hope that those who read it will take what you have written to heart. I often hear from people who say they don't know how to act or what to say when someone is stricken with terminal illness. A young woman who is battling cancer put the answer succinctly in a letter to me: "I may have cancer, but I'm still the same person. I want my friends to talk to me like they always have, and about the

same things."

As to your daughter, I think in a clumsy way she was trying to tell you she loves you. She's not mad at you for being sick. She's angry and probably frightened that the disease that has taken over your life twice is back again, and this time you may not be able to beat it. If she didn't love you, her reaction would have been indifference.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing to you to alert your readers to ALWAYS check their prescriptions while they are picking them up at the pharmacy. I was given two new prescriptions today. I had already taken one twice when I discovered that the pills in both bottles were the same.

I immediately called the pharmacy and was told that a new pharmacist had made a mistake. Not knowing what the pills were supposed to look like, I never questioned that the prescriptions were correct.

I am grateful that it was "only" the anti-inflammatory drug that got mixed up. The second prescription was a muscle relaxant.

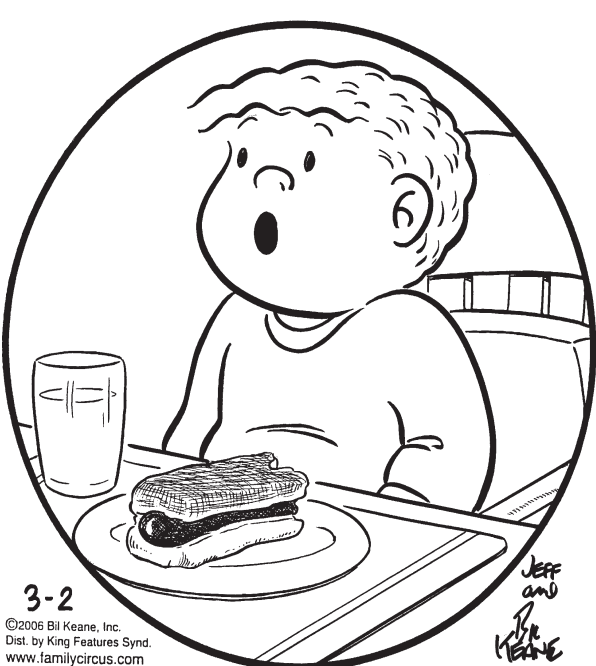
Some pharmacies print (much too small) the type and quantity of the pills on the label. But to be on the safe side, always open and check the contents of your pill container while you are at the pharmacy.

— NATALIE IN MECHANICSBURG, PA.

DEAR NATALIE: I'm pleased to pass along your reminder, because I have had a similar experience. It never hurts to check, and the optimum time to do it is when you receive your prescription.

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.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS
1 Acting hastily
5 Plagiarize
8 Highlander
12 Killer whale
13 Raw rock
14 Stromboli spillage
15 Eye dropper?
16 Biz deg.
17 Touch
18 Poolside structure
20 When the computer's on
22 Junior
23 X rating
24 Medics
27 Night-clubs
32 Bambi's aunt
33 Greek vowel
34 Upper surface
35 Rear cars
38 Nick and Nora's dog
39 Mound stat

DOWN
1 Mil. training grp.
2 Vicinity
3 Wound cover
4 Annoy repeatedly
5 Cartland's output
6 Scepter topper
7 Sweet-heart
8 Actor Christian
9 Hutches, e.g.
10 Egg
11 London gallery
19 "Fugged-aboutit"
21 Bake-sale org.

24 Calendar abbr.
25 — shoe-string
26 Dry red wine
28 Noshed
29 Staff leader, maybe
30 Youngster
31 Hot tub
36 Become acclimated
37 LummoX
38 Victoria's consort
41 Battery size
42 Feed the hogs
43 Hirsch sitcom
44 Reverb
46 State with certainty
47 Profession
48 — gin fizz
51 "Wieder-sehen"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-2

