

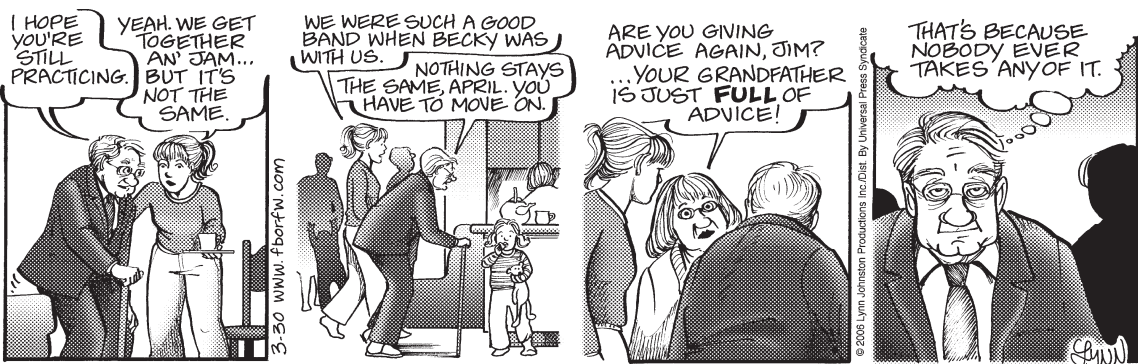
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



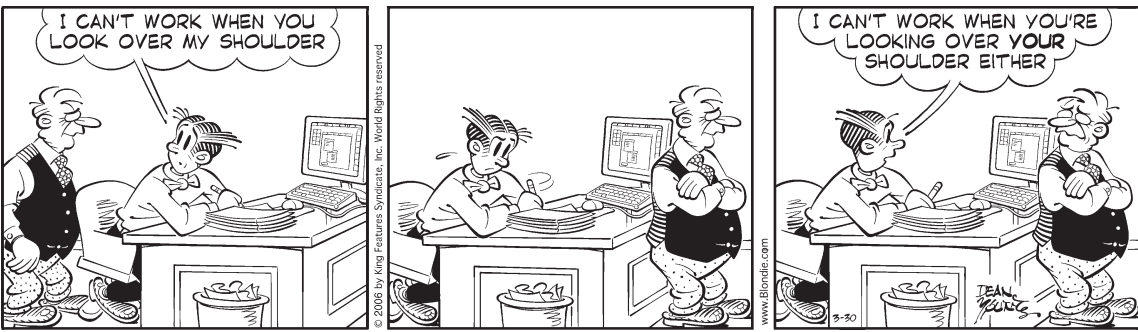
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



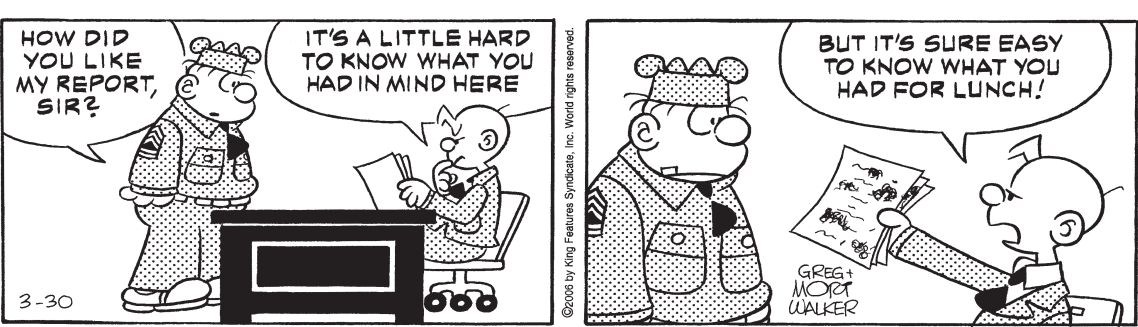
Garfield • Jim Davis



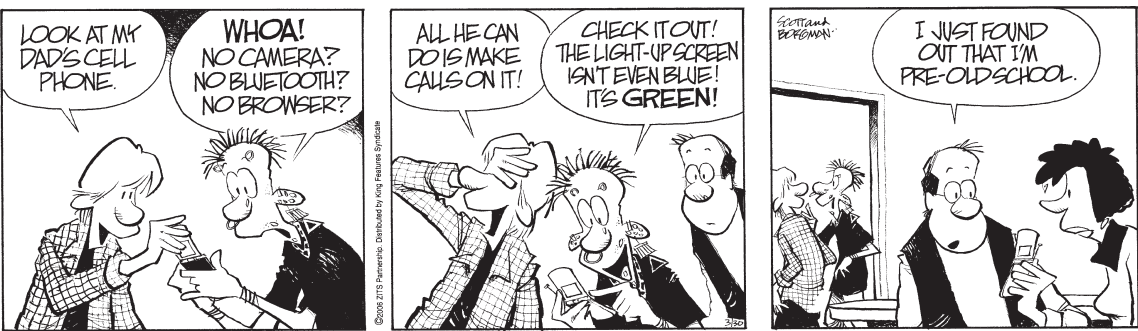
Blondie • Chic Young



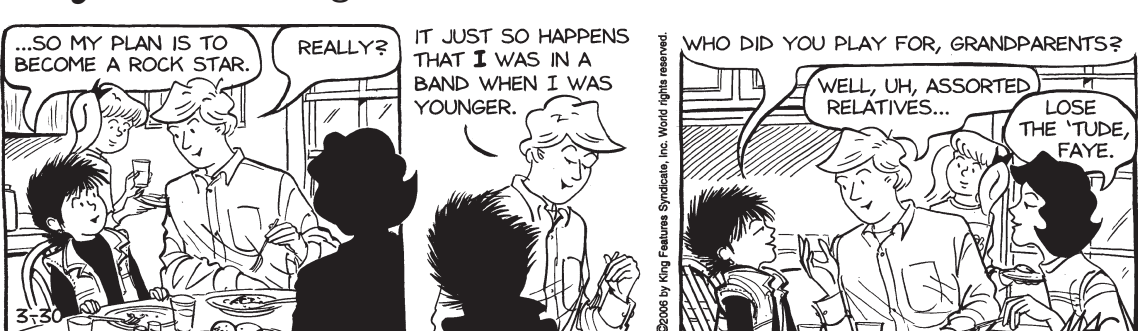
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Nothing ever good enough for mom

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Worried Friend" prompted me to write. She said her friend "Anne" was in her 40s and still vainly trying to get her mother's approval and love. I, too, allowed my mother to dominate my thoughts and my life. She never approved of who I am. Although I have four successful adult children and have had a successful 28-year career as an educator, nothing I did was ever good enough for Mother.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

It took me years to realize that nothing I can do will ever bring her happiness. She didn't find it in her life. But I refuse to let her take away the joy I find in mine.

Anne has more than served her time as a loving daughter. Now it's time for her to live. Love is all around us, and if our mothers cannot provide it, we must seek it elsewhere.

— LOVING, BUT DETACHED, IN MISSISSIPPI
DEAR LOVING: I agree, but no amount of "telling" that to Anne will free her from her mother's control until she reaches a point where she's ready to hear it. All of the letters I received on this subject echo your sentiments. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My mother is like the one described in "Worried Friend's" letter. When I was 56, I finally acknowledged that Mom's criticism and loathing of me increased proportionately with my efforts to make her happy.

We are now estranged. She lives with my only sibling, a sister, who is furious with me for no longer maintaining the status quo. After the break I struggled with depression, sought psychotherapy and was prescribed anti-depressant medication. Now, a year and a half later, I am healthier emotionally

and physically than I have ever been. My life is now based on what is best for me, my husband and my son, who have always loved me for who I am.

I wish Anne the strength and resolve to change, because her mother never will.

— STANDING TALL, SURPRISE, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: My heart goes out to Anne. I, too, wanted my mother's approval and never got it. After Mother died, without realizing what I was doing, I tried seeking approval from my sister — who was just like our mother. Finally, I realized I will never get approval from her, either.

Because of this long-time-coming realization, I now have peace of mind. Each day is happier because I approve of myself. I have started doing all the things I wanted and needed to do that make me happy.

Please tell Anne's friend to help her to love and approve of herself. It's what saved me.

— HAPPY AT LAST IN UTAH

DEAR ABBY: I had a friend like Anne, whose mother made her life miserable by withholding love and approval. It nearly drove her crazy, until one day her mother died. Anne was 50 by then and had been a doorman all that time for her mother, her daughter, her son and their spouses.

Out of the blue she called me and said she was moving to New Mexico and starting her life over. She

and her husband sold their house, packed their van and their dogs, and went to live in a completely new place. I hear from her every few months. While life has had its ups and downs, she's happier than she has ever been in her whole life. I hope Anne's friend doesn't give up on her; she may just be waiting to be set free.

— LAURIE

DEAR ABBY: In a few months, some good friends of mine will be getting married. I am in the bridal party. The problem is, my ex-fiance is one of the groomsmen. My ex and I did not break up well, nor have we had any contact since I moved out.

Because my ex is not the best man, I don't really need to deal with him during the coming months or during the wedding. However, I'm afraid it might be uncomfortable for me during such things as the reception dinner, the picture-taking, etc.

I don't want to distress the bride and groom, not this close to the wedding. How should I handle it if he should make things uncomfortable, other than as politely as possible?

— CONCERNED IN TROY, N.Y.

DEAR CONCERNED: I'm sure the bride and groom are well aware of the circumstances of your breakup. Therefore, it would not be out of line to suggest to whoever is handling the seating at the reception that you would prefer not to sit near your former fiance.

Be cordial in your interactions with him, but don't linger or allow him to start a serious conversation, and you should be able to make it through the occasion without a scene.

Bridge

East dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 3
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A 10 6 2
 ♣ A J 10 4

WEST
 ♠ J 8 6 4 2
 ♥ 10 9 8 3
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 9 7 5

EAST
 ♠ 7 5
 ♥ A J 5 2
 ♦ J 8 7 4
 ♣ 6 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A 10 9
 ♥ Q 7 4
 ♦ K Q 9 5
 ♣ K Q 8

The bidding:
 East Pass South 1 NT West Pass North 6 NT
 Opening lead — ten of hearts.

The Magic Number Is 13

One of the fundamental rules of the game is that a player must follow suit whenever he is able to do so. Everybody is familiar with this rule, of course, but not everybody knows how to take full advantage of it.

Take this case where West led the ten of hearts against six notrump. Dummy's king lost to the ace, and East returned a heart to declarer's queen. South now had to take the rest of the tricks to make the slam.

He could count for certain on three spades, a heart, three diamonds and four clubs — a total of 11 tricks. The only possible chance for a 12th trick lay in diamonds.

If the diamonds broke 3-2, the slam was sure to make. But since either defender might have been dealt four diamonds to the jack, the slam was far from a certainty.

South saw that four diamond tricks could be made even against a 4-1 break provided he knew which opponent had the greater diamond length. If either opponent had four to the jack, and South played his high diamonds in the correct order, he could retain a guaranteed finesse against the player with the jack.

In order to determine which opponent was apt to have the greater diamond length, South cashed all his spade and club tricks. In the process he discovered that West had started with exactly five spades (East failed to follow to the third spade lead), plus three clubs and at least two hearts. With 10 cards in three suits thus accounted for in West's hand, it became impossible for him to have started with four diamonds.

Accordingly, South cashed the king of diamonds and led a low diamond to the ace. When West showed out, the diamond finesse against East's jack became marked, and the slam was home.

Note that if declarer had started the diamonds by cashing the K-Q first, he would have gone down.

Cryptoquip

MIYIDARF V YRVTTWYVR
 PVDYI TYGSSR GVP AS TGEA
 PSJD, XMSLVLR F LIYVETI

WA JIDA LVRRIA EX.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A LION IS EAGER TO GET SOMETHING STARTED, ONE WOULD ASSUME IT'S ROARIN' TO GO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"...Then after your junior year in high school, you get to be a senior citizen."

Crossword

ACROSS	40 Ball in a gym?	DOWN	11 Capone foe
1 "— and Circumstance"	42 Gomer Pyle, e.g.	1 Unadulterated	19 Provided
5 Sleuth	45 Vim	2 Exam format	21 Raw rock
8 Dazzle	49 Boxer Barkley	3 Creche trio	24 "Amazing Race" aid
12 Eurasian divider	50 Carte lead-in	4 Just a bundle of nerves?	25 Swelled head
13 Eventual	52 Cleo's water	5 Steak request	26 Army bigwigs
14 Zilch	53 For fear that	6 Co-star with Nicolette and Marcia	28 Romanian money
15 The latest fashion	54 Clerical address, for short	7 Stage group	29 Lacking balance
16 Mas' mates	55 Verve	8 Sound sleeper?	30 Old, in the dict.
17 Makes a decision	56 Glaswegian girl	9 Tennis tactics	31 Nipper's co.
18 Panacea	57 Do brickwork	10 "Do — others ..."	36 Score units
20 Trunks	58 1981 Beatty movie		37 A billion years
22 E.T.'s craft			38 First game of the season
23 Agt.			41 Broadcasting
24 Shea squad			42 Tenth of a cent
27 Beyond the obvious			43 Vicinity
32 Past			44 "My Name Is —"
33 Keanu's "Matrix" role			46 Anger
34 Leno's employer			47 Pleased
35 Arose suddenly			48 Longings
38 Greek mountain			51 Meadow
39 Greet the villain			

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-30

